

PACK ONLY TIED THE 'MONSTERS'

Green Bay's 49-point half matched Bears' 1941 effort

By John Gunn
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This hasn't been John McKay's year: Tampa Bay is 0-7, the Buccaneer fans are wearing paper bags on their heads in embarrassment and the Green Bay Packers recently scored an NFL-record 49 points against the team in a half.

Actually, a check of records by *The Register* disclosed Thursday, the 49 points only tied a record -- if that's any consolation to McKay.

The Chicago Bears, the so-called "Monsters of the Midway," trailing, 14-0, at halftime, scored 49 points in the second half against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 30, 1941, a week before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

The National Football League office in New York confirmed Thursday that the Bears' 49 points, indeed, was the record the Packers tied on Oct. 2 although the 1941 total had not been listed. A spokesman said the Elias Sports Bureau, Inc., which handles record-keeping for the NFL, had not been aware of the mark but will include both the Bears' and the Packers' points in its next guide.

Two teams in 1950 had scored 48 points in a half. In perhaps one of its most understated leads, The Associated Press reported of the 1941 game:

"Outplayed in the first half, the champion Bears put on an impressive display of power in the last two periods to rout the Eagles, 49-14, before 32,608 at Shibe Park."

What did Coach George Halas tell the Bears at halftime?

Recalls Hugh Gallarneau, former Stanford back named to the College Football Hall of Fame last year and now a vice president of Hart, Schaffner & Marx in Chicago:

"It was very simple. ... He told us we had to win to be in the playoffs (with Green Bay). He was kind of profane in those days and ... very graphically ... called us nasty names.

"He said, 'If you don't realize it, you're losing playoff money that equals a whole year's salary. You've been reading your press clippings too much.'

"And he walked out."

The Bears came back with a vengeance, scoring 21 points in the third quarter and 28 in the final period. For the day, Gallarneau had three touchdowns: a 14-yard run, a 46-yard interception and 46-yard pass reception.

Gallarneau, who played briefly for the El Toro Marines in 1945, said, counting a \$500 bonus, he made "close to \$5,000" for a rookie season in which he and teammate George McAfee dueled for the league's scoring lead.

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The 1941 Bears are considered one of the great NFL teams. Besides posting a 10-1 league record, they defeated the Packers, 33-14, in a divisional playoff, and the New York Giants, 37-9, for the title. They also defeated the College All-Stars, 37-13, and five exhibition foes for an 18-1 record.

They were coming off their famed 73-0 victory over the Washington Redskins in the 1940 title game. On the 1941 squad were seven future Pro Hall of Famers: guard Dan Fortmann, Halas, quarterback Sid Luckman, halfback George McAfee, guard George Musso, tackle Joe Stydahar and center Bulldog Turner.

Halas had used the newness of the T-formation, stockpiling of draft choices and scouting of small colleges to outsmart and outmuscle opponents.

World War II broke up what might have been sports' greatest dynasties. The Bears went 16-0 in preseason and regular-season games before a draft-riddled team lost to the Redskins, 14-6, for the 1942 title.

Fourteen members of the '41 team returned for a "last hurrah" and an NFL title in 1946.

A 1979 computer rating listed the 1941 Bears as the greatest NFL team, based on victory margins and strength of schedules.

GETTING THE POINTS ACROSS

The line score of the Bears-Eagles game of Nov. 30, 1941

Bears	0	0	21	28	=	49
Eagles	7	7	0	0	=	14

From the (incorrect) *Official 1983 National Football League Record Manual* (page 256)

Most Points, Each Half

1st: 45 Green Bay vs. Cleveland, Nov 12, 1961

2rd: 48 Chi. Cardinals vs, Baltimore, Oct 2, 1950

N Y. Giants vs. Baltimore, Nov. 19, 1950