

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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Football

FOR USE AS DESIRED

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ELMER COLLETT STARTS AT GUARD FOR 49ERS AFTER LOSS OF THOMAS FOR SEASON;
STARR MAY START FOR PACKERS AT NEW YORK, COWBOYS' MEREDITH STILL DOUBTFUL

Charles Elmer Collett, a rookie from San Francisco State, will receive a singular honor this Sunday. His will be the first new face in the San Francisco 49ers' highly-rated offensive line in the last 34 games.

Not since the start of the 1965 season, when Howard Mudd moved in as a regular guard, have the 49ers started anyone else than Bruce Bosley at center, Mudd and John Thomas at the guards, and Walter Rock and Len Rohde at tackles.

Not until this Sunday, when rookie Collett (pronounced CAWL'-et) will move in for Thomas, who underwent surgery last Monday after suffering injuries to both knees at Philadelphia last week. The fivesome had made it intact through 14 games in '65, 14 more in '66 and the first five this season while building a reputation as one of the outstanding units in the National Football League.

Appropriately, the newcomer is a homegrown talent, born in Oakland, the son of an assistant U.S. attorney, and a three-sport letterman at Tamalpais High School in the San Francisco area community of Mill Valley before going on to S.F. State, where he lettered four years.

Elmer was drafted No. 14 as a future by the 49ers in 1966. He is 6-4, weighs 244 pounds, has a 49-inch chest and has better than average speed.

During training camp, in fact, he kept jumping offside in a scrimmage. "That's all right," said offensive coach Bill Johnson. "Better to slow down a fast one than to try to speed up a slow one."

Collett will open at left guard when the 49ers seek to run their record to 5-1 at home against the New Orleans Saints in one of eight games on Sunday's NFL schedule. In other games, Green Bay is at New York. Baltimore at Minnesota. Philadelphia at St. Louis, Washington at Los Angeles, Chicago at Cleveland, Dallas at Pittsburgh and Atlanta at Detroit.

Here's a rundown of injuries and position changes:

SAINTS (0-5) AT 49ERS (4-1)--Saints have lost reserve defensive back Bruce Cortez (knee surgery) for season but receiver John Gilliam (finger) returns after one-game absence...Rookie Elmer Collett starts at left guard for John Thomas, 49er veteran, who underwent surgery on both knees.

PACKERS (3-1-1) AT GIANTS (3-2)--Bart Starr (shoulder, hand) may be ready to start at QB after two-game rest and guard Jerry Kramer (ankle) will start after missing most of Minnesota game...Giants at full strength, including receiver Aaron Thomas (bruised shoulder) and QB Fran Tarkenton (hip).

COLTS (4-0-1) AT VIKINGS (1-4)--Roy Hilton may open at DE for Colts in place of Ordell Braase (groin)...Colts also list tackle Jim Parker (knee), receiver Ray Berry (hamstring), and reserve linebacker Bill Curry (knee) as doubtful...Vikings all o.k.

EAGLES (3-2) AT ST. LOUIS (3-2)--Eagles list DE Gary Pettigrew (arch) and reserve TE Jim Kelly (ankle) as doubtful, flanker Ben Hawkins (shoulder) as probable and reserve flanker Ron Goodwin (hamstring) as out...DB Joe Scarpati (hamstring) returns after two-game absence...Receiver Billy Gambrell (shoulder) is out another week for Cards, but DE Don Brumm (leg) is probable.

REDSKINS (2-2-1) AT RAMS (3-1-1)--REDSKINS list LB Chris Hanburger (knee) and receiver-kicker John Love (hamstring) as probable, but lose reserve running back Steve Thurlow (broken right forearm) for six weeks...Rams at full strength, including LB Maxie Baughan (knee) and guard Joe Scibelli (leg).

BEARS (2-3) AT BROWNS (3-2)--Tackle Bob Wetoska (bruised shoulder) is question mark for Bears, who last week ended with rookies Bob Pickens and Randy Jackson at tackles, George Seals and Mike Rabold at guards...Browns expect all to play, including tackle Dick Schafrath (knee).

COWBOYS (4-1) AT STEELERS (1-4)--QB Don Meredith (ribs) may sit out one more game, Craig Morton replacing, and rookie Phil Clark continues at free safety for Mel Renfro (ankle)...Steelers may start Bob Hohn at defensive wing over Marv Woodson, doubtful with bruised knee, and J.R. Washburn at flanker for Roy Jefferson (thigh)...Ben McGee, back from knee surgery, starts at DE with John Baker.

FALCONS (0-4-1) AT LIONS (1-3-1)--QB Randy Johnson starts again for Falcons despite bruised stomach muscles but guard Ed Cook will miss at least three more games with knee injury...Jerry Richardson (hand surgery) starts at left safety. Lions may lose RB Mel Farr (severe charley horse) and TE Ron Kramer (knee), but regain flanker Pat Studstill (hamstring), who was limited to punting last week.

The week's roster changes:

DELETIONS

Atlanta-- <u>Tommy Bleick</u> (waived)	Pittsburgh-- <u>Marsh Cropper</u> (injured)
<u>Ed Cook</u> (injured)	<u>Fran O'Brien</u> (injured)
*New Orleans-- <u>Ben Hart</u> (waived)	San Francisco-- <u>John Thomas</u> (injured)
<u>Fred Whittingham</u> (injured)	Washington-- <u>Steve Thurlow</u> (injured)
New York-- <u>Dick Kotite</u> (waived)	
<u>Les Murdock</u> (waived)	

ADDITIONS

ATLANTA

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
64	<u>Harmon, Tom</u>	G	6-4	238	22	1	Gustavus Adolphus
49	<u>Hudlow, Floyd</u>	DB	5-11	195	23	1	Arizona

DETROIT

77	<u>Winkler, Randy</u>	T	6-5	260	22	1	Tarleton State
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NEW ORLEANS

35	<u>Davis, Ted</u>	LB	6-1	232	25	4	Georgia Tech
63	<u>Schmidt, Roy</u>	G	6-3	250	25	1	Long Beach State

NEW YORK

72	<u>Colvin, Jim</u>	DT	6-2	245	29	8	Houston
29	<u>Mercein, Chuck</u>	RB-K	6-3	230	24	3	Yale

PHILADELPHIA

61	<u>Vasys, Arunas</u>	LB	6-2	235	24	2	Notre Dame
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PITTSBURGH

60	<u>McGee, Ben</u>	DE	6-3	260	28	4	Jackson State
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*Bruce Cortez, New Orleans defensive back, was added 10/14, and deleted as injured 10/17.