



NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
Washington Redskins (11-3) 16, Green Bay Packers (10-4) 3
Sunday December 24th 1972 (at Washington)

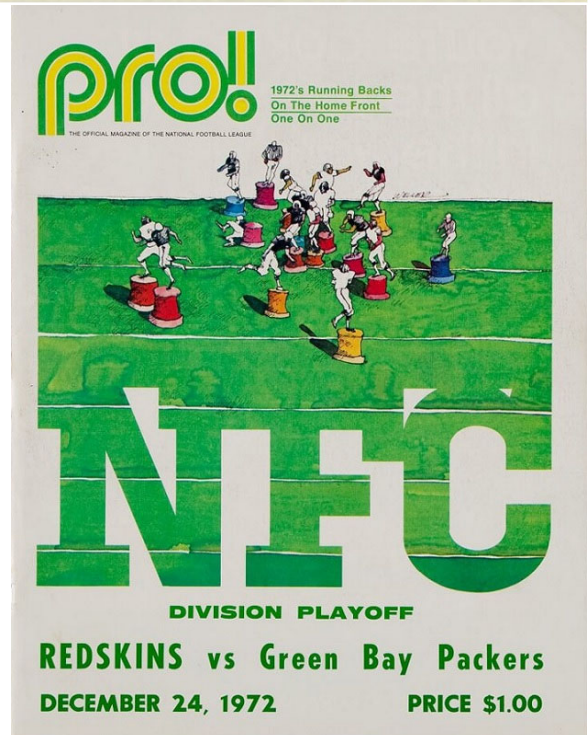


Over-the-Hill Redskins Undermine Packers

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(THE SPORTING NEWS) - The Over the Hill Gang, sometimes called the Washington Redskins, pressed ever closer to the National Football League summit on December 24. George Allen's elder statesmen spanked those young whippersnappers from Green Bay, 16-3, and earned a rematch here with the Dallas Cowboys for the National Conference Championship. The Redskins unfettered a massive, scrooge-like defensive tackle named Manny Sistrunk, along with a rare five-man front, to throttle the Packer ground attack. Bill Kilmer's arm and Curt Knight's leg were the major offensive tools in a victory that snuffed out whispers of the annual Allen fold. Three other times in his seven-year career as a head coach in the NFL, Allen had produced teams that were almost lethal during the regular season, but lost in the first round of the playoffs. The Redskins recalled the most recent time - last season - and were nagged by the notion of the 1972 outfit carrying a two-game losing streak against a coltish band that had the Packer mystique, and also some excellent players. Allen held two secret practices before the game, during which he was able to concoct the antidote that would neutralize the Packers' John Brockington and MacArthur Lane and also hide the fact that one of his best blockers, guard John Wilbur, probably would not play. The five-man front - with tackle Sistrunk being used instead of the middle linebacker, Myron Pottios, was a dare for quarterback Scott Hunter to pass. But the Redskins did not stop there.

They also forced Hunter to think. The Packers sent in each play for Hunter, so the Redskins operated a shuttle system of players designed to force him into another call-his own-at the line of scrimmage. Tackle Bill Brundige, the pass rusher, would dash in at times, then Pottios, then another linebacker, Harold McLinton, then Ted Vactor, an extra defensive back. But each fresh Redskin would trot onto the field only after Hunter's messenger entered the Packer huddle. If the quarterback was not thoroughly confused by it all, he was throwing poorly. It was fairly obvious by the third quarter that the Packer offense was not going to score without considerable help. The most boggling numbers of the game belonged to Brockington, the bull-like runner who had exceeded 1,000 yards in each of his two years in the NFL. But a national television audience, 53,140 giddy RFK Stadium customers and Santa Claus watched Brockington muster just nine yards in 13 carries while his backfield buddy, Lane, could produce just 55 yards in 14 trips. "I was mad and I was really breaking guys' heads," said Sistrunk, who earlier in the season had lost his tackle position to Brundige, but was keeping constant company with Brockington in this game. "This was a money game. And any time you're playing with my money, I'm mad. I can whip any man that's made out of flesh and blood. I was knocking the bleep out of that center (Ken Bowman). I went around him and over him, but mostly through him." Sistrunk is a 6-5, 265-pound bundle out of Arkansas AM&N who once said he would know he had it made in the pros once he started laughing during games. If Sistrunk was not dispensing laughs on the field, he was a glow in the post-game celebration of his finest day as a professional, accepting the slaps and cheers of his teammates and clutching the game ball close to his breast. "I think the five-linemen defense is a major reason we won the game," said defensive tackle Diron Talbert, "and Manny is what made it so effective." The defense and Sistrunk were the major reasons for the Washington success, but they clearly were not the only ones. Kilmer, after being knocked unconscious in the first quarter, completed 7 of 14 passes and a 32-yarder to Roy Jefferson that produced the only touchdown. And the often erratic Knight kicked field goals of 42, 35 and 46 yards. "The second the ball left my hand, I knew it was a touchdown," Kilmer said of the over-the-middle bullet that Jefferson snagged in the end zone. "I had the same feeling that it was a TD that a basketball player has when he says, 'Swish,' after he lets one fly. I had Roy for almost a touchdown on the same play earlier, but I lollypopped the ball and threw behind him." There were two tense moments for the Redskins and the crowd, one when Kilmer went down and stayed there for more than 30 seconds-after a torrid lick from Alden Roche - and when Brown limped off the field shortly before the half. "When Len Hauss, the center, comes over and asks if you want to take some snaps, you know it's pretty serious," said backup quarterback Sam Wyche. But the sideline snaps were as close as Wyche got to playing quarterback, and Brown also recovered nicely and gained 101 yards in 25 carries. However, the All-Pro runner has been bothered by a series of ailments that caused him to miss the final two regular-season games and lose the NFL rushing title to Buffalo's O. J. Simpson. "We didn't have a particularly great offensive day (252 net yards)," Kilmer said. "But we were playing against the toughest defense in the league. We just didn't want to give them an easy score."





The Green Bay Packers offense lines up against the Washington Redskins defense at RFK Stadium in the 1972 NFC Divisional Playoff Game on December 24, 1972 in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Nate Fine/Getty Images)



The Washington Redskins offense lines up against the Green Bay Packers defense at RFK Stadium in the 1972 NFC Divisional Playoff Game on December 24, 1972 in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Nate Fine/Getty Images)

They did not, and Knight outproduced his more successful Green Bay counterpart, rookie Chester Marcol. There were indications that forces were at work toward just that end even before the game. Knight admitted he had been kicking poorly in the pre-game practice, just as he had admitted earlier in the season that a slump could very well cost him his job. Marcol, on the other hand, had booted 33 of 48 field-goal tries through the uprights during the regular season and one of his long efforts before the Sunday game hit the crossbar and bounced through. It quickly became evident that Knight's luck would not be as bad as before and that Marcol's would not be as good. Early in the second quarter, Marcol sailed a line drive from the 47-yard line, but it hit the crossbar and this time bounced back on the playing field. His only other effort was from the 17 and it was true. "Curt Knight and Mike Bragg (the punter who averaged under 39 yards for the season but 46.5 against Green Bay) both had frustrating years," Allen said. "But I said all year Knight would win us a game." "We've just been saving it," said Bragg, smiling. "I put things like defensive alignments and men rushing me out of my mind and just started punting the ball." If the Redskins, from Kilmer through the defense through the wicked-hitting special teams, were more prepared for this game than any other they could remember, they were in a nasty mood. Charley Taylor, one of the captains, and Allen talked to the team before the game. "We've been waiting for this game 21 weeks," Taylor said. "Some of us have been waiting for this game all of our lives," said Allen. After the victory was accomplished and the sting of playoff losses in 1967 and 1969 with the Los Angeles Rams and last season with the Redskins, Allen repeated his usual post-game theme. "Jack Pardee called a great game and you can underline the word great," Allen said. "We have a responsibility to the nation's capital." A week before, after a loss to Buffalo, Allen had linked losing to death. Sunday, after his most important victory as a coach, he said: "Winning is like being reborn." "We wanted it to end like this (against Dallas)," said Kilmer. "We wanted to play them and play them at home. We've each won one and it'll be the two best teams in the conference playing for a trip to the Super Bowl. It will be one hell of a ball game."

GREEN BAY - 0 3 0 0 - 3
WASHINGTON - 0 10 0 6 - 16

	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>WASHINGTON</u>
First downs	10	13
Rush-yards-TDs	29-78-0	36-138-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	24-12-150-0-1	14-7-100-1-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-17	1-6
Net Passing Yards	133	94
Total yards	211	232
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Turnovers	1	1
Yards Penalized	6-54	4-30

SCORING

2nd – GB – Chester Marcol, 17-yard field goal GB 3-0

2nd – WASH – Roy Jefferson, 32-yard pass from Billy Kilmer (Curt Knight kick) WASH 7-3

2nd – WASH – Knight, 42-yard field goal WASH 10-3

4th – WASH – Knight, 35-yard field goal WASH 13-3

4th – WASH – Knight, 46-yard field goal WASH 16-3

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 14-56, Scott Hunter 2-13, John Brockington 13-9

WASHINGTON – Larry Brown 25-101, Charlie Harraway 10-34, Billy Kilmer 1-3

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Scott Hunter 24-12-150 1 INT

WASHINGTON – Billy Kilmer 14-7-100 1 TD

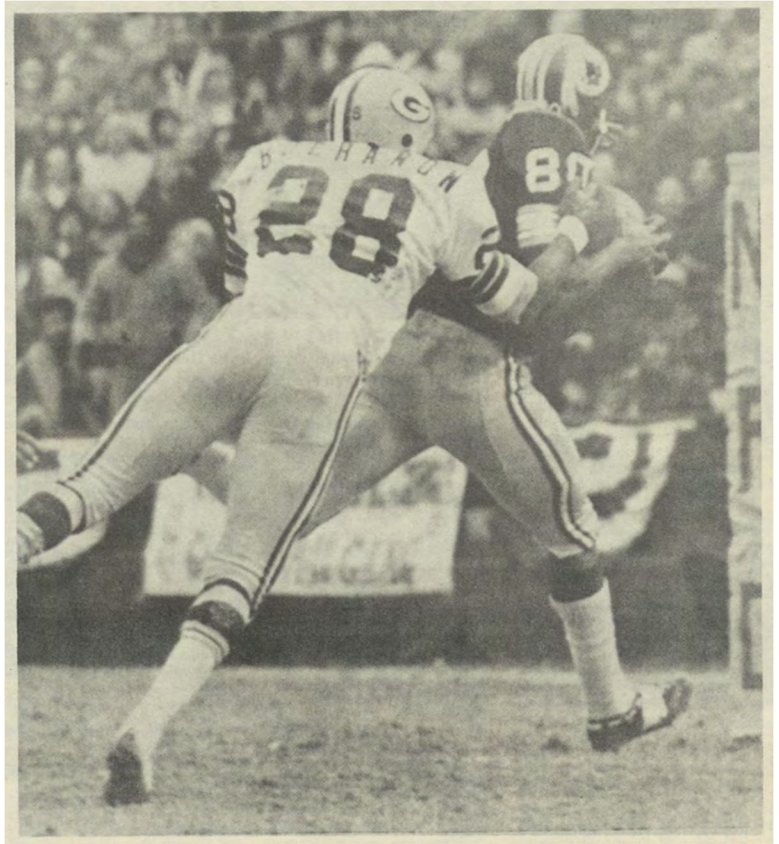
RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 4-42, Carroll Dale 2-28, Leland Glass 2-23, John Brockington 2-17, Jon Staggers 1-23, Len Garrett 1-17

WASHINGTON – Roy Jefferson 5-84 1 TD, Charley Taylor 2-16

PACKER FATE DETERMINED BEFOREHAND?

DEC 26 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Perhaps it wasn't meant to be...The finger, in retrospect, was pointed at the Packer passing game and the Redskins' five-man line, one of which begot the other. But the feeling persists that the football fates already had arrived at a "decision" before either of these factors became manifest amid the bedlam of RFK Stadium here Sunday afternoon. The Packers, to be victimized 16-3 in their first playoff appearance since 1967, should have suspected the worst when the day began badly for them. Defensive tackle Bob Brown, turning in his chair at the pre-game meal to chat with Bill Lueck, inadvertently stuck the "live" end of his long cigar into the veteran guard's right eye. "It just wasn't my day all around," Lueck, who wore a white patch over the eye throughout the afternoon for protective purposes, was later to lament. "We lose the game and I get burned in the eye." The presence of an unseen hand subsequently was suggested when Chester Marcol's first field goal attempt, spinning in uncharacteristically horizontal fashion, struck the crossbar to the left of center and bounced back onto the playing field. A sad but philosophical Dan Devine pointed out, "You don't know how games are going to go. If Chester makes that field goal, who knows? Stopping us was good defensive play on their part, but hitting the crossbar was something else." Exuberant George Allen, who had just brought Washington its first playoff victory in 30 years, agreed. "I breathed a sigh of relief when Marcol's first kick hit the crossbar," he said. "There wasn't anything I didn't like out there today." The pattern of improbability continued to develop as the game wore on. The Redskins' Curt Knight, as erratic all season as Marcol has been consistent, hit on all three field goals he attempted, two of them from beyond 40 yards. And Washington's Mike Bragg, who had averaged a scant 38 yards for 14 regular season games, suddenly was punting the ball into the D.C. stratosphere. Twice, with the Redskins backed up near their goal line in the third quarter, the pocket-sized punter bailed them out with 53 and 57-yard launches that quickly reversed the pressure. The reliable Ron Widby, meanwhile, was inexplicably off key, once getting off a 24-yard "shank" which led to the Redskins' first goal and a 10-3 Washington lead at halftime. Devine, still pondering these and other pertinent items Christmas Day, ascribed Sunday's setback to Washington's edge in both experience and execution. "I think their experience helped them. I have a feeling their defense played just a little better than ours, and so did their offense and special teams," he said. "When that happens in a game in which only one touchdown is scored - and there aren't any fluke type of things - it's pretty hard to win." Noting, "We got beat by a real good football team," Devine had no fault to find with the effort expended. "That's about as hard as we can play," he said. "I would be in hopes we would make improvement next year, but as far as effort is concerned, I couldn't ask for anymore. The Redskins are an excellent football team and they played an excellent game. But losing is a bitter pill to swallow. We fully expected to win. It was our only thought. Overall, it was the kind of game I expected. I didn't think there would be much scoring. The only real scoring opportunity put together was ours, the one on which we came away with a field goal". Their touchdown, of course, came on one play from 32 yards out on the pass from (Bill) Kilmer to (Roy) Jefferson. Noting how the law of averages had operated against the Packers, he pointed out, "They were three of three in field goals and, even though two of them just dribbled over the crossbar, they still dribbled over." Although the Redskins attributed their success in stifling Green Bay's ground game to the five-man line, Devine was not in complete accord on this point. "I think too much has been made of that," he said. "The crucial plays they made defensively were out of their 4-3, when they stopped us down on the goal line and in the short yardage situation. "It's not the alignment - it's how well it's played. Anybody could line up in a 5-1, but it takes certain people to execute it. Redskin defensive end Verlon Biggs supported Devine's contention. "Really it was not the five man front that beat the Packers," he said. "It was how we used it that really counted. You might say that we took care of business today." "We were not surprised by it," Devine assured, "because they played a 5-1 against us some the last time we played them...The first thing you have to be able to do in this situation is throw the ball, and I thought we did that with a certain amount of success. As far as the problems of our running game are concerned (the Packers were held to 78 yards, their lowest rushing total of the season), I couldn't say it was a breakdown in line blocking. That would be



Roy Jefferson cradles a touchdown pass from Billy Kilmer for the Redskins' only six-pointer in their 16-3 win over Green Bay. No. 28 is Willie Buchanon.

pinpointing it too much. I couldn't do that without looking at the film. "The execution of the defense, rather than the alignment itself, was the key to stopping John Brockington (held to a mere nine yards in 13 carries). Actually, I think we had the ball more total plays than they did (it was 55 to 51, Green Bay). "Brock also carried the ball about half as many times as he normally does, too. It was a big part of the game, of course, our not getting the yardage on the ground. They were gambling on stopping our passing game by using that defense. They obviously figured our passing was the weakest point of our game." And a profitable gamble it turned out to be. Although the Redskin format virtually ignored the tight end and left the middle unguarded, the Packers were unable to capitalize. Allen, conceding the five-man format is not without flaws, explained, "The defense has some weaknesses, especially against passes down the center. But we decided against a team with great running backs like Brockington and Lane, we had to stop the run first." Scott Hunter did manage to complete 12 of 24 passes for 150 yards, one of his better percentage days of the year, but there were several critical occasions when a receiver was over or underthrown. "You've got to be able to do a little better in that department than that," Devine admitted, "if you're going to win." He and his aides had considered going to rookie Jerry Tagge during the second half, he conceded. "We gave some thought to it," Devine said, "but we didn't think change at that time would help us that much." Hunter, who had hoped to expunge the memory of a previous misadventure against the Redskins during the regular season, was deeply disappointed. A man of few words on this unhappy occasion, he said, "Any time we hold anybody to 16 points, we ought to win going away. And that's me - that's my job, putting points on the board." Some of the Packers difficulties stemmed from inopportune "calls," Devine pointed out. "There were three very crucial penalties in the third quarter - all against the Packers," he said. "I'm not saying they weren't penalties. But we're just not a good enough football team to have things like that happen. There again, their defense came up with the big plays when they needed it." So did Knight, who earned one of two game balls awarded by the Redskins for tying a playoff record with those three field goals, and Bragg. "Those two guys had frustrating years" a smiling George Allen noted, "but they came through when we needed them." Knight, a mere 14-for-30 over the regular season route, said, "Nothing can make up for the season I've had, but this sure was the right time to have a good day. Two of the kicks were perfect. But I wasn't sure about the 42-yarder because I hit under it a little bit." Bragg, who averaged an impressive 46.6 yards per punt, wasn't interested in the past. "I'm really happy with the way I kicked today and that's as far back as I want to look," he said. "George Allen told me last week that I was worrying about too many little things, the wind, the rush and some other things I don't want to mention. He told me just to hit the ball, that's all, you can't think about anything else." Marcol, meanwhile, was shaking his head over that unproductive ricochet off the crossbar. Chester, who had been successful on 33 of 48 field goal attempts during the regular season, said, "I thought it was good as soon as I hit it. I didn't hit it real good, but it wasn't that bad. That (47 yards) is a long way, but I thought it was going through. I'd rather miss by 10 feet than have it hit the crossbar. But what can you do?" The Polish Messiah's lament seemed like a microcosm of the Packers' day. Perhaps, just perhaps, it wasn't meant to be.

PACK ACTIVATED STAGGERS

DEC 26 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers made one roster change for Sunday's playoff game with the Redskins, activating wide receiver Jon Stagers to replace Paul Gibson. Stagers had been sidelined with an ankle injury.

PACK SEASON DESERVES RAVE REVIEWS

DEC 26 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Okay, it's over...and we can rally around a "Wait 'til next year" cry. But, first, let's consider a few basics from the season past. Pro football is show biz. You may not think of it that way, but it surely is just as show biz as Archie Bunker, Sophia Loren or the Boston Pops. As a business, it has a product to sell: entertainment. It does so very successfully. The Packers this year provided high grade entertainment. Prime stuff. Broadway should be envious. And they gave us an encore, a playoff game, in which they played a rather tragic death scene. The entire year's production, including that dramatic encore, deserves a standing ovation and rave reviews. And with superb show biz technique, the Packers have left us gasping for more, insuring a big box office for 1973's production. I guess it's because I was thinking along these lines that I did not suffer any real pangs of disappointment Sunday...a few flashes perhaps, but not real pangs. I considered the season a super success long before the playoff game. Oh, there's always what might have been to think

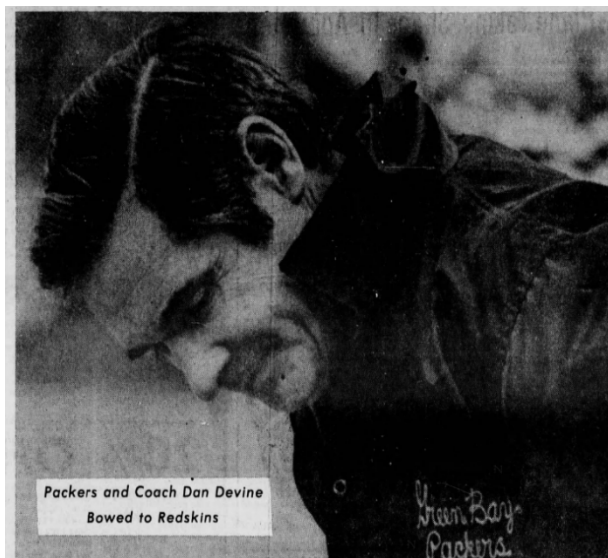


Happy Day — Mrs. George Allen, wife of the Redskins coach, lets her feelings be known as Washington drives to win over Packers.

about. But when Chester Marcol's first field goal attempt hit the bar and did not bounce over, I began to suspect what was about to happen. My faith, I must admit, waned under the scowl from Lady Luck. In the past several weeks, that ball would have skipped over the bar for three points. Without the good bounces, the Packers were in trouble. This is not to detract from their blooming talent and obvious determination. It is simply to acknowledge that things have been going very well...the ball has been bouncing the right way...in the fortune department. In this game, there was no such good fortune. The defense was not able to come up with the big play that has been the hallmark of the Packers this year. And without it, the offense was unable to survive on its own. Three points are not enough to win with in the NFL. That lone field goal should have been a touchdown. First down on the Redskin 15 and three plays netted just six yards. In the second half, the Packers had great field position after punts on their own 44 and 38. In each case, three plays brought only four yards. The one time they did penetrate the 50, with second down and one at the Redskin 46, they wound up back on their own 49. By the way, it appeared that one yard was there for the taking but John Brockington, instead of bolting ahead for it, danced outside seeking more than one yard and wound up losing five. The Skins' 5-man line obviously played havoc with the Pack. But it might have have been anticipated. Remember after the last Packer-Redskin game when Billy Kilmer declared something to the effect that the Packers were strong at every position but quarterback? George Allen obviously had absolutely no fear of the total Packer passing game. Second guessing is easy, of course. But in light of how Oakland relieved Daryle Lamonia and almost pulled out the game with Kenny Stabler and how Dallas relieved Craig Morton with Roger Staubach and did win, I have to wonder why Coach Dan Devine didn't try Jerry Tagge somewhere in the second half when it was quite apparent that Scott Hunter was having trouble moving the team, for whatever reason. But that's all over now. Credit the Redskins for a tremendous performance. And credit the Packers too for a year of entertainment rivaled only by Howard Cosell.

PACKERS ARE OPTIMISTIC DESPITE PLAYOFF LOSS

DEC 26 (Washington) - It's easy to say "wait until next year" after a team loses a playoff game and fails to get to the Superbowl, but in the case of the Green Bay Packers it's particularly appropriate. They weren't even supposed to get as far as they playoffs this year. But they did, combining their youth, talent and desire to push coach Dan Devine's timetable ahead of itself. "Yes, I think we've got something started now," Devine said in the aftermath of Green Bay's 16-3 loss to the Washington Redskins Sunday. After last year's dismal 4-8-1 season, Devine put a lot of effort into weeding out those who didn't want to play his brand of football. This year, only his second as a pro coach, he molded the dedicated veterans remaining and a corps of young players into a unit and surprised everyone by winning the National Football Conference Central Division title. Unlike the aging Redskins, for whom Sunday's game represented a do-or-die mission, the Packers' glory belongs in the future. "This game will carry us a long way," said tackle Bob Brown. "There is no doubt about it. The Pack is back." Brown, a seven year veteran who played on Packer Super Bowl teams in the mid 60's, ought to know what he's talking about. He knows what championship material looks like. "I can't wait for next year. We got to be coming on. I'm looking forward to when we get Rich McGeorge and Gale Gillingham back," he said of the two Packer starters knocked out of action because of early season injuries. Mike McCoy, a veteran of only three campaigns, had similar feelings. He described it as "a kind of hunger" among the Packers. "I'm glad we made it as far as we did," McCoy said. "Everybody can look forward to next year." Dave Robinson, a 10-year veteran, admitted the loss was disappointing but said the team "had something you can't describe. It's a team I will never forget. It had so much heart and character." That was the point Devine likes to stress: "This year no way did anybody quit." He said Jon Stagers exemplified the spirit when his shoulder went out during the game. He left the action for a while but then went back in to play. "I finally had to take Stagers out at the end," Devine said. "His shoulder was completely dislocated. He had tears in his eyes and begged me to let him stay in the game." The game took its toll of other Packers too. Dave Pureifory, victim of a clip, underwent knee surgery Christmas morning. Bill Hayhoe was on crutches, also for a knee injury. Guard Bill Lueck played with the help of eyedrops and was fitted with a patch afterwards as the result of a cigar burn he suffered on the eye in an elevator before game time. The Packers were outsmarted by the Redskins, who played a five-man line to stop the powerful running attack cold, and suffered from inexperience at quarterback. John Brockington managed only nine yards and MacArthur Lane 56 as the Packers rushed for a meager 78 yards. The five-man line left holes in the Redskins secondary but Scott Hunter's passing was not good enough when it really counted. He connected on 12 of 24 aerals for 150 yards, but failed to complete a third down pass in the



Rear view of Washington Redskins Jack Pardee (32) in action vs Green Bay Packers (Photo by Neil Leifer /Sports Illustrated via Getty Images/Getty Images)

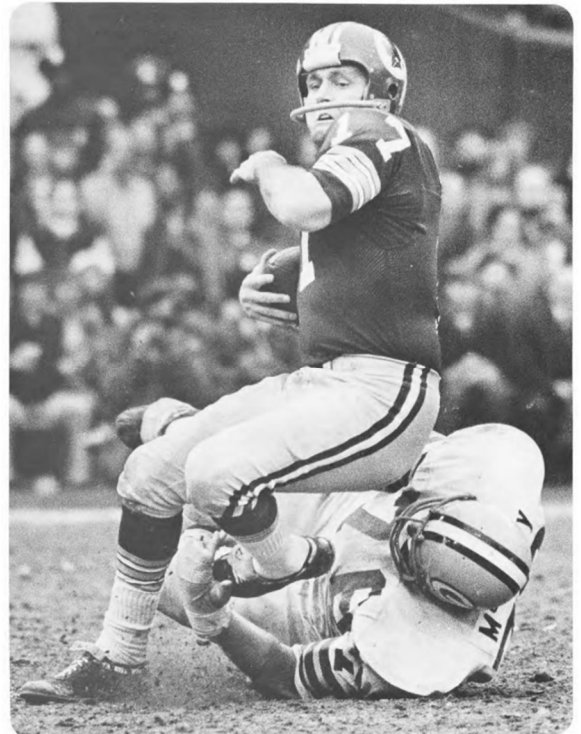
second half. "You've got to profit from a game like this," said wide receiver Carroll Dale. "The best thing you could say is that the younger guys have an awful lot to look forward to."

TRICKERY' HURT: CARTER

DEC 26 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Jim Carter was trying to be philosophical. "I guess it sounds like rationalizing," he said, "but if you look at the overall picture, we still had a pretty good year. But I guess you'd have to fall down and cry," Carter added with a bittersweet smile, "if you just think about what happened today." The fast maturing middle linebacker, ringed by sportswriters, was holding forth from a chair near the heart of a quiet, funeral dressing room. It was only minutes after the Redskins had expunged Packer playoff hopes with a 16-3 victory Sunday in the unceasing uproar of RFK Stadium and the wound was still fresh. Just how fresh became abruptly apparent when one scribe asked, "Do you think your team might have felt it already had accomplished a lot and considered this game a little anti-climactic?" "We came here to win," Carter snapped. "It wasn't at all that we came here thinking we had accomplished a lot. We came here to win. That was a stupid question." The youthful veteran was Immediately apologetic. His features softening, he told the young reporter, "I'm sorry...But we came here to win." The reporter, however, agreed. "It was a stupid question," he said. Addressing himself to the causes of the Packer demise, Carter attributed it in part to Redskin "trickery." "They ran strong to their tight end, Mack Alston, a lot more than I expected," he said. "They didn't run much to the weak side, like we'd seen them doing before. Once in a while, I'd try to cheat 'weak' a little and they'd run strong, and that would hurt a little. Len Hauss (Redskin center) had a real good game," Carter added in further explanation. "He played a lot better game in this one than he did when we played them in the regular season. Plus we were uncertain of plays from their I-formation. I guessed a play a certain way and they went another. That hurt us, although it didn't kill us. They didn't have any big breaks. I guess it pretty much boils down to what Scottie (Hunter) just said when he came over to talk to me. He said, 'If you hold a team to 16 points, you should win,' and I guess maybe he's right, although we didn't control their running game as well as we should have. We held their offense to 16 points, which isn't embarrassing, but I guess it wasn't good enough. I'll have to admit one thing, Bill Kilmer made a believer out of me today," Carter confided. "I came into this game hoping we could force him to throw because I was sure he couldn't do as well as he did in our first game (14 for 21). But he didn't miss many again today" Taking the long view, the mustachioed Minnesotan put such unhappy thoughts behind him and looked upon the bright side. "Like somebody just said to me, we came a helluva long way this season from 4-8-2 a year ago. If we make the same strides next year, we'll be in great shape. Now that it's over, you've got to look at it over the season, although I guess that's trying to rationalize it." Carter, who has had to absorb countless jibes from friends in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area the last two years because of the Vikings' dominance of the Central Division, was sure of one thing. "It was a long year but it ought to be easier to live this off-season," he said, "than it was last year."

QUICK QUOTES: MCCOY WAITING FOR NEXT YEAR

DEC 26 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Quick Packer-Redskin quotes: Mike McCoy: "The great thing about this team is that it's young and I think we can look forward to an even better team next season. This team stayed together in this game, too. When anybody made a mistake, you didn't hear anybody complain. Everybody hung in there. I don't think you can take anything away from our team. I just feel privileged to be able to play on it. Like Coach Devine said, this is just the first leg for us, that we should be thankful and looking to an even better football team next year."...Carroll Dale: "There are a lot of great young athletes on this team. If they respond to the knowledge they've won a division title and go out next year and defend it, that's where their experience gained this year and in this playoff will be to their advantage."...Al Matthews (on the touchdown pass to Roy Jefferson): "I should have been there. I was playing the weak side and I should have played the strong side more. The pass was on the money. (Bill) Kilmer doesn't usually zip the



PACKER TACKLE MIKE MCCOY FLIPS REDSKIN QB BILLY KILMER FOR SIX-YARD LOSS IN PLAYOFF GAME IN WASHINGTON.



BOB BROWN BREAKS THROUGH REDSKIN LINE IN PLAYOFF AT WASHINGTON (SOURCE: 1973 PACKER YEARBOOK)



OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (L TO R) KEN BOWMAN, MALCOLM SNIDER AND DICK HIMES CLUSTER UP TO PROVIDE SCOTT HUNTER PROTECTION DURING PLAYOFF GAME AGAINST REDSKINS.

ball, he floats it. But he zipped that one."...Manny Sistrunk, Redskins: "They figured they could overpower us. But that's a lie. I worked out all week on our reserve center. I worked on his head until my forearms were so sore I could hardly lift them."...Bob Brown: "We let Larry Brown out for a few. With him, you got to wrap him up and tackle him. A couple of times we grabbed at him."...MacArthur Lane: "I'll say it was a hitting contest. I got hit so hard one time, I got spun around in the air. One guy hit me across the upper left thigh, somebody else came across and hit me high and they turned me right around in the air."...Al Matthews (Again): "I don't remember how I got knocked out. Somebody told me it happened when I was covering a quick pitch, but I don't know. I don't remember a thing. It's a tough way to end up the season."...Walter Rock, Redskins: "It isn't Christmas yet. Wait until I wake up tomorrow morning and realize this is for real."...Ray Nitschke: "I'm really disappointed about losing, both for the team and myself. I don't have too many chances left to get to the Super Bowl. But I do think the loss might benefit the ball club. You learn from adversity."...Carroll Dale again: "The older you are, the more pressure, the more motivation you feel. You know it could be your last playoff."...Jim Hill: "They didn't surprise - they just executed what they did. This was the playoffs and this was a lot different Washington team than we played five weeks ago. They were more physical. But we were pretty physical ourselves. Just ask Larry Brown. We laid some licks on him."...Ray Schoenke, Redskins (who started in place of injured John Wilbur at guard): "This is my proudest moment in football."...Bill Kilmer, Redskins (on being kayoed): "I remember being hit first on one side of the head, then in the other near the jaw after throwing a pass. Then the lights went out. The next thing I knew I was on the sidelines and the doctor was asking me questions like 'What was the score?'"...Bob Brown again: "I can't wait for next year. We got to be coming on. I'm looking forward to when we get Rich McGeorge and Gale Gillingham back."...MacArthur Lane again: "I thought we'd give them better competition. They defended us good."

PUREIFORY UNDERGOES SURGERY

DEC 26 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Dave Pureifory, one of the Packers' two casualties in Sunday's 16-3 playoff loss to the Redskins in Washington, underwent surgery on his left knee Monday morning. Offensive tackle Bill Hayhoe also had his left ankle placed in a cast to permit repair of ligament damage. Pureifory, a reserve defensive lineman, is expected to be ready for the 1973 season. A special teams standout this season, Pureifory reported, "I was hurt when I got clipped on a punt return." Hayhoe, who is expected to be wearing the cast for four weeks, explained, "I hurt my ankle on a third down play on our second last series. I moved inside on Verlon Biggs and, as I stepped back to plant my left foot, we both fell down and his weight came down on my left leg and ankle."

MACARTHUR LANE BOOSTED FOR MVP

DEC 26 (Green Bay) - Who is the most valuable player on the Green Bay Packers this year? If you ask veteran linebacker Ray Nitschke, he's likely to answer MacArthur Lane. That's what he did in an interview with Lee Rummel, football writer of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. "If you were to pick a most valuable player on this team, MacArthur Lane would have to be a serious contender," Nitschke said. That would put Lane in company with such players as John Brockington, Chester Marcol, Bob Brown and Ken Ellis – the Packers who overshadowed the former St. Louis Cardinals' runner in attention this past season. "MacArthur's performance speaks for itself," Nitschke said. "He's been a tremendous ball player for the Packers this year. He reminds me of both Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor - he's a complete football player. "I think that with his great desire, he inspires his teammates by the way he plays football. Jim Taylor to me, was that kind of football player. Mac gives it 100 per cent every minute he's out there. And he's a blocker, a receiver and a runner, plus his great leadership. He's just a super football player." Nitschke, who is completing his 15th year at Green Bay, described Lane's value to the team as "just unbelievable." "Some football players can run. Some can catch. Some can block. But Mac has it all. He can even kick - he's the backup kicker for Chester. I think he'd make a heckuva linebacker, too. He played linebacker at college and he would make a good one the way he likes to hit. He looks for contact. He'd make a heckuva middle linebacker." Statistically, Lane finished as the team's second leading rusher with 821 yards rushing. He was also Green Bay's top pass receiver and his blocks helped Brockington to another 1,000 yard season. "Mac has added to this team everywhere," Nitschke said. "You can't say enough nice things about MacArthur Lane. He's been an outstanding leader for the young people - for all the players for that matter. He's the kind of persons you need on a ball club to win. He's very likeable, a very warm individual. He's a real fine person. I'm glad he's on our team."