

24-Yard Run With Fumble Decides

Falcons Halt Viking Streak at 12 in Mud

ATLANTA, Dec. 21 (UPI). — Claude Humphrey scored on a 24-yard fumble recovery in the closing seconds of the first half and the aroused Atlanta Falcon defense made it stand up in the rain and cold for a 10-3 victory that ended the Minnesota Vikings' 12-game winning streak. Only minutes before Humphrey's run, the Falcons, then trailing 3-0, had made a valiant goal-line stand, holding the favored Vikings four times from the one-yard line.

After holding for downs, Atlanta moved the ball out to its 10-yard line and Billy Lotheridge got off a 57-yard punt to the Viking 33. On the very next play, Viking quarterback Gary Cuzzo was hit while trying to pass by John Zook and Humphrey, the Falcons' defensive left end, picked up the loose ball at the Vikings' 24 and ran untouched for the game's only touchdown with 25 seconds left in the first half.

ETTER KICKS GOAL

Neither team was able to generate much of an offense in the ankle-deep rain and mud. The only other scoring in the game was Fred Cox's 19-yard field goal early in the first period and Bob Etter's 23-yard field goal early in the third.

It was the third straight victory for the Falcons, who completed the finest season in four years in the National Football League with a record of 6-8. The victory was a personal triumph for Falcon coach Norm Van Brocklin, who coached the Vikings for six years and who is partially responsible for Minnesota's having developed into an NFL contender.

It was only the second defeat for the Vikings, who won the Central Division championship and who will play Coastal Division champ Los Angeles for the NFL's Western Conference title next Saturday.

THEFT AND FUMBLE

The Vikings were attempting to become the first NFL team to win 13 straight since the Chicago Bears of 1934. But the Falcons and the weather ended that hope.

The Vikings' only score was set up by an Atlanta interception, Falcon safety Al Lavan, who had another interception and a fumble recovery during the game, stole a Joe Kapps pass at the Atlanta 25, but fumbled the ball back to the Vikings at the Atlanta 17. The Vikings gained only five yards in three plays, so called on Cox for his field goal.

The Vikings got only one other real scoring chance. That was when 39 yards in penalties and a 30-yard Cuzzo pass put them at the Falcon one-yard line with a first down. But four plays later, they were no closer as Atlanta blunted three running plays and a pass attempt.

Minnesota	3	0	0	0-3
Atlanta	0	0	3	0-10
MINN.—FG Cox 19.				
ATL.—Humphrey 24 fumble recovery.				
ATL.—ET Etter 28.				
A-41-822.				

STATISTICS	
First downs	125 61
Rushing yardage	42 50
Passing yardage	48 7 10-37
Return yardage	4-17 3 6-15
Passes	10-13 9
Fumbles lost	4 0
Yards penalized	40 49



AP Wirephoto
 Leroy Keyes (right), Eagles' rookie running back, uses free hand to push off San Francisco 49ers safetyman, Al Randolph, on 20-yard run Sunday.

Eagles 'Boot' Finale, 14-13, As Field Goal From 19 Fails

Continued from 1st Sports Page

rush. He pumped until Bob Windsor, his big tight end, got free to grab Brodie's toss near the 12 and battle his way across the goal line for a 22-yard TD. Momcilo Gavric, the ex-Belgium soccer kicker, made it 14-13 with his second conversion.

MIRA RETAINS HIS COOL

At this point only 3:32 remained and the 49er rushline was in the meanness of moods. But Mira retained his cool, too. He completed passes of eight, five and nine yards to move the Eagles to midfield.

Then, chased out of the pocket by rookie end Earl Edwards and pursued hotly by linebacker Dave Wilcox, Mira made what could have been the biggest play of the game.

The two quarterbacks located Leroy Keyes unfield near the 30 and whipped him a strike. Keyes made the catch and drove all the way to the 49er 20 before being forced out of bounds.

PINDER'S BIGGEST GAME

Cyril Pinder, who had his biggest game as a pro with 128 yards and scored his first league touchdown, moved the ball to the 11 in three line cracks. Pinder's last run, a draw, was into the left side and put the ball at an angle near the left hashmark.

Baker, holder Joe Scarpati and the rest of the field goal unit trotted in for what appeared to be a routine, game-

near midfield in the opening period, the Eagles moved 50 yards for the first score of the game. Pinder found a gaping hole at left guard and powered 29 yards to the 21.

Keyes and Pinder moved it to the 10 and the Mira rifled a touchdown pass to Jackson, who beat Jimmy Johnson in the right corner. Evans' high snap ruined any chance at an extra point although Scarpati went through the motions of retreating to the 40 and hurling a pass which linebacker Dave Wilcox knocked down.

EAGLE DRIVE HALTED

Spurrier, who only got the 49ers inside the Eagle 40-yard line once, served up his third interception and the most damaging with six minutes left in the second period. Midway through the quarter, Johnson had intercepted on Mira, halting an Eagle drive that had reached the 17.

On third and four, Spurrier tried to hit back Doug Cunningham on a hitch pattern along the left side. Scarpati, almost as if he had been invited into the 49er huddle, lunged inside the receiver for the catch just before stepping out of bounds at the 49ers' eight-yard line.

Pinder, who has rushed for 189 yards in the Eagles' final two games as a fill-in for Tom Woodshnick, got the TD in two plunges. After hitting over left tackle for three yards, Pinder went between guard

But a penalty for holding shoved the 49ers out of scoring range.

Just before the half, the fans got a chance to see a rare free kick try for a field goal. Kent Lawrence made a free catch of Jon Kilgore's punt at the San Francisco 46. However, Baker's try without any rush was off to the right.

49er coach Dick Nolan left Spurrier in for the opening series in the second half. But when the \$250,000 bonus passer ignited only boos from the sparse crowd, Nolan went to Brodie.

71-YARD DRIVE

Brodie's presence seemed to arouse the 19ers. There was no doubt that he aroused the crowd, which often has booed Brodie here.

The key play in the 71-yard scoring drive that followed was a third-down completion to Cunningham. After the reception, Cunningham bounced off Porter and turned a short-gainer into a 19-yard pickup and a first down at the Eagle 33.

Brodie missed on two passes but a third-down interference call against Nelson gave the 49ers life at the 14. Willard got three yards, then ran a quick trap up the left side for 10 yards to the one.

Two plays later, Cunningham lunged over from the one. Gavic's kick cut the Eagle lead to 13-7.

Rams Beaten By Colts For 3d Loss in Row

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21 (UPI). — Thirty-six-year-old Johnny Unitas, showing flashes of his old-time brilliance, steered the Baltimore Colts to a 13-7 win over the Rams in the final game of the regular National Football League season Sunday.

It was the third loss in succession for the Rams, who won their first 11 games and took the title in the NFL Coastal Division. The Colts finished second with an 8-5-1 record.

The Rams opened the 1969 season by beating the Colts, 27-20, but the story was an entirely different one Sunday afternoon before a disappointed crowd of 73,226.

A punishing Colt defense bulwarked by Bubba Smith and Billy Ray Smith up front and, by Tom Maxwell and Jerry Logan in the secondary, held the Rams to one touchdown, an eight-yard pass from Roman Gabriel to Jack Snow in the second quarter.

The Rams touchdown was made possible by Jim Nettles' interception of a Unitas pass. Unitas completed 19 of 33 passes for 260 yards.

Baltimore	1	3	7	0-11
Los Angeles	0	7	0	0-7
Ball—FG Michaels 23				
Ball—FG Michaels 39				
LA—Snow 8 pass from Gabriel (Gossett kick)				
Ball—Matte 2 run (Michaels kick)				
A-73,226.				

STATISTICS	
First downs	23 10
Rushing yardage	95 51
Passing yardage	249 156
Return yardage	12 7
Passes	19-33 13-37
Fumbles lost	9 9
Yards penalized	25 41

Lions Defeat Bears by 20-3

CHICAGO, Dec. 21 (UPI)

—The Detroit Lions ground out a 20-3 victory over the hapless Chicago Bears on snowy Wrigley Field Sunday to clinch third place in the Western Conference of the National Football League.

Charlie Sanders gave the Lions all the points they needed in the first quarter when he leaped behind George Youngblood to take in a 27 yard touchdown pass from Bill Munson. A Munson to Sanders completion set up the score.

Detroit kicker Erroll Mann chipped in two second quarter field goals of 43 and 31 yards and Mike Weger rubbed it in with a fourth quarter interception of a Jack Concannon pass which put the ball on the Bear 10, from where Bill Triplett took it over on the next play.

Mac Percival, the Bear field goal specialist who has been doing Chicago's only scoring of late, saved them from a shutout for the second successive week with a 38-yard field goal—his only success in three tries—in the third quarter.

The great Gale Sayers ramed out 60 yards rushing in 15 tries. It was a so-so performance for the Bear's all-NFL back, but it was good enough to nail down the league's rushing championship with 1032 yards, the second time in his five year pro career that he has passed the

Frenchman 1st In Ski Sweep

FIRST TD CATCH—Oakland Raider Fred Biletnikoff (hidden) takes first-quarter TD pass from Daryle Lamonica as Houston Mitchell (22) defends. Biletnikoff lands in end zone clutching ball.

Ex-Eagle Helps Falcons Crack Vikings' Streak

Atlanta — Eagles castoff Al Lavan intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble yesterday to help the Atlanta Falcons end the Minnesota Vikings' 12-game win streak, 10-3.

"We got caught in the rainstorm," Vikings coach Bud Grant said. "We played half of our games in bad weather this season, and this was the worst. Weather is a great equalizer."

The only touchdown was scored by Atlanta defensive end Claude Humphrey, who went 24 yards with a fumble John Zook shook loose from Gary Cuozzo.

Joe Kapp was relieved by Cuozzo in the second period. "Joe didn't need to play in this kind of weather," Grant said.

Falcons general manager Frank Wall presented his cufflinks to Humphrey: "I told you if you scored a touchdown, I'd give them to you. Here, you might as well have the tie pin, too."

Minnesota	3	0	0	0-3
Atlanta	0	7	3	0-10

Minn.—FG, Cox, 19.
 Atl.—Humphrey, 24, run with recovered fumble (Efter kick).
 Atl.—FG, Etter, 28.
 Attendance—52,872.

VIKINGS	FALCONS
9 First Downs	5
125 Rushing Yardage	62
42 Passing Yardage	50
12 Return Yardage	77
4-17-3 Passes	6-13-1
4-35 Punts	10-27
5 Fumbles Lost	2
40 Yards Penalized	49

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING—Minnesota, Reed 10-29, Brown 14-32; Atlanta, Wages 20-50, Butler 7-19.
RECEIVING—Minnesota, Henderson 3-53; Atlanta, Cepilli 1-52.
PASSING—Minnesota, Cuozzo 4-13-1, 62 yards; Atlanta, Berry 6-13-1, 70.

Steelers Lose No. 13

New Orleans — The final play in Doug Atkins' 205-game 17-year NFL career saw him bow out the way he'd like to be remembered. Dick Shiner will remember how Atkins clobbered him to prevent a pass and preserve the New Orleans Saints' 27-24 success over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"These have been the happiest three years of my career," Atkins told the 72,000 fans who stayed around for his retirement speech. He asked them for a favor: "Until you understand the game a little better, promise me you'll let the coaches and assistants make all the decisions."

Atkins was referring to the booing when Billy Kilmer replaced Ed Hargett at quarter-

back with 56 seconds left. Kilmer handed to Andy Livingston, who drove over with the winning touchdown.

"Hargett came running to the side and said, 'I can't remember too well. I can't remember the plays,'" said head coach Tom Fears.

Hargett couldn't remember who had hit him or when and couldn't remember completing passes to Al Dodd and Danny Abramowicz to set up the score.

"My mind went blank, but I had enough sense to take myself out of the game," said Hargett, a rookie with a 146 IQ. "I couldn't recall playing football today and I didn't know we'd won until I came to on the training table."

After Livingston's winning TD, Steeler safety Charlie Beatty kicked Abramowicz in the back and a fight broke out. New Orleans' Bill Saul, recovering from a severe knee injury, threw aside his crutches and hobbled onto the field to join his comrades.

Abramowicz won the pass receiving title with 72 catches, one more than Charlie Taylor and six more than Roy Jefferson, the Steeler star limited to two catches and ejected for his part in the brawl. Abramowicz caught eight yesterday in breaking a three-way tie.

Joe Greene sacked Kilmer five times in the first half and forced Saint blockers into four 15-yard holding penalties.

For losing their 13th in a row after an opening win, the Steelers earned the right to flip with Chicago for the No. 1 pick in college draft.

Pittsburgh	14	0	7	3-24
New Orleans	0	10	7	10-27

Pitt—Gros 8 run (Mingo kick)
 Pitt—Gros 16 run (Mingo kick)
 NO—Poage 3 pass from Kilmer (Demsey kick)
 NO—FG Dempsey 38
 NO—FG 14 pass from Kilmer (Dempsey kick)
 Pitt—Gros 8 run (Mingo kick)
 Pitt—FG Mingo 11
 NO—FG Dempsey 40
 NO—Livingston 3 run (Dempsey kick)
 A—72,256.

STEELERS

11 First downs	23
126 Rushing yardage	93
141 Passing yardage	247
12 Return yardage	38
9-22-0 Passes	20-36-1
5-43 Punts	4-48
0 Fumbles lost	1
63 Yards penalized	127

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING—Pittsburgh, Gros 8-41; Hoak 9-23; New Orleans, Livingston 10-45, Baker 9-38.
RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Hoak 3-40, Jefferson 2-27, Henderson 2-53; New Orleans, Abramowicz 8-129, Dodd 5-81.
PASSING—Pittsburgh, Shiner 4-22-0, 152 yards; New Orleans, Kilmer 15-28-1, 219, Hargett 4-7-0, 70.

Continued From

yards; to Reed and 23 yards; for 60 yards; non for three

George Atkins pass intercepted a score and rammed four er.

"There was in the game we could do ers," said Lavan went out and in mind."

Said Oiler Lemm: "They come at you are tough they get mo awfully to catch," Lem to the Chief be tough, to

"We played the muck, but things well. clubs will matched fo but if I h team it w the Raiders siveness."

Today an days off f They go Wednesday every day title game played in Coliseum.

Houston	14	0	7	3-24
Oakland	0	10	7	10-27

Oak—Biletnikoff (Blanda kick).
 Oak—Atkinson, kick).
 Oak—Sherman, (Blanda kick).
 Oak—Biletnikoff, (Blanda kick).
 Oak—Smith, 60 (Blanda kick).
 Oak—Sherman, (Blanda kick).
 Oak—Cannon 3 (Blanda kick).
 Hou—Reed, 8, (Gerela kick).
 Oak—Hubbard, Attendance—53,500.

OILERS

14 First Downs	23
28 Rushing Yardage	93
147 Passing Yardage	247
4 Return Yardage	38
18-46-3 Passes	20-36-1
11-41-4 Punts	4-48
7 Fumbles Lost	1
48 Yards Penalized	127

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING—Pittsburgh, Gros 8-41; Hoak 9-23; New Orleans, Livingston 10-45, Baker 9-38.
RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Hoak 3-40, Jefferson 2-27, Henderson 2-53; New Orleans, Abramowicz 8-129, Dodd 5-81.
PASSING—Pittsburgh, Shiner 4-22-0, 152 yards; New Orleans, Kilmer 15-28-1, 219, Hargett 4-7-0, 70.

AFL

SATURDAY

Kansas City

YESTERDAY

Oakland 56,

Clark KC

Auckland,

—Henry Cla

heavyweight

Dunlop, th

wealth light

from Austr

round yeste



DIVING IN WATER—Houston Oiler Johnny Peacock dives to stop Oakland Raider Mary Hubbard's pass spray in futile effort to stop Oakland Raider Mary Hubbard's pass.