

NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1967, Lambeau Field, Green Bay, Wisconsin

By Victor Mastro

Win three titles in a row,
The last of three, the best,
Yet no one succeeded.

Chaos ruled the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field.
Anger was for warmth in this arctic icebox.
Clothes ripped to make heat.

Brutal and biting was the cold,
Razor sharp the wind.
Coldest ever, that day in Green Bay;
Thirteen below zero,
Wind chill to fifteen miles per hour plus,
Gooseflesh, blue with cold

Lombardi clad with layers under his camel hair.
Tidy Tom Landry stuffed rags under his hood.
Players did not focus,
The Siberian cold saw to that.

The band played bloodied, no music.
Ripped lips from the freeze, no whistles.
Tattered faces and chattering teeth, no warmth.
Lambeau Field, frozen in time,
Etched in ice.
Chaos in the midst of this arctic chill.

Vince graduated Yankee Stadium in '36 and '58.
Vince picked Chuck to refrigerate.
Twice scores tossed to Dowler.
Green Bay 14, Dallas 0

Again and again, thawing Cowboys sacked Starr.
Ball jarred,
Cowboys scored, 14 to 7.
Hands of Wood numbed for the ball,
Fumbled.
Dallas booted, 14 to 10.

Locked in the second half,
Ice cold Pack and thawed out Cowboys.
A frozen stadium, stunned and silenced,
The long haul by Cowboy Reeves,
Half back option to Lance.
Cowboys led, 17 to 14.

The great epic battle,
Frozen in time,
Etched in ice.
Less than five minutes.
Starr tossed to Chuck and Anderson.
Two minutes, Dallas 30 yard line.
Starr looked to Dowler and Dale,

Dumped to Chuck.
Out of bounds, Dallas 11.
Big Bob Cowboy baited,
Starr sprung the trap,
Chuck ran to the open gap, Dallas 3.

Woolen caps,
Woolen heads,
Smoked like steaming volcanoes.

The Pack banged thrice,
Stone cold Cowboy stood.
Third down,
Sixteen seconds,
Two feet to go,
Time out! Packers.

A safe pass into the end zone?
A field goal?
One play?
Risk it all?
Do or die?
Thirteen seconds.

Cowboys chiselled into the ice hardened goal line,
For one last stand, to the last man,
For all time to see.

Vince and Starr knew,
Wedge 30,
Over right guard Kramer.
Starr dove with the ball.
Wedge 31,
Touchdown!

Green Bay 21, Dallas 17.
Frozen in time forever.
Forever, etched in ice,
The Ice Bowl.

Arctic cold fit for only,
Penguins, Polar bears, and the Green Bay Packers.
They left their mark, all three in a row.
Lombardi had played right guard for fabled Fordham,
Better known as the Seven Blocks of Granite.

The Ice Bowl won six years later,
On the same day of his first title,
New Year's Eve.

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