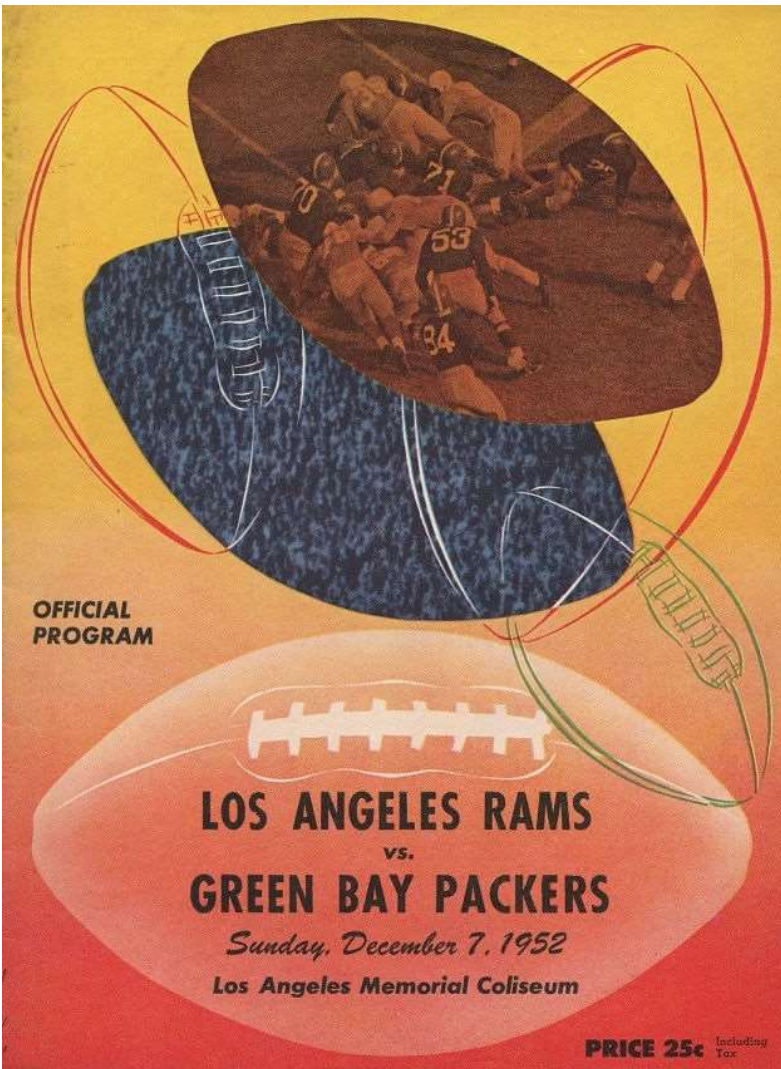




## Los Angeles Rams (8-3) 45, Green Bay Packers (6-5) 27 Sunday December 7th 1952 (at Los Angeles)

### GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

## Bays Hold Early 14-10 Edge; Howton Gets 6 for 200 Yards



(LOS ANGELES) - Green Bay's Packers aren't pro football's greatest team, but in their coach's opinion they have the game's greatest end. The Packers absorbed a 45-27 licking from the Los Angeles Rams in Memorial Coliseum Sunday, but in the process showed off a rookie prize in Bill Howton, six-foot-two, 185-pound end from Rice Institute. Time and again, Howton sneaked behind the Rams' alert secondary - a standout defensive aggregation which was good enough to intercept five passes from Tobin Rote and Vito (Babe) Parilli. "He's the greatest there is," said Coach Gene Ronzani afterwards. "He's tops." Even a partisan crowd of 49,822 which has great affection for Ram ends, Elroy (Crazy Legs) Hirsch and Tom Fears agreed that Howton was plenty good by cheering his six receptions for 200 yards. Rams' Coach Hampton Pool also was high on the Packers. "They were dangerous all the way," he said. "They were dangerous all the way," he said. "They were a lot better than the score would indicate. But our boys were mighty good, too." Oddly enough, it was Green Bay's vaunted passing attack which caused its undoing. The Packers, who had five passes intercepted, had held the world champions to a 17-14 margin at the half. They came back from the intermission and headed right down the field. They were on the Rams' 27 when defensive halfback Dick (Night Train) Lane grabbed one of Rote's passes on his own 20. He stumbled, but was off in an instant. Eighty yards he went, though the entire Packer team, it seemed, and the Rams went in front, 24-14. Moments later, the other defensive half, Jack Dwyer, gathered in one of Parilli's tosses and went 23 yards to the Packers' 17. Four line plays later, and the Rams had tallied again, and the count was 31-14. In four minutes, the Packers had gone from a threatening team to one so far in the hole it never did get out. By

the time they hit the scoreboard again, the Rams had their 45 points. "Too many things happened too fast," Ronzani agreed. The Rams, who have come up from the depths after losing their first two league games, didn't look like champions as the game started. The first time they had the ball, they lost it on Bob Forte's interception of a pass by Norman Van Brocklin. The next time, they lost it on a Van Brocklin fumble recovered by Washington Serini. The Packers' drive was stopped both times, the latter on the Rams' 26. There Bill Reichardt's field goal try from the 34 was partially blocked. The Rams started the first scoring march on their own 35. After a couple of line plays, Van Brocklin unlimbered a toss to Fears for 10 yards,

followed with one to Hirsch for 21. Two more line plays took the ball deep into Green Bay territory. Van Brocklin hit Fears again for 19, and Dan Towler bulled for nine yards and the touchdown. Waterfield's kick made it 7-0. Lane's interception of a Parilli pass early in the second quarter gave the Rams a chance on Green Bay's 45. They went to the 30, but the Packers stiffened. From the 42, Waterfield kicked a field goal and the score was 10-0. Bob Dees brought the kickoff back to the 34, and Parilli unlimbered a pass which Howton gathered in at full speed on the 40. Jack Dwyer hauled him down on the two, and the ball squirted into the end zone. There Ram Herb Rich scooped it up and ran it to the 15. But an official ruled the ball was dead where Howton was downed. The crowd was still booing three plays later when Floyd Reid went across from the one. Rote personally engineered another score five minutes later. Twice, in a 65-yard drive, he faked passes so beautifully that he had the Rams completely out of position. Once he ran for 15 yards, once for 11, a 14-yard pass to Howton helped, and, from the one, Rote sneaked across. Reichardt's second conversion put the Packers in front, 14-10. Vitamin Smith helped change the lead two minutes from the end of the half. He brought the kickoff back 55 yards to the Packers' 39. Towler made nine, Tank Younger three and Smith eight. That took the ball to the 19. Waterfield, whose passing engineered a four-touchdown, fourth-quarter assault in the Rams' 30-28 win over the Packers two months ago, took the ball. The Packers faded, expecting a pass. Instead, Waterfield shifted into high and headed around right end. With a key block by Smith, he romped across for his first touchdown of the year, and his conversion made it 17-14. The two quick scores as the second half opened were followed by a third before the end of the third period. The Packers were threatening again when Dwyer intercepted a Parilli pass on his own two. The Rams got out to the 42, largely on the ground, then were thrown back by the Green Bay line and penalty until they had 36 yards to go for a first down. On third down, Waterfield unlimbered one of his long tosses to Hirsch, who went 55 yards before he was thrown out of bounds. Then a 25-yard pass hit Paul Barry on the goal line and the Rams were in front 38-14. Early in the fourth period, Andy Robustelli, ball-hawking defensive end for the Rams, gathered up what he thought was a fumble and went 27 yards across the goal. But the play was ruled a lateral and it's against the rules to run with a bobbled lateral which hits the ground. The Rams took over, however, but were held and Waterfield's field goal try from the 26 was wide. Three Packers' line plays gained 11 yards to the 31 before Robustelli, still annoyed at having his run called back, grabbed a Parilli fumble on the 29. He crossed the goal and this time it wasn't called back. Waterfield's conversion made it 45-14. The Packers started moving midway through the period after Forte recovered a fumble by the Rams' Skeet Quinlan on his own 49. Three passes, from Parilli to Reichardt for 12 yards, to Pearson for 16 and to Howton for 13, coupled with a penalty took the ball to the Rams' four. Pearson made two and Reichardt went across, then converted and it was 45-21. The final Green Bay drive started on their own four, where a Los Angeles drive had fallen short. Its feature was a 76-yard pass from Parilli to Howton and a first down on the Rams' 9. From there, Parilli passed to Carleton Elliott to make it 45-27, as the conversion try was nullified by a muffed pass from center. The Packers came out of the game in good shape, with halfback Bobby Dillon the only casualty. He received a leg injury which Ronzani called minor.

## Intercepted

### National Football League (National Conference)

	W	L	Pct	PS	OP
Detroit	8	3	0	.727	303 186
Los Angeles	8	3	0	.727	321 220
GREEN BAY	6	5	0	.545	281 288
San Francisco	6	5	0	.545	261 307
Chicago Bears	4	7	0	.364	235 319
Dallas Texans	1	10	0	.091	176 386

### (American Conference)

	W	L	T	Pct	PS	OP
Cleveland	8	3	0	.727	276	176
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	231	244
New York	6	5	0	.545	197	197
Pittsburgh	5	6	0	.455	286	245
Chicago Cards	4	7	0	.364	165	211
Washington	3	8	0	.273	213	266

### Sunday's Results

LOS ANGELES 45, GREEN BAY 27  
 Cleveland 10, Cardinals 0  
 Washington 27, New York 17  
 Detroit 45, Bears 21  
 Philadelphia 38, Texans 21  
 Pittsburgh 24, San Francisco 7

### The Lineups:

Green Bay—  
 Ends—Mann, Keane, Martinkovic,  
 Howton, Elliott, Wimberly.  
 Tackles—Afflis, Hanner, T. Johnson,  
 Dowden, Vees.  
 Guards—Ruzich, Serini, Logan,  
 Stephenson, Bray.  
 Centers—Rhodemyre, Faverty.  
 Backs—Parilli, Rote, Forte, Sandifer,  
 Canadeo, Loomis, Dillon, Self, M.  
 Johnson, Reid, Grimes, Teteak, Pear-  
 son, Floyd, Reichardt.  
 Los Angeles—  
 Ends—Fears, Carey, Brink, Hirsch,  
 Robustelli, Hecker.  
 Tackles—Simensen, Winkler, Teeuws,  
 Dahms, Toogood.  
 Guards—Daugherty, West, Thomp-  
 son, Casner, Putnam, Lance.  
 Centers—McLaughlin, Paul.

Backs—Van Brocklin, Waterfield,  
 Towler, Quinlan, Williams, Lewis,  
 Dwyer, Smith, Lane, Rich, Barry,  
 Younger, Myers.

Green Bay ..... 0 14 0 13-27  
 Rams ..... 7 10 21 7-45

Green Bay Scoring: Touchdowns—  
 Reid, Rote, Reichardt, Elliott. Con-  
 versions—Reichardt 3.

Los Angeles Scoring: Touchdowns—  
 Towler 2, Waterfield, Lane, Robustelli,  
 Barry. Field goal—Waterfield. Con-  
 versions—Waterfield 6.

### Team Statistics:

	Bay	Rams
First downs	23	19
Rushing yardage	83	167
Passing yardage	264	207
Passes attempted	32	18
Passes completed	14	13
Passes intercepted	5	1
Punts	4	3
Punting average	40.25	41
Fumbles lost	1	1
Yards penalties	30	60

### Individual Statistics:

Rushing:  
 Green Bay: Floyd gained 52 yards  
 in 13 attempts, Rote 27 in 5, Reid 9 in  
 4, Reichardt 9 in 4, Parilli 3 in 6, Cana-  
 deo 4 in 2, Pearson 2 in 2.

Los Angeles: Lewis gained 40 yards  
 in 7 attempts, Towler 42 in 14, V. T.  
 Smith 34 in 7, Younger 29 in 9, Quin-  
 lan 19 in 3, Waterfield 19 in 1, Myers  
 3 in 2, Van Brocklin 1 in 2.

Passing:  
 Green Bay: Parilli attempted 19,  
 completed 9 for 231 yards, 4 intercepted;  
 Rote attempted 12, completed 5 for  
 56 yards, 1 intercepted; Canadeo at-  
 tempted 1, completed none.

Los Angeles: Van Brocklin attempt-  
 ed 12, completed 9 for 137 yards, 1 in-  
 tercepted; Waterfield attempted 6,  
 completed 4 for 98 yards.

Pass Reception:  
 Green Bay: Howton caught 6 for 200  
 yards, Mann 1 for 30, Reichardt 2 for  
 16, Pearson 1 for 16, Elliott 1 for 9,  
 Keane 1 for 8, Floyd 2 for 8.

Los Angeles: Hirsch caught 4 for 96  
 yards, Fears 4 for 51, Quinlan 3 for  
 50, Barry 1 for 25, Towler 1 for 13.



GREEN BAY - 0 14 0 13 - 27  
 LOS ANGELES - 7 10 21 7 - 45



	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>LOS ANGELES</u>
First Downs	23	19
Rushing-Yards-TD	36-83-3	45-167-3
Att-Comp-Yd-TD-Int	14-32-287-1-5	13-18-235-1-1
Sacked-Yards	3-23	3-28
Net Passing Yards	264	207
Total Yards	347	374
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-2
Turnovers	7	3
Yards penalized	4-30	8-60

### **SCORING**

1ST - LA - Dan Towler, 9-yard run (Bob Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 7-0  
 2ND - LA - Waterfield, 42-yard field goal LOS ANGELES 10-0  
 2ND - GB - Breezy Reid, 1-yard run (Bill Reichardt kick) LOS ANGELES 10-7  
 2ND - GB - Tobin Rote, 1-yard run (Reichardt kick) GREEN BAY 14-10  
 2ND - LA - Waterfield, 19-yard run (Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 17-14  
 3RD - LA - Night Train Lane, 80-yard interception return (Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 24-14  
 3RD - LA - Towler, 2-yard run (Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 31-14  
 3RD - LA - Paul Barry, 25-yard pass from Waterfield (Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 38-14  
 4TH - LA - Andy Robustelli, 29-yard fumble return (Waterfield kick) LOS ANGELES 45-14  
 4TH - GB - Reichardt, 2-yard run (Reichardt kick) LOS ANGELES 45-21  
 4TH - GB - Carl Elliott, 9-yard pass from Babe Parilli (Reichardt kick failed) LOS ANGELES 45-27

### **RUSHING**

**GREEN BAY** - Bobby Jack Floyd 13-48, Tobin Rote 5-25 1 TD, Breezy Reid 4-9 1 TD, Tony Canadeo 2-4, Bill Reichardt 4-2 1 TD, Lindy Pearson 2-2, Babe Parilli 6-(-7)

**LOS ANGELES** - Woodley Lewis 7-40, Vitamin Smith 7-31, Dan Towler 14-29 2 TD, Tank Younger 9-29, Bob Waterfield 1-19 1 TD, Skeets Quinlan 3-18, Jack Myers 2-3, Norm Van Brocklin 2-(-2)

### **PASSING**

**GREEN BAY** - Babe Parilli 19-9-231 1 TD 4 INT, Tobin Rote 12-5-56 1 INT, Tony Canadeo 1-0-0

**LOS ANGELES** - Norm Van Brocklin 12-9-137 1 INT, Bob Waterfield 6-4-98 1 TD

### **RECEIVING**

**GREEN BAY** - Billy Howton 6-200, Bill Reichardt 2-16, Bobby Jack Floyd 2-8, Bob Mann 1-30, Lindy Pearson 1-16, Carl Elliott 1-9 1 TD, Jim Keane 1-8

**LOS ANGELES** - Elroy Hirsch 4-96, Tom Fears 4-51, Skeets Quinlan 3-50, Paul Barry 1-25 1 TD, Dan Towler 1-13

## *Protest? Bell To Investigate Use of 'Same' Jerseys by Packers and Rams*

### **PROTEST? BELL TO INVESTIGATE USE OF 'SAME' JERSEYS BY PACKERS AND RAMS**

DEC 8 (Los Angeles) - It didn't make much difference at the finish, but Sunday's football game between the Green Bay Packers and the Los Angeles Rams was played under protest. The Packers showed up on the field for pregame practice with yellow jerseys identical in color with the Rams. Only the numbers set them apart - light green for the visitors, deep blue for the Rams. NFL rules gave the home team choice of uniforms. The Rams have worn yellow jerseys in home games for years. Los Angeles coach Hampton Pool and his aides immediately protested to Packers coach Gene Ronzani. Ronzani answered that those were the only jerseys the Packers had with them. He pointed out the Rams had blue jerseys with yellow numbers that they could use. That didn't satisfy Pool and the Rams got on the telephone to league commissioner Bert Bell in Philadelphia. They said Bell promised an investigation. "It was mighty confusing. We were blocking the wrong guys all afternoon." But none of the scoring plays on either side seemed to hinge on any confusion in blocking.

### **PACKERS PREPARE FOR FINAL GAME OF SEASON**

DEC 8 (Los Angeles) - The Green Bay Packers launched their final week of drills today as they got set for the last game of the season next Sunday against the San Francisco 49ers. The Packers will attempt to rebound after two straight losses with a win over the slumping 49ers who dropped another game to the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday. Green Bay was trounced by Los Angeles Sunday, 45-27, after holding the Rams to a 3-point halftime edge. The Packers will continue their workouts

here until Saturday when they will move to San Francisco for the final contest of the season. Coach Gene Ronzani's men, with a 6-5 mark for the season, still are experiencing their best year since 1946 and will wind up with the best season since 1945 if they win the last one Sunday. The Packers were 7-4 in 1945. The Packers are tied with San Francisco, two games behind Los Angeles and Detroit in the National Conference.

#### **COUTRE, EX-PACKER, ON SERVICE ALL-STARS**

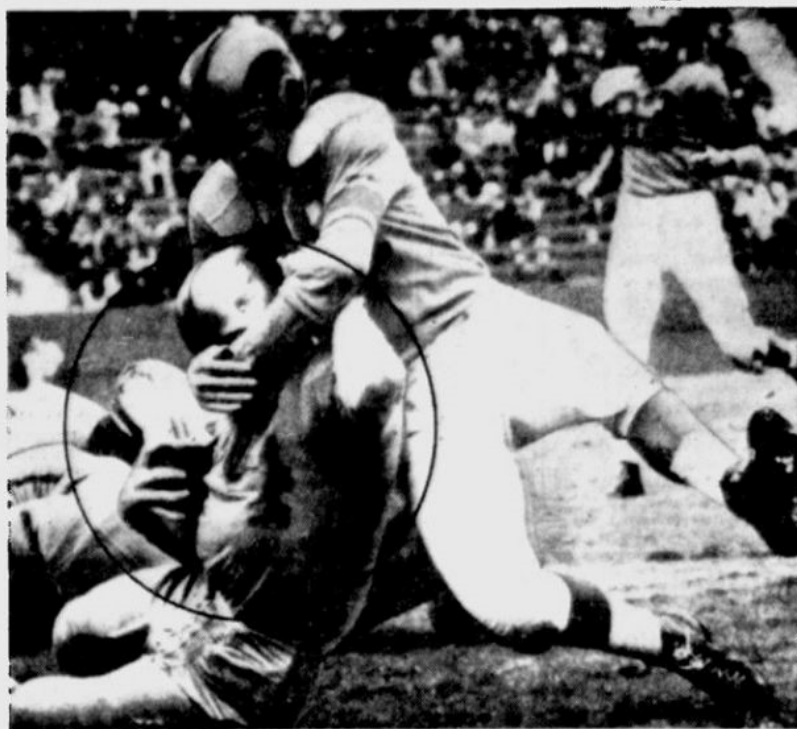
DEC 8 (New York) - Larry Coutre, formerly of the Green Bay Packers and now stationed at Camp Breckenridge, KY, Monday was named at offensive back on the Service All-Star team.

#### **STYDAHAR SAYS RAMS WILL RETAIN CROWN**

DEC 8 (Los Angeles) - Our Rams figure to go all the way in their effort to repeat as national professional football champions, or at least one member of the Green Bay coaching staff is of this opinion. It was Joe Stydahar, former Los Angeles coach, talking late yesterday afternoon in the dressing quarters after the Rams had chalked up their seventh straight victory, beating Green Bay, 45-27. "No one's going to beat them," Stydahar observed when asked how he thought his former hirelings would make out in the closing games of the season...FRIENDSHIP RENEWED: About this time two Rams shuffled into the Packers' quarters to shake hands with their former coach. They were Tank Younger and Larry Brink. Joe congratulated both on their play of the afternoon, then whispered to Younger, "Stay up there, boy, and get over Pittsburgh next week." Stydahar hooked on with the Packers after quitting the Rams earlier in the year. During the game he worked the phones from the stands to the Green Bay bench. As he climbed to his perch, he was recognized by fans who gave the big guy a healthy cheer. While Stydahar was high on the Rams, particularly their fine defensive unit, Packer Coach Gene Ronzani refused to go overboard in praise of the defending champs. Rather he blamed his own club for making too many costly mistakes and fumbles. Ronzani, unlike most observers, was not too

greatly impressed with the Rams' defense. He said the local club was "a good enough team, but not a great one." He then singled out one of his own players, Bill Howton, a rookie wingman from Rice, as the best player on the field. Howton was a hot article out there on the turf, all right. Ram Coach Hampton Pool said he was a terror to try and defend against. "We had a triangle all around him, but still we couldn't stop the guy from catching passes," Pool complained. Red Hickey, Ram end coach, was so impressed with Howton's play that he said he was good enough to rate rookie-of-the-year honors...TURNING POINT: Pool, asked to called the turning point of the game, was quick to tab Dick (Night Train) Lane's interception of Tobin Rote's pass early in the third quarter, which he cleverly turned into an 80-yard touchdown run. This TD halted a Packer drive and, followed by Bob Waterfield's conversion, gave the Rams a 24-14 lead, which seemed to relieve the pressure. Lane, who played a brilliant game from his defensive halfback post, snagged three Packer aerials to boost his season's total thefts to 11. Later, he was awarded the game ball for his exceptionally fine performance...SIMILAR

#### **THIS PACKER GOT IT IN THE NECK**



Floyd Reid of the Packers picked up nine yards before being hauled down by Halfback Jack Dwyer of the Rams in the first quarter of their game Sunday in Los Angeles. Reid's

head sticks out like a turtle's as Dwyer puts a neck "squeeze" on him. The Rams won, 45-27.

International News soundphoto.



**No Field Goal**—This started out as a field goal by Bill Reichardt in the first quarter in Packer-Ram game in LA Sunday, but the ball fell short and was carried back by half-back Jerry Williams (22). Ram player leaping in air is Herb Rich. Packers on ground (left to right) are Hal Faverty and Carleton Elliott. Packer at left is Steve Dowden. Rams won, 45-27. (AP Wirephoto)

**UNIFORMS:** The question of similar jerseys came up. Both clubs appeared in almost identical yellow shirts, the only noticeable difference being in the color of numbers. It was quite confusing from the stands and must have baffled themselves on occasions. Before the game, the Rams protested but Packer Coach Ronzani claimed his team had only one set and that was that. Ram officials phoned NFL President Bert Bell in Philadelphia and Bell promised an investigation. The Packers were definitely in violation of the league rule that states a visiting team must have available a change of jerseys. Ronzani said after the game the Packers brought different-colored jerseys with them but they left them at Gilmore Field, where they practiced during the week...**CONFUSED PLAYERS:** Several Ram players complained they sometimes blocked their own men in the mix-up of yellow shirts, but in the light of their victory none was too bitter. Nevertheless, the Rams' protest stands. It's now up to Bell to decide what action to take against Green Bay. The Packers took their defeat without complaint. Several of the vanquished were even willing to admit the Rams had quite a team. On the question of Rams vs. Lions (if these two should meet two weeks hence to decide the National Conference title), Marvin Johnson, a former Ram now with Green Bay, said. "The Lions have several weaknesses but the Rams have so few they're hard to detect."...**LIONS RUGGED:** Rote and Babe Parilli, who alternated at quarterback for the Packers, agreed the Lions might have a better defensive line, but that they had only two good pass receivers whereas the Rams had four. Howton claimed the Rams of yesterday were the best team he's faced all season, that Don Paul and Tank Younger were the best linebackers and that Paul was key to Los Angeles' great defense. The Rams, who return to the practice field tomorrow morning to prepare for their toughies here Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers, are all expected to be in good shape. Big Jim Winkler left the game with an injury, but he'll be ready this week, according to the team trainers. Larry Brink and Bob Carey were both shaken up but nothing serious. There were no serious injury reports from the Green Bay camp.

# Packers Look for 'New' Defense Against 49'ers

## **PACKERS LOOK FOR 'NEW DEFENSE' AGAINST 49ERS**

DEC 9 (Los Angeles-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Green Bay Packer Head Coach Gene Ronzani was looking for a new defense today - against interceptions and fumbles. The two types of miscues turned an otherwise tight battle against the Los Angeles Rams here Sunday into a run-away 45 to 27 victory for the west coast team. And in Detroit Thanksgiving day, the Packers killed themselves with fumbles and interceptions in losing, 48 to 24. In those two games, which eliminated the Packers from title contention, the Bays had seven passes intercepted and lost eight fumbles. Conservatively, the fumbles and interceptions accounted for more than half of the total of 93 points scored by LA and Detroit. Ronzani herded the Packers together this afternoon to start the last practice week of the '52 season. They worked out in Gilmore stadium here in preparation for the finale against the Forty-Niners in San Francisco next Sunday afternoon. The Packers will be looking for their best won-lost record since 1944, when they won eight and lost two for the Western division championship. Since '44, the Packers were unable to win more than six games in any one season, but they will be shooting for No. 7 in SF. A victory would give the Bays a 7-5 record. The two clubs are currently tied with 6-5 marks. Ronzani reported that the Packers came out of the bruising game with one injured player - Bobby Dillon, the defensive halfback. Dillon was kicked in the leg but likely will be ready for the Forty-Niner game. The Packers will remain here until Friday morning when they'll take a train to San Francisco, arriving there in the early evening. One of the two crucial games in the National conference will be staged here next Sunday when the surprising Pittsburgh Steelers tackle the Rams in the Coliseum. The Rams are tied in first place with Detroit. The Lions will play host to the Dallas Texans in Detroit Saturday afternoon. In the American conference, the Cleveland Browns can win their third straight division crown by downing the New York Giants. Philadelphia has a chance to tie if New York wins and the Eagles down Washington. Since both the Rams and Lions are expected to win, a playoff for the crown is virtually a certainty in the National conference. This would be played Saturday, Dec. 21. The league championship game then would be played Dec. 28.

## **IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO COMPARE HOWTON WITH IMMORTAL HUTSON**

DEC 9 (Green Bay) - One of the Packers' bright lights in the last two game - lost by a total score of 97 to 51 - has been young Bill Howton, the rookie from Rice Institute. Howton performed so brilliantly in the two clutch battles that it has been difficult not to compare him with the immortal Don Hutson. Against Detroit Thanksgiving day, Howton snagged three touchdown passes and finished the afternoon with seven catches for 125 yards. Against Los Angeles Sunday, Howton caught





Howton in action at LA

six for 200 yards and set up three TDs. In 11 games, Bill nailed 45 passes for 1,069 yards and 11 touchdowns and he has one more match to go - the Forty Niners in San Francisco next Sunday. Last year, Howton was the only pass receiver in all college football to average over 20 yards per catch, finishing with 22-plus. Elroy Hirsch of the Rams was the only pro player to finish with over 20 in '51, also clocking 22-plus. This season, Howton is bettering that tremendous average with his 23.7 per reception. It is unfair, of course - to both Howton and Huston - to rate young Bill with the old master catcher. Hutson broke into pro ball when the forward pass was used sparingly, at least in comparison to today's pitch game. As a rookie in 1935, Don caught 18 passes for 420 yards and seven touchdowns - far below Howton's totals. But that year, the Bays gained only 1,416 yards passing, which was tops in the league. The present Packers already have gained 2,050 yards, with one more game left. Thus, there is a big difference in the type of attack employed by the 1935 and 1952 clubs. Hutson was at this yardage best in

1942 when he gained 1,211 yards and seventeen touchdowns on 74 receptions -- a season in which the Packers rolled up 2,407 yards passing in 11 games. Howton is just 142 yards short of tying Hutson's all-time high Packer yardage mark, but six behind on the TD total. Hutson, incidentally, had only one 1,000-plus yard year in his 11 campaigns - 1,211 in '42. Hirsch broke Don's yardage mark with the pass-crazy Rams in '51 when he totaled 1,495 stripes and tied the TD total the same season. The Howton-Hutson comparisons will be kicked around all winter and one of the points will be whether or not the defensive backs in Hutson's early break-in period were as skilled as the specialists of today. In the late 1930s, it must be recalled that defensive backs also played offense and, what's more, Hutson played on the defense, too. If the defensive backs are better these days, then it must be admitted that "Willie" is some shakes. It's an argument that someday parallel the Dempsey-Louis thing, but at the moment Hutson is some 10 years, 90 touchdowns and 540 points (on pass touchdowns) ahead of Howton. But it's wonderful to sit back and dream this possibility: Could the Packers have another Hutson in the offing? Hutson, himself, sees no limit to what Hutson can do in the pro league...POINT NOTE: The 1952 Packers can become the highest scoring team in Bay history at San Francisco Sunday. The best previous season's total for a Packer team in National league competition was in '42, when the team scored an even 300 points. Though last Sunday's game, the Packers totaled 281 points - just 19 short of the 1942 figure. The '42 Packers, however, counted their 300 in 11 games - an average of 27.2. Thus far in 11 games, the '52 Packers are averaging 25.5.

#### TAX LIEN FILED AGAINST DALLAS 11

DEC 9 (Philadelphia) - The bureau of internal revenue has filed a tax lien against the Dallas Texans of the NFL in an attempt to recover \$10,000 in amusement taxes, a bureau spokesman said Monday. The unpaid amusement taxes were collected by the club at Dallas during the current season. The NFL has been operating the Dallas team since the Texans' franchise was returned to the league because of financial troubles.

#### BALTIMORE HOPS ON PRO BANDWAGON

DEC 9 (Baltimore) - The drive to bring major league professional football back to Baltimore appeared to be off winging Tuesday night with 7,000 season tickets sold or pledged for. The city was told last week by Commissioner Bert Bell of the NFL that he would transfer the Dallas Texans here if fans would buy \$250,000 worth of tickets - meaning 15,000 season ducats - by January 22. The ticket sale started Monday.

## The Figures

### Leading Ground Gainers

	Att	Yds	Lg	Ave
Towler, Los Ang.	144	821	44	5.7
Price, New York	183	748	75	4.1
McElhenny, San F.	93	659	89	7.1
Perry, San F.	138	616	78	4.5
Hoernschemeyer, Det.	106	457	41	4.3
Motley, Cleveland	104	443	59	4.3
Rote, New York	90	390	52	4.3
Layne, Detroit	89	390	29	4.4
Carpenter, Clevel.	68	388	37	5.7
Heath, Washington	89	386	74	4.3

Longest Gain: 89 yds. Hugh McElhenny, San Francisco, vs. Dallas 10-5-52 TD.

### Leading Passers

	At	Cm	Yds	TrP	Int	Av
Rote, T., GB	132	69	1119	12	8	8.48
V' Brocklin, LA	177	96	1447	11	15	8.18
Parilli, GB	155	67	1236	12	16	7.97
Graham, Clevel.	332	163	2537	18	21	7.64
LeBaron, Wash.	170	87	1285	12	13	7.56
Albert, SF	103	55	751	7	9	7.29
Finks, Pitts.	292	136	2046	19	16	7.01
Layne, Det.	267	129	1822	17	19	6.82
Tittle, SF	207	105	1403	11	12	6.78
Conerly, NY	143	66	906	9	10	6.34
Thomason, Phil.	185	81	1168	7	8	6.31
Romanik, Bears	123	48	773	4	11	6.28
Waterfield, LA	94	44	586	3	9	6.23
Panciera, Cards	96	35	582	5	9	6.06
Blanda, Bears	104	38	553	7	8	5.32
Trippi, Cards	147	70	714	4	9	4.86
Trippucka, Dal.	154	79	679	2	14	4.09

Longest Completion: 90 yds. Vito Parrilli, Green Bay vs. Washington 10-5-52 TD.

Standings based on average gain per pass attempted.

### Leading Pass Receivers

	Rec	Yds	Lg	Tds
Speedie, Clevel.	56	856	50	5
Soltau, SF	54	759	49	7
Grant, Phila.	52	941	84	7
Stonesifer, Chi. Cards	47	506	26	0
Howton, Green Bay	45	1069	90	11
Nickel, Pitts.	45	682	54	8
Jones, Clevel.	42	641	63	4
Taylor, Wash.	38	879	70	11
Fears, Los. A.	38	478	36	4
Schroeder, Bears	37	607	56	6
Carey, Los A.	35	526	61	1
Box, Detroit	35	722	64	12

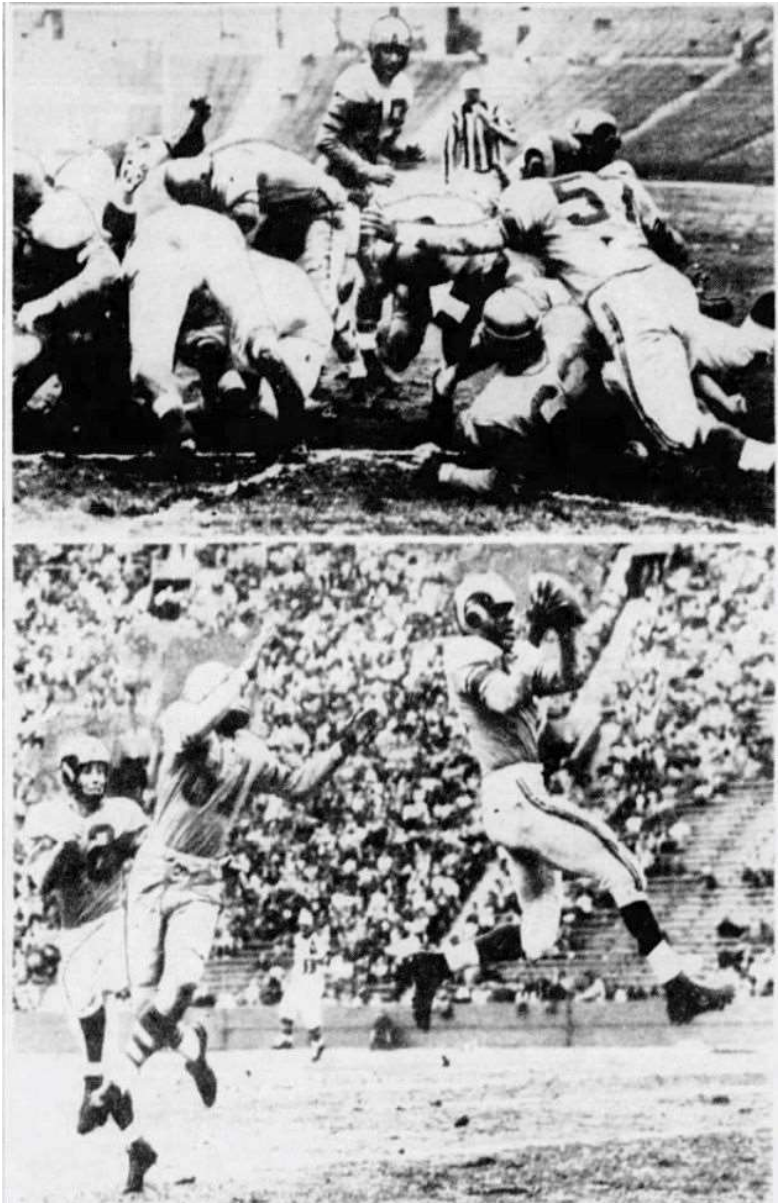
Longest Completion: 90 yds. Billie Howton, Green Bay, vs. Washington 10-5-52 TD.

### Leading Scorers

	T&R	TdP	TT	XP	FG	Pts
Soltau, SF	0	7	7	31	5	88
Groza, Clevel.	0	0	0	31	17	82
Walston, Phila.	0	0	3	28	11	79
Waterfield, LA	1	0	1	39	11	78
Box, Detroit	0	12	12	0	0	72
Harder, Detroit	2	0	2	29	9	68
Howton, GB	0	11	11	0	0	66
Taylor, Wash.	0	11	11	0	0	66
Towler, LA	10	0	10	0	0	60
Matson, Cards	6	3	9	0	0	54
McElhenny, SF	6	3	9	0	0	54

## SOLUTION OF 49ER MYSTERY PLEDGED

DEC 9 (San Francisco) - Patience, friends, We're going to find out about what happened to the 49ers, if it takes us twenty years. And when we do get to the bottom of this thing, you'll be the first to know of it. So just keep watching this space. Anytime between now and 1972 we may be bringing you another exclusive. Worth waiting for? You bet. Meanwhile, you can be sure you'll be as well informed as the next guy. Nobody's getting ahead of us. The collapse of the village humpty-dumpties has every one in the dark. What got into them that they should smell like a rose one minute and like Roquefort the next? A variety of theories have been advanced. They include just about everything from domestic difficulties to tight-fitting shoes. We've heard that the root of the trouble is dissension in the ranks and also that it is something the 49ers ate. A few profound thinkers insist that the coaching staff is to blame. Well, that is interesting. The 49er coaches did appear to be confused last Sunday as the local club took a 24-7 clobbering from the Pittsburgh Steelers. There could be something to the claim that the coaches lost their grip. But all of this is mere speculation. The only thing any one can be sure of at the moment is when it all began. That's in the record. The start of the 49ers' disintegration can be nailed down to a point about midway in the third quarter of their second game with the Chicago Bears played at Kezar Stadium, November 2. With his team out in front by seven points, and the ball inside of his own forty - fourth down and three yards to go - Frankie Albert, the 49er quarterback, decided to gamble. Instead of kicking and playing it safe, Albert made a run for it. Had it worked, it might have been called a brilliantly daring play, but it failed with spectacularly costly results. Given the ball some fifty yards closer to the goal line than would have been the case had Albert not taken a long chance, the Bears scored a quick touchdown, added a field goal to that, and pulled the game out of the fire, 20-17. Yes, that was the start of it. Unbeaten until that fateful hour, the 49ers just haven't been the same since. Perhaps the most amazing thing about the 49ers' collapse is that it can be traced back to a single play. How often has football witnesses so swift and dramatic a shift in the fortunes of a team? On play frequently makes the difference in the outcome of a game, but here was a play that changed the course of an entire season and marked the beginning of the end for what had been called the greatest team in the business. Up to the moment of Albert's memorable gamble, the 49ers had won thirteen straight - counting five exhibitions and the three league games they had won at the close of the 1951 campaign. Moreover, they were leading the Bears and looked a cinch to run their string to fourteen straight. Then it happened, and all of a sudden the heart went out of the 49ers. The one-time toasts of professional football just didn't have it anymore. The New York Giants walloped them and the Los Angeles Rams whacked them twice. Only buy the sheerest luck did they manage to get by the Washington Redskins. Sunday's defeat by the Steelers was their fifth in six games. Perhaps, the 49ers would have taken their shellackings anyway, but we can't help but think that things would have been different, all around, had Albert kicked on fourth down as called for by the conventions of sound football. More than just a game was lost when his judgment backfired. The 49ers' confidence in themselves was lost along with it. Henceforth, they were to play like men who knew they were going to be whipped. That may be why the football analysts are having such a time of it accounting for the 49ers' crackup. Things of the mind don't show. You can't see through bone encased in a leather helmet. If you could, you'd know what's wrong with the 49ers and you wouldn't have to wait for twenty years for us to get the dope.



**Packer Fortunes Soar, Then Dip**—Two of the vital plays in Sunday's Packer-Ram game at Los Angeles are shown above. At top, the Bays' Floyd (Breezy) Reid plunges through center of line into end zone on Packers' third try to score from two-yard line in second quarter. In the lower shot, halfback Dick (Night Train) Lane of the Rams (81), leaps into the air to intercept a Packer pass intended for Bob Mann (87), before wheeling 80 yards to a touchdown that gave the Rams a 24-14 lead in the fourth quarter. Other player is Herb Rich (42), Rams halfback. Packers lost, 45-27. (AP Wirephotos)



## An Eye for an Eye

# Packers Manage a Draw in Battle of Jerseys With Rams

### PACKERS MANAGE A DRAW IN BATTLE OF JERSEYS WITH RAMS

DEC 10 (Green Bay) - The Packers had no luck with the Los Angeles Rams on the field this season, but they managed a draw in the battle of jerseys. The big rhubarb that developed on the west coast when the Packers showed up in their standard gold jerseys Sunday actually was an aftermath of a similar but quieted incident when the two clubs tangled in Milwaukee Oct. 12. It's a sort of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth story. To start with, the NFL rule book states, in part: "The color of visiting clubs may not be similar to those of home club, and, if so, they (visitors) must have available a change of jerseys to eliminate any confusion." The Rams came into Milwaukee with only their gold jerseys and LA Coach Hampton Pool asked Packer head coach Gene Ronzani if the Packers could wear a different jersey so as to prevent confusion among the players and spectators. Ronzani consented to grab the Packers in their green jerseys, and promptly let the matter drop. That is, he didn't call the commissioner in view of the fact that the Rams were supposed to be equipped with a jersey change. Now the scene shifts to Los Angeles - Sunday, Dec. 7. The Packers came forth with their gold jerseys and, you guessed it, the Rams were also sporting their golds. The LA officials raised a howl but Ronzani couldn't help but remind them of the Milwaukee incident. The Packers, like the Rams Oct. 12, only had their gold jerseys. So maybe, Ronzani thought, the Rams might be kind like the Packers were in Milwaukee and switch to blue jerseys. But the Rams weren't kind. They called the game officials together and called Commissioner Bert Bell in Philadelphia, who reportedly said that he'd investigate the entire matter. The game officials couldn't rule, since Ronzani did carry something of a club - the Milwaukee case. But they did suggest that the Packers wear "white" shirts, which have never been explained. Ronzani killed this on the grounds that it would create more confusion than if both clubs wore their gold jerseys. Fans are wondering whether the confusion might have had some bearing on the game. Players admitted that they tackled and blocked the wrong players a number of times. Packer passer had five throws intercepted and all of them were the long variety in which the pitcher might have had trouble "making out" the receivers and the defensive backs. Ronzani, however, stated flatly that the jerseys had nothing to do with the outcome. It was his opinion that it was difficult for both teams and he added that there was enough contrast in the gold and white pants and the helmets.

### ROTE HOLDING SLIM AIR EDGE

DEC 10 (Los Angeles) - Who will win the forward passing championship of the NFL? Tobin Rote, Norm Van Brocklin or Vito (Babe) Parilli! Packer veteran Tobin Rote holds a slight lead over the Los Angeles Rams' Van Brocklin, according to latest National league statistics, while Packer rookie Parilli is running a close third. The title will be up for grabs in the final regularly-scheduled league games of the season next Sunday when the Packers engage the Forty Niners in San Francisco and the Rams battle the Pittsburgh Steelers in Los Angeles. Green Bay hasn't had an individual passing championship since 1942 when Cecil Isbell, the front part of the Isbell-to-Don Hutson combination, finished on top. Isbell also won title in '41. Powerful pitching Arnie Herber was the only other Packers to win the league hurling title, taking the crowds in 1932, 1934 and 1936. No passing figures were compiled previously to 1932. Rote presently is leading with an average gain per pass of 8.48 yards, while Van Brocklin is second

## The Figures

### Leading Ground Gainers

	Att	Yds	Lg	Ave
Towler, Los Ang	144	821	44	5.7
Price, New York	183	748	75	4.1
McElhenny, San F.	93	659	89	7.1
Perry, San F.	138	616	78	4.5
Hoernschemeyer, Det.	106	457	41	4.3
Motley, Cleveland	104	443	59	4.3
Rote, New York	90	390	52	4.3
Layne, Detroit	89	390	29	4.4
Carpenter, Cleve.	68	388	37	5.7
Heath, Washington	89	386	74	4.3

Longest Gain: 89 yds. Hugh McElhenny, San Francisco, vs. Dallas 10-5-52 TD.

### Leading Passers

	At	Cm	Yds	TrP	Int	Av
Rote, T., GB	132	69	1119	12	8	8.48
V' Brocklin, LA	177	96	1447	11	15	8.18
Parilli, GB	155	67	1236	12	16	7.97
Graham, Cleve.	332	163	2537	18	21	7.64
LeBaron, Wash.	170	87	1285	12	13	7.56
Albert, SF	103	55	751	7	9	7.29
Finks, Pitts.	292	136	2046	19	16	7.01
Layne, Det.	267	129	1822	17	19	6.82
Tittle, SF	207	105	1403	11	12	6.78
Conerly, NY	143	66	906	9	10	6.34
Thomason, Phil.	185	81	1168	7	8	6.31
Romanik, Bears	123	48	773	4	11	6.28
Waterfield, LA	94	44	586	3	9	6.23
Panciera, Cards	96	35	582	5	9	6.06
Blanda, Bears	104	38	553	7	8	5.32
Trippi, Cards	147	70	714	4	9	4.86
Trippucka, Dal.	154	79	679	2	14	4.09

Longest Completion: 90 yds. Vito Parilli, Green Bay vs. Washington 10-5-52 TD.

Standings based on average gain per pass attempted.

### Leading Pass Receivers

	Rec	Yds	Lg	Tds
Speedie, Cleve.	56	856	30	5
Soltau, SF	54	759	49	7
Grant, Phila	52	941	84	7
Stonesifer, Chi. Cards	47	506	26	0
Howton, Green Bay	45	1069	90	11
Nickel, Pitts.	45	682	54	8
Jones, Cleve.	42	641	63	4
Taylor, Wash.	38	879	70	11
Fears, Los. A.	38	478	36	4
Schroeder, Bears	37	607	56	6
Carey, Los A.	35	526	61	1
Box, Detroit	35	722	64	12

Longest Completion: 90 yds. Billie Howton, Green Bay, vs. Washington 10-5-52 TD.

### Leading Scorers

	TdR	TdP	TT	XP	FG	Pts
Soltau, SF	0	7	7	31	5	88
Groza, Cleve.	0	0	0	31	17	82
Walston, Phila.	0	0	3	28	11	79
Waterfield, LA	1	0	1	39	11	78
Box, Detroit	0	12	12	0	0	72
Harder, Detroit	2	0	2	29	9	68
Howton, GB	0	11	11	0	0	66
Taylor, Wash.	0	11	11	0	0	66
Towler, LA	10	0	10	0	0	60
Matson, Cards	6	3	9	0	0	54
McElhenny, SF	6	3	9	0	0	54



with 8.18. Parilli is third with 7.97 and Otto Graham of Cleveland is fourth with 7.64. The Packer-Ram game here Sunday saw Rote skid and Van Brocklin and Parilli gain. Rote hurled 12 times and completed five for 56 yards, well below his average, while Parilli completed nine out of 19 for 231 yards. Van Brocklin leaped up by completing nine out of 12 for 137 yards. The Rams' Bob Waterfield, 1951 champion, is well out of the running with an average of 6.23. While Rote and Parilli had a chance for the title, the man behind the throne – Mr. Bill Howton, the sparkling Packer end – became the first player in the league to gain more than 1,000 yards on pass catches. Howton's long receptions have helped Rote and Parilli considerably in their title drive – just as Elroy Hirsch's long gainers moved Waterfield into the crown last season. Hirsch, hurt most of this year, is a decided factor in Van Brocklin's upswing. With six catches for 200 yards at LA, Howton now has totaled 1,069 yards on 45 receptions for eleven games. He is averaging 23.9 per catch. Howton didn't score against LA, but he set up three touchdowns. Hugh Taylor of Washington, with three TD catches against New York, tied Howton for TDs, with 11 apiece. The pass catching crown is based number of aeriels caught. Mac Speedie of Cleveland is tops with 56, but they brought only 856 yards – 213 less than Howton's figure. Gordy Soltau of San Francisco is second with 54 for 759 yards. Soltau, incidentally, will miss Sunday's finale because of a broken ankle. The Bays continued training in Gilmore stadium here this afternoon. They will leave for San Francisco Friday morning.

### **BALTIMORE DRIVE AT HALFWAY MARK**

DEC 10 (Baltimore) - Backers of the drive to bring pro football back to Baltimore were halfway over the hump today – but with the hardest part of the row left to hoe. Commissioner Bert Bell of the NFL told the city he would transfer the Dallas franchise here if Baltimore fans put up \$250,000 in season ticket sales. This meant selling 15,000 season tickets. In the first two days of the drive, Ticket Manager Herb Wright reported that 7,000 tickets have been sold or pledged for. But, he added, “from now on the going will be tougher.” Baltimore has until Jan. 22 – the date of the league meeting – to sell the tickets.

### **THE LOWDOWN**

DEC 10 (San Francisco) - We know you'll be delighted to hear that the collapse of the San Francisco 49ers has not been attended by financial panic. Owner A.J. “Tony” Morabito isn't worrying. Naturally, he felt better when his team was winning 'em all, but he won't miss any meals now that the 49ers have lost five of their last six games. Box-office wise, the club is having its all-time biggest season. Its coffers are bulging. Morabito had it made before the team fell apart. Even if the 49ers' concluding contest – with Green Bay next Sunday – fails to draw enough customers to play football, the club will finish in the black about \$100,000 worth. The 49ers have played to some whopper crowds. At Kezar, they drew 60,000 with the Chicago Bears, 54,000 with the Detroit Lions and 51,000 with the Los Angeles Rams. On the road, they had three sellouts – 54,000 in New York, 53,000 in Deroit and 48,000 in Chicago, plus another 68,000 in the mammoth Los Angeles Coliseum. So waste no tears on Mr. Morabito. They won't be holding any benefit raffles for him. The 49ers aren't going to win the National League championship, but they're a cinch to finish at or near the top in attendance...Incidentally, Sunday's game with Green Bay will be the last for one of the 49ers' seven year veterans – Johnny Strzykalski. Strike, who has been with the club since its organization, is still a solid citizen but he's not as spry as he used to be so he's decided to hang 'em up. His retirement will leave only Bruno Banducci and Frankie Albert to carry on for the “old guard” – and it's no cinch that either will be back next year. Albert, for one, is thinking of calling it quits. He'll make up his mind sometime after the first of the year. When, and if he turned in his suit, he'll be through with football. Albert, often called the “brains” of the 49ers, would make an excellent coach but he just isn't interested in coaching as a profession. “Too many headaches in coaching for me,” he says. “I want to be happy. And did you ever see a happy



**HIRSCH HALTED**—Packer Abner Wimberly hauls down Elroy Hirsch but not before Ram star picked up 25 yards on pass play in first half of bitter battle at Coliseum. Times photo by Art Rogers

coach?" Well, come to think of it, we haven't. Not for any length of time – that is. They all suffer when they take a clobbering.

### **STRZYKALSKI, ALBERT QUIT AFTER SUNDAY**

DEC 10 (San Francisco) - Halfback Johnny Strzykowski, former ace at Marquette University and South Division High School in Milwaukee, and quarterback Frankie Albert, former All-American at Stanford, Wednesday announced their retirement from pro football. The two San Francisco gridders announced they would quit after the 49ers' Sunday game against the Green Bay Packers. Albert announced he was going to work full time as an auto agency employee.

### **ROTE HOLDS PASSING LEAD; PARILLI THIRD**

DEC 10 (Philadelphia) - Tobin Rote, the co-quarterback of the Green Bay Packers, held on grimly to the NFL's passing leadership today though hardpressed by Norm Van Brocklin of the Los Angeles Rams. Rote, a three-year veteran in the NFL, has shared the quarterback duties for the Packers with Babe Parilli, who's doing very well in his freshman year in the play-for-pay game. Rote, who sometimes starts and sometimes sits on the bench in favor of Parilli, has completed 69 of 132 passes - a 52.3 percentage - for an average gain of 8.48 yards. Van Brocklin has hit for 96 of 177, with an average of 8.18 yards gained on each heave. Van Brocklin's completion percentage is the best in the league. Parilli is in third place in the passing parade with 67 of 155 aerals completed for an average gain of 7.97 yards per completion. In fourth place is



**What's The Joke?**—Ted Fritsch, right, chief quarterback of the men's QB club, tells about the time he played at Waupun (as a visitor) while Charley Brock, Packer Alumni prexy, and Sam Kaufman, recreation director at the state prison in Waupun, listen. Kaufman addressed the QB club last night.

Cleveland's veteran Otto Graham who has thrown 332 passes, completed 163, the most in the league for an average gain of 7.64 yards and a total 2,537 yardage. In the rushing department, Los Angeles' Dan Towler continues in the No. 1 spot, carrying the pigskin 144 times, gaining a total of 821 yards for a 5.7-yard average. Far behind is New York's Eddie Price, who has carried 183 times for 748 yards, or 4.1 yards per try, with San Francisco's Hugh McElhenny - an early season leader - third with 659 yards on 93 carries. Cleveland's Mac Speedie, target of many of Graham's bullet passes, retained the pass-catching leadership, snaring 56 for a total gain of 856 yards. Not far behind is Gordon Soltau of San Francisco with 54 for 759 and Philadelphia's Harry Grant with 52 for 941. Soltau, who has caught seven touchdowns passes, leads the scorers with 88 points. Besides the TDs this includes 31 extra points and five field goals. In second place is Cleveland's Lou Groza, who has 82 points on 31 extra points and 17 field goals. Horace Gillom, Cleveland Brown star, still is defending successfully his punting title. Gillom has averaged 46.5 yards on each of his 59 kicks with Detroit's Bob Smith not far behind with a 45-yard average on 56 boots. Jack Christiansen of the Detroit Lions took the lead in the punt return department having lugged back 15 boots for a total of 322 yards, or an average 21.5 yards each.

Woodley Lewis of Los Angeles, last week's leader, fell to second with 17 returns for 305 yards, an average of 17.9. In kickoff returns, Pittsburgh's Lynn Chadnois retained his leadership, carrying back 17 for a total of 599 yards, including two for touchdowns, and one on a 93-yard run. In second place was Eddie Macon of the Chicago Bears with eight returns for 273 yards, an average return of 34.1. Dick Lane of the Rams took over sole possession of the pass interception department, snaring 11 enemy aerals. Tom Keane of the lowly Dallas Texans is second with 10 interceptions.

### **ALBERT WILL QUIT 49ERS AFTER SUNDAY'S GAME**

DEC 11 (San Francisco) - Frankie Albert, doughy little field general of the San Francisco 49ers and one of the most colorful figures in professional football, yesterday announced his retirement from the gridiron. Frankie will play his last game Sunday in Kezar Stadium against the Green Bay Packers. "Time marches on," Albert told President Tony Morabito of the 49ers after making his decision. "It is time that I devoted myself to other activities." Albert, one-time Stanford great, explained that he regretted leaving the 49ers but his arrangement with the Rector motor car agency of Burlingame was so attractive that he wanted to put on a permanent basis. Frankie said he will serve in an executive capacity as soon as he ends his gridiron career. During the off season, he has been a car salesman...TIME TO QUIT: Frankie, after working out with the squad at Menlo College yesterday afternoon, elaborated: "I talked the thing over with my wide and we decided that this



is a pretty good year for me to hang 'em up. I hate jumping off ship at a time like this. But, at 32, if there is anything else you can do you had better start doing it. Don't hang in there and take the last punch. If we had gone through with a winning season, I probably would have tried it two or three more years. It is difficult to quit on anything but a losing team. And we have decided that now is the time. This isn't great. The 49ers have been great to work for and the teams have been grand to play with. But when you're getting no younger daily you had better start thinking about a permanent future." Albert is one of the highest paid hands in professional football, drawing some \$20,000 a year. His contract notes that this sum is paid for his services as "player and coach". The 5 foot 10 and 175 pounds quarterback is the second 49er to bow off the gridiron this week. Johnny Strzykalski, halfback, had announced previously that this would be his last game. Strike, like Albert, was one of the original 49ers who launched professional football here with the now defunct All American Conference in 1946...BANDUCCI LAST: With Norman Standlee out of action because of polio and Visco Grgich sidelined by a fractured knee, only Bruno Banducci, aggressive running guard, remains of the original five. Banducci is expected to play next year and Grgich probably will if his knee repairs during the off season. Coach Buck Shaw was surprised and shocked at Albert's action. "He told me several times in the last month he was thinking of quitting, but I didn't take him seriously," Shaw said. "This is going to hurt. He's a great inspirational leader besides being a talented football. He's one in a million. The little guy gave us a tremendous lift, spiritually and by physical example. I would say that Frank has been responsible for all of the fire and enthusiasm that the 49ers have become known for in the last seven years." The 49er front office in the Phelan Building also was suffering from shock. Like Shaw, all of the club executives and employees expected that the Little General would quit sometime. They never thought about it in the immediate sense...STARTING ALL OVER: "It is just like starting all over," said one of the employees. "It is even worse than that. How are we going to get anywhere without Albert?" That was a minor employee, to be sure. But the feeling was general and from the heart. The executives were just tight lipped. "Let's take 1953 take care of itself when it comes," concluded Vic Morabito, co-owner. Until Albert suffered an injury in the game with the New York Giants in New York Giants in New York, he was enjoying one of his most successful seasons. That injury possibly hastened his retirement. A small bone in his jaw was broken. Even at that, the little guy has had quite a season as a passer. Frankie has the second best average in completions, 53.4; is second lowest in the league for interceptions with nine and has hurled for a 7.29 average per attempt, not completion. The little guy always has been high among the professional punters and it is conceded that he is the best quick kicker in the business...FINE LEADER: Departure of the former Stanford ace removes one of the game's most controversial figures.



An impish, puckish fellow with a tremendous wit and ability to loosen up his mates while maintaining leadership domination, Frankie's field decisions often left the great mass of 49er followers gasping. While no record has been kept of his gambling successes, they probably run 90 percent. Only the ones that turned out mistakes, like the decision to run on a fourth down punt situation against the Chicago Bears, are remembered. That one failed and Frankie subsequently was blamed when the Bears topped the 49er winning streak after five straight league games and thirteen in a row over two seasons and including exhibitions. "You're great when you make them and a dummy when you don't," Frankie philosophized after that one. But criticism didn't stop him from doing the unexpected. Only last Sunday, while losing to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Frankie called on Joe Perry to lug the hide on fourth down from punt formation. Joe and Frankie got away with it, kept the ball instead of surrendering it. The 49er quarterback, called by many rival coaches and players "another coach upon the field", first emerged into the limelight in 1940 as quarterback of the unbeaten Stanford Indians. He was named All American quarterback in 1940 and 1941, but his particular fame came from his introduction of the now common T formation into college football. Albert, disciple of Clark D. Shaughnessy, introduced the intricate new system (new because of the man in motion principle) so successfully that within two seasons that style of play was used almost

universally. Albert, as the mystifying ball handler and field general, made the Stanford attack move...MASTER OF T: Many authorities still regard Albert as the master of the T quarterbacks, certainly as the cleverest ball handler and, more certainly, as the gridiron's greatest gambler. Frankie served in the Navy during the Second World War and saw action as a flight deck officer in the Pacific. He began his professional football career in 1946, when the 49ers were organized, and he has been the heart and backbone of that team ever since.

# Pack Hears About Albert 'Retirement'

## Number 7?

### National Football League

#### National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Detroit	8	3	0	.727	303	186
Los Angeles	8	3	0	.727	321	220
GREEN BAY	6	5	0	.545	281	288
Chicago Bears	4	7	0	.364	235	319
San Francisco	6	5	0	.545	261	207
Dallas	1	10	0	.091	176	386

#### American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Cleveland	8	3	0	.727	276	176
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	231	244
New York	6	5	0	.545	197	197
Pittsburgh	5	6	0	.455	286	245
Chicago Card.	4	7	0	.364	165	211
Washington	3	8	0	.273	213	268

#### Today's Game

Dallas at Detroit

#### Sunday's Game

GREEN BAY AT SAN FRANCISCO  
Chicago Cardinals at Chicago Bears  
Cleveland at New York  
Philadelphia at Washington  
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles

#### Probable Offensive Lineups

GREEN BAY	SAN FRANCISCO
Mann, le	le, Jessup
Afflis, lt	lt, Tonneff
Ruzich, lg	lg, Smith
Rhodemys, c	c, Johnson
Logan, rg	rg, Banducci
Dowden, rt	rt, Nomellini
Howton, re	re, Wilson
Parilli, qb	qb, Albert
Canadeo, lhb	lhb, Boone
Reid, rhb	rhb, McElhenny
Floyd, fb	fb, Perry

### PACK HEARS ABOUT ALBERT 'RETIREMENT'

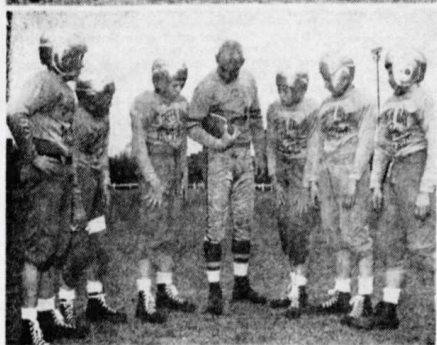
DEC 11 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The San Francisco Forty Niners pulled the Retirement Act on the Green Bay Packers today. But it's old stuff to the Packers. One day last week, captain-quarterback Bob Waterfield announced to the public at large that the current season would be his last as a professional footballer. Bob proceeded to play quite the heroic game in helping his team to a 45 to 27 victory over the Packers. Today, the Bays learned that Frankie Albert, the cocky, swaggering little general of the Forty Niners, had decided to select 1952 as his final year. The Forty Niners, it is assumed, are expecting Albert to pull a Waterfield when the Green Bays close their present season in San Francisco Sunday. Waterfield gave movie and business interests, plus the fact that he was getting old, as reasons for retiring. Albert was a bit more poetic in his retirement announcement, as follows: "Time marches on! I've been thinking of this for a couple or three months and I just suddenly made up my mind last night. I've reached the time in my career when it's hard for me to play the way I should. Besides, I have a TV program and an auto sales job that keeps me hustling." The Packers were willing to bet today that Frankie might make up his mind - "just as suddenly" - to play next August. Anyway, it can be reported - off Albert's statement - that he is following the lead of two other great passing quarterbacks - the aforementioned Waterfield and the daddy of them all, Sammy Baugh of the Washington Redskins. The Packer-Forty Niner game will mark the end of active grid activity for at least three other players. The Bays' famed workhorse, Tony Canadeo, announced earlier than 1952 would be his last venture. Also on record as retiring are Forty Niners Johnny Strzykalski, the former Marquette halfback, and linebacker and fullback Norm Standlee. Albert, the master of the bootleg play and onetime Stanford All-American, had led the Forty Niner attack for seven seasons. He has thrown 1,538 passes, completed 615 for 10,582 yards and 114 touchdowns. He ranks sixth in the

National league's passing yardage column this season. The Packers are stressing offense in practice at Gilmore stadium here this week. The Forty Niners boast one of the better defenses in the league. The two clubs will be meeting for the first time this year. The Forty Niners are anxious to test their rugged defense on Bill Howton, the Packers' sparkling rookie pass catcher, and his rookie quarterback mate - Babe Parilli. The Packers move up to San Francisco by train Friday morning.

### ALBERT TO CLOSE OUT CAREER AGAINST PACKERS

DEC 11 (San Francisco) - Frankie Albert - who rose from a bench-warming substitute in 1939 to All-America quarterback for Stanford in 1940 and has stayed a T-formation wizard ever since - closes out his spectacular career Sunday. The master of the bootleg play announced that his appearance with the San Francisco 49ers against the Green Bay Packers in the windup of the NFL season will be his last. The 32-year old 49er quarterback is associated with an automobile agency in Palo Alto, where he makes his home, and also conducts a weekly television program. He says he is not interested in coaching college football. For seven seasons, Albert has been the guiding genius of the 49ers' T-formation attack. He has thrown 1,538 passes, completed 615 for 10,582 yards and 114 touchdowns. In 1948 he shared the All-America Conference most valuable player award with Otto Graham of the Cleveland Browns. He's sixth in the NFL passing yardage column this season.





**Real Instruction**—Members of the Junior Packer football team, which will play in Florida, received some expert instruction from the senior Packers before they left on their west coast trip recently.

**Top Picture**—Bob Mann, center, and Bill Howton—the Bays' ace pass catchers, give juniors (left to right) Dell Heney, Dick Hermisen, Bernard Van Ark and Dick Naud the dope on receiving.

**Second From Top**—Packer Tony Canadeo shows the youngsters how to keep from fumbling. Juniors are (left to right) Jim LaPlante, Jim Starry, Tom Nelson, Gary Kroner, Tom LaTour and Gerald DeGroot.

**Second From Bottom**—Carl DeCleene will wear No. 62 in the Florida game and he's shown above shaking with the Packers' No. 62—Dick Afflis. Others (left to right) are Ron Bertagnoli, Roger Campshire, Earl Vanden Heuvel, Paul Toney, Allen Doherty, Gabe Biemeret, John Schelter, Wilson Troup and Dick Hartl.

**Bottom**—Packer fullback Bill Reichardt shows three junior backs the correct stance. Left to right, the juniors are Bernard Van Boxel, Tom Biebel and Ralph Zirbel.

## Junior Packers Whipping Into Shape for Florida Contests

## 2 'OLD PROS' START FINALE

DEC 12 (San Francisco) - Coach Buck Shaw will present a brand new backfield alignment Sunday against the Green Bay Packers in Kezar when he honors two departing veterans, Frankie Albert and Johnny Strzykalski. Frankie will start at quarterback, although it is Y.A. Tittle's turn to open hostilities. And Strike will be starting for the first time since he gave up right-halfbacking upon the acquisition of Hurryin' Hugh McElhenny. He will open at fullback. Joe Perry, the regular fullback, will play left half in the new combo and Hurryin' Hugh will occupy his regular right half niche...**VERSATILE ATTACK**: The new backfield embraces a lot of talent, particularly with Johnny Strike determined to make his farewell a bumping, driving affair. And Albert will be winging with all of his old lefthanded cunning to make his goodbye a lasting memorial to a colorful career among the chalk lines. With two speedsters, Perry and McElhenny at the halfbacks, the 49ers should generate enough of every kind of attack to sweep the Green Bays out of the stadium. Provided, of course, that the front line starts charging and blocking again. Albert and Strike are not the only two during the au revoir Sunday. Tony Canadeo, the little Italian veteran halfback, will be singing a swan song for the Packers after eleven years of toil in the wilds of Wisconsin. Tony played for Gonzaga University away back when St. Mary's, Santa Clara, USF and Loyola dominated the Sunday scene hereabouts and there were no 49ers...**FOUR TO ARMED FORCES**: Unannounced by also playing their last games for at least two years are four other 49ers who soon will be packing muskets for Uncle Sam. Bob Tonneff, burly and brilliant tackle, Ed Henke, perhaps the best defensive end in football today, Jerry Smith, the "Humphrey" guard who broke in when Nick Feher was wounded, and Pat O'Donahue, freshman end, all have received or will get their notices to report in January. The Green Bayers, coached by Gene Ronzani, arrive here tonight on the Daylight. They will establish headquarters at the Bellevue Hotel and work out in Kezar tomorrow.

## PACKERS NEAR POINT MARK

DEC 12 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Green Bay Packers will be out to crack the club's all-time scoring mark - in addition to winning - when they battle the San Francisco Forty Niners in Kezar stadium Sunday afternoon. The Packers have scored 281 points in their first 11 games this season and 20 or more against the Forty Niners would give them a new team record. The old record of 300 was established in 1942 when the team finished with an 8-2-1 rating in the Western division. This mark, however, was set in 11 games. Sunday's game will be the Packers' 12th. The current Packers are averaging 25.5 points per contest. The 1942 Bays averaged 27.2. Green Bay scored 254 points in '51 and 244 in '50. The Packers and Cleveland Browns are the only teams in the league to score four touchdowns on the defense-souped Los Angeles Rams. The Bays did it twice - in losing 30 to 28 in Milwaukee Oct. 12 and in losing 45 to 27 in LA last Sunday. The Browns scored four TDs and added three field goals in trouncing the Rams, 37-7, in the league opener. The Packers twice scored over 40 points, getting 42 on Dallas and 41 on the Chicago Bears. The Bays' lowest total was 12 - against Philadelphia in a 12-10 victory. The Packers, barring a complete collapse, will show improvement on defense over '50 and '51. They allowed 406 points in '50 for an all-time high and cut it to 375 in '51. Thus far this season, Green Bay allowed 288 - an average of 26.1 - a far cry from last year's 31.2 and 1950's 33.8. The Packers left Los Angeles this morning by train and were scheduled to arrive here tonight. They will headquarter at the Bellevue hotel.

## BALTIMORE SELLS 5,050

DEC 12 (Baltimore) - After four days of ticket selling, the group backing the return of professional football to Baltimore reported Thursday night that 5,050 season tickets had been sold and 3,200 more had been pledged. Commissioner Bert Bell of the NFL told the city he would transfer the Dallas franchise here if the fans purchased \$250,000 worth of tickets. This amounts to about 15,000 season tickets.

Bell stipulated that the figure must be reached by Jan. 22, the date of the annual league meeting.

## TIPOFF THAT TIME DOESN'T MARCH - IT DASHES ON

DEC 12 (Milwaukee Sentinel - Lloyd Larson column) - Another tipoff that time dashes on: Johnny (Strike) Strzykalski is retiring from football. It seems like yesterday or the day before that he was driving city high school opponents crazy as a great back at South Side and showing great promise as a freshman at Marquette. But a lot of yesterdays have been written into the big book since those first seasons of prominence (1940-41 at South Side and 1942 at Marquette). So many that Johnny is ready to call it quits after a brilliant professional career with the San Francisco 49ers. He will bow out officially Sunday against the Green Bay Packers, the club representing his native state. It promises to be a day "Strike" never will forget, for he will be celebrating his thirtieth birthday and returning to his old familiar starting role for the first time this season. "I'm starting Strzykalski in his final game out of memory and respect for the best running back in pro football before he broke his ankle," said Frisco coach Buck Shaw. "The spirit and enthusiasm he gave the 49ers through the years has become a part of them. Without those qualities, you're lost in pro ball." Jack McDonalds, sports editor of the San Francisco Call-Bulletin, calls Johnny "the greatest clutch player ever to wear a 49er uniform." Frankie Albert, who is singing his swan song, too, added his own words of high praise for the hard-running halfback who has been his teammate since 1946. "Stzykalski was our most competitive player through the years," was quarterback Albert's tribute. "Calling Johnny to carry the ball in the clutch gave me a 'rep' as a smart quarterback in the early days of the 49ers. There was only one thing to do when you just had to have yardage - call Johnny's number. He rarely failed. I believe he made as many first downs those first four years as anybody in pro football." During the life of the late but not necessarily lamented All-America Conference, "Strike" averaged 5.4 yards for every crack at an enemy line. He was outgained by only one man, giant Marion Motley of Cleveland. It was a 60 minute deal for Johnny in those days, for he was just as proficient and rugged on defense as on offense. His days as a full-time, all-purpose back were numbered when he suffered a broken ankle in 1949. Injuries like a broken nose he shook off as through they were nothing at all. But that broken ankle was something else again. He just couldn't keep up the old pace. That, plus the fact that Frisco came up with a gem of a replacement at right half in Hugh McElhenny, cut Strzykalski's total playing time to 11 minutes thus far this season. But just about every second in those 11 minutes called for rough, tough action which saw Johnny at his best. "About the only time they sent Johnny in there was when the 49ers kicked off," McDonald pointed out. "The deadliest of tacklers, he'd head straight into a wedge and break it up with reckless abandon." Reckless abandon - that's the thing which marked Stzykalski's every move.



It explains, partially at lease, how he happened to have his nose broken five times in his seven years with the 49ers. Just for good measure, the beezer was busted a sixth time, but that was done purposely by his doctor for straightening purposes. Incidentally, plastic surgery on the well-mashed nose will be the first order of business following retirement. For all the bumps and bruises, the broken ankle and the broken nose (plus repeats), Johnny has no cause to regret the day he signed with the 49ers. He's well situated from business standpoint in San Francisco, where he will continue to make his home with his wife and two daughters. Add those priceless gems - fond memories and solid friends - and it's apparent he has every reason to be supremely happy. It goes without saying that Coach Shaw and owner Tony Morabito always will look back thankfully to the day in 1944 when they decided to have a look at Strzykalski, then with the Second Air Force team, and promptly signed him. So it was a perfect deal both ways. Which is considerably better than par for business transactions.

## PACKERS SEEK ELUSIVE 7TH WIN IN FINAL AT 'FRISCO

DEC 13 (San Francisco) - The Green Bay Packers get their last 1952 chance to post that elusive seventh victory when they battle the San Francisco Forty Niners in the final NFL game for both clubs in Kezar stadium Sunday afternoon. The Packers scored their sixth triumph last Nov. 23 by downing the Texans, 42 to 14, in Green Bay, but absorbed setbacks in their next two starts - 48 to 24 in Detroit Thanksgiving day and 45 to 27 to Los Angeles last Sunday. By winning No. 7, the Packers can finish with their best record since 1944 when they closed out with 8-2-1. No Packer team has been able to score more than six wins in any one season since that championship campaign. The Forty Niners, on the other hand, will be out to put



a sweet finish on an unpredictable season. 'Frisco launched 1952 in spectacular fashion, winning five straight non-loopers and the first five league games. Coach Buck Shaw's west coasters then won only one of their next six contests...TEAMS TIED WITH 6-5: The two belligerents will enter Sunday's game with identical records of 6-5. They're tied behind leading Detroit and Los Angeles, which have 7-3 marks. The Forty Niners will be favored by a touchdown Sunday. An estimated crowd of 20,000 is expected. Kickoff is set for 4 o'clock, Green Bay time. Weak on the ground, Coach Gene Ronzani's Green Bay crew likely will depend on its powerful air arm again Sunday. This means that there probably will be plenty of passing, with brilliant Bill Howton as the No. 1 target. As a sidelight, the Packers' two quarterbacks, veteran Tobin Rote and rookie Babe Parilli, will be out to bring the individual hurling championship to Green Bay for the first time since Cecil Isbell won it in 1942. Rote is leading the league in passing by a slim margin over the Rams' Norm Van Brocklin, while Parilli is close behind Van Brocklin. Howton needs 142 yards to break Don Huston's all-time Packer mark of 1,211 yards, established in 1942. The current record, 1,495, is held by Elroy Hirsch of the Rams. Through last Sunday's test, Howton gained 1,069 yards on 45 catches. Howton caught 11 touchdown passes. The Packers' big problem Sunday will be stopping the Forty Niners' two power runners, right halfback Hugh McElhenny and fullback Joe Perry - not to mention the swift but small J.R. Boone at left half...CANADEO ENDS CAREER: San Francisco will be handicapped some by the loss of Gordy Soltau, the team's ace pass catcher and kicking specialist who fractured his ankle in last Sunday's loss to Pittsburgh. Sunday's contest will mark the end of some brilliant professional grid careers. Tony Canadeo, the Packers' 11-year halfback and one

# 49ers vs. Packers

## SAN FRANCISCO

No.	Player.	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.
28	Sam Cathcart	175	LER	185
62	Bob Toneff	252	LTR	235
69	Jerry Smith	220	LG R	235
53	Bill Johnson	240	C	215
63	Bruno Banducci	220	RGL	222
73	Leo Nomellini	260	RTL	250
84	Billy Wilson	195	REL	173
13	Frank Albert	175	QB	200
34	Joe Perry	210	LHR	185
39	Hugh McElhenny	198	RHL	190
45	John Strzykalski	185	FB	210

### SAN FRANCISCO SQUAD

13 Albert, q	52 Wismann, c	3 Canadeo, h
14 Tittle, q	53 Johnson, c	8 Forte, h
15 Powers, q	62 Toneff, t	15 Parilli, q
22 Arenas, h	63 Banducci, g	18 Rote, q
23 Berry, h	67 Feher, g	20 Sandifer, h
24 Boone, h	68 Momsen, g	22 Grimes, h
25 White, h	69 Smith, g	24 Reid, f
28 Cathcart, h	72 Collins, t	26 Pearson, h
32 Burke, lb	73 Nomellini, t	28 Self, h
33 Brown, lb	75 Carapella, t	33 Floyd, f
34 Perry, f	76 Campora, t	37 Reichardt, h
38 Aldridge, f	82 Soltau, e	41 Johnson, h
39 McElhenny, h	83 O'Donahue, e	43 Loomis, h
42 Wagner, h	84 Wilson, a	44 Dillon, h
43 Cason, h	87 Powell, e	50 Rhodemyre, e
45 Strzykalski, f	89 Henke, e	51 Faverty, c

## GREEN BAY

Player.	No.
Bill Howton	86
Steve Dowden	70
Wash Serini	73
Jay Rhodemyre	50
Steve Ruzich	61
Dick Afflis	62
Bob Mann	87
Tobin Rote	18
Floyd Reid	24
Tony Canadeo	3
Bobby Floyd	33

### GREEN BAY SQUAD

61 Ruzich, g
62 Afflis, g
63 Bray, g
66 Teteak, g
67 Logan, g
69 Stephenson, g
70 Dowden, t
72 T. Johnson, t
73 Serini, t
76 Dees, t
80 Elliott, e
81 Keane, e
83 Martinkovic, e
85 Wimberly, e
86 Howton, e
87 Mann, e

of the league's all-time offensive stars, will be playing his last game. Oddly enough, Canadeo started his college career on the west coast - at Gonzaga university. Finishing for the Forty Niners will be Frankie Albert, Johnny Strzykalski and Norm Standlee. Albert probably will carry the quarterback load, with some assistance from long-pitching Y.A. Tittle. The Packers, headquartering at the Bellevue hotel, will break up after the game. Most of them will go directly to their homes.

#### BALTIMORE CLOSER TO FRANCHISE

DEC 13 (Baltimore) - Baltimore seemingly moved another notch closer to having a professional football team again today with the announcement that 6,907 season tickets have been sold in the first five days of a selling drive. The goal of 15,000 season ticket sales by Jan. 22 would assure Baltimore of the Dallas franchise in the NFL.

#### PRO PLAYOFF SPOTS AT STAKE

DEC 13 (New York) - Sammy Baugh and Frankie Albert, two of the game's all-time great, call it a battle for NFL playoff berths. Playoff berths in both the American and National conferences are at stake. Cleveland's perennial champion Browns can wrap up the American title with a triumph over the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds. The National conference

crown lies between the Detroit Lions and Los Angeles Rams. The Lions can take a half game edge over the Rams when they clash with the homeless Dallas Texans today. The Rams entertain the tough Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday. The Philadelphia Eagles are the only team which has a chance to catch the Browns. The Eagles can tie the Browns by beating the Washington Redskins while the Giants upset Cleveland. In the event, both races wind up deadlocked the Eagle and Browns will meet in Philadelphia next Sunday and the Rams and Lions in Detroit. Should both races be decided, the championship playoff will be staged at Cleveland Dec. 21. Baugh, a Washington landmark, will make his final appearance for the Redskins in a game against the Eagles at Washington. Albert hangs up his cleats at San Francisco where his 49ers entertain Green Bay. In the only other game, the Bears and Cardinals tangle in Chicago.

#### 49ERS OUT TO WIN FOR 'OLD PROS'

DEC 13 (San Francisco) - San Francisco's 49ers, wrecked on the ends and wracked by misgivings over the impending loss of two old-timers, will dedicate victory to Frankie Albert and Johnny Strzykalski in Kezar tomorrow, provided the high flying aerialists from Green Bay cooperate. It was just two weeks ago that the 49ers tried to dedicate a victory to their veteran captain, Norm Standlee, who was stricken with polio. They failed in a great bid against the terrific Rams. And they could fail against Tobin Rote, Vito Parilli, Bill Howton, Robert Mann & Company. But they don't think they will fail again. The oddsmakers do, however. They've installed Green Bay the favorite by 1 ½ points and the margin may increase before



**Jersey Bounce**—The two pictures above, showing action in the Ram-Packer games in Milwaukee and Los Angeles, point up some of the confusion in the LA battle in which each team wore gold jerseys. At the left, Elroy Hirsch of the Rams darts into Packer defensive back Marv Johnson while in picture at right, taken in Milwaukee game, Bobby Jack Floyd of Packers, wearing green jersey, runs around two Ram tacklers. Other Packer greens are Steve Dowden (70) and Tony Canadeo (3). (AP Wirephotos) Story below:

game time. Ever since Albert announced his retirement last Wednesday, his mates have been kidding him while pledging him a farewell victory...**LOAD OFF PAYROLL:** "We're not going to retire," they chide the popular little field general. "We're going to stick around and get some of the big loot you're leaving behind." The trouble with the 49er ambition to whip Green Bay as a farewell to Albert and Strzykalski is the absence of Gordon Soltau, the National League's leading scorer. Who is going to snag the Albert and Y.A. Tittle passes? Who is going to kick the extra points? Who is going to kick the field goals? Soltau does all these things. The chore of point and field goal kicking may fall to Albert himself. Frankie booted them leftfootedly for the Stanford Indians in 1940 and 1941, when they were scourging the coast and country with the then new "T" formation...**FRANKIE'S BIG CHANCE:** The little guy is pretty good toeing over the posts. Due to Soltau's unfortunate absence, Frankie can make his last game a tremendous scoring effort. Provided again, that the young Green Bayers will cooperate. There may be more than six men playing their last games for the 49ers. Bruno Banducci, the strong and silent guard who is the last of the original 49ers, may retire before another season begins. Banducci will not say so. But he works for the same automobile agency, Rector, that has lured Frankie Albert into the business world. Bob Toneff, Ed Henke, Jerry Smith and Pat O'Donahue are service bound. This outfit sells high priced autos. Banducci is known to have made some \$1,600 in commissions in less than a month last summer. Brun always signs on at the last moment. If car sales are brisk next July, you may expect the veteran of nine years of gridiron warfare to hang up his cleats, too. Besides his seven years with the 49ers, Bruno put in a pair with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1944-45...**PLANS SECRET:** Coach Buck Shaw remains rather secretive about plans for bolstering his offensive end positions when Soltau is lost and Billy Wilson questionable because of a sore ankle. He admits however that he will use Benny Aldridge, fullback, as a blocking end during some of the game. Part of yesterday's practice was devoted to the departments of kicking off, kicking field goals and kicking points. In the kickoff department, the 49ers have no one who can boost the hoghide over the goal line. Jimmy Powers and Banducci both can kick off, but both lack the drive to bury the ball. "We're undecided now about whether to kick high and short while hoping to nail the receiver or to kick flat and pray that the squizzler will be fumbled," Shaw admitted yesterday. "This will have to be worked out today in our last brush up." Gene Ronzani brought his Green Bay Packers to the Hotel Bellevue last night after a trip from Los Angeles on the Daylight. Ronzani explains that he has a young team, admits to exceptional passing game and proclaims the usual fear of the 49ers. "Sure, I know that they've lost five of their last six," Ronzani explained. "But we've lost our last two by big margins. It's a tossup."

#### **FORMER BADGER, PACKERS ON SERVICE STAR TEAMS**

DEC 13 (Washington) - A former Wisconsin player and two ex-Green Bay Packers were listed Saturday on the nation's All-Star service football team. The Navy All-Stars - including Marines and Coast Guardsman - list guard Ray Suchy of Camp Pendleton, CA, who played for Wisconsin. Ex-Packers on the Army All-Stars are center Clayton Tonnemaker, All-America





**WATERFIELD WALTZES OVER**—Capt. Bob Waterfield puts Rams ahead just before end of half circling right end for 19 yards and touchdown. Vitamin Smith's crunching block on Packer Marvin Johnson cleared path to end zone. Times Mirror Eye photo by Phil Bell

from Minnesota, and halfback Larry Coutre from Notre Dame. Tonnemaker is currently stationed at Camp Drake in Japan, while Coutre is at Camp Breckenridge, KY.

### **PACKERS, 49ERS END SEASON SUNDAY**

DEC 13 (San Francisco) - The Green Bay Packers and the San Francisco 49ers, with nothing more than a life in the NFL standings to aim for, close out the professional football season here Sunday. It will be the career-closing game for two 49ers, quarterback Frankie Albert and fullback Johnny Strzykalski. The two teams are tied at six wins and five losses apiece, and will shoot the works in the closeout contest before an anticipated crowd of 20,000 fans. The Packers, with a sensational aerial attack, have been installed one-point favorites to take the measure of the hard-running 49ers. Green Bay's quarterbacks, Tobin Rote and rookie Babe Parill, rank first and third respectively in the league in pass completions. Their main target, Bill Howton, has gained more yards on passes than any other receiver in the circuit. The Packers are expected to ride the airplanes for all they are worth. A fast playing field is indicated. The team, among other things, will try to break its all-time scoring record. Green Bay has counted 281 points thus far and needs only 19 more to tie the previous all-time high of 300, established by the 1942 Hutson-powered club. The 300 mark, however, was set in 11 games. Sunday's game will be the 12th of the season. The team will also be gunning for its best finish since 1944, when it won the title with an 8-2 record. The club presently has a 6-5 mark. No Packer team since 1944 has been able to win seven games. On the individual side, Rote will attempt to become the first Packer to win the league's passing championship since Cecil Isbell turned the trick in 1942. The 49ers, early season favorites to roll to the championship, go into the game weakened by key players. Gordon Soltau, great pass catching and point kicking end, suffered an ankle injury last Sunday against Pittsburgh which shelved him for the season. He is still the leading scorer in the league with 88 points, and the No. 2 pass receiver to date. In spite of losing five of the last six contests, San Francisco still leads the loop in rushing with 1,748 yards. Rookie Hugh McElhenny tops all ball packers with an average of 7.1 yards for 93 carries. Sam Cathcart, normally a defensive halfback, will replace Soltau at left and on offense. In addition to Albert and Strzykalski, seven-year veterans and members of the first San Francisco club, Norman Standlee, fullback and another charter member of the team, also is retiring. He is recovering from a recent polio attack. Green Bay also has a part in the retirement phase of the 1952 finale. Tony Canadeo, a Packer backfield fixture for eleven seasons, is calling it quits and recently was given a "day" by the club's hometown fans.

### **49ER STARS IN FAREWELL**

DEC 14 (San Francisco) - If you believe the luck of the past will dominate the present, the 49ers will defeat the Green Bay Packers and it will not rain upon the last game of the professional football season in Kezar Stadium today. Precedent goes for the 49ers in both cases as they bid adieu to Mr. T Quarterback, Frankie Albert, the grinning, belting Johnny Strzykalski and four more stalwarts who are going away to war - Ed Henke, Bob Toneff, Jerry Smith and Pat O'Donahue. Sunshine should be mixed with sadness for an anticipated crowd of 35,000 that is expected to gather to say goodbye to the rollicking Albert, the laughing Strzykalski and the 1952 pro grid year. The season opened happily for the 49ers with five straight victories and a golden promise of the first national championship. It closed dismally when the 49ers fell mysteriously apart and lost five out of their last six. Today, it can be glorious despite the tear filled eyes and heartfelt adieus for Albert and Johnny the Strike. Because - The 49ers, in six previous of gridding, never have lost a closing game in any season. And, in the seven years of drawing to a close, the rain never has fallen upon a Morabito Brothers gridiron production. The 49ers, with the exception of the brilliant but generally unsung Gordon Soltau and Billy Wilson, the only attacking ends, are physically ready for the great effort they must produce to cap a season that was at once brilliant and dismal. Soltau, the loop's leading scorer with 88 points and the second best pass hooker with fifty-four catches, cannot play because of an ankle he sprained last Sunday. Undoubtedly he will lose his title and his second place catching spot. Sammy Cathcart, a defensive



**TOUCHDOWN SPECIAL**—Dick (Night Train) Lane gets up full head of steam at his 25 to pull away from Packers on 80-yard touchdown

run after third-quarter pass interception. Lane intercepted three aerials during afternoon and this play was turning point of 45-27 Ram win.  
Times photo by Art Rogers

halfback, will play left end. Without Soltau, the 49ers have a problem in kicking off, point and field goal kicking... **WAGNER READY:** Billy Wilson, the right attacking end and the last of the offensive flankmen under Coach Buck Shaw, will start but he's a doubtful finisher. Wilson has a bad ankle and, if it does not stand up, Lowell Wagner, another defensive back, will be pressed into service. The losses at ends may be compensated for by the shifting of Joe Perry to left half to permit Johnny Strike to play fullback in his last outing in gridskins. Perry's presence as a halfback will take some of the pressure off Hurryin' Hugh McElhenny when he goes out after an Albert or a Y.A. Tittle pitch... **ROTE, PARILLI PASS:** Despite their staggerings of the past six weeks, the 49ers still top the league in ground gaining with 1,748 yards. Green Bay, essentially a passing outfit with Tobin Rote and Vito Parilli hurling to Bob Mann, Bill Howton and Jim Keane, are second to the Cleveland Browns in the aerial department. So it should be running versus passing in the 1952 closer. Green Bay is a comparatively young team. Gene Ronzani has started an attacking team with seven first year men including the brilliant passer, Parilli, and his pet receiver, Bill Howton. Today, six frosh are listed. The Packers have thirteen first year men on the roster. They also have a few veterans like Tony Canadeo, former Gonzaga halfback and an eleven year man who also will be bowing out of the pro picture today, and Ray Bray, eleven year veteran guard, late of the Chicago Bears. Today's result will determine the third place team in the National Conference.

## Packers Seek Elusive 7th Win in Final at 'Frisco





**Hall of Fame wide receiver Elroy 'Crazylegs' Hirsch of the Los Angeles Rams makes a leaping catch in a 45 to 27 win over the Green Bay Packers (Credit: Vic Stein)**