

1938 NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

NY GIANTS 23, GREEN BAY 17

December 11, 1938, at New York. Attendance 48,120

In a slam-bang championship game that saw players limp off the field in twos and threes, the Giants overcame a Green Bay comeback to win 23-17 before a record championship game crowd of 48,120 at the Polo Grounds. The Packers won the statistical battle by a near-two-to-one margin -- including 378 yards to 212 -- but New York took scoreboard honors.

By far the most serious injury loss for Green Bay was that of Don Hutson who went out in the second quarter after re-injuring his knee. He returned late in the final period for a last-ditch Packers' effort that fell short. Arnie Herber appeared to have a drive going when he completed a pass to Milt Gantenbein at the New York 40, but Gantenbein was ruled to be an ineligible receiver.

New York end Jim Lee Howell blocked Clarke Hinkle's punt on the game's second possession to set up the game's first score, a 14-yard field goal by Ward Cuff. Almost immediately the Giants blocked another punt that eventually resulted in a six-yard scoring run by Tuffy Leemans. Before the first quarter ended, the Packers came back to cut the score with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Mulleneaux from Herber.

New York widened its lead again in the second quarter, when Ed Danowski threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to rookie Hap Barnard. Green Bay responded with a touch-down on Hinkle's one-yard run. At the half, New York had the home crowd smiling with a 16-14 lead.

In late November, the Giants had beaten the Packers 15-3 in a regular season game, but by then Green Bay had just about wrapped up its division. The big question in New Yorkers' minds as the halftime ended was whether Hutson would return to spark the visitors' offense.

He was on the bench as the second half began. Neverthe-less, Green Bay marched down the field to take the lead. Tiny Engebretsen's 15-yard field goal put Green Bay in front by a point 16-16.

Halfback Hank Soar led the Giants right back downfield. He carried the ball five times and caught one pass before making a leaping grab from Danowski at the goal line, and dragging Hinkle over for the winning score.

With their win, the Giants became the first team to win two championship games since the league split into two divisions in 1933. Their previous victory was in the famous "Sneakers" game of 1934. New York also won the 1927 title when the crown was awarded to the team with the best season record.

The victory earned each winning Giant \$900.00 and each Packer \$700.00.

<u>GREEN BAY 17</u>		<u>NY GIANTS 23</u>
Becker	LE	Poole
Seibold	LT	Widseth
Letlow	LG	Dell Isola
Lee Mulleneaux	C	Hein
Goldenberg	RG	Tuttle
Lee	RT	Parry
Gantenbein	RE	Howell
Schneidman	QB	Danowski
Isbell	LH	Soar
Laws	RH	Cuff
Hinkle	FB	Shaffer

Substitutes

GB: Paul Miller, Bruder, Hutson, Jankowski, Uram, Carl Mulleneaux, Ray, Engebretsen, Butler, Scherer, Herber, Svendsen, Monnett, Johnston.

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NY: Leemans, Lunday, Haden, Barnum, Karcis, Gildea, Burnett, Barnard, Falaschi, Gelatka, Jenison, Mellus, Galazin, Cope, Hanken, Cole.

Green Bay	0	14	3	0	-	17
NY Giants	9	7	7	0	-	23

NYG - FG Cuff 14
NYG - Leemans 6 run (Gildea kick failed)
GB - C.Mulleneaux 40 pass from Herber (Engebretsen kick)
NYG - Barnard 21 pass from Danowski (Cuff kick)
GB - Hinkle 1 run (Engebretsen kick)
GB - FG Engebretsen 15
NYG - Soar 23 pass from Danowski (Cuff kick)

Team Statistics	GB	NYG
First Downs	14	10
Rushing	9	6
Passing	4	2
By Penalty	1	2
Total Yardage	378	212
Net Rushing Yardage	164	115
Net Passing Yardage	214	97
Passes att.-comp.-had int	19-8-1	15-8-1

RUSHING

NY Giants - Soar, 21-65; Leemans 13-42, 1 TD; Barnum 3- 8; Danowski 1-4; Karcis 3-3; Cuff 2 (-)7.
Green Bay - Hinkle 8 for 63, 1 TD; Monnett 4 for 29; Herber 3 for 22; Isbell 11 for 20; Laws 4 for 20;
Jankowski 3 for 14; Uram 2 for -1; Miller 1 for -3.

PASSING

NY Giants - Danowski 7-11-77, 2 TDs; Leemans 1-2-20, 1 int.; Barnum 0-1; Soar 0-1.
Green Bay - Herber 5-14-123, 1 TD; Isbell 3-5-91, 1 int.

RECEIVING

NY Giants - Soar 3-41, 1 TD; Howell 2-3; Barnard 1-20, 1 TD; Barnum 1-20; Leemans 1-5; Perry 0-8.
Green Bay - Becker 2-79; C.Mulleneaux 2-54, 1 TD; Uram 1-24; Isbell 1-22; Scherer 1-19; Gantenbein 1-6; Hutson 0-or 10.