

1941 WESTERN DIVISION PLAYOFF

By Bob Carroll

Sunday, December 14, 1941
at Chicago, Ill. - Wrigley Field
Attendance - 43,425

CHICAGO BEARS 33			GREEN BAY 14		
Plasman	LE		Hutson		
Kolman	LT		Ray		
Fortmann	LG		McLaughlin		
Turner	C		Svendsen		
Bray	RG		Goldenberg		
Artoe	RT		Schultz		
Siegal	RE		Riddick		
Luckman	QB		Craig		
Nolting	LH		Isbell		
Gallarneau	RH		Rohrig		
Standlee	FB		Hinkle		
Chicago Bears	6	24	0	3	= 33
Green Bay Packers	7	0	7	0	= 14

GB = Hinkle, 1 run (Hutson kick)
CH = Gallarneau, 81 punt ret. (kick blocked)
CH = FG Snyder 24
CH = Standlee, 3 run (Stydahar kick)
CH = Standlee, 2 run (Stydahar kick)
CH = Swisher, 9 run (Stydahar kick)
GB = Van Every, 10 pass from Isbell Hutson kick)
CH = FG Snyder 26

Substitutes

Nowaskey	E	E	Mulleneaux
Wilson	E	E	Jacunski
Kavanaugh	E	E	Frutig
Pool	E	E	Urban
Stydahar	T	E	Wm. Johnson
Federovich	T	T	Lee
Mihal	T	T	Pannell
Forte	G	G	Kuusisto
Musso	G	G	Tinsley
Lahar	G	G	How. Johnson
Matuza	C	C	Brock
Hughes	C	C	Greenfield
McLean	B	B	Van Every
Snyder	B	B	Uram
McAfee	B	B	Jankowski
Swisher	B	B	Buhler
Osmanski	B	B	Paskvan
Maniaci	B	B	Canadeo
		B	Laws

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GAME STATISTICS

	CHI	GB
First Downs	14	12
Yards gained rushing (net)	267	35
Forward passes attempted	14	28
Forward passes completed	5	11
Yards gained by forward passes ...	48	222
Yards lost attempted passes	15	54
Forward passes intercepted by	2	0
Yards gained int. runback	19	0
Punting average	37.8	28.5
Total yards kicks returned (punts and kickoffs)	124	155
Opponents fumbles recovered	2	3
Yards lost by penalties	128	46

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The Chicago Bears scored 24 points in a wild second period to defeat the Green Bay Packers 33-14 and win the Western Division playoff and gain the right to meet the New York Giants for the NFL championship. The game was conducted under a prior sudden-death agreement, but the Bears' strong showing made it unnecessary.

With 43,425 spectators sitting in bright sunshine, the field ringed with snow, and the temperature at 16 degrees, the Bears tore the turf of Wrigley Field in that second stanza for three touchdowns, three conversions, and a field goal, gaining a 30-7 half time advantage.

The Packers made a terrific battle of it for the opening period, scoring the first touchdown after one minute 56 seconds to take a 7-0 lead. Bear halfback Hugh Gallarneau fumbled the opening kickoff, setting up a five-play, 18-yard touchdown drive for the Packers.

Before the period ended, Gallarneau redeemed himself with an 81-yard punt return for a touchdown. The try for point was blocked, leaving Green Bay with a 7-6 lead.

Bob Snyder's 23-yard field goal, which opened the second period, put the Chicagoans ahead 9-7, and from then on it was strictly the Bears.

The Chicago rushing attack was overpowering. George McAfee gained 119 yards rushing, and rookie fullback Norm Standlee added 79. The Packers got a mere 35 yards by rushing compared to 267 for Chicago.

However, the Green Bay passing game, despite a sharp Bear defense around end Don Hutson, amassed 222 yards to 48 for Chicago.

After the game, Bear Coach George Halas was asked by a writer to pick the play that gave him the biggest thrill.

"That's easy," Halas grinned. "It was Bob Snyder's second field goal."

The interviewer was shocked. Snyder's fourth quarter kick tacked on the last of the Bears' 33 points.

"Because," Halas explained, "it meant the Packers would have to get four touchdowns to beat us. I didn't think they could do it."

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Sources: Associated Press; The NFL's Official Encyclopedic History of Professional Football, Howard Roberts; The Story of Pro Football.