



**1926**



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)



## 1926

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**Record: 7-3-3 (5<sup>th</sup> Place – 22 teams)**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- A second pro league – the first American Football League with Red Grange as the star attraction – challenged the NFL for one season.
- Before the season, Cub Buck left the team for a coaching position at the University of Miami.
- Community outreach by management was critical. Promoting the team in communities large and small in Wisconsin continues today.
- A slow start – one win and two ties – hurt their title chances. In three games against the Bears, they tied two and lost one.
- Overall, it was another good season for the Packers. They outscored opponents 230-61! They finished #1 in most yards gained and fewest yards allowed!



DETROIT  
**PANTHERS**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**21** 9.19.1926

### **Air Superiority**

It was a great start for Green Bay as their passing game and defense sparkled. Curly Lambeau threw two touchdown passes to end Dick O'Donnell. In between, Charlie Mathys and Verne Lewellen hooked up through the air. The Packer defense held the Panthers to three first downs. After it was over, future Hall of Fame player, Jimmy Conzelman, said unabashedly "I never saw such forward passing in my life. It really was uncanny."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4,500+</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/26, p. 14



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**6** 9.26.1926  
**6**

A punting duel between Verne Lewellen and Paddy Driscoll dominated a scoreless first half. Driscoll, who had been traded crosstown from the Chicago Cardinals, hadn't lost his touch.

While it was the usual tough battle between rivals, the officials kept a close eye for any roughhousing. Green Bay scored quickly after the intermission. Curly Lambeau and Verne Lewellen connected on two pass plays that set up Cully Lidberg's three-yard touchdown run.

With eight minutes left in the game, Rex Enright's fumble on the Packer 35-yard line gave Chicago a chance. They capitalized with a touchdown pass from quarterback Laurie Walquist to Paddy Driscoll to tie the game. But Driscoll missed the extra point. The game stayed tied as both Driscoll and Lambeau missed field goals in the final minutes.

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



DULUTH  
**ESKIMOS**  
**PACKERS**

**0** 10.3.1926  
**0**

The rain and mud brought both offenses to their knees. Verne Lewellen and Ernie Nevers engaged in a punting duel with Lewellen holding the edge. With two minutes left in the game, Pid Purdy's dropkick from Green Bay's 29-yard line came up short.

Despite the tie, the Packers were pleased that 2,500 fans supported them wholeheartedly in the rain.

<b>Duluth</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>2,500</b>				

*"The damp weather didn't seem to halt the women, and there were many of them in attendance. It certainly showed that the football bug has a mighty stronghold on the sport-loving public in Green Bay and neighboring cities."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press- Gazette, 10/4/26, p. 16



CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**13** 10.10.1926  
**7**

### All Red

The Packers have still not beaten the Chicago Cardinals. To add insult to injury, the Cardinals became the first visiting team to win at new City Stadium.

Chicago dominated the first half. Quarterback Red Dunn stole the show with one touchdown pass. He also completed a number of plays, both running and passing, that kept the Packers guessing. After Green Bay tied the game, two field goals by Dunn gave the game to the Cardinals.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

**Attendance: 5,000**

*The Cardinals traded Red Dunn to the Packers in 1927.*



MILWAUKEE  
**BADGERS**  
**PACKERS**

**0** 10.17.1926  
**7**

Snow, sleet and, rain made this physical, in-state battle even more vicious. It was a “bitterly contested contest”<sup>1</sup> that had to be stopped twice when tempers flared!

A scoreless, messy slugfest entertained fans for three quarters. The winner came early in the fourth quarter after Jug Earpe’s interception. Pid Purdy hit Curly Lambeau for a 25-yard gain that put Green Bay on Milwaukee’s 25-yard line. On the next play, Verne Lewellen broke several tackles with a 25-yard touchdown run. Purdy booted the extra point.

For the remainder of the game, the Badgers peppered the Green Bay secondary with 10 passes. Interceptions by Lewellen and Lambeau preserved the shutout.

<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>3,000</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/26, p. 16



RACINE

**TORNADOES**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**35**

10.24.1926

In this blowout, Racine never got closer than Green Bay's 45-yard line. The Packers, however, moved the ball easily all game both on the ground and in the air.

On Racine's opening drive, the Packers blocked a punt. The Packers scored quickly when two rookies, Jack McAuliffe, and Dick Flaherty, completed a 17-yard touchdown pass for a 7-0 lead. When Eddie Kotal intercepted a pass on Racine's next series, the Packers scored again. Halfback Jack Harris, a Racine native, had a fantastic day with two touchdown runs in the second half.

<b>Racine</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>N/A</b>				





**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**

**3**  
**10.31.1926**  
**0**

### Cardinals Go Down!

The Packers defeated the “chesty Cardinals”<sup>1</sup> on a first-quarter field goal by Pid Purdy. A goal-line stand by the Packers just before halftime set the tone for the remainder of the game.

Even the low-scoring, physical game impressed one Chicago scribe who had this to say about pro football. “I didn't think it was possible. But I saw some football out there this afternoon that I won't forget for a long while. It was the best exhibition of ‘grid-ironing’ I have seen this season, and I have been at a college game every Saturday since early in September.”<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>2,500</b>				

*“Between 1,200 and 1,300 attended the Packer-Cardinal football game play-by-play at the Columbus Club Sunday afternoon. Every detail was shown on the gridgraph, and fans were given many thrills.”<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/26, p. 16

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/26 p. 17





LOUISVILLE  
**COLONELS**  
**PACKERS**

**0** 11.14.1926  
**14**

### Nebraska Boy Wins It!

Despite holding back six key players for next week's game against the Bears, the defense delivered its fifth straight shutout.

After another scoreless first half, a sparse, rain-soaked crowd longed for some action. Verne Lewellen came through and got the Packers on the scoreboard with two touchdowns. In the third quarter, he ran for a short touchdown. After his interception late in the final quarter, Lewellen put the game out of reach when he caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Pid Purdy.

<b>Louisville</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>1,300</b>				

*"My whole life my allegience has been with the Packers. I couldn't really, truly in my heart, root for another team besides Green Bay. I don't care how bad they play and I don't care what goes on. The Packers are my life. I'll die a Green Bay Packer Fan. It' just been in my blood since I was old enough to know."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For Packer Fans Only, Wolfe, p. 50



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**13**  
11.21.1926  
**19**

### **Title Chase Ends**

Though 300 Packer hopped the train to Chicago, their presence didn't phase Paddy Driscoll. The great Driscoll put on a show for the visitors with one touchdown pass, a fumble recovery for a touchdown, and two field goals!

Green Bay took the lead on a three-yard touchdown run by Cully Lidberg. Driscoll's touchdown pass to Duke Hanny tied it, and his field goal put the Bears in front 9-6. The Packers answered when Verne Lewellen picked up a fumble and rambled 40 yards to the house for a 13-9 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, Driscoll's second field goal cut Green Bay's lead to one, 13-12. The winner came in the fourth quarter with under seven minutes left. Cully Lidberg fumbled on Green Bay's 20-yard line, and Driscoll scooped it up and took it home for the win.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>7,500</b>				

*This loss ended GB's title hopes.*



**PACKERS**  
FRANKFORD YELLOW  
**JACKETS**

**14**  
**11.25.1926**  
**20**

This matchup against Green Bay drew a huge crowd. Ten-thousand fans of the Yellow Jackets jammed Frankford Stadium to see their team take on the heralded squad from Green Bay.

The Jackets (10-1-1) jumped in front 13-0. They scored the first time they had the ball, and a second touchdown run soon followed. After they fumbled in the third quarter, Green Bay took advantage with Cully Lidberg's touchdown run.

Early in the fourth quarter, Green Bay went in front 14-13 on a touchdown pass from Curly Lambeau to rookie Dick Flaherty. As the clock wound down, a late drive by Frankford got to the Packer 38-yard line when quarterback Hust Stockton threw a touchdown pass to "Two-Bits" Homan for the win.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Frankford</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>10,000</b>				



**PACKERS**  
DETROIT  
**PANTHERS**

**7**  
11.28.1926  
**0**

**Shutout #8!**

The only points in the game came late in the first quarter after a long completion to halfback Cully Lidberg. Lidberg was injured on the play, and rookie Rex Enright came in and scored the game's only touchdown.

In the second half, Detroit coach and NFL great, Jimmy Conzelman, put himself in the game. He rallied the Panthers with an interception on the fourth play of the new half. He proceeded to try, "every trick within the book and several on the outside, but the Packers watched him like a hawk."<sup>1</sup> Conzelman and his mates threw 17 passes in the second half, but the Packers withstood the barrage!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>1,000</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/26, Calhoun, p. 14



**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**BEARS**

**3**

**12.19.1926**

**3**

### Fumbles Rule

Three weeks later, the rivals met on an awful day in Chicago for the annual Paddy Car Memorial Christmas Fund Game. This city-wide fundraiser supported Christmas Baskets for Chicago's poor.

The soggy conditions at Soldier Field slowed down both teams. A fumble by Laurie Walquist of the Bears opened the door for Pid Purdy's a 45-yard field goal in the third quarter. But late in the game, a fumble by Curly Lambeau gave Chicago the ball at the Green Bay 25. Paddy Driscoll converted a dropkick from the 20-yard line to salvage the tie.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>10,000</b>				



## 1926 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W-L-T</u>		
Frankford	14-1-1		
Chi. Bears	12-1-3	Hartford	3-7-0
Pottsville	10-2-1	Brooklyn	3-8-0
Kansas City	8-3-0	Milwaukee	2-7-0
Green Bay	8-5-0	Akron	1-4-3
Los Angeles	6-3-1	Dayton	1-4-1
New York	6-4-1	Racine	1-4-0
Duluth	6-5-3	Columbus	1-6-0
Buffalo	4-4-2	Canton	1-9-3
Chi. Cardinals	5-6-1	Hammond	0-4-0
Providence	5-7-1	Louisville	0-4-0
Detroit	4-6-2		

### Team Leaders

Passing tds	Lambeau
Rushing tds	Purdy
Receiving tds	Lewellen
Field Goals	Purdy
Scoring	Lewellen

### 1926 All-Pro

Lewellen  
 Lidberg





1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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