

SEASON
10

1928



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1928

Record: 6-4-3 (4th Place)

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Andrew Turnbull stepped down as Packer President. He was succeeded by attorney, Ray Evrard.
- This is the first disappointing season in Packer history. With five straight seasons of seven or more wins, this was a step backward. A slow start (1-2-1) and a slow finish (1-2-1) doomed the season.
- The Packers finished #1 again in every offensive and defensive category except in their number of touchdowns passes (7th) and number of rushing touchdowns (4th). The offense went silent in the last six games.
- Green Bay's win over the Giants in New York made national headlines.
- Curly Lambeau's playing days were coming to an end.



FRANKFORD YELLOW

JACKETS
PACKERS

19
9

9.23.1928

All the points in this opener were scored in the first half as the Yellow Jackets won its first game in Green Bay.

After a Packer field goal, Frankford tailback Ken Mercer took over. He capitalized on a poor punt by Verne Lewellen and threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Charley Rogers. He ran for a two-yard touchdown a short time later. Before halftime, Mercer capped off 19 straight unanswered points for Frankford with an eight-yard touchdown catch.

The Yellow Jackets' defense tried a five-man line to disrupt Green Bay's passing game. It worked.

Frankford	12	7	0	0	19
Green Bay	3	6	0	0	9

Attendance: 6,500

Frankford ran for over 200 yards.



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

12 9.30.1928
12

Injuries plagued both sides in this rivalry game. Chicago lost Paddy Driscoll in the first minutes, and the Packers lost end Lavvie Dilweg later in the first half.

The Packers stopped an early Chicago incursion with an interception by Curly Lambeau on the five-yard line. Later in the half, the Bears scored twice for a 12-0 lead on an 80-yard punt return by Dick Sturtridge.

In a very different second half, two Chicago fumbles helped spark Green Bay's comeback. Bill Senn fumbled a punt that led to Eddie Kotal's touchdown pass to Verne Lewellen. The second miscue came in the fourth quarter on Chicago's 20-yard line. Green Bay capitalized when Lewellen broke through right guard for a six-yard touchdown to tie the game at 12. After the extra point was blocked, the Packers had one more chance. With 15 seconds left, Harry O'Boyle's 18-yard field goal missed by inches.

Chicago	6	6	0	0	12
Green Bay	0	0	6	6	12
Attendance:	8,500				



NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

6
0 10.7.1928

Pack lose; Hubbard impressed

The Packers held their own against the defending NFL champs! Their record fell to 0-2-1 though when the Giants went on a 67-yard drive late in the third quarter for the game's only points. Mule Wilson's 40-yard run put the ball on the Green Bay 27-yard line. A few plays later, he scored from the two-yard line.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers peppered the Giant secondary with 15 passes. New York's defense came up big with one sack and two interceptions to protect the lead.

After the game, it was reported, "the Giants will remain here all this week training for the Bear game at Chicago next Sunday. They will work out every morning at the same time as the Packers."¹ After this extended stay in Green Bay, Cal Hubbard of the Giants liked it so much that he demanded a trade to Green Bay after the season!

New York	0	0	6	0	6
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 7,000

1 Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/8/28, Bystrom, p. 12



1919-2018

CHICAGO
CARDINALS
PACKERS

0
20 10.14.1928

First Win!

The Packers regrouped and won the first of four straight games. Eddie Kotal broke the ice in the second stanza as he “twisted, squirmed, side-stepped, and fought his way” for a 40-yard touchdown. Verne Lewellen then put the game away with two short touchdown runs.

After the game, plans were in full swing for the Bears game in Chicago. “Reservations have been made for a thousand or so fans on special trains that will run to Wrigley Field.”¹

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	13	0	7	20

Attendance: 4,200

The Packers picked off four passes.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/28, p. 13



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

16

10.21.1928

6

Huge Win!

One of the biggest wins in early Packer history came here as Green Bay beat the Bears in Chicago! The win helped turn the tide for the Packers who hadn't beaten the bruins since 1925.

The game was purely "survival of the fittest and the Packers survived."¹ Big interceptions and punts by Green Bay were the difference. The first pick, by Dick O'Donnell, led to a touchdown and a 10-0 first-half lead. Bruce Jones also snared a Paddy Driscoll pass for a pick-six at the Chicago seven-yard line to seal the deal.

Verne Lewellen's punting kept the Bears at bay. At one point, he hit three straight punts for 65, 70, and 75 yards!

Green Bay	3	7	0	6	16
Chicago	0	0	0	6	6
Attendance:	15,000				

Several railroad lines, "carried more than 1,100 football fans from here to the game. It is estimated more than 900 Green Bay people motored to Chicago to attend the game."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/28, Bystrom, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/28, p. 13



1919-2018

DAYTON

TRIANGLES PACKERS

0
17 10.28.1928

A field goal by Harry O'Boyle and a touchdown run by Verne Lewellen gave Green Bay a 10-0 halftime lead. The touchdown followed Eddie Kotal's great catch that put the ball on the Dayton three-yard line. On the next play, Lewellen went around right end for the score.

In the fourth quarter, an interception by Lavvie Dilweg gave the Packers the ball on Dayton's 25-yard line. Four plays later, O'Boyle plowed over right tackle to make it 17-0. Green Bay's defense stood tall and protected the lead with its second shutout. They held Dayton to two first downs, and never let them inside the 40-yard line.

Dayton	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	3	7	0	7	17

Attendance: 3,100

The Packers ran for over 200 yards.



POTTSVILLE
MAROONS
PACKERS

14 11.4.1928
26

Three for Red!

Green Bay, population 37,407, welcomed the squad from Pottsville, Pennsylvania, population 21,876, to City Stadium for the first and only time.

Quarterback Red Dunn and Green Bay's passing game set the pace in this game. The Packer defense also came up big with four interceptions.

The first touchdown was a 44-yard strike from Dunn to the speedy Eddie Kotal. Kotal also scored on the ground in the second quarter. Before halftime, an interception by Lavvie Dilweg set up a 10-play drive that Dunn capped off with a touchdown pass to Larry Marks for a 19-0 at intermission.

The Maroons rallied with two touchdown runs by Tony Latone that narrowed the lead to five. Green Bay's defense sprung into action with Dick O'Donnell's interception of Johnny Blood. The pick doomed Pottsville when Dunn connected for touchdown #3 with Verne Lewellen.

Pottsville	0	0	7	7	14
Green Bay	6	13	9	7	26
Attendance:	5,000				

The Pottsville Maroons folded after the 1928 season.



NEW YORK
YANKEES
PACKERS

0 11.11.1928
0

A scoreless tie against the 1-6 Yankees?? The Easterners nearly defeated the Packers as their defense matched Green Bay's in strength and guile. The Packers never got closer than the 28-yard line. Despite always "threatening, always charging and tackling clean and hard"¹ the Packers played to a draw.

New York	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 5,000

GB completed only 5 of 21 passes for 25 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/28, Bystrom, p. 13



PACKERS
NEW YORK
GIANTS

7
11.18.1928
0

Packers beat Giants!

Green Bay made national headlines and held the upper hand in a very physical game on the road. Defense and the great punting game kept New York pinned in its territory most of the game. The Giants generated very little offense, and the closest they came to the end zone was Green Bay's 41.

The game's only points came late in the first half when Jim Bowdoin blocked a Giants punt. The Packers recovered on the New York 15-yard line, and a one-yard dive by Verne Lewellen made it 7-0. After the game, many New York sportswriters complimented the Packers as the finest football team to have ever played in New York City!

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
New York 0 0 0 0 0
Attendance: 12,000

"The Packers nearly ran afoul of the law while practicing Saturday morning in New York. The Polo Grounds were engaged, so the Giant management told Captain Lambeau to use Central Park. A bus was hired and the driver was instructed to take the team. Evidently, he didn't know where Central Park was any more than the Packers. He let them off on a vacant square which the team found out later was Bronx Square...a PRIVATE Park. A sound like a referee's whistle was heard, but the players didn't pay any attention to it. Things went along for another ten minutes, and then a flock of blue coats arrived on the scene. A huddle was called and threats of arrest were heard, but explanations followed, and the Packers beat a hasty retreat to their bus after smiling and bluffing their way out of the hoose-gow."¹

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/19/27, p, 13



PACKERS

POTTSVILLE

MAROONS

0

11.25.1928

26

No Offense

In a snowstorm, the Pottsville Maroons (1-7) upset the Packers. They dished out quite a bit of retribution for their road loss in Green Bay three weeks ago.

Pottsville scored in every quarter. In the first half, touchdown passes by Hap Moran and Jack Ernst put Pottsville in front. Johnny Blood of the Maroons took over in the second half. He put the game out of reach with touchdowns on both offense and defense. He caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Ernst, and his 35-yard pick-six finished the scoring.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Pottsville	6	7	6	7	26

Attendance: 1,600

“Among the Packer rooters in Pottsville was “Red” Glass, tourist extraordinaire. He hoofed it in from Columbus, Ohio, where he had been working for several months. Red is looking younger than ever.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/28, Calhoun, 14



PACKERS
FRANKFORD YELLOW
JACKETS

0

11.29.1928

2

No Points Again

Though the Packers outplayed the Yellow Jackets on Thanksgiving, a bad snap in the first quarter sailed over Verne Lewellen’s head into the end zone for a safety. The closest Frankford came to scoring was the Green Bay 30-yard line, “and only twice did the Jackets chalk up a pair of first downs in succession.”¹

The Packers were on Frankford’s 15-yard line when time expired.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Frankford	2	0	0	0	2
Attendance:	8,000+				

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/28, Calhoun, p. 19



PACKERS

PROVIDENCE

STEAM ROLLER

7

12.2.1928

7

This tie clinched the NFL title for Providence. Green Bay's touchdown came on a 20-yard pass from Verne Lewellen to Larry Marks. On the next series, Providence came right back on to tie it behind the running and passing of George "Wildcat" Wilson. The Wildcat tossed his own 20-yard touchdown pass to Curly Oden to tie it.

Green Bay	0	0	7	0	7
Providence	0	0	7	0	7
Attendance:	9,000				



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

6

12.9.1928

0

Green Bay's fifth straight road game is a defensive gem at frozen Wrigley Field. It backed up their win over Chicago in October that some skeptics thought was a fluke.

Verne Lewellen won the first-half punting duel with Paddy Driscoll, and one of his punts sailed 70 yards! Green Bay threatened in the final two minutes of the game. Red Dunn cleverly faked a run and launched a 48-yard touchdown pass to Dick O'Donnell. The stunned Wrigley Field crowd left quickly and quietly!

In three games vs. the Bears in 1928, the Packers were 2-0-1.

Green Bay	0	0	0	6	6
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 14,000

"An estimated 600 Green Bay fans came by train and car."¹

¹ Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 32



1928 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W-L-T</u>
Providence	8-1-2
Frankford	11-3-2
Detroit	7-2-1
Green Bay	6-4-3
Chi. Bears	7-5-1
Chi. Cardinals	1-6-1
NY Giants	4-7-2
NY Yankees	4-8-1
Pottsville	2-8-0
Dayton	0-7-0

Team Leaders

Passing tds	Dunn
Rushing tds	Lewellen
Receiving tds	Kotal
Field Goals	O'Boyle
Scoring	Lewellen

All-Pro

Ashmore
Dilweg
Kotal
Lewellen



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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