



Green Bay Packers (8-4) 33, Detroit Lions (7-5) 7
Sunday December 3rd 1972 (at Green Bay)



'Super ready' Packers regain sole lead

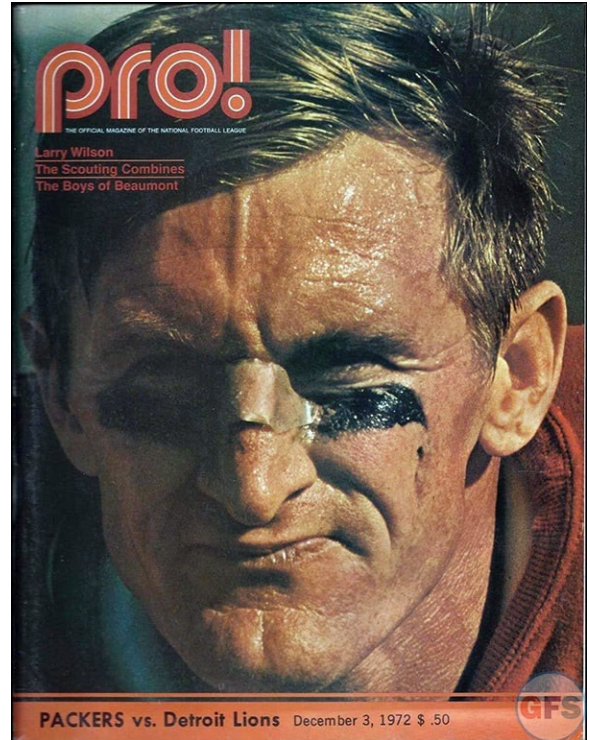
GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(GREEN BAY) - It was a little akin to the Nixon headquarters after the November rout of McGovern...except that Dan Devine was somewhat more charitable than his Republican counterpart. "I'd like to say something about Detroit," he announced, much like a public official delivering a proclamation, while exchanging post-game pleasantries with a beefed-up press corps from behind a table in his dressing room office late Sunday afternoon. "The Lions are a darn good football team...and they're still in it, you know. We played a good football team today and we played aggressively. And things went our way and kept going our way. Sometimes you get a day like that." But this compassionate gesture - and the Lions were badly in need of some compassion following a 33-7 dismantling at Packer hands amid the Arctic backdrop of Lambeau Field - only led Devine to the inevitable conclusion. "When you get as ready to play as we were," he said, "we were going to play anybody pretty good. There's such a thing as being ready, and there's being super ready." He left little doubt which term better described the Packers' competitive mood for this first place confrontation, which saw them capture sole control of the NFC Central lead, setting up a climactic showdown with the runnerup Vikings in Minnesota next Sunday for a playoff berth.

PUFFS CONTENTEDLY

Huge Bob Brown, a member of the Packers' title teams of 1966 and '67, expanded on this theme while puffing contentedly on a victory cigar. "I could sense this coming during the week in the young guys, as well as the old guys," he said. "I don't think I've seen a Packer team in the last four years that was any more ready to play than we were today. "The entire ball club came to play - even our special teams did a great job. Against a team like Detroit, you've got to stop the run. If you've got them second-and-8, that's a lot better than if they're second-and-5. And you hold' em to short yardage on second down, you know they have to throw on third. "It gives a defensive lineman a chance to come off that ball and get penetration. We shut off their running game early today and then had a chance to come off the ball and tee off. That really helps." The Lions, still a trifle shell-shocked as they clumped dejectedly off the field at the final gun, could numbly testify to the efficiency of the Packers' freewheeling approach. They had a scant 26 total yards - and one first down, that on the final play of the second quarter - to show for their offensive efforts at halftime.

The Packers were out front, 23-0, by dint of three Chester Marcol field goals, a one-yard burst by John Brockington and an unlikely 9-yard scoring scramble by Scott Hunter. Marcol, who later kicked a fourth field goal to tie a Packer 1-game record for the second time this season, also missed a 42-yard kick and had another 41-yard attempt blocked. Though Hunter is not known for such extemporaneous excursions, he discussed this scoring sortie matter-of-factly. "When you're forced to do something you do it. The receivers were covered, so there wasn't anything else to do. Ken Bowman came over and made a super block on Larry Hand, which set it up for me. And Brock (John Brockington) saw what was happening and put a good block on Mike Lucci...We needed that one." There also were some other equally bizarre happenings in those last two minutes, among them Dave Robinson's diving interception of a pass knocked out of Charlie Sanders' hands by a thunderous Al Matthews tackle, and Freddie Carr's theft of the ball from running back Altie Taylor. The defense filched three Detroit passes, and recovered three fumbles to provide the offense with continuously spectacular field position.



Green Bay Packers running back MacArthur Lane (36) follows blockers Bill Lueck (62) and John Brockington (42) (SOURCE: Green Bay Press-Gazette)

So enchanted were the faithful by all this that the enterprising defenders were tendered a standing ovation every time they came to the sidelines. And few in the capacity house of 56,268 left the stands until the closing seconds, despite bone-chilling cold which saw the temperature dip to 8 degrees by game's end. The Lions' Joe Schmidt, understandably, would have been happy to exit at the two-minute warning - but only partially because of the weather. "Seven turnovers," he said, making matters sound a little worse than they were. "How are you going to win a ball game that way? I don't care if you're playing St. Norbert. Every time we did turn the ball over it was in our territory. "As far as the weather is concerned, in a big ball game nothing should bother you. At halftime, we tried to get something going. Twenty-three points aren't that much, if you can get something going, get some momentum and give the defense a rest. You can overcome that if you get something on the board and come to life a little bit." Any hope of such a revival was quickly quashed on the Lions' first offensive series in the third quarter when Ellis, a doubtful participant until shortly before game time because of a shoulder injury, made his second interception. Swooping in from his right cornerback station to gather in Carter's "tip," he returned it 40 yards to the Detroit 10. Brockington, who bolted into the end zone two plays later through a hole provided by Bill Lueck and Ken Bowman, was the prime mover in a revitalized running game which amassed 233 of the Packers' 310 yards. "We were running inside quite a bit," Brockington explained. "We ran some sweeps pretty well, too, but I think our inside game was most effective. Scottie (Scott Hunter) was sharp, too, which also helped our running game. We also caught 'em jumping around a few times. When you do that, it's either six points or a long gainer. Today, it was long gainers." The sophomore fullback, now zeroing in on a second successive 1,000-yard season, did not play in the fourth quarter and closed out with 86 yards, running his season total to 908. "A ball player's always greedy," he chuckled, "so you always want to play as long as you can, but the coach makes the decision. And it turned out to be a good one. Nobody got hurt. "I could have gone back out there in the fourth quarter and got ripped up. We've got another big one next week against the Vikings, so there was no point in taking any chances."

Although Dave Hanner's defenders had all but throttled one of the NFL's most often offenses, they were slightly chagrined over having permitted the Lions a touchdown with only three seconds to play on a Bill Munson pass to Ron Jessie. "Really, we wanted to shut 'em out," Willie Buchanon said. "We're shooting for a record for fewest touchdown passes allowed in a season." What, somebody wanted to know, is the record? "It's six," free safety Jim Hill interposed, "by Minnesota in 1970." "That last touchdown didn't hurt," he added. "You win first, and everything else comes after that." Delving into the philosophy of playing defense, Hill explained, "we like to dictate what the offense can do when the offense dictates what we can do, we're at their mercy." Which prompted Buchanon to observe, "They had to play our game today. Once we got ahead, they had way. "The big thing about this game was just the way it developed - our defense being able to get on the board. "The special teams, too. Everybody played well. I think it was guys who were wearing Packer uniforms."

	<u>DETROIT</u>	<u>GREEN BAY</u>
First downs	6	19
Rush-yards-TDs	11-27-0	55-233-3
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	22-11-173-1-3	15-8-90-0-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-11	2-14
Net Passing Yards	162	76
Total yards	189	309
Fumbles-lost	4-3	2-1
Turnovers	6	1
Yards Penalized	2-20	6-50

1st – GB – Chester Marcol, 24-yard field goal GB 3-0
 1st – GB – Marcol, 42-yard field goal GB 6-0
 1st – GB – Marcol, 26-yard field goal GB 9-0
 2nd – GB – John Brockington, 1-yard run (Marcol kick) GB 16-0
 2nd – GB – Scott Hunter, 9-yard run (Marcol kick) GB 23-0

Pro Football At A Glance

By The Associated Press

NFL

American Conference

East

	W	L	T	PCT.	Pts.	OP
x-Miami	12	0	0	1.000	346	158
New York Jets	7	5	0	.583	341	274
Baltimore	5	7	0	.417	225	212
Buffalo	3	9	0	.250	212	339
New England	2	10	0	.167	154	391

Central

Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	310	215
Cleveland	8	4	0	.667	215	215
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	214	185
Houston	1	11	0	.088	144	310

West

x-Oakland	8	3	1	.708	313	211
Kansas City	6	6	0	.500	246	230
San Diego	4	7	1	.375	249	282
Denver	3	9	0	.250	242	316

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
x-Washington	11	1	0	.917	295	160
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	282	193
New York Giants	7	5	0	.583	295	221
St. Louis	2	9	1	.208	145	266
Philadelphia	2	9	1	.208	110	317

Central

Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	251	199
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	284	255
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	277	202
Chicago	3	8	1	.292	183	235

West

San Francisco	6	4	1	.591	297	206
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	255	237
Los Angeles	5	5	1	.500	234	212
New Orleans	2	9	1	.208	185	314

x-clinched division title

Sunday's Results

Baltimore 35, Buffalo 7

Pittsburgh 30, Cleveland 0

Kansas City 24, Denver 21

Miami 37, New England 21

Oakland 21, San Diego 19

Minnesota 23, Chicago 10

Dallas 27, ST. Louis 6

Green Bay 33, Detroit 7

Washington 23, Philadelphia 7

Atlanta 20, Houston 10

New York Jets 18, New Orleans 17

Cincinnati 13, New York Giants 10

All Times EST

Monday's Game

Los Angeles at San Francisco, 9 p.m.

EST, national television

3rd – GB – Brockington, 8-yard run (Marcol kick) GB 30-0

4th – GB – Marcol, 36-yard field goal GB 33-0

4th – DET – Ron Jessie, 29-yard pass from Bill Munson (Errol Mann kick) GB 33-7

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 25-86 2 TD, Perry Williams 11-57, MacArthur Lane 11-48, Dave Kopay 5-30, Scott Hunter 2-12 1 TD, Jerry Tagge 1-0

DETROIT – Altie Taylor 4-12, Mickey Zofko 1-7, Mel Farr 5-6, Greg Landry 1-2

PASSING

GREEN BAY – Scott Hunter 13-6-67, Jerry Tagge 2-2-23

DETROIT – Greg Landry 11-5-68 3 INT, Bill Munson 10-6-105 1 TD, Ron Jessie 1-0-0

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 2-12, Dave Kopay 2-10, MacArthur Lane 1-19, Carroll Dale 1-16, Jon Stagers 1-10

DETROIT – Ron Jessie 2-33 1 TD, Altie Taylor 2-21, Mickey Zofko 2-14, Mel Farr 2-9, Larry Walton 1-49, Earl McCullouch 1-29, Charlie Sanders 1-20

ELLIS LIVES UP TO VOW

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Kenny Ellis gambled his shoulder in. Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon and hit the jackpot. Playing with his right shoulder bound in tape and strapped by a leather harness "to keep me from moving it," the slick cornerback, among other things, intercepted two passes to set up two touchdowns and recovered a Detroit fumble. He wasn't supposed to play Sunday - or the rest of this season. At least that's what the doctors said after Ellis had dislocated that shoulder when he was hit on a fair catch in Washington the week before. But shortly after that game he had vowed he would play against the Lions. And "it wasn't just talk. There was no doubt in my mind I would play," he declared in the happy wake of the Pack's 33-7 thumping of those Lions. As Ellis explained it, the doctors indicated it was not so much a question of his being able to perform with the injured shoulder as it was the danger of more serious injury. "They felt if I did go out and re-injure the shoulder, I would need an operation on it," the Southern U. alumnus volunteered. "But I told them I've got from February to July to get well and there was no doubt in my mind I was going to play." Coach Dan Devine wasn't quite so sure, however. He said he really didn't decide on starting Ellis until "about 10 minutes before game time." Devine added, though, that the real decision was Ellis', in apparent reference to the possible surgery if he hurt it again. "I had a long discussion with our team doctors and a long discussion with Kenny," Devine reported. "It came down to Kenny's decision on whether he wanted to play and mine on if he could help the team." Devine chuckled as he added, "He reached his decision last Monday, I guess." Ellis figured it wasn't a matter of convincing the coaches he was ready. He had to "talk the doctors into letting me play." He said it was Friday that he found out for sure that he would be able to play. "I had some guys give me some shots (slams on the shoulders) for a couple days in practice to see if I could take it. It was a matter of how much pain I could take." Sunday, he said, the shoulder didn't hurt or bother him at all. "I got hit right on it one time and it didn't hurt at all." On his first interception, which he took on the Lion 31 early in the second half and returned to the 23 behind Willie Buchanon's helpful block, Ellis said "I had the short area to cover and Landry threw it right to me." In five plays, John Brockington scored to make



Green Bay Packers defenders Clarence Williams (83), Dave Robinson (89) and Willie Buchanon (28) wrap up a Detroit Lions ball carrier (SOURCE: Green Bay Press-Gazette)



Glory dash

The Packers Scott Hunter (16) sprints to a touchdown from nine yards out during Sunday's 33-7 rout of Detroit at Green Bay's

Lambeau Field. Other Packers are Dick Himes (72) and Ken Bowman (57). Lion defender Jim Mitchell is No. 83.

the count 16-0. His second theft came on the third play of the second half when Jim Carter tipped a Landry pass and it took a short rainbow route into Ellis' waiting arms at the 50. He returned that one to the 10 and in two plays Brockington scored again to pad the score to 30-0 and cinch the game. Ellis figured that even if it hadn't been deflected, "it would have been close anyway. I saw it coming my way."

SHOCKED LIONS PLAN TO DO SOUL SEARCHING

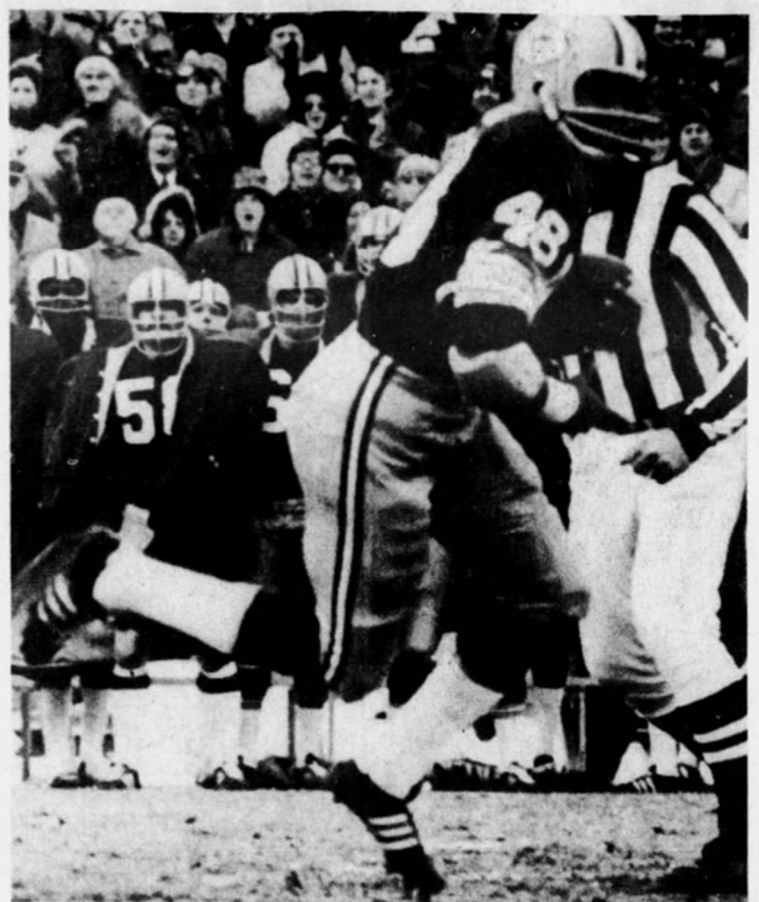
DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Most of the Detroit Lions didn't snap out of shock before departing from Lambeau Field Sunday, but those who had, left vowing to take a long look at themselves in the mirror. "This is our livelihood. This is what we're paid to do. If you're a football player you shouldn't have those peaks. I don't think you can be up too early or be flat. I don't know - but we'll have to do some soul searching," Rudy Redmond, a member of the club's secondary, said. And fellow cornerback Lem Barney echoed similar sentiments. "Every man on the squad before going to sleep tonight is probably going to have to ask himself: did he give all he had in a big game?" The annihilating 33-7 loss left the Lions numb – the morgue-like atmosphere in their dressing room testified to this - and at a loss for an explanation as to what happened, other than pointing to their six turnovers. Was it the pressure of a big game? "I don't buy this bit about tension," Coach Joe Schmidt somberly said. "If you're a good enough football team to have a big game and you're a pro football player, you should be able to play with the pressure." Was it their physical preparation? "You practice like you play and we had super practices, that's why I can't believe the outcome of the game. Plus we had more days (the Lions had last Sunday off after playing on Thanksgiving)," Barney said. Were they mentally prepared? "I thought we were ready to play the game. Nobody knows when you're ready and when you're not ready. But I felt very relaxed," quarterback Greg Landry claimed. Is it the Lions' personnel? "You can't get down on any one person when during the year they've been doing well for you. But it seems when we play bad, there is no medium level, we just play as bad as you can play," Landry said later. Is Green Bay that much better a team? "We made Green Bay look like world beaters. They're a good team, but not that much better than us," Redmond offered. The loss left the Lions one game behind with two to go and, barring an unexpected turn of events, out of the playoff picture. Landry flatly proclaimed, "It's a little late for any soul searching. Our season is over." And the victory, according to some of the Lions, makes the Packers the likely Central Division representative in post-season play. "They should beat Minnesota," Redmond predicted. "They are better than the first time we played them." And he added later in reference to Packer quarterback Scott Hunter, "He's a winner. He's not a good quarterback as far as talent goes. But he wins."

KROLL MAKES MOST OF OPPORTUNITY

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was a sultry night in mid-August and the Packers' chartered bus, rolling from Miami to Fort Lauderdale, was full of happy sound. They had just surprised the Dolphins, 1972 Super Bowl finalists, in the Orange Bowl (14-13) and that was sufficient cause for celebration. But rookie Bob Kroll, quietly withdrawn in an inside seat, was the picture of dejection. "I think I got my walking papers tonight," he said sadly. "I didn't play very well on the special teams." The scene shifts to the Packer dressing room Sunday afternoon, also of happy sound, but with difference. This time Bob

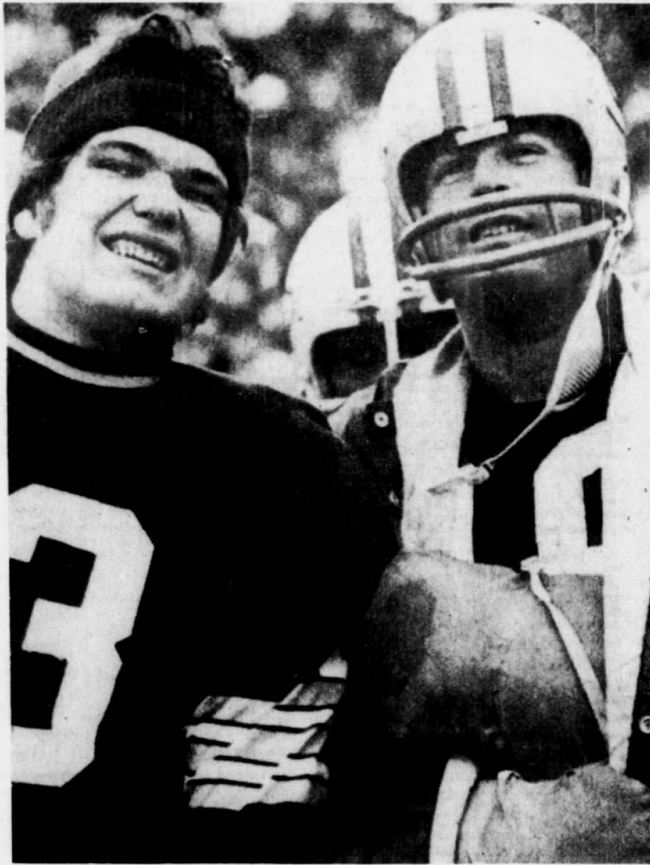


*Green Bay Packers linebacker Dave Robinson (89) pursues the ball
(SOURCE: Green Bay Press-Gazette)*



Ellis takes off

Green Bay's Ken Ellis takes off on a 40-yard return of an interception Sunday against Detroit. Ellis, who played with a shoulder injury, intercepted a pair of Lion aerals. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)



Victory smiles

Packer place-kicker Chester Marcol (13) and quarterback Scott Hunter were all smiles on the sidelines as they watched the closing minutes of Green Bay's 33-7 victory over the Detroit Lions Sunday at Green Bay. Marcol kicked four field goals in the contest and Hunter directed the Green Bay offense. (AP Wirephoto)

Kroll, is smiling. The former Preble High School star, the "other" homegrown product to crash the Packer roster this year, has stepped out of Jerry Tagge's ample shadow into the spotlight following a 33-7 win over the Lions. Surrounded by sportswriters, he finds himself being questioned at length about his "special teams" contributions to the winning cause, chief among them recovery of a Detroit fumble which set up a field goal that loomed large in the Packers' swift getaway. "I always see myself running back a kickoff for a touchdown," said Kroll, who made a 23-yard runback of Errol Mann's opening kickoff. "I always think positive. "On the kickoff team, I picture just Chester Marcol and myself out there - like I'm the only guy going down to make the tackle." Although the Packers had the full complement on the field, Kroll also figured spectacularly in the first Green Bay kickoff, breaking through the wedge to fell Ron Jessie at the Detroit 15 after a mere 7-yard return. Day to remember Kroll, activated from the taxi squad to replace the injured Dave Davis, admitted it had been a day to remember. "It was a big thing for me, playing in front of my hometown fans," he said. "while my dad (Ed Kroll) was ushering here in the stadium, as he always does." His teammates had helped make it complete, the former Northern Michigan defensive back reported. "They let me know I did a good job," he said. "When I recovered the fumble and when I made the tackle, they came over and told me how they felt about it. I feel I'm more of a part of the team now. They know I can help the team now. I don't think anybody likes to be on the taxi squad and not be able to contribute. I don't like it at all for that reason, but that's something you have to go through. You're sort of Mr. In-Between. You're still part of the team, but you don't feel a part of it because you're not contributing." Rollie Dotsch, who was Kroll's head coach at Northern and now serves as the Packers' offensive line coach, stopped by the ex-Hornet's locker to tender his congratulations. "Great job, Bob," he beamed.

YOU'VE GOT TO 'HIT' DETROIT TO WIN

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – How high were the Packers Sunday? Well the pilot winging his plane over Lambeau Field dragging Harold Froelich's "thank you" behind him looked out his side window and saw 11 gold helmets. And how did they get that high? "This was a big money game, man," said middle linebacker Jim Carter. And indeed it was. But that hardly explains the incredible stream of events in a first half that must rank with the most memorable 30 minutes of football in Packer annals...a half in which the Lions had the ball for only 13 plays (two of which were interceptions and two more fumbles) while the Pack ran off 38, a half in which the Lions netted 26 yards while the Packers totaled 162, a half in which the Lions were left helpless as babes in a woods. It was as if somebody had poured cement down the barrels of the Detroit guns and the repeated backfires killed them. Carter, however, had the explanation. "When you hit somebody on a cold day, the ball will come to you," he said with special emphasis on "hit," "You outhit a team like Detroit, you'll win the game. Take the fight to them and you're going to win," he continued, talking over the jive music that turned the dressing room into a Packer version of American Bandstand. But why pinpoint Detroit for this philosophy? At this juncture, Malcolm Snider joined the discussion to explain, "They're a physical team. You can't let them outhit you." Carter delved a bit further into the explanation. "A team like San Francisco is more a finesse team. You want to hit them too, but it's not like the teams in our division. They're all physical teams and the team that hits the hardest wins." It was appropriate that Carter and Snider joined forces for the explanation of that theory because on this particular day, both the defense and the offense did indeed hit...like TNT. You had to feel sorry for the Lions like you did the Japanese at Hiroshima. Anyone with a last ounce of compassion had to offer it to Joe Schmidt...and yet, it's funny how important the shutout be came to the fans in the final seconds. These wonderful, loyal Packer Backers came out to Lambeau just hoping for a victory...maybe even willing to settle for a tie. And then, in the last minute of the game, with the Packers leading by a laughable 33-0, they suddenly wanted the shutout with the same passion they earlier had hoped for a simple victory. When the Lions tossed off the horse collar with three seconds left, several fans voiced the opinion that "It's a darn shame" or similar sentiments. . I suppose it was a shame. The defense - Hawg's Heroes - had helped keep these fans warm through the frigid afternoon by bringing them to their feet every few minutes to offer another standing ovation. It was cold. But I doubt if anyone attending was disappointed. The suffering was worth not only the cold but the price of a season ticket for it was the most enjoyable suffering one could ever want to endure...As Bobby Kroll lined up in receiving position for the first kickoff, someone asked, in all innocence, "is that guy Kroll or Knoll?" He soon found out about Bobby Kroll as he played havoc with the Lion kick returners. In fact, when on one Packer kickoff later in the game the tackle was credited to Tommy Crutcher, some wag asked "whatever happened to Kroll?" And

another answered, "The Lions are running away from him now." Credit Dave Pureifory for some fine special team work too...Who was it who suggested Chester Marcol be nicknamed "Miracle Marcol"...I don't think there was any intended significance, but when the score reached 30-0, the press box announcer reminded all writers that the last call was out from NFL headquarters for room reservations at the Super Bowl.

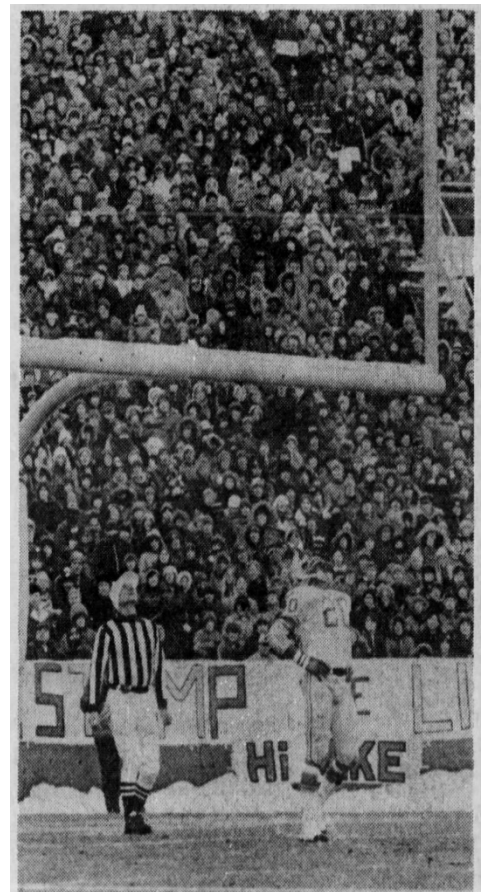
TURF HEATER HOT STUFF

DEC 3 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "I can't tell you but it will be large," Tom Miller, Packer assistant to the general manager, said with a smile of satisfaction when asked what the corporation's heating bill will be this month. The electric blanket, installed under the Lambeau Field playing surface, had been on since Friday - building a sizeable utilities bill - allowing the turf for Sunday's Green Bay-Detroit game to be in what Miller described with a touch of pride as "excellent" condition. The blanket was set at 60 degrees and prevented the field from freezing, while tarp was put over the field Saturday to protect it from the snow. The Packers had decided against covering the field Friday and had to clear the field with squeegees Saturday before covering it. The blanket and tarps will continue to be used in caring for the field for the next two weeks so the Packers can practice on it, and in case it is needed for a playoff game. "As long as the temperature stays above 10 below and the cold factor doesn't get too low, we can keep up a fairly decent field." Miller said.

QUICK QUOTES: BREAKS LIMITED LIONS' OPTIONS

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Quick Packer quotes: Dave Robinson (on the emotional preparation): "I think we've been as emotionally high for other games this season. I think the thing today was that we got the breaks early and could well predict what they were going to do. They couldn't establish their running game so they had to throw. When that happens, we can play a little more aggressive, a little looser. Even after the game, however, I think the whole defense will echo the feeling that Detroit has one of the greatest offenses in the National Football League. We were very fortunate to come out so well against these guys."...Scott Hunter: "I went into this game a little more relaxed than for some of the others. I didn't throw as much in practice during the week. I took care of myself. I got plenty of sleep, too. We've got a new baby and I had to sleep around her schedule."...Dan Devine: "The field was in excellent condition, considering what has been happening to the weather around here the last few days...Between 2 and 3 a.m. this morning (chuckle) we scrapped the game plan."...Dave Robinson again (on his interception): "I had my hand under the ball the whole time. I was balancing it. And I had it nestled in my hands when I hit the ground. Half that interception should be credited to Al Matthews for the hit he put on Charlie Sanders. Sanders has exceptionally sure hands 'but Matthews hit him so hard it knocked a piece off the protective mask on Sanders' helmet. Otherwise, there was a chance the pass might have gone for a completion."...Devine again: "Chester Marcol's cramp is nothing serious. It happened on his last field goal. But it's in his left leg, not his kicking leg. He'll be all right. So will MacArthur Lane."...Jim Hill (on secondary's chance to set league record): "We win together and we lose together. If we win, we know everybody's done a good job. We're not concerned about records or all-pros. I'd much rather see us win and not have anybody on the all-pro team, than see us lose and have four or five guys all-pro."...Joe Schmidt, Detroit coach: "The playoffs are still a possibility for us, but not that strong. It's fairly remote."...Al Matthews: "Some of the older players, like Ray Nitschke, Dave Robinson and Carroll Dale, talked to us about the Packer tradition during the week, and I think it's very important to mention the tradition here. Anybody who has ever heard of the Green Bay Packers knows there's a great tradition here."...Devine again: "This was a big game today, certainly, but we've had several big ones this year. Our Dallas game was a big one because they were unbeaten at that point and Super Bowl champions. That victory (16-13) had to mean a great deal to our football team, as did a couple pre-season games - the one at Miami and the Kansas City game at Milwaukee. Those victories also helped make our football team."...Chester Marcol: "Every time I go in there to kick it means the same to me, whether it's the first kick or the last one. I don't think there's any difference. Every time I go out there, there's the same kind of pressure."...Robinson again: "After the season is over, I'll probably look back on this as a great victory. But right now, I can't savor this as much knowing we have Fran Tarkenton and the boys waiting for us in Minneapolis next Sunday."

Look, Up in the Sky — Lion Lem Barney, a stripe-shirted friend and several thousand non-combatants scan the sky watching another Polish launch from the north end of Cape Lambeau. Launcher Chet Marcol was good — as usual — with this launchee.



Press-Gazette Photo

NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 5 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Would you believe that the Packers unbelievable 33-7 win over Detroit pulled Dan Devine's second-year coaching record smack-dab even with that of the illustrious Vince Lombardi? Well, it's true. The only difference between Devine's current 8-4 record and Lombardi's 8-4 of 1960 is that the 1972 season still has two games to go. NFL teams played only a dozen games a dozen years ago, and the Packers thus qualified for the title game against (again, would you believe? — the Philadelphia Eagles). Sunday's devastating victory over the Lions represents, at best, a semi-climax to this amazing season. Next Sunday's "gasser" at Minnesota could finally be the regular-season climax (if the

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Green Bay Packers

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Packers win). That game is so vital and will require so much concentration that the Packers don't have time to savor last Sunday's truly spectacular victory. More's the pity, because that performance came about as close to 3-way (offense, defense and special teams) flawlessness as it's possible to get. In fact, in only a handful of instances in the nine Lombardi years did a Packer team dominate a strong opponent as completely as the '72 Pack did Sunday...Devine again showed that he knows a thing or two about readying a team for a big game. With all the injuries and "questionables," dotting the roster, last week's preparations were reminiscent of those for the Dallas game. Now, as then, the Packers were ready for their big task regardless of the manpower eventualities. DD also came out looking good in his decision to start Scott Hunter when the easier decision might have been to name Jerry Tagge. Hunter abruptly punctuated his slump with one of the best all-around performances of his 2-year career. Connecting on three straight third-down passes early in the game - when the decision was still in doubt - Hunter served notice that it was to be a far "different" passing day for him...A determined Hunter, a courageous Ken Ellis and an astounding Bob Kroll best exemplified the "new breed" of Packers Ellis deflated the popular theory that current athletes are pampered and cannot compare with the rugged species of yesteryear. After insisting all week that a shoulder separation wouldn't keep him out, Ellis played a sterling game and contributed two key interceptions. Kroll, the 40th man on a 40-man roster, made a lot of waves as he celebrated his "escape"

from the taxi squad. He was a veritable demon on the special teams, playing in the best "Larry Krause" tradition...The Packer-Lion series best illustrates the progress of Green Bay's rebuilding program under Devine. In 1970, the Lions outscored the Packers, 60-0, in two games. Last year, the Lion margin was down to a total of three points on a win and a tie. This year, in sweeping the series, the Pack posted a 27-point margin. The Packers, who have already doubled their victory total of 1971, are now assured of being in the title race until the final Sunday of the season no matter what happens in Bloomington Sunday. This has been a mighty resurgence indeed...How can a game between two evenly-matched teams become so one-sided? No one knows for sure...but one of the factors probably was the Green Bay desire to prove that its earlier win (24-23) was no mistake. An AP writer (not Hubert Mizell, whose predictions appear in the P-C), among others, declared that Green Bay's cliff hanging win at Detroit had been a "fluke"...Another important factor concerns momentum. The Packers grabbed it from the start and never let go. When Green Bay consumed the first nine minutes of the game to put three points on the board, it seemed to have a mesmerizing effect on the whole Lion team - especially the offense. The Packers were destined to score 16 points before Detroit was able to run more than six futile plays. A good team knows how to capitalize on breaks...and the Packers converted four of Detroit's six turnovers into 24 points.

SHOW THEM THE WAY TO GO HOME...

DEC 5 (Combined Locks) - A funny thing happened on the way home from the Packer game Sunday. Or, if you listen to Mrs. Robert W. Berghuis, "it was so hilarious you couldn't believe it." It happened about 5:45 p.m. on the Berghuis farm, 551 Buchanan Road (County Trunk K). Patrick O. Beardsley, Green Bay, accompanied by four other Packer fans, took a wrong turn off Buchanan Road, dipped down a ravine driveway leading to the Berghuis farmhouse, drove past the barn and then cut sharply beyond the silo and plunged his sports car into a fresh pile of manure. Beardsley and a male companion were standing knee-deep in manure, trying to push the car out, while one of the three women pushed down on the gas pedal, spinning the wheels and splattering the men black with manure. Everyone was laughing, and when Mrs. Berghuis approached the group, a man asked, "Is this the right way to OO?" She said, "If you go any farther, you're going to suffocate." Then one of the women stepped out of the car and sank down, and said, "Oh my, I think I'm in a snowbank." By this time, Outagamie County and Combined Locks police had arrived and ordered a tow truck to pull the car out, and the five well-dressed fans were starting to think their predicament wasn't so funny, after all. But no one was charged, and a nosebleed suffered by one of the women was the only injury. Mrs. Berghuis had called the sheriff's department after her daughter Amy, 10, rushed into the house and said one lady had a bloody nose and "the other ladies are hollering." Before that, Mrs. Berghuis had assumed that the lights which flashed momentarily on the barn were those of her husband and son Joe, 18, also returning from the game. Her husband and son did show up, while the commotion was going on, and Joe "went down on his knees and cried, he thought it was so funny," according to his mother. In all fairness to the driver, the sharp turn into the manure was an excellent maneuver. Because if the car had continued straight past the silo, it would have crashed through a fragile wire fence and down into a wooded ravine.

OUT OF BOUNDS

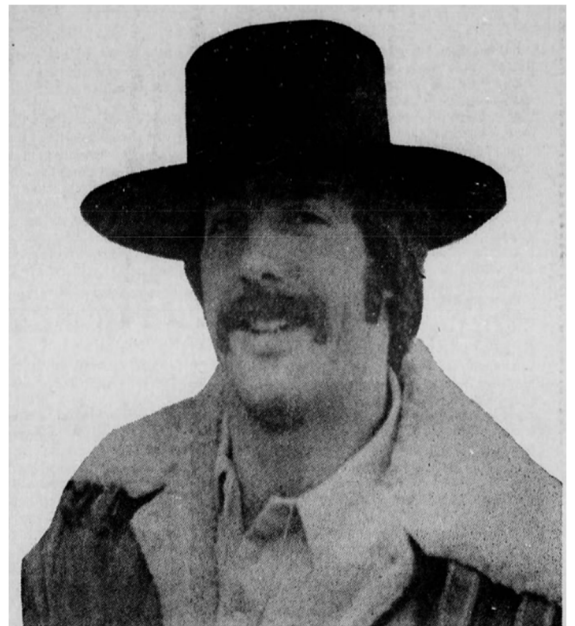
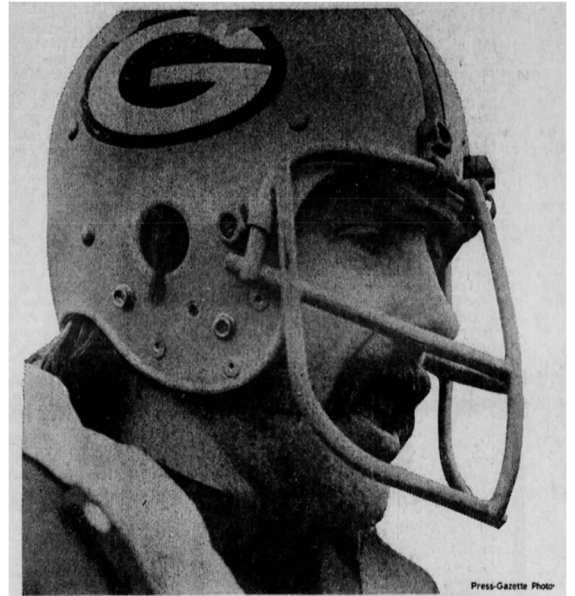
DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Just last week, I voted for Joe Falls of the Detroit Free Press as the best sports columnist in the country. He is witty and clever, poignant, sometimes a man of deep insight, sometimes severely opinionated and always entertaining and interesting. Joe was in the press box at Lambeau Field Sunday and I watched him from a number of seats away as he labored over his typewriter. I couldn't help wondering what a man of Joe Balls' ability and talent was going to write about the Packer party going on before him. As it turned out, Joe was not particularly witty. In fact, he

was not witty at all. But his opinions remained interesting. Here are some of the thoughts he offered his readers Monday morning: "What happened Sunday was a complete farce. Not since those absurd days of Harry Gilmer have the Lions lost so badly...What happened Sunday has been coming on for years. Ever since the Lions came up here two years ago and routed the Packers 40-0. Ever since, the Detroit-Green Bay series has been turning steadily in Green Bay's favor. After the 40-point win here, the Lions beat the Packers by 20 points the next time they met. Then it was just a mere three points, 31-28. Then the Packers got a 14-14 tie in the second meeting of the two teams last year. Back in Detroit in October, the Packers finally eked out a one point victory. "Now there was this 26-point humiliation. That's what it was too, humiliation. It would be easy to write a lot of funny lines about the plight of the Lions, but some very serious things happened to them on this frigid day...If this game turned anywhere, it turned right at the start when the Packers held the ball for nine straight minutes and put three points right up on the scoreboard...Three times the Lions backed Hunter into a third down passing situation and three times the kid got off the hook with a great pass play. Three times Landry and his unit were ready to go into the game and three times they had to stand and wait...For nine days the Lions waited to play this ball game and then Hunter made them wait nine more minutes. That had to throw off the Detroit attack...This was another big game for Landry, the biggest of the season, and he came up pitifully short...The burden of defeat belongs to Schmidt...How long can they go on passing this rebuilding business off on the public...The Detroit defense could develop one day, but how long can fans be expected to wait - seven years, eight years, nine years or 10 years? Dan Devine has the Packers moving after two years, so it can be done." In case you are curious, the headline over the game story in the Free Press Monday morning read: "It's a Disaster - The Pack Murders Lions 33-7."

SWINGIN' DAN EXPECTS PACK TO RETAIN PEAK

DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dan Devine has become a bit of a swinger...relatively speaking. When the Packers upset the Detroit Lions on national television in mid-October, he toasted that triumph with cake and ice cream at 3 a.m., a parlay that may have seemed a trifle tame to some of the more exuberant faithful. But the Packers' dapper major-domo is becoming a little more daring, which is entirely understandable in the wake of Sunday's 33-7 destruction of those same Lions in Lambeau Field. "I had about four helpings of lasagna this time," Devine confessed during his customary, post-film analysis Monday, "three of which I shouldn't have had." "And almost one drink. That," he said with a puckish grin, "gave me the courage to eat the lasagna" Aside from permitting himself this brief moment of levity, Devine focused upon the sobering prospect of next Sunday's invasion of Bloomington, Minn., for what amounts to a Central Division title duel with the defending champion Vikings. A victory would assure the Packers of the championship while a Viking win would defer settlement of the issue until the following Sunday, the final weekend of the regular season. Addressing himself to another possibility, Devine said, "I haven't thought about what a tie would do, but everybody's still in it. Detroit's still in there. We have to beat Minnesota. "A tie wouldn't do it if we lost to New Orleans in our last game. In other words, we've got to beat Minnesota." Devine evinced no concern over the Packers' ability to reach, for the second week in a row, the kind of emotional peak they scaled in annihilating the Lions. "I think our biggest job right now is just prepare to play what I consider a great Minnesota team," he said. "Francis (Tarkenton) hit 21 out of 39 passes and the Vikings gained 341 yards against the Bears Sunday. I'm not sure we made that many yards in two games against the Bears. Plus the Bears gained only one yard passing and I don't think they had 100 yards overall for the whole game. Plus Minnesota has lost some games unbelievably this year. For example, they fumbled two snaps on field goals against Pittsburgh. So the big thing is just playing Minnesota. We have to find a way to be high for the game, although I'm not minimizing that part of it either. Minnesota is playing great. Pittsburgh is a great football team, as evidenced by its score against the Vikings the week before last. But, as I said, some things happened to the Vikings that were unbelievable and they never happen when the Vikings play us. Who would imagine they would fumble two snaps on field goals? Especially with Paul Krause, who has been holding

It's a Disaster! The Pack Murders The Lions, 33-7



JIM CARTER PULLS HAT TRICK: *Packer middle linebacker Jim Carter models his working and swinging chapeaus in pictures taken during and after Sunday's happy festivities in Lambeau Field, where Carter played a big part in the Packers' 33-7 conquest of the Detroit Lions.*

Swingin' Dan Expects Pack To Retain Peak

for Fred Cox forever. And on one of those fumbles, Krause picks up the ball and throws a pass for a touchdown, but it is called back because of a penalty. Tarkenton is scrambling as much and as well as ever. Of course, Scott Hunter picked up a 9-yard touchdown for us Sunday, so they're not going to be able to stand around either. I thought, considering the weather, that Scott's passing was very good, too." The Packers, it was noted, had fallen to the Vikings, 27-13, in their first meeting. Would there be any change in the game plan for the rematch? "I haven't had a chance to look at what has transpired between our first game with the Vikings and this one - what has happened to both teams," Devine replied. "Our game plan will be determined by what happened in our first game, as well as what has happened in between. Detroit, for example, changed a great deal between our two games against them. They used a 5-2 defense only three downs in 11 games prior to yesterday. But they were in a 5-2 on first downs Sunday. People play us a little different than they do most teams. I'm not sure why." Devine said he had no explanation when it was suggested the Packers appear to play better against the Vikings in Minnesota than here at home. "I do know that Bud Grant said, both this year and last, that the game they played here was the best game they had played to that point," he said. "Plus we've been playing well on the road." In appraising Sunday's startling demolition of Detroit, Devine asserted, "I think our players did a real fine job, as did our coaching staff. A lot of guys contributed a lot more than in any other game this year. More people made a contribution. They played hard, were ready to play, and played intelligently. You always like to do better, of course. But my coaches did a fine job of preparation. How much did the victory mean to me? More than I let on. But we can't let it go to our heads. We had a lot of things happen. I wouldn't call them breaks, however, because to a large extent you make your own breaks. All that happened Sunday is going to help the Vikings to get more ready for us, I might add. I would hope this also would help the Packers, knowing the Vikings will be more ready." Reporting on the current physical status for "the big one," Devine said, "We have 11 guys receiving treatments today and I expect only one of them to miss the game, and that is Dave Davis. He has to miss two games anyway because he was moved to the taxi squad Sunday." The Packers' diminutive leader dismissed the weather as a concern in regard to Chester Marcol's kicking, although Marcol had attributed a cramp he suffered in his left leg late in Sunday's game to the -2 degree chill factor. "The cold shouldn't be a factor in Chester's case," he said. "Chester has said nothing to me about it, I might add, and the trainers don't even have him listed among the injured people. And Freddie Cox is going to be kicking the same cold, too." The Packers again will practice in private to prime for the Vikings, Devine disclosed. "We'll work out in the stadium this week," he said. "The Vikings have a field heating arrangement for their stadium, too, although they have a different method than ours. They keep the tarp on the field and blow hot air under it. They do a great job. If we were going to play on a frozen field, we would work out on our practice field, but considering the Metropolitan Stadium Field will be soft like Lambeau Field, we'll work in the stadium. Our field was in good shape Sunday. The crew did a good job of getting it ready, considering it took a tremendous amount of moisture earlier in the year." Had he looked ahead, Devine was asked, to the possibility of hosting a National Conference playoff in Lambeau Field? Flashing a coy smile, he facetiously rejoined, "The only thought I've had ahead at this point is I've thought, as general manager, about rehiring the coach. Seriously, everybody has to do that - make plans for a championship game. There is no possibility," he assured, "that the game will be moved to Madison if there is a conference playoff involving the Packers (Camp Randall Stadium has 77,000 seats to Lambeau Field's 56,263). If there is such a game, it would be played in Green Bay Dec. 31."

PACK CONTROLS OWN DESTINY

DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The destiny of the Green Bay Packers is in their own hands. At least it will be until Sunday, when it will either be determined or fall into the hands of the San Francisco 49ers. The Packers are currently 8-4 and leading the Central Division of the National Football Conference, while Minnesota, Green Bay's Sunday opponent, and Detroit are 7-5. The "ifs" surrounding Sunday's Packer-Viking game are as follows:

- If the Packers win, they will clinch a berth in the playoffs by virtue of holding a two-game lead with one to go over the Vikes, and having beaten Detroit in both of their head-to-head meetings. Even if Green Bay would lose its final game the following week to New Orleans, and Detroit would beat Buffalo Sunday and the Los Angeles Rams a week hence to deadlock both teams at 9-5, the Packers would qualify for the playoffs because of its two victories over the Lions.
- If the Packers lose to the Vikings, then the playoff entrant would be determined the last week of the season when the Vikings are at San Francisco and the Packers at New Orleans. The Vikings by winning Sunday and winning the following week would enter the playoffs because of its 2-0 record against the Packers, regardless of what the Packers do against the Saints. But if the Vikings would lose to or tie the 49ers, the Packer would beat the Saints then the Packers would qualify for the playoffs.
- Should Sunday's game end in a tie, then the Packers would only have to beat New Orleans to qualify for post-season play. The only way the Lions could make it would be to have the Vikings beat the Packers, and then both teams lose the final week, while Detroit closes out with two straight victories. Chances are slim that a Central Division team will qualify as the "wild card" entrant, which will be the team with the best won-lost percentage other than the three division champs. Dallas by winning just one of its last two games against Washington and the New York Giants would qualify for that berth.

MARIE LOMBARDI REAFFIRMS 'LOVE AFFAIR'

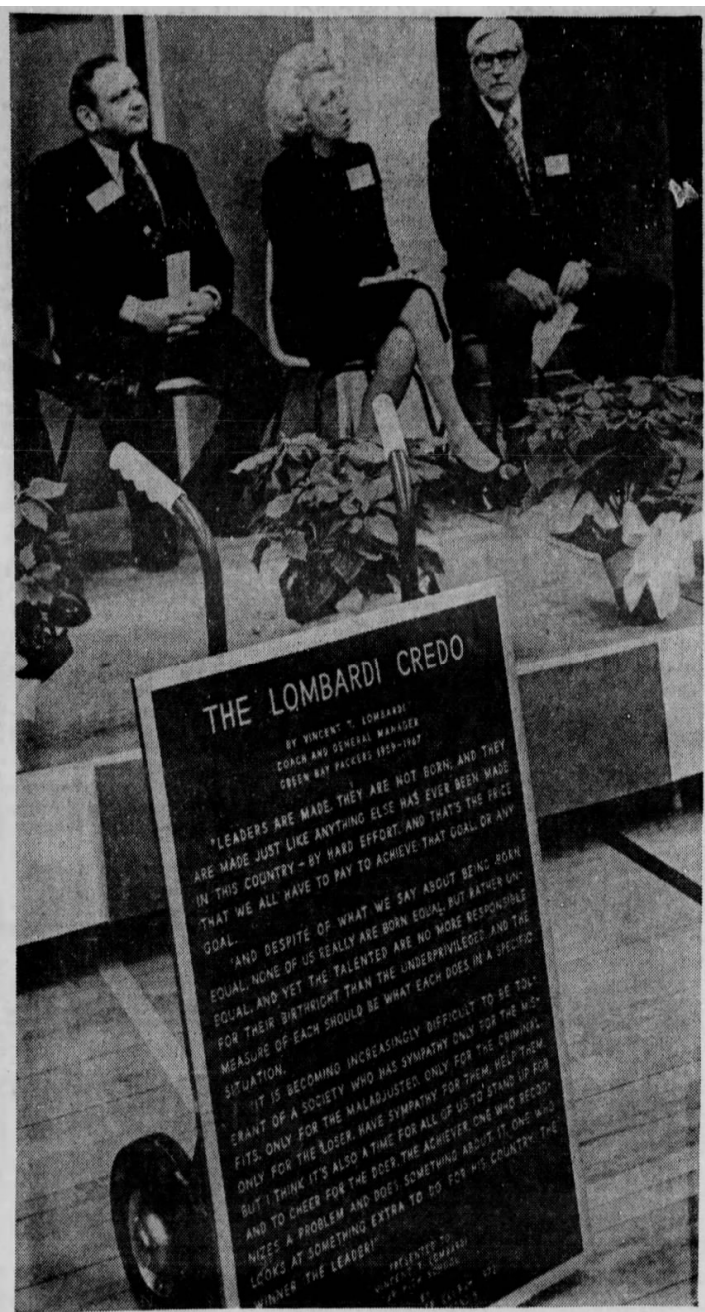
DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Mrs. Marie Lombardi stepped back into Green Bay life for a day Monday and reaffirmed her "love" for its people and "deep affection" for its football team. "I brought you this snow, I'm afraid," Mrs. Lombardi said,



but added with a grin, "But I also brought you that win Sunday. I want you to know I take full credit for that." Mrs. Lombardi attended the official renaming ceremonies of the old Southwest High School to Vincent T. Lombardi Junior High School, in honor of her late husband, whose mark in Green Bay needs little defining. Life in Washington D.C. agrees with Mrs. Lombardi, she says, but as an official of the Redskins' organization, her allegiance is torn. "I cheer for the Redskins, of course, but deep in my heart I have an affection for Packers," she said. "I wouldn't call it pride either. Its a love affair." When pressed for her favorite if the Packers and Redskins should meet in a playoff game, Mrs. Lombardi hedged. "It would be very interesting," she said. "I really do have a deep love for the Packers." The trip to Green Bay was not without its emotions. Mrs. Lombardi's voice broke as she spoke to students and guests at the school ceremonies Monday. "This is a wonderful honor," she said after receiving a standing ovation. "I want to thank you all. You're wonderful." Later, she elaborated on her feelings. "It's an emotional time for me," she admitted. "I'm so proud to see this school named for Vince. He was really a great teacher in my mind. Vince started as a high school teacher, you know, and just drifted into coaching." Mrs. Lombardi beamed proudly when asked about Vince Lombardi Jr. being elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives. "His father would have been so proud of him," she said, "but if Vince were living, I don't think his son would have run. You see, his father would have told him 'You're a lawyer' and that would have been the end of it." Mrs. Lombardi attends many banquets in honor of her late husband and says she once again enjoys going to football games. "I don't miss that rat race," she said, "But I love going to football games again. I didn't attend any games the first year after Vince died. I was a little bitter towards football, I guess. But I enjoy it now."

TWO PACKERS ON INJURY REPORT, BUT EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR VIKINGS

DEC 6 (Green Bay) - The Green Bay Packers in their weekly injury report to the National Football League office, have listed running back MacArthur Lane probable and reserve back Ward Walsh questionable for Sunday's showdown at Minnesota. Lane has a bruised shoulder and Walsh a sprained knee. But while several Packers emerged battered from last Sunday's 337 rout of Detroit, Coach Dan Devine expected all would quickly recuperate. "It's hard to keep the players out of a big game like this," he said. "They want to play." The game hardly could be bigger, for Green Bay would clinch the National Conference Central Division title with a victory. The Packers lead Detroit and Minnesota by one game with two to play. Center Ken Bowman, offensive tackle Dick Himes and safety Jim Hill were told they could spend Tuesday's session in the



LOMBARDI DEDICATION: School Board President Eugene Sladky, left, and Packer Assistant to the General Manager Tom Miller flank Mrs. Marie Lombardi during renaming ceremonies of the old Southwest High School to Lombardi Junior High Monday. Bart Starr was guest speaker at the event and Martha's Coffee Club, a local booster organization for the Packers, presented the school with a plaque citing Lombardi's credo (foreground). An oil painting of the former Packer coach was presented to the school and Mrs. Lombardi was given a picture of the building.

training room, but all chose to work out. The Vikings had a clear statistical advantage over the Packers here Oct. 29, although they needed touchdown runbacks of intercepted passes by Paul Krause and Wally Hilgenberg in the fourth quarter to win 27-13. The Vikings came back to outrush the Packers. 152 yards to 102, and outpass them, 192 yards to 130, after falling behind 10-0. "They've thrown to their backs more the last two games than earlier in the season, but otherwise they're much the same," Devine said. While the Vikings' defensive statistics have been less impressive than in past years, longtime Packer scout Wally Cruice termed them the best defensive team he has ever seen. "I don't buy that talk that they might be over the hill," defensive tackle Bob Brown said. "They still have a fine football team and Fran Tarkenton still is a fine quarterback. "Tarkenton isn't slowing down any," Brown said. "I don't think he scrambles as much as he used to, but he can do it when he has to. He did it a couple of times against us last time." Packer linebacker Fred Carr had a chance to intercept two Tarkenton passes here in October, but dropped both. Later, Viking defensive back Charlie West needled Carr to the effect he had bad hands. "I don't forget - I'm going to check him out," Carr said. "But I hold no grudge. I play for my teammates. When I play Sunday, I'm just going to play linebacker as hard as I can." The Packers' three fumbles recoveries and three pass interceptions against Detroit gave them a season total of 30 "takeaways" - 17 fumbles recoveries and 13 interceptions - which have set up nine touchdowns and seven field goals. The Packers have lost only eight interceptions and nine fumbles, meaning they have taken the ball away from opponents 13 more times than they have lost it. The touchdown pass Detroit posted in the last three seconds Sunday was only the fifth surrendered by Green Bay this season, two fewer than the club season record set in 1967. The Vikings set the modern NFL record of six in 1970.

PHYSICS WILL AFFECT KICKING DUEL : COX

DEC 6 (Bloomington, MN) - Fred Cox, the chiropractic kicker of the Minnesota Vikings, says physics must be considered when booting field goals in the northern reaches of the National Football League. "It's a matter of physics...compression," said Dr. Cox, who recently completed his studies to become a chiropractor. "When the balls cool off, they're not going to go as far. They get harder. They don't go in at the half, and they're on the sidelines before the game." Field goals, and the extra points, are expected to play a vital role Sunday when Cox and the Vikings play the Green Bay Packers and rookie kicking sensation Chester Marcol at Metropolitan Stadium. A victory for the Packers means they will have at least a tie for the Central Division title of the National Conference and a playoff start. The Vikings must win their last two games to tie for the title and advance into the playoffs. The cold weather factor came to light last Sunday. Five inches of new snow didn't help matters Tuesday. Cox, who has kicked 20 field goals in 29 attempts, sailed three three-pointers through the uprights in four attempts as the Vikings beat the Bears 23-10 in a game played with a wind chill factor of 23 degrees below zero in Bloomington. Marcol, in 10 degrees, kicked four field goals in a 33-7 victory over Detroit at Green Bay to give him 27 for 39 this season. "I can't precisely measure the distance you lose in the cold," said Cox, "but it's at least five yards. I watched Mac Percival of the Bears in the warmup. He was making them from 45 to 50 yards out with three or four yards to spare. Then in the game, he hit the crossbar from 45 yards out and he hit the ball good." The field goal factor has played a major part in the drama of the Green Bay-Minnesota rivalry for years. Three points represented the margin of victory in six of the 12 games played between the teams since 1966, with the kicking standing out as a key in many of the other games. "It might be a nice day Sun- day," said Cox. "The footing might be good. It might be a day when kicking is the most important factor on the field."

VIKES ALL BASICS

DEC 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Wally Cruice, a superannuated halfback, was running interference for Dan Devine...It is the Packer leader's weekly custom to recount the impending opponent's assets for the benefit of the press corps, a self-imposed duty he performs with great sobriety and impressive detail. But Cruice, in Green Bay to report on the current state of the Vikings in preparation for Sunday's critical confrontation in Minnesota, took the lead in that function Tuesday. The veteran game scout, once a standout running back at Northwestern, has a gift for picturesque speech and he did not fail his audience. The Vikings "have gone back to the nuts and bolts," he informed, intimating they are once again playing the kind of football that has brought them four consecutive Central Division championships. And Cruice should be something of an authority on the Norsemen, having scouted them in their last two, appearances against the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears. That, of course, is better than par for the bird dog course. Cruice normally scouts a team only once before it faces the Packers but his two-week "look" was made possible in this case because he was able to see the Lions in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day, leaving the following Sunday open, professionally speaking. "The Vikings tried to out-maneuver Pittsburgh," he said, "by using a bunch of different formations. But it didn't work out as well as when they went back to the basics against the Bears. They went back to the nuts and bolts. After all, you still win a game with blocking and tackling, not formations." Cruice went on to recite some statistics both the Packers and the faithful should find sobering. "The Vikings had the ball for something like 84 plays against Pittsburgh and 78 against the Bears. When you put the other team's defense out there that often, something's going to happen." As a basis for comparison, the Packers ran off 72 plays to the Lions' 34 Sunday in their most one-sided victory within recent memory. Cruice took issue with those who contend the Vikings, presently 7-5 and one game behind the Packers in the Central race, are not what they used to be. "There are some rumors around that the Vikings are getting old and don't have the incentive any more," he said, "but I don't think that's true." He also dismissed the loss of veteran middle linebacker Lonnie Warwick, who has been sidelined by injury since early in the season with the wave of a hand. "They don't need Warwick" super scout declared. "Warwick couldn't come back and play as well as the rookie, Jeff Siemon, is playing for them in the middle. "Offensively, they've gone to Dave Osborn in place of Ed Marinaro at one of the running backs because Osborn has greater experience than Marinaro, who has been subject to making the kind of errors a rookie will make. "Oscar Reed is still their No. 1 fullback and Bill Brown is playing behind him." Touching upon the new-old leader of the Minnesota offense, Cruice asserted, "Fran Tarkenton is having a helluva year. He

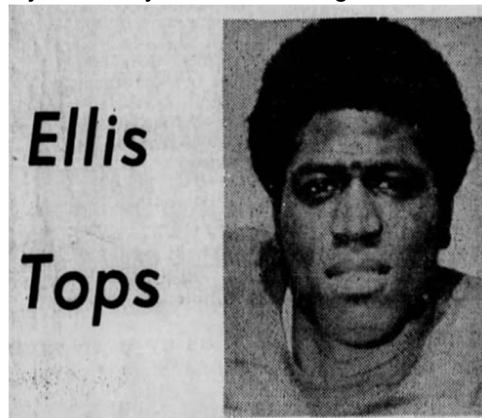
never gets sacked - he always gets rid of the ball. And the more he scrambles, the better he does. The Steelers have a great defensive line but, even though the Vikings lost that one, they didn't get to Tarkenton once. Of course, he uses his backs to good advantage. He uses them as a safety valve and dumps the ball off to one of them if he's in trouble." After Cruice made his exit, Devine elaborated upon the Vikings' prowess. "Wally told me something today that he has never said before," he confided. "He said the Vikings have the best defensive team he's ever seen. And, I might add, he's seen a lot of good ones. He's been around here a long time. The best way I could tell you how good they are," Devine continued, "is to say that they could play a 4-3 defense like the great Packer teams did in the early and middle '60s, and get away with it. They can tell you what they're going to do and you can't do anything about it. In other words, you know where Alan Page is going to be, but what do you do about him? That's the mark of a great defense to be able to do that." Flashing a smile, Devine added, "Wally has a quaint way of putting things and he said today, 'I keep hearing some of those Viking guys are hurt, but they don't play like it.'" Asked if he had detected any change in Bud Grant's approach since the Packers first meeting with the Vikings, Devine replied, "Not very much. In the last two games, they threw to their backs more than they had in the past, which puts an added burden on the linebackers. "But they still like to throw that fly to their wide receivers. John Gilliam has become a favorite target, but they have checked off to their backs more recently than they had been doing."

ELLIS TOPS

DEC 6 (New York) – Ken Ellis wasn't even supposed to be on the field Sunday. Unfortunately for Detroit, he wasn't only on it, he was all over it. The Green Bay cornerback intercepted a pair of passes to trigger two scoring drives and recovered a fumble to blunt a Detroit scoring threat, helping the Packers to regain their one-game lead in the National Conference's Central Division with a 33-7 victory over the Lions. The performance, made all the more remarkable since it was carried out despite a dislocated shoulder, earned Ellis the selection today as The Associated Press Defensive Player of the Week in the National Football League. Ellis suffered his shoulder injury the previous week, practiced just one day in preparation for the showdown against the Lions and, until 10 minutes before game time, didn't know he'd be playing.

PERSONALITY PARADE

DEC 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dick Himes, a product of Ohio's high school football hotbed and the volatile Woody Hayes, in that chronological order, is the Packers quiet man. But only by personal choice and natural inclination. The studious ex-Buckeye, called upon to assume the mantle of offensive captain in the injury absence of Gale Gillingham, is having the kind of year any athlete could be pardoned for pointing to with pride. After 12 games, his man has reached the quarterback just twice, a feat that gains luster in the light of the competition he faces week in and week out. The list of his adversaries reads like a "Who's Who" - Carl Eller, Claude Humphrey, Willie Holman and Ron McDole, not to mention the Cowboys' Larry Cole and Oakland's young but eager Tony Cline. If any further identification is required, these are among the National Football League's premier defensive ends, particularly the awesome Eller, who will be zeroing in on Himes in Sunday afternoon's climactic collision with the Vikings. Individual concerns, of course, mean little to the former Buckeye at the moment. Like fellow members of the offensive line, he prefers to talk about the accomplishments of the unit as a whole - like Sunday's 233-yard rushing performance in that 33-7 humbling of the Lions. Himes has no pat explanation for this eruption which followed weeks of offensive frustration. "I don't think it was any more than that the offense, like the defense, was ready," he said. "We didn't do anything different. Those were still the same basic plays that made the yardage which we have been using all along. Brock (John Brockington) and Mac (MacArthur Lane) were running hard and Perry Williams came in and did a good job. I don't think it was so much a matter of proving a point offensively as it was that we knew we had to control the ball and use up the time because of the capabilities of their offense," Forrest Gregg's low key successor said, "and hope our defense could stop them when they did get the ball. I think that first drive of ours took a lot out of them," Himes volunteered. "We only got three points out of it, but we held the ball for nine minutes and I think it kind of demoralized them." Although the Packers rushing average is not what it was in 1971, Himes points out, "Last year was an unusual year. The same five guys who started the season went through all 14 games together all year. That's a freak thing. You almost never go through a year without injuries in the offensive line. "This year, different guys have been hurt at different times." Himes admits the loss of Gale Gillingham as his running mate on the right side of the line has required something of an adjustment on his part. "It's the same thing with having Rich McGeorge out of there at tight end, as it was with losing Gillie," he added. "You've got to know what Leonard (Garrett) is going to do, or Pete Lammons, just as you would in the case of Gillie. It takes a while to know what a guy is going to do in any given situation...But I think we're playing pretty well together now. We probably were better last year, because we played together all year. Malcolm Snider has done a real good job but it's practically impossible to replace Gillie, man for man and talent for talent." Himes attributes the Packers successful "run at 'em" approach to Rollie Dotsch, now in his second year as offensive line coach. "He's done a real good job," he said. "He's gotten us together and I think he's more responsible for our being a running team than anybody. I think he's tried to convince the other coaches that we have to run the football. And I feel the fact that we have is correlated with our fewer pass dumps this year (11 at this point, compared to 18 over the 1971 schedule). The defense is primed to stop the run, rather than the pass, so it helps you both ways." Looking ahead to Sunday's struggle in the land of sky blue waters, Himes asserted, "It's a heck of a challenge. We've only beaten the Vikings once in the five years I've been here. We've come so close so often it makes you sick, particularly in the last three years. This is the whole season next Sunday."



Sunday's frozen foes were meant to play that way



Grant



Devine

Parallel of Danny, Bud ALMOST complete

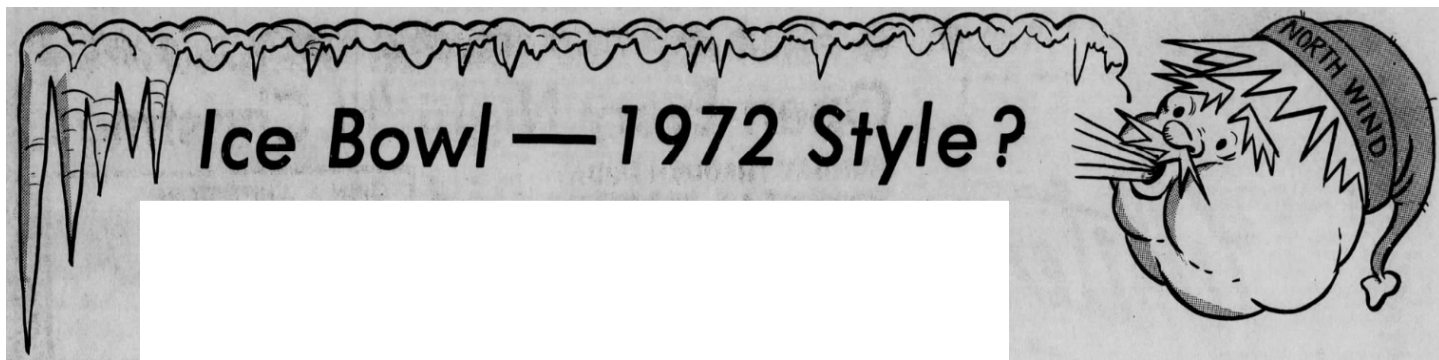
SUNDAY'S FROZEN FOES WERE MEANT TO PLAY THAT WAY

DEC 6 (Minneapolis Star-Tribune) – Professional football coaches and executives talk about the weather a lot. The more successful ones do something about it. They build teams to fit their climate. The Minnesota Vikings will play their most important game of the season here Sunday with the weather, as it often is, a major factor. They were looking Tuesday for a place to practice indoors, perhaps the University of Minnesota, where they could work outdoors on artificial turf part-time and part-time indoors. "Playing won't be a problem," coach Bud Grant said yesterday. "We know that on game day the field will be better than anything we've practiced on. The adrenalin will start flowing and the players won't notice the cold. But practice is a different matter. For a limited period it's better to be inside where you can stand around and explain things to the players. Outdoors your main thought is staying warm." He added that extended periods of indoor work, say two or three weeks, would be harmful. Placekicker Fred Cox

noted yesterday that kicking distances are reduced in zero weather. He gave an example: "Mac Percival of Chicago was practicing from 45 yards before last Sunday's game and he was making them steadily with about five yards to spare. Then during the game, when it got cold, he kicked from the 45 and and hit the crossbar. It's a matter of compression, among other factors. The ball is harder and just doesn't go as far. Other things being equal, I'd guess that you lose four or five yards distance on a kickoff in below-zero weather." The National Football Conference's Central Division - Minnesota, Green Bay, Detroit and Chicago - is a bastion of defensive strength - not because its coaches especially like to play defensive football, but because that is the kind that wins in this climate. Cold, sloppy, slippery fields favor the defense - and teams in this part of the country get a lot of games like those, particularly late in the season when a play-off spot is likely to be riding on one encounter. Coaches and general managers build their teams with the idea of winning those games. Elsewhere, the needs of offense are more likely to come first. John Hadl at San Diego has set a flock of offensive records. He also has prepared for and played every home game for 11 seasons in nearly perfect weather. Dallas once was called a team that couldn't win the big games, mostly because it was beaten narrowly by Green Bay in subzero weather on a field that took away Dallas's greatest asset, its offensive speed. Minnesota traded away a pretty good punter because he couldn't learn to kick on an icy surface. He found a home on artificial turf and led the league the next season. The Vikings also traded a good linebacker and tight end because he couldn't stand this climate. Marlin McKeever wanted to go back to California but settled for a sojourn in Washington. In return the Vikings got safety Paul Krause a native of Flint, Mich., and graduate of Iowa, who was used to this weather. McKeever still tells horror stories about the Minnesota climate. Krause has helped the Vikings win four division titles. Sunday's game will match two teams built to play in this climate. Green Bay (8-4) leads the Central Division. It could eliminate the Vikings with a win. Minnesota (7-5) can win its fifth straight division championship with victories over the Packers and San Francisco the following game. "Green Bay is a strong team," Grant said yesterday. "They have no deficiencies. To win in this business, you cannot have an Achilles heel. If you have a weakness it will surface often enough to prevent your winning three or four games in a row. Green Bay is strong in every department it cakes to win. I think we'll have a knock-down, drag-out affair that will probably be decided in the latter stages by a big play or a break for someone."

PARALLEL OF DANNY, BUD ALMOST COMPLETE

DEC 7 (Minneapolis Star) – The Viking-Green Bay parallel is there. The cycle is almost complete. The Vikings and their fans hope it never will be completed. Bud Grant had no National Football League coaching experience whatsoever when he was named Viking head coach in 1967. Winnipeg of the Canadian Football League had been his only previous coaching job. Danny Devine had no pro coaching background either when the Packers made him their general manager-coach after the 1970 season. He had coached exclusively at the college level: Michigan State, Arizona State and Missouri. Grant's Vikings finished last in the National Conference Central Division his debut season with a 3-8-3 won-lost record. Devine's Packers occupied the same cellar spot in his 1971 getaway year with a 4-8-2 mark. In Grant's second year, his Vikings became surprise winners of the Central Division, ending Green Bay's three-year reign as NFL champions. In Devine's second season, the Packers need only a victory at Metropolitan Stadium Sunday to end Minnesota's four-year reign as Central kingpins. The first Viking title in 1968 was brought about largely because Minnesota was able to sweep its season rivalry with the Packers for the first time in the club's history. There the comparison varies somewhat because the Vikings won an earlier meeting with the Pack in October 27-13. But if the Packers Sunday can achieve their first triumph at the Met since Vince Lombardi's last team won 30-27 five years ago, Green Bay will have clinched the divisional title no matter what happens on the final regular season weekend Dec. 16-17. It is a coincidence, too, that at the time the Vikings took over domination of the Central, the Packers were coached by a St. Paul native, Phil Bengtson. While Devine was born in Augusta, Wis., 50 miles from the Minnesota border, this state provided his early athletic background. He was raised in Proctor, Minn., graduated from high school there and attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth (then Duluth State) where he captained both the football and basketball teams and also played baseball. That was in the mid-1940s shortly after Grant had starred in the same three sports at Superior Central. There is one other item to recall. It was Green Bay's 28-27 victory over Chicago on the final weekend in 1968, after the Vikings had beaten the Eagles in Philadelphia earlier in the afternoon, which gave



Minnesota the title instead of the Bears. The Vikings felt grateful to the Pack at the time. But there is no way they want to repay the favor now.

ICE BOWL -1972 STYLE?

DEC 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Shades of Dec. 31, 1967? That, assorted Packers and Dallas Cowboys remember only too well, was the coldest New Year's Eve in Green Bay history, a day marked by the Pack's now celebrated "Ice Bowl" victory over the shivering Texans in temperatures crisply ranging from 13 to 16 below zero...with a chill factor near 40 below. Although the weatherman has stopped short of predicting a repeat "performance," he says it could be comparably frigid in Bloomington, Minn., Sunday for the Central Division shootout between the Packers and Vikings. It was 26 below zero in the Twin Cities Wednesday morning, with a wind chill factor of 51 below and Floyd Kolander, a Green Bay weather bureau meteorological technician, said, "I would expect continued sub-zero weather in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area this weekend." But not, certainly, anything like the Ice Bowl here? Don't put it out of your mind," Kolander replied with a faintly fiendish chuckle. "But we don't want them to beat our record. "Right now, I would say the temperature should be about zero in Bloomington Sunday afternoon, a figure which could vary 10 degrees one way or the other. But the wind chill factor will put it well below zero. The big factor is the wind, when it gets cold, more than anything else. And it is impossible to predict at this point what it will be Sunday afternoon. We do know there is an unlimited supply of cold air in Canada right now because the steering winds come right from the Arctic. All the cold air is being pulled right down from there. So I would expect continued sub-zero weather through the weekend." Whatever comes, the Packers should be well inured to that sort of thing before the Sabbath if that be possible. The chill factor was in the vicinity of 40 below while they were putting in their game plan behind the locked doors of Lambeau Field Wednesday. The footing, it might be added, should be identical to that which they will encounter in the Vikings' Metropolitan Stadium. It was necessary to remove the tarpaulin from Lambeau's turf for practice purposes and, stadium custodian John Proski noted, "the ground froze as soon as we took the tarp off." Incidentally, the tarpaulin, stiff and unwieldy under the Arctic circumstances, was torn in half during the removal process, further complicating the crew's task. Coach Dan Devine, touching upon the elements and their possible effect on Sunday's combatants, practically observed, "We've got to play in the weather, whatever it may be, but there's a certain amount of experience involved in playing in the kind of weather we're having right now. "Take even Jerry Tagge, for example, who grew up here in Green Bay. His high school season would have ended a month ago. And, when he was playing college football, he probably wouldn't have had to play in more than one bad weather game a season." Tagge is not the only who has to make an adjustment. At one point during Tuesday's workout, when the chill factor was a relatively balmy three degrees above zero, Jim Hill lay inert upon the frozen surface of the practice field. "Get me out of here," cried the wiry free safety, an off-season resident of San Diego, where the mean, year-around temperature is 75 degrees. He shortly proved it was all in frigid fun. "Helped" to his feet by facetiously solicitous teammates, he continued with the business at hand, cold or no. Balancing the weather scales ever so slightly, Devine had some "good news" for his chilled athletes. He has confirmed that the Packer entourage will enplane for New Orleans next Wednesday and work out in Tulane Stadium for their season finale with the Saints Dec. 17.

PACKERS STINGIER

DEC 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - A year ago, only the New York Giants, the Philadelphia Eagles and the expansion New Orleans Saints gave up more points than the Packers. Happily, that kind of largesse no longer prevails in Packerland. This time around, only four teams in the 26-club National Football League – among them the undefeated Miami Dolphins and once-beaten Washington Redskins - have been more miserly than the green and gold. In fact, the Green Machine, which reached a destructive peak in throttling the Lions last time out, ranks ahead of the perennially tightfisted Vikings in football's

National Conference			
Team Offense			
	Yds	Rush.	Pass.
Dallas	4027	1831	2196
Minnesota	3846	1509	2337
Washington	3792	1806	1986
New York	3791	1727	2064
San Francisco	3692	1252	2440
Los Angeles	3631	1939	1692
Detroit	3525	1748	1777
Atlanta	3495	1858	1637
New Orleans	3175	1086	2089
Green Bay	3025	1835	1290
Chicago	3023	1984	1039
Philadelphia	2958	1206	1752
St. Louis	2602	1080	1522
Team Defense			
Washington	3024	1303	1721
Minnesota	3048	1634	1414
Dallas	3094	1198	1896
Green Bay	3178	1413	1765
Atlanta	3201	1671	1530
Los Angeles	3268	1528	1740
Chicago	3334	1477	1857
Detroit	3457	1898	1559
San Francisco	3498	1521	1967
New York	3695	1604	2091
New Orleans	3958	1802	2156
St. Louis	4073	1934	2139
Philadelphia	4092	1980	2112
American Conference			
Team Offense			
	Yds	Rush.	Pass.
Miami	4376	2577	1799
New York	4180	1792	2388
Oakland	4020	2016	2004
Pittsburgh	3792	2275	1517
San Diego	3792	1840	1952
Denver	3733	1525	2208
Baltimore	3676	1657	2019
Cincinnati	3640	1649	1991
Kansas City	3341	1548	1793
New England	3110	1298	1812
Cleveland	3108	1491	1617
Buffalo	3051	1761	1290
Houston	2736	1314	1422
Team Defense			
Miami	2697	1296	1401
Cincinnati	2997	1574	1423
Denver	3256	1444	1812
Oakland	3320	1566	1754
San Diego	3378	1386	1992
Pittsburgh	3440	1587	1853
Kansas City	3522	1614	1908
Cleveland	3529	1957	1572
Baltimore	3706	1634	2072
Buffalo	3752	1983	1769
New York	4001	1710	2291
Houston	4198	2308	1890
New England	4431	2482	1949

National Conference Leading Rushers					
	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TDs
Brown, Wash.	285	1216	4.3	8	
Johnson, N.Y.	253	1066	4.2	7	
Brockington, G.B.	244	908	3.7	6	
Hill, Dall.	213	899	4.2	5	
Hampton, Atl.	200	871	4.4	6	
Douglass, Chi.	112	766	6.8	6	
Ellison, L.A.	162	741	4.6	5	
Malone, Ala.	160	687	4.3	7	
Garrison, Dall.	151	647	4.3	6	
Lane, G.B.	147	638	4.3	2	
Leading Passers					
	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TDs	Avg. Gain
Kilmer, Wash.	181	102	1408	16	7.78
Berry, Atl.	227	131	1836	12	8.09
Snead, N.Y.	272	165	1901	15	6.99
Tarkenton, Minn.	332	193	2389	16	7.20
Spurrier, S.F.	237	131	1828	18	7.71
Morton, Dall.	311	172	2274	14	7.31
Landry, Det.	219	108	1666	13	7.61
Liske, Phil.	133	68	941	3	7.08
Manning, N.O.	372	192	2385	15	6.41
Hunter, G.B.	177	75	1150	6	6.50
Leading Receivers					
	Recd.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TDs
Jackson, Phil.	53	944	17.8	4	
Tucker, N.Y.	48	636	13.3	4	
Malone, Atl.	45	543	12.1	2	
C. Taylor, Wash.	44	623	14.2	5	
Gilliam, Minn.	42	930	22.1	6	
L. Washington, S.F.	42	799	19.0	11	
Newland, N.O.	37	494	13.4	2	
Johnson, N.Y.	37	376	10.2	4	
V. Washington, S.F.	37	348	9.4	1	
Uwalick, S.F.	36	680	18.9	9	
Hill, Dall.	36	316	8.8	2	

most vital statistic for the first time in five years. Poetically, considering both units will be on display in Sunday afternoon's "playoff" duel at the Twin Cities, the Packers now are a strong third in the National Football Conference with a yield of 199 points and the Purple Gang fourth with 209. Paradoxically enough, in the Packers case, there have been only two personnel changes in a unit which last year was frisked for 298 points in 14 games, an average of 21.3 compared to a present and more acceptable ratio of 16.6. The explanation, then, must largely lie elsewhere. The obvious contributors have been the addition of free safety, Jim Hill, by way of the Lionel Aldridge trade with San Diego, and the coming of Willie Buchanon, who have added both speed and fire to the secondary. The defensive renaissance also could be traceable in part to the arrival of Clarence Williams, who has taken his place among the NFL's premier pass rushers, not to mention the sudden and explosive maturing of Jim Carter, the consistently devastating play of ball hawking Freddie Carr and the return to form of old pro Dave Robinson at linebacker. All of these, unquestionably, are factors. But Robinson, now fully recovered from the torn Achilles tendon he suffered at San Diego in 1970, singled out others as primarily responsible for the resounding turnabout. "I think the real secret of our defense is we have a lot of young guys with enthusiasm and ability," he said during a post-practice analysis Wednesday. "What they lack in experience, they make up in enthusiasm," said the 10 year veteran, a former all-pro who is in an ideal position to make comparisons, having been a starter on the Packers storied defense in the triple title years of 1965-66-67. "Plus we have just enough old guys to keep the young guys from going off on a tangent. "Plus Coach Hanner is doing a great coaching job. In fact, I think the big difference in our defense this year over last is that he now is officially the defensive coordinator, and we know it. It means he has a little more power now and when he says

something, he's a little firmer than he was last year." Although Robinson conceded the move of Ken Ellis from the left corner to the right also has been a factor he pointed out, "That was because Coach Hanner moved the right man over there. You can move people all around if you want to, and create new problems but the secret is moving the right man to the right place and not to move somebody just for the sake of moving him. For example, there was some discussion whether Freddie Carr and I should flip-flop this season, putting me on the strong side at all times. But I didn't particularly want to do it because I'd torn my Achilles playing the right side in San Diego, and I haven't played there since. Freddie didn't want to do it either, because he was getting things down on the weak side. Besides, flip-flopping means you've got to play with different defensive ends. In my case, Clarence Williams and I are roommates, so we had things worked out pretty well between us on the left side. We'd gotten ourselves settled down. And Freddie and Alden Roche had things going pretty well between them on the other side. So Freddie and I talked to Coach Hanner about it. He said, "We'll give it a try." And it's worked out. You don't hear any talk about flip-flopping anymore."

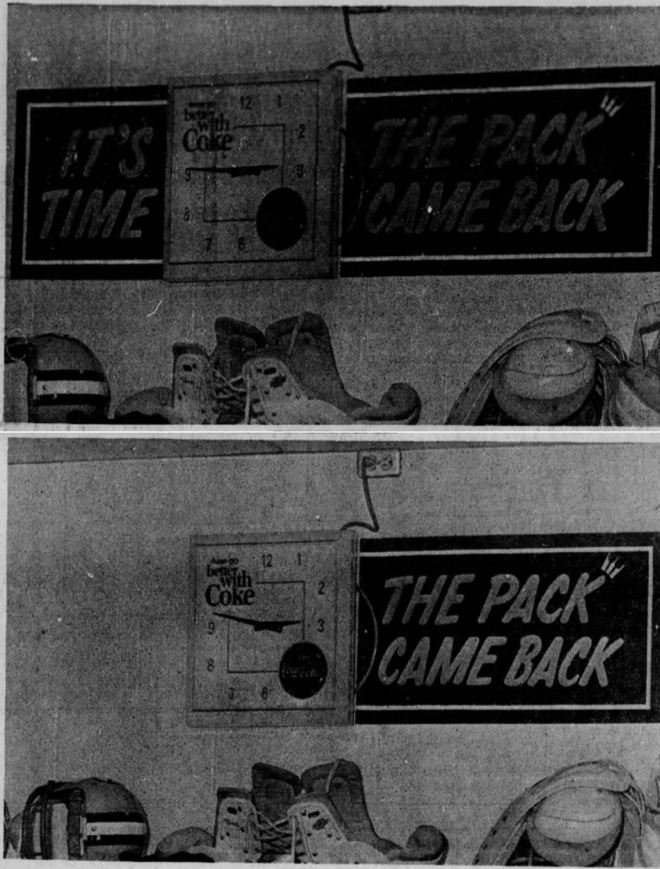
CHAMBER PLANS PACK GREETING

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Win or lose, a civic welcome is being planned for the Packers Sunday night, Bill Kramer of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce announced today. The Packers are due to arrive at Austin Straubel Field at approximately 6 p.m., following their Central Division "title" game with the Vikings at Bloomington, Minn., Kramer said. "We've had a number of 'No. 1' signs made up which will be distributed among the fans," said Kramer, who emphasized that the welcome will be held inside the airport terminal. "We also will have a pep band." Householders also are being advised to turn on their porch lights at about the time the Packers' United Airlines charter will be making its approach for a landing. Free parking will be available to all fans who appear for the reception, Kramer said.

COOL GRANT ORDERS VIKES TO IGNORE COLD

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Harry (Bud) Grant, the silver-haired sphinx from Superior, is an uncommon man...and an uncommon coach. At the risk of losing his union card, he gives his Vikings two days off at the start of every week. And, come what may, he goes hunting each Saturday morning during the football season. "Bud also never takes the game home with him," says a Viking spokesman. "When he closes that office door every night, he leaves football behind him. He spends his evenings with the family, joining them wholeheartedly in whatever they're doing." Most of his coaching colleagues feel obligated to spend more time at the job. But, frankly, it is a little difficult to quarrel with the record. Grant, cool, deliberate taskmaster who extracts optimum efficiency from athletes, has compiled a glittering 42-12 mark over the last five years, including an imposing 25-8-2 record within the NFC's bruising Central Division, and won four conference division titles. The team he will be leading against the Packers in Sunday's key collision at the Twin Cities is a precise and patient reflection of this tall, austere man, who is droll and articulate informally but registers all the emotion of a Nordic statue on the sidelines of a Sunday afternoon. Grant, who overcame the handicap of a polio-weakened leg to become a high school sports star in his native, Superior, Wis., also insists his players be spartans. Late season weather in the "Cities" is on the Arctic side but he doesn't permit his players to pamper themselves with such creature comforts as hand warmers or portable heaters. "If you have them around, the players spend too much time trying to get warm," Grant said by telephone Thursday. "It distracts you from the game. Last Sunday up here (the chill factor was 26 below zero), the Bears had heaters all over their side of the field. While the offensive team was on the field, the defense was huddling around the warmers behind the bench, paying little attention to what was going on. Our players were lined up along the sidelines." Grant, who admits he was influenced to become a football coach while playing under Paul Brown at Great Lakes during World War II, also shrugs off sub-zero

Cool Grant Orders Vikings To Ignore Cold



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Changing of this sign on the Packer dressing room wall reflects the new status of the team, now holding first place in the NFC Central.

now "back?" "Very definitely," Grant said. "I think Dan Devine has done an excellent job of rebuilding the team. He has taken its strengths and built around them by making some good trades. "He's put together a team that has no deficiencies. A contending team can't have an Achilles heel. The Lions, for example, may be a little suspect in their defensive line. The Packers, last year, had trouble with the kicking game, which was their Achilles heel. With Chester Marcol around, that no longer is true. "The Packers don't throw quite as much as some teams do, but they make up for that with their running. They may not have as good a pass rush as they would like, but they have big, strong people inside and they make up for that with their strength. Their linebacking is excellent and their secondary is sound. There is nothing they're deficient in." How does he see Sunday's showdown? "I can't think of any reason why it wouldn't be a typical Packer-Vikings game. It should be 13-10 or something like that, although I'm not predicting the score. A game decided by a touchdown or less would be another way of putting it."

PERSONALITY PARADE (PETE LAMMONS)

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Fearful of putting the whammy on the Packers, some of the faithful have been reluctant to talk in Super Bowl terms, despite the exhilarating impact of last Sunday's destruction of Detroit. And, quite obviously, there are a few items of business to be successfully transacted between now and the pro football classic in Los Angeles Jan. 14, most immediate among them Sunday's invasion of Minnesota for an exchange that could project the Packers into the NFC playoffs. But, inevitably, Packer buffs can't help thinking about that pleasant prospect. After all, it has been five years since the last time, a veritable eternity in professional sports. Logically, an "outsider" would seem to be in the best position to assess the Packers chances of making the finals, particularly one who has been there with another team. Like Pete Lammons, the highly congenial tight end who helped the New York Jets surprise the prohibitively favored Baltimore Colts in the 1969 Super Bowl at Miami. Lammons, who suddenly found himself wearing green and gold in late September after a knee injury sidelined Rich McGeorge for the season, is convinced the Packers have legitimate all-the-way potential. "I don't think there's any doubt that this team has the ability to go the Super Bowl," he said following Thursday's practice, adding realistically, "We'll find out Sunday. This team has risen to the occasion on numerous challenges throughout the season, and I think it will again." Essaying a comparison, Lammons said, "Our first 25 players with the Jets when we "won it in '69 were as good as the first 25 on any other team around. But we just didn't have the depth that this team has. We've got a lot of fine athletes here. "When the Jets won it, we didn't have many injuries, and I don't think we've had too many here, even though we've lost McGeorge and Gale Gillingham. Even so, we've had enough depth to fill in where we've had

temperatures his team has had to practice in this week. "We're prepared for it," he said with typical stoicism. "This is unseasonable - it was 12 degrees below zero when we practiced yesterday - but the players expect it. They know they have to play in it and practice in it, so there isn't much talk about it. "Nor," Grant added with great practicality, "is there much we can do about it." Since Grant's arrival upon the Minnesota scene, the Vikings have been virtually invincible against the Packers. They have won nine of 11 meetings over the last six seasons, including a 27-13 decision here earlier in the year. Asked to account for this kind of domination, Grant replied, "These things go in cycles. This is the up cycle. The Packers were beating the Vikings consistently, too, for a while. That was their up cycle. "Nobody stays on top forever. We've had good luck against the Packers and the Lions in recent years, but we haven't done so well against the Bears. I think we're 6-5-1 against Chicago since I've been with the Vikings. It's the way the teams form up. For example, we play against Bob Brown, who is one of the biggest, strongest guys around. But we have had a big, strong guy against him in Ed White. This kind of thing has a lot to do with the matchups. It's a little like a boxing match. And the matchups have been pretty even on our part. "We've had big, dominant guys in our defensive line the last few years while the Packers have been going through something of a transition in the offensive line. I think that's past now. I think the Packers offensive line is pretty solid, so now that is no longer prevalent." Ex-Packer coach Phil Bengtson, it was noted, once said, "The Vikings get more efficiency out of their 40 people than any other team I've seen," Grant emitted a dry chuckle and rejoined, I think that Green Bay did a pretty good job against Detroit last Sunday. That kid (Bob) Kroll came in there and made three or four big plays, I'd say that's pretty efficient. Does he feel the Packers are

to. And depth is a big key to a championship team - to have the people to fill in when you do have injuries. I think this is a much more physical team than the Jets were. Our people here are so much bigger and stronger than we were in '69. And faster, too. There's more speed on this team. We had some good running backs with New York," Lammons admitted, "but I don't think they compared to John Brockington and MacArthur Lane, although Matt Snell was a fine back. He gained over 10 yards that day against the Colts. I think the big key to this team is the special teams. I think they're 1,000 per cent better than they were with the Jets. There are more talented athletes here." Lammons, first traded by the Jets to the Eagles last summer and then subsequently released by the Eagles, is openly delighted to be in Green Bay. "I'm overjoyed about it," says Pete, who was a free agent when the Packers found him in Houston. "Frankly, I was happy as hell to get out of Philadelphia," he said. "You can see by their team this year that they have problems. I figured if I was picked up by anybody else, I was better off than being in Philadelphia. Needless to say, I'm extremely happy to be in Green Bay. And it looks like I'll have the last laugh. I've got a shot to be in the playoffs now, and, of course, the Eagles are not going to be anywhere. Maybe the Jets won't be there, either, although I hope they will as a wild card team."

PACKER FANS DUE, BRINGING BANNERS AND COLD CONTEMPT

DEC 8 (Green Bay-Minneapolis Star) - They are coming with fur-lined banners, sheepskin mackinaws, a piano-playing sheriff and life-sustaining brandy. They have heard melodramatic reports of the sub-zero heroism of the Minnesota Viking crowds, and they are not much impressed. "We don't want to show up the Minnesota people," explained the incumbent No. 1 fan in Green Bay, Howie Blindauer. "They'll have us on raw numbers. What we've got is experience. Before they start broadcasting that they're better in cold weather than the Green Bay fans, let them do it for 52 or 53 years like we did. Another thing. I've been to games at the Met. The people there must think there's a second show and they can see the start of it all over again after the business brevities. There must be thousands of them straggling in from their tailgate parties 15 minutes after the kickoff. What they've got to learn is something I would call pace. You get it with experience." There were years during the Vikings' incubation when you needed a roll-call vote to find out who had more fans at the Met, the Vikings or Packers. They used to roll out of Green Bay, Rhinelander, Eau Claire and Wausau by the green-mantled thousands with their air horns and bratwurst cookers. Today they are down to 500 allocated tickets plus the 600 or 700 more they have been able to scrounge from brokers in Minnesota. But they will be coming Sunday with their elite, the palace guard. In their number will be Sheriff Norb Froelich with his piano accordion, Larry Laudrie on trumpet and Ray Berken on garbage-can bass. In normal years Blindauer might have been their head, the Green Bay Charlemagne in green-and-gold beanie, His designation as No. 1 fan now, though, is merely titular. Blindauer is in public disgrace, having bet \$5 with each of the 19 other members of Martha's Coffee Club that Green Bay would win no more than six games this season. When the late Vince Lombardi led the Packers, such a wager would have been grounds for deportation or, depending on the makeup of the jury, possibly the chair. But there is an altered life-style among the Packer audiences today. A lot of the locals haven't decided yet whether to lift the probation on Danny Devine, the Minnesota native who performed wondrous feats at Missouri and who today, in his second year as the Green Bay coach, has the Packers playing for a division title. They don't disapprove of Danny here. You will see bumper stickers declaring "The Pack is Devine." They have trouble understanding him. Although he is widely popular in the trade, the coach has problems reaching the natives because of a fondness for rambling, round-the-cape public statements that bounce mysteriously off their straining eardrums. Lombardi had no such communications gap. He didn't make public statements. He issued commandments on slabs. Privately, Devine bristles at the constant but inevitable comparisons with Lombardi. He makes the dutiful acknowledgements to Vince in public but the great coach's spectral presence is hard to avoid. There is a Lombardi Av. and now a Lombardi School. "What I thought," Blindauer grumbled, "was that Devine talked too much last year. There aren't many secrets around here, and I guess I'm sort of in the doghouse with the coach. But he is a good coach, you understand. I got mad at him when he traded Donnie Anderson. I never really looked on Donnie as a fumbler. But I'll be damned, I saw him playing for St. Louis the other day and he fumbled. Maybe he's a better coach than I thought." But where they used to look on the Packers with the boggled adulation of Mahatma Ghandi disciples, the Green Bayers now seem clearly surprised to be playing Minnesota for the wind-chill championship and possibly the Central Division title Sunday afternoon. "Tarkenton, he scares hell out of me," Blindauer revealed gravely. "Even when Vince was here" - Howie lowered his voice and seemed to be performing a vocal genuflection - "he was beating us when the Vikings had no business doing it. "But it's a tremendous thing when you come to think of it - The Packers and the Vikings, all those snowmobile suits and sausage cookers. Where else could it happen? The rest of the country must think they're playing the game on the moon. I'll tell you one thing. I'm going in a charter bus this time. I went up with a bunch of people by air last year. We had to catch a flight about an hour and a half after the game. Listen, that airport can't be more than a short punt from the stadium. We called a cab. We waited and waited. Nothing showed. We were right up against it. I finally opened the door of a car that was heading toward the exit. 'Airport,' I said. 'I'm not going to the airport,' the guy said. 'Like hell you ain't,' I told him. I gave him 10 bucks and we just made it. Like I said, you got to go with experience." There is a limit to just how much football wisdom the visitor can absorb in Green Bay, where it is so amiably dispensed, I adjusted my Viking stocking cap and walked among the saloons and supper clubs. You get the idea that if they ever put in prohibition again and a town has to make do with what it has, Green Bay can hold out longer than island of Malta. In the lushly carpeted Left Guard, operated by Packer alumni Fuzzy Thurston and Max McGee, a customer disclosed that Devine must have something super-secret in mind for rookie quarterback Jerry Tagge "because Hunter has a bad back and I don't see how he can throw the bomb!" At the Lyric, a barmaid explained it didn't matter whether Hunter could throw the bomb because Devine obviously was going to try to stomp the Vikings into the ground with Brockington and MacArthur Lane. On Pine St., a well-intentioned cop said he personally had nothing against the Vikings but maybe I ought to take off the Viking stocking cap. "You would present a lower profile," he said. "You don't have to worry about the adults."

Packer fans due, bringing banners and cold contempt

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a scouting report on the Green Bay fans' preparation for Sunday's Polar Bowl battle between the Vikings and Packers, The Star dispatched Jim Klobuchar to the land that used to call itself "Tidetown, U.S.A."

It's the kids. You'd make a helluva trophy." The sages, though, gather at the King's X. I fell in with three of them to find out about the credibility of Boots the proprietor, who said he would be amazed if the Packers did not win by 20 points. "I'm surprised you can be so calm," one of the sages said. "I'll tell you what's

wrong with the Vikings. Getting Tarkenton was the worst thing they did. He really screwed up their offense. Now when you think of comparing him with Bart. I mean Tarkenton is really a ham andegger." Our faces were very close. He had his swizzle stick up to my nose, and I thought the least he should get was 15 yards for face guarding. He wanted to know what I thought. I said I wanted to congratulate him on confirming H. L. Mencken's theory that no town has a monopoly on stupidity. Boots suggested I should leave through the side door.

PAST FEW WEEKS HAPPY ONES FOR YOUNG JEFF

DEC 9 (Green Bay) - Fate has not been kind to 10-year-old Jeff Staniske but at least the past few weeks have been happy ones. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Staniske of Ashwaubenon is afflicted with a rare terminal brain disease and doctors give him only about eight more months to live. Though he is confined to a wheel chair and has little use of his arms or hands, Mrs. Staniske said, "All he talks about is how lucky he is because of all the wonderful things that are happening to him." Since news of the youth's ailment reached the public through the media, the Staniske home has been flooded with cards, letters and gifts, she said. "Everytime the telephone or doorbell rings, Jeff smiles from ear to ear and asks, 'What's next?'" she said. The youth is a Green Bay Packer fan and he was treated to a dinner with player Clarence Williams and a visit from coach Dan Devine. "He (Devine) was just wonderful," Mrs. Staniske said. "He sat in Jeff's room with him for about 45 minutes, holding his hand and telling him jokes." The attention has also helped the family out with its medical bills. The "Friends of Jeff Staniske Fund" at Fox Heights State bank in Green Bay reports it has collected \$5,000. It hopes to raise more with a benefit dance Dec. 15.

DAN PLAYS DOWN WEATHER ASPECT

DEC 9 (Bloomington, MN) - The Green Bay Packers, trying to prove they're back, and the Minnesota Vikings, out to show they aren't over the hill, clash Sunday at Metropolitan Stadium in a National Football League game in which the weather could be a big factor. Forecasts for the 1 p.m. (CST) kickoff call for a high temperature of five degrees below zero. Snow is supposed to begin falling tonight and continue into Sunday. The Packers, a Central Division also-ran since their Super Bowl years after the 1966 and 1967 seasons, need only a victory against the Vikings to advance into the National Conference playoffs. The Vikings, who have been criticized as being too old, can wrap up their fifth straight Central title with victories against the Packers and the San Francisco 49ers next Saturday. Green Bay is 8-4, Minnesota 7-5. Both teams have fought off icy, snowy weather this week to get ready for the game, and both coaches play down the weather aspect. "The club has been practicing very well all week and everyone is adapting to the cold very well," said Green Bay Coach Dan Devine. Coach Bud Grant has had his Vikings practicing indoors and outside at University of Minnesota facilities while the Metropolitan Stadium playing field remains covered by insulated padding. "The day of the game, the adrenalin is flowing and there's really no problem in playing - that's the easy part," said Grant. "The week of preparation is the difficult thing." The Vikings have been preparing to stop Green Bay's running back combination of John Brockington and MacArthur Lane. Brockington, with 908 yards, is trying to become the first player in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in his first two seasons. Lane adds 638 yards. The Vikings have built their offense around Fran Tarkenton, who has passed for 2,389 yards and 16 touchdowns. While John Gilliam has been the primary receiver with 42 catches for 930 yards and six touchdowns, Tarkenton likes to go with his stable of running backs headed by Oscar Reed, the leading rusher with 603 yards and No. 2 receiver with 28 catches for 202 yards. The two defenses played at their best last week. The Vikings held Chicago to 91 net yards - only two pass' completions-in a 23-10 victory. Detroit fell to the Packers 33-7, losing the ball six times on turnovers and getting only 26 yards in the first half.

'RECYCLED' PACKER PLAYING KEY ROLES

DEC 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers' current renaissance has been attributed in large part to shrewd trading, the kind of deals that brought Jim Hill, MacArthur Lane and Ron Widby to Green Bay. Judicious drafting, which tapped Willie Buchanon, Chester Marcol and Jerry Tagge for Packer delivery, also has come in for considerable credit. But little, strangely enough, has been made of Dan Devine's "reclamation projects," most of whom also have contributed substantially to the Packers' rise to Central Division pre-eminence in the National Football Conference. And, presumably, some of them will be making their presence felt in Sunday's momentous match with the Vikings in the Twin Cities. The reference is to such unheralded athletes as Jon Stagers, Dave Kopay, Vernon Vanoy, Bob Kroll, Pete Lammons and Ward Walsh. Stagers and Vanoy were picked up from the Steelers and Giants, respectively, for the customary waiver price of \$100. And Vanoy,

it should be noted, earlier had been released by the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. Kopay, Lammons and Walsh were signed as free agents after all of the NFL's 25 other clubs had waived on them. And Kroll, bypassed in last February's draft despite ranking among the nation's interception leaders, also was signed as a free agent upon the recommendation of offensive line coach Rollie Dotsch, who had coached the former Preble High School athlete at Northern Michigan University. Although all of these have made contributions to the winning cause along the way, the pocket-sized Stagers has proved to be the prize catch to this point. He has had a direct bearing on three of the Packers' eight victories, which has to make the former Missouri athlete one of the better \$100 bargains within recent memory. It was Stagers who caught a deflected pass for a touchdown in a 20-17 decision over the Bears in Lambeau Field Oct. 8; It also was Stagers who caught four clutch passes in the second half comeback which propelled the Packers past the Lions in Detroit, 24-23.

RUSHING						
	No	Yds	Avg	L	TD	
Brockington, Pack ..	244	908	3.7	301	8	
Lane, Pack	147	638	4.3	361	2	
Reed, Vikings	138	603	4.3	43	2	
Osborn, Vikings	75	244	3.2	141	2	
Brown, Vikings	66	200	3.0	19	4	
X Jones, Vikings	52	164	3.1	33	2	
Marinaro, Vikings	50	153	3.0	19	0	
P. Williams, Pack	20	97	4.9	9	0	

PASSING					
	Att.	Comp.	Yd.	TD.	Int.
Tarkenton, Vikings	332	193	2,389	16	8
Hunter, Pack ..	177	76	1,150	6	8
Tagge, Pack	23	9	141	0	0

RECEIVING						
	No	Yds	Ave	L	TD	
Gilliam, Vikings	42	930	22.1	661	6	
Reed, Vikings	28	202	7.2	37	0	
Beasley, Vikings	26	217	8.3	18	1	
Marinaro, Vikings	25	206	8.2	16	0	
Lane, Pack	24	274	11.4	49	0	
Osborn, Vikings	18	154	8.5	18	1	
Brock., Pack.	17	230	13.5	48	1	
Brown, Vikings	16	224	14.0	76	4	
Dale, Pack.	13	279	21.5	48	1	
Glass, Pack.	12	224	18.7	31	1	

INTERCEPTIONS					
	No	Yds	Avg	L	TD
Bryant, Vikings	4	82	20.5	34	0
Krause, Vikings	3	84	28.0	35	1
Hill, Pack	3	21	7.0	21	0
Winston, Vikings	3	55	18.3	23	0
J. Wright, Vikings	3	31	10.3	31	0

FIELD GOALS						
	0-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	
Marcol, Pack	2-3	7-8	9-13	7-12	2-3	
Cox, Vikings	4-4	6-8	7-9	3-6	0-1	

KICKOFF RETURNS						
	No.	YDS.	Ave	L	TD	
Gilliam, Vikings ..	11	343	31.1	47	0	
Jones, Vikings	10	260	26.0	38	0	
Thomas, Pack	16	454	27.8	89	0	
Stagers, Pack	11	260	23.6	39	0	
Hudson, Pack	10	230	23.0	55	0	

PUNTING					
	No.	Yds	Ave	L	Bk
Widby, Pack	60	2,592	43.2	64	0
Eischeid, Vikings	53	2,268	42.7	61	1

PUNT RETURNS					
No.	Yds.	Ave.	LTD		
Ellis, Pack	10	169	16.9	801	1
West, Vikings	15	111	7.4	23	0
Stagers, Pack	8	137	17.1	851	1
Bryant, Vikings	8	44	5.5	10	0

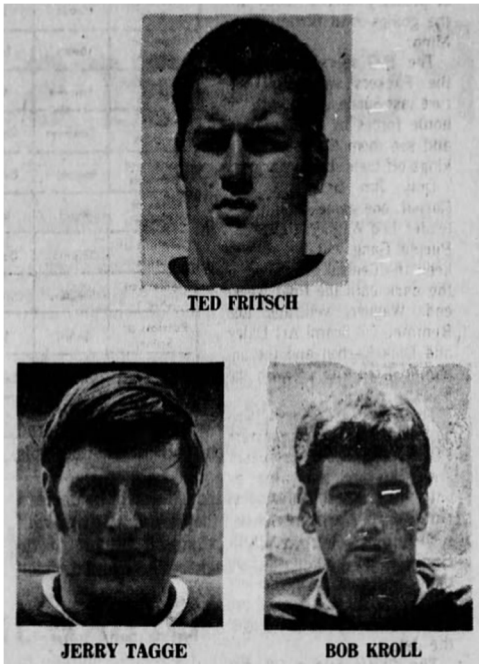
And it also was Stagers who returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown to trigger a 23-10 victory over the Oilers at Houston Nov. 19. Kopay, a widely traveled performer who had seen prior service with five other NFL teams, is a heady, hardnosed veteran who has been a key figure in the vast improvement of the special teams, which have had more than a little to do with the Packers' 8-4 record. Although Vanoy has not played much recently, he started two games following an injury to Mike McCoy and was particularly evident in the memorable 16-13 upset of the world champion Dallas Cowboys, sacking quarterback Craig Morton three times. Lammons, who helped the Jets win the 1969 Super Bowl, has been alternated with

Leonard Garrett at tight end lately and has provided experienced "insurance" at the position ever since Rich McGeorge was sidelined by a knee injury in the second game of the season. Walsh, dropped by the floundering Oilers in mid-season, recently was activated to replace injured Bob Hudson on the special teams and drew commendation from the man he replaced for his alert, hustling play. Kroll, who had seen little action until last Sunday, has been credited with serving as a catalyst in that 33-7 humbling of the Lions by virtue of his abandoned play. He made three resounding tackles on kickoffs, deep in Detroit territory, and recovered a fumble which set up an early Chester Marcol field goal...PACKER PATTERN: Coach Dan Devine indicated two roster changes are likely to be made shortly before game time. "It doesn't look like Tommy Joe Crutcher is going to make it Sunday," Devine reported following Friday's practice in Lambeau Field. "And it doesn't look like Ward Walsh will either." Rookie linebacker Larry Hefner would replace Crutcher, who has a thigh injury and also has been battling the flu, while Bob Hudson would supplant Walsh, favoring a knee injury...The Packers' John Brockington is one of seven NFC running backs who have amassed more than 1,000 yards rushing and receiving. Brockington ranks fifth with 1,138 yards, including 908 rushing. Washington's Larry Brown leads with 1,689, including 1,216 rushing and 473 receiving. MacArthur Lane stands a good chance of joining Brockington in that elite circle. Lane, the Packers' leading receiver, has stacked up 912 yards...What John Gilliam's addition (by way of the Gary Cuozzo trade with St. Louis) has meant to the Viking offense is illustrated in the latest NFC pass receiving figures. Gilliam ranks fifth with 42 catches for 930 yards and six touchdowns.

GREEN BAY PREPS TO PROS ... IN FOUR SHORT YEARS

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Bobby Kroll - "He had all kinds of desire and love for football. He lacked a little speed, but he made up for it in attitude and desire. He wasn't too big either, about 175 or 180, but I always felt if he could carry another 20 or 25 pounds, he could be pro potential," says Green Bay Preble Coach Bill Dessart. Jerry Tagge - "He was a great competitor. Anytime he went on the field, he knew he was going to win. If he hadn't been such an outstanding quarterback, he could have made it as a linebacker," says Green Bay West Coach Jerry Dufek. Ted Fritsch - "When he was on the practice field, football was the only thing on his mind. He was totally coachable and tremendously dedicated," says Premontre Coach Ron Miller. And those are the brief recollections of the men who coached the sensational graduates of the 1967 Green Bay high school football class, three alumni who have now made a mark in the relatively exclusive pro football fraternity Kroll and Tagge with the Packers, Fritsch with the Atlanta Falcons. Obviously, they all had some things in common, particularly attitude and, of course, some

native ability. But the paths taken to the pros were hardly parallel. Tagge left West to become an All-American quarterback at the University of Nebraska, leading the Cornhuskers to a pair of national championships and then becoming a first round draft choice of the Packers. Kroll left Preble to attend Northern Michigan University, where he was moved from linebacker to defensive halfback and established a reputation as one of the leading pass thieves in the country. But he was bypassed in the draft and was signed as a free agent by the Packers primarily on the suggestion of his college coach Rollie Dotsch, who had become a Packer assistant under Dan Devine. Fritsch left Premontre to attend neighboring St. Norbert College, where he had the opportunity to play as a regular for four years, gaining valuable experience as well as knowledge from his father, Ted Sr., who was an assistant coach with the Green Knights. Fritsch was also passed over in the draft but the



Falcons wasted little time chasing him down as a free agent after the draft. Tagge, as a first rounder, was a cinch to be kept on the pro roster. Fritsch beat out a three year veteran to earn a place with the Falcons as the snapper for all kicks. And Kroll hung on by his fingernails, serving on the taxi squad until activated last Sunday and turning in a sensational performance on the special teams. There are no records immediately available, but it is likely that Green Bay can put up a rather solid claim to uniqueness in having three boys from one high school graduation year make the grade in pro football. But each had displayed remarkable potential during his prep career. Tagge, for instance, completed 114 passes in his senior season, a Valley record that still stands. And Durek recalls, in particular, the game that gave the Wildcats the championship that year. There were only two minutes and 53 seconds left in the season, as a matter of fact, and Sheboygan South had just taken a 9-7 lead over West in Lambeau Field. As South lined up for the kickoff, Dufek called Tagge over and pointed to the scoreboard. Tagge looked at the time remaining and then at his coach and said, "Don't worry, Coach, there's plenty of time." In less than 40 seconds, Tagge had moved the team down field and tossed a final pass to his favorite receiver, Dave Mason, who employed a few spectacular moves of his own to snake into the end zone for title winning touchdown. West employed a sprint-out series for Tagge that year and Dufek recalls, "Jerry would take the ball and sprint to that exact spot outside the tackle, turn upfield, raise the ball and immediately, instinctively, pick out whether the defense was falling back so he could run or moving up to

open the pass play. He could throw on the run or off balance and he was a better runner than some people thought because he was moving faster than it appeared. And at 210 pounds, he could bowl right over people too." Preble was not champion that year but Kroll played like one. In fact Dessart clearly remembers one play against Tagge and Mason that he feels typifies Kroll. "Tagge would sprint out and pull the defense that way," Dessart recalls, "and Mason would sort of come out of nowhere on the other side of the field. Well, they used that play and Mason looked like he was all alone but Bobby had taken just one step with Tagge, realized what was happening and raced back the other way. Mason caught the ball and would have had a touchdown but Bobby caught him before he got away." Dessart also remembers a game at Manitowoc when the Ships had fullback Greg Gretz, a 210 pounder who was tearing up the conference. Kroll was assigned to ride in Gretz' hip pads if necessary but be sure to stop him. And he did just that, the Ship fullback gaining just 47 yards in 17 carries for the day. And against Sheboygan North, with Preble needing a win to stay in contention, Kroll was hurt in the second quarter and was limping badly. "We took him out and the doctor looked at his foot and told me he wasn't sure but the foot might be broken. Well we told Bobby to sit down and our manager to put some ice on it. Well about three plays later, I looked out on the field and there was Bobby making a tackle. He had taped up his own foot as tight as he could and went back in." At Premontre, Fritsch was on a "Packer" team. His dad had been an all pro with the Packers some years back and his teammates included Tony Canadeo Jr., son of the Pack's famed Gray Ghost, and Brian Bengtson, son of the Packer head coach-to-be. "Ted had great potential even then," Miller says in thinking back. "He was the best center in the league and a particularly strong snapper. But he had a habit of not keeping his head down. But he worked on that and overcame it. When Ted left here, he began to realize what he really wanted. I think going to St. Norbert, where he played regularly right away, was the best thing for him. He really developed. And he was back here running and working on our weights. He grew up and began to prove himself." And so the story unfolded...from Green Bay high school football in 1967 to the National Football League in 1972...a story not likely matched anywhere.

IS THE PACK BACK OR ARE VIKINGS STILL KING?

DEC 10 (Minneapolis Star-Tribune) – Bud Grant describes the Green Bay Packers as a team without deficiencies - they are not weak in any of the departments that it takes to win." But they aren't overpowering in every department. Dan Devine says it is "unbelievable" that the Minnesota Vikings have lost five games. "Their big thing has been their passing, but they have good, strong running, too, and the very best defense in the league." But unbelievable or not, the Vikings have lost five times and have had some problems even in victory. Grant's Vikings and Devine's Packers meet at 1 p.m. today in Metropolitan Stadium in a game that could give Green Bay its first Central Division title since 1967 or carry the Vikings to within one game of a comeback championship. The Vikings won 27-13 at Green Bay in October, a victory that turned Minnesota's season around. The Vikings were 2-4 at the time and coming off a maddening loss to Chicago. The Packers were tied for the division lead at 4-2, as many victories as they has won altogether in 1971. At that time, Devine said that his team still had to establish itself as a winner, but that he would be disappointed if it did not. He mentioned the pass rush, linebacking play and wide receivers as spots that needed improvement. "Considering all the things that have happened, I think we've progressed quite well," he said last week. "A couple of No. 1 draft choices (guard Gale Gillingham and tight end Rich McGeorge) won't be playing Sunday and we have seven or eight guys we picked up on waivers. Our linebackers have come along well. And our pass rush has improved - but then it had to. We had one guy who played 20 games last year without getting to the quarterback once. When you start from a situation like that, you can't help but get better." Devine was asked to comment on the Vikings: "The things that have happened to Minnesota are unbelievable. They couldn't have lost that many games. How often do you see Fred Cox in a slump? Or two snaps fumbled in succession on kicking attempts? Tarkenton is an extraordinary passer. Is he ever intercepted? The Vikings have the very best defense in the league, but

NFL American Conference

East

	W	L	T	PCT.	Pts.	OP
x-Miami	12	0	0	1.000	346	158
New York Jets	7	5	0	.583	341	274
Baltimore	5	7	0	.417	225	212
Buffalo	3	9	0	.250	212	339
New England	2	10	0	.167	154	391

Central

Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	310	215
Cleveland	9	4	0	.692	242	239
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	238	212
Houston	1	11	0	.088	144	310

West

x-Oakland	8	3	1	.708	313	211
Kansas City	6	6	0	.500	246	230
San Diego	4	7	1	.375	249	282
Denver	3	9	0	.250	242	316

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
x-Washington	11	2	0	.846	319	194
y-Dallas	10	3	0	.769	316	217
New York Giants	7	5	0	.583	295	221
St. Louis	2	9	1	.208	145	266
Philadelphia	2	9	1	.208	110	317

Central

Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	251	199
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	284	252
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	277	209
Chicago	3	8	1	.292	183	235

West

Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	255	237
San Francisco	6	5	1	.542	313	232
Los Angeles	6	5	1	.542	257	228
New Orleans	2	9	1	.208	185	314

x-clinched division title

y-clinched playoff berth

Saturday's Games

Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 14

Dallas 34, Washington 24

Today's Games

Atlanta at San Francisco, 4 p.m.

Baltimore at Kansas City, 4 p.m.

Chicago at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

Detroit at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Minnesota, 2 p.m., national television

Los Angeles at St. Louis, 2 p.m.

Miami at New York Giants, 1 p.m.

New England at New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Houston, 4 p.m., national television

San Diego at Denver, 2 p.m.

Monday's Game

New York Jets at Oakland, 9 p.m., national television

they also have the most underrated offensive line I've seen. If the defensive people weren't so great, more notice would have been taken of the offensive line and those players would have been talked of in All-Pro terms. Dave Osborn has always impressed me as a quality ballplayer, a good runner, particularly in weather like this. Bill Brown's bounce off those guys at Los Angeles (for 76 yards and a touchdown) was impressive and Oscar Reed seems like kind of an explosive back." Green Bay's attack features power running and kicking. Last season John Brockington rushed for 1,105 yards. This year he has 908 yards with two games to go. He was joined this season by MacArthur Lane, acquired from St. Louis for Donny Anderson, and Lane has rushed for 638 yards. Both of them can catch a pass. Lane leads the Packers with 24 receptions and Brockington is second with 17. The most important addition to the Packers this season is placekicker Chester Marcol, a soccer-style specialist. His field goals have made the difference in four games. The Packer passing game has been cautious and not particularly effective. Second-year quarterback Scott Hunter has thrown 177 times, completed 76 for 42.9 percent, and has thrown six touchdown passes. By comparison, the Vikings' Tarkenton has 332 passes, 193 completions, 58.1 percent and 16 touchdowns. Some other comparisons: Total offense, Minnesota 3,846 yards, Green Bay 3,025; by passing, Minnesota 2,337, Green Bay 1,290; by rushing, Minnesota 1,509, Green Bay 1,735. The Vikings have scored 277 points and help opponents to 209. Green Bay has scored 251 and given up 199. Grant was asked to comment on the Packers: "Brockington is a horse, a good strong runner. Lane was hurting a little when we played over there. I think he's OK now. Aside from that, they're the same team we played before. They don't pass much, but that's because they run so well. With the addition of Marcol, they don't have an Achilles heel. We expect a close game, probably decided in the latter stages by a big play or a big break."

PACKERS DON'T FEEL JINX

DEC 10 (Bloomington, MN-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Is there a "Minnesota Mystique?" The Packers remain to be convinced such a whammy exists, even though they have lost eight of their last nine meetings with the Vikings and have not won here since 1967. Certain that circumstances and the Purple Gang's collective ability have combined to foil them with frustrating frequency over the last five seasons, Dan Devine's resurgents insist they will not be encumbered by that kind of hangup in Metropolitan Stadium this afternoon. The underdog invaders feel the issue will be decided strictly on performance when they come to grips with the Vikings (1 o'clock, WNFL, Channel 2) in an Arctic struggle that could bring the Packers their first division championship since '67. Of more pressing concern is the knowledge they are in a position to end the Central Division suspense here and now. Should they prevail today, they have nothing to fear from either the Vikings or the Detroit Lions. The race will be officially over. And, if able to handle the Norsemen, Central champions the last four years, they also know they will automatically qualify for the National Conference playoffs and a probable Christmas Eve afternoon matchup with the Redskins in Washington, a prospect they find ever so enchanting. The Packers also are soberly aware they could fall into a three-way tie for the division lead by losing, postponing a decision until next Sunday's final regular season action. Strong safety Al Matthews, who has seen the Pack win only once in five encounters with Minnesota since he arrived upon the Green Bay scene, dismisses the "mystique" premise. "I definitely don't think there's a jinx involved" he insists. "The strange part of it is they have always played well in Green Bay and we've always played well in Minnesota."

"Since I joined the team in 1970, we've only beaten them once but every game we've played could have gone the other way. "Last year, for example, if we'd had Chester Marcol in our second game (won by the Vikings, 3-0), it would have made a big difference. We missed some pretty crucial field goals. "But I don't feel they hold any kind of a jinx on us. Once you sit around thinking about junk like that you can really 'psych' yourself out of something." "The Vikings are just a good, sound, fundamental football team. That's responsible for most of what has happened to us against them, plus certain circumstances, like not having had a consistent kicker for the last few years." Veteran flanker Carroll Dale, who has seen the Minnesotans win nine of their last 11 encounters with the Packers, is in firm agreement on this point. "There's no mystique about it," he says with quiet conviction. "They're just a very good football team...When Coach Grant came there, he got them to play together and complement each other. They're a sound football team that tries to get the other team to make a mistake. That has been their winning formula." The Packers, four to six-point underdogs, can take some small, pre-game comfort from observation. Although the Vikings have won a justified reputation for freedom from error, the youthful Packers have been less prone to err this season than today's adversaries. They have compiled a plus-13 takeaway-giveaway rating, a figure based upon fumbles and interceptions committed by the offense and forced by the defense. The Packers have been guilty of only eight interceptions and nine lost fumbles while acquiring possession 30 times by the same methods. The Vikings, slightly more human this year than in any recent season, have earned a more modest plus-five



grade, having lost 18 fumbles and been intercepted eight times while picking off 20 enemy passes and recovering 11 fumbles. If an error is to decide this one, and the consensus is that it will be that close, the weather could take a prominent hand in the proceedings. The forecast indicates the temperature will be somewhere between 5 above and 5 below zero, with brisk winds ranging from 10 to 15 miles per hour, which means the wind chill factor is likely to approach a frigid 30 below. That could set the stage for handoff miscues, not to mention in-motion fumbles, dropped passes and bizarre interceptions, the kind which occur when a ball bounces in and out of numb fingers. Such possibilities may partially account for the Vikings' favoritism, slightly surprising in light of the Packers' one-game lead in the division race. The defending Central champions are considerably more mature than the Packers, a point Dan Devine has underscored by noting, "There's a certain amount of experience involved in playing in this kind of weather." The Vikings have proved to be exceedingly adept at it, particularly halfback Dave Osborn, who is at his best in sub-zero temperatures. And running mate Oscar Reed, a five-year veteran, also has had considerable cold weather experience. All of which suggests it could be a crunching, close-to-the-vest ball control battle, despite the presence of air-minded Fran Tarkenton at quarterback, because both teams are fond of running the football. If it is to be a ground duel, the Packers can retaliate with the premier one-two punch in the NFC. Between them, John Brockington and MacArthur Lane have stacked up 1,536 rushing yards in 12 games. It also might be well to remember that Brockington had his best day ever

on this same field last November, when he amassed 149 yards en route to an NFL rookie rushing record of 1,105. Though the emphasis is likely to be on the run, the Packer defense cannot afford to be casual about the pass. The footloose Tarkenton, who ranks second in NFC statistics, has thrown for 2,589 yards and 16 touchdowns - and has been intercepted only eight times in 332 attempts. If and when Scott Hunter puts the ball in the air, he will have to be exceedingly wary of such as Alan Page and Carl Eller, who mount a devastating pass rush, not to mention a ballhawking secondary which converted two fourth quarter interceptions into a 27-13 victory over the Packers in their first meeting of the season. In addition to the other strictures it will impose, the frigid Minnesota air is likely to place a premium on field position, particularly as it relates to the anticipated kicking confrontation between Packer prodigy Chester Marcol, who has hit on 27 of 39 field goal attempts, and Viking veteran Fred Cox, who has gone 20 for 29. "Chester isn't going to get any long ones," kicking coach Hank Kuhlmann points out. "His range will be cut down by the weather - about 10 yards per kick. It's just like hitting a golf ball in cold weather. It doesn't go anywhere." Although they reject the existence of a jinx, the Packers are fully mindful of what today's task will require from them. "I think we all realize this is going to take a super effort," Dale realistically observed. "But we haven't been up there in a long time. It's a great opportunity for this team. We just have to go out there and do the best we can and let the other things take care of themselves."

Is the Pack back or are Vikings still king?

Packers Don't Feel Jinx

Packer Statistics

1972 GREEN BAY PACKERS
(12 GAME STATISTICS 8 - 4)

RESULTS & ATTENDANCE		OPP.	SCORES BY QUARTERS					
GB			ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL	
(w) 26 Browns at Cleveland (75,771)		10						
(l) 14 Raiders at Green Bay (56,263)		20	GB. 73	85	39	54	251	
(w) 16 Cowboys at Mil. (47,103)		13	OPP. 37	47	50	65	199	
(w) 20 Bears at Green Bay (56,263)		17						
(w) 24 Lions at Detroit (54,418)		23	RUSHING	ATT	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
(l) 9 Falcons at Mil. (47,967)		10	Brockington	244	908	3.7	30t	8
(l) 13 Vikings at Green Bay (56,263)		27	Lane	147	638	4.3	36t	2
(w) 34 49'ers at Mil. (47,897)		24	Williams	20	97	4.9	9	0
(w) 23 Bears at Chicago (55,701)		17	Hunter	20	35	1.8	12	3
(w) 23 Oilers at Houston (41,752)		10	Hudson	9	27	3.0	17	0
(l) 16 Redskins at Wash. (53,039)		21	Kopay	5	30	6.0	20	0
(w) 33 Lions at Green Bay (56,263)		7	OTHERS:	Glass 2/13; Davis 2/0				
12/10 VIKINGS AT MINNESOTA				Staggers 1/-8; Tagge				
12/17 Saints at New Orleans				5/-8; Hudson 1/3				
GB TOTAL				456	1736	3.8	36t	13
OPP. TOTAL				404	1413	3.5	26	13

TEAM STATISTICS		GB	OPP.	OPP.TOTAL		404	1413	3.5	26	13
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS		162	188							
By Rushing		88	80	RECEIVING		NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
By Passing		64	95	Lane		24	274	11.4	49	0
By Penalty		10	14	Brockington		17	230	13.5	48t	1
Third Down Efficiency		51/156	61/157	Dale		13	279	21.5	48	1
TOTAL NET YARDS		3026	3178	Glass		12	224	18.7	31	1
Total Off. Plays		665	718	Staggers		7	114	16.3	48	1
Ave. Gain Per Play		4.6	4.3	McGeorge		5	50	10.0	23t	2
NET YARDS RUSHING		1736	1413	Garrett		3	53	17.7	21	0
Total Rushing Plays		456	404	Davis		4	119	29.8	68t	1
Ave. Gain Per Rush		3.8	3.5	Kopay		3	18	6.0	8	0
NET YARDS PASSING		1290	1765	Lammons		1	19	19.0	19	0
Lost Attempting to Pass		12/87	21/184	GB TOTAL		89	1380	15.8	68t	7
Gross Yards Passing		1387	1922	OPP.TOTAL		149	1922	12.9	62t	5
Attempts/Completions		208/88	296/149							
Percent Completed		.423	.503	PUNTING		NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	BLK
Had Intercepted		8	13	Widby		60	2592	43.2	64	0
Ave Net Passing Per Game		107.5	147.1	GB TOTAL		60	2592	43.2	64	0
PUNTS/YDS.		60/2592	58/2422	OPP.TOTAL		58	2422	41.8	61	0
PUNT RETURNS/YDS.		20/306	29/215							
KICKOFF RETURNS/YDS.		43/1010	36/743	INTERCEP.		NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
MISC. RETURNS/YDS.		5/52	7/204	Hill		3	21	7.0	21	0
INTERCEPTIONS/YDS.		13/152	8/69	Buchanan		2	37	18.5	26	0
PENALTIES/YDS.		56/511	45/415	Matthews		2	8	4.0	8	0
FUMBLES/BALL LOST		19/9	28/17	Ellis		3	83	27.7	40	1
TOTAL POINTS		251	199	Robinson		2	10	5.0	7	0
Ave Points Per Game		20.9	16.6	Carter		1	0	0.0	0	0
Touchdowns		24	22	GB TOTAL		13	159	11.7	40	1
by Rushing		13	13	OPP.TOTAL		8	69	8.6	32	2
by Passing		7	5							
by Returns		4	4	K.O.RET.		NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
Field Goals		27/39	15/23	Thomas		16	454	27.8	89	0
Conversions		24/24	22/22	Staggers		11	260	23.6	39	0

FIELD GOALS (Good, b=blocked):									
Marcol:	51,	42b,	41,	19,	49,	17;	44;	16,	
	27b,	26,	41,	22;	26,	34,	27;	36,	34;
	32,	44,	35,	39;	41,	43,	34;	30,	40;
	51,	21,	21;	33b,	51,	37	39;	24,	42
	42,	41b,	36;						
F.G.									
Marcol	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+				
	2-3	7-8	9-13	7-12	2-3				
OPP TOTAL	4-4	3-3	2-3	3-8	2-3				

SCORING	TDR	TDP	TDRt	FG.	PAT.	TOTAL
Marcol	0	0	0	27/39	24/24	105
Brockington	8	1	0	0	0	54
Hunter	3	0	0	0	0	18
McGeorge	0	2	0	0	0	12
Ellis	0	0	2	0	0	12
Staggers	0	1	1	0	0	12
Lane	2	0	0	0	0	12
Glass	0	1	0	0	0	6
C. Williams	0	0	1	0	0	6
Dale	0	1	0	0	0	6
Davis	0	1	0	0	0	6
Brown	0	0	0	0	0	2*
GB TOTAL	13	7	4	27/39	24/24	251
OPP. TOTAL	13	5	4	15/23	22/22	199

* = SAFETY

PUNT RETURNS	NO.	F.C.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
Ellis	10	1	169	16.9	80t	1
Staggers	8	20	137	17.1	85t	1
Hudson	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
Glass	1	0	1	1.0	1	0
GB TOTAL	20	22	307	16.1	85t	2
OPP. TOTAL	29	5	215	7.4	33	0

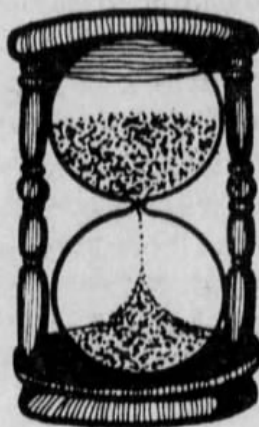
PASSING	ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	PCT.	AVE/ATT	TD.	PCT	LG.	INT.	PCT	INT.	LOST/ATT.
Hunter	177	76	1150	42.9	6.5	6	.034	49	8	.045	8/59	
Tagge	23	9	141	39.1	6.1	0	.000	31	0	.000	3/27	
Patrick	4	1	9	25.0	2.5	0	.000	9	0	.000	1/11	
Lane	2	2	19	100.0	9.5	0	.000	10	0	.000	0/0	
Staggers	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	0/0	
Widby	1	1	68	100.0	68.0	1	1.000	68t	0	.000	0/0	
GB TOTAL	208	88	1387	42.3	6.7	7	.034	68t	8	.038	12/97	
OPP. TOTAL	296	149	1922	50.3	6.5	5	.017	62t	13	.044	21/184	

QB TACKLES: C. Williams 6; Vanoy 4; Brown 4; Robinson 3; Roche 3; McCoy 1;

Green Bay PACKERS

NO.	NAME	POS.
13	Marcol, Chester	K
16	Hunter, Scott	QB
17	Tagge, Jerry	QB
20	Widby, Ron	P
21	Hall, Charles	CB
22	Staggers, Jon	HB
28	Buchanon, Willie	CB
29	Matthews, Al	DB
31	Williams, Perry	RB
36	Lane, MacArthur	RB
37	Thomas, Ike	CB
39	Hill, Jim	S
40	Kopay, Dave	RB
42	Brockington, John	RE
44	Kroll, Bob	DB
46	Glass, Leland	WR
47	Davis, Dave	WR
48	Ellis, Ken	CB
50	Carter, Jim	LB
53	Carr, Fred	LB
56	Crutcher, Tommy Joe	LB
57	Bowman, Ken	C
58	Withrow, Cal	C
62	Lueck, Bill	G
64	Hunt, Kevin	T
65	Wortman, Keith	G
66	Nitschke, Ray	LB
67	Snider, Malcolm	G
71	Peay, Francis	T
72	Himes, Dick	T
73	Vanoy, Vern	DT
75	Pureifory, Dave	BE
76	McCoy, Mike	DT
77	Hayhoe, Bill	T
78	Brown, Bob	DT
83	Williams, Clarence	DE
84	Dale, Carroll	WR
86	Lammons, Pete	TE
87	Roche, Alden	DE
88	Garrett, Len	TE
89	Robinson, Dave	LB

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MINNESOTA VIKINGS

No.	Name	Pos.
10	Tarkenton, Francis	QB
11	Eischeid, Mike	P
14	Cox, Fred	K
19	Lee, Bob	QB
20	Bryant, Bob	CB
21	Lindsey, Jim	RB
22	Krause, Paul	S
23	Wright, Jeff	S
24	Brown, Terry	DB
27	Demery, Calvin	WR
30	Brown, Bill	RB
32	Reed, Oscar	RB
40	West, Charlie	S-CB
41	Osborn, Dave	RB
42	Gilliam, John	WR
43	Wright, Nate	CB
49	Marinaro, Ed	RB
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB
51	Zaunbrecher, Godfrey	C
53	Tingelhoff, Mick	C
55	Martin, Amos	LB
56	Gersbach, Carl	LB
58	Hilgenberg, Wally	LB
60	Winston, Roy	LB
62	White, Ed	G
64	Sunde, Milt	G
67	Alderman, Grady	T
69	Sutherland, Doug	DE
70	Marshall, Jim	DE
71	Davis, Doug	T
72	Ward, John	G
73	Yary, Ron	T
75	Lurtsema, Bob	DE
77	Larsen, Gary	DT
80	Henderson, John	WR
81	Eller, Carl	EE
83	Voigt, Stu	TE
84	Washington, Gene	WR
87	Beasley, John	TE
88	Page, Alan	DT

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NFC central

By JERRY GREEN



Scott Hunter . . . Still Number One.

AN IMAGE TOTTERS

DEC 16 (The Sporting News) - In the denouement of pro football 1972, there is further evidence that the NFC Central is not all that it is cracked up to be. You've heard the self-bleatings for so long: "Black and Blue Division"... "Icebox Division"... physical and chilling. It makes for great propaganda. But the Central doesn't really frighten the outlanders anymore. On one of those so-called given Sundays, November 26, these were the results: Steelers 23, Vikings 10. Redskins 21, Packers 16. Bengals 13, Bears 3. Again the bullies were getting beaten up. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, only the Lions managed to prevail over the outside world. They beat the Jets, 37-20. But then the Lions have been getting punched around with some regularity within the division, so . So they retained a chance to carry the Central's frayed banner and tarnished image into the Super Bowl playoffs along with the Packers and Vikings. But each of these three pretenders has some very noticeable flaws. IN EXAMINING the division in 1972, it can be determined that the Vikings were not as good as expected, the Packers were better than expected, and the Lions and Bears didn't fool anybody. The Vikings, after four years

on top, decided this would be the perfect year for self-destruction. So they did with missed field goals, bobbled snaps, fumbled footballs and untoward penalties. Age now becomes a factor for the Vikings. The Packers, after four years on the downgrade, were revitalized by Dan Devine's injection of youth and trading acumen. From ashes Devine built a contender, albeit not yet a club to play consistently well against class foes from other divisions. The Lions, after four years of hopes could have capitalized on the Vikings' mishaps and taken control of the race in October. They didn't largely because their defense was defective through most of the early season. This was a deficiency they knew about and with a cavalier notion decided to ignore and hope to do well with what they had in stock. It may work. Although there will be a brutal realization should they reach the playoffs. The Bears after four years of talk still talk. They were not expected to be a factor in the division this year. They have not been. They remain a team with an impotent offense built around a strong, tough, physical quarterback who runs better than he passes. Still, they maintain Bobby Douglass is their quarterback of the future-a bleak future...MINNESOTA: The Vikings long have stressed the imperative need for perfection in their kicking game. Through the title-winning years, the special attention to details was absolutely profitable for the Vikings. But this year three missed close-in field goals damaged the Vikings in close losses. Then at Pittsburgh, Paul Krause, who holds for Fred Cox, suffered a strange sort of double jeopardy. Two more close-in field goals never got launched because Krause juggled the ball as he attempted to set it down for the hold. It was strange because Krause had been just about perfect on 331 successive holds for extra points and field goals until his consecutive bobbles. Not only that. The Vikings' defense twice damaged itself when two defenders collided-once ruining an interception, the other time enabling Franco Harris to get going on his game-turning 61-yard dash...CHICAGO: Revenge is probably the strongest of all motivations - really even stronger than money, which a pro gets anyway. That's why Virgil Carter enjoyed Chicago revisited. He had issued a famous "chicken bleep" speech when he played for...err belonged to...the Bears in 1969. Carter had awaited his chance most of the season and finally got it and then was benched partway through the game in favor of Bobby Douglass. Bobby then as now was the Bears' QB of the future. So angry was Carter he called the Bears "chicken bleep" and got fired from the squad before the season ended. The Bears eventually picked up \$100 for him. And Carter alighted in Cincinnati, where he piloted the Bengals to the playoff two years ago. He's been a benchwarmer this season again - until the Bengals went to Chicago. Then Paul Brown, the master, told Carter Sunday morning he would start against the team that had fired him. Carter threw a pass for the only touchdown of the game as the Bears were dreadfully embarrassed in the 13-3 loss...GREEN BAY: Until the Washington game, the secondary that Dan Devine built had permitted but two touchdown passes in 10 games. It's an amazing record. But when Ken Ellis and Jim Hill were injured the Redskins exploited the rends in the secondary for two more touchdown passes. That made it four in all games, still an amazing record of stinginess. Bill Kilmer, the Redskins' quarterback, predicted the Packers Would be the winners of the Central race. "I think we're going to be facing them in the playoffs," said Kilmer, who had just beaten the Pack, 21-16. "I think they are the strongest team in their division." Kilmer also beat the Vikings in the season opener. But he was beaten by the Lions in a preseason game...DETROIT: Greg Landry went into the Green Bay game with nine touchdowns - just two off the record for a quarterback in a single season. Johnny Lujack scored 11 times for the Bears in 1950 and Tobin Rote matched it with 11 TDs for the Packers in 1956. Wayne Walker, finishing his 15th season with the

Lions, said he would refuse to retire until he had a day given in his honor. It happened at halftime against the Jets, when friends of Wayn-o presented him with a luxury automobile. At the end of the season Walker will become the first Lion to play in 200 games for his team. His three-year contract will be concluded. But he hedged on whether he will now decide to retire or continue into season No. 16. The guess is he'll retire.