

## **WHEN STINKY STUFFED THE PACK**

By C.C. Staph

Every day, when the Chicago Bears finished practice, they ran the "Stinky Special." It was sort of a joke, but it made everyone feel good. A fun way to end the scrimmage.

"Stinky" was Bear Bill Hewitt, a lantern-jawed, 1930s Rambo, who'd been a fair fullback at the University of Michigan but became a great end with the pros. Fans knew him as "The Off-Sides Kid," so named because his charge at the snap was so quick opponents insisted he was off-sides on every play. Officials watched him carefully and swore he was legal – just fast. His Bear teammates were delighted to have the zebras watch Hewitt so carefully; it left them unobserved for whatever frolics they cared to work on their enemies.

Most modern fans have seen the famous picture of Hewitt pitching a lateral to Bill Karr for the touchdown that won the 1933 championship. As always, Bill is without a helmet. He played that way until they finally passed a rule that every player had to wear one. He hated helmets. He would have been really upset at face masks.

The angle of the photo is a little misleading; Bill's arms are extended toward the camera so viewers can't see their extraordinary length. In reality, his arms would have looked okay on one of Tarzan's loyal subjects.

And they were strong. Bill used them to shiver blockers and stop ball carriers. More than anything, his defense was what made Hewitt an all-pro end in most of the years that had three as their third digit.

He could also block like the king's hatter and catch passes that lesser mortals only waved at. And run once he snared them.

And, he could pass. Those long arms could hurl a football immense distances. Something to do with the fulcrum or radius or like that. Admittedly, passing the football is not usually listed in an end's job description, but it was something to have fun with at practice.

Which brings us back to the "Stinky Special." On this one, "Stinky" Hewitt would take a hand-off on an apparent end-around. At the last second, he'd stop and windmill his long arm to send a spiral sort of in the direction of the Bears' other end, Luke Johnsos. Sometimes Johnsos even caught the ball to end the practice session with a real bang.

Of course, the Bears would never use it in a game.

Then the 1933 season began.

1933 figured to be different. The league had divided itself like an amoeba into two parts -- an eastern and western division. The power was in the west, if you didn't count the newly-formed Cincinnati Reds or the never-ready Chicago Cardinals. The Bears had been league champs in '32 and likely would be better yet. Portsmouth had nearly won, but the real competition for the Bruins figured to come from Green Bay, the champs from 1929 through 1931 and winners of more games than anyone else in '32 when the Bears made it on percentage.

The Pack had Mike Michalske, Lavie Dilweg, Cal Hubbard, Johnny Blood, Arnie Herber, Clarke Hinkle, and on and on. In Green Bay, fans were warming up a flagpole for another banner, one with a 1933 on it.

Surprisingly, the Packers opened by getting only a tie with Boston. Just one of those things. The season REALLY started the next week when the Bears came to Wisconsin.

On September 24, City Stadium bulged with 10,000 Packer Backers. The home team lived up to all expectations for fifty-five minutes.

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The teams battled on even terms in the first half, neither able to score. If there was an edge, it was Green Bay's. The Bears were handicapped by the early loss of fullback Bronko Nagurski through injury.

The Packers scored in the third quarter with a number of rookies in the lineup. Arnie Herber's long pass was grabbed by Ben Smith who stepped out of bounds at the Bear one-yard-line. Herber failed to gain on a plunge, but Buckets Goldenberg smashed over. Bobby Monnett added the extra point.

The Packers continued to outplay the Bears. With only about five minutes left to play, the Packers had fourth and one deep in Bear territory. They elected to try for a placekick that could seal the win.

It was time for Stinky to strike.

Bobby Monnett kicked the ball, but no one knows if it might have been good. Bill Hewitt blew in like Godzilla and blocked the boot. The Bears were still within reaching distance, 7-0.

The Bears began a drive that reached the Green Bay 46, and stalled. Luke Johnsos called Bear QB Carl Brumbaugh aside. Every time Hewitt ran an end-around, Luke told Carl there was never anyone downfield for Johnsos to block. In the huddle, Brumbaugh called an end-around. Only Brumbaugh, Johnsos and Hewitt knew what was coming.

Bill started on his usual course. The Packers followed him like beagles after a rabbit. Bill stopped. His long right arm whirled. And there was Johnsos, lonesome as a daisy on a slag pile, standing at the goal line. The Stinky Special! Good for 46 yards! Jack Manders' placement tied the score.

With only two minutes left, the Packers were unable to gain against the fired-up Bruins. Arnie Herber went back to punt Green Bay out of danger. He reckoned not with Hewitt.

Godzilla time again! Hewitt blocked Herber's punt picked up the ball at the five, and took it over for the winning points. Manders iced the Bear cake with another placement.

The newspapers called it a "miracle victory." The miracle was Bill Hewitt. In the space of five minutes, he'd blocked a field goal, blocked a punt, scored one touchdown, and passed for another.

The Packers never recovered, finishing 1933 with a disappointing 5-7-1 mark. The Bears had them hoodooed. In late October, they went to Chicago and led the Bears 7-0 with only four minutes to go. They lost 10-7. In December, they were back in Chicago to lose 7-6.

Meanwhile, the Bears romped into the championship game, and "Stinky" Hewitt got his picture taken throwing that lateral.

----- Sunday, September 24, 1933, At Green Bay, WI -----

<b>GREEN BAY PACKERS 7</b>		<b>CHICAGO BEARS 14</b>	
Dilweg, Rose	LE	Hewitt, Tackwell	
Hubbard, Quatse	LT	Lyman, Richards	
Evans, Greeney	LG	Carlson, Zeller	
Bultman, Young	C	Pearson, Miller	
Comstock, Michalske	RG	Kopcha, Bergerson	
Kurth, Perry	RT	Buckler, Musso	
Gantenbein, Smith	RE	Johnsos, Karr	
Blood, Grove	QB	Brumbaugh, Molesworth	
Bruder, Monnett, Mott	LH	Ronzani, Grange	
Herber, Engelmann	RH	Sisk, Nesbitt, Doehring	
Hinkle, McCrary, Goldenberg	FB	Nagurski, Manders	

<b>Green Bay Packers (0-1-1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chicago Bears (1-0-0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>
GB: Goldenberg 1 run (MonnettPK)						
CB: Johnsos 46 pass from Hewitt (Manders PK)						
CB: Hewitt blocked punt (Manders PK)						

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## WILLIAM E. HEWITT

End

Born: October 8, 1909, Bay City, MI    Died: January 14, 1947

Hgt: 5'11"    Wgt: 191    College: Michigan

Pro: (9 years) Chicago Bears 1932-36; Philadelphia 1937-39; Phil-Pitt 1943

All-NFL: 1933, 1934, 1936, 1937

Pro Football Hall of Fame 1971

YEAR	TEAM	LG	PASS NO	RECEIVING YDS	----- AVG	TD	SCOR PTS
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1932	Chicago Bears	N	4	44	11.0	0	6
1933	Chicago Bears	N	16	274	17.1	2	18
1934	Chicago Bears	N	10	151	15.1	5	30
1935	Chicago Bears	N	5	80	16.0	0	0
1936	Chicago Bears	N	15	358	23.9	6	42
1937	Philadelphia	N	16	197	12.3	5	30
1938	Philadelphia	N	18	237	13.2	4	24
1939	Philadelphia	N	15	243	16.2	1	6
1940-42	Retired						
1943	Phil-Pitt	N	2	22	11.0	0	0
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9 years			101	1606	15.9	23	156