This moment in pro football history has always captured my imagination. It was the last time the college underdogs ever defeated the pro champs in the long and storied history of the College All-Star Football Classic, previously known as the Chicago Charities College All-Star Game, a series which came to an abrupt end in 1976. As a kid, I remember eagerly awaiting this game, as it signaled the beginning of another pro football season—which somewhat offset the bittersweet knowledge that another summer vacation was quickly coming to an end.

Alas, as the era of “big money” pro sports set in, the college all star game quietly became a quaint relic of a more innocent sporting past. Little by little, both the college stars and the teams which had shelled out guaranteed contracts to them began to have second thoughts about participation in an exhibition game in which an injury could slow or even terminate a player’s career development. The 1976 game was played in a torrential downpour, halted in the third quarter with Pittsburgh leading 24-0, and the game—and, indeed, the series—was never resumed.

But on that sultry August evening in 1963, with a crowd of 65,000 packing the stands, the idea of athletes putting financial considerations ahead of “the game” wasn’t on anyone’s minds. Those who were in the stands or watching on television were treated to one of the more memorable upsets in football history, as the “college Joes” knocked off the “football pros,” 20-17. As the final gun sounded, the crowd stood on its feet and applauded, and the college players carried their hero—undrafted Wisconsin QB Ron VanderKelen—off the field on their shoulders.

For a wonderful article about this game, go here…

http://www.sportsonearth.com/article/55399888/

A couple of design notes…

I found it difficult to locate complete starting line-ups for the this game, so I relied on reports about the game, box scores, and other resources. Where I was unable to authoritatively determine starters, I used the ’63 pro draft results as a guide to the top seniors who would have been invited to play in the game.

Typically, I would have used the ’62 Green Bay team ratings for this game, but I decided instead to lean more on the ’63 team’s performance. The Packers team that appeared in this game was somewhat different than the 13-1 team that had won the championship the year before. Star HB Paul Hornung had been suspended for gambling, and MLB Ray Nitschke didn’t play because of an injury. I left Hornung off the roster, but included Nitschke. If you want to increase the odds of duplicating the collegian’s upset, I suggest you play Ed Holler at MLB rather than Nitschke.

Also, in using the ’63 rosters and stats to formulate Green Bay’s team sheet, I had to work around the fact that several of their ’63 players—DE Lionel Aldridge, LB Lee Roy Caffey, and others—were on the College All-Star roster for this game. Thus, I had to improvise, especially at DE where Aldridge was the starter in ’63. The historical roster showed no backup defensive ends, so I inserted draft pick Urban Henry as the starting defensive end for this game—and rated him accordingly! Similarly, the real ’63 Packers had very little in the way of reserve ends and flankers. So I used players who were drafted by Green Bay in ’63 but who were subsequently cut during or after training camp.

Despite these blips, I’m confident that you’ll be able to enjoy a true-to-life re-creation of this historic game using the team sheets I’ve created. Please do let me know how the game turns out! The e-mail address is info@plaay.com.
1963N* Green Bay • DEFENSE

† Herb Adderley scores TOUCHDOWN on any KICKOFF RETURN over 45 yards.

1963N* Green Bay • OFFENSE

† Earl Gros is given an IN grade of C for first three carries.

+4] TEAM OFFENSE FUMBLES: [C] PENALTIES: [B]
1963 College All-Stars ★ DEFENSE

+ Don Lisbon is given an OU grade of AA for first four carries.

1963 College All-Stars ★ OFFENSE

A [HB] Tom Janik
1 / 0+ Larry Glueck
1 / 0 John Griffin

B [S] Kermit Alexander
1+ / 1 Tom Brown
0+ / 1 John Griffin

C [S] Jerry Stovall
1 / 0 Tom Brown
1 / 0 John Griffin

D [HB] Lonnie Sanders
1 / 0 Louis Guy
1 / 0 John Griffin

E [OLB] Dave Robinson
1 / 1+ Lee Roy Caffey
0 / 1 John Baker

F [MLB] Lee Roy Jordan
0 / 0+ Jerry Hopkins
0 / 0+ Jim Price

G [OLB] Danny Brabham
0+ / 1 Lee Roy Caffey
0 / 1- Lou Slaby

H [DE] Bobby Bell
1 / 0+ Lionel Aldridge
0 / 0+ Tom Nomina

I [DT] Jim Dunaway
1 / 1 Jim Kanicki
0 / 0+ Tom Nomina

J [DT] Buck Buchanan
1 / 1+ Jim Kanicki
0 / 1 Ron Snidow

K [DE] Don Brumm
1 / 1+ Lionel Aldridge
0 / 1 Ron Snidow

TA [OT]
2 / 1 Bob Vogel
1 / 0 Walt Rock
1 / 0 Ray Mansfield

GA [G]
1 / 1+ Ed Budde
0 / 1 Don Estes
1 / 0 Ray Mansfield

CE [C]
0 / 1 Dave Behrman
1 / 0 Ray Mansfield
0 / 0+ Dave Crossan

GB [G]
2 / 1 Walt Sweeney
0 / 1 Rufus Guthrie
1 / 0 Ray Mansfield

TB [OT]
0 / 1 Daryl Sanders
1 / 0 Bob Reynolds
1 / 0 Ray Mansfield

EA [WR]
1 / 1 Paul Flatley
1 / 0 Art Graham
1 / 0 Tom Hutchinson

QB [QB]
1 / 0 Ron VanderKelen
0 / 1 Glynn Griffing
0 / 1 Terry Baker

FB [FB]
1 / 1 Bill Thornton
0+ / 1 Tom Woodschick
0 / 1 Keith Kinderman

EC [TE]
0 / 1 Bob Jencks
1 / 0 Ray Poage
0 / 1- Butch Wilson

SB [RB]
0 / 1 Larry Ferguson
1 / 0 Charlie Mitchell
0 / 1 Don Lisbon

PK XP FG LFG KO IN OU R
Bob Jencks A A 35[C] D
Glynn Griffing C C 40[E] E


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