

# **SEASON OF CHANGE: THE 1972 PACKERS**

**by Joe Zagorski**  
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Has it really been 15 years already? It seems funny that such a period of time has gone by so fast. It was the season of 1972, and for the Green Bay Packers that season became a very glorious one, culminating with a 10-4 record and an NFC Central Division Title. It was also a year that took its shape from many changes, changes that, like time itself, have grown to add a richness of memories to the team's treasured past.

Dan Devine was the head coach back then, and after a dismal 4-8-2 season in 1971 he wasted little time in making numerous alterations in his team. All told, 21 players from the '71 squad were absent from the '72 roster. With Devine's major overhaul apparent throughout the starting lineup, the Packers set out to overcome the previous four years of non-playoff activity.

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest personnel movements in '72 involved the defensive backfield, a unit that gave up 21 touchdown passes in '71, the second-highest total in the NFL.

Long-time Green Bay stalwarts Doug Hart and Willie Wood each retired before the '72 season began, and so two immediate vacancies had to be filled. Devine took care of this problem by an astute trade and a clever draft choice, as he changed-up safeties and cornerbacks until a worthwhile combination evolved.

Where once the focus was on playing experience, it now was on youthful exuberance. Jimmy Hill came over from San Diego in exchange for Lionel Aldridge and a 1974 draft choice, and his impact was never understated. Only 26 at the time, Hill became the oldest member of the secondary, which in Packer terms meant instant authority.

"I told him the first day he reported to the team," said Devine, "that he was our first-string free safety, that the other defensive backs would average 24 years of age, and that the younger men would look to him for leadership."

Hill responded admirably, picking off four passes in '72 and calling out defensive signals for his compatriots in the secondary.

"There are only a few ways you can play zone or man-to-man," claimed Hill, at 6'2" the tallest member of the deep backs. "The personnel makes the big difference, because you don't win with defense... you win with people who play defense."

The people that Hill referred to were third-year pros Ken Ellis and Al Matthews, both of whom changed positions in '72. Ellis was moved from left cornerback to right cornerback, and he came through with four interceptions and a courage quite evident while playing with a separated shoulder for almost half the season. Fittingly, Ellis was named an All-Pro by the Associated Press for his play on both defense and special teams, where he became the NFL's leading punt returner with a 15.4-yard average.

Matthews was switched from right cornerback to strong safety, and he applied his excellent reactions to the ball to become one of the hardest-hitting force men in the league.

But the biggest surprise cam from Willie Buchanon, a rookie fresh off the campus of San Diego State University. Devine selected Buchanon on the first round of the draft, and the youngster contributed a new spirit among the secondary, not to mention 9.4 speed in the 100 and four interceptions in '72.

"The first day Willie got to camp, we got out on the field," recalled Hill. "The first thing the kid says to me, before he even said hello, was: 'Where's my help coming from?' Right then and there, I knew he was gonna be good, and I knew we were gonna be good."

By season's end, Buchanon was a consensus Rookie of the Year choice, as he fit into the left cornerback position like the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle... a puzzle that few teams could solve during the season.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

---

With the restructured secondary, the Packer defense became virtually pass-proof, as they allowed a league low of only 7 touchdown passes. These four defensive backs were unfamous, underrated, and unexpected to do anything in '72. What they did do, however, was play to win.

"We thought that these four fellas would be ready in a couple of years," said Devine. "They decided they'd be ready now."

After a big 26-10 win over the Cleveland Browns in the league opener and a tough 20-14 loss to the Oakland Raiders in week #2, the Packers took on the defending world champion Dallas Cowboys in Milwaukee County Stadium on October 1. The Green Bay secondary came of age on this day, as they pulled out a victory from Dallas's ten-gallon hat.

Al Matthews' two key interceptions and Willie Buchanon's second-quarter fumble recovery produced 13 Packer points. Then late in the game Buchanon stepped in front of a last-gasp Craig Morton pass on the right hash mark, snared the pignskin out of the sky, and returned it deep into Dallas territory to ice the game.

While the four youngsters covering passes got better with each game, their accomplishments could truly be measured only by the play of the Packer defensive line. For there was the drive and determination of the team evoked in four men of strength and stature, equally desiring to change the course of Green Bay football in 1972.

Mike McCoy came back from a broken foot in the preseason and made a steady showing at left defensive tackle. The 6'5", 280-pound McCoy was virtually immovable in the pit, applying good lateral movement and balance to his longstanding traits of intelligence and character. Healthy for most of the season, McCoy was responsible for three sacks and numerous quarterback "hurries" in '72, although his main forte was in stopping opposing ground games, where he was rated by many as one of the finest tacklers in the league.

"Mike was an ideal player to fit the Packer mold," said Dave Hanner, Green Bay's defensive coordinator in '72. "He had a great attitude about the game, and he always gave 100%. Unfortunately, he never really got as much recognition around the NFL as he should have."

One man who finally received his past due was right defensive tackle Bob Brown. At 6'7", 275 pounds, Brown's ominous features made for one of the biggest obstacles that any offensive line ever had to go up against. Constantly double-teamed, Brown survived his battles in the trenches by using his own perfected techniques of body leverage, head slaps (which were legal in '72), and all-out gorilla warfare. His season ended with his initial appearance in the Pro Bowl, along with the award of being named an All-Pro for the first time in his illustrious seven-year career.

"Bob was everything to our defense," remembered Willie Buchanon. "The fact that he was so strong and could dominate the line of scrimmage gave us all someone to look up to. He was our leader, and we knew damn well that he was a born intimidator. He wasn't going to lay down for anybody... he was a winner."

Where McCoy and Brown were anchors who held sway in the midst of the changing tide during '72, defensive ends Alden Roche and Clarence Williams were cutters and windsails who gave the Packer vessel a new direction in their voyage through the turbulent waters of the NFC Central.

Roche, at 6'4", 255 pounds, was a weight-lifting advocate who contributed four sacks to Green Bay's reinvigorated pass rush. Termed a "steady performer" by his teammates, Roche played a thinking man's game, using angles and tendencies to thwart opposing offenses.

His counterpart on the left side of the line was Clarence Williams, a valuable pass-rusher who turned in his greatest year as a pro. The 6'5", 255-pound Williams poured in for nine quarterback sacks in '72, leading the team in that department. Williams was a proponent of flamboyant moves to get him into the enemy backfield. Highly underrated, Williams utilized his speed and quickness to overcome blockers and reach the passer. Even more important was the fact that Williams always took advantage of every opportunity that came his way.

Against the Bears in Lambeau Field on October 8, Williams evaded a trap block and proceeded to scoop up a loose football, returning it 21 yards for a touchdown that proved to be the margin of victory in a 20-17 win over Chicago.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

---

Fluctuating between the linemen and the secondary was a group of hustlers and hitters who played with a violent rage of intensity, as well as with a cool-headed and clear-minded approach to defense. They were the linebackers. Dave Robinson, Jim Carter, and Fred Carr composed the threesome in '72, and they worked well together in their obligatory duties of run-stopping and pass-defending.

"Dave Robinson could easily have been a defensive end," claimed Mike McCoy. "He certainly had the ability to play several positions. He was an excellent linebacker, though. He could extend himself very well against quick-out passes, and he could cover running backs well, too."

One overlooked characteristic of Robinson's was that of hitting. His 6'3", 240-pound frame was a fearful sight for runners as well as quarterbacks. His timely hit on Chicago signal-caller Bobby Douglass on November 12 in Soldier Field jarred the ball free and allowed Alden Roche to recover on the Bears' 19-yard line. This big play led to the eventual game-winning points in a 23-17 Green Bay conquest over their long-time archrivals.

As a middle linebacker, Jim Carter was coming into his own in '72. Under the experienced tutelage of former All-Pro Ray Nitschke, Carter developed the skills necessary to survive as a defensive leader. "Ray really helped me a lot," said the 6'3", 235-pound Carter, "because he played the game the way I liked to play it -- tough and physical. I guess his example rubbed off on me, because I really had a good year in '72."

Be it dropping into the short zones or driving his helmet into the chest of a halfback, Carter displayed a zeal for the exciting lure of the game. He, as Nitschke, was cut from the same pure, hard-work mold that makes a good linebacker great; a vintage stock that shows the price of being a winner, and those who paid it. Jim Carter had paid the price in full.

On the right side of the line was five-year pro Fred Carr, a hit man blessed with quickness and the desire to pursue a play until the whistle blew. "Carr had great potential," said Dave Hanner. "He had fluid movements to the ball, he was quick, and he was constantly hustling. He was our tallest linebacker back then (6'5"), and he was as dependable as anyone out there."

Robinson, Carter and Carr proved to be a natural bridge in joining the forces of the defense together. As a whole, the Packer defenders gave up the second-fewest rushing yards in the NFL in '72, not to mention forcing a conference-leading 19 turnovers on fumbles.

The Green Bay defense indeed had a new look, and had proven that the desire to win was evident in all phases of it. Now all that was needed was for the offense and special teams to prove that the same desire was among them as well. They did just that in the season of '72.

At Detroit's Tiger Stadium in front of a nationally televised Monday night audience, the Packers found themselves trailing late in the third quarter, and desperately needing a big play. They got just that when Ken Ellis fielded a punt at his own 20-yard line, dodged a would-be tackler, and outraced everyone down the far sideline for the turnaround touchdown.

This undoubtedly was the play of the year for Green Bay. In a game all but lost, Ellis's 80-yard return broke the spirit of the Lions, while it brought the Packers' spirit up to a level that hadn't been seen since Super Bowl 2. From that moment on, everything began to fall into place for the Pack. The defense became impenetrable in the fourth quarter, and the offense, lifeless in the previous three quarters, was now on fire.

Late in the game second-year quarterback Scott Hunter managed to pick apart the Lion secondary piece by piece, until Green Bay was in prime scoring range at the Detroit 15-yard line. From there Hunter found rookie wide receiver Leland Glass alone in the right corner of the end zone for a touchdown, giving the Packers a 24-23 comeback victory over the Lions.

A new showing of Packer pride had erupted in this game, as had a new showing of an age-old Packer trademark -- never giving up. The big win gave Green Bay undisputed possession of first place in the NFC Central Division with a 4-1 record. More important, however, was the fact that a young man finally gained the confidence that he needed to take control of his situation. "Scott Hunter was a fine quarterback," claimed Dan Devine, "and he always had a desire to learn more about the game. He loved to play the game, and it showed."

Devine started the youngster early in his career, even though Hunter himself felt that the time was not yet right. "I threw 17 interceptions in my first year," said Hunter, "mainly because I really didn't know what was going on out

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

---

there. I couldn't read defenses very well, at least not on the field. It's one thing to see a rotating zone coverage in a film session, but it's something entirely different to see one on the field."

Off the field, former Green Bay great Bart Starr took on a new role as an assistant coach in '72, and his input changed the texture of the offense. Starr applied his 16 years of playing experience to become a valuable teacher of the quarterback position, a fact that Scott Hunter easily appreciated. With Starr looking on, Hunter began to understand the nuances of the offensive system.

"Bart refined everything for me," remembered Hunter. "I learned the why's and what for's through him, and I learned how to become disciplined enough to lead a team.... I think that was the most important lesson that I learned from Bart. As each game went by in my second year, I felt that I was getting more knowledgeable as a quarterback."

Hunter's passing statistics were not spectacular in '72, but they showed marked improvement from his numbers in '71. Although his contribution to the team was largely overlooked, Hunter kept trying his best, a trait that weighed heavily on the minds of Packer backers everywhere.

One major reason why Hunter wasn't among the NFL quarterbacking elite was that he didn't have to be. Ball control was the trend of the times in '72, and the Packers possessed two of the best in John Brockington and MacArthur Lane. Both Brockington and Lane had similar running styles -- they both liked to run people over. This dynamic duo chose to plow through a defense rather than prance around it. They also blocked for each other with a power and a desire that immediately conjured up memories of the tandem of Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung.

"Brockington was our workhorse runningback," recalled Scott Hunter. "I was always relieved to see him in the backfield, because he took a lot of the pressure off of me. He was as good of a leader as we had out there."

Smashing into the line of scrimmage with all his might, Brockington grew intense carrying the football. Be it sweeps, dives, or off-tackle jaunts, #42 ran with an unabashed fury to establish himself as one of the great rushers in the league during the early part of the decade.

Against the San Francisco 49ers on November 5th Brockington delighted the fans in Milwaukee with his best performance of the season, as he gained 133 yards on 24 carries. He scored two touchdowns on the ground and one through the air on a 48-yard pass from Scott Hunter.

The 6'1", 225-pound Brockington finished 1972 by gaining 1,027 yards rushing and scoring 12 rushing touchdowns. He also became the first man in NFL history to run for over 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons.

Complimenting Brockington in the Packer running attack was five-year pro MacArthur Lane, who was obtained in a trade with St. Louis for Donny Anderson before the season began. Like Brockington, Lane was also a punishing runner, as he gained 821 yards in '72. His real talent, however, lay in his ability to catch a football. "We knew that when we got MacArthur," said Devine, "that he would be a key to our offense, especially when we threw the ball. He consistent in just about everything that we asked of him, and his hands were the best that I had ever seen for a running back."

Circling out of the backfield, Lane quickly became Scott Hunter's favorite passing target. He had a natural talent when he read a defense, and he was able to use this talent when sifting through linebackers and finding an open space in the seam of a zone. "Whenever I couldn't find anybody open," said Hunter, "I would just dump a little safety valve pass out to MacArthur in the flat. He always knew what to do with it."

The 6'1", 220-pound Lane knew enough of what to do with it to lead the Green Bay receiving corps in '72, as he caught 26 passes coming out of the backfield. Moreover, he averaged 11 yards per reception, for a total of 285 yards. Lane was voted the offense's Most Valuable Player by his teammates at season's end.

Lane's multipurpose efforts reaped large dividends throughout the '72 campaign, showcased by his performance in the Houston Astrodome on November 19. Lane caught three passes for 23 yards on the day, and he rushed for a total of 126 yards on 16 carries, far and away his best yardage yield as a Packer. Green Bay defeated the lowly Oilers 23-10, as it suddenly became customary for this ever-changing team to show off their backfield runningmates each week.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

---

Neither Brockington and Lane could prosper in their trade, however, if it were not for the offensive line, a group of men who had their share of setbacks in '72, but somehow rose above them to succeed. Early in the season, the great All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham suffered a knee injury and was lost for the final twelve games of the year. The same was true for starting tight end Rich McGeorge, who could release from the line of scrimmage about as well as any tight end in the league.

To shore up these two losses, Devine traded running back Dave Hampton to the Atlanta Falcons in exchange for guard-tackle Malcolm Snider. Almost overnight the 6'4", 251-pound Snider played a key role in the travails of the offensive line. "Malcolm came in here the last week of the preseason," remembered Devine, "and he did a fantastic job. We couldn't have asked for more in a lineman. No one could really replace Gale, but Malcolm did do his job very well... we were lucky to have him."

Replacing McGeorge was third-year pro Len Garrett, a strong blocker who also played quite a bit on special teams. The 6'3", 225-pound Garrett was installed more for his blocking potential than for his receiving ability.

Rounding out the rest of the starting offensive line were Bill Hayhoe, Dick Himes, Bill Lueck, and Ken Bowman. At 6'8", left tackle Bill Hayhoe was the tallest member of the team. In his fourth season, Hayhoe distributed equal amounts of body leverage and arm strength to become one of the best pass-protectors in the NFL in 1972. "Bill was really coming into his own that year," recalled former Green Bay offensive line coach Rollie Dotsch. "He excelled as a pass blocker; and remember, he usually took on some pretty tough defensive ends... guys like Jim Marshall, Cedrick Hardman, and John Zook."

While Hayhoe was going head-to-head against the league's best, right tackle Dick Himes and left guard Bill Lueck waged a war in developing some daylight in the core of the line of scrimmage. Both of these men were 6'4", both weighed at least 235 pounds, and both played an integral part in establishing numerous holes for Brockington and Lane.

"We had to be successful with our man-blocking," said Dotsch (referring to a straightforward, man-on-man blocking technique), "and for the most part we were. Our basic power runs up the gut usually paid off, mainly because of guys like Himes and Lueck."

Indeed, the Packer ground attack was stronger in '72 than it had been in previous years, as it produced 2,127 yards, the third best in the NFC that season. In Green Bay's run-oriented offense, this large sum of real estate was achieved primarily through the many definitive blocking thrusts of players like Snider, Hayhoe, Himes, and Lueck. "All of our linemen gave 100%," said Devine. "They were the reason why we could control the ball for most of that year."

Center Ken Bowman was the reason why selflessness and sacrifice emanated from the Packer forward wall in '72. In his ninth season, the 6'3", 230-pound Bowman supplied the team with a pride and determination that produced a new level of resolve.

"Ken pulled the line together," said John Brockington, "after the injury situation set in early in the year. He was the main man in getting the job done. Even with Gale [Gillingham] out of the lineup, Ken picked up the slack for everybody. He could sure block... and block well."

Flanked on the outside, the pass receivers could catch well, but the infrequency of passing plays combined with the valued yardage of the running game to overshadow the improving potential of the air attack. This fact, however, didn't diminish the receivers' hopes of contributing their talents to the team.

Thirteen-year veteran Carroll Dale remained a proven winner, and he furnished his esteemed wisdom to the younger pass catchers, men like Dave Davis, Leland Glass and Jon Stagers. "Our receivers were about as consistent and spectacular as any receivers could be at the time," claimed Devine. "We had a good mixture of young players and old, and we got a lot of effort out of all of them."

Such an effort was never more evident than on the various special team units, where receivers Davis and Stagers joined the likes of eager athletes such as Ken Ellis, Charles Hall, Bob Hudson, Dave Kopay, Bob Kroll, Dave Pureifory, Ike Thomas, Perry Williams, Cal Withrow, Keith Wortman, and venerable team captain Ray Nitschke, who, was playing in his final season of pro football.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

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The many determined contributions from the men of the special teams often produced some sensational results. Jon Stagers' 85-yard punt return for a touchdown against Houston was the NFL's longest in '72. Not to be outdone was punter Ron Widby, who, when he wasn't punting, threw for two completions on the year from punt formation, one of which resulted in a 68-yard touchdown pass to Dave Davis (also against the Oilers).

Paralleling the big plays, some of the biggest moments statistically came from the foot of rookie placekicker Chester Marcol. "We knew that we had to improve our kicking game," said Devine, "if we were going to have a chance of coming back. Chester was the answer to that problem."

Marcol connected for 33 field goals and was perfect on conversions, hitting 29 out of 29. He led the Packers and the entire NFL in scoring with 128 points, and his field goal production outdid every kicker in Packer history, even to the present.

As the '72 season wore on, the point production and yardage gained totals of the offense climbed steadily, as did Green Bay's rise toward the top of the NFC's Central Division. Only one thing remained yet to prove that the Pack was truly back, and that was a showing of the team's character in the face of failure.

On a rain-soaked October Sunday in Milwaukee, the Packers sloshed around on the mud with the Atlanta Falcons in a game that was as depressing as the weather. Atlanta squeezed out a 10-9 win, providing Green Bay with a new sense of doubt as the season hit the halfway mark.

This doubt was increased by the visiting Minnesota Vikings the following week. Two fourth-quarter interceptions by the Norsemen were returned for touchdowns, resulting to a 27-13 Packer loss. "No question about it," lamented Scott Hunter after the October 29th game with Minnesota, "we should've beaten the Falcons and the Vikings. We ran neck and neck with both of them and we should've pulled those games out."

At this point of Green Bay's 1972 emotional roller coaster ride, the tracks that lay ahead could have been steep or sloping, because it really didn't matter -- this team of character had decided to ride it out until the end.

"There's always a moment or two," said Dan Devine, "which can usually determine whether or not a team has enough determination and heart to win. I believe that most of those moments are caused by defeat, and the direct response to defeat. Our players in '72 responded positively... they were tired of losing [over the previous four years]... and they weren't going to take it anymore."

The Packers took out their frustrations on November 5 against the San Francisco 49ers in a battle for the honor of being "a team that could make its own character." The offense was resuscitated from the previous two defeats by the life-giving play of John Brockington, Scott Hunter, Chester Marcol, and Carroll Dale. The defense took the life out of the 49er offense in the waning moments of the game with Ken Ellis' 28-yard interception return for a touchdown. Green Bay was now vindicated with a 34-24 final score.

The big win over the 49ers seemed to be a trendsetter for the following couple of weeks, as the Chicago Bears and the Houston Oilers both lost tough games to the now-surgingly Pack. In Washington on November 26th the Redskins managed to halt Green Bay's winning binge by a 21-16 score. With this loss, the Packers were brought back to earth with a thud. Another rebound became an immediate and vital goal for the Green and Gold, although it appeared to be a distant one.

"We lost our competitive edge against the 'Skins," said MacArthur Lane. "We knew that we had to get that edge back fast, no matter what it took."

What it took ultimately was a showing of courage, supplied by one player and in turn passed on to the other 43. Defensive back Ken Ellis suffered a shoulder separation against Washington, and was listed as doubtful for the following week's game against Detroit. This game was crucial, for a victory would give Green Bay an 8-4 record as the season neared its end.

Ten minutes before the opening kickoff against the Lions, team doctors and head coach Dan Devine concurred on the situation, and Ken Ellis was pronounced able to play. Ellis responded with two pass interceptions and a fumble recovery, which led to a 33-7 Packer triumph. "We needed to win this game," said Devine. "Ken Ellis showed his teammates that there wasn't anything holding them back... and there wasn't."

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

---

The Minnesota Vikings had been doing a pretty good job in holding the Packers back from the playoffs for the previous four seasons. The Purple Gang owned the NFC Central Division since 1968, and although they were one game behind Green Bay with but two remaining, they saw no reason whatsoever to hand the '72 division title over to the Packers.

The game on December 10 was played in Minnesota's Metropolitan Stadium, with a somewhat uncomfortable temperature of 0o. Nevertheless, clear skies and bright sunlight were also part of the day, as well the fact that this game would probably decide the divisional championship.

"We went into the game knowing that if we won," remembered Devine, "we would go to the playoffs. It was that simple. Before the game, I told the team in the locker room to play this game to win... and they did."

The Green Bay Packers overcame the frustrations and failures of their most recent past by applying the total amount of their energy and desire against the Vikings. John Brockington rushed for 114 yards, and MacArthur Lane added 99 of his own to lead the offense.

On defense, Willie Buchanon intercepted two key passes, leading to 14 Packer points in the third quarter, and Clarence Williams sacked Minnesota quarterback Fran Tarkenton three times in the game.

The '72 Packers had become a team of change on this day, winning, like they had in the 1960's, by dominating their opponents into submission. The change from an also-ran to a winner was evident on the sunlit faces of the coaches and players. Coach Dan Devine was given a victory ride as the final gun spewed smoke from the frozen field and the scoreboard shined with no time remaining... at least not for Minnesota.

The final score: Visitors 23, Vikings 7.

Streaming off the field in a raucous victory cry, the new Central Division champs celebrated their achievement for many reasons, but mostly because they were now finally labeled as a team that had proven themselves worthy of the word "character."

To close out the regular season, the Packers traveled to New Orleans to take on the Saints in historic Tulane Stadium. Big plays were the order of the day, as Willie Buchanon returned a blocked New Orleans field goal attempt 57 yards for a touchdown and Ron Widby teamed up with Ray Nitschke on a 34-yard pass from a broken play. Green Bay seemed to play only as well as they had to, coasting to a 30-20 win.

"Underdog" was the correct description for the Packers in the playoffs, with odds aplenty stacked against them. Nevertheless, this team of change had shown their comeback strength, and was ready to show it again in the first round of the NFL tournament.

On December 24, the familiar setting of RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. became the perfect place for fate to intervene. The Redskins had just completed a remarkable 11-3 season, and with their NFC Coach of the Year George Allen, the "Over the Hill Gang" was primed and ready for the championship chase. On the other side of the ledge, the Packers had vivid memories of the scene at RFK a few weeks earlier.

"They managed to stop our ground game last November," recalled Scott Hunter. "For us to win this time around, our runningbacks must gain yards -- no two ways about it."

This was the key to the playoff game for Green Bay. It was also the key for the Redskin defense, which for the second time in as many attempts, successfully blunted the powerful surges of John Brockington and MacArthur Lane, limiting them to a total of 64 yards. The postseason came to a screeching halt for the Pack, as Washington was now a team on a tear.

"We couldn't get anything on track," said Brockington after the game. "Their defense played a hell of a game. They forced all of our outside runs, and wedged in our gap [inside] runs. They deserved to win the game."

Green Bay trudged off the field with the short end of a 16-3 stick. Although they had lost this playoff with the Redskins, there was still much to be proud of for this underdog in '72. They had taken the initiative to do something about defeat, and that initiative led to an NFC Central Division crown, their first, and sadly, last of the 1970's.

# THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

They also proved themselves worthy of the age-old Packer pride, and they formed this pride alongside their new image of youthful excitement. Fifteen years later the memories still remain as bright as ever. The 1972 Green Bay Packers... a team of change, in a season of change.

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## The 1972 Green Bay Packers

| No. | Name              | Pos.  | Ht.  | Wt. | College              |
|-----|-------------------|-------|------|-----|----------------------|
| 57  | Ken Bowman        | C     | 6-3  | 230 | Wisconsin            |
| 42  | John Brockington  | RB    | 6-1  | 225 | Ohio State           |
| 78  | Bob Brown         | DT    | 6-5  | 260 | Arkansas AM&N        |
| 28  | Willie Buchanon   | CB    | 6-0  | 190 | San Diego State      |
| 53  | Fred Carr         | LB    | 6-5  | 238 | Texas-El Paso        |
| 50  | Jim Carter        | LB    | 6-3  | 235 | Minnesota            |
| 84  | Carroll Dale      | WR    | 6-2  | 200 | Virginia Tech        |
| 47  | Dave Davis        | WR    | 6-0  | 175 | Tennessee A&I        |
| 48  | Ken Ellis         | CB    | 5-10 | 190 | Southern             |
| 88  | Len Garrettt      | TE    | 6-3  | 230 | New Mexico Highlands |
| 41  | Paul Gibson       | S     | 6-2  | 195 | Texas-El Paso        |
| 68  | Gale Gillingham   | G     | 6-3  | 255 | Minnesota            |
| 46  | Leland Glass      | WR    | 6-0  | 185 | Oregon               |
| 21  | Charles Hall      | CB    | 6-1  | 195 | Pittsburgh           |
| 77  | Bill Hayhoe       | T     | 6-8  | 258 | USC                  |
| 51  | Larry Hefner      | LB    | 6-2  | 215 | Clemson              |
| 39  | Jim Hill          | S     | 6-2  | 190 | Texas A&I            |
| 72  | Dick Himes        | T     | 6-4  | 244 | Ohio State           |
| 23  | Bob Hudson        | RB    | 5-11 | 210 | NE Oklahoma State    |
| 64  | Kevin Hunt        | T     | 6-5  | 260 | Doane, Nebraska      |
| 16  | Scott Hunter      | QB    | 6-2  | 205 | Alabama              |
| 40  | Dave Kopay        | RB    | 6-0  | 218 | Washington           |
| 30  | Larry Krause      | RB    | 6-0  | 208 | St. Norbert          |
| 44  | Bob Kroll         | DS    | 6-1  | 195 | Northern Michigan    |
| 36  | MacArthur Lane    | RB    | 6-1  | 220 | Utah State           |
| 62  | Bill Lueck        | G     | 6-0  | 235 | Arizona              |
| 13  | Chester Marcol    | K     | 6-0  | 190 | Hillsdale            |
| 29  | Al Matthews       | DB    | 5-11 | 190 | Texas A&I            |
| 76  | Mike McCoy        | DT    | 6-5  | 284 | Notre Dame           |
| 81  | Rich McGeorge     | TE    | 6-4  | 235 | Elon                 |
| 66  | Ray Nitschke      | LB    | 6-3  | 235 | Illinois             |
| 10  | Frank Patrick     | QB    | 6-7  | 225 | Nebraska             |
| 75  | Dave Purefory     | DE    | 6-1  | 260 | Eastern Michigan     |
| 87  | Alden Roche       | DT/DE | 6-4  | 255 | Southern             |
| 89  | Dave Robinson     | LB    | 6-3  | 245 | Penn State           |
| 67  | Malcolm Snider    | G     | 6-4  | 251 | Stanford             |
| 22  | Jon Staffers      | WR    | 5-10 | 180 | Missouri             |
| 17  | Jerry Tagge       | QB    | 6-2  | 220 | Nebraska             |
| 37  | Ike Thomas        | CB    | 6-2  | 193 | Bishop               |
| 26  | Ward Walsh        | RB    | 6-0  | 208 | Colorado             |
| 20  | Ron Widby         | P     | 6-4  | 210 | Tennessee            |
| 83  | Clarence Williams | DE    | 6-5  | 255 | Prairie View         |
| 31  | Perry Williams    | RB    | 6-0  | 219 | Purdue               |
| 58  | Cal Withrow       | C     | 6-0  | 240 | Kentucky             |
| 65  | Keith Wortman     | G     | 6-2  | 245 | Nebraska             |

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The 1972 Green Bay Packers -- League Games

# THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 10 Annual (1988)

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| Day         | Date     | Opponent | Site        | GB | Opp. | Res. |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|----|------|------|
| Sun.        | Sept. 17 | Browns   | Cleveland   | 26 | 10   | W    |
| Sun.        | Sept. 24 | Raiders  | Green Bay   | 14 | 20   | L    |
| Sun.        | Oct. 1   | Cowboys  | Milwaukee   | 16 | 13   | W    |
| Sun.        | Oct. 8   | Bears    | Green Bay   | 20 | 17   | W    |
| Mon.        | Oct. 16  | Lions    | Detroit     | 24 | 23   | W    |
| Sun.        | Oct. 22  | Falcons  | Milwaukee   | 9  | 10   | L    |
| Sun.        | Oct. 29  | Vikings  | Green Bay   | 13 | 27   | L    |
| Sun.        | Nov. 5   | 49ers    | Milwaukee   | 34 | 24   | W    |
| Sun.        | Nov. 12  | Bears    | Chicago     | 23 | 17   | W    |
| Sun.        | Nov. 19  | Oilers   | Houston     | 23 | 10   | W    |
| Sun.        | Nov. 26  | Redskins | Washington  | 16 | 21   | L    |
| Sun.        | Dec. 3   | Lions    | Green Bay   | 33 | 7    | W    |
| Sun.        | Dec. 10  | Vikings  | Minnesota   | 23 | 7    | W    |
| Sun.        | Dec. 17  | Saints   | New Orleans | 30 | 20   | W    |
| Post-Season |          |          |             |    |      |      |
| Sun.        | Dec. 24  | Redskins | Washington  | 3  | 16   | L    |