



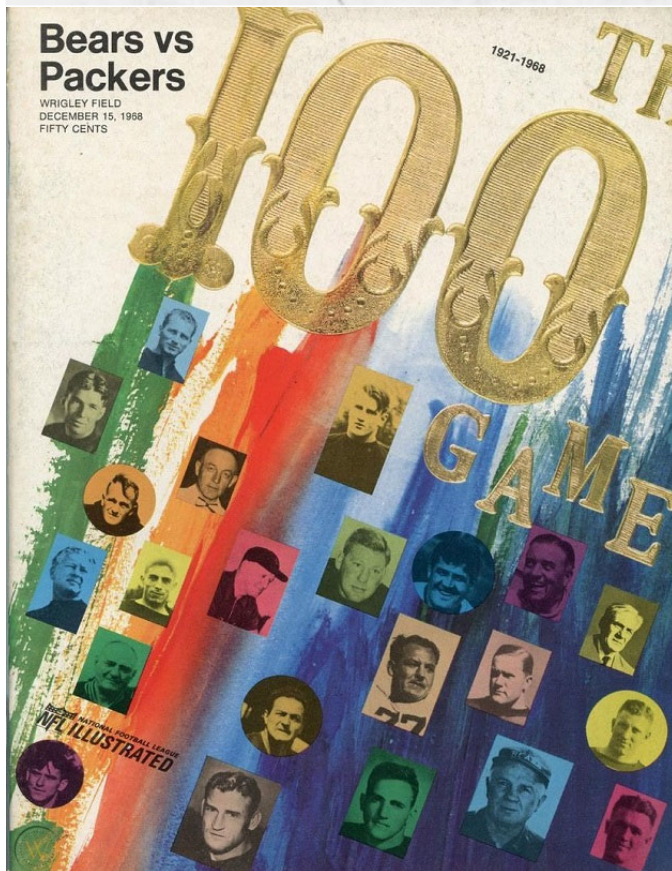
Green Bay Packers (6-7-1) 28, Chicago Bears (7-7) 27
Saturday December 15th 1968 (at Chicago)



PACKERS END BEAR TITLE HOPES, 28-27

Alter Your Bumper Sticker: Pack Is Back; Bears Derailed

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)



(CHICAGO) – Those new bumper stickers will have to be amended. The Pack IS back. Written off in recent weeks, Green Bay's retiring NFL triple champions made a dramatic "return" Sunday afternoon with an explosive, storybook climax to the bizarre 1968 season. Out of the race for a week, they had little going for them but their family pride when they set cleat to turf in rickety Wrigley Field. Although an admittedly substantial item, it did not figure to match the Bears' motivation. The recently hypoed Bruins could have charged to the Central Division crown, their first since 1963, by winning this 100th collision of pro football's oldest enemies. And the Bruins appeared in a fair way to do just that when quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, felled by injured ribs, joined Bart Starr on the sidelines in the first quarter. Starr, also suffering from rib injuries, was not even in uniform. But sophomore signal-caller Don Horn, just 10 days out of the Army, sprang from the bench to trigger a hectic 28-27 decision of the Monsters of the Midway and crown the Minnesota Vikings, 24-17 victors over the Philadelphia Eagles, as Central champions. Horn, an incredibly precise marksman under the impromptu circumstances, pitched two touchdown passes and keyed another with a 45-yard "bomb" en route to erecting a 28-10 third quarter lead, which looked to be a safe margin against the customarily low scoring Bears. He and his colleagues had to weather a 17-point fourth quarter comeback by the resurgent Chicagoans, however, with the considerable aid of a last-minute interception by that notorious ballhawk, Ray Nitschke. The highly mobile linebacker

waylaid a Jack Concannon fourth down pass at the Green Bay 35 with only 1:07 remaining to quash the Bruins' final threat. Although the Packers still finished with their least successful record since 1958, a 6-7-1 log, the tingling triumph served several highly useful purposes.

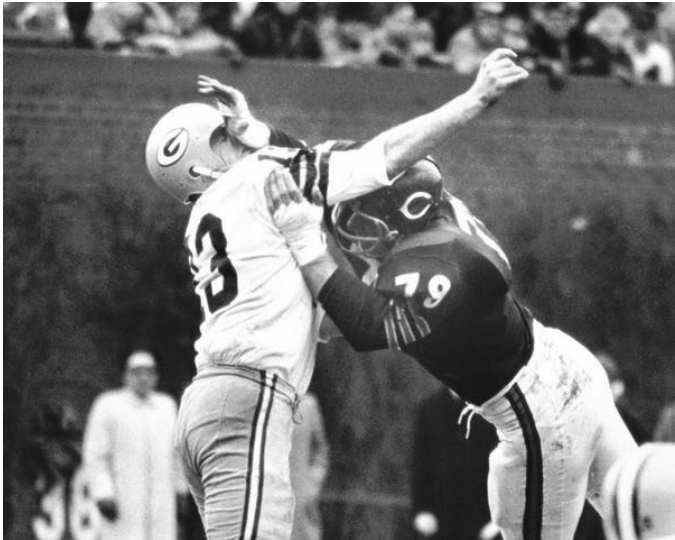
SPLIT SERIES

It not only enabled them to exit on a high note but also ended a two-game losing streak and provided a split in their season series with the Bears, who had scored a last minute 13-10 victory in Green Bay Nov. 3 on Mac Percival's now famous free kick field goal. Calm and cool in the face of a sometimes fearsome rush, Horn frequently foiled the Bear defenders with some adroitly executed play-action pass maneuvers on the way to a glittering 10-for-16 performance, good for 187 yards. Both of his touchdown throws were masterpieces of precision. The first, which came on his second series in the series, was lofted to fullback Jim Grabowski, alone in the Chicago secondary.

With Dick Butkus and Roosevelt Taylor in fruitless pursuit, Grabowski gathered in Horn's picture pass inside the Bear 30 and cantered into the end zone at 6:57 of the second quarter, staking the Packers to a 14-10 lead.

STRIKE TO DOWLER

One series later, the former San Diego State sharpshooter arched a 45-yard strike to Boyd Dowler, who forged to the Chicago 8 before being borne to earth by Joe Taylor. Two plays later, Chuck Mercein barged in from the one on behalf of Grabowski, who had lost a shoe on the previous play and was temporarily out of circulation. Horn unleashed another picture pass to Dowler for the final score at 8:37 of the third quarter. He sailed the leather well over the extended hands of defender Bernie McRae into the right corner of the end zone where Dowler awaited. Mercer's fourth successful conversion, registered despite a bad, along-the-ground pass from center, lifted the Packers into a 28-10 lead and made the eventual difference. That final "home run" was the second such collaboration of the afternoon for Dowler, who had gone the distance with a Bratkowski strike in the first quarter, first eluding Rich Petitbon at the Bear 45 and then Roosevelt Taylor just inside the 30. The Bears, who had cashed a 14-yard Percival field goal after Bob Wallace recovered Travis Williams' fumble of the opening kickoff at the Green Bay 5, also played the long ball with devastating effect. After Bratkowski and Dowler had forged a 7-3 lead with their 72-yard production, Concannon hit Dick Gordon with a 49-yard TD over Herb Adderley to send the Bears out front for the last time, 14-10. With the aroused faithful chanting "Go, Bears Go," Concannon switched the pitch for a time, driving the Bruins 75 yards on the ground for their second touchdown, scored by Ronnie Bull on a 9-yard burst up the middle in the first minute of the final period. But the former Eagle field general later went back to the home run, after Percival's 26-yard field goal had lifted the Bears to within 8 points, 28-20, at the 4:06 mark. He again hit Gordon, who eluded defender Doug Hart by an eyelash and sprinted down the right sidelines to score at 11:02. Percival toed the extra point and now the Packers led by only one point and an eternity remained. Hampered by penalties and a boisterously discourteous crowd during these final traumatic minutes, the Packers appeared to have a vital first down seconds later, but Marv Fleming dropped Horn's strike along the sidelines. Another pass intended for Fleming was incomplete on the opposite sidelines and the Bears launched a final push from their 46 with nearly 3 minutes remaining. The Bruins crunched to one first down, at the Packer 44, but Henry Jordan forced Concannon out of bounds for a 4-yard loss and, after two incomplete shots at Brian Piccolo and Gordon, Nitschke took a hand.



Don Horn gets nailed by defensive tackle Dick Evey of the Chicago Bears — NFL photo by Vernon Biever



Chicago Bears linebacker Dick Butkus (51) is ready to tackle Don Horn (13) just as Horn releases the ball.

GREEN BAY - 7 14 7 0 - 28
CHICAGO - 10 0 0 17 - 27

	GREEN BAY	CHICAGO
First downs	12	14
Rush-yards-TDs	28-65-1	33-134-1
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	11-18-259-3-0	10-26-171-2-2
Sacked-yards	1-8	2-14
Net pass yards	251	157
Total yards	316	291
Fumbles-lost	3-1	3-1
Turnovers	1	3
Penalties-yards	6-70	6-61

SCORING

- 1st - CHI - Mac Percival, 14-yard field goal CHICAGO 3-0
- 1st - GB - Dowler, 72-yard pass from Bratkowski (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 7-3
- 1st - CHI - Dick Gordon, 48-yard pass from Jack Concannon (Percival kick) CHICAGO 10-7
- 2nd - GB - Grabowski, 67-yard pass from Horn (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 14-10
- 2nd - GB - Mercein, 1-yard run (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 21-10

Victory Stirs Football Juices for 1969

3rd - GB - Dowler, 25-yard pass from Horn (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 28-10

4th - CHI - Ronnie Bull, 8-yard run (Percival kick) GREEN BAY 28-17

4th - CHI - Percival, 26-yard field goal GREEN BAY 28-20

4th - CHI - Gordon, 51-yard pass from Concannon (Percival kick) GREEN BAY 28-27

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Donny Anderson 12-54, Jim Grabowski 11-15, Chuck Mercein 2-3 1 TD, Don Horn 3-(-7)

CHICAGO - Ronnie Bull 13-80 1 TD, Brian Piccolo 15-45, Jack Concannon 4-10, Austin Denney 1-(-1)

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Zeke Bratkowski 2-1-72 1 TD, Don Horn 16-10-187 2 TD

CHICAGO - Jack Concannon 26-10-171 2 TD 2 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Boyd Dowler 5-182 2 TD, Jim Grabowski 4-83 1 TD, Chuck Mercein 1-(-6)

CHICAGO - Dick Gordon 6-147 2 TD, Bob Wallace 2-15, Austin Denney 1-6, Ronnie Bull 1-3

JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, RAY SAYS OF INTERCEPTION

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Raymond Ernest Nitschke, defensive hero of the Packers' paper thin victory over the Bears, was just following orders. Nitschke, whose last minute interception killed the Bruins' final scoring bid, reported, "Coach Bengtson said, 'Don't give 'em 14 yards.'" The reference was to the fourth-and-14 situation the Bears faced at the Green Bay 48 with 1:13 remaining. "That was what we were trying to do, prevent that first down," Nitschke re-emphasized. "when I retreated I was going to let him (Bear tight end Austin Denney) catch the ball in front of me. It was a broken pattern. Jack Concannon came out of the pocket on that one - I don't think it was a planned play. He was rushed pretty good and I was fortunate enough to come up with the ball. We more or less knew they had to pass, of course." Nitschke, who returned the interception 9 yards to the Packer 44, said he had no visions of a long runback. "I've always felt the main thing is to have possession. When I did go, that's all I was interested in. I wasn't interested in any long run. "That's what went through my mind - to go down when I saw somebody coming. I'm not chicken, but I wanted possession."

VICTORY STIRS FOOTBALL JUICES FOR 1969

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers bowed out like champions. The victory over the Chicago Bears here Sunday couldn't erase the third place finish in the Central Division. It couldn't salvage a .500 season. And it couldn't mend all the heartbreak in this 1968 season. But the triumph in this frigid city, 28-27 squeaker that it was, stirred the football juices of Packer Backers enough so that 1969 can now be looked forward to with optimism rather than pessimism. These Packers were the Packers of 1965, 1966 and 1967. Yes, they almost blew a 28-10 lead. And yes, they were wilting through the fourth quarter. But they recovered when they had to. And that was one of the marks of the championship Packers. Clutch play. The Packers made the big plays, the clutch plays here Sunday. And they played with abandon. Presumably this renaissance can be traced at least in part to the fact that the Packers were not contending for anything. The pressure was off...OR WAS IT? Don't kid yourself.

A week ago, the Packers lost to the Baltimore Colts in Lambeau Field. And they looked frighteningly bad in doing so. That game was seen across the country and the famed Packer Pride was hurt. And the loud and loving ovation given to the team in the closing moments of the game touched the players. They didn't want to finish the season on that sort of flat note. They were grateful for another game...and particularly grateful that their last game would still have a direct effect on the championship. It gave them a chance to sort of make up for a lot of things that happened this season. And in my book, they did make up for it. They bowed out like champions. No pressure? Do you think Don Horn didn't feel some pressure when he was suddenly handed the controls? This guy knows he's the hope of the future. He knows he's being counted on and he knows he still has to prove himself. That's a lot of pressure. No pressure? What do you think the Bears were applying at the end of the game? The possibility of blowing an 18 point lead in one quarter has to stack a good deal of pressure on any man calling himself an athlete. No pressure? These guys aren't from left field. They know that a down season like this is very likely to result in some trades...maybe a big one or two. And it's doubtful if many of the Packers want to be ex-Packers. There was the very obvious effort to give many of the reserves a chance to show their stuff. But the Packers were equal to these pressures. Horn

THE END



[UPI Telephoto]

Ray Nitschke of Packers clutching interception which snuffed out final Bear hope.

was more than equal. His performance will provide fuel for the "hot stove league" right up to the start of practice next July. Ray Nitschke, who plays like there is no such thing as a pressure less game, was in super championship form. Boyd Dowler, a bit disgruntled part of this year, now has something to buoy his spirits...especially that great face fake he gave Bennie McRae in taking what turned out to be the winning touchdown pass. And for Phil Bengtson...well, Sunday's win has to be a soothing salve for the pain suffered throughout the season. Wait'll next year!

BEARS HAVE VERY LITTLE TO SAY AFTER LOSING SHOT AT \$25,000

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – At about 10:30 Sunday morning, Bennie McRae, dazzlingly attired in mod stripes and long, thick sideburns, jauntily skipped across Wayland Avenue to the players' gate at Wrigley Field. He was smiling and kidding with autograph seekers. A couple minutes later, Dick Butkus, coat open and shirt collar buttoned in defiance of the 20 degree cold, swaggered along the same path, generally fending off the signature hunters. He looked growly. By 4:30 that afternoon, McRae, Butkus and the other Chicago Bears returned across Wayland Avenue toward their parking lot. Some were limping. Pretty wives with mascara smeared eyes accompanied many of them. McRae had lost his jauntiness but Butkus retained his swagger and appeared even growlier than six hours before...RIGHT TO BE: Perhaps he had a right to be. His Bears had just lost the Central Division championship of the NFL. They lost to the Green Bay Packers 28-27, despite a dramatic last quarter rally. And they lost a shot at \$25,000 in the process. And as Butkus snorted in the gloom of the Bruins' dressing room, "You lose by one point, you don't have much to say." Coach Jim Dooley didn't have much to say either but he was a bit more gentlemanly about it. Dressing slowly and with considerable deliberateness. Dooley quietly observed, "The team gave it everything it had in the second half. That's about the best we can say about it..."TERRIFYING RALLY: "Everything"

included a terrifying 17 point rally and an 11th hour bid for possible winning field goal position that was thwarted only by the wonderfully resilient Packer defense. The Bears had acquired a first down on the Packen 44 before the Bay resistance threw Jack Concannon for a key three yard loss to the 47 and then forced two incomplete passes. That made it fourth and 14 on the Packer 47 with less than a minute to play. The Bears looked to their bench. There was a bit of understandable confusion there but Mac Percival, the kicking specialist began trotting toward the huddle. Then he was called back and finally the Bears took a time out to regroup...FAKES BLITZES: When action resumed, Concannon faded to pass. Packer Ray Nitschke, who had faked several blitzes at several different holes from his middle linebacker spot, fell back...and picked off the Concannon shot. End of game. "It would have been a miracle to get it through there...but I would have liked to try," Percival acknowledged when it was all over. Dooley said "We thought about it. I talked to Mac on the sidelines. But then there was the realization that it would have been 57 yards against the wind." Actually, it probably would have been about 54 yards but it still would have been against the wind...PROUD OF TEAM: "If there had been any kind of wind with us, we'd have tried it." Dooley declared. The rookie coach, deeply disappointed, nevertheless volunteered, "I'm proud of this team. They really wanted to win. You could see the tears in their eyes when it was over." A large portion of the pride was based on his team's battling comeback despite the loss of regular guard George Seals, tackle Bob Wetoska and reserve guard Doug Kriewald early in the second half. Though tackle Bob Pickens played some guard after that, defensive tackle Dick Evey was rushed to the breach despite the fact that he had never practiced there. "We just told him to set up and block the man in front of him," Dooley related.

PHIL PLEASED AT STOPPING BEARS MOMENTUM, PRAISES 'COOL' HORN

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – There are satisfactions...and satisfactions. Tall, softspoken Phil Bengtson found the Packers' tingling 28-27 victory over the Bears here Sunday a pleasure for the sheer joy of winning in the wake of some less pleasant ventures. But he also found their season-ending success "particularly satisfying because we beat a team that had a real hot hand and momentum going." "With the start they got," he pointed out, "It looked like they were going to keep that momentum." Bengtson had



Chicago Bears Dick Butkus (51) in action vs Green Bay Packers backup QB Don Horn (13) (Photo by Neil Leifer/Sports Illustrated via Getty Images)



A Trapped Bear Quarterback Jack Concannon tries to run out of the pocket after Green Bay Packer defenders broke through pass protection in the first period of Sunday's NFL game in Chicago. No. 77 of the Packers is tackle Ron Kostelnik. (AP Photo)



[TRIBUNE Staff Photo]

Bratkowski Out

Green Bay Packers' player Zeke Bratkowski is examined during 1st quarter of game with Bears in Wrigley field after he was hit by Jim Purnell as he released pass.

(Story in Sports)

reference to the Bears' recovery of Travis Williams' fumble on the opening kickoff at the Packer 5-yard line. "It was a big lift for us to stop them with only three points," the rangy Packer strategist said, "Then when we got the ball back, we scored in two plays, which also helped us psychologically."...**LAVISH IN PRAISE:** As might be expected, Bengtson was lavish in his praise of quarterback Don Horn, who was summoned to duty when Zeke Bratkowski suffered rib injuries late in the first quarter. "Here's a boy who merely knew what he had to do but hadn't practiced it," Phil said. "He's a cool customer. That's why we drafted him No. 1. He did as good a job as we could have expected from Bart Starr under the circumstances." Horn, who returned from army duty only 10 days earlier, and rookie Bill Stevens were the only able-bodied quarterbacks available. Bratkowski, Bengtson reported, had not been the Packers' only casualty. "Travis Williams was injured on the opening kickoff and couldn't play anymore," he revealed, "and Willie Davis missed about two quarters after he got his bell rung." Williams, hurt as he fumbled the opening kickoff, suffered a neck injury...**'QUITE A BIT':** "We had fully intended to play Horn and play him quite a bit," Bengtson explained, "But certainly not in a situation like this, where he had to play him. He's a boy we had high hopes for, of course. and one we had a lot of confidence in." The former San Diego State marksman, a first-round Packer draft choice in 1967, had called his own game for the most part. "When we sent in subs, we would indicate what we thought would go, but that's all," Bengtson said. With Starr and Bratkowski sidelined, Horn was called upon to hold the ball for placekicker Mike Mercer, who made three conversion attempts but missed a 41-yard field goal try and had a 44-yard effort

blocked...**FIRST TIME:** "I believe it was the first time Don held the ball this year," Bengtson said. "I don't think he has done any of it in practice since he's been back, but I can't remember. I rather doubt it, though." He said this lack of familiarity "probably" reduced Mercer's effectiveness somewhat. Commenting on his deployment of receivers, which sometimes saw Boyd Dowler at tight end, Bucky Pope at split end and Carroll Dale operating as an in-motion flanker, Bengtson explained, "we weren't doing that to confuse them, we had specific things we wanted to do offensively in that situation. Then we had Marv Fleming in there at tight end and Dowler back at split. We just wanted to give 'em a little different picture to look at." Taking note of the Bears' bristling 17-point revival Bengtson said "That was one of the most inspired rallies I've ever seen...it typifies the Packer-Bear rivalry."...**A RUGGED QUARTER:** "Was that fourth quarter rugged," he mused. "We had a couple of spots when we really needed a first down and we couldn't get one. Some penalties hurt, too, of course." Then, recalling Ray Nitschke's game-ending theft, the former University of Minnesota All-American added fervently, "what a time to get an interception." Looking to 1969, Bengtson termed the victory "a real boost in that respect. "The other thing gratifying about it is that we knew we had some fine young football players but, the way the games were going, we weren't getting a chance to use them as much as we would have liked. Today we did. In some cases we were forced to and in others we just went ahead and did it. Leo Carroll, Leon Crenshaw and John Rowser, along with others, played a lot. We got a lot of people in. Another one was Gordon Rule. We just activated him today and he made some key tackles on kickoffs...it was encouraging."

'GUYS SAID THINGS THAT CALMED ME DOWN,' SAYS HORN

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A smile lighting up his blue eyes and boyish features, the Packers' Don Horn said with unabashed fervor, "I feel great now." Suddenly in the spotlight following his glittering performance in relief of the injured Zeke Bratkowski here Sunday afternoon, the customarily confident young quarterback admitted he had suffered some unease. "I was naturally a little nervous when I went in there," said Horn, encircled by sportswriters in the quarterbacks' claustrophobic cubicle, situated in a corner of the visitors' dressing room at Wrigley Field. "But when I got into the huddle, some of the guys said a couple of things that calmed me down and gave me some confidence." Just 10 days out of the Army, he had been summoned late in the first quarter and went the rest of the way...**'TEAM EFFORT':** Horn, who passed for two touchdowns and set up another in keying the Packers to a 28-27 victory over the title-bidding Bears, added, "We stuck together as a team. It was a team effort all the way. "I felt bad there for a while in the third quarter because I couldn't get us a first down and give the defense a rest. The defense played a great ball game in the second half, but if they don't get a chance to rest for 7 or 8 or 10 minutes, it's pretty rough." His teammates, particularly Jerry Kramer, were agog over his performance, however. "Horn was fantastic, just absolutely fantastic," Kramer declared. "He did a remarkable job...Only I never would have guessed that he would play. There was some talk of starting him, but I said, 'They won't start Don in a game like this.'" Shaking his head in admiration, Kramer added, "He's cool. He got hit in the mouth a couple of times and it didn't bother him at all."...**NUMBER ONE CHOICE:** Horn, whose last previous Packer appearance had been in the intra-squad game back in late July, didn't expect to become a Packer. "A number of teams contacted me some time before the draft two years ago, but the Packers weren't one of them. Then, about

By The Associated Press						
National League						
Eastern Conference						
Capitol Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
xDallas	12	2	0	.857	431	186
New York	7	7	0	.500	294	325
Washington	5	9	0	.357	249	358
Philadelphia	2	12	0	.143	202	351
Century Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
xCleveland	10	4	0	.717	394	271
St. Louis	9	4	1	.692	325	289
New Orleans	4	9	1	.308	246	327
Pittsburgh	2	11	1	.154	244	397
Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
XBaltimore	13	1	0	.929	402	144
Los Angeles	10	3	1	.769	312	200
San Francisco	7	6	1	.538	303	310
Atlanta	2	12	0	.143	387	389
Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
xMinnesota	8	6	0	.571	282	242
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	250	333
Green Bay	6	7	1	.462	281	227
Detroit	4	8	2	.333	207	241
x—Clinched division title.						
Sunday's Results						
San Francisco 14, Atlanta 12.						
Baltimore 28, Los Angeles 24						
Dallas 28, New York 10						
Green Bay 28, Chicago 27						
New Orleans 24, Pittsburgh 14						
Washington 14, Detroit 3						
Minnesota 24, Philadelphia 17						
Saturday's Game						
Eastern Conference Playoff						
Dallas at Cleveland Sunday's Game						
Western Conference Playoff						
Minnesota at Baltimore						

American Football League

Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New York	11	3	0	.786	419	280
Houston	6	8	0	.429	275	276
Miami	5	8	1	.385	276	355
Boston	5	9	0	.357	257	378
Buffalo	1	12	1	.077	199	367
Western Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Kansas City	12	2	0	.857	371	170
Oakland	12	2	0	.857	453	233
San Diego	9	5	0	.643	382	310
Denver	5	9	0	.357	255	404
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	215	329
X—Clinched division title.						
Sunday's Game						
Boston 45, Houston 17						
New York 31, Miami 7						
Oakland 34, San Diego 27.						
Sunday's Game						
Western Division Playoff						
Oakland at Kansas City						

Elsewhere, towering Leo Carroll offered a pithy description of the fumble he recovered in the second quarter, which triggered the Packers third touchdown. Carroll, a teammate of Don Horn at San Diego State, said with a grin, "I figure us San Diego boys have got to work together."

DOOLEY GIVES CREDIT TO OTHER QB (HORN)

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — There were a lot of questions being tossed around the Bears locker room after the Packers had snatched a 28-27 victory here Sunday and most of them had to do with the Chicagoans' pass defense...or, rather, their lack of it. But Coach Jim Dooley turned the questions around by suggesting that the questioners "give credit to the quarterback who came in when Zeke was hurt." "The quarterback," whose name apparently escaped Dooley at the moment, was, of course, youthful Don Horn, just about two weeks removed from being known as Private Don Horn...LOT OF PRESSURE: The sophomore pro from San Diego State was more than slightly spectacular after relieving the fallen Zeke Bratkowski late in the first period and pitching the Packers to their

15 minutes before the draft, Pat Peppler (Packen personnel director) called me and said they were going to name me their number one choice. The next call I got was about an hour later and Coach Lombardi called to say they had picked me." He smiled and appended, "It was quite a thrill to talk to him on the phone, let alone to play for him last year." Horn's most lengthy 1967 contribution came when he started the season finale against Pittsburgh, which the Packers lost, 24-17. Explaining how he happened to "lose" the '68 season, Horn reported, "I was supposed to go into service in February or March for 6 months. But the Department of the Army nixed all reservists. They said they needed all the slots for draftees. "Later on, after all the draftees had been absorbed, they began to call up reservists again and they called me in July." Were his fellow soldiers aware of his football affiliation? "Yes, they were," he smiled. "some of them gave me a pretty hard time, particularly the sergeants." Had he always been a quarterback? "Ever since I can remember - ever since I was able to hold a football my dad gave me. There's a picture of me holding the ball when I was two years old...But I don't think I threw one until I was four."

EVERYTHING FELL INTO PLACE FOR BOYD

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — Boyd Dowler, who ranks behind only Don Hutson in Packer history, is not known as a long ball receiver. But the rangy Coloradan was the home run type here Sunday afternoon, snaring six passes for 182 yards, including a 72-yard first quarter collaboration with Zeke Bratkowski. Dowler, who went the distance twice and set up a third Packer touchdown on a 45-yard pitch from Don Horn, had no esoteric explanation for his electrifying afternoon. "That's the way it goes some times," he said. "Sometimes everything falls into place." "On the first touchdown, Zeke put the ball right in there. Richie Petitbon played the ball and missed. Rosie Taylor came over and I tried to juke him. I got my hand on his helmet good. The second touchdown was a beautiful throw by Horn - that's all there was to it...Horn laid the ball up there good. He's got a lot of moxie."...AFRAID OF OVERTHROW: On the 45-yard maneuver, which carried the Packers to the Bear 8, Dowler explained, "I had to wait for it a little. I tried to stiff arm him, too (Joe Taylor) but I was turned around and I couldn't get a good shot at him. "I was so open on that one," Dowler concluded with a grin, "I think Don was afraid he was going to overthrow me." Jim Grabowski, the recipient of Horn's first TD strike, quipped, "I told Carroll (Dale) I was going to run flies all the time next year." On a more serious note, Grabo reported, "I saw somebody coming up from 'behind me. I thought it might be Rosie Taylor. That's what worried me, I know how fast he is and how slow I am. I was afraid he might get the angle on me, but it turned out all right." The personable Chicagoan admitted it had been a happy occasion for him "because I've never had a good day here." He might have had two touchdowns save for losing a shoe after carrying to the one-yard-line in the second quarter. Chuck Mercein was summoned while he was getting re-shoed and scored. "It's between buddies," Grab smiled, "so it's all right."...ZEKE COULD'VE RETURNED: Bratkowski, who left late in the first quarter with rib injuries, informed, "I think I could have gone back in...I don't know how hard I could have thrown, but I think I could have gone back in." Doug Hart, who went the distance for the second straight game in place of the injured Bob Jeter and registered a second quarter interception, reported, "Dick Gordon ran a crossing pattern and Jack Concannon bootlegged the other way on the play. I managed to get in front of Gordon. On Gordon's touchdown in the fourth quarter, it was almost an identical pattern, except that time I didn't get a hand on it. I just touched it with my fingertips." Travis Williams, whose fumble on the opening kickoff led to the Bears' first three points, said sadly, "I screwed up again...screwed up again. It was a short kick and it bounced up - I just got my fingertips on it. I dropped it, got it again and I got hit. I don't think I had control of it the second time, either." Williams, who suffered a neck injury on the play, was unable to continue. "I went to the sidelines and the doctor looked at me for 5 or 6 minutes, then decided I'd better go in, so I listened to the rest of the game on the radio."

victory. "He did a fine job under a lot of pressure," Dooley declared. He quickly added, "We were blitzing a lot." And he acknowledged that the Bears' hopes had been spurred when Brat was forced out and Horn forced in. "We felt we should be able to contain him. We should have felt confident after the fine defensive game last week against one of the better quarterbacks in the league, Roman Gabriel," he continued. But Dooley further suggested that "Green Bay had a fine offensive game plan."...**PURNELL PRAISE:** Linebacker Jim Purnell, who had sidelined Gabriel the previous week before putting Bratkowski out of commission in this game, also had kind words for Horn. "We were blitzing a lot and I thought we would get to him but he did a good job. He stayed right in that pocket," the ex-Wisconsin star stated. The heavy blitzing, designed to disrupt the Packers passing game, apparently played a part in its overwhelming success. Though Dooley insisted he would have to look at the movies to determine just what happened in the Bear secondary, he noted, "It's obvious there were some breakdowns."...**DOGGIN' A LOT:** Bratkowski tossed one touchdown pass and Horn threw two of them besides setting up the other Packer TD with a long aerial. In all, the Packers made only 65 yards on the ground but earned 251 in the air on 11 completions in 18 attempts, 10 of 16 by Horn. "We were doggin' a lot and because of that we couldn't press their ends," Bennie McRae said, indicating the blitzing left the secondary without coverage help. Rosey Taylor suggested, "We made a few mistakes. We were up too tight. Too anxious, I guess. And they ran some broken patterns. They didn't care, really. They had nothing at stake and were just



Bear Linebacker Dick Butkus (51) fourth quarter of Sunday's game in Chicago. The Bears' Roosevelt Taylor (24) Bay's Donny Anderson (44) during the moves up to help make the stop.

loose." The biggest mistake apparently came on Horn's 67-yard scoring pass to Jim Grabowski in the second period. Grabo, after circling out of the backfield, was all alone over the middle. "I messed that one up...I went for the play action and wanted to make the tackle," Richie Petitbone admitted...**SLOT FORMATION:** The fact that the Packers had employed Boyd Dowler at a tight end and used Carroll Dale and Bucky Pope in a slot formation also troubled the Bears a bit, they agreed. The Packers consistently broke Dowler open and the lanky receiver came up with six catches for 182 yards. On the other hand, the Bears were quick to note that they used a little strategy of their own in an attempt to confuse the Packer defense. Dick Gordon was installed as a flanker for the first time this year, moving over from split end. This, according to Dooley, was designed to get him in a one-on-one situation. "We felt the Packers would expect him on the weak side where they could double team him. The Rams did that last week. But we felt we could score with him on the other side man-to-man," the coach explained. And Gordon did score. Two of his six catches were good for TDs, both on bombs. But they weren't enough.

BEARS FINISH SEASON MINUS 4 MORE REGULARS

DEC 16 (Chicago) - The Chicago Bears lost four players by injury against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, and probably none of them would have been able to play next week if the Bears had won. George Seals suffered a left knee injury and Dr. Theodore Fox said he wouldn't know for 48 hours if it would require an operation. Doug Kriewald suffered a left knee injury also and Fox said it too would require 48 hours to determine the prognosis. Kriewald also suffered a fractured left ankle. Linebacker Mike Reilly suffered a fractured left ankle and his

leg will be in a cast for 10 weeks. Tackle Bob Wetoska aggravated an ankle injury and it was uncertain how serious it was. "Even if we'd won, we probably would not have had enough men to play a game next Sunday," Coach Jim Dooley said.

BART MISSES 1ST SINCE '63, BUD SEES 94TH

DEC 16 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It was a long day for Bart Starr. For only the second time in his 13-year pro career, the veteran quarterback was not in uniform when the Packers took the field against the Bears here Sunday. "There was one other time I didn't dress," Starr, sidelined for the Packers' last two games with rib injuries, reported. "That was for the game after I broke my hand in St. Louis in 1963." Sunday also marked the first time that Starr was not on the official roster for a game since joining the Packers in 1956. He was deactivated for the finale to make room for second year quarterback Don Horn... Fourteen living Packer and Bear immortals, all enshrined in the Hall of Fame, were honored between halves in ceremonies marking the 100th meeting between pro football's oldest rivals. Introduced from the field were Packer greats Arnie Herber, Don Hutson, Clarke Hinkle, Johnny Blood McNally and Mike Michalske and ex-Bear stars Harold (Red) Grange, Danny Fortmann, Ed Healey, Link Lyman, George McAfee, Bronko Nagurski, Joe Stydahar, George Trafton and Clyde (Bulldog) Turner. Following the game, all were guests of the Bears at their annual alumni dinner in the Conrad Hilton hotel, at which each was presented with an engraved wrist watch in memory of the occasion...It was the 94th Packer-Bear game

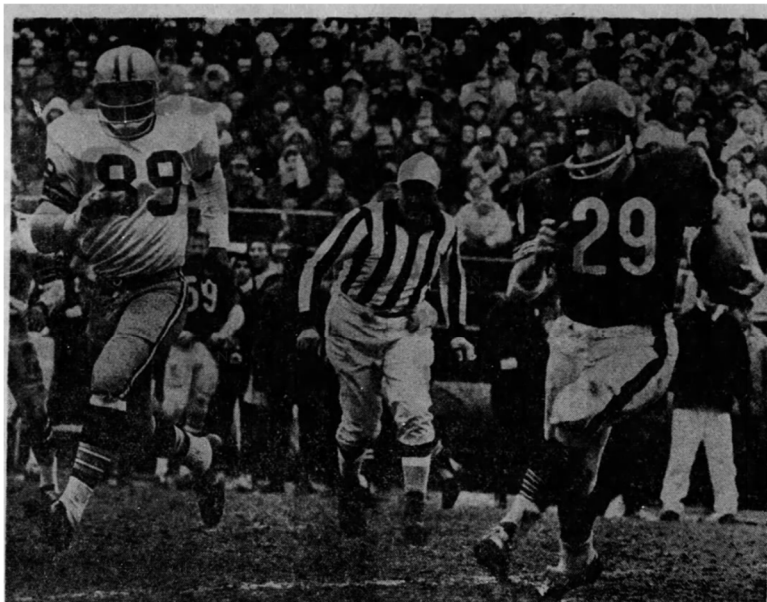
for the Packers' longtime trainer, Carl (Bud) Jorgensen. Jorgensen, who joined the Pack in 1924 as equipment manager, has seen more of the neighborhood classics than any other living Packer fan or official... John Eisenbarger, the University of Indiana's versatile halfback, was a guest on the Packer bench during the game, along with assistant coach Tom Shine. "We think John has a good chance at the Heisman trophy next year," Shine said. Eisenbarger is a junior.

BEARS DRY TEARS - DOOLEY REVAMPS PASS OFFENSE

DEC 16 (Chicago Tribune) – There were tears, O yes there were, you can take it from Coach Jim Dooley, but those were quickly wiped away and the Bears greeted the world with dry-eyed silence yesterday. They had just lost the game they had to win, wanted so badly to win, and suddenly the season was over. Some could not believe it. "I thought we were going to come back all the way," said Ralph Kurek. "For a brief moment it looked like a possibility," said Dooley. "I guess the good Lord just didn't mean it to be," said Loyd Phillips ruefully. The Bears had come back, a long way back, and just when it appeared they might make it all the way, the Packers braced one last time and it was over. The play that finished the Bears was an interception by Ray Nitschke with a minute to go. But the Packer middle linebacker need have done no more than bat the ball down for it was fourth and 14 near midfield and Jack Concannon's pass was as desperate a play as you're likely to see...**RAN OUT OF DOWNS:** The Bears had wanted to move within field goal range, but were on the Packer 48 when they ran out of downs. "If the wind had been blowing the other way, even a little bit, I'd have let Percival try it," said Dooley. The Bears completely revamped their pass offense for this game because Dooley thought "we might have to score quite a few points to win." Last week he had told the offense 17 points would beat the Los Angeles Rams and it did. This time, however, "I was afraid 17 wouldn't be enough if things started to go for the Packers." So Dooley employed two tight ends, Emilio Vallez and Austin Denney, and flanked Dick Gordon for the first time. His reasons: "I felt we could get man-to-man coverage on Gordon if we put him on the strong side and also that the Packers would be expecting him on the weak side where they could double team him. We had three or four plays that we thought Dick could score on and he scored on two." And Gordon says he could have scored a couple more, but "Lady Luck was not with us." On one play just before the first half ended, Gordon had his man beat, but "Jack's timing was a little off and the ball hung a little. I had been open for 20 yards across the field." The pass was intercepted. "Then on that stop and up I was open but it seemed like the wind just took the ball out of bounds. If we'd had those two touchdowns it wouldn't even have been close." The Bears' pass defense, which had been much better in recent weeks after a shaky start, was victimized for each of the Packer touchdowns...**DOWLER BEAT PETITBON:** On the first, Boyd Dowler beat Richie Petitbon, who made a diving attempt at an interception. "I actually tipped the ball right into his hands," said Petitbon. Probably the biggest play for the Packers was the second score on which Jim Grabowski victimized – again – Petitbon. Actually, Petitbon could easily have concealed his mistake because it appeared from the stands that Grabowski had been isolated on Linebacker Dick Butkus. "No," said Petitbon, "the type of coverage we had that was my responsibility. I should have picked him up, but I went for the play action fake. I was more interested in making the tackle than I was in pass protection and in this business that's a no-no." Petitbon hinted that the mistake could be his last as a Bear. When a writer said to him, "Well, I guess this is the last time we'll see you here," Petitbon, who has been trying to get himself traded to his home town, New Orleans, answered: "I sure hope so."...**HORN TO DOWLER:** The final Packer score came on a 25-yard pass from Don Horn to Boyd Dowler and this time it was Bennie McRae who was beaten. Explained McRae: "I had him covered, but I didn't realize the ball had been thrown since nobody yelled, 'Ball.' If I had known it, I could have made the play. As it was that kid made a perfect throw." The Bears battled to the end and even when it was over they wanted to keep playing. The gun went off with 11 seconds showing on the scoreboard and Phillips protested to the officials. He later explained: "When Butkus made contact [the Bears middle linebacker had gone offsides], they ruled he did it on purpose, but that doesn't matter, the clock is supposed to stop anyway. I suppose it didn't matter but you like to play it out. Besides," he grinned wryly, "The guy playing across from me had just given me a whack in the stomach and I wanted another play to get back at him."

PACKERS LAUD HORN - HERO IS ACTIVATED DAY OF GAME

DEC 16 (Chicago Tribune) – "I intend to be around for a few more years and it's nice to know he'll be here with me," said Fullback Jim Grabowski yesterday, nodding his head toward the corner in the Green Bay Packer dressing room where young Don Horn was surrounded by newsmen. "The game he played today was unbelievable, especially when you consider this was a Bear-Packer game - what football is all about." Grabowski couldn't help shake his head when he said it, putting the former Taft High school star in complete accord with each and every member of the vocal mob that saw the young quarterback from San Diego State destroy Bear title hopes with a Frank Merriwell performance...**A LONG LAYOFF:** Activated yesterday morning by the Packers, playing in his second pro game



Chicago Bear Back Ronnie Bull (29) picks up yardage in the open field against the Packers during second-quarter action of Sunday's game. Running in is Green Bay linebacker Dave Robinson (89). Bull gained 80 yards in 13 carries. (AP Photo)



The Packers' Boyd Dowler (86) seemed to get the "Go-Go" message on a sign he passed en route to a 72-yard touchdown in the first quarter of Sunday's game against the Chicago Bears in Wrigley Field. Dowler sped down the sidelines after taking a Zeke Bratkowski aerial, giving Green Bay a 7-3 lead at the time. (AP Wirephoto)

and first since last year, and fresh from a six-month tour with the army, Horn passed for two touchdowns and set up another with a 45-yard throw to Boyd Dowler at the Bear 4-yard line. Green Bay put 21 points on the scoreboard under Horn's direction after Zeke Bratkowski was hammered in the ribs while passing early in the game which decided the Central division title. Horn, who joined the team less than two weeks ago, still had his adrenalin up, telling the story of "the most satisfying game I've ever played" quickly and easily while the Packer equipment man badgered him for his pants and jersey. "I knew I was going to get to play today because the coaches wouldn't have activated me unless they were going to play me," Horn began. "So I wasn't really nervous. "But I really didn't get hypered up until Rosey Taylor blind-sided me on that blitz. Then the adrenalin started pumping and I knew I was back on the gridiron. I learned something on that play, all right. I could see Dick Butkus and the way he was moving it looked like the blitz was coming but I figured they were trying to sucker me and I didn't call an audible. When Rosey creamed me I knew I had made a mistake. I was at Fort Sill in Oklahoma up until two weeks ago, just a Pfc in the artillery, so I didn't have time to work on a lot of plays when I got back...HAD PLAYS ON WRIST: "We used six running plays and, maybe, six or eight pass plays and, as you can see, I had them written down on this tape around my left wrist. I was able to work out a little bit for just a month before I got out but I still could be in a little better shape. I know I should have put a little more juice on that one pass to Dowler. He would have been able to go all the way

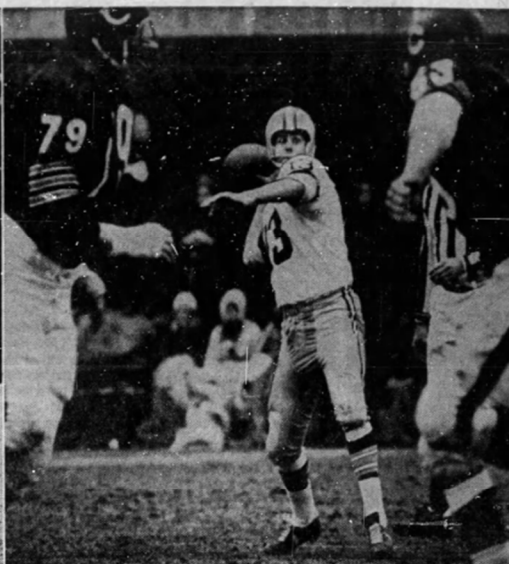
with it. I didn't really see him on that one, anyway. I was on the ground. But I sure saw Grabo [Grabowski] score his touchdown. After I threw the pass I screamed at him all the way down the field, until he went into the end zone." Horn's excitement was understandable and infectious - or, perhaps, it was just the magic of beating the Bears after a dismal season which buoyed even Veterans Dowler and Ray Nitschke and Coach Phil Bengtson...HORN CALLS PLAYS: Bengtson, in his first year as head coach of the Packers after a long apprenticeship as an aid to Vince Lombardi, revealed that Horn had called his own plays all the way "except for a couple we gave him at the sidelines during timeouts." "I thought we were in for another one of those days when Williams [Travis] fumbled the opening kickoff and the Bears recovered," Bengtson continued. "And then Bratkowski got hurt and I was sure it was going to be a repeat of what has happened to us all year. But we kept on going. We knew the opportunity was there for the long pass and we had very good luck with the play action pass all day [Grabowski scored his touchdown on such a pass after faking a block at the outside linebacker]." Nitschke, all-pro linebacker for almost all of his 11 years with the team, was able to grin about that play, too, despite a huge strawberry on his derriere that must have smarted something wild. "I was very fortunate to be where I could step in and grab that ball," Nitschke said. "It stopped them from scoring and made me feel as though I might be able to play a couple of more years."

QUIT? IT WASN'T IN BEARS' VOCABULARY

DEC 16 (Chicago Tribune) - Whatever you choose to say about the Bears, there is one thing you cannot say. You cannot say they quit. Ever. They had lots of chances to quit and never more than in the second half yesterday when, already trailing the Green Bay Packers, 28 to 10, their best two offensive linemen were struck down by injury. The Bears answered this latest snub by the gods of good fortune with a driving, blasting 75-yard march to a touchdown and that in turn set off a complete revival of spirits. The Bears came back and they came close and what more is there to say? "One point or a hundred, what's the difference?" said a disappointed Ed O'Bradovich later. Well, there is a difference, Ed, and when some of the pain has worn off you will be able to see it. It's the same difference that the Packers can point to when they go back to reassess their season. They could have lost to the Bears yesterday and been a 5-8-1 also-ran instead of a 6-7-1 also-ran. The difference is pride. The Bears lost the title in a race in which they really had no business running. They came out of it with bodies broken, spirits bending, but pride intact...The season that ended prematurely for the Bears yesterday must have been the most unusual in their history. It almost defies description. Yesterday's game was the season in microcosm. It started 14 weeks ago in Wrigley field with high hopes. There was a new coach, a feeling of optimism, and a good summer training camp to look back on. There was no reason to believe the Bears would not win their opener against Washington and maybe the next two against Detroit and Minnesota, too. They did not win against Washington, and they were buried by Detroit. But Bear opponents all year found out you could not bury the Bears deep enough. Not until yesterday, at least. When the Bears finally did win a game, it cost them the services of their No. 1 quarterback. Jack Concannon. After two more losses the record was one victory, four defeats, and where was the pride then? Well, it was there, hidden somewhere in those huge hearts, but it took an unheralded rookie quarterback to bring it into the open. Virgil Carter stepped in and performed a miracle. He turned the Bears into a winner, not because he was such a great quarterback, but because the



Zeke Bratkowski Leaves Early ...



... Young Don Horn Takes Over ...



... Under Watchful Eye of Bart Starr
—State Journal Photos by L. Roger Turner

Pack Horns In on Bear Title Bid



GREEN BAY FULLBACK Chuck Mercein (30) cradles the ball as he falls into the end zone to score against the Chicago Bears Sunday at Wrigley Field. Meanwhile, quarterback Don Horn (13), who was in for the injured Zeke Bratkowski, triumphantly walks away, his arms up signalling the touchdown. The Packers won, 28-27, to deprive the Bears of a tie for the Central Division championship.

(AP Wirephoto)

whole team pulled itself together to protect him. "They were afraid I was going to get killed," Carter said, and eventually it happened...Carter was carried off the field with a broken ankle, but not before the Bears had won four in a row to return from oblivion. But still, it appeared they were ready to die. The great Gale Sayers was injured one week, the boy wonder Carter was hurt the next. Surely it was time to quit. But haven't we told you the Bears would not quit? Somehow they managed to piece together enough of an offense to beat the New Orleans Saints. Somehow they pitched themselves to incredible heights and beat the mighty Rams. And so when they kicked the ball to the Green Bay Packers yesterday all they needed was one more victory for that division title that no one thought they could win. And then there it was again. The early letdown by the defense and the Packers had an 18-point lead. The injuries, not to just any players, but to important cogs in the offensive line. And then the comeback. Well, the Bears did not win it and we could write for three hours and still not cover all the reasons why, the missed tackle in this game, the breakdown in pass defense here, if only, if only. But let's not do that. Let's just say, thank you Bears for an exciting season.

There were times you didn't play well and there were times you made us furious. But what you never, never did was quit.

SAINTS FAILED IN TRY FOR LOMBARDI

DEC 16 (New Orleans) — The New Orleans Saints tried unsuccessfully several days ago to lure Vince Lombardi to run the NFL's newest team, it was learned today. But Lombardi refused to budge from Green Bay, where he is general manager. So, Tom Fears, the one-time great receiver of the Los Angeles Rams who broke into the coaching ranks under Lombardi at Packerland, will continue to coach the Saints - unless he decides to shoot for one of the several NFL jobs expected to open up now that the 1968 regular season has been completed. With quarterback Billy Kilmer throwing for 292 yards and two touchdowns Sunday, the Saints closed out their campaign with a 24-14 conquest of the Pittsburgh Steelers. It gave New Orleans a 4-9-1 record and made Fears the most successful coach of an expansion team over a two year period-7-20-1, which tops Minnesota's 5-22-1 showing for its first two years, the previous best by an expansion club...NO INDICATION: Fears didn't talk like a coach thinking about changing jobs after Sunday's victory. "We want to improve more next year," said Fears. "We don't want to backslide. Actually, we fell a half game short - if you want to put it that way - of my goal for this season: five victories. "I still think we could have won five, and maybe more; if we hadn't had so many injuries - with key people like Kilmer and defensive end Doug Atkins and linebacker Fred Whittingham getting hurt." It's an open secret that Fears and General

Manager Vic Schwenk don't see eye-to-eye - particularly about the upcoming collegiate draft. Both Fears and Schwenk, who was director of player personnel until owner John W. Mecom Jr. elevated him to general manager after firing Bert Rose from the post, are constantly heard grumbling about each other...STILL MAY MOVE: "If the rift isn't settled, I think there's a good chance Tom may decide to shoot for another head coaching job if one opens up," said a highly placed Saints' source. "However, I don't believe this has seriously entered Tom's mind right now but if he gets some feelers from Detroit or Pittsburgh, or other places, he'll start thinking real hard." The Saints sent an emissary to Green Bay last week to talk to Lombardi, who retired from coaching last year after leading the Packers to three straight NFL titles, it was learned. The informant reported that Schwenk was supposed to have remained with New Orleans as assistant general manager under Lombardi. No mention was made of finances except "Lombardi was offered six figures."

Bengtson Heaps Praise on Horn, Finds Sheer Joy in Winning Season's Finale