



**1921**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

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**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

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**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

[packerscentury.com](http://packerscentury.com)



## 1921

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**Record: 3-2-1 (T-5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- The Packers joined the American Professional Football Association (APFA). With teams stretching from New York to Minnesota, stiffer competition awaited. In 1922, the league changed its name to the National Football League (NFL).
- A franchise was awarded to John and J. Emmett Clair of the Acme Packing Company on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The brothers hoped the "Acme Packers" uniform would spread the company's name far and wide.
- Eight players from 1919 & 1920 played in the team's first game in the new league.
- After playing with Green Bay for only the last game of the 1920 season, the Packers signed Howard "Cub" Buck for 1921. His large frame was intimidating: 6'0" ft., 259 pounds, with a size 19 neck. Buck played with the great Jim Thorpe.
- After the season, the league began investigating claims that the Packers had used college players in a non-league game against Racine on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The team reported a loss of \$3,800 for the season.



MINNEAPOLIS  
**MARINES**  
**PACKERS**

**6** 10.23.1921  
**7**

### **We Win!**

Hagmeester Park hosted Green Bay's first game in the American Professional Football Association. Minneapolis got off to a fast start with a first-quarter touchdown. It stayed 6-0 until the final quarter.

With six minutes left, Green Bay's Cub Buck punted the ball back to Minneapolis. Ben Dvorak, who had scored the Marines' touchdown, fumbled the punt on his 35-yard line. It was recovered by David "Jigger" Hayes of the Packers. After a third-down pass from Lambeau to Buff Wagner kept the drive alive, running back Art Schmael crashed over from the four-yard line. Lambeau's extra point was the difference. Once victory was assured, "cushions went flying in the air while soaring hats were as thick as Green Bay flies on a July night."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Minneapolis</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Attendance: 6,000**

*Following the win, "staid gray haired businessmen jumped around like school kids and there was one continual din that could be heard blocks away."<sup>2</sup>*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/21, Calhoun, p. 5  
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/21, Calhoun, p. 5



ROCK ISLAND

**INDEPENDENTS 13**  
**PACKERS 3** 10.30.1921

The Packers suffered their first home loss. In the first quarter, they took the lead after recovering a fumble on the Rock Island 20-yard line. Curly Lambeau's field goal made it 3-0. Later in the quarter, a blocked punt by the Independents put the ball inside Green Bay's 10-yard line. Three plays later, Jimmy Conzelman scored to put Rock Island ahead 7-3.

The next 30 minutes were a punting contest. Rock Island got the best it early in the fourth quarter when a Green Bay punt went out of bounds on the Packers' 30-yard line. A few plays later, Sid Nichols scored the winner from the one-yard line.

<b>Rock Island</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Attendance: 6,000**

**Palmyro "Paul" Mazzoleni, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame**

*My father "moved to Green Bay in 1921 from St. Louis. Back then it was just a club team, and about a half a dozen players lived in his neighborhood. When practice came around, he would go hang and watch practice. One day, one of the players saw him stading there and said, "Hey, why don't you run home and get us some water?" So he ran home, got a bucket of water and a ladle, and took it back to the players. From that point forward, for the next two years, he was the official water boy to the Green Bay Packers."*<sup>1</sup>

1 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 31



EVANSVILLE CRIMSON

**GIANTS**  
**PACKERS**

**6** 11.6.1921  
**43**

### **Dominant!**

To prepare for the Evansville Crimson Giants, the Packers held twice-a-day practices the week before the game. The practices sharpened Green Bay's play as both the offense and defense had Giants back peddling the entire afternoon.

The Packers moved the ball up and down the field all game behind the passing of Curly Lambeau who was, "shooting the oval like a bullet, and with deadly accuracy."<sup>5</sup> The first score came on an interception that Gus DuMoe returned 25 yards for a touchdown. The second came after a blocked punt set up the Packers at Evansville 12-yard line. Curly missed the extra point for a 13-0 lead.

Nate Abrams also returned an interception 40 yards for a touchdown, and the Packers had no trouble the rest of the way. Evansville scored in the fourth quarter.

<b>Evansville</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43</b>

**Attendance: NA**

*GB wouldn't score 43 points or more again until 1930.*



HAMMOND

**PROS**  
**PACKERS**

**7** 11.13.1921  
**14**

**Welcome Home!**

Hometown boy Charlie Mathys returned to Green Bay. Mathys starred at Green Bay West High School and Ripon College. It was unusual not to see him in a Wisconsin uniform.

Early in the first quarter, a fumble gave Green Bay the ball on the Hammond 25. Curly Lambeau ran in it from the two-yard line for a 7-0 lead. Later in the quarter, Lambeau faked a drop-kick and tossed a 35-yard touchdown pass from Lambeau to Gus DuMoe that made it 14-0.

Green Bay's defense didn't let the Pros get closer than the 30-yard line all game. Hammond scored in the third quarter on a blocked punt by Jack Depler that Russ Oltz recovered and ran in for a touchdown.

<b>Hammond</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

**Attendance: NA**

*"A committee of boosters, headed by Art Masse, George De Lair, and Ed Masse, have started a ticket-selling campaign and they are going to canvas every business plant in the city. It is up to the citizens of Green Bay to back up the Packers. They have put Wisconsin, not alone Green Bay, on the professional football map."<sup>1</sup>*

*"The Green Bay football fans who can't make the trip to Chicago for the Packer-Cardinal game will be given an opportunity right at home to "see" the game hot off the wire. A direct wire from Normal Park, Chicago, where the game will be played, to Turner Hall, Green Bay, has been leased and two seconds after a play is made on the Windy*

*City gridiron, it will be known to footballers at home who are spending the afternoon in Turner hall. The doors at Turner Hall will be opened at 1 o'clock, and it is expected that there will be a big crowd of fans."*<sup>2</sup>

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/21, p. 12

2 Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/17/21, p. 12



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**

**3**  
**11.20.1921**  
**3**

### Muddy Mess

For the first time, a Green Bay Packer game was “wired” back to Turner Hall in Green Bay. Plays were read to the crowd. Footballs were moved on a rectangular piece wood representing the field to show each team’s progress when they possessed the ball.

Terrible field conditions contributed to a quiet and scoreless three quarters. With the field “just a mass of water and mud”<sup>1</sup> players were hard to identify. In the fourth quarter, Curly Lambeau kicked a 25-yard field goal out of a two-inch puddle of water to put Green Bay in front. With four minutes left, Packer running back John Malone fumbled inside the Green Bay 30. Paddy Driscoll of the Cardinals drop-kicked a field goal from 35 yards out to tie the game.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

**Attendance: 2,000**

*Chicago now knows Green Bay has a team and what’s more loyal fans. The Green Bay delegation kept up a continual roar from first to last whistle with Jock Smith in the lead.”<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/21, Calhoun, p. 13  
<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/21, p. 13





**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**STALEYS**

**0**  
**11.27.1921**  
**20**

Twenty-five hundred Packer fans and the Lumberjack Band took the train to Cubs Park (Wrigley Field) for this eagerly awaited battle. While the Packers lost to the soon-to-be Bears, they earned respect for the small town team from the north in the process.

The Packers were outplayed. Chicago's first touchdown in the second quarter came on Gaylord Stinchcomb's 45-yard run. Stinchcomb broke six tackles to get to the end zone, and it was all Chicago needed. Another touchdown run made it 14-0 at the half. In the fourth quarter, George Halas finished off the Packers with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chick Harley.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>7,000</b>				

*The Lumberjack Band took a train to Chicago. According to band member Ernie Stiller, "The ride to Chicago was a nightmare. Then came the parade from the station and the run-in with police, which was soon smoothed over. We marched into several of the Loop hotels and spread the Green Bay football gospel all around."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/21, Calhoun, p. 10



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2018

## 1921 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS

Chicago Staleys	9-1-1	Washington	1-2-0
Buffalo	9-1-2	Cincinnati	1-3-0
Akron	8-3-1	Hammond	1-3-1
Canton	5-2-3	Minneapolis	1-3-1
Rock Island	4-2-1	Detroit	1-5-1
Evansville	3-2-0	Columbus	1-8-0
Green Bay	3-2-1	Tonawanda	0-1-0
Dayton	4-4-1	Muncie	0-2-0
Chicago Cards	3-3-2	Louisville	0-2-0
Rochester	2-3-0	New York	0-2-0
Cleveland	3-5-0		

### Team Leaders

Rushing tds	Lambeau/Schmaehl
Receiving tds	DuMoe
Field Goals	Lambeau
Scoring	Lambeau



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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