

## JIM RINGO

By Bob Carroll

Jim Ringo looked around Green Bay's 1953 training camp and decided he didn't belong there. Not only was he a lowly seventh round draft choice from a school that had lost its last football game 61-6, but he was also dreadfully small compared to the other centers in camp. Sticking around was a waste of time. He decided to go home.

But back in Easton, PA., both his wife and his father jumped all over him. How could he quit after only two weeks without rally giving himself a chance? Besides, asked his father, where else could he earn \$5,250 for four months' work?

Ringo returned to the Pack, and the rest, as they say, is history. He not only earned the starting center job but went on to become one of the top pivots in the Game's history -- six times all-NFL, ten pro bowl selections and election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

By 1959, Jim was regularly winning individual honors, but the Packers seldom won any games. Then Vince Lombardi arrived to change all that. As one observer put it: "When Lombardi built the Packers, he started with his only All-Pro, Jim Ringo, and filled in the other All-Stars around him."

Ringo anchored the offensive line on championship teams in 1961 and 1962. After a near miss in 1963, Lombardi reshuffled the Pack. Jim was traded to Philadelphia where he put in four more all-star years. His final game was his tenth pro bowl.

Jim used quickness, desire, and savvy to make up for anything he may have lacked in bulk. He learned fast and he was durable. After injuries knocked him out of the final seven games of his rookie year, he never again failed to answer the starting gun. When he retired, he held the record (since broken) for consecutive games played -- 182.

## JIM RINGO

**Born:** Orange, N.J., November 21, 1932

**Hgt:** 6-1

**Wgt:** 230

**College:** Syracuse

**Pro Teams:** Green Bay Packers 1953 - 1963; Philadelphia Eagles 1964 - 1967

**All-Pro:** 1957, AP; 1959, AP, UPI; 1960, AP, UPI; 1961, AP, UPI; 1962, AP, UPI; 1963, AP, UPI

**Pro Bowl:** 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967

**Pro Football Hall of Fame:** 1981