



1922



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1922

Record: 4-3-3 (T-7th)

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- In January, the Packers were expelled from the APFA for using college players in a non-league game on December 4, 1921. Carr knew the Packers weren't the only team doing this, "but the one team I've caught red-handed is Green Bay. So, I am hereby declaring forfeited the Green Bay franchise."¹
- The franchise was reinstated in June when Curly Lambeau pleaded the team's case at a meeting in Cleveland. The league reconsidered and, "granted Earl L. Lambeau of Green Bay, Wisconsin a franchise to field a team to play football."² A \$250 franchise fee was paid, and a \$1,000 deposit agreed to. Also at this meeting, the APFA changed its name to the National Football League.
- "In 1922, Lambeau and Calhoun headed a small group that organized the private Green Bay Football Club and took control of the franchise."³
- Games were plagued by bad weather and poor attendance. Against Columbus on November 5th, rain gutted attendance to around 1,500. The Packers filed a claim with their insurance company to recover the lost revenue (\$1,500). The insurance company denied the claim because too little rain had fallen – by 3/100ths of an inch.
- On November 7th, in a letter to fans in the Press-Gazette, the Packers announced an increase in ticket prices due to a debt of \$3,400.
- The Bears canceled their Thanksgiving in Green Bay because the Packers would not agree to a \$4,000 guarantee. Green Bay still

needed a game for revenue so they scheduled a *non-league* game against the Duluth Kelleys. When a downpour threatened this game, Lambeau and Calhoun feared ticket sales wouldn't generate enough money to pay Duluth or the players. After they consulted with Andrew Turnbull, an owner of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, the game was played, and Turnbull backed the Packers for the guarantee.

- Turnbull also promised to arrange a meeting with business and industry leaders to discuss the team's future. One week after the season, he delivered. "True to his word, Turnbull led the effort to create the nonprofit Green Bay Football Corporation before the start of the next season. The Packers were now a community-owned team. Their investors were their fans."⁴

1 Pro Football's Hall of Fame, Daley, p. 130

2 History of the Green Bay Packers, Names, Vol 1., p. 70

3 packers.com/history

4 packers.com/history



PACKERS

ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS

14

10.1.1922

19

A thrilling opener for the Rock Island fans. The Independents took the opening kickoff and marched right downfield for a touchdown. They never gave up the lead, and Dutch Lauer scored twice for Rock Island. Jimmy Conzelman keyed the offense with two field goals and a touchdown pass.

Trailing 19-7 in the fourth quarter, Lambeau's touchdown pass to Tommy Cronin made it close. In the final minute, his pass to Lyle Wheeler was deflected away at the last second ending the threat.

Green Bay	0	7	0	7	14
Rock Island	6	10	0	3	19
Attendance:	3,500				



RACINE
LEGION
PACKERS

10
6 **10.8.1922**

Green Bay took an early 6-0 lead on a blocked punt by Cub Buck that was recovered for a touchdown by Cowboy Wheeler. The Legion put together an impressive 90-yard drive to go in front 7-6. A dropkick before halftime made it 10-6. Green Bay threatened several times in the second half, but they were denied by a tough Racine defense.

The Packers started the season 0-2, and Calhoun commented, "there's a jinx somewhere around the Bay eleven. If they can shake the hoodoo, there is no question they will prove a mean foe."¹

Racine	0	10	0	0	10
Green Bay	6	0	0	0	6
Attendance:	3,600				

Busloads of fans from Racine made the trip.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/22, Calhoun, p. 10



PACKERS
CHICAGO
CARDINALS

3
10.15.1922
16

Can't Win

This game was played at Normal Park in Chicago. After a 3-3 first half, the Packers faded in the final 30 minutes.

The Cardinals controlled most of the second-half action, and they capitalized on a roughing the passer penalty against Green Bay. It led to the first of two touchdown runs by Arnie Horween. The great Paddy Driscoll guided the Cardinal offense, and as usual, he did everything well. He's "a kicking fool, he runs like an eel through an open field, and he can toss a pass at bullet speed, and he tops this all off with a real honest-to-goodness football head."¹

Green Bay	0	3	0	0	3
Chicago	3	0	7	6	16
Attendance:	3,500				

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/17/22, Calhoun, p. 11



PACKERS
MILWAUKEE
BADGERS

0
10.22.1922
0

This was the first in-state battle with the team from Milwaukee. It was played at Milwaukee Athletic Park (Borchert Field).

According to the Press-Gazette, the Packers outplayed the Badgers for the most part. They more than held their own even though Curly Lambeau, "their captain and forward passing star was helped off the field, pretty badly banged up."¹

After a long drive by Milwaukee, Jug Earp blocked a field goal attempt by Fritz Pollard. In the final minutes, Curly Lambeau tried a 40-yard dropkick that came up one foot short. Since the tie ended the three-game losing streak "Bay rooters simply went wild with joy."²

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Milwaukee	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	6,000				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/22, p. 10

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/22, p. 10



ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS
PACKERS

0
0

10.29.1922

Two Shutouts

It was the largest home crowd of the season for the Packers as 8,000 fans jammed the park.

With Curly Lambeau out injured and a few others hurt during the game, the Packers were critically short-handed. Their defense stepped up and kept Rock island out of the end zone. They played to a scoreless tie in front of a boisterous home crowd! Jug Earp, a former member of the Rock Island team, played fearlessly against his old team and captain Jimmy Conzelman.

Rock Island	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 8,000

*It was a huge crowd. "Hundreds of cars were parked outside the grounds. Northeastern Wisconsin was well represented. Oshkosh up north to Escanaba, east to Sturgeon Bay and west to Shawano they all came."*¹

1 Green bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/22, p.



1919-2018

COLUMBUS

PANHANDLES
PACKERS

0
3

11.5.1922

First Win!

Due to the rain, only 1,500 fans saw Green Bay's first win of the season. The wet ball made passing difficult, and running in ankle deep mud wasn't much easier. Neither team scored in the first half. After a quick five-minute intermission, play resumed.

The Packers took the opening drive to the Columbus 20-yard line. They tried two field goals, and both were blocked. The rule at the time gave the ball to the team that recovered the blocked kick. Both times it was Green Bay. The third kick, the second by Cub Buck, sailed through from the 40-yard line for the win.

This was a big win for the Packers against a well-established team, but they lost about \$1,500 due to the rain.

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 1,500

*"I am going to tell all that Green Bay is the best little football city in the country."*¹ Joe Carr, NFL Commissioner

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/22, p. 11



MINNEAPOLIS
MARINES
PACKERS

6
14 11.12.1922

Partially due to an increase in ticket prices due to the team's precarious financial situation, "there were less than 2,000 paid admissions, and as a result of the poor gate the management lost another big slice of dough."¹

Trailing 6-0 in the fourth quarter, the Packers scored twice in the final 10 minutes to pull out the win. Curly Lambeau's four-yard touchdown run capped off a 50-yard drive that took the lead 7-6. In the last two minutes, Lambeau threw a short touchdown pass to Charlie Mathys to clinch it.

Minneapolis	0	6	0	0	6
Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14
Attendance:	2,000				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/22, Calhoun, p. 4



PACKERS

RACINE

LEGION

3

11.19.22

3

A fierce, physical battle “as players went at each other with bulldog tactics,”¹ said George Calhoun the next day alluding to the questionable officiating. In the fourth quarter, Curly Lambeau’s field goal put Green Bay in front 3-0. Racine came back late in the quarter with a desperation pass from Chuck Dressen to Butch Hayes that put them on the Green Bay 15-yard line. Hank Gillo’s field goal tied it with just seconds left.

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3

Racine 0 0 0 3 3

Attendance: 3,000

Approximately, 300 fans from Green Bay attended the game, causing a Racine fan to shout, “No wonder pro football goes over big at the Bay. Look at the way their fans follow the team.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/22, Calhoun, p. 11

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/22, Calhoun, p. 11



1919-2018

MILWAUKEE
BADGERS
PACKERS

0
13 11.26.1922

No Tie This Time!

A big crowd came to see the “famous Milwaukee Badgers”¹ take on the Packers. Curly Lambeau scored all of Green Bay’s points with two touchdown runs and an extra point.

A blocked field goal by Milwaukee’s Paul Robeson stopped a first quarter threat by Green Bay. In the second quarter, Lambeau scored on a short touchdown run. Later, when the Badgers accidentally backed into their own punt and blocked it, Green Bay recovered. Lambeau took it in two plays later.

Milwaukee	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	7	0	6	13
Attendance:	NA				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/22, Calhoun, p. 10



PACKERS
RACINE
LEGION

14
12.3.1922
0

State Champs!

This game was played in Milwaukee. The passing game showed the way as Green Bay won Wisconsin's *first state pro football championship*.

For most of the day, the game was played in Racine's end of the field. In the second quarter, a 55-yard touchdown connection from Curly Lambeau to Charlie Mathys gave Green Bay the lead. "He was the first pro coach to realize the value of the forward pass,"¹ Packer President, Ray Evrard, would proudly note.

Green Bay scored again in the fourth quarter when their field goal was blocked, and they recovered the ball (the rule at the time). Seven plays later, they put it away.

Green Bay	0	7	0	7	14
Milwaukee	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	4,500				

¹ Greatest Packers of Them All, Johnson, p. 27



1922 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS

Canton	10-0-2		
Chicago Bears	9-3-0	Milwaukee	2-4-3
Chicago Cardinals	8-3-0	Oorang	2-6-0
Toledo	5-2-2	Minnesota	1-3-0
Rock Island	4-2-1	Louisville	1-3-0
Racine	6-4-1	Evansville	0-3-0
Dayton	4-3-1	Rochester	0-4-1
Green Bay	4-3-3	Hammond	0-5-1
Buffalo	5-4-1	Columbus	0-7-0
Akron	3-5-2		

1922 Team Leaders

Rushing tds	Lambeau
Receiving tds	Mathys
Field Goals	Buck, Mathys, Lambeau (1)
Scoring	Lambeau

1922 All-Pro

Lambeau



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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