



PRESEASON

Green Bay Packers (4-2) 31, Cleveland Browns (2-3) 9
Saturday September 7th 1968 (at Cleveland)



Packers Rip Browns, 31-9, in Final Exhibition

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(CLEVELAND) – Demonstrating they stand ready to defend their history-making triple crown, the exceedingly workmanlike Packers charged to a 31-9 victory over the Cleveland Browns in their final pre-season appearance here Saturday night. It was the third straight victory - after two defeats - for the world champions, led by fullback Jim Grabowski, who scored three of the Pack's four touchdowns before a record Cleveland football crowd of 84,918. Exhibiting the workmanlike precision which has loomed large in their recent domination of the pro football scene, the Packers swept 80 yards to score after the opening kickoff struck the right goal post. Bart Starr engineered the 13-play drive with the aid of four timely passes, the last of them a screen to fullback Jim Grabowski, who maneuvered the last 18 yards to paydirt with Gale Gillingham and Jerry Kramer leading the way.

CLUTCH DART

The push, which consumed 6 minutes and 3 seconds, also saw Starr pitch 13 and 12-yard strikes to Carroll Dale and a clutch third down, 13-yard dart to Boyd Dowler, which carried to Cleveland's 27. Grabowski also contributed 26 yards in five thrusts before scoring on the screen, a picture play. The Browns rebounded briskly, however, charging to the Packer 7, largely on the strength of 21-yard and 28-yard passes from Frank Ryan to Gary Collins and a 17-yard run by Leroy Kelly.

SLOW DOWN OHIOANS

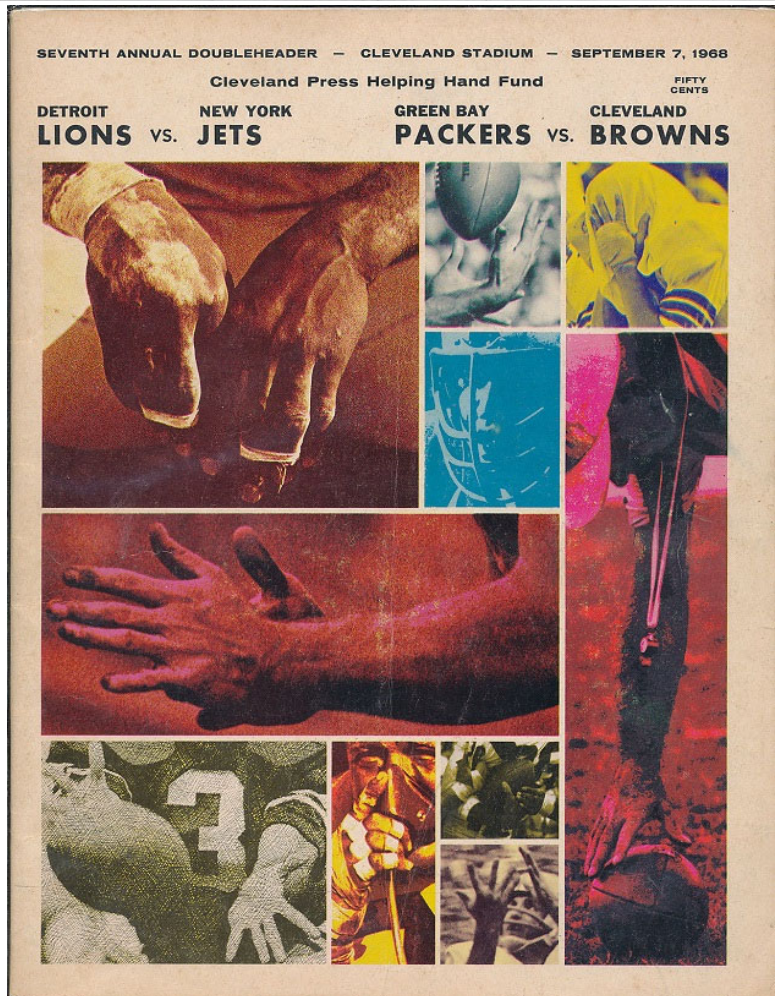
But Henry Jordan threw Kelly on a three-yard loss in the wake of an offside penalty on the Browns and Willie Davis broke through to hurl Ryan for a 10-yard loss to slow the Ohioans' momentum. Then, on third down, Ryan's pass intended for Warfield was dropped by Bob Jeter at the end line, forcing the Browns to settle for a 32-yard field goal by rookie Don Cockroft at 11:25. Before the quarter ended, however, the Browns again were on the way, moving to a field goal as the gun sounded.

DEFENSE RISES UP

But the world champions' defense again rose to the occasion when their goal was imperiled. After a Ryan-Kelly pass had brought the Browns to the Green Bay 16, a Ryan-to-Warfield pitch was incomplete at the goal line and Kelly was thrown for a 5-yard loss by Jordan and Ray Nitschke. Kelly carried Ryan's screen pass to the 10 but the Browns were two yards short of a first down and Cockroft toed another field goal, this one from the 17 at 3:34 of the second quarter, chopping the Packers lead to 7-6. This margin being a little close for comfort, the Bays immediately set about rectifying the situation. This time they required ten plays to go 72 yards after Travis Williams returned Cockroft's kickoff to the Green Bay 28.

MODEST START

The drive started modestly as Grabo bit off two and Starr's pass to Dale was incomplete. But on third down, Bart hit Anderson with a 15-yarder. Anderson followed with six more off left guard and Grabowski bolted for 15 more and another first down at the Cleveland 33. Starr hurled a second 15-yard strike to Anderson and Grabo burst over right guard for 13 more to the 5. Anderson hit the middle for 2, then settled for a yard when bulldogged to the ground by Cleveland's Dale Lindsey, leaving a third and 3 situation. Grabo then drove it home, storming into the end zone behind Forrest Gregg and Kramer at 9:30. Kramer's conversion erected a more comfortable 14-6 bulge, which



the Packers subsequently carried into the intermission. Things grew a bit sticky for the world champions in the early minutes of the third quarter as the Browns again capitalized on Cockroft's talented toe to narrow the gap, but Starr eased the situation with another patented push before the period's end. Cleveland reached the Packer 30 following the second half kickoff, largely through a 10-yard run by Harraway and a 14-yard Ryan pass to tight end Milt Morin but was stymied there and Cockroft connected from 36 yards out at 5:32, reducing the Pack's edge to 14-9. A holding penalty sabotaged a budding Packer drive following the kickoff and the Browns were presented with an opportunity when Dick Himes was called for interfering with a fair catch on Anderson's punt. The Packers quickly short-circuited that threat, however, and forced a Cleveland punt, which Cockroft arched into the end zone. They then struck swiftly, flying 80 yards in three plays. Starr hurled a "bomb" to Dale, free along the north sidelines and he cantered to the Brown 22 before being felled by Ernie Kellermann. Grabo next chewed up 5 and Anderson swept right end for 4 to 13 behind a crunching block by Marv Fleming. On the next play, Anderson burst through a yawning hole up the middle and wheeled into the end zone untouched at 13:03. Kramer converted and it was 21-9. A Ray Nitschke interception on the final play of the third period, followed by some intriguing pyrotechnics, shortly enabled the Packers to pad their lead. After waylaying Ryan's pass at the Green Bay 43, Nitschke lateraled to Willie Wood, who promptly lateraled to Adderly. Adderly subsequently was run out of bounds at the Cleveland 48. After Mercein was held for no gain, Starr fired a 7-yard pass to Elijah Pitts, making his first appearance since suffering a knee injury in the all-star game Aug. 2. Mercein was held for no gain on third down, however, and Kramer retreated to drill home a soaring 47-yard field goal at 1:37 of the fourth quarter, hiking the Packers margin to a substantial 24-9. Later in the quarter, with Zeke Bratkowski replacing Starr at quarterback, the Packers charged 65 yards in 7 plays to their final touchdown. Pitts, running with his old authority, keyed the drive with a 16-yard burst on first down. After Mercein hit for 4, Pitts churned for 10 more and a first down at the Cleveland 33. Mercein added 8 more at left end and then forged to the 10 with a 15- yard Bratkowski pass. Back at it again, Pitts hammered over left tackle to the 2 and, on second down, Grabo crashed over the middle at 11:27 for his third touchdown of the evening. An Adderley interception, which he returned to the Cleveland 34, shortly provided another opportunity but a 37-yard Kramer field goal attempt was wide to the left with 30 seconds remaining.



Green Bay's Jim Grabowski (33) charged into the end zone for the first Packer touchdown Saturday night against the Cleveland Browns. He took a pass from Bart Starr in the flat on the 19-yard play. Teammate Donny Anderson (44) watched as the Browns' Ernie Kellermann (24) was blocked out.

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GREEN BAY - 7 7 7 10 - 31
CLEVELAND - 3 3 3 0 - 9

	GREEN BAY	CLEVELAND
First downs	19	13
Rushing-Yards	33-168-3	29-116-0
Passing	18-12-179-1-0	24-8-118-0-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-5	4-39
Total Yards	342	195
Fumbles lost	0-0	0-0
Yards Penalized	5-55	3-17

SCORING

1st - GB - Jim Grabowski, 18-yard pass from Bart Starr (Jerry Kramer kick) GREEN BAY 7-0
 1st - CLE - Don Cockroft, 32-yard field goal GREEN BAY 7-3
 2nd - CLE - Cockroft, 17-yard field goal GREEN BAY 7-6
 2nd - GB - Grabowski, 2-yard run (Kramer kick) GREEN BAY 14-6
 3rd - CLE - Cockroft, 36-yard field goal GREEN BAY 14-9
 3rd - GB - Donny Anderson, 13-yard run (Kramer kick) GREEN BAY 21-9
 4th - GB - Kramer, 47-yard field goal GREEN BAY 24-9
 4th - GB - Grabowski, 2-yard run (Kramer kick) GREEN BAY 31-9

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Jim Grabowski 13-74 2 TD, Donny Anderson 12-43 1 TD, Elijah Pitts 3-34, Chuck Mercein 4-17, Travis Williams 1-0
CLEVELAND - Leroy Kelly 19-63, Charley Harraway 8-58, Frank 1-(-2), Bill Munsey 1-(-3)

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 17-11-164 1 TD, Zeke Bratkowski 1-1-15
CLEVELAND - Frank Ryan 16-6-107 1 INT, Bill Nelson 8-2-11 1 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – Carroll Dale 3-83, Donny Anderson 3-32, Chuck Mercein 2-23, Jim Grabowski 1-18 1 TD, Boyd Dowler 1-13, Elijah Pitts 1-7, Travis Williams 1-3

CLEVELAND – Milt Morin 3-47, Leroy Kelly 2-19, Gary Collins 1-28, Charley Harraway 1-20, Paul Warfield 1-4

JIM TAYLOR THROUGH, FEARS SAYS

SEPT 8 (New Orleans) - "As far as I am concerned, Jimmy Taylor is no longer with the team," New Orleans Coach Tom Fears said Saturday. "If he quits on me for one game I don't expect him for future games." There was no word from Taylor, a fading one-time superstar fullback. He "elected" not to play in Friday night's exhibition game against Minnesota in Shreveport, La. Taylor's unexpected action came in the midst of unconfirmed reports he would retire rather than accept assignment to such special teams as the kickoff and punt return units. He was assigned to special team duty after an unimpressive exhibition season showing in which he was overshadowed by two younger fullbacks. At the age of 32, Taylor is not so quick as he used to be. "I'm sorry it turned out this way," said Fears. "He was a great player at Green Bay. What happened Friday night makes me sick."

LIONS GREATLY IMPROVED: EX-PACKER

SEPT 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - They may not have looked like it against the New York Jets here Saturday night, but the Detroit Lions are "improved 100 per cent over last year." So, at least, says Mike Bass, the former Packer cornerback who now is in his second season with the Lions, soon to challenge Green Bay's defending Central Division Champions for 1968 honors. "I think we might be a dark horse," the personable ex-University of Michigan athlete observed. "We're in a pretty tough division, but I think the team has improved 100 per cent. We have a lot more depth on this team and it is a lot younger than it used to be. Quite a few of the old Lions have faded out and the kids who have come in don't know how to lose. They haven't been on losing teams. Bill Munson, our new quarterback, has made a great difference for one. I've lived near Detroit (Ypsilanti) all my life and for years the Lions have had quarterback problems. The team is divided as a result and couldn't put everything together. I think Munson has drawn the team closer together. They didn't have a leader and now they have. This year, the fellows think they are never out of a game, particularly with the addition of McCullouch (Earl, rookie flanker from USC) as long ball threat. He is somebody who can go deep and get you six points. And they know they now have somebody who to get the ball to him." Bass, currently understudying Lion veteran Dick Lebeau and sweating out Coach Joe Schmidt's final cut, continued, "Our morale is quite a bit better than it was last year. The fellows honestly feel they can win, and that's half the battle...Weeb Ewbank, the cherubic citizen who coaches the Jets, is pleased to have ex-Packer Babe Parilli as a backup man for his eccentric quarterback, Joe Namath. "We're very fortunate to have Babe Parilli," Ewbank says. "We feel we have two number one quarterbacks. If something happens to Namath's knees, we feel Babe can go in there and take up where Joe left off." Namath, incidentally, was more than slightly perturbed when explosively smothered for a 17-yard loss by the Lions' Alex Karras early in the second quarter. The slender field general shook his fist at Karras as he stalked from the field.



Cleveland Browns flanker Gary Collins #86 catches a pass with Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame cornerback Herb Adderley #26 closing fast (Photo by Tony Tomsic/Getty Images)

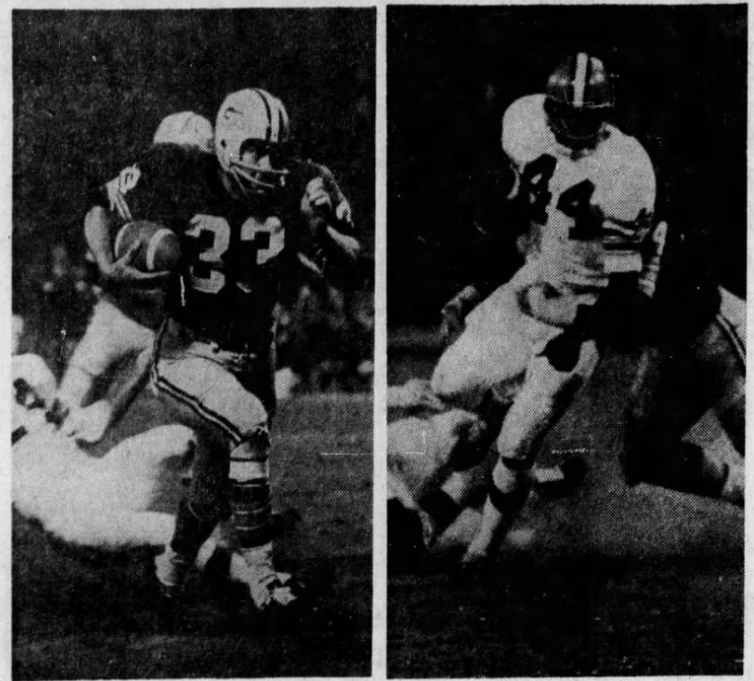
IT'S UNANIMOUS: STARR, BACKS LAUD LINE FOR RUSHING SUCCESS

SEPT 9 (Cleveland-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It is customary for a back to credit his blockers with triggering his success. But there was an impressive unanimity of expression on this subject in the wake of the Packers' 31-9 conquest of the Browns here Saturday night. Quarterback Bart Starr and the Pack's three running stars, Jim Grabowski, Donny Anderson and Elijah Pitts, all paid individual and enthusiastic tribute to the men up front. "That line really blocked," Starr declared. "Did they come off that ball. Whew, they really came off that ball. It was beautiful to watch those backs go tearing through those holes like that." Grabowski, author of a profitable three-touchdown performance, echoed Starr's sentiments. "They were really coming off the ball," he said, "That's the whole story. I haven't played well and it's a good feeling to have a game like this with the league season starting next Sunday." Reconstructing his 18-yard excursion with a screen pass to his first TD, Grabowski reported, "Somebody cut somebody down - I think it was Bowman (Ken). Once I saw that, I knew all I had to do was beat those guys coming across." "They were just cutting 'em down all night," Grabo appreciatively appended. "The holes were there and all we had to do was run," Anderson said. "We were hitting quickly and that's the best way. It's like a pitcher who's bearing down with a fast ball. You keep them off balance." His 13-yard burst up the middle for a third quarter touchdown, Andy added, had been a highly productive example of this approach. "It was a real quick play," he said. "That's the way it's designed. Actually, you go for the first down, but there wasn't anybody there...One guy touched me on the leg, but that was all." Pitts, sidelined since the All-Star game Aug. 2 with knee and thigh injuries, was understandable effervescent after spearheading the Pack's last

touchdown drive. "I felt real good," he beamed, adding, "those linemen were really knocking some holes in there and the quarterbacks called real good plays. There was nothing to do but run." "It feels good," he happily concluded, "to know those old injuries are going away." One of the recipients of the runners' kudos returned the compliment. "Grabowski and Anderson played extremely well," he said. "They were hitting those holes before the defense could react. We're getting together and it's a good sign with the season opening." Carroll Dale, who has been catching the "bomb" with remarkable regularity, reported his 58-yard third quarter collaboration with Starr "was a play fake. Bart said somebody got in his way and he couldn't get the ball off as soon as he wanted to. It makes it a little tricky when you have to run that way, slowing down to compensate, when somebody's coming up from behind you like gangbusters."

PACK HITS OPENER ON A HIGH NOTE

SEPT 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers, now just six days removed from their NFL inaugural, know not what lies ahead in their triple title defense. But one thing is certain. The reigning world champions, who finished their pre-season exertions with a 4-2 record, will forge into next Sunday's 1968 baptismal against the Philadelphia Eagles on high note. If any doubts lingered concerning their competence to defend their present eminence, they were effectively erased in the course of Saturday night's crisp, 31-9 thumping of the Browns in Cleveland's Municipal Stadium. A gratified John Philip Bengtson, one of sport's more articulate citizens, had a word for it. Happily reflecting upon that effort, the third straight success for his athletes, he said, "We showed a lot of cohesion. "We could have had a little more consistency," he admitted "but we were pleased with the amount of consistency we developed." Bengtson conceded this latest performance had been superior to the one engineered in Dallas two weeks earlier, when the Packers rebounded from a two-game losing streak to outgun the Dallas Cowboys in their Cotton Bowl home, 31-27. "I think this probably was because our offensive line blocking was improved," the Packer headmaster observed. "I would say that was our best department." "Our defensive unit has been pretty much jumbled," he added, continuing his analysis. "It hasn't played too much together. We were not too pleased with it against the Browns, but we're developing cohesion there, too." "Our record, as far as Cleveland passes completed, was good, as far as that is concerned. But there were a couple that shouldn't have been completed. This is not surprising, however, at this point." Bengtson expressed faction with another vital phase, noting, "Our conditioning is at the stage we like to have it. We have had quite a few people play a considerable amount of time. Our special teams are doing pretty well, too. We're covering punts pretty well, except for that one situation where we were penalized (when Dick Himes ran into Cleveland's receiver)." "It's probably a good thing it happened so we can correct it," Bengtson added. "Our people are pretty intense getting down there and we overran it. We also were free of injury against the Browns, which is always gratifying." "As far as overall development is concerned," he appended, "we're pleased." Praising the generalship of Bart Starr, the 34-year-old nonpareil who has escorted the Packers to five championships in the last seven years, Bengtson said, "It was workmanlike quarterbacking, particularly on that first drive. He moved the ball around in areas and when he got in the hole, he picked the right play to pull us out of it. We're always pleased with a drive like that first one (an 80 yard, 13-play push). This is our type of football. It also was real encouraging to see Elijah Pitts come back. He's a pretty good sparkplug. One thing people don't seem to realize is that he's not a little back, he's a good-sized back." Pitts, plagued since the College All-Star game with a knee injury and subsequent pulled thigh muscle, amassed 34 yards in three carries to key the Packers' final touchdown. The champions, noted for their conservatism, had exhibited some uncharacteristic razzle-dazzle in the third quarter when a Ray Nitschke interception developed into a double lateral, it was noted. "Yes, we did," Bengtson dryly agreed. "I told Ray when he came off the field it looked like a rugby game." Later, turning to assess the first regular season enemy, the Packer chieftain said the Eagles' 21-7 victory over the New York Giants Saturday night was of no particular comfort. "They loom to be a formidable opponent," he said, "when you consider they beat a team - and rather decisively as far as the score is concerned - that beat us."...PACKER PATTERN: Excused from the practice field today, the Packers begin zeroing in on the Eagles tonight when they meet at 7 o'clock to view the film of Saturday night's victory...Jim Grabowski's 74 yards rushing against the Browns (in 13 attempts) was the second best individual production of the grapefruit season, ranking behind only Travis Williams' 77-yard night against the Dallas Cowboys. Carroll Dale, who speared three passes for 83 yards, a slightly spectacular 34.3 yards per reception for six catches in his last two appearances. Donny Anderson caught three for 32 yards to finish the



This Is How It Was

These two photos tell the story of the Browns-Packers game Saturday night. The Packers opened gaping holes in the Browns' line and Jim Grabowski (left) scampered through for three touchdowns. In contrast the Browns' blocking was not crisp enough to spring loose their running ace, Leroy Kelly (right) for any substantial gains.

pre-season campaign only one behind the leader, Dale. His punting average, a robust 44.7 going into action, suffered, however. Donny, victim of a 27-yard squib in the second quarter, emerged with a 42.9 average for the six-game grind.

SAINTS REVEAL JIM TAYLOR'S RETIREMENT

SEPT 10 (New Orleans) - The New Orleans Saints announced the retirement today of fullback Jimmy Taylor, saying he "will probably go down in history as Louisiana's greatest football player." Taylor will continue his association with the Saints in a front office capacity in the area of public relations. "It is with deep regret and a sense of great loss that Taylor's long-playing career has come to an end," said John W. Mecom Jr., owner of the club. "But it perhaps is fitting that he played out his career in his home state where he gave leadership and stability to Louisiana's first professional football team." Taylor and his wife were present at a news conference announcing his decision.

SLAP IN FACE FOR TAYLOR, KRAMER SAYS

SEPT 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Coach Tom Fears of the New Orleans Saints gave aging fullback Jim Taylor "a direct slap in the face" when he relegated the long-time NFL star to the kickoff team, All-Pro guard Jerry Kramer of the Packers said today. "It was a direct insult," said Kramer, a close personal friend and business partner of the New Orleans' fullback. "You just don't put a guy like that on the kickoff team." If a coach had acted similarly toward Fears when the former star pass-catcher was in the twilight of his career, Kramer said, "I guarantee Fears would have been the reddest-faced man in the world. He would have cut a blue streak for somewhere." Taylor, 33, who teamed with Paul Hornung at Green Bay to form the most feared backfield tandem in recent NFL history, refused to play in last Friday night's exhibition game against Minnesota after being assigned to the expansion team's special squad. "Lord, it just isn't done," said Kramer of Fears' handling of the fading star. Kramer said that he heard prior to the start of training that Taylor was in top condition and headed for a good year. He admitted that it was difficult for him to evaluate the Saints' situation. But, he said, "Taylor could just stand around there and help them." Kramer referred to Taylor's inspirational and instructional value and strength as a drawing card in the Southeast. "He's got to be a helluva asset to that team," he said. "It's not good sense. It's got to be primarily a personal thing. I shouldn't say that because I don't know. But it sounds like that." Kramer said he doubted that the controversy would make the end of Taylor's career. "I would be sure he would be able to play somewhere, especially after being spurned by the Saints. I would say it gives him added incentive to play somewhere and play well." "I know he can. I know he wants to play ball and he's ready to play and that he's in tremendous physical condition and that he doesn't want to retire...I am sure a lot of people would like to use him."



The 1968 Packers...

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers - Boyd Dowler, Carroll Dale, Dave Dunaway, Claudis James.

Tight Ends - Marv Fleming, Phil Vandersea.

Tackles - Bob Skoronski, Forrest Gregg, Francis Peay, Dick Himes.

Guards - Gale Gillingham, Jerry Kramer, Bill Lueck.

Centers - Ken Bowman, Bob Hyland.

Quarterbacks - Bart Starr, Zeke Bratkowski.

Running Backs - Donny Anderson, Elijah Pitts, Travis Williams, Jim Grabowski, Chuck Mercein.

DEFENSE

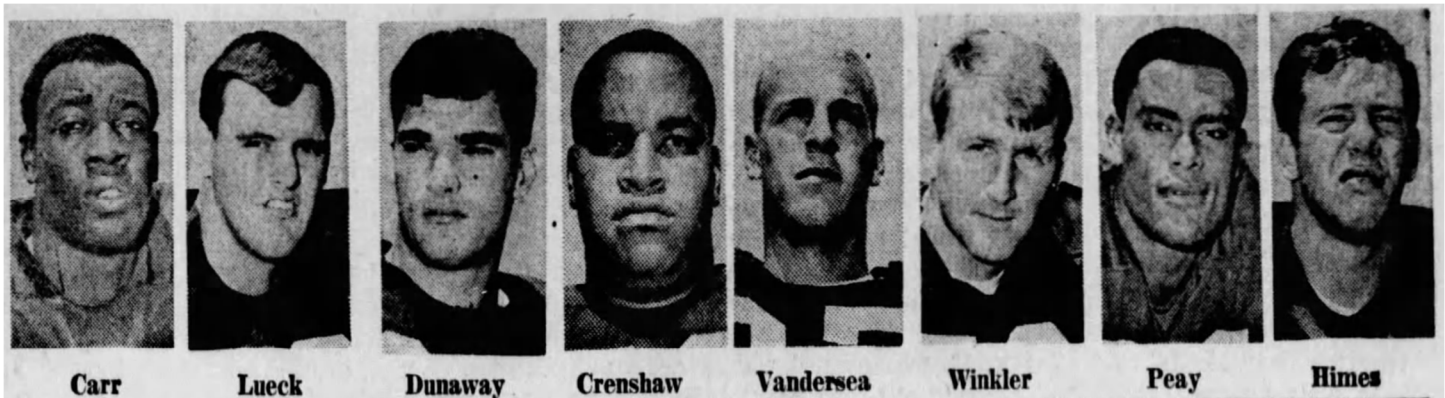
Linemen - Willie Davis, Lionel Aldridge, Ron Kostelnik, Henry Jordan, Jim Weatherwax, Leon Crenshaw, Francis Winkler.

Linebackers - Ray Nitschke, Dave Robinson, LeeRoy Caffey, Jim Flanigan, Fred Carr.

Halfbacks - Herb Adderley, Bob Jeter, Tom Brown, Willie Wood, Doug Hart, John Rowser.

BENGTSOON STICKS WITH MAGIC NUMBER, EIGHT NEW FACES

SEPT 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - What, if you will pardon the paraphrase, is in a number? A good omen, Phil Bengtson might be thinking, if he were superstitious. The figure in question is eight, which represents the total of new faces the Packers will display when they charge into Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon to engage the Philadelphia Eagles in their 1968 NFL opener. It just happens, by poetic coincidence, to be the same number the home forces unveiled in 1966 and again in 1967, both of which saw them sweep to the world championship...NOT STANDING PAT: There also is another, more certain significance. The brisk turnover suggests that Bengtson, like predecessor Vince Lombardi, is not inclined to stand pat. Six of the newcomers are rookies, one of them moving up from the taxi squad, while the other two were acquired in the trade mart. Of these, five are stationed on offense, where Father Time's shadow has been inexorably lengthening - Dick Himes (Ohio State) and Francis Peay (Missouri) at tackle, Bill Lueck (Arizona) at guard, Dave Dunaway



(Duke) at flanker and Phil Vandersea (Massachusetts) at tight end...**MAY ACTIVATE CARROLL:** The proud defensive platoon simultaneously has been augmented by the addition of linebacker Fred Carr, the Pack's No. 1 choice in last January's draft, and linemen Francis (Bubba) Winkler (Memphis State) and Leon Crenshaw (Tuskegee Institute). The 1968 squad, which lists 22 players on offense and 18 on defense, may include another new face shortly. There is a possibility that defensive end Leo Carroll, acquired in last week's Bob Long-Doug Goodwin trade with Atlanta, will be activated to replace Jim Weatherwax. Weatherwax has been sidelined since Aug. 19, when he suffered a knee injury in the closing minutes of the Packers' 10-7 loss to the Chicago Bears...**STEVENS, RULE TAXIED:** The roster was reduced to the regular season limit of 40 late Monday with the release of quarterback Bill Stevens (University of Texas-El Paso) and defensive halfback Gordon Rule (Dartmouth) and the waiving of fullback Ben Wilson as injured. Stevens, a third round selection, and Rule cleared waivers and were signed to taxi squad contracts. Under a new NFL regulation, Wilson will remain inactive for four weeks, whether or not he is able to return before that time. At the end of that period, the coaching staff must decide whether to activate the former Los Angeles Ram, who has been troubled by complications following knee surgery, or return him to the waived-injured list for another four weeks...**CRENSHAW FREE AGENT:** All but one of the surviving rookies were, hewing to the form chart, high draft choices. Lueck, like Carr, was a first round selection, Dunaway was chosen in the second round a year ago, and Himes in the third round and Winkler in the fifth. Crenshaw, a 6-foot-6, 280-pound Alabamian who had a previous trial with the Pack a year ago, is a free agent. Peay, of course, came to the world champions in the trade which sent Tommy Joe Crutcher and Steve Wright to the New York Giants and Vandersea, claimed by New Orleans in the 1967 expansion draft, returned to the Packers as part of the Jim Taylor exchange with the Saints...**CHAMPION ADDITIONS:** To refresh the memory, last year's eight "championship" additions included Bob Hyland halfback Travis Williams, flanker Claudis James, linebackers Jim Flanigan and Dick Capp, defensive back John Rowser, quarterback Don Horn, and Wilson. A year earlier, the Packers added the touchdown twins, Donny Anderson and Jim Grabowski, Gale Gillingham, Bob Brown, Allen Brown, Dave Hathcock, Vandersea and Weatherwax. Gone from last year's triple (NFL) champions, in addition to Crutcher, Wright and Long, are Don Chandler, Max McGee, Fuzzy Thurston, Allen Brown and Don Horn...**23 VETS UNDER 30:** Chandler, McGee, Thurston and Brown all retired and Horn currently is serving a six-months tour of duty with the Army at Fort Campbell, Ky. It may be of no particular solace to their enemies, who have been impatiently waiting for the Packers to grow old, but 23 of the team's 34 veterans are under 30 and 14 of these are 25 or younger. Members of the "over 30 club" are quarterbacks Zeke Bratkowski, the dean at 36, Co-Captains Bob Skoronski and Willie Davis, Bart Starr and Forrest Gregg, all 34, Henry Jordan, 33, Jerry Kramer, 32, and Bob Jeter, Boyd Dowler and Willie Wood, all 31. Flanker Carroll Dale is 30...**SPECIALIST ELIMINATED:** The current complement reveals several changes in numbers at a given position from a year ago, a situation traceable to the retirement of Chandler and the decision to go with two quarterbacks instead of three, which was the case a year ago when Horn joined Starr and Bratkowski. The fact that Jerry Kramer apparently will do the Pack's placekicking eliminates the need for a specialist and creates another opening. The rosters lists linemen on both offense and seven on defense, one more than were carried in each case last season. There are only four wide receivers, compared to five a year ago, two tight ends instead of three, but two centers rather than one. The complete roster:

BRENDAN MCCARTHY ATLANTA STARTER; VIKES CUT FLATLEY

SEPT 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Rookie Brendan McCarthy, whom the Green Bay Packers tested earlier in the training camp season, will start as a running back Saturday for the Atlanta Falcons in their league opener against the Minnesota Vikings. The NFL team, guests of the Vikings, said Monday that McCarthy and recently-acquired Charlie Bryant would be starters in the backfield. McCarthy, a fullback formerly of Boston College, had also tried out with Detroit.

EAGLES RETURN AL (AFTER LOMBARDI)

SEPT 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Philadelphia Eagles, who Sunday help the Packers launch their 50th season, have been infrequent visitors to Titledown. The entire Lombardi era, with its unprecedented prosperity, has come and gone, in fact, since the Pennsylvanians' appearance on Green Bay soil. That was an October day in 1958 which provided the Packers with their only pleasant experience of what ultimately became the least successful season in Green Bay's long and unique pro football history. With Vito (Babe) Parilli, now performing for the New York Jets, at the throttle, the home forces barged to an early lead, then had to weather a bristling Philadelphia comeback to emerge with a 38-35 decision...**TIE WITH DETROIT:** The Packers, who had only a tie with the Detroit Lions to show for their other 11 outings, finished with a 1-10-1 record that season under the late Ray (Scooter) McLean. Our heroes have had little commerce with the Eagles since. But, though they have met only twice in the interim, both have been memorable confrontations.

Vince Lombardi left the New York Giants in 1959 to re-group Green Bay's finest, which he did with admirable dispatch, one year after Buck Shaw arrived in Philadelphia to revamp the Eagles. The Packers and their Sunday rivals followed virtually identical paths - to a championship showdown - during that period, Eagle publicity director Jim Gallagher pointed out at Tuesday's Mike and Pen Sports Club luncheon in the Beaumont Motor Inn. Philadelphia was floundering to a 2-9-1 record in '58 while the Packers were experiencing their darkest hour, including a 56-0 rout at the hands of the Baltimore Colts...MATCHING MARKS: But both began to soar in '59, which saw them surge to matching 7-5 marks. This brought the Eagles a second place tie with the Cleveland Browns in the NFL's Eastern Conference and the Packers a third place finish in the Western Conference, behind the Colts and Bears. The following season, the Packers charged to an 8-4 record to win the West and the Eagles were even more overpowering, winging to a 10-2 reading in appropriating Eastern honors. In the title struggle that ensued on the buttery turf of Philadelphia's Franklin Field, the Bay twice forged to the front, 6-0 in the first quarter and 13-10 in the fourth. But the Eagles, scoring on a five-yard run by Ted Dean in that final period, inched from behind to claim a 17-13 victory. It may not have had the same significance, but the Packers gained redress for that indignity in 1962, when they returned to the City of Brotherly Love to decimate the Birds, 49-0. Wryly reflecting upon that Gallagher said: "Most people in the press box that day said the Packers were the best team they had ever seen...I think Jim Taylor scored four touchdowns and I don't think we got past midfield until the third quarter...CURRENT EAGLES: So much for history. What of the current Eagles? "We've beaten the Boston Patriots and New York Giants in succession," Gallagher was nothing loath to report, "So we've got a two-game winning streak. Before that, we lost to Miami, Detroit, and Minnesota." The victory over the Giants, a 21-7 decision, was accomplished despite the fact six Eagles, including three members of the regular secondary, were on National Guard duty, the Philadelphia publicist revealed. The Birds also were missing quarterback Norman Snead, out with a broken leg, starting guard Jim Skaggs, sidelined with a torn cartilage, middle linebacker Dave Lloyd, who has fractured ribs, and Ike Kelly, who had been Lloyd's replacement, with a torn cartilage or ligaments. Mike Dikta, just returning to action following a foot injury, also played only the first half. "Our offense didn't do too well," Gallagher said. "We got only 70 yards rushing and 99 passing. One of our three touchdowns was on a fumble recovery which a rookie picked up and ran in with. One was on an interception by Adrian Young, our rookie left linebacker, and the other game on a short drive about 50 yards and three or four plays. But the defense looked very good. It was really hustling. We had two rookies deep, along with veterans Alvin Haymond and Al Nelson at the corners, and the kids really hustled. "One thing we did different - we played a 5-man line about 25 per cent of the game. We did it for two reasons - because those three defensive backs were out and also, facing Fran Tarkenton, we felt we could contain him a little better...we held him to 7 points, which isn't too bad.

WEATHERWAX HAS SURGERY ON KNEE

SEPT 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Packer defensive tackle Jim Weatherwax underwent knee surgery at St. Vincent Hospital Tuesday, Coach Phil Bengtson announced today, and will be lost to the world champions for an indefinite period. No decision has yet been made to replace the three-year veteran still officially active at this point, Bengtson said. Weatherwax has been sidelined since Aug. 19 when he suffered a cartilage injury in the closing minutes of the Packers' 10-7 loss to the Bears at Milwaukee. Fellow defensive tackle Bob Brown had a happier experience Tuesday. He appeared without a cast adorning his right arm for the first time since July 27, when it was broken in a goal line scrimmage. "The muscles pulled up a little in there because the arm has been pretty much the same position since I broke it," he reported, "so it will be a little while to get them back to normal. But I'll be ready before long."...PACKER PATTERN: The Packers' placekicking corps has been expanded by the addition of Errol Mann, a free agent currently receiving a tryout. Mann, a 27-year-old University of North Dakota product, was released by the Cleveland Browns last week. He joins Mike Clemons, a rookie placement artist from Sacramento State who has been on the taxi squad since late August...Defensive back Doug Hart was happily distributing cigars to his teammates in the dressing room Tuesday. The five-year veteran was celebrating the arrival of Douglas Hart Jr., born at St. Vincent Hospital Monday. "He weighed seven pounds and three ounces," Doug proudly reported, "and he's 21 inches long"...The world champions, excused from the practice field Monday, returned to their South Oneida Street grounds Tuesday morning to begin girding for Sunday's NFL opener against the Philadelphia Eagles at Lambeau Field.

LUECK GRASPS PRO CHALLENGE

SEPT 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The adjustment from college to professional football is sufficiently major to tax the talents of any rookie. And if it is complicated by a shift in positions and a late start, plus an accompanying injury, the experience can be somewhat traumatic. But the Packers' Bill Lueck, a square cut yearling from Buckeye, Ariz. (pop. 6,000), has quietly managed to survive all of these and win a berth on the world champions' roster. Lueck, apparent successor to the retired Fuzzy Thurston in the Packer guard corps, first was confronted by a familiar problem - a loss of precious indoctrination time while toiling with the College All-Stars...I SWITCHED SIDES: "It put me behind," he confided, "and I switched sides, too, from left to right, which took me a while to get adjusted. I can play either side but it's just getting adjusted to the other side. "The big thing is it changed my pulling a little. I'm used to pulling left." He laughed and added, "On pass blocking, I'd find myself setting to the outside instead of the inside, as you do when you're playing the right side...It gave me a little more to think about." Mastering the professional approach in this phase has been his most difficult technical problem to date, he said. "The pass blocking is a lot different than college," Lueck noted. "It's a lot harder to learn. It was easy to do in college. But the main thing was just learning the system, the terminology of the plays. I had to get used to it." Assessing his progress as a whole, Lueck said, "I feel I could have done a little better. I've been slowed, though, by a knee injury the last two weeks, although it's feeling pretty good now. I was just starting to learn everything pretty good and I got that."...GOT GOOD TEACHERS: Looking ahead to the Packers' NFL opener against the Philadelphia Eagles at Lambeau Field Sunday, Bill admitted, "I really would like to play, but I don't know how much I will. It depends on how the game goes, I suppose." Philosophical about this point, he added, "I've got good teachers right now,

Gale Gillingham and Jerry Kramer, and that's the important thing. They're two of the best in the game. I feel I can learn a lot just watching them from the bench. "Gillie's real quick and Jerry has impressed me, too. I would say they're equal. Kramer's been around so long he has a real good knowledge of the game. He's a good, aggressive blocker." The Packers' own first round draft choice (the rights to top pick Fred Carr was acquired in the Jim Taylor exchange with the New Orleans Saints), the former University of Arizona athlete is in the process of eliminating the only reservation about his major league qualifications...**WORKING ON WEIGHT:** There was some concern that, at his collegiate weight of 230, he might not be sufficiently robust to play guard in the NFL. Gillingham, for example, is 258 and Kramer 250. "I'm a little heavier than I was at Arizona," Lueck, who hits with surprising authority for his relatively modest bulk, explained. "I'm weighing 240 right now. I did weigh more earlier this summer - I was up to 250 - but I quit lifting weights and I started to drop. I always lose weight when I quit lifting." "But I've gotten back into the program on the weight machine here," the 22-year-old water skiing buff said, "and that should help."

IT'LL TAKE WHILE TO GET USED TO IT, SAYS TAYLOR ON TELLING RETIREMENT

SEPT 11 (New Orleans) - Jimmy Taylor, whose brute strength as a ball carrier made him a living legend of pro football, turned in his uniform Tuesday for a front office job with the New Orleans Saints.

"It'll take a while to get used to not playing," Taylor said at a news conference called to announce his retirement after 10 seasons in the NFL. "Taylor's contributions to the first-year Saints will never be forgotten," said team owner John W. Mecom Jr., who signed the Green Bay great to a rich contract in 1967 after he had played out his option with the Packers. "His magnificent efforts with a young, untested team of veterans and rookies were matched only by the leadership and balance he gave the Saints when it was needed the most."...**FIELDS QUESTIONS:** A smiling Taylor, accompanied by his wife, Dixie, easily fielded questions posed by newsmen at the news conference. He said he'd had retirement under consideration for several weeks. Mrs. Taylor, however, had to fight back the tears several times. Asked if she wasn't relieved that she wouldn't have to worry each Sunday in the fall about injuries to her husband, she replied, "I'd rather not say." Taylor will be 33 on Sept. 20, six days after the Saints open their regular season against the Cleveland Browns. Although he had only 390 yards rushing last year, he was the leading rusher for the first-year Saints. It was at Green Bay, under Vince Lombardi, that Taylor wrote his name in the record books. In 1962, he was The Associated Press' Player of the Year and won the Jim Thorpe Trophy...**SCORED 19 TOUCHDOWNS:** He scored 19 touchdowns in 1962. No other NFL back has ever scored that many times from scrimmage in a single season. No other man put together five straight 1,000-yard plus years rushing as Taylor did from 1960-1964, in title games, no man has gained as many yards rushing, or as much rushing-pass catching yardage combined as Taylor. Mecom said Taylor will function in the area of public relations in the Saints' front office. "It is with deep regret and a sense of great loss that Taylor's long playing career has come to an end," said Mecom. "But it perhaps is fitting that he played out his career in his home state of Louisiana where he gave leadership and stability to Louisiana's first professional football team." Taylor played at LSU under Paul Dietzel, following in the footsteps of such other now retired pro greats as Steve Van Buren and Y.A. Tittle. The Packers drafted Jimmy, who grew up in the shadows of LSU, as their No. 2 choice after the 1957 season...**CAN CHANGE MIND:** Taylor has frequently said in the past that he had no desire to coach. Asked about coaching Tuesday, he laughed and said: "A man can change his mind about a lot of things." That's what Taylor did about playing. It took a lot of talking on the part of Mecom and Saints General Manager Vic Schwenk to persuade him to hang up No. 31. Incidentally, two hours after the announcement, the entire Saints team was feted at a luncheon attended by more than 1,000 persons. No one bothered to mention that Taylor had just called it quits, but he got a standing three-minute ovation when introduced.

ADDERLEY, NELSON DRAW HAZARDOUS DUTY

SEPT 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Though professional enemies, Herb Adderley and Al Nelson will have something in common Sunday afternoon. Messrs. Adderley and Nelson hold forth at left cornerback for the Packers and Philadelphia Eagles, respectively, a position which could be even more demanding than usual in the world champions' NFL unveiling against the Birds. They will be called upon to cope with two of the league's premier home run threats, the Packers accomplished Carroll Dale and the Eagles gifted young flanker, Ben Hawkins. Hawkins, a collegiate teammate of the Pack's Travis Williams at Arizona State, led all NFL receivers in yards gained last season, amassing 1,265 for a robust 21.4 average with 59 catches. Although less frequently a target in the Packers' highly balanced offense, Dale was only slightly less spectacular, averaging 21.1 yards for 35 catches which netted 738 yards and five



With His Wife Dixie fighting to hold back tears, football great Jimmy Taylor of the New Orleans Saints, announced his retirement from the sport Tuesday at a news conference in New Orleans. Taylor, who was a fullback star with the Green Bay Packers before coming to the Saints, will remain with the club in a public relations capacity. (AP Wirephoto)

touchdowns...OFF-SEASON BUDDIES: Adderley and Hawkins, ironically enough, are off-season buddies, a relationship which will be temporarily suspended on the sabbath. "He's a personal friend of mine," Herb confided immediately following Wednesday's brisk practice session. "He and I worked out together regularly during the off-season back home in Philadelphia. "In fact, we played softball together on a team called Timmy Brown's All-Stars, which had quite a few Eagle players on it." Although he has never played against Hawkins (the Packers and the Eagles haven't met since 1962 and Hawkins is only in his third pro season), Herb also is familiar with his imminent rival via celluloid. "I've studied the Eagles' offense a lot in the off-season on highlight films," he said, "so I knew something about him before we got to look at any preseason film on Philadelphia." "It's tough to see how he gets open," Adderley went on. "I'll tell you one thing, he can catch the ball as well as anybody I've ever seen. He makes all kinds of catches, diving, 1-handed, 2-handed, any kind you can think of...he also is fast - he's a 9.6 sprinter. Hawkins really impressed me in the films. He's not very large (6 feet and 180 pounds) but he has everything it takes to be great and I think he deserved more honors than he got last year." Friendship will be temporarily forgotten come Sunday afternoon, Herb concluded. "He knows I'm going to have to hit him when he comes around the corner and I know he's going to try his best to beat me." Dale, now in his fourth Packer semester after five seasons with the Rams, has been even more dazzling in the just concluded pre-season campaign than he was a year ago. But Carroll, who averaged a remarkable 35.1 yards in his last two appearances and 24.7 for all six outings, has no ready explanation for his success. "I sure don't know of any reason," he says. "Of course, we always throw what the defense dictates. We had a very high percentage of completion on fly patterns," he added. "Normally, you're lucky to complete one out of three of those. And sometimes the opposition tries to play our short game too much or double covers Boyd (Dowler), which leaves man-on-man coverage on me." "But," the soft-spoken Tennessean noted, "we're not concerned where we throw, we just want to get the job done." Dale has good speed, as any victimized NFL defensive back will ruefully attest, but he is not sure just how fast he is. "I never ran track in high school or college so I was never timed," the wiry VPI alumnus reported. "I think one, year I was timed when I was with the Rams and I was one of the fastest, but I don't know what my time was. I really think, as a receiver, the main thing is your explosion out of you move. When you make your sideline cut, for example, you want to do it without wasting a step." Although it had to be a satisfying pre-season for the 30-year-old veteran, he quietly let it be known individual achievement is secondary to the common cause.

LOMBARDI NERVOUS SPECTATOR AT CBS PREVIEW OF 'LOMBARDI'

SEPT 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Vince Lombardi looked nervous for a perfectly good reason. He was. Anybody would be under the circumstances. Vince Lombardi had been directed to a small room with about 30 people in it. The lights would go out a moment and for the next 51 minutes Vince Lombardi would sit there and watch a good part of his life flashed on the screen. This was to be a preview of a color special which will be



Vince Lombardi, former coach and now general manager of the Green Bay Packers, is the subject of "Lombardi" a full-hour color special to be presented on the CBS television network at 7 p.m.

CDT Sunday. Lombardi is shown here in his college playing days at Fordham University where he gained fame as one of the Seven Blocks of Granite.

carried this Sunday night by CBS-TV in place of the Ed Sullivan Show. The special is a knockout, quite possibly one of the finest football films ever put together, but they didn't bother with any frills. The title they have given it is "Lombardi."...OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES: Vince Lombardi found a seat in the next to last row in the projection room. He walked the entire length of the row and took the last seat up against the wall. There were about 30 others in the room, people like NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and CBS Vice President Bill MacPhail, but the lights didn't go out until Vince Lombardi had settled into his seat. The film opened with montage shots of the Green Bay Packers in action. Paul (Golden Boy) Hornung had the first speaking part. "Coach Lombardi probably is the most hated man in football," Hornung began. Vince Lombardi, watching and listening in the darkened room, laughed a little nervously...SHOCK OPENER: It all turned out all right, though, because this was what they call a "shock" opener and before he was through, Paul Hornung explained the only reason anybody hates Vince Lombardi is because he's a bear for perfection. The next person to try to describe the former Green Bay coach was his wife. "Vinnie is kind of a mystery," she said. "He eludes you. To me he is the most wonderful man in the world." Vince Lombardi sat there in his seat and stared straight at the screen ahead of him. There were shots after last January's Super Bowl victory in Miami and other shots showing how Lombardi looked after losing games. He looked pale, like a sheet of white paper, and somber, like a man hearing sentence passed. Mostly, though, he looked incredulous. Suddenly, a different Lombardi appeared on the screen. He was enraged by an official's oversight. "What the hell's going on out here?" he hollered, his tight dark features compressed into deep creases. "That's interference! Can't you see it?" Vince Lombardi didn't get his way. You could tell. He slammed his program disgustedly onto the field. The personal side of Vince Lombardi came next. Things like his baby picture taken shortly after he was born in Brooklyn and a shot of him reading a newspaper in a sauna bath long after he left Brooklyn. Then a man came on the screen who made Vince Lombardi smile in his seat in the projection room. The man was his father, who talked about his son's playing days at Fordham, and it was what he

said that made Vince Lombardi smile. "He was one of the best players on the team," declared the elder Lombardi, with the proper amount of parental pride. Possibly the best insight to Vince Lombardi was presented a little later when he talked about that first get-together he had with the Packer players after becoming their coach in 1959. He was asked what he had said at that session. "I, said I don't care if they accept me or not. I wasn't worried about their morale; I was worried about Vince Lombardi's morale." Jerry Kramer, the Packers articulate offensive guard, then provided another tipoff on the man. "I don't think anybody knows what he can do before he tries," said Kramer. "He makes sure you try." When the film was finished and the lights went back on, Vince Lombardi smiled and got up from his seat. He said it was hard for him to look at himself objectively on the screen. There was one segment he didn't make much of. It showed him on the sidelines during the final minute of last year's first of two games with the Los Angeles Rams. The Packers led, 24-20, with 45 seconds left and now they were getting ready to punt on their own 41. "Do you want Don Chandler to punt?" Dave "Hawg" Hanner, one of Lombardi's assistant coaches, asks him in that segment of the film. "No!" yells Lombardi angrily, "I don't want him to punt. Why the hell would I want him to punt?" "He's a quicker kicker," Hanner says. "Donny Anderson is our regular punter," snaps Lombardi. "The other guy hasn't been punting. Suppose he kicks a line drive and they run it back?" Lombardi, had his way, of course, and Anderson punted. Or tried to, anyway, because the Rams blocked his attempt, scored two plays later and won the ball game, 27-24. Lombardi's booboo is right there on film for everybody to see and hear. Ed Sabol, the executive producer, showed Lombardi the raw segment last July and asked him what he wanted to do about it. Vince Lombardi looked it over for some time, then said: "Let it go."

HUARTE LIKELY QUARTERBACK AGAINST BAYS

SEPT 12 (Green Bay) – John Huarte, a major disappointment to two prior professional football teams, will probably be the starting quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday when they help the Packers open their NFL season. Philadelphia Coach Joe Kuharich has little room for choice with regular Norm Snead out for at least another month with a broken leg and veteran King Hill uninspiring as the top backup man. In Huarte, an expensive bust with the American League New York Jets and Boston Patriots, Kuharich has the college quarterback he recruited for Notre Dame and who beat out Joe Namath for the Heisman Trophy...TAXI SQUAD MEMBER: The former Irish star is familiar with the Eagles' system, having been a taxi squad member since the Patriots cut him loose last fall. Huarte has been promising in the exhibition season. The most convincing Philadelphia pre-season win came last weekend when Huarte led the

Carroll Activated

Jim Weatherwax has been placed on the injured list and Leo Carroll has been activated to replace him on the official roster, the Packers announced this morning. Weatherwax underwent surgery for a knee injury on Tuesday.

Eagles to a 21-7 victory over the New York Giants, a team that upset the Packers in an exhibition game. If Huarte can come through, the Eagles could make a game of it Sunday. They have a strong receiving corps in Mike Ditka, Gary Ballman and Ben Hawkins and capable rushers in Tom Woodeshick and Izzy Lang. Kuharich has reshaped the defense. Two additions who could prove helpful are defensive back Alvin Haymond, acquired in a trade with the Colts, and rookie linebacker Adrian Young, a bulwark for Southern California last season.

EX-YOUNG PHILADELPHIAN CAFFEY LOOKING FORWARD TO OLD MATES

SEPT 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A traded player, according to the familiar stereotype, is anxious to exact revenge from the team that dealt him away. Lee Roy Caffey, the Packers' right linebacker, may be something of an exception. Drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, he came to the Packers prior to the 1965 season in the Jim Ringo exchange and the Eagles obviously did him – and the home forces – a favor. The towering Texan, who has developed into one of the NFL's most accomplished defenders, has been a member of three successive NFL championship teams here to share a distinction unprecedented in the league's modern history. Caffey, one of the sports world's more amiable performers, thus has no vendetta with the Pennsylvanians. But, he admits, he has more than routine interest in Sunday's NFL opener against the Eagles at Lambeau Field. "It's been a long time and I was only with them one year," he says, "but I always was hoping to get a chance to play against them. I'm looking forward to it."...AGAINST MIKE DITKA: "I've got two things going for me this week," Lee Roy added, "Playing Philadelphia and playing against Mike Ditka. You have to have a good game against him or you're going to get killed. Caffey also has considerable respect for the Eagles' veteran backfield tandem, Tom Woodeshick and Izzy Lang. "Tom and I came up together with the Eagles as rookies," he reported. "They redshirted him the first season. He's a real strong runner and a good blocker. And he picks up blitzes real well. Lang is a lot like Elijah Pitts. He's real quick and has good moves – he's a fine runner." The Thorndale, Tex., native likewise has been impressed – via film – with the performance of John Huarte, the former Notre Dame luminary who is expected to start at quarterback for the Eagles. "Huarte's looked real good," Lee Roy volunteered, "especially against the Giants (21-7 Eagle victims in their pre-season finale last weekend). He uses rollouts a lot. He likes to get out of the pocket real quick and run with the ball." Remembering the Pack's sometimes traumatic times with the itinerant type, Caffey pointed out, "Guys like that always give us trouble – guys like Mira (George), of the 49ers and Tarkenton (Fran), of the Giants). Another thing, they have Ditka coming back off an injury – I don't think he's caught more than five or six passes all of the preseason – and he's blocking real well. Of course, he always did." These, of course, are in addition to split end Gary Ballman and flanker Ben Hawkins, league leader in yards gained by receptions in 1967, who will bear more than a modicum of watching "I think they're a lot better team," the brawny blond soberly summed up, "than their preseason record (2-3)."...PACKER PATTERN: A picture maneuver, a 50-yard "bomb" from Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler, spiced the Packers' offensive drill Thursday morning and drew cries and whistles of appreciation from fellow members of the attacking unit. Speedball Travis Williams also elicited bystanders' admiration, "breaking away" on several occasions. The defense later toiled against the anticipated Eagle offense, with Zeke Bratkowski and Bill Stevens portraying the Philadelphians' Huarte and King Hill...Woodeshick, a substantial 6-footer who scales 225 pounds, is the Eagles' leading rusher with 149 yards in 31 carries, a fat 4.8 average. Ballman paces the receivers with 10 catches for 92 yards, while Hawkins has caught 7 for 182. Hill has been a slightly more

New Stadium Rule: No Beer, Booze Carry-Ins

The carrying in of canned or bottled goods by fans attending games at Lambeau Field has been banned by the Green Bay Stadium commission and will go into effect with Sunday's Packer-Philadelphia game.

The commission, in making the ruling, said it felt obligated to do so because of the hazard of injury to people which may result from the empty cans or bottles.

Persons having cans or bottled goods in their possession Sunday will be requested by the gate attendants to leave them in the car or check the merchandise at the gate until the game is over.

effective passer than Huarte, completing 32 of 62 for 354 yards and a 51.6 efficiency record. Huarte has hit on 24 of 54 for 409 yards and a 44.4 percentage...Free safety Joe Scarpati, an ex-Packer, has been the Birds' most effective "outfielder". He has intercepted three passes and returned them 49 yards.

EAGLE LBER: ARUNAS WHO?

SEPT 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – As every self-respecting pro football buff knows, indestructible Ray Nitschke is the Packers' middle linebacker. More than a few PFBs might present a blank stare, however if called upon to identify his opposite number with the Philadelphia Eagles, who help the world champions christen their 1968 NFL season at Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon. It happens to be, poetically enough, a droll Lithuanian who answers to the somewhat exotic name of Arunas Vasys, pronounced AH-ROONAS VAY-SEES. Arunas is accustomed to being unsung, according to sportswriter Sandy Padwe of the Philadelphia Inquirer. In his column, Padwe reported, "He is from Notre Dame where he was recruited by a coach named Joe Kuharich (now, of course, Eagle headmaster). Arunas Vasys played at Notre Dame the same years John Huarte, Jack Snow, Kevin Hardy, Tom Regner, Allen Page, Nick Eddy and Jim Lynch played for the [Irish. Somehow Arunas Vasys missed out on the publicity. His year was supposed to be 1965. But one day, Vasys and a friend stopped for a glass of beer after practice. That is a violation of Notre Dame's football rules. That also was the end of Arunas Vasys' big year... 16TH DRAFT CHOICE: "They dropped me down below Dave Martin at linebacker," Vasys said, smiling. "Dave Martin started this year with the Eagles. Martin did not even make it through training camp. Kuharich cut him." "The coaches got mad at me for breaking the rule," Vasys told Padwe. "After that, they used me only when they had to. I started at defensive end a couple of times and at outside linebacker." Padwe went on to note, "When the pros conducted their draft session that year, the Eagles chose Vasys - on the 16th round. 'I was disappointed I went so low,' Vasys said. 'I thought someone would take me on a higher round.' " Today, two years later, Arunas is still around and, via the violent vagaries of professional football, suddenly finds himself a regular at a highly sensitive post in the wake of injuries to starter Dave Lloyd and his replacement, Ike Kelly. "I think I've done all right considering the experience factor," the former Cicero, Ill., resident opined to Padwe. Eagle publicity director Jim Gallagher, currently a

Titletown visitor, concurs. "It's a new position for him," he points out. "He was an outside linebacker put in there in an emergency after Lloyd suffered fractured ribs and Kelly a torn knee cartilage. He's done a great job in his first three games there. He's been making tackles all over the place."... 'A WILD KID': Although he is from Cicero, Vasys played high school football in Chicago. "My parents," he informed Padwe, "wanted me to go to a college with good discipline. Growing up in Cicero, well, I was sort of a wild kid. They figured if I went to Notre Dame I wouldn't get into trouble. Hugh Devore and Moose Krause (the Notre Dame athletic director) helped recruit me. My parents liked Moose because he could speak Lithuanian." "Cicero is the fabled town where Al Capone had his headquarters during the 1920s and 1930s," Padwe observed as a prelude to Vasys' elaboration on this point. "When I was growing up there," Vasys said, "you had to be in a gang or a club. If you weren't there wasn't any social life. I think maybe it would be better if you called them clubs instead of gangs. But, yes, there were a few fights." Vasys was grinning again. "Obviously a man with a sense of humor, the 25-year-old defender told Padwe, "If we have a boy, I'm going to name him Arunas. Just so he can go through what I've gone through. People come up to me and ask me my name and I tell them it's Arunas and they say, 'That's nice, what's your first name?'"

ROBINSON TELLS HOW LOMBARDI, BENGTSON DIFFER

SEPT 13 (Green Bay) – Linebacker Dave Robinson of the Green Bay Packers gave this description Friday of the difference between playing under Head Coach Vince Lombardi and his successor, Phil Bengtson. "Bengtson is the type of coach you'd cut off your arm for," said Robinson. "Lombardi was the type that cut it off for you. After the sacrifice is made, what difference does it make how it was done?"

REMEMBER HUARTE? MAY START AS EAGLE QB

SEPT 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Norm Snead's leg is broken. That leaves Philadelphia Eagles Coach Joe Kuharich with a choice of starting a young quarterback who has never thrown a pass in regular NFL competition or a veteran quarterback who has been in the NFL for 10 years but threw only seven passes all last year. John Huarte or King Hill? Kuharich still had not made up his mind Friday which of the two would be at the controls for his athletes against the Packers in the NFL opener at Lambeau Field Sunday. But the general feeling, as expressed by Eagle publicist Jim Gallagher, was that it would be Huarte. Remember Huarte? He was the Heisman Trophy winner in 1964 when he led Notre Dame to which he was recruited by one Joe Huharich, to a 9-1 record. He was drafted in the second round by the New York Jets and signed for a bonus said to have been in six figures. But he spent the season on the Jets' taxi squad and was traded to Boston for the 1966 season. He played just enough to complete five passes in 11 tries. And in 1967, he hit three of nine for the Patriots before being cut. The Eagles, who had drafted him in the seventh round, picked him up for their taxi team. During this year's exhibition season, he split the QB duties with Hill and managed to connect on 24 of 54 passes for 44 per cent and 409 yards. But, importantly, he did "move the team," as Gallagher put it, last Saturday when the Eagles conquered the Giants, 21-7. Hill, who began his career with the Cardinals, and moved to the Eagles in a trade in 1961, broke his passing hand in an exhibition last year and wasn't restored to the roster until the third game of the season. Even then, with Snead having a great year, the onetime Rice All-American

played only six minutes of the entire season. He is a veteran who has been a reliable backup man through most of his career, however. In his 10 years, he has hurled 809 passes and hit 395 of them for 49 per cent. In the exhibition season just completed, Hill completed 32 of 62 for 52 per cent and 354 yards. By way of comparison, Packer Bart Starr had a sensational pre-season schedule with 70 completions in 108 attempts for 1,109 yards and 65 per cent. And Zeke Bratkowski fired home 13 of 23 attempts for 57 per cent and 178 yards. In other statistical departments, Tom Woodeshick was the Eagles' leading pre-season rusher with 149 yards in the four games he played. But 112 of them came in one game against Minnesota. Nobody else totaled over 50 yards for the five exhibitions. Gary Ballman tops the receivers with 10 catches for 92 yards and Joe Scarpati is the leading Eagle thief with three interceptions.

NO NEW FACES IN GREEN BAY STARTING UNIT

SEPT 14 (Green Bay) – The only "new" face will be on the sidelines when the veteran Green Bay Packers begin their quest for an unprecedented fourth consecutive NFL championship Sunday afternoon against the injury-racked Philadelphia Eagles. Game time is 1 p.m. (CDT). The "newcomer" is Packers coach Phil Bengtson, who moved up from an assistant's post when Vince Lombardi decided to concentrate on the general manager's job. Otherwise, the Packers will present virtually the same team that rolled to a third straight NFL crown last season, capped with a second straight Super Bowl victory...

STARR LEADER: The leader of the group is quarterback Bart Starr, who has been hitting his talented receivers at a fantastic 64.8 per cent during the pre-season contests. Eight of his throws went for touchdowns and four were intercepted. Quarterbacking the Eagles will be John Huarte, a sensation at Notre Dame, but a failure with two AFL teams - the New York Jets and the Boston Patriots. King Hill, an NFL veteran, will probably see action at the signal-calling spot. The Eagles' No. 1 quarterback, Norm Snead, broke his leg on the first play of the first exhibition game, and will be out until at least midseason. Huarte, however, went the distance last week to lead Philadelphia to a convincing 21-7 triumph over the New York Giants, one of two clubs to topple the Packers in exhibition play. The injury list doesn't end with Snead. Runners Harry Jones and Dan Berry, guard Jim Skaggs and linebackers Dave Lloyd and Ike Kelly have all been hobbled. Bob Brown, one of the best blocking tackles around, has a questionable knee. For the Packers, the injury problem has almost resolved itself. Defensive tackles Ron Kostelnik and Henry Jordan appear to have shaken off their troubles, and running back Elijah Pitts apparently is completely recovered from surgery. Only defensive linemen Bob Brown and Jim Weatherwax and fullback Ben Wilson from last year's champions are missing because of injuries. Brown, who suffered a broken arm early in practice, had the cast removed this week and should be ready shortly. On Friday, Bengtson activated Leo Carroll, the defensive end obtained from Atlanta, to replace Weatherwax on the roster.

BENGTON DEBUTS, PACKERS READY FOR EAGLE CHALLENGE

SEPT 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A rendezvous with history? Although the oddsmakers are not so persuaded, it could be just that for the 1968 Packers. Sleek and svelte in the wake of a rigorous pre-season grind, the world champions today launch their attempt to scale a plateau never before attained in the NFL's half century existence. That lofty objective, of course, is a fourth straight championship in what promises to be the best balanced competition the venerable NFL has yet seen, and a third consecutive Super Bowl success. The jury will be out for some time, perhaps the full 14 weeks, for the home forces, who last season became the first team in modern league history to win three titles in a row...**MOMENT OF TRUTH:** But the first moment of truth comes at 1 o'clock (WNFL) this afternoon when the Packers oppose the unfamiliar Philadelphia Eagles in Lambeau Field before another sellout gathering of 50,861. Leading them in pursuit of further glory will be a "new" face, that of tall, regal John Philip Bengtson, longtime Packer defensive coach who accepted Vince Lombardi's mantle when the ex-Block of Granite retired as head coach last Feb. 1. It will mark the first time since 1958 that anyone but Lombardi, who drove Green Bay to a record five NFL championships in his nine-year tenure, has guided the Packers from the sidelines. Sixth man to coach the sports wonder of the world, Bengtson expects his athletes to be primed for the Eagles, although they are not traditional or neighborhood Packer rivals, such as the Bears, Lions and Vikings, and have not been in title contention of late...**GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE:** "The fact that it is our opener and a league game will be enough in itself to inspire us," he said. "And I think they're anxious to demonstrate they accomplished something in training camp. And they are in good physical shape." He also professes profound respect for the enemy, despite its 2-3 pre-season mark and 6-7-1 league record of 1967. "The Eagles are a team with outstanding



Vince Lombardi, who will be profiled in "Lombardi," a full-hour color special to be broadcast on Channel 2 tonight (7-8), is pictured here during one of his many moments of victory as coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won their third straight NFL championship and second consecutive Super Bowl crown last season.

receivers, deep receivers, and a lot of speed," the former University of Minnesota All-American noted. "And, of course, Ditka (Mike, the former Bear who now holds forth at tight end for the Eagles) is a good short receiver." "They've got two good running backs who have been up in the yardage figures in Woodeshick (Tom) and Lang (Izzy)," he continued, "and in Bob Brown they've got probably the outstanding offensive lineman in the league."...DEFENSIVELY CAPABLE: "Defensively, they've made a couple of changes in the line and they've come a long way. They're very capable. I think they feel they have improved quite a bit defensively, particularly on the pass rush. "They are," he summed up. "a good, capable football team." Coached by former Notre Dame and Chicago Cardinal mentor Joe Kuharich, the Eagles recently have become increasingly respectable, having dispatched the Boston Patriots (22-20) and New York Giants (21-7) in their last two ventures. The Pennsylvanians' 1967 offensive performance also provides the Packers with food for thought. Only the Los Angeles Rams, Baltimore Colts and New York Giants, all explosive, scored more points than the Eagles last season. Kuharich's crew amassed 351, which is 19 more than the Packers managed to mount en route to the championship. Defense kept the Eagles from contention in the Capitol Division race, in which they yielded 409 points, second highest total in the NFL...SHORED UP HOLES: The easterners feel they since have shored up the holes, however, and are on the threshold of respectability after rebounding from a 52-10 thumping at the hands of Minnesota's Vikings in their third pre-season test. The Packers, who closed out their grapefruit schedule with three straight victories after losing two in a row, will lead with the same veteran lineup which carried them to a highly impressive 31-9 conquest of the Cleveland Browns in their exhibition finale a week ago. A precision 64.8 per cent passer over the pre-season route, peerless Bart Starr will be at the offensive controls behind perhaps the most mobile, experienced line in the NFL - tackles Bob Skoronski

Off We Go		
Probable Lineups:		
OFFENSE		
PHILADELPHIA		GREEN BAY
Ballman	SE	Dowler
Howell	LT	Skoronski
Hart	LG	Gillingham
Ceppetelli	C	Bowman
Nordquist	RG	Kramer
R. Brown	RT	Gregg
Ditka	TE	Fleming
Huarte	QB	Starr
Lang	LH	Anderson
Hawkins	FL	Dale
Woodeshick	FB	Grabowski
DEFENSE		
Beisler	LE	Davis
Peters	LT	Kostelnik
Pettigrew	RT	Jordan
Tom	RE	Aldridge
Young	LLB	Robinson
Vasys	MLB	Nitschke
Wells	RLB	Caffey
Nelson	LH	Adderley
Haymond	RH	Jeter
Ramsey	LS	T. Brown
Scarpati	RS	Wood
Packer-Eagle Series		
Packers won 15, Eagles won 2. Points— Packers 428, Eagles 227.		

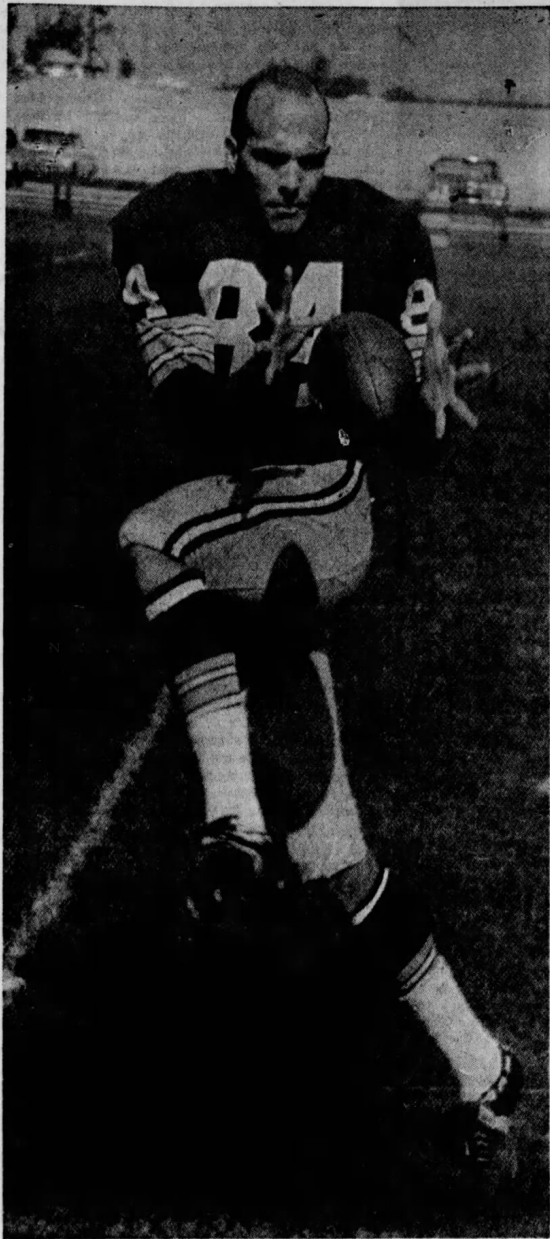
and Forrest Gregg, guards Gale Gillingham and Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman. They will be joined by two of the league's premier receivers, split end Boyd Dowler, flanker Carroll Dale, and one of its better tight ends, Marv Fleming, and the talented tandem of Donny Anderson and Jim Grabowski at the running backs. The Pack's "big play" defense, which allowed fewer points last season than any NFL team save the Rams and Colts, has returned intact under the leadership of its all-pro captain, Willie Davis. Veteran Henry Jordan, who has shaken off a chronic back injury to sparkle in recent weeks, and Ron Kostelnik will open at the tackles and Lionel Aldridge at right end. They will be supported by three of football's finest linebackers, Dave Robinson, Ray Nitschke and LeeRoy Caffey, and a tough, tightfisted secondary - cornerbacks Herb Adderley and Bob Jeter and safeties Tom Brown and Willie Wood. Their primary assignment will be containing the operations of ex-Notre Damer John Huarte, who is expected to start at quarterback. Huarte, who had been with the New York Jets and Boston Patriots before catching on in Philly, is fond of flitting about a la Fran Tarkenton, a man the Packer defenders frequently have found frustrating. The Eagles' defense is keyed by Floyd Peters, a 10-year veteran who has seen previous service with the Browns and Lions, sophomore end Mel Tom and ex-Packer Joe Scarpati, who is considered to be one of the league's better free safeties.

PACKERS' FIRST GAME RECALLED AS TEAM BEGINS GOLDEN SEASON

SEPT 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A routine cheer went up from a crowd of about 1,500 spectators standing around a roped-off gridiron in old Hagemeister Park as Curly Lambeau trotted forward, put his foot into the ball and a blue-jerseyed line swept forward under the arching kickoff. It was the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 14, 1919, a crisp, sunny day, and the Green Bay Packers were taking their first toddling steps into sports history. Two hours later the crowd was on its way home, talking excitedly about the class of the city's new sandlot team. Turning what had figured to be a tight, well-contested game into a rout, the Packers

smashed through and over an outclassed eleven from the North End A.C. of Menominee, 53-0...RECALLS LAMBEAU KICK: The future looked pretty good, but nobody, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, had the slightest notion that today, Sept. 15, 1968, the Packers would be starting their 50th consecutive season. How many of that initial turnout of 1,500 are still alive nobody knows, but there can't be many. I was one of them, an 11-year-old kid, on the scene because my dad, a newcomer in town, was acting that day as the team physician. To tell the truth, except for a brief memory flash of Curly Lambeau kicking off (and it may not have been the initial kickoff - Curly did a lot of it that day) I haven't the slightest recollection of the game itself. George Calhoun's game story in next day's Press-Gazette isn't much help either. It was a pretty general account, taking up less than a column on the skimpy sports page of the day and containing a number of cliches Cal was to make widely familiar in the years to come...LIKED TO PASS: Menominee got the ball at the outset, couldn't move and quickly lost it on downs. The Packers took over and began a march which ended when quarterback Dutch Dwyer went over center for the first touchdown in Packer history. Ironically, it was the only game Dutch played as a Packer. From then on it was no contest as a smashing defense piled up the Lumberjacks almost before their plays could form. A well-balanced running and passing attack ruptured the visitors at will. From the very beginning the Packers showed a preference for passing that has been stock in trade ever since. Curly, who could really pinpoint the fat ball of his time, saw no reason to beat his brains out against an opposing line as long as he could throw over it...NO BREAKAWAYS: Lambeau was deadly that day and most of his pitches connected for substantial yardage. Whenever the defense spread to cover passes the running game cut it to ribbons. There were no long breakaways as the fledgling Packers churned out fat chunks of yardage. Scoring was pretty well spread, too, as six ball carriers crossed the Menominee

goal line for a total of eight TDs, including two each by Lambeau and Tudy McLean. In addition Curly kicked five conversions. By and large the outstanding feature was the teamwork of the local squad. As Cal put it next day "The entire Green Bay eleven played like stars, every man doing his bit. The team ran in excellent form, like (a favorite simile of Cal's) a well-oiled machine."...USED 18 MEN: The Packers used 18 men during the contest (actually, they only had 18 jerseys). Taking part in that inaugural were Riggie Dwyer, Herman Martell, Cowboy Wheeler and Natie Abrams at the ends; Al Petcka and Andy Muldoon and Sam Powers of Marinette, tackles; Cal and Martin Zoll at guards, and Fritz Gavin and Charlie Sauber, center. The backfield consisted of Dutch Dwyer and Jim Coffeen at quarterback; Al Martin, Gus Rosenow and Lambeau at the halves, and McLean and Tubby Bero, fullback. Most of them were former West High football players and one, Sam Powers was from out of town. If the game itself was only a slight hint of the future, the conditions under which it was played were even less so. There were no cops or ushers to control the eager thousands streaming into a 50,000-seat amphitheater



Carroll Dale

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- in fact, there weren't even any seats and it didn't cost anything to get in...DROPPED OFF TROLLEY: Hagemeister Park - now covered by East High School and a portion of what was once City Stadium - was just a big vacant lot with a football field laid out on it. There were no entrance gates because there wasn't any fence. Spectators simply dropped off the Walnut Street trolley and walked over to the sidelines or drove their own cars and parked about 10 yards behind the ropes stretched around the field. If they felt like it they sat in or on top of their cars but most preferred to get out and follow the play up and down field. One thing about those 1920 vintage cars. You didn't have to double up to get into them and from the front seat you could see right over the heads of the standing crowd. Sitting on top was even better but it could be chilly. There were no dressing rooms. Players usually dressed at home and came to the park ready to go, although visiting teams sometimes swanked it up by arriving in a hired bus. When the half ended, teams grabbed their blankets and adjourned to opposite end zones where they huddled and talked over tactics for the next half. Nothing private about those huddles. The crowd formed a ring around the players, a practice encouraged since it made a handy windbreak in the latter part of the season. Fans weren't bashful about joining in the strategy sessions, either. As soon as the teams left the field it was taken over by a swarm of kids and games of "kick" popped up all over the place as the youngsters began to show off before their elders. When it came time to resume play members of the crowd became self-appointed policemen to chase them off and clear the gridiron. Meanwhile, Cal and business manager Neil Murphy removed their hats and made the rounds taking up a collection. Each spectator contributed what he felt like dropping into the proffered fedora. No record remains of the take that fine September Sunday 49 years ago, but if Cal and Neil averaged two bits a fan they did well.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

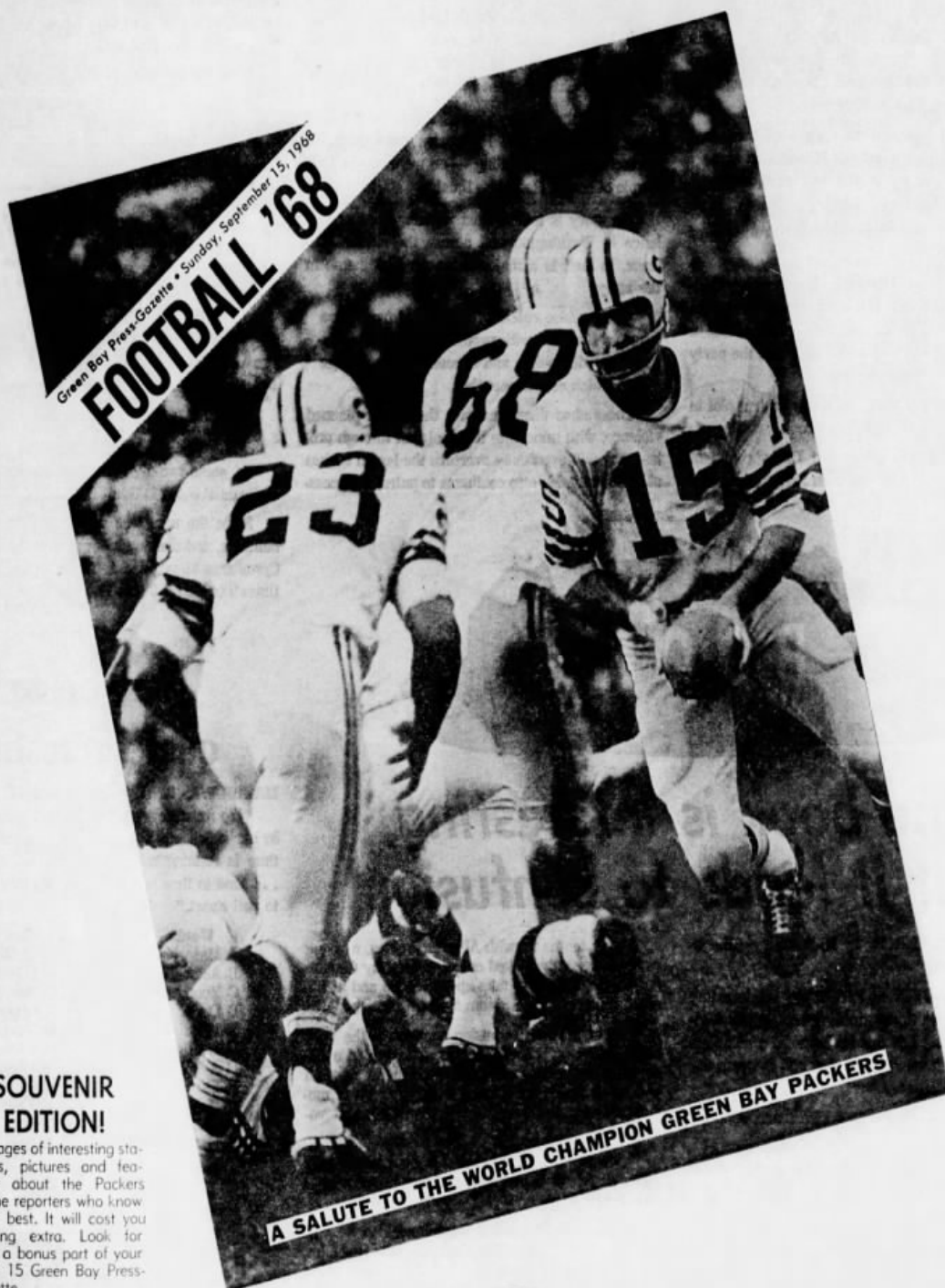
SEPT 15 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The road is rocky for any collegiate football player who aspires to a pro career. However "Rocky" Bleier negotiated the journey, displaying his customary talent and determination, to reach "Destination Final Roster." The Steelers' Bleier is one of a handful of Fox Cities football players ever to make the official roster of a big-time (NFL or AFL) team. After the 1967 collegiate season, a total of perhaps 18,000 or 20,000 seniors became eligible for NFL or AFL play. Only about 800 or 1,000 of these actually were drafted or received a tryout on a free agent basis. Less than 200 of this group actually survived the final cuts of the 26 NFL or AFL entries. In Bleier's case, the odds weren't too encouraging for making the Steeler squad - especially since he wasn't drafted until the 16th round. There was some question about a knee on which he had surgery...there was some question as to what his best pro position might be...and

there might have been a feeling that he wasn't fast enough to compensate for his lack of heft (190 or 195 pounds) by pro standards. The dedicated Appletonian not only worked diligently to bounce back completely from surgery but built himself up over the 200-pound mark to qualify as a good-sized running back. From all reports, Bleier's attitude (he works tirelessly and was eager to learn without a trace of the "I was a captain at Notre Dame" approach other players may have used) was as important as his ability in making the team. Bleier has been a credit to his team and his community at every level of football - and undoubtedly will continue to be in his new career that opens officially today. The first Appleton gridder to make an AFL team was Jon Hohman, who played for a time with the Denver Broncos before continuing his career in Canada. Appleton's Chuck Sample and "Swede" Johnston were onetime Packers, while Appleton's Emmett Mortell played for the Philadelphia Eagles 30 years ago. Combined Locks' Red Smith is a former Packer and Neenah's John Schneller performed for the Detroit Lions in the mid-30s. Appleton's Claude Radtke played for the Packers during the 1950 exhibition

season but was injured before the first official game and missed being put on the final roster. Neenah's Tom Wiesner had tryouts with San Diego and the Rams, and Neenah's Jack Ankerson was drafted by St. Louis, but a multi-year service stint stood in the way of a thorough trial. Appleton's Ron Locklin and Kaukauna's Ken Roloff had trials with the New York Giants. Incidentally, De Pere's Jerry Daanen has made the final roster of 40 at St. Louis...A Fox Cities man has also made the grade in big-time officiating. Neenah's Dick Jorgensen is a regular NFL official this year, working on Red Pace's team as a line judge. Dick, son of Neenah Athletic Director Ole Jorgensen, is a former basketball captain at the University of Wisconsin...Things haven't gone too well for former University of Wisconsin stars Ron Vander Kelen and Jimmy Jones. Vander Kelen was cut from the Atlanta Falcons' active roster and Jones appears destined for the Chicago Bears' taxi squad. The Vander Kelen case is unfortunate because the Green Bay area quarterback, who led the Badgers to their most recent title, once seemed an excellent bet to become an NFL regular. But, apparently his passing talents rusted during five years on the Minnesota Viking bench that he was unable to convince Coach Norb Hecker that he should have been the No. 2 QB for his new team, the Falcons. Jones, who started his Bear pass-catching career on a sensational note, appears to have fallen into disfavor with the Bears management the last two seasons. "I thought I was doing real well," said Jones when he learned of being put on waivers, and some of his teammates were quoted as saying that Jim had looked good. At last report, Jones balked at joining the Bear cab squad...Jim Dooley, new Bear head coach, isn't missing a trick in getting his team "Super Bowl" conscious. At the Bears' recent family picnic, Dooley arranged for an armored express truck to bring \$25,000 in \$20 bills. This little display, as any Green Bay Packer knows, was a reminder of how much winning both the NFL title and the Super Bowl game is worth to each player...While no one expected Jim Taylor to play for the New Orleans Saints as long as he had with the Green Bay Packers, few would have believed that he would shelve the "31" jersey in favor of "civvies" after just one season. Just two years ago, the irrepressible fullback was an integral cog in a Packer championship team, and last year he was a regular for the Saints. So, if there was a noticeable decline in his football ability - and that apparently was the case - it came rather abruptly. It serves as a reminder of the punishment a running back absorbs - particularly in a season like 1967 when a new league team couldn't provide Packer-type blocking. At any rate, players two and three years older than Taylor are still going strong at other positions. Unfortunately, Taylor's career in pro football ended on the same sour note as did his Packer career. The bitterness about Taylor's being put on the kickoff unit and rumors about being put on waivers seemed out of place for one of football's all-time great rushers. Many still insist Taylor made a big mistake in leaving the Packers last year but, financially, at least, Jim probably has few regrets.

Bengtson Debuts, Packers Ready for Eagle Challenge

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RAMS AND PACKERS APPEAR STRONGEST - BUT IT'LL BE CLOSE

SEPT 11 (The Sporting News) - As you may have noted last season and in the exhibition results this summer, the NFL is an organization with seven contenders in the Western Conference and only one club out of the running. As of opening day, there are two standouts in the NFL's Coastal Division (Los Angeles and Baltimore), plus a potential title candidate in San Francisco. Atlanta is the lone weakling. In the four-team Central Division, there may be four contenders. At least, behind Green Bay, there is a balance of strength for the No. 2 spot among Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota. To define the West as a balance of powers is not enough, unfortunately, to satisfy Publisher Johnson Spink of The Sporting News, who insists each year in September on a more precise forecast. Here are my predictions:

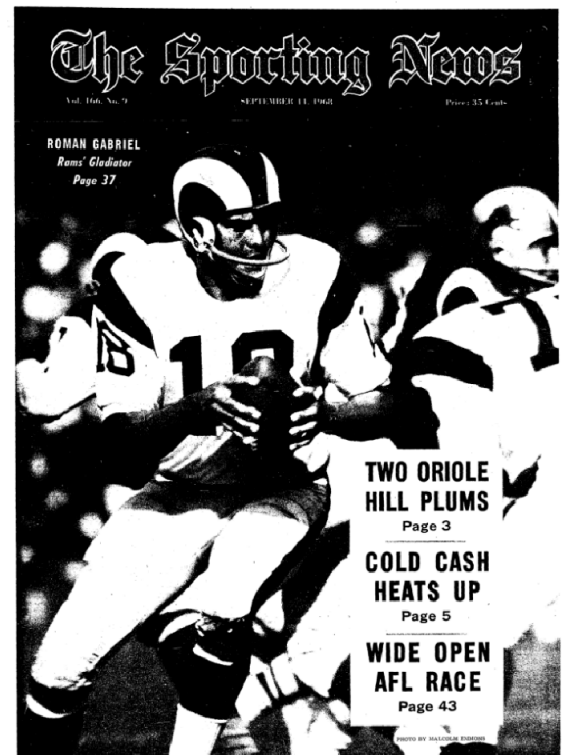
Coastal Division

1. Los Angeles Rams
2. Baltimore Colts
3. San Francisco 49ers
4. Atlanta Falcons

Central Division

1. Green Bay Packers
2. Detroit Lions
3. Chicago Bears
4. Minnesota Vikings

Reluctantly, Los Angeles and Green Bay are chosen as the division winners. And because the December site of the Western title game rotates this year into the Coastal Division, Los Angeles is graded as the conference winner. On two other hunches, the Rams also are selected to win the NFL title game over Dallas and the Super Bowl game over Oakland. But it may be that the Rams will finish only third in their division. Their predicament is ominously the same as that discovered by Green Bay in 1963-64, when Vince Lombardi went into his only slump as a pro football coach. Lombardi was asked one day in late 1964 how he felt about that. "Worse," he said, "than if we'd never been up there. It's hard enough to win one championship in this league-but the hardest thing is to keep winning." The Rams were a big winner in 1967, losing only once in 14 games and finishing the season 11-1-2. But the Rams surprised the league in 1967. Coach George Allen had only recently altered Los Angeles from a seven-year loser to respectability. They will surprise nobody in 1968, least of all their opponents, who remember them as both the highest-scoring NFL team last year and a defensive powerhouse which yielded fewer points than any of the 15 others in their association...RAMS COLLAPSED: The exhibition season has provided more than one tip that playing strong football against the Rams this year is the road to instant immortality. Dallas came to Los Angeles this summer with a team that had midseason ideas and midseason emotion. The Rams took Dallas in stride and suffered a 42-10 embarrassment. The lesson was not lost on Ram enemies, each of whom will be 110 percent ready emotionally for Allen's 110 percenters for three and one-half months. If Lombardi couldn't surmount that in 1963-64, there is reason to believe that Los Angeles is in trouble, too. Maybe more so because the league has toughened up since 1963-64. Baltimore's Don Shula, for example, has all the football team that Allen has in Los Angeles. John Unitas is back at the age of 35 with a team that matched Los Angeles in the record last season (11-1-2) and which added Timmy Brown to give Unitas the running balance he never had last year...THREE CHOICE FLANKERS: The Rams have added no man of comparable first-string stature. Pat Studstill is with them now, and Studstill, as of 1966, the season before his injury year in Detroit, was one of the NFL's great flankers. But Los Angeles last season offered, as flankers, Bernie Casey and Jack Snow. One of them (Snow, Casey or Studstill) will be a handy man to have on the bench. The difference in Baltimore is that it has added a handy man for the starting lineup. The personnel question-as distinct from the emotional issue, which surely damages the Rams vs. the league this year-is whether the same Ram regulars can overcome a Baltimore team which (1) played them even at 11-1-2 in 1967 and (2) has increased its firepower with Brown. Undeniably, Roman Gabriel of Los Angeles is a coming quarterback and Unitas is an aging quarterback. Unmistakably, Deacon Jones of Los Angeles is a one-man defense on a squad that presents ten other defensive tigers of stature...VETS AID LOS ANGELES: The Rams, in short, have fewer question marks than those in Baltimore and Green Bay, where there are more rookies and sophomores than Allen will put up with in Los Angeles, and where the quarterbacks and other key veterans are older-and so the Rams are chosen. But in the language of horse racing, no handicapper can with confidence make Los Angeles best bet. In the Central Division, Green Bay's remarkable world champions find themselves pressured on all sides. No NFL division has improved this year more strikingly than the Central. Two Green Bay rivals, Detroit and Minnesota, are visibly stronger at quarterback. A third, Chicago, has improved in all departments except quarterback. It is conceivable that Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota will dead heat for second place. And with that kind of power on the loose, it is not inconceivable that one of them will sneak past Green Bay. If Bill Munson is a quarterback, Detroit has improved the most. In Munson's first start this summer, he completed 19 of 22-against the Baltimore defense...MCCULLOUGH CAN FLY: He won it, 14-7, with a 32-yard pass to rookie Earl McCullouch. This perhaps is the great new passing combination of pro football. McCullouch is the world champion hurdler from USC who, at heart, is a football player. Most trackmen aren't. In the Chicago College All-Star game this summer, McCullouch ran two classy



patterns to score the only two touchdowns for the amateurs-defeating each of the Green Bay cornermen, Bob Jeter and Herb Adderley. Due to a flagrant miscarriage of justice, McCullough was passed over in the MVP balloting in Chicago by writers who voted for fullback Larry Csonka before the game was over. Those of us in the press box that night should have insisted on a new poll after McCullough's second touchdown in the final minutes. A flanker who beats Adderley and Jeter the same night is in any case a prospect. He will worry Green Bay this year. And so will Minnesota, if Coach Bud Grant makes an early decision between Gary Cuozzo and Joe Kapp at quarterback. Kapp missed training camp last year. He has been worth a closer look this summer, and he has had it. Minnesota is otherwise a power. With a take-charge quarterback, it is a title threat...SAYERS CARRIES BEARS: Chicago is always a title threat with Gale Sayers, and this year the Bears are exploiting the greatest running back of all time in more formations than ever. Their new coach, Jim Dooley, is building a Dallas-type football team in the West with a defense that is even more energetic than that of the Cowboys. Jack Concannon poses the only unanswered question in the Chicago setup. Is Jack a quarterback? With Sayers, he may be quarterback enough. Bart Starr this year will need 14 injury-free games to repeat with a Green Bay cast including Travis Williams and the world's most successful defense. With seven title candidates, anything can happen.