



Green Bay Packers (1-0) 26, Cleveland Browns (0-1) 10
Sunday September 17th 1972 (at Cleveland)



Lonesome End Pack Hero In Conquest of Cleveland

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(CLEVELAND) – Rich McGeorge, owner of a droll, understated sense of humor, inserted tongue lightly in cheek. "Al Matthews predicted this, you know," he said. "At the pre-game meal this morning, he told me he dreamed last night I would catch a lot of passes today." Matthews' nocturnal vision may have been off a trifle numerically but the Packers could have little complaint about the quality of the "results" in Cleveland's sauna-like Municipal Stadium Sunday afternoon. McGeorge, exhibiting keen sense of economy, converted his only catches of the day into a pair of first half touchdowns that spurred the surprising Packers to a 26-10 victory over the Browns in their mutual 1972 National Football League opener. "The way I was catching 'em in the pre-season (he went without a reception over the exhibition route)," McGeorge jested, "two was a lot." Dan Devine's testimony on the subject, delivered in a different context, indicated the coaching staff may have had as much to do with these salutary developments as Matthews' slumbrous clairvoyance. "We had intended to stress McGeorge today," he said, "in our general, overall game concept, partly because we hadn't thrown to him much during the exhibition season." Both obviously major items in the Packers' first opening game success since 1969. The big tight end's six-point catches were not the only telling contributions to the cause on this sunny September afternoon, which saw the principals and 75,771 fans swelter in summery 81-degree heat that exacted a heavy toll from the performers and forced Packer center Ken Bowman to retire at the end of the first half with heat exhaustion. There also was a record-tying, four field goal performance by rookie Chester Marcol, who rebounded from an early miss and another blocked attempt to equal a team mark set by Paul Hornung and later matched by Jerry Kramer. Marcol, victimized when Cleveland tackle Jerry Sherk deflected his 42-yard second quarter effort and Clarence Scott returned it 55 yards for the Browns' only touchdown, shrugged off that misadventure minutes later with a 41-yard bullseye. He then connected from 19, 49 and 17 yards in the second half to close out a memorable debut. There, too, was a possibly portentous display of fire and togetherness by a largely restructured defense, which confined Cleveland's imposing attack to a mere 188 yards, forcing the great Leroy Kelly to settle for just 26 in 13 rushing attempts along the way and pressuring the passer throughout. And there was a strong indication the John Brockington-MacArthur Lane partnership will mature into the kind of one-two punch fondly envisioned when Donny Anderson was dealt to St. Louis last winter for the latter. Between them, they accounted for 211 of the Packers 290 total yards, Brockington collecting 83 rushing in 23 attempts and Lane 45 in 16 carries in addition to catching two passes for 63 more. Devine, for whom this day had been diametrically different than his pro baptismal a year ago, conceded the victory had meant much to his young team, as well as to him. "You always like to get off to a good start," he said, "and with the schedule we have this year. I think it is important that we get off to a good start. We've put two good efforts together back to back now the Packers blanked Kansas City, 20-0, in their pre-season finale a week earlier). I was wondering if we could do that." The impetus for Sunday's success, which lifted the Packers at least temporarily into a tie with Detroit for the NFC's first week Central Division lead, had stemmed from a sudden switch in strategy. "We had an opening sequence ready - we gave Scott Hunter three plays to call on that first series," Devine said. "but when we got the ball down close (at the Cleveland 22 on a Willie Buchanon interception), we didn't want to run those plays. Our field position dictated not calling that particular sequence. So I called Scott over at the last second and told him to call something else. The play we ran down there was not a middle of the field play. it was a short yardage play, a goal line play." McGeorge, a literally "lonesome end" as he rumbled into the end zone untouched after



Scott Hunter (16) hands off to running back John Brockington (42) during a 26-10 victory over the Cleveland Browns on September 17, 1972, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio. (CREDIT: Tim Culek/Getty Images)

1st – CLE – Don Cockroft, 21-yard field goal GB 7-3
 2nd – CLE – Clarence Scott, 55-yard return of blocked field goal (Cockroft kick) CLE 10-7
 2nd – GB – Marcol, 41-yard field goal TIED 10-10
 2nd – GB – McGeorge, 2-yard pass from Hunter (Marcol kick) GB 17-10
 3rd – GB – Marcol, 19-yard field goal GB 20-10
 4th – GB – Marcol, 49-yard field goal GB 23-10
 4th – GB – Marcol, 17-yard field goal GB 26-10

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 23-83, MacArthur Lane 16-45, Bob Hudson 6-11, Perry Williams 3-6

CLEVELAND – Bo Scott 9-33, Leroy Kelly 13-26, Mike Phipps 1-3

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Scott Hunter 17-7-150 2 TD

CLEVELAND – Mike Phipps 14-5-49 1 INT, Bill Nelsen 19-9-84 2 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 2-63, Rich McGeorge 2-25 2 TD, Leland Glass 1-31, John Brockington 1-20, Dave Davis 1-11

CLEVELAND – Milt Morin 3-48, Leroy Kelly 3-30, Fair Hooker 3-28, Bo Scott 3-12, Frank Pitts 1-8, Gloster Richardson 1-7



HISTORIC PICTURE: GALE GILLINGHAM, THE PACKERS' ALL-PRO OFFENSIVE GUARD, ON DEFENSE. HE PLAYED DEFENSIVE TACKLE TWO GAMES LAST YEAR. HERE, GALE GOES AFTER BROWN QB BILL NELSON IN 1972 LEAGUE OPENER. (SOURCE: 1973 PACKER YEARBOOK)

CHESTER DOESN'T LOOK BACK

SEPT 18 (Cleveland-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Like Satchel Paige, Chester Marcol never looks back. Which undoubtedly is why the placekicking phenom today finds himself in the Packer record book - after his very first game as a pro. Marcol missed his first official field goal attempt in Sunday's 26-10 victory over the Cleveland Browns and, worse yet, his second was blocked by the Browns' Jerry Sherk and returned for a touchdown by Clarence Scott: Hardly an auspicious beginning. Or the kind to build confidence. But Chester, who admitted he had been "more nervous going into this opener than I was for any of the pre-season games," did not permit these tribulations to shake his composure. He recoiled to drill home four successive field goals from distances of 41, 19, 49 and 17 yards. "You can't think about the one that was blocked," he said, explaining his positive philosophy... "If I had been thinking about that one, I probably would have missed the next four, too." But Marcol, whose gold-rimmed spectacles make him look considerably more like a college student than a professional athlete, didn't. And his rare parlay put him in some rather exclusive company. Chester now shares the Packers' single game record for field goals with legendary Paul Hornung, who set it against the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1960 and tied it against the Minnesota Vikings in 1961, as well as Jerry Kramer, who matched Hornung's mark against Pittsburgh in 1963... Marcol admitted he had made an adjustment in the wake of Sherk's deflection, observing, "That second kick might have been a little low. I tried to get the ball higher after that, especially on the one right after the one that was blocked. "Missing the first one (from 51 yards) didn't bother me, but the one that was blocked did because they scored. I want to make 'em all, but the thing you don't want is to have one blocked, although it wouldn't have been so bad if they hadn't scored. Coach Dan Devine assumed a portion of the responsibility for the latter. "I have always worked on field goals and extra points 'live' in practice," he said, adding dryly, "and I'm going to start it again: We didn't do it last week. There again, if you have an experienced team, you can just line up for something like that and go." Marcol, turning to a more pleasant topic, said, "All four I made were solid, except possibly the 49-yarder. It just ticked that curved post that supports the uprights after it went through. All of Ron Widby's holds were good, too. He made a good recovery on the second field goal I made. The snap was low but he put the ball down perfect. He has real good hands and that makes a lot of difference. Ron's an old basketball player." Those four straight successes, not to mention a glossy new record, ought to lift his confidence against Oakland next week, it was ventured. "I don't know," Chester rejoined with a cautious smile. "Comes Friday and you start all over again."

KOPAY ON, STAGGERS OFF

SEPT 18 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - As he indicated he would do earlier in the week, Packer Coach Dan Devine made one roster change just prior to Sunday's game in Cleveland, activating running back Dave Kopay and transferring wide receiver Jon Stagers to the taxi squad. Saturday, the Packers met the league limit of 47 players on the active roster and taxi squad, when linebacker Tim Kearney was claimed on waivers by the Cincinnati Bengals.

DON'T BE FANCY, JUST TAKE OFF, GILLIE TOLD

SEPT 18 (Cleveland-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Gale Gillingham, until recently known only as a blocker par excellence, was weary and wan. Clearly on the verge of exhaustion, he said in a low voice, "I'm a little tired." The Packers' new defensive tackle, laboriously shedding his game gear in front of his locker here Sunday afternoon, added in explanation, "I was so nervous today. Normally I go into a game relaxed." The sultry, 81-degree weather also had complicated the all-pro guard's debut on defense, leaving him with severe stomach cramps and a somewhat unnatural pallor. Discussing his role, necessarily simplified because of his recent transfer, Gillingham said, "Our plan was for me to rush the passer and to chase



New Packers

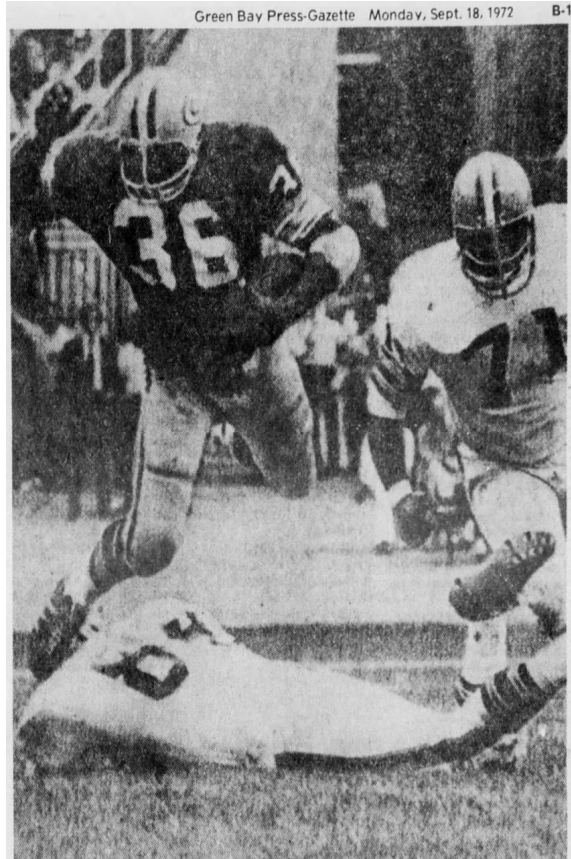
...Typifying the new Packers in Cleveland Sunday were new Packers Willie Buchanon, left, rookie cornerback from San Diego State, and MacArthur Lane, veteran running back obtained from St. Louis.

(AP Wirephotos)

sure did that." Gillingham, replying to the obvious question, declared, "There's a helluva difference between this and playing offense. I think we hit pretty good today, but you don't react right. Of course, I've only played there five days." Commenting on his opponent, the Browns' Robert (Bubba) Pena, he said, "He was all right. He wasn't overly strong, but he's a good guard." Pena suggested Gillingham could "use his hands more. But he's real strong and keeps coming at you." Turning to the overall picture, the Packers co-captain said, "The special teams looked pretty good today. I think that's the key to our ball club. If we can get them hustling - if they don't put you in a hole - they can make things happen, like your defense is supposed to do." Gillingham's running mate at defensive tackle Bob Brown, said, "I thought Gillie played real well for his first time on defense. It's not a real big adjustment for Gillie. He's a big, mean guard who likes to hit."

OL' TIGHT END ELIGIBLE

SEPT 18 (Cleveland-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Green Bay Packers uncovered the ol' tight end eligible play Sunday and used it to help whip the Cleveland Browns 26-10. The Pack scored two touchdowns and both of them on Scott Hunter to Rich McGeorge passes. After the first one, when McGeorge slipped cleanly into the open. CBS television announcer Jack Buck asked "where did he come from?" Packer fans watching might have asked the same question. After all, it was the first pass McGeorge caught this year. Final exhibition season statistics show he never did make the receiving column. Of course he was injured in the early part of the exhibition campaign but his sub. Len Garrett, caught only three passes and Tom Watson, long cut, claimed one. That means only four of the 53 completions in six practice games when to tight ends. No wonder Cleveland was surprised by the maneuver. And even more so the second time, when Hunter found McGeorge standing like an Empire State Building in Port Plaza on the last play of the first half. However, the Browns might have been just as surprised by the ferocity of the Packer play, a carryover from the 20-0 conquest of the Kansas City Chiefs the week before. They were hitting like multiple landslides, offensively and defensively. Hunter enjoyed one of his better days. And Chester Marcol had every right to that big grin he displayed momentarily on the sidelines for the TV camera after his fourth field goal. The whole tempo of the game was like a delayed replay of those days gone by when Hornung and Taylor and Kramer and Davis and Nitschke and Wood were in their primes. I'm not one to continually bring up the past. Indeed when it comes to the Lombardi era. I usually prefer to bury it and cover it with the present. But Sunday's performance had so many elements of those teams...particularly the Bart Starr touch to play calling. Familiar plays made possible by the presence of all that



thunder in the backfield. The line blocked hard. Hunter executed well. And Leland Glass looked like a new Max

LANE: RAN FOR MY LIFE

SEPT 18 (Cleveland-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Quick Packer-Brown quotes: Dan Devine: "I thought Scott Hunter did a fine job. He got the wind knocked out of him there in the third quarter. We saved a timeout by taking him out for one play."...Scott Hunter: "Seven out of 17 completions is lousy. A good passer is supposed to complete more than 50 percent

of his passes. I'm glad we won but I'm disappointed over not completing 50 per cent of mine today."...MacArthur Lane: "I was just running for my life on that long play that was called back. I wasn't aware I had run out of bounds."...Devine (on the same play): "It was intended as a surprise. We had to get the ball out of there and our running game wasn't doing that well at the time. The pass to MacArthur was an action play off a run."...Willie Buchanan: "I was just playing bump-and-run when I made that interception in the first quarter. When I saw the ball thrown, I just cut under (Frank) Pitts. I had to leave the game in the third quarter because I got a cramp in my leg from the heat."...Devine (on Ken Bowman's exit): "Bowman couldn't come out for the second half. He couldn't get off the table because of heat exhaustion. That heat was really miserable - here was no breeze."...Dick Modzelewski, Browns defensive line coach: "The line did a heckuva job. They never quit. Ron Snidow's arm was dangling at his side but he refused to come out."...Bill Nelson (on his removal in favor of Mike Phipps): "I was hoping Mike could come in and do the job. After all, I still want to win, no matter who plays."...Mike Phipps: "The Packers were very aggressive and they used more zone defenses than I expected, probably because they had the lead."...Fred Hoaglin (on the injury to fellow center Jim Copeland): "I'd rather not play than get in like this. It's a shame Jim had to lose the job this way (Copeland is out for the season with a hip dislocation). He hangs on for five years and finally gets a chance to play and then this happens. It's a dirty shame."

PACK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE?

SEPT 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Could the Packers be ahead of schedule? An impeccably attired Dan Devine, making an off-the-cuff assessment, cautiously conceded that pleasant possibility Monday during a sprightly, post-projection room analysis of Sunday's 26-10 opening day victory over the Cleveland Browns. "I hope that's what it is," Devine said of the surprisingly solid triumph which got his team off to a positive start in the National Football Conference's Central Division race. "Coaches, of course, are more apprehensive than fans are. I'm hoping we have jelled. If we have, we're ahead of schedule because I didn't believe we had enough experienced players to have jelled into a unit at this point. If they have, there's nobody more pleased than I am." Be that as it may, Devine emphasized there will be no easy way, no short cuts for his team. He is convinced a relentless, all-out effort every week of the season will be the inevitable price of survival and-or success. Or, in other words, the same kind of Packers mounted Sunday in Cleveland, which he described as "another great effort." "It's obvious even in the film. Had we not had it, I don't think we could have won. Because, physically, their defensive people gave our offensive people a hard time, up and down the line." More of the same, he cautioned, lies ahead. "It's going to be tough for this team to bounce back physically," DD asserted. "We have to cut down on our practice time, even though we need it so badly. "We've got a lot of guys nicked up. We're playing the two smallest centers in the league, of course, Ken Bowman and Cal Withrow. Most of the other teams are bigger than we are, so we're going to get beaten up physically pretty regularly. "On defense, we're flying around quite a bit now - three or four guys at a time. I was afraid Sunday a few times that we'd come out with some injuries but, fortunately, we didn't. We've got the guys trying for the impossible play now, which is going to increase the risk of injury. "But we're just going to have to try to bounce back each week. I've asked a lot of this team and they've tried real hard to respond. I feel they're going to continue to do that. I know, of course, that they're going to slack off some time and not play as well as I'd like. But as long as we continue to improve, that's the main thing." Diving into the subject of Sunday's success, he said, "I noticed some quotes from Nick Skorich (Cleveland's head coach) in the paper this morning that indicated he felt the same way I did about the game. He said that their offensive line had broken down and our front four had kicked the stuffings out of it. "I suppose," Devine parenthetically interposed, "that's a little bit the name of the game. Jerry Sherk (the Browns' defensive right tackle) dominated the game almost as much as an Alan Page would." Taking note of Sherk's major contribution, his block of a Chester Marcol field goal that Clarence Scott converted into Cleveland's only touchdown with a 55-yard canter, Devine said, "Sherk got much too much penetration. It's possible the trajectory was a little low, but on a long field goal, it has to be a little low to get the stuff behind it. "I would say it was more the fault of the protection than the kicker. It's something we're going to have to work on this week. We didn't work on it last week because Freddie Carr was bunged up and I didn't want to take a chance on aggravating his injury. There was some feeling that we should have punted right after he had that kick blocked, at the time he tried and made his first field goal," Devine confided. "But I don't believe in that. I think it showed we had confidence in him when we let him immediately kick again and it proved he deserved that confidence. I think that was a crucial kick." On another topic, the resurfacing of Rich McGeorge as a scoring threat, Devine slyly observed, "At least it showed we could throw the ball to a tight end." McGeorge, whose two Sunday catches resulted in touchdowns, had gone without a reception during the pre-

Washington 7 3 0 14-24
 Minnesota 0 7 7 7-21
 Wash—Malinchak 16 run with blocked punt (Knight kick)
 Minn—Jones 1 run (Cox kick)
 Wash—FG Knight 30
 Minn—Gilliam 11 pass from Tarkington (Cox kick)
 Wash—L. Brown 3 run (Knight kick)
 Wash—Harraway 9 run (Knight kick)
 Minn—B. Brown 4 pass from Tarkington (Cox kick)
 A—47,900

	Redskins	Vikings
First downs	11	26
Rushes-yards	31-146	43-182
Passing yards	57	200
Return yards	15	23
Passes	7-17-1	18-32-0
Punts	4-39	4-31
Fumbles lost	1-0	3-2
Penalties-yards	5-41	4-34

Individual Leaders

Rushing: Washington, L. Brown 21-105, Harraway 9-42; Minnesota, Jones 21-66, Reed, 12-68.

RECEIVING—Washington, Jefferson 4-38, C. Taylor 2-9, L. Brown 1-10; Minnesota, Washington 3-70, Gilliam 4-53, B. Brown, 5-47.

PASSING—Washington, Kilmer 7-17-1, 57 yards; Minnesota, Tarkenton 18-31-0, 233.

Pro Football At A Glance By The Associated Press American Football Conference

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New York Jets	1	0	0	1.000	41	24
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	20	10
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	24	41
New England	0	1	0	.000	7	31
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	3	10

	Central					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	34	28
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	31	7
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	30
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	10	26

	West					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	30	17
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	28	34
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	10	20
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	3	34

National Football Conference

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	28	6
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	10	3
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	24	21
New York Giants	0	1	0	.000	16	30
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	6	28

	Central					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	30	16
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	26	10
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	21	24
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	21	37

	West					
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	37	21
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1.000	34	14
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	34	3
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	14	34

season, although that oversight is partially traceable to an injury which sidelined him for 2 ½ games. "Both of those scoring passes were off sweep actions - actually off tackle," Devine said. "The guy that's got to stop those is the weak side linebacker. He has to give some help coming across. On our first touchdown, he (Bill Andrews) goes with the ball carrier on the fake. McGeorge, meanwhile, blocks and gets lost in traffic. "The other one on the goal was set up because we'd been running nothing but power sweeps. Scott Hunter rolled to his left and our backs, MacArthur Lane and John Brockington, flooded the zone to that side. McGeorge got behind the secondary and into the end zone, leaving two defenders three guys to cover. "We thought we would throw to Brockington but they went for the sweep right away and Brock got knocked off, so we went to McGeorge. It's a one-shot thing. Oakland now has seen it, so we won't be able to use it again for three or four or five games. The reason the play worked is because we had been running so many sweeps." Gratified over Hunter's progress at his highly critical position, Devine said, "I thought Scott played well. His execution is better than it was a year ago - he hasn't fumbled a snap. And he had only two interceptions during the pre-season and none Sunday, although the Browns could have had one. "It's the little, careless things that he's improved on. Everybody who's ever thrown the football has thrown interceptions. You're bound to have them."

DEVINE SAYS: GILLIE INSURANCE MAN

SEPT 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Devine also made these other comments and appraisals:

- "If an emergency ever came up, Gillie (Gale Gillingham) is great insurance for our offensive line. But we'd put Vernon Vanoy in the defense line then, though. We wouldn't expect Gillie to play both ways.
- "Malcolm Snider (Gillingham's successor at right guard) played a good game in his first start for us. He played better than some of the offensive linemen. Probably only Dick Himes played better.
- "Al Matthews played very aggressively and Freddie Carr, for being out all week nursing an injury, played well. Of course, Gillie had Bubba Pena talking to himself. Clarence Williams also continues to improve.
- "Ken Bowman couldn't play in the second half because he had diarrhea and flu before the game and it was compounded by the heat, which left him badly dehydrated."
- "There was one time when we had only 10 men on the field - on the punt that was downed at our one-yard-line. We had two or three guys down with the heat and the proper people didn't get in. With the few guys we have on special teams, it's hard for Hank Kuhlmann (special teams coach) to keep 'em separated. Having only 10 men out there, however, had nothing to do with the ball landing on the one. It wouldn't have been fielded if we'd had 40 men on the field. You don't want that to happen, but it had no bearing on the play."
- "Jerry Tagge is supposed to be out for practice tomorrow morning. Mike McCoy, though, can't get in there like Tagge. But Domenic Gentile (Packer trainer) was going to run Mike hard today and just see where he is.
- "If we hadn't gone all out - that was a hot son-of-a-gun - it could have been a long day for us. The grass drill we did in July helped us Sunday."
- "Next Sunday's game, I'd rather Oakland had won, to be honest with you."

NOTES AND NOTIONS

SEPT 19 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Four field goals...Three interceptions. These have to be the most significant and gratifying statistics to come out of Sunday's 26-10 Green Bay victory over Cleveland. Not since the golden days of Paul Hornung and Jerry Kramer had a Packer placekicker been that prolific. Even the gifted Don Chandler failed to reach the 4-goal plateau that Chester Marcol attained Sunday. The most reassuring part of Chet's kicking was the fact that he hit all four after suffering the ignominy of a blocked boot that was run back for a touchdown. Marcol added to his value with long-range kickoffs that helped keep the Browns deep in their territory most of the day. A year ago, Packer Coach Dan Devine was singing the praises of Cincinnati's Horst Muhlmann and his ability to dominate a ball game. Now Devine has a "Muhlmann" of his own, and I doubt seriously if he'd trade him even-up for Horst. Packer fans, too, have found a new idol...and it's quite certain you won't hear any Polish jokes about Polish-born Marcol. Now about the three interceptions. They denote a great start for the Packers' restructured defensive backfield. Last year, the Bays picked off a total of only 16 passes (six of them came in one game against Don Horn and the Broncos), for an average of only a shade over one per game. The young Packer defenders are more "big play" conscious, as Willie Buchanan proved with the game less than two minutes old...One also had to like the running of John Brockington and MacArthur Lane, the cool quarterbacking of Scott Hunter, the punting of Ron Widby, the pass grabbing of Rich McGeorge and the defensive

John Spilis

Wide Receiver — No. 11-
linos

Height 6-3, Weight 205

Born in Chicago, Ill., Oct.
14, 1947

4th year in pro ball. . .Drafted
third in 1969. . .Kickoff and
punt return specialist in col-
lege. . .Runs 40 in 4.7. . .9.7
speed in 100. . .Caught 23 pas-

ses for TDs for collegiate
record. . .Basketball player
also. . .Good competitor, good
hands. . .Started some at
weak side end in 1970 and
most games of 1971. . .Best
day opener of '71 vs. Giants,
caught three for 70 yards.
Residence: Green Bay, Wis-
consin.

Carroll Dale

Wide Receiver — Virginia
Tech

Height 6-2, Weight 200

Born in Wise, Va., April 24,
1938

13th year in pro ball. . .
.Drafted in eighth round by
Rams in 1960. . .Look All-
American team and NEA
Player of the Year in South-
ern Conference in 1959. . .Edu-
cation Major. . .Came to
Packers from Rams prior to
'65 season for linebacker Dan
Currie. Caught 47 yard TD
pass vs. Browns in '65 Title
Game and 51 yard TD bomb
against Dallas in '66. . .four
catches for 59 yards against
Kansas City and four for 43
vs. Oakland in AFL-NFL Title
games. . .Most productive
year in 1969 with 45 catches
for 879 yards and 6 TDs. .
.Packers leading scorer in
1968 with 48 points. . .Named
to West Pro Bowl Team 1969,
70 and 71. . .Packers leading
receiver in 1969, '70 and '71. .
.Best day Dec. 12, 1969 vs.
Cards when he caught 9 for
195 yds. and two TDs. .
.Caught winning TD in 1970
Pro Bowl game. . .FCA mem-
ber. . .Leading active NFC re-
ceiver in per catch average. .
.Avid outdoorsman and hunt-
er. . .Endorses Super-Touch
hand lotion. Residence: Bris-
tol, Tenn.

Pack Defense No. 1 . . . Now

potential of the newly-switched Gale Gillingham. Perhaps the most appealing feature of Green Bay play for this observer was the wide open style of attack - a welcome change from the over-conservatism of recent seasons. Under this heading came the chance-taking Hunter-to-Lane pass from the end zone that came within a whisker of being a 99-yard TD; the 2-yard scoring pass to Rich McGeorge, which completely befuddled the defense; and the fourth-down fake and pitch-out to Lane that kept a drive alive. The "new" Packers gave Leroy Kelly (a 26-yard total for 13 carries) the same treatment that the "old" Packers used to give Jim Brown... Only two weeks earlier, the Packers had made every mistake in the book against St. Louis. Sunday, they made only two - the blocked field goal and Perry Williams' fumble in the late stages. The optimism about the rest of the 1972 season has to be tempered somewhat by the realization that the Browns have their problems and likely will have trouble repeating their title in the AFC Central. At least seven opponents on the Packer schedule - beginning with Oakland this Sunday - loom tougher than Cleveland. In addition to the Raiders, they are Dallas, Detroit, Atlanta, Minnesota, San Francisco and Washington. Nonetheless, judging from the Packers overall showing Sunday, this could be their most exciting season in five years.

PACK DEFENSE NO. 1 NOW

SEPT 20 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers currently are No. 1 along with Detroit, and so is their defense. The former item would be sufficient atone to gladden the heart of any football coach. Dan Devine, who finds the green and gold sharing the NFL's Central Division lead with the Lions at the moment, is hardly an exception. And the eminence of the Packers defensive platoon, which has to be a happy surprise considering its overall youth and inexperience, is a somewhat unexpected bonus. But, though gratified, Devine clearly was more preoccupied Tuesday with what lies immediately ahead than the status quo, however, pleasant to contemplate. Informed that the Packers defenders presently rank as the National Football Conference's most miserly with a yield of just 188 yards in Sunday's 26-10 opening victory over Cleveland, he rejoined. "I wasn't aware of it because I hadn't seen the statistics, but it would mean a little more later on, I can tell you that. Wally Cruice (veteran Packer game scout) just scared the hell out of me during his scouting report on the Oakland Raiders," Devine appended by way of explanation. "There's nothing left that could happen to that team that didn't happen in their loss to Pittsburgh Sunday. They were the victims of three interceptions and a blocked punt in the first quarter. A number of the interceptions, I might add, were deflections off the hands of receivers, that kind of thing. He had said, it was interposed, that he had wondered if the Packers could turn in two good performances in a row until that victory over Cleveland, which followed a 20-0 shutout of Kansas City in the Pack's pre-season finale. Did he think they could make it three? Devine answered by indirection. "It'll take more than a good performance against these people," he said. "It'll take a super performance. There's no way we can expect to have the same breaks against them that Pittsburgh had. And believe it or not, the Raiders had a chance to win in the last quarter, despite all that happened to them." Oakland, he indicated, has not changed its basic approach, even though left-handed Ken Stabler supplanted Daryle Lamonia at quarterback, at least for last Sunday's opener. "They still throw the long ball," he said. "They threw most of the long ones against the Steelers to Mike Siani. He had 111 yards receiving. Siani is a rookie from Villanova - he was the Raiders' No. 1 draft choice last winter. Oakland also has another speedster at wide receiver in Cliff Branch, a rookie from Colorado. He beat Mel Gray (possessor of 9.2 swift in the 100-yard dash) one time in a spring that I saw." Siani, it was ventured, does not start for the Raiders, who also feature the accomplished Fred Biletnikoff, the AFC's leading receiver last season. "He may this week," Devine dryly replies. "They also have Ray Chester, who our John Polonchek says is one of two or three best tight ends in the league." Polonchek, current architect of the Packer passing game, was a member of the Oakland coaching staff last season. The conversation turned to the Packers and, more specifically, the status of the walking wounded, quarterback Jerry Tagge and new offensive tackle Mike McCoy. Noting that Tagge had returned to the practice field Tuesday for the first time in more than a week. Devine said, "Jerry moved a little better than I thought he would. The way things look now he could play Sunday if needed. He's badly in need of work and practice, of course, because he's missed two pre-season games and one season game. I'm not sure when McCoy will be available, but if this morning was any indication. I would say he could be back fairly soon. If he didn't overwork his foot this morning, that is." Devine, who repeatedly has emphasized the decisive role special teams regularly play in the NFL, pursued that theme once again as he reflected upon the disasters which had befallen the Vikings in their opening loss to Washington Monday night. "The kicking game really hurt Minnesota," he observed. "It was just like

Carroll Dale

Wide Receiver — Virginia Tech

Height 6-2, Weight 200

Born in Wise, Va., April 24, 1938

13th year in pro ball. .
.Drafted in eighth round by Rams in 1960. . .Look All-American team and NEA Player of the Year in Southern Conference in 1959. . .Education Major. . .Came to Packers from Rams prior to '65 season for linebacker Dan Currie. Caught 47 yard TD pass vs. Browns in '65 Title Game and 51 yard TD bomb against Dallas in '66. . .four catches for 59 yards against Kansas City and four for 43 vs. Oakland in AFL-NFL Title games. . .Most productive year in 1969 with 45 catches for 879 yards and 6 TDs.

.Packers leading scorer in 1968 with 48 points. . .Named to West Pro Bowl Team 1969, 70 and 71. . .Packers leading receiver in 1969, '70 and '71. . .Best day Dec. 12, 1969 vs. Cards when he caught 9 for 195 yds. and two TDs. . .Caught winning TD in 1970 Pro Bowl game. . .FCA member. . .Leading active NFC receiver in per catch average. . .Avid outdoorsman and hunter. . .Endorses Super-Touch hand lotion. Residence: Bristol, Tenn.

Bill Hayhoe

Tackle — USC
Height 6-8, Weight 260
Born in Van Nuys, Calif.,
Sept. 6, 1946
4th year in pro ball. . .Drafted fifth in 1969 after playing as defensive end at USC senior year. . .runs 40 in 5.0.

.played flanker in high school, tight end in junior college and both offensive and defensive tackle at USC. . .impressed coaches immediately in rookie year. . .Started some games at tackle in 1970. Residence: Green Bay, Wis.

Dave Hampton

Running Back — Wyoming
Height 6-0, Weight 210
Born in Ann Arbor, Mich.,
May 7, 1947

4th year in pro ball. . .Drafted ninth from Wyoming where he was All-WAC selection senior year. . .4.7 speed in 40 in gear. . .average 5.5 yds. per carry senior year and 4.8 overall. . .teamed with AFL Rookie of Year Jim Kiick. . .Packers second ground gainer in 1969 pre-season and third in regular season. . .rated best conditioned athlete on squad in 1969. . .Voted by Wis. Pro Football Writers as Most Valuable Rookie in 1969. . .Sidelined for eight weeks with abdominal abscess in 1970. . .Collapsed on sidelines after returning game winning kickoff 101 yards against Vikings. . .Returned and started last three games of season. . .46 kickoff returns for 1314 yds. in 1971 places him second in NFL records, just two yds. shy of season record. Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

in our game. Cleveland got all of its 10 points on the kicking game and we got 14 of ours on the kicking game. Those special teams are awfully important.'...PACKER PATTEN: Although he mentioned no names, Devine said there is a possibility a roster change will be made before Sunday's game. At the moment, the taxi squad

includes quarterback Charlie Napper, wide receiver Jon Stagers, offensive tackle Kevin Hunt, defensive back Bob Kroll, running back Charlie Pittman, linebacker Larry Hefner and McCoy. Stagers, however, cannot be moved for another week. He was transferred to the inactive list, as the taxi squad is officially known, just prior to last Sunday's opener and cannot be reactivated for two weeks. McCoy, who lined up at offensive tackle for the first time in Tuesday's practice, was having withdrawal "pains." "It's kind of weird hitting your friends you've been playing with for two years," said Mike, until very recently the Packers' left defensive tackle. The transition, however, is being hastened by his former front four colleagues, he ruefully confided. "I learned fast today," McCoy reported with a wry grin. "We were running a reverse and Bob Brown said. 'Take it easy.' So I did — I just bumped him a little — and he shot in there fast, right past me." McCoy, whose task of learning a new position has been compounded by his injury, explained, "I can't get any power off that foot yet and I won't be able to for a while. Right now, I'm just trying to learn my assignments. I made enough mistakes today. I'm just looking forward to playing — I don't care where. The hardest part of the move is knowing I was a starter for two years on defense and now having to more or less start over. I haven't played since the Houston game (Aug. 19). Seeing the team doing as well as it is, you want to be part of it. You're happy for them, but you want to be happy WITH them."...Although the Packer defense is leading the NFC, the offense presently is eighth despite a 290-yard net production against the Browns...Placekicker Chester Marcol, who tied a Packer record with a four-field goal performance at Cleveland, is second in NFC scoring with 14 points. San Francisco's Gene Washington leads with 18. John Brockington, off to a 83-yard start, is fifth in rushing. The 49ers' Bob Thomas is well out front with a 144-yard total, amassed on 18 carries.

ALL THE WAY BACK

SEPT 20 (Green Bay) - In his latest book, "A Perspective on Victory," Bart Starr takes on the imposing task of picking an all-time, all opponent team. During this process, necessarily extensive because his lustrous career spanned 16 National Football League seasons, "Mr. Quarterback" concluded that the 49ers' Dave Wilcox and one of his own teammates, Dave Robinson, are the two finest outside linebackers I have ever seen." Inevitably, that judgment prompted contemplation of 1972's Dave Robinson — and the inevitable question: Has No. 89 made it all the way back? Not that he has ever really been away. But Robinson, a two-time all-pro in the past, missed most of the 1970 season because of a torn Achilles tendon which continued to plague him last year, along with other assorted miseries that impaired his efficiency. The question may already have been authoritatively answered in Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, where last Sunday the 31-year-old campaigner intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble to materially assist in a 26-10 season opening victory over the Browns. But Robby readily addressed himself to it during a pleasant, leisurely reflection upon the Sabbath's success, the Packers' first

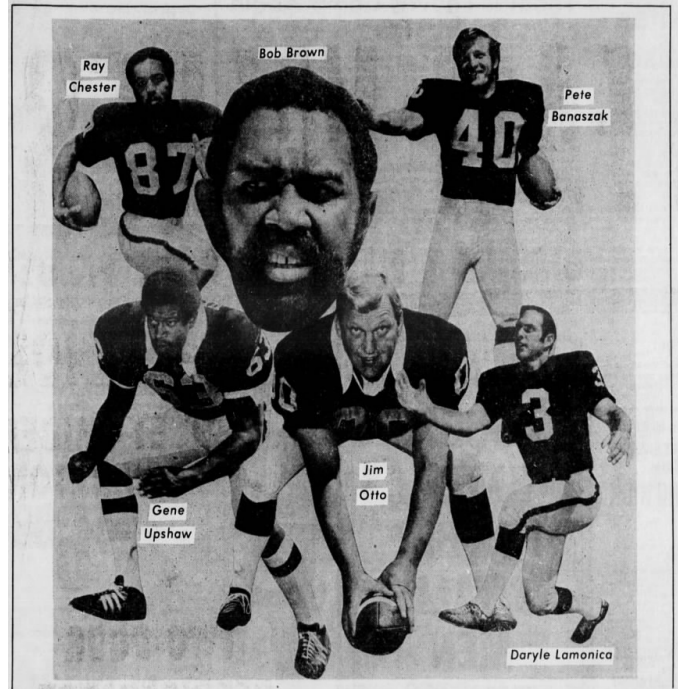
inaugural victory since 1969. "I like to feel that I'm all the way back," he said, explaining, "I didn't exactly pace myself in the pre-season, because you can't really do that, but I was more interested in getting my techniques down, because I'd been doing some things different after I got hurt and in getting my weight down to 235 pounds...DOWN TO 235: "I got down to 235 last Tuesday," he confided with entirely pardonable pride. "I also got my techniques down, and I felt good about it. I don't say I had a great game Sunday, but I guess it wasn't too bad." Conceding he had vowed to become the first player ever to rebound from an Achilles injury and win all-pro honors the following season, the ex-Penn State star admitted, "I didn't do it last year. My leg was bothering me some and then, to make matters worse, I broke my wrist and I was playing with a cast, so I wasn't doing things the same way. People told me I wasn't playing well, which also makes you start to wonder. So I went back home after the season was over and thought it all over. I got my mind together and remembered there never had been a rush man or a linebacker who had come back to play the following year. So just the fact that I came meant I had a good year, I felt. I figured that, for any other average linebacker, the year I had would be considered a good year. I just convinced myself I wasn't going to sit around and fret about the bad year I had in 1971. I was going to go out and do my thing in 1972." Having done just that against the Browns — his fourth quarter interception triggered Chester Marcol's final field goal — Robinson reported with considerable satisfaction, "The thing that makes me feel so good now is that I was really worried about the game. I kept remembering that we shut out Buffalo in our last pre-season game in 1970 and then lost our opener to Detroit the following week, 40-0. That was a young team, just like the one we have now, and I

New Raiders Come to Town

don't think they realized that there is a big difference between playing a team during the pre-season and playing the same team during the regular season. I couldn't sleep Saturday night. My wife was really surprised, but I was worried. I was worried that I'd let the team down, worried that we might not put it all together. And I was worried that we might play a good game and Cleveland would make a couple of big plays and beat us. And they have the arsenal to do that."...FIRST-DOWN PASS: "We were fortunate to get some points on the board early, which forced them to abandon their great running game and start throwing the ball. It stands to reason, of course. My interception came on a first-down pass. If the score had been different, they would have been running on first down, as they were earlier in the game. I think the team needed a victory like that. Now if we can just get a couple more together. I think everybody realizes we've got one of the toughest schedules around this year. But I think the team also should now have the confidence it can to do a good job because we've played good teams and won.

NEW RAIDERS COME TO TOWN

SEPT 21 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The old order changeth...particularly in pro football. The ephemeral quality of life in the NFL has never been better illustrated than by the Packers' upcoming home opener against the Oakland Raiders, due to appear in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon. It will be their first "official" meeting since the 1968 Super Bowl, a delightful 33-14 experience for the Packers, and much water has gone under the bridge in the interim. The Packer faithful, of course, have been aware of massive turnover in the green and gold's ranks during that span. Only seven holdovers from that '68 Super Bowl success remain - Ray Nitschke, Carroll Dale, Dave Robinson, Ken Bowman, Tommy Joe Crutcher, Gale Gillingham and Bob Brown. But they probably didn't know that the Raiders have undergone almost as extensive a facelifting themselves. Just 11 of those 40 who wore Oakland's silver and black on that January afternoon are still in evidence. Tom Grimes, the Raiders' dapper publicity director, discoursed upon this subject for the enlightenment of the Mike & Pen Sports Club Wednesday, although in a different context. Grimes, pointing up the fact that the Raiders have been able to win while in transition, volunteered, "The team has changed 55 to 60 per cent in just the last three years. This year, we had eight rookies make the team. Last year it was seven and the year before it was six. "People don't realize what a big change there has been because everybody keeps talking about Blanda and Lamonica. But 24 of our 40 players are starting their fourth season or less. It's hard to maintain a level of performance year after year, but we haven't had a season under .500 since 1964. In the last five years, we've won more games than any other team in pro football. As far as that last Super Bowl team is concerned, there has been a major turnover on defense. The ends were Ben Davidson and Ike Lassiter. Lassiter is gone and Davidson is out for possibly the season following surgery to repair an Achilles tendon. The tackles were Birdwell and Keating. Keating is still around but he's not starting and only one linebacker from that team is starting, Gus Otto. Among the defensive backs, Willie Brown is the only one who was there. On offense only four of the starters in that game are still starting - Jim Otto at center, Fred Biletnikoff at wide receiver, Gene Upshaw at guard and Daryle Lamonica at quarterback. And, of course, George Blanda is still doing our placekicking." Lamonica, who did not start in last week's opener at Pittsburgh but came off the bench to fire a comeback that all but pulled out a come-from-behind victory, is expected to be at the controls when the Raiders go on offense for the first time Sunday. "I would assume Daryle is starting," Grimes said, "although I have had no official word on the subject." Last Sunday was the first time Daryle hasn't started a game in six years when he has been healthy." He said he was not certain why Coach John Madden had elected to start third year quarterback Ken Stabler, nor why Madden later had gone to that geriatric marvel, Blanda, rather than Lamonica in relief of Stabler. "George, of course, has the capability of coming in and lifting the team up. He came in with about two minutes to play in the half and got us a touchdown. I can't say why Lamonica didn't start the second half but Madden did say he thought Blanda could go and do some more for us." Lamonica, he pointed out, is presently the leading passer in the NFL. "He's leading the league in average gain of 17.2 yards and a percentage of .800. All in 15 minutes of playing time - the fourth quarter. It usually takes us a little better than a half to warm up," Grimes said. "This time, it took us three quarters. Of course, three interceptions, two lost fumbles and two blocked punts, one of which the Steelers converted into a touchdown, didn't help much. "We scored 21 points in the last quarter, which shows what we can do. Last year, we got 21 points in the fourth quarter twice and once scored 24. So we feel we can still play good football and win. Overall, despite giving up 34 points, I don't think our defense played that badly. It's much better than it was a year ago, or the way it played throughout the pre-season. The offense got off to a slow start but still finished with 370 yards and 28 points." "We," Grimes summed up with a dry chuckle, "are the highest scoring losing team in the NFL right now."...PACKER PATTERN: Meanwhile, on South Oneida



Dave Davis

Wide Receiver — Tenn. A and I

Height 6-0, Weight 175

Born in Alcoa, Tenn., July 5, 1948

2nd year in pro ball... .Packers first seventh round choice for 1971. . .4.6 speed in 40. . .Played baseball in college. . .Deceptive speed. . .Good athlete despite frail look. . .Excellent hands. . .Caught 41 yard TD pass against Oakland in pre-season. . .Returned six punts for 36 yards (long 19) in 1971. Residence: Alcoa, Tenn.

Street, Dan Devine and his staff installed the game plan designed to confound the Raiders, after which the Packers adjourned to the practice field to test it in the laboratory. Following that 1 hour and 45-minute session under a benevolent September sun, longest of the week to date, Devine reiterated his surprise over Oakland's performance in Pittsburgh. "After watching that film," he said, "I couldn't believe how poorly they played against the Steelers. They played about as badly in that game as we did when we lost to the Cardinals in the pre-season."...Prior to the opening of the session, a new offensive tackle Mike McCoy put in overtime working against defensive end Clarence Williams in an attempt to sharpen his pass blocking techniques...The Packers hold a 2-1 edge on the Raiders in their brief rivalry. They followed up that Super Bowl triumph with a 37-7 pre-season victory at Oakland in 1970 before falling to the Raiders in an exhibition here last year, 17-13.

CHARLIE SMITH BACK AS RAIDER STARTER

SEPT 21 (Oakland Tribune) - Roll back the clock two years and recall that swift breakaway back who doubled as a deep receiving threat for the Oakland Raiders. Charlie Smith, that homegrown Oaklander, missed virtually all of 1971 with a knee injury and was hampered much of the pre-season with a pulled thigh muscle. Coach John Madden revealed yesterday that Smith will start in place of Don Highsmith Sunday against the Green Bay Packers. "Charlie has been out a long time," Madden noted, "but he played well last week in Pittsburgh." Indeed he did. He showed his old speed and moves by picking up 23 yards in six carries (a 4.3 average) and gained 18 additional yards on a pass reception. Smith hadn't received the official word of his first starting assignment since the 1970 American Football Conference championship game against Baltimore. But nevertheless, he knew. "Highsmith told me," Charlie said. "I thought I'd get it back

eventually, not to take anything away from Hi-low, but I didn't think it would be this soon. But it all depends on how we do. If we don't win, it doesn't matter who starts. I want to get back to the old way things were with the Raiders, only better." Charlie's talking about his first three seasons as a Raider, from 1968-70, when Oakland captured the Western Division championship each year and got within one step of the Super Bowl three straight times before losing. The 6-1, 210-pound former Castlemont High star blossomed into one of pro football's top young backs with 504, 600 and 681-yard seasons. Smith also caught 75 passes during that time for 816 yards and six TDs, including that famous clinching score in the Hejdi Game against the Jets. Then came last year, and frustration. Smith was injured in pre-season and didn't play until the last game of the season against Denver. "The knee feels good," he said early in training camp. "I think I'm back physically to where I was before." Then the muscle pull slowed his comeback, and only now is his body as able as his spirit is willing. "It's hard to tell," Charlie said, "but if I'm not back to where I was, I'm pretty close. Last week I had to come out because I was physically beat. I'm strong enough, but the thing I'm lacking is wind, endurance. After sitting out a whole year, come back for a little while and then miss two more weeks, you have to be out of shape. But a lot of it is mental." Smith won't be the only back on the field who played his high school football on Oakland sod. MacArthur Lane, an old adversary, now is with the Pack. The two faced each other in junior college, Smith for Bakersfield and Lane for Merritt, before Charlie went on to Utah and Mac to Utah State. "He's an excellent back, a hard runner, more of a fullback type. Mac has good speed and hands, but his biggest attribute is his strength. We're good friends off the field. My team won big the first year we played, but they won both times in Utah." Charlie figures it's time to get even... RAIDER NOTES: Madden revealed that in addition to Smith starting at halfback and Daryle Lamonica at quarterback, Mike Siani definitely will replace Cliff Branch as wide receiver and Bob Moore will go for Raymond Chester at tight end. Chester almost certainly will miss the game...Running back Clarence Davis worked out for the first time since breaking the scapula in his right shoulder six weeks ago, and should be ready to play in a week or two, earlier than expected...Ben Davidson is expected to get the cast off his Achilles tendon sometime this week but the Raiders aren't saying when he'll be able to play...Linebacker Greg Slough, traded to New England in the pre-season, cut by the Patriots and currently unemployed, visited the Raiders training field yesterday. He claimed he didn't get a chance with the Pats only five plays in pre-season games.

OTTO STILL ENTHUSIASTIC

SEPT 22 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Jim Otto, a burly blond who is more at home poised over a football, ventured into the treacherous waters of politics last spring. The Oakland Raiders' veteran center, persuaded to run for the city council in Fremont, Calif., did admirably well for a neophyte, finishing a strong fourth in a field of 16 candidates running for three seats. But, after it was all over, Otto announced he was happy to be back at his old professional stand, where the Packers will find him presiding in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon. "It's rougher than football," he ruefully avowed. "Those politicians showed no mercy. They held rallies and never notified me. In football, at least, there are certain unwritten rules about what you do and what you don't do." It's not a rule and it's not in writing but there is one constant that applies to Otto, who launched his football career under Win Brockmeyer at Wausau High School. The most honored offensive lineman in history, he is an invariable all-pro, having been accorded that stature in each of his 12 previous Raider seasons. There are those who suggest that such honors become somewhat automatic in the case of offensive linemen, who generally labor in relative anonymity, the inference being that the electors more often than not will opt for a familiar name rather than seriously attempt to evaluate the merits of the case individually. But there can be little doubt of Otto's right to pre-eminence. Coaches around the NFL, as well as those on the Oakland staff, say that he has maintained a high level of consistency longer than any other

Mike McCoy

Defensive Tackle — Notre Dame

Height 6-5, Weight 280

Born in Erie, Pa., Sept. 6, 1948

3rd year in pro ball. . . number one draft choice for 1970. . . Second player in 1970 college draft. . . 5.1 speed in 40. . . top rated defensive player in nation. . . excellent pursuit man with top rated lateral movement, quickness, balance, character and attitude. . . good pass rusher and tackler. . . coached to read and react primarily in College. . . hustles all the time. . . 100 per cent player. . . very strong, good intelligence. . . makes the big play because he's always near the ball. . . "A bell ringer". . . AP, UPI, NEA and consensus All-American. . . Played in East-West Shrine Game and Cotton Bowl as well as Coaches All-American and Chicago All-Star games. . . Pennsylvania High School Wrestling champion. . . wrestled two years at Notre Dame. . . Economics major. . . started all games at RT as rookie. . . Voted Most Valuable Packer Rookie by Wis. Pro Football Writers in 1970. Residence: Green Bay, Wis.

player they have ever seen. And consistency, of course, is the hallmark of the true professional. A performer who takes deep pride in his work, the 34-year-old Raider says this unparalleled eminence is not only a source of great satisfaction but serves as a spur artistically. "I'm proud of being all-pro year after year," he said by telephone from the Oakland dressing room Thursday. "It kind of makes me want to work harder and do better every year." Consistency is not Otto's only great virtue. He also is exceedingly durable. When he feeds the football to quarterback Daryle Lamonica on Oakland's first offensive series Sunday afternoon, he will be appearing in his 170th consecutive game, a figure which will leave him only 17 shy of the NFL record, held by Packer great Forrest Gregg. Although it has to be a matter of private significance, the 6-foot-2, 250-pound veteran publicly insists that he is not overly concerned about such things. "I'm not thinking about the consecutive game record," he said. "I just want to play - and win. That's the main thing." His streak, which began with the Raiders' American Football League debut in 1960, came perilously close to ending earlier this year. "A couple of weeks ago I hurt a knee in a pre-season game," he said, "and the doctor said I'd be out for six or eight weeks. But I made it back in two weeks and was able to start against Pittsburgh in our opener last Sunday. I seem to be pretty fortunate, as far as injuries are concerned. Even though I've been around a while, I still heal pretty fast. They don't seem to bother me too much. I've played with a lot of different injuries over the years. At center, you break your fingers a lot or dislocate bones in your hands," Otto matter-of-factly reported. And you get broken ribs or a broken nose now and then. I've had all of them at one time or another. Every year something gets busted." Despite such tribulations, not to mention the inexorable toll of a dozen seasons, Jim assures he has lost none of his zest for the game. "Heck, no. I'm not losing any enthusiasm," he declared. "We've got to be world champions one of these years... This is a fine team. Everybody's got a shot at the Super Bowl and I'm sure we have. It's a matter of staying healthy and getting out there and doing the job." How, he was asked, do the current Raiders compare with their '68 Super Bowl entry? "I would say we're definitely a finer team this season. We're more experienced than that team was, although we do have a pretty good crop of rookies this year." Registering displeasure over odds which list Oakland as a three-point favorite Sunday, he said. "I'd rather go into a game as an underdog. I don't know how the heck they can make a team a favorite on the road. The home team always has the advantage. As far as the Packers are concerned, I've only seen their defense on film but they seem very tough and aggressive. They have outstanding linebackers and Bob Brown is an outstanding defensive tackle. And, with Gillingham in there at defensive tackle, it's going to be different too." Although he will be in enemy territory, Otto will not be without support Sunday. "There'll be about a hundred people coming over from Wausau for the game," he confided. "I don't know how many of them I'll get to see, though. Some may possibly drop by the hotel in Green Bay Saturday but I told them all I didn't want to be bothered too much because I want to think about the game."...PACKER PATTEN: Dan Devine, making a conscientious effort to shorten workouts this week with an eye to keeping his team fresh, apprehensively observed Thursday, "The practices have been cut down - I just hope we haven't cut them too much."...A highlight of Thursday's drills was a field goal kicking session against a "live"

rush by placekickers Chester Marcol and MacArthur Lane. "We did that for obvious reasons," Devine said.

PERSONALITY PARADE (PETE BANASZAK)

SEPT 22 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — Pete Banaszak, the pride of Crivitz, is an all-purpose athlete. And, the Oakland Raiders long since have been pleased to discover, a thorough pro. He also is inclined to be philosophical, which has made it possible for Pete to "adjust," as the euphemism goes, to a reserve role this year after having enjoyed starting status throughout the 1971 season. That kind of turnabout is not easy to accept any time and even less so in light of Banaszak's '71 performance, which saw him emerge as Oakland's No. 2 ground gainer (563 yards) and with a Raider record for rushing touchdowns (eight). Pete, a forthright type, admitted as much by telephone from his Almina, Calif., home as he awaited a return to his native Wisconsin for Sunday afternoon's Lambeau Field date with the Packers. "It is hard to adjust to," he said, "when you start and play all 14 games like I did last year... But I'll get my chance. I played halfback last season after Charlie Smith got hurt in the pre-season and both Mary Hubbard and I had good years. When I get to camp this year, I find myself switched to fullback. It's kind of hard to figure. But some things happen to you in life that you don't always understand. Hubbard, of course, is a good fullback and I'm playing behind him. I'm shifting back and forth between both spots, halfback and fullback. Fortunately, it's not new to me because I've worked at fullback before." "But that's been the story of my life with the Raiders. The important thing is that when you get a chance, you've got to be ready. I'll get a chance to play, I know that. We use all of our backs and we have some fine talent. We try to keep a fresh set of backs in there at all times." Although a seven-year pro, the former Crivitz High School three-sports star continues to perform on Oakland's suicide squads - without complaint. They're nothing new to me," he said. "I've been on special teams ever since I came to Oakland and I enjoy 'em really. A lot of guys don't like to be on them, but I just feel they're part of the job. I like playing on 'em. The only

thing I don't like to see is too many kickoff returns," Pete dryly informed. "We had enough of those last year to last us a while. One a ball game is fine." Reflecting upon the record he set a year ago, he noted, "Personally, I think your adrenalin starts flowing a little faster when you get down in there close, which is what it's all about. Records are nice, of course, but some kid probably will come along next year and break it." Though he would much prefer to be a starter, Banaszak admits being with a winner eases the pain. "We've got a winning tradition (the Raiders have won more games than any other team in pro football over the last five years)" he said. "Since I've been here, I've been on four divisional champions and on one Super Bowl team, although we didn't do real well against the Packers in that one (it was Green Bay, 33-14). "All in all, I've had a lot of great moments here. The Raiders have treated me real good. I can't say anything negative about the organization. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunities I've had. 'It's a long way from Crivitz, Wisconsin," he significantly appended. The latter, Pete indicated, is still home, however. "I try to get back up there once or twice a year," he said. "My parents still live in Crivitz." Would he make it this weekend? "If time will allow, I'll try to get up there," he said. "But this time I'm coming on business."

DEVINE'S NEW PACKERS CHALLENGE THE RAIDERS

SEPT 22 (Oakland Tribune) - The Green Bay Packers slipped back into the dark ages of the pre-Vince Lombardi era last season. The Pack, under new coach Dan Devine, went 4-8-2, the worst record in what was once Titledown, USA since a 1-10-1 disaster in 1958. Lombardi arrived the next year. But suddenly, the Packers seem to have put something together again. They went 4-2 in the exhibition season and whipped Cleveland 26-10 in their opener. Yet Devine doesn't sound very optimistic prior to Sunday's meeting with the Oakland Raiders in Wisconsin. "We make a lot of mistakes," he declared. "One week we'll play well and the next we'll do nothing right. We don't have consistency yet so we're not that good a club. "Last year we helped every team that beat us. We're very young, so I guess that's the main reason. Young players are bound to make mistakes." Devine had more to overcome in his first year with the Packers than most rookie pro coaches. First, there was the step up from the college ranks at Missouri, which Devine said was overrated, and then there was dealing with the Lombardi legend in Green Bay. "It wasn't bad because I was prepared for it," Devine said. "But it's only right. It's like Knute Rockne still being very much a part of Notre Dame. If I had done as much as Lombardi, I'd hate people to forget as soon as I left. If you accept it and don't fight it, it's much easier. The people at Missouri and Arizona State remember only the good things about me and maybe it's been tough on the guys who followed me. But I'm not really as good a coach as they think I am. And all I can do here is my best." He minimized the jump from college to the pros. "Virtually, it's the same game," Devine claimed. "The basic differences are the maturity of the players and the amount of time you have to work on football. There are certain adjustments you have to make, but it's not difficult. One thing that made me feel good was that I got along best with the older guys." But three more of those Green Bay veterans quarterback Bart Starr and defensive backs Willie Wood and Doug Hart retired since the last year. However, the Pack got three outstanding rookies in the draft and all are playing often and well. Defensive back Willie Buchanan, kicker Chester Marcol and quarterback Jerry Tagge, coming off an injury, are just a few of the promising young Packers. Buchanan blanked Otis Taylor in the final pre-season game and intercepted the first pass his way last week. Marcol is the first consistent kicker in Green Bay since Don Chandler retired after the 33-14 Super Bowl victory over Oakland in 1967. Nine others have tried, Tagge, who led Nebraska to back-to-back national championships, locked up the spot behind quarterback Scott Hunter, but has been out lately with a bruised thigh, Green Bay has nine rookies, eight second-year men and eight three-year veterans. On offense, Hunter (2 years) is in the backfield with big strong runners John Brockington (2) and veteran MacArthur Lane, acquired from St. Louis. Rookie Leland Glass and longtime Packer Carroll Dale are the receivers, with Rich McGeorge (3) at tight end. From tackle to tackle it reads, Francis Peay, Bill Lueck, Ken Bowman, Malcolm Snider and Dick Himes, all veterans. Buchanan, Ken Ellis (3), Al Matthews (3) and Jim Hill, acquired from San Diego, form a completely revamped secondary, with veteran linebackers Fred Carr and Dave Robinson around Jim Carter (3), who beat out the great Ray Nitschke. - Clarence Williams (3), former All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham, unheralded Bob Brown and Al Roche (3) form an up-and-coming front four. Not exactly household words, most of them, but the Pack may be on the way...

HILL OPENS RAIDERS' BOOK

SEPT 23 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers and the Oakland Raiders have not been particularly close, professionally speaking. Their paths have crossed only twice, in fact, since their last "official" meeting in the 1966 Super Bowl. And both of those encounters were exhibition affairs, often dramatically different from regular season exercises in the NFL, in which the matter of winning or losing is taken a bit more seriously. Consequently, neither team has a particularly precise "book" on the other going into Sunday's exchange in Lambeau Field - with one notable exception. He is Jim Hill, the heady former San Diego Charger who now patrols free safety in the Packer secondary. San Diego, like Oakland, is a member of the AFC's Western Division and, as a result, Hill saw the Raiders at close hand twice annually during four seasons with the Chargers. As a defensive back, his primary recollections inevitably are of Oakland's receivers, particularly

Bob Brown

Defensive End — Arkansas A.M. and N.

Height 6-7, Weight 265

Born in Bonita, La., Feb. 23, 1940

7th year in pro ball. . . Free agent who played 1964 and 1965 seasons with Wheeling Ironmen of Continental League. . . Played eight games for Toronto in Canadian League in 1965. . . Had tryouts with 49'ers in 1964 and '65, lasting until last cuts. . . Started first game against Lions in 1966 for Packers. . . Broke both arm and leg during 1968 season and missed eight entire League games. Started or played defensive end in 1969 and returned to defensive tackle in 1970. . . Excels on short yardage situations. Packers best pass rusher. . . Often double-teamed by opponents. . . survived off-season shooting incident March, 1972. Residence: W. Memphis, Ark.

Jim Hill

Safety — Texas A and I
Height 6-2, Weight 190
Born in San Antonio, Tex.,
Oct. 21, 1946

4th year in pro ball. . .first round choice of San Diego Chargers in 1968. . .missed '68 season with knee injury but has started every year since. . .plays free safety. . .captained Texas A and I's undefeated 1967 team. . .considered to be an aggressive hitter and a strong tackler. . .came to Packers during 1972 off-season in trade for Lionel Alldridge plus 1974 draft choice. . .voted one of top five outstanding young men in San Diego area by Jaycees recently. . .9.7 speed in 100. . .during off-season does television sports in San Diego. . . Residence: San Diego, California.

the Raiders' stylish flanker, Fred Biletnikoff, who was the NFL's leading pass catcher last season with 61 receptions for 92 yards and 9 touchdowns. And, needless to say, he remembers him well. "The big thing about Biletnikoff," Hill said following Friday's practice, "is that he has a knack for getting open. And he has very unusual hands. I've seen him drop only two or three passes in all the time I've played against him. He just doesn't drop the ball. When he catches ball, he doesn't fight it either, like a lot of receivers. He takes it with him, so to speak. Fred is a game breaker. Biletnikoff also fools a lot of people. There are some who don't think he has good speed, but he's deceptive. He used to give Bobby Howard a fit when he played against the Chargers, and Howard is a pretty good corner. Some very close games were decided by just those two when the Raiders and Chargers played. I remember in one game, at a very critical stage, Howard went up with Biletnikoff and we all thought he had made an interception. But they came down together and the officials gave the ball to Biletnikoff. Fred also is a very smart receiver, besides having good hands. He can find the hole to get open. And he's a clutch receiver. The Raiders use Ray Chester a lot in clutch situations, too, but Fred is very, very tough. As far as overall effect on a defense, Biletnikoff ranks among the best - he's among the elite, a very, very fine receiver. He's the type of guy who can run every kind of pattern - inside patterns, outside patterns. He can even go deep on you. And he runs good patterns. Another thing about Fred is that he doesn't get riled either. He's been around a while. So our cornerbacks are going to have a lot on their hands Sunday afternoon. By the same token, I think they (rookie Willie Buchanon and third year performer Ken Ellis) can do a real good job. We're getting the kind of rush from our front four that we need, which makes it a little easier on the secondary. Your secondary is only as good as your front four. We're getting great play from our front four and tremendous help from our linebackers, underneath help which makes our job a little easier."...PACKER PATTEN: Dan Devine, who has been exceedingly complimentary to the enemy all week, reiterated his admiration for the Raiders following Friday's workout. "I have a tremendous respect for Oakland," he said. "It has a great organization. I was talking to a veteran sportswriter from Oakland today, by the way, a man who has been close to the scene for a long time, and he said this 1972 Raider team is much better than the team Green Bay beat in the 1968 Super

Bowl. And John Polonchek of our staff, who was with Oakland the last five years, says much the same thing. Just making an honest appraisal and not downgrading our squad in any way, John said there is more talent on that team than there is on ours. So we'll have to be better than the '68 Packer team to beat 'em. I could say we would have to be much better than the '68 team in order to win. Those AFL teams those days weren't the teams they have now." Devine indicated he will be going with the same lineup that produced a 26-10 victory over the Cleveland Browns' in last Sunday's league opener, which means that rookie Leland Glass will be making his second consecutive start at split end. He also reported in this connection, that guard Bill Lueck and linebacker Freddie Carr, officially listed as probable earlier this week with hamstring and shoulder injuries, respectively, have been cleared to play. Commenting on the availability of quarterback Jerry Tagge, who returned to the practice field this week after being sidelined since Aug. 27 with a deep thigh bruise, he said, "Physically, Jerry's not up to full speed but he could play if needed."

PACKERS WILL NEED 'SUPER PERFORMANCE' FOR VICTORY

SEPT 23 (Green Bay) — The Green Bay Packers will "have to play much better than the 1967 Super Bowl champion Packers" to defeat the Oakland Raiders, Coach Dan Devine said Friday. Green Bay, with a 26-10 triumph over Cleveland in the season opener, will face the powerful Raiders in Sunday's home opener at Lambeau Field. The Raiders lost to Pittsburgh last week, 34-28. "Anything less than a super performance won't do it," Devine said, pointing out that Oakland has more "raw talent" than the club which lost to Green Bay 33-14 in the second Super Bowl. "They are much better than the team in Super Bowl II," Devine claimed. But apparently the challenge is getting to the Packer players. "It's going to be a test, all right," the Green Bay coach said. "But our guys are getting a little excited about it. I think we'll put together a good effort. I hope, technically, we can hold up." Only guard Bill Lueck, who has a bruised shoulder, and linebacker Fred Carr, with a muscle pull, are listed as "probables" for the Oakland game. Devine says the rest of the squad is available to see action, including rookie quarterback Jerry Tagge, who Devine said a victory would mean has missed three weeks of action with a bruised thigh. "He's not 100 per cent, but he can play if we need him," Devine said of the Green Bay native. "We're nicked, like everybody else." The Raiders will attempt to break the National Football League's leading defense - after one game - with a passing attack led by veteran Daryle Lamonia and a running game paced by Marv Hubbard, who collected 867 yards a season ago. Lamonia, the league's leading passer after playing only a half in the loss to Pittsburgh, will try and throw to all-pro Fred Biletnikoff and wide receiver Mike Siani. But tight end Ray Chester, whom the Packers consider one of the three best at his position in the league, may see limited action because of a rib injury. Oakland's offense will be testing a Packer defense that hasn't allowed a touchdown from scrimmage since a 31-10 preseason loss to St. Louis Sept. 2. Devine said a victory would mean his 1972 Packers are better than the 1967 Green Bay team that won Super Bowl II. "I'm not sure we are," he said.

WHERE ARE THOSE SUPER BOWL STARS?

SEPT 23 (Oakland Tribune) - There was a day when the Oakland Raiders and Green Bay Packers met on a field and the pro football world looked on. That wasn't even five years ago, yet you can count on two hands the number of starters still in

the exact spot in Super Bowl II won by the Packers 33-14. "They have a different team," said Raider coach John Madden, who was an assistant under John Rauch that day. "Linebacker Dave Robinson is the only one left on defense, and center Ken Bowman and receiver Carroll Dale on offense. Then they took All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham, who beat out Fuzzy Thurston in 1967, and moved him to defensive tackle this year when they got Malcolm Snider from Atlanta. Other than that they have new guys." Gone are Bart Starr, Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, Jerry Kramer, Max McGee, Willie Davis, Willie Wood, Henry Jordan, Boyd Dowler, Lionel Aldridge, Forrest Gregg, Donnie Anderson, Herb Adderley, Bob Jeter, et al. Ray Nitschke is second string. "There are a few of them left," said Jim Otto, "but it's not the same. We have more left than they do, but we're not the same, either." Otto was at center that day, as in every other game save three exhibitions the Raiders have played. Fred Biletnikoff was a wide receiver, Daryle Lamonic the quarterback and Gene Upshaw at guard on offense. Defensively, cornerback Willie Brown and linebacker Gus Otto are the only ones left. Defensive tackle Tom Keating, running back Pete Banaszak, quarterback George Blanda and defensive tackle Carleton Oat are other active Raiders who were on the field that day. "Green Bay was a magic name in football," Lamonica said, "but it's not the same. In the Super Bowl, we were a little awed by them. We were the young team then, but this is a new year, a new team. You don't recognize the names, but they're big, young and aggressive. We'll have to go after them." The Packers playing in what is known as the black-and-blue Central Division of the NFL, always have been a physical team. They come to hit. Apparently, things haven't changed. "This is one of those same type of Packer teams," Upshaw claimed. They're always aggressive. They're tough, probably the best Green Bay team since 1967. They've been tough every time we played them. We've won only once in three tries." The other two were pre-season games, the Pack winning big 37-7 two years ago in Oakland and the Raiders finally coming out on top last year 17-13 at Lambeau Field. Playing the Packers has special meaning for Jim Otto and Banaszak. "Any time you beat the Packers it's great," said Otto, a native of Wausau, Wisc. "It's great to go back there and play them. It's a team I've followed since I was a child. It's all you hear about. It was something to beat them last year, pre-season or not." The entire town of Crivitz will be on hand to see Banaszak. "It felt funny playing there last year," Banaszak explained, "because the Packers are the only ones who use that stadium and here I was playing against them. I can remember sitting in that stadium in junior high and hoping to play there. I was going to see them play from the time I was six." The Oakland Raiders were 10 years from existence.

STEVENS POINT TO HONOR KOTAL, EX-PACKER, EX-LAWRENCE COACH

SEPT 24 (Stevens Point) - Eddie Kotal, the coach who sparked a golden age of athletics during his 1930-1942 tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will win honors from the institution next Saturday. He will make his first return to campus after an absence of three decades to be inducted into the "S Club Hall of Fame" during a dinner concluding the homecoming observance. Kotal had a string of championship basketball and football teams, and also introduced the sports of track and boxing at what was then Central State Teachers College. The alumni association, which is coordinating the recognition program, reports that scores of his former Stevens Point players have indicated they will attend. The 70-year-old Kotal has been a standout in professional football, too, as a player, coach and scout. Never one to wear headgear in his playing days, the 170-pound Kotal scored 10 touchdowns between 1925 and 1929 when he played for Curly Lambeau's Green Bay Packers. As a prep athlete in Chicago Heights, Ill., Kotal was an all-time great. The bulk of his involvement with pro ball, however, has been as a coach and scout. After leaving here, he was a backfield coach and scout several years for the Packers and in 1946 became chief scout for the Los Angeles Rams. In later years, he also assumed backfield coaching responsibilities for the Rams. "Ebony" labeled him as a powerful influence in making football a racially integrated sport. "...after integration, there was no great rush to scout black-college teams. Except for Eddie Kotal...He made friends with black college coaches and discovered that many black players possessed pro-football potential," the magazine reported...SIGNS YOUNGER: "Tank" Younger was one of Kotal's big catches and, in 1949, became the first Negro college star signed by an NFL team. Kotal now is retired and resides with his wife in North Hollywood, Calif. His Pointer football teams won top conference honors in 1933, 1934 and 1936. His team probably would have done so in 1935, too, had they not engaged in pre-season games with the Packers and the Bears. As a consequence the team had been ousted from conference competition for the remainder of the season. The Kotal-coached basketball teams of 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1941, and 1942 also were champions. The '33 and '36 clubs were undefeated and the '33 quintet included among its victims the Big 10 UW-Madison. After coaching at Lawrence College in Appleton, for one football season, Stevens Point offered Kotal its head athletic post in 1930 and the young mentor accepted, arriving in time to take charge of the basketball squad. His former charges remember him as a man of few words. A tough, blunt "go get em" was the common line before each contest. The committee planning the special honors for their coach of, in some cases nearly four decades ago, are Lewis Drobnick, Omro, chairman; Reuben Belongia, Eau Claire; James Cashin, Stevens Point; Robert Fisher, Stevens Point; Ted Fritsch (former Green Bay Packer), Green

John Brockington

Running Back — Ohio State

Height 6-1, Weight 225

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Sept. 7, 1948

2nd year in pro ball. . .Packers No. 1 draft choice for 1971.

. . .Green Bay traded Don Horn to Denver for Alden Roche,

plus Broncos place in first round in order to select Brockington. . .Runs 40 in 4.5.

. . .Good pass receiver. . .High school and college All-American. . .First rate blocker. . .

Rose Bowl, Hula Bowl and College All Star games. . .Set Ohio State record for yardage

senior year with 1041 in 240 attempts. . .In college career

had 357 att. for 1562 yds. (4.4 ave.) and 22 TD rushing. . .

Caught 25 passes for 197 yards. . .Started since second

pre-season game rookie year. . .Set NFL rush record for

rookies with 1105 yds. in 216 att. . . unanimous All-Pro and

Rookie of Year in first pre-season. . .selected to play in

1972 Pro Bowl Game. . .finished education at O.S.U. and

stumped for John Lindsey during off-season. . .Best day

was vs. Minn. rushing for 149 yds. in 23 atts. . .Longest 52

yds. (t) vs. Denver in 1971.

Raiders-Packers Rosters

OAKLAND

00 J. Otto, c	41 Villapiano, lb	65 Seiler, c-t
3 Lamonica, qb	42 Maxwell, db	71 Korver, dt
4 DePoyster, p	43 Atkinson, db	74 Keating, dt
12 Stabler, qb	44 Hubbard, rb	75 Vella, g
16 Blanda, qb-k	47 Queen, rb	75 B. Brown, t
21 Branch, wr	48 Wilson, db	78 Shell, t
23 C. Smith, rb	49 Siani, wr	80 Thomas, dt
24 W. Brown, db	50 Dalby, c	82 Jones, de
25 Biletnikoff, wr	54 Mendenhall, lb	84 Cline, de
26 Thomas, db	55 Connors, lb	85 Oats, dt
31 Tatum, db	60 Sistrunk, de	86 Irons, lb
32 Highsmith, rb	63 Upshaw, g	87 Chester, te
34 G. Otto, lb	64 Buehler, g	88 Moore, te
40 Banaszak, rb		

GREEN BAY

10 Patrick, qb	42 Brockington, rb	68 Gillingham, dt-g
13 Marcol, k	46 Glass, wr	71 Peay, t
16 Hunter, qb	47 Davis, wr	72 Himes, t
17 Tagge, qb	48 Ellis, db	73 Vanoy, dt
20 Widby, p	50 Carter, lb	75 Pureifory, de
21 Hall, db	53 Carr, lb	77 Hayhoe, t
23 Hudson, rb	56 Crutcher, lb	78 B. Brown, dt
28 Buchanon, db	57 Bowman, c	81 McGeorge, te
29 Matthews, db	58 Withrow, c	83 C. Williams, de
31 P. Williams, rb	62 Lueck, g	84 Dale, wr
36 Lane, rb	65 Wortman, g	87 Roche, de
37 L. Thomas, db	66 Nitschke, lb	88 Garrett, te
39 Hill, db	67 Snider, g	89 Robinson, lb
40 Kopay, rb		

Bay; Frank Klement, Milwaukee; James Kulidas, Chicago, Ill.; Fred Nimz, Fond du Lac; Chester Rinka, Milwaukee; Mike Sharkey, Rhinelander; and Asher Shorey (former Kaukauna basketball coach), Elgin, Ill.

MEETING OF FRIENDS

SEPT 24 (Oakland Tribune) - They were teammates, the closest of buddies through all-American careers at Ohio State and first round selections by the pros, now meeting in the first significant confrontation of their NFL careers. If one of them is a hero today, it may well be because he's made the other the goat. John Brockington, powerful 225-pound running back from Brooklyn, was a unanimous all pro pick last year as a rookie who had gained 1,105 yards to lead the league, is already a star for the Green Bay Packers. Jack Tatum, quick and strong 200-pound free safety who earned defensive rookie of the year honors last season in a vaunted secondary, is heading for stardom with the Oakland Raiders. Just over a year ago Tatum was Brockington's baby-sitter, one of a trio of Ohio State football stars to be picked in the first round off of that strong Buckeye team of 1970. "Me and him and Tim Anderson, we were together most of the time," Tatum said. "He was a tremendous football player. I played against him for the first time in our exhibition game last season, but this time it's different." Surely it is. This time Brockington is a confident, polished professional, and now he's teamed up with MacArthur Lane, the big Oakland produced back who got his freedom from the St. Louis Cardinals last season.

"Brockington and Lane are as good a set of backs as there is in all of pro football," Raider head coach John Madden said. "The Packers have developed a very strong running attack, mixed with play fake passes, around their abilities." Going against a Raider defense with more nerve than experience, and anchored by a newly relocated middle linebacker, a strong Packer backfield combination would be dominating. "It has to be our objective not to give them anything early," Madden said, obviously remembering last Sunday's loss to Pittsburgh in which a quick 17 point gift package forced Oakland to play uphill and to lose. If Brockington was the rookie sensation of last season's rebuilding start under new coach Dan Devine, Lane has already made Packer fans forget Donnie Anderson, \$600,000 super pick who was to launch a new era in Green Bay. "MacArthur's running abilities are obvious," Devine says. "What isn't obvious is the value of his blocking. He can take the starch out of a guy early with his blocking. In the fourth quarter, where six inches or a foot might make the difference in a ball game, he might have taken enough starch out of enough guys to make the difference." The Packers are quick to agree that the 1972 Raiders are not the same team which lost a 33-14 game to them in the second AFL-NFL Super Bowl. The Packers have changed coaches twice and have rebuilt the offense since then. "I think we have to be a better team than that 1967 Packer club to beat the Raiders," Devine said. The 1972 edition is built along the lines of John Brockington and MacArthur Lane. Against the Cleveland Browns, who the Packers beat 26-10, Green Bay ran its well contained power attack. The Packers used 48 running plays and only 17 passes, controlling the game with four field goals by rookie sidewinder Chester Marcol and a strong defense. "If they get out ahead they can hurt you because they can stay with the running game and the play-action passes that Scott Hunter prefers," Madden said. "We have to get on them early so their play fakes and runs aren't worth a darn." Jack Tatum, remembering scrimmages against Brockington and remembering movies of Brockington and Lane he has studied in recent days, expects there will come times when it's going to be up to him to make the big play: "He's a tough back to tackle," Jack said. "He and I are real good friends, but there's only one way to play against power backs. You have to stick them." It should make for a fun Sunday in Green Bay.

RAIDERS FACE ANOTHER PACK

SEPT 24 (Oakland Tribune) - This is where Vince Lombardi built one of the great dynasties of sport. Today the legend lingers but it's a Green Bay Packers of another era which opposes the Oakland Raiders at Curly Lambeau Field. Ironically, the Raiders catch the Packers on a possible rebound. After Lombardi's departure to Washington, the Pack slipped back among NFL powers but last week Dan Devine's revamped club clobbered Cleveland 26-10. In contrast, Oakland goes back to an old look for the 11 a.m. kickoff (Channel 4). Daryle Lamonica will start playing again at the beginning after his brief stint as No. 3 in Pittsburgh where he nearly turned a season opening 34-28 loss into a miracle victory with a three-touchdown fourth quarter. But tight end Raymond Chester probably won't play because of a bruised rib suffered against the Steelers. Second-year man Bob Moore will fill his sizeable shoes. Additionally, Charlie Smith comes back from injuries for his first start at running back since late 1970, and No. 1 draft choice Mike Siani gets his first pro start at wide receiver after a superb effort in Pittsburgh. The Packers have listed linebacker Fred Carr (hamstring pull), guard Bill Lueck (bruised shoulder) and backup quarterback Jerry Tagge (bruised thigh) as probable, but Tagge probably won't play unless starter Scott Hunter is banged up. Coach John Madden doesn't figure this is a crucial game for the Raiders just because they are 0-1. "It's important only because it's the next game," he said this week. "You can't say one game is more important than another during regular season. "Once the season starts every game is equally important. Once you start looking at it any other way, you look ahead or behind you and either one is equally bad. We have to concentrate all our efforts on this game and when it's over go on to the next one." A big thing has been made of the fact that the Raiders have lost three straight openers. The first two times, they recovered. Two years ago, Oakland started 0-2-1, then didn't lose for seven weeks and nine of the next 10. It added up to a fourth consecutive Western Division championship. After last year's upset to New England in the first week, Oakland ran off nine unbeaten weeks. Three losses in the final month cost the division title. "It takes strong people to play this game,"

Madden said. "You can't panic or lose confidence when things are going bad and you can't be satisfied when you win. Indirectly we were glad that Kansas City and San Diego lost too last week. But we can't rely on other people to do our job. It's not going to happen often." The Packers, coming off a 4-8-2 season - worst in Green Bay since 1958 - rolled up a 4-2 pre-season before their opening triumph over Cleveland. So far, they've played like the Packers of old - a sturdy defense and an offensive attack built around a big back running game which emphasizes ball control.

RAIDERS BIG TEST FOR 'NEW' PACK

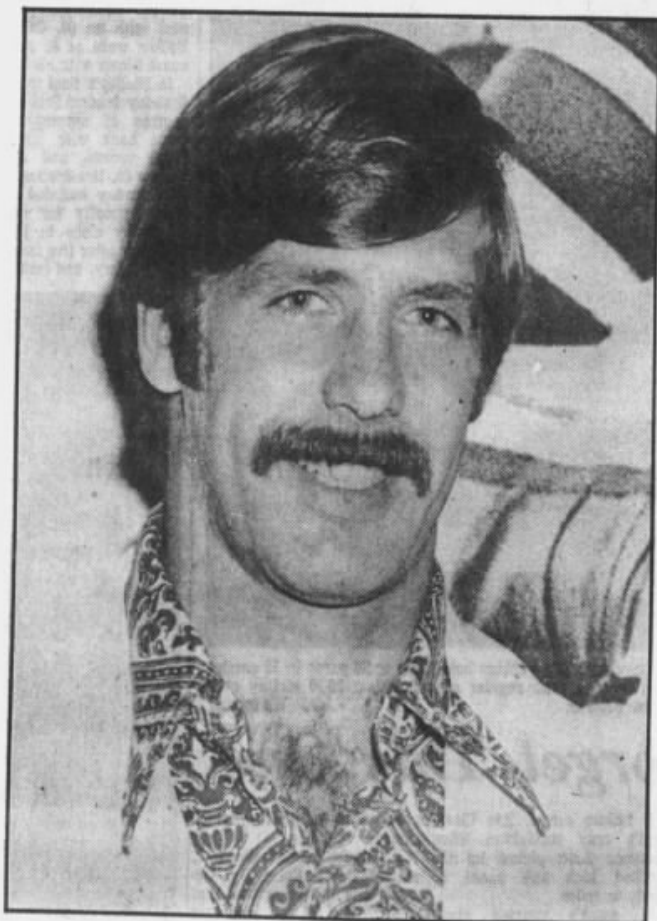
SEPT 24 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Oakland Raiders, who long ago adopted "Pride and Poise" as their watchwords, have tabbed the 1970s as "the Decade of Destiny." That lofty label is accompanied by a proprietary air, which leaves little doubt whose destiny is involved and what it is expected to be. Not without some justification, since the Raiders have won more games over the last five years than any other team in pro football. But the third year of their appointed decade got off rather badly in Pittsburgh last Sunday, a development which could complicate matters for the Packers. They would prefer a more tractable opponent for this afternoon's home opener in Lambeau Field to be viewed by yet another full house of 56,263 fans. The Raiders, who have won 53 and lost only 12 while tying five since 1967, are never particularly congenial. But they figure to be overtly disagreeable today in the wake of that 34-28 blow to their psyche, attended by an improbable collection of seven turnovers. The Raiders well know, too, that an 0-2 start is hardly an auspicious note on which to launch a short, 14-game drive for the AFC's Western Division championship, which last season eluded them for the first time in five years. Oddsmakers, having weighed those considerations along with the Raiders' obvious credentials, have installed them as three-point favorites for this afternoon's match, for which the weatherman has predicted a chance of showers. It will be the first regular season meeting ever between the two teams, whose last "official" encounter came in the 1968 Super Bowl, from which the Packers emerged with a 33-14 victory. In the interim they have met twice in exhibitions, the Packers taking a 37-7 decision in 1970 and the Raiders prevailing here a year ago, 17-13. Packer Coach Dan Devine, quite willing to accept the role of underdog, insists that "nothing less than a super performance front his athletes will be good enough to win a game which looms large in a hoped for return to NFL respectability. That appraisal may smack slightly of coachly psychology but there can be little doubt a high degree of artistry will be required from the defense to contain the Oakland's attack, the most productive in the AFC last season. The Raiders scored 344 points in 1971, more than any other NFL entry save world champion Dallas, and indicated they haven't lost the scoring touch by erupting for 21 in the fourth quarter of last Sunday's opening misadventure in Pittsburgh. Daryle Lamonica, who came off the bench to ignite that barrage, will be at the controls from the outset this afternoon. He comes into the game as the NFL's leading passer with an 80 per cent efficiency record and a plush average gain-per-pass of 17.7 yards. Lamonica, who has thrown for a league-high 127 touchdowns over the last five seasons, also will have some formidable targets in flanker Fred Biletnikoff, the NFL's leading receiver a year ago with 61 catches, a pair of rookie speedballs, Mike Siani and Cliff Branch, plus tight ends Ray Chester and Bob Moore. Siani, the Raiders' No. 1 draftee last February, amassed 111 yards and two touchdowns with four receptions in his pro debut against the Steelers. Branch, who has yet to catch his first NFL pass, has blistering 9.2 speed for 100 yards and holds the world indoor record, 9.3. Although the Raiders' penchant for the long ball has perennially overshadowed their running attack, they also have a thoroughly respectable ground game. It is built around fullback Marv Hubbard, the No. 3 rusher in the AFC last year with 867 yards, and Charlie Smith, sidelined by an injury last season but a 681-yard rusher the year before. Backing them up is Pete Banaszak, the former Crivitz High School luminary, who rolled up 558 yards while supplanting Smith as a starter last season. To complement these weapons, the Raiders also can turn to pro football's oldest practitioner, 45-year-old George Blanda, the leading scorer in pro football history. Blanda, who has stacked up 1,651 points in 22 and a fraction seasons, has been known to come off the bench and ignite the Raiders with his quarterbacking skills. Primarily, of course, he contributes with a seldom erring toe that has registered 271 field goals, more than any other kicker in NFL annals. All of which suggests a hectic afternoon lies ahead for Dave Hanner's Packer defenders, who have been uncommonly tightfisted of late. The opposition has not scored a touchdown directly attributable to the defense since in the last two weeks. The Browns' lone TD in the Packers' opening, 26'10 success at Cleveland last Sunday came on a 55-yard run by Clarence Scott with a blocked field goal attempt. Prior to that performance, which saw the green and gold limit the Browns to 188 net yards, the Packers blanked Super Bowl favorite Kansas City, 20-0, in their pre-season finale. Gale Gillingham, transferred just a week ago, will be making his second start at tackle in a front four which managed to put enough pressure upon Cleveland quarterbacks Bill Nelsen and Mike Phipps to force three interceptions. Devine, needless to say, would appreciate more of the same this afternoon. A feature contest in the struggle up front will find a vastly improved Clarence Williams going against the Raiders' huge offensive tackle, 280-pound Bob Brown, a six time all-pro and the obvious key to Oakland's pass protection.

Probable Starting Lineups:			
OFFENSE			
OAKLAND		GREEN BAY	
Siani	WR	Glass	
Shell	LT	Peay	
Upshaw	LG	Lueck	
J. Otto	C	Bowman	
Buehler	RG	Snider	
R. Brown	RT	Himes	
Moore	TE	McGeorge	
Bilet'off	WR	Dale	
Lamonica	QB	Hunter	
Smith	RB	Lane	
Hubbard	FB	Brock'on	
DEFENSE			
Cline	LE	C. Williams	
Sistrunk	LT	Gillingham	
Thoms	RT	B. Brown	
Jones	RE	Roche	
Vill'no	LLB	Robinson	
Irons	MLB	Carter	
G. Otto	RLB	Carr	
Wilson	LC	Buchanan	
W. Brown	RC	Ellis	
Atkinson	LS	Matthews	
Tatum	RS	Hill	

Raiders Big Test For 'New' Pack

THE MINNESOTA DYNASTY

SEPT 23 (The Sporting News) - It is such a simple axiom it is strange the Lions have just gotten around to expressing it: "To win the title, we have to beat the teams inside the division first. We have to beat Minnesota at least once." Statements such as these prompted some research and arithmetic. There is little wonder the Vikings have dominated their division for four years. They've won their four successive titles by virtue of intramural victories. The history of the Central Division can be divided into two parts the Green Bay dynasty and the Minnesota dynasty. The Vikings have run the division since 1968. For the four seasons starting that year, they have a composite 20-4 record in games exclusively with their three Central rivals, the Lions, Bears and Packers. The Lions rank second for those four seasons-12-10-2. The Packers are 8-14-2 and the Bears are 6-18...BEARS ARE PATSIES: So for four years the Vikings have been unchallenged for the division title. Indeed, they have lost only two games to division foes in the past three seasons. In absolute contrast, the Bears have won only three divisional games over the same time span. The Vikings have gone 5-1 in the division each of the past two autumns. In 1969, when they were NFL champions and went to the Super Bowl, they were flawless within their division at 6-0. The Lions' phobia regarding the Vikings is much publicized. Once in 1971 and once also in 1970 they had the Vikings beaten in the fourth quarter. Both times the Lions blew it. They've now lost eight straight times to Minnesota over the past four years. Every one of the Lions' 12 victories within the division since 1968 was over the Bears and Packers. All of which makes the second game of the year so critical. The Vikings again visit their old playmates whom they've bullied so long in Detroit September 24. There could be a race this year in the Central if the Lions break whatever it is the Vikings hold over them...CHICAGO GRABS DISCARDS: CHICAGO - The Bears keep stocking themselves with discards from the Packers which is hardly the way to move up. Zeke Bratkowski is the latest ex-Packer activated by the Bears. He is quarterback insurance lest Bobby Douglass take the wrong turn some time and disappear from Soldier Field into Lake Michigan. The Bears' other QB, Kent Nix, is another ex-Packer. Brat is on Abe Giron's coaching staff. The Bears had to yield a draft choice to the Packers to obtain his playing rights. "It's the best possible insurance policy for me against anything happening to one of my quarterbacks," said Giron. The Bears did not get much usage out of Lee Roy Caffey, Bob Hyland, Elijah Pitts or Jim Grabowski, other ex-Packers they've taken on the past few years. All are gone now with Grabowski's retirement earlier this month...PACKERS SOLVE A PROBLEM: GREEN BAY - Alas, after running through the likes of Booth Lusteg, Mike Murcer, Dale Livingston, Lou Michaels and nearly a dozen others, the Packers seem to have their placekicking situation resolved. The Packers have had kicking problems since Don Chandler retired at the same time as Vince Lombardi did following Super Bowl II. Now the Packers have Chester Marcol, a booming soccer stylist born in Poland and trained in Michigan at Hillsdale. Marcol proved his worth as a second-round draft choice with a 40-yard field goal that beat the Bears, 10-7, in a late pre-season game. He made the kick with 13 seconds left, after the Bears had called time out to give him a minute to contemplate the pressure. "They called time out just to make him nervous," said Jim Carter, a blocker on the Packers' field goal unit. "I told him to cool it, not to let them bother him. I said, 'What the hell, go out and kick a touchdown.'" That was a joke designed to make Marcol, wise in the nuances of football, stay loose. Alex Karras always had spoken of the foreign soccer stylists as guys who would prance around claiming "I'm goeing to keek a tawchdown." Marcol's clutch field goal cleared the crossbar by 15 yards...MINNESOTA - Wally Hilgenberg, the Vikings' unsung and excellent right linebacker, had an interesting experience -between seasons. He wrestled a bear. Coach Bud Grant still will not make an overt admission that any quarterback - not even Fran Tarkenton - is all that important to the functioning of an offense. "Actually, all a quarterback does is call the play, then hand the ball to somebody or throw it to someone," said Grant. "It's what the other guy does that makes the offense go." If it wasn't for the frosty, humorless personality involved, I'd think Grant was indulging in some harmless kidding. But he must not be. Wonder what will happen the first time Grant sits Tarkenton down in favor of Bob Lee?...SCHMIDT HOLDS LINE: DETROIT - Even the stringent Grant allows his athletes to adorn their lips with mustaches. But Joe Schmidt refuses adamantly to allow the Lions to follow the style trends of this age. No mustaches and no long hair for the Lions. "Hair is an example of discipline," said Schmidt. "I'm not saying short hair makes you a great athlete, but it does indicate discipline. When they go on the football field, they partially represent the Detroit Lions and partially my own feelings. I don't think a mustache or a beard has any place in professional sports. My own kids I have to drag to the barber. In football, there's also the hygiene aspect. There can be a cut on the face or head and the hair can cause infection. But mainly we don't have long hair and beards here because I don't like it."



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