



**1936**



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)



## 1936

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**Record: 10-1-1 NFL Champions**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- The first NFL Draft was held in February. The draft evened the playing field among teams in the signing of college talent.
- Green Bay's first draft choice was Russ Letlow, a guard from San Francisco.
- Lambeau hired former Packer Red Smith as an assistant coach.
- The Packers had the NFL's best offense. They completed more passes for more yards and more touchdowns than any other team. They outscored opponents by 130 points!
- Arnie Herber to Don Hutson became a lethal passing combination. Clark Hinkle led an outstanding ground game.
- After an early season loss to the Bears, Green Bay won nine straight.
- After the season, the Packers went to the West Coast for a series of exhibition games to cash-in on their fame and championship season.



CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**10**

9.13.1936

### **Late Kick Wins Opener!**

The first half belonged to the Cardinals, while the Packers prevailed in the second. Green Bay's offense went nowhere in the first 30 minutes, and the Cardinals capitalized on a fumble. Bob Monnet fumbled quarterback Arnie Herber's lateral and it was recovered by Bill Smith at the Packer 38-yard line. On third down, Phil Sarboe got loose and uncorked a 38-yard touchdown pas to Charlie McBride to take a 7-0 lead.

Green Bay drew even in the third quarter after a punt gave them ideal field position on Chicago's 27-yard line. A few plays later, George Sauer took it in from the one-yard line for a 7-7 game. On the 10<sup>th</sup> play of a drive late in the fourth quarter, a 23-yard field goal by Ernie Smith won it. The win snapped the Cardinals' five-game winning streak against the Pack.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

**Attendance: 8,900**

*"There was so much courage splashed around at City Stadium even the spectators felt tough, and several were escorted to the outside lanes for overindulgence in grandstand arguments."<sup>1</sup>*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/36, Walter, p. 13



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**30**  
**3**

**9.20.1936**

A record crowd of 14,312 saw the Bears hand Green Bay its first and only loss of the season. The blowout began in the second quarter with the game tied 3-3.

After the Packers missed a 48-yard field goal attempt, the Bears scored on a triple pass play (three laterals) with Gene Ronzani scoring to put Chicago in front 10-3. Three other Bears scored touchdowns – Bill Hewitt, Carl Brumbaugh and Bill Karr – and Chicago’s defense shut out Green Bay in the second half. In all, the Packers threw four interceptions.

After the loss, Johnny Blood came out of an alleged retirement to sign again with Green Bay.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Attendance: 14,312**

*Worst defeat at City Stadium to date.*

*“When a Green Bay touchdown was called back because of a penalty, Emmet Patten, a Green Bay radio personality, charged onto the field to protest the call and.....when Ted Rosequist of the Bears attempted to restrain him he popped Rosequist flush on the jaw.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette,, 9/21/36, p. 4



CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**24**

10.4.1936

### **No Contest**

After a quiet first quarter, Bob Monnett's 25-yard punt return set up Green Bay's first touchdown. Big gains by Hank Bruder and Bob Monnett keyed Green Bay's first touchdown. It came on a Swede Johnston one-yard run.

With Chicago driving on their next series, Clarke Hinkle picked off Phil Sarboe on the Packer 33-yard line. Six plays later, Hinkle went right over center for a two-yard score and 14-0 Green Bay lead.

The Packers had little trouble defensively. They intercepted five passes to keep the Cardinals out of the end zone. Early in the fourth quarter, a 41-yard touchdown run by halfback Joe Laws erased all doubt.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 11,000**

**Milwaukee**

*Cardinals threw 31 passes and completed 10.*



BOSTON  
**REDSKINS**  
**PACKERS**

**2**  
**31**

10.11.1936

### Sixty Passes!

The Redskins threw 38 passes, and the Packers aired it out 22 times. Unfortunately, Boston completed just 15 and had three intercepted. The Packers completed only nine of 22 aerials, but they didn't throw an interception.

Arnie Herber's 38-yard touchdown bomb to Don Hutson in the first quarter was all Green Bay needed. The great Johnny Blood added some insurance with a 38-yard touchdown pass from Bob Monnett.

The Packer ground game came through with 180 yards and the Pack was never threatened. Boston's only points came on a safety when the Packers snapped the ball out of their own end zone.

<b>Boston</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>6,100</b>				



DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**18**  
**20**

**10.18.1936**

### Fourth Quarter = Four Lead Changes

A record-breaking crowd of 13,500 packed City Stadium. Green Bay had the early edge and a 10-0 lead at halftime after Arnie Herber and Milt Gantenbein hooked-up for a 22-yard touchdown.

Dutch Clark and Eddie Caddel brought the Lions back. Caddel scored on a 28-yard sprint off left tackle. Early in the fourth quarter, Detroit retook the lead 15-10 on a nine-yard pass from Clark to Caddel. Green Bay struck back with a play that Herber changed in the huddle. He and Johnny Blood connected for a 46-yard touchdown to go back on top 17-15.

The wild ride continued as Dutch Clark drop-kicked a 28-yard field for an 18-17 Lion lead. The Packers responded with Herber and Hutson leading a long drive to Detroit's six. With two minutes left, Tiny Engebretsen's 18-yard field goal took down the defending champs and "hysteria reigned over the stadium."<sup>1</sup> Don Hutson closed it out with an interception.

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>13,500</b>				

*"Program sellers, working up a little racket of their own when they saw there was going to be a shortage, were tripped by an announcement that fans should not pay more than the customary ten cents.....'Chisling the chislers'<sup>2</sup> one fan remarked.*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/36, Walter, p. 15

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/36, Flatley, p. 13



PITTSBURGH  
**PIRATES**  
**PACKERS**

**10**  
**42**

**10.25.1936**

The first-place Pirates of the Eastern Conference left Wisconsin with their tails between their legs. After they took a 3-0 lead, the home team dominated.

The rest of the game was a blowout as the Packers grabbed three interceptions. The second quarter was especially devastating for the Pirates when Arnie Herber threw two touchdown passes to Don Hutson. Johnny Blood quickly followed with an interception that he returned 60 yards for a touchdown. At the half, the Pack led 28-3.

The Packers scored twice in a three-minute span in the third quarter. Rookie halfback Paul Miller scored on a four-yard run, and he caught a touchdown pass from Johnny Blood. The Pirates' only touchdown came in the fourth quarter.

<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

**Attendance: 10,000**

**Milwaukee**

*Sign in the stands: "Make it 50, Packers!"*

*"Hundreds of fans will take to the highways, hundreds more will invade Chicago on the Sunday Special of the Milwaukee Road or the Chicago North Western Special."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/1936, p. 13





**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**21**  
**10**

11.1.1936

### **Pay Back!**

A record crowd of 31,346 at Wrigley Field saw the Packers return the favor of September 20th. They delivered an impressive upset of the undefeated Bears. The win tied the teams atop the Western Division at 6-1-0.

After the Bears got out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, Arnie Herber and Don Hutson connected for a nine-yard touchdown. Clarke Hinkle followed with an amazing 59-yard touchdown run and Green Bay led at intermission 14-10. Chicago's great defensive tackle George Musso described Hinkle's run this way: "Hinkle once plunged into the line and ran past me only to meet Nagurski, our linebacker, head on. Nagurski hit him so hard that Hinkle was knocked back. He went backpeddaling past me into the Green Bay backfield, but somehow he stayed on his feet and charged right back past me again. It was the only time I ever saw a back go by me three times on one play."<sup>1</sup>

In the final quarter, Chicago's Bill Karr fumbled, and Milt Gantenbein took the ball back 38 yards to the two-yard line of the Bears. George Sauer took it in around right end and scored standing up to seal the deal. NFL Commissioner Joe Carr was impressed, "Curly Lambeau has coached a number of great Packer elevens but this year's team as it played against the Bears, seems to me, the best of all."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>31,346</b>				

1 What a Game They Played, Whittingham, p. 143  
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/36, Walter, p. 14



**PACKERS**

BOSTON

**REDSKINS**

**7**

**11.8.1936**

**3**

### **Herber to Hutson Wins it!**

This was a lot closer than one month ago. After getting slaughtered by Green Bay in October, the Packers were held to seven first downs and 18 yards rushing.

With seven minutes gone in the first quarter, the Redskins scored after a partially blocked punt gave them possession at midfield. Running back Cliff Battles ran for two first downs and a Riley Smith field goal put them in front 3-0.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers also started a drive near midfield. Three passes later, Hutson caught a four-yard toss from Herber. He and quickly reversed field, leaving defenders in his wake, to go 15 yards untouched into the end zone. The Packer defense protected the lead with two interceptions, including one by Johnny Blood.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Boston</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>11,220</b>				



**PACKERS**  
 BROOKLYN  
**REDSKINS**

**38**  
 11.15.1936  
**7**

**As good as 1929?**

Twenty-two thousand fans in Ebbets Field watched as the Packers scored 38 unanswered points. Quarterbacks Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett each threw two touchdown passes. Both of Herber’s went to Don Hutson , and Monnett connected with Joe Laws and Wayland Becker.

The Packers led 17-0 at halftime and easily outgained Brooklyn 377-202. Though Lambeau’s “bag of tricks was hardly opened”<sup>1</sup> an impressed New York writer had this to say about Green Bay. “No matter how good the Packers were, they couldn’t surely measure up to the pre-depression standard (1929), was the general belief. But we were wrong. The mighty men of Green Bay came to Ebbets Field Sunday and smashed and passed a good Brooklyn Dodger club to a 38-7 defeat before an amazed gathering”<sup>2</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>25,325</b>				

*Green Bay outgained Brooklyn 377-202.*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/36, Calhoun, p. 13

2 New York Journal, 11/17/36, Farnsworth



**PACKERS**  
NEW YORK  
**GIANTS**

**26**  
**14**

11.22.1936

### **NY Comeback Falls Short**

The Packers ended their east coast road trip with a sweep. In this tight battle, they held the advantage for most of the game, but the Giants rallied in the second half.

The only scoring in the first half came on Ernie Smith's field goal for a 3-0 Green Bay lead. In the third quarter, they made it 10-0 when Clarke Hinkle finished off an 80-yard drive with a one-plunge. A 46-yard touchdown bomb from Arnie Herber to Herm Schneidman put Green Bay up 17-0.

Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, the Giants seized the momentum with two touchdowns. Their second touchdown came shortly after Tony Sarausky intercepted Arnie Herber. Leading 17-14, but with the pressure on, the Packers blocked a punt that they recovered in the New York end zone – a safety at the time. On the Giants' next series, Hank Bruder's interception led to George Sauer's 11-yard smash through the New York defense for another six.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>

**Attendance: 20,000**

*Packers practiced in Central Park on Monday.*



**PACKERS**  
DETROIT  
**LIONS**

**26**  
**17**

11.29.1936

### **Nine in a Row!**

This win and the Bears loss to the Cardinals clinched the Western Division title for the Packers!

Green Bay wasted little time jumping on the Lins. On the fifth play of the game, a classic, 58-yard bomb from Arnie Herber to Don Hutson grabbed the lead. The Lions weren't rattled and stayed close. In a 14-14 game in the second quarter, Don Hutson recovered a blocked punt by Ernie Smith on the 40-yard line. He and took off for the end zone and scored for a 20-14 halftime lead. In a quiet second half, the Packers booted two more field goals, and their strong defense allowed just one field goal by the great Dutch Clark.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance: 22,000**

*Three-thousand fans "greeted the triumphant Packers on their return from their victorious invasion of the east. Each player as he stepped from the train was given a rousing welcome, and Ceasar returning from Gaul was never more sincerely acclaimed."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/36, p. 1



**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**

**0**

**12.6.1936**

**0**

With the division clinched, this was a meaningless game on the icy turf of Comiskey Park. Footing was impossible, and many of Green Bay's backups played a lot. Only five passes were completed in the game. Each team missed one field goal attempt, and the Cards outgained the Packers 188-124.

<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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4,800</b>				

*"Because of popular demand by Green Bay Packer fans, Wadham's Oil Company will send Russ Winnie, Milwaukee Rasdio announcer, to the Polo Grounds at New York for a direct broadcast of the Green Bay-Boston game."<sup>1</sup>*

1 packershistory.net/1936Packers, Dec 8

## 1936 Championship Game



**PACKERS**

BOSTON

**REDSKINS**

**21**

**12.13.1936**

**6**

### Too Much For Boston

George Preston Marshall, the Boston owner, was angry at his fans in Boston for poor attendance during the season. In the final rejection of their dubious loyalty, Marshall requested that the championship game be moved from Boston to New York. The Packers did not object, and the game was played at the Polo Grounds.

The title game was the third meeting between them this season. Green Bay won the previous games, and Boston's top-notch defense looked forward to another crack at the Packers. The field was in good shape, despite several days of rain.

This was going to be a very tough day for Riley Smith of the Redskins. On Boston's first series, Smith fumbled and gave the ball to Green Bay at midfield. Three plays later, quarterback Arnie Herber found Don Hutson open as he streaked past Smith for a beautiful, 43-yard touchdown!

Early in the game, the Redskins lost the NFL's fourth-leading rusher, Cliff Battles, who left with an injured knee. But they were not deterred. They charged back with a 78-yard touchdown drive in the second quarter. A missed extra point by Riley Smith made it 7-6 Packers at the break.

Green Bay grabbed the second half kickoff and marched 74 yards to extend the lead to 14-6. The highlight of the drive was Johnny Blood's amazing catch of Arnie Herber's pass that went for 52-yards and a first down on Boston's three-yard line! When the Redskins covered Hutson and Blood too closely, they left Milt Gantenbein open for a touchdown over the middle!.

Without Battles, the Redskin offense struggled. The Pack didn't allow a first down in the second half, and 78 of Boston's total yardage (144) came on their first-half touchdown drive.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers put it away when Lon Evans blocked Smith's punt, and Hutson recovered on the Boston two-yard line. Two plays later, Bob Monnett scooted around right end to make it 21-6. Both teams had touchdowns called back in the waning minutes, and the Packers wrapped up their fourth NFL Championship. The New York Daily News reported: "The Green Bay Packers, a burly band of bone busters from the tall timber of Northern Wisconsin are the finest pro footballers in these United States, if not in the whole of God's footstool."<sup>1</sup> Packer fans, no doubt, agreed!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Boston</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**Attendance: 29,545**

*"The best story of the trip involved Lon Evans and his prize football. He lugged the championship oval all over New York getting autographs, and by barging into the National Broadcasting Company headquarters, he added such signatures as those of Pakyakarkas, Eddie Cantor, Kate Smith, and Walter Winchell. He collared one radio star coming out of the broadcasting room. "What program do you sing on?" demanded Lon. "Give me that football," replied the other, reaching for his fountain pen. And he signed: "J. Edgar Hoover."<sup>2</sup>*

*Don Hutson: "Undoubtedly, the greatest offensive football machine in the history of the game."<sup>3</sup>*

*"There were no goal posts to carry off at the Victory banquet last night, but several guests removed handsome vases as souvenirs of the occasion. As the Lions club which sponsored the event will have to make good the losses, those who took the vases are requested to return them to the Columbus club."<sup>4</sup>*

*The Lions Club put on a grand Victory Banquet for 950 fans "the biggest banquet crowd in the city's history."<sup>5</sup>*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/36, Miley (NY Daily News), p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/36, Walter, p. 13

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/36, Flatley, p. 15

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/36, p. 15

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/36, p. 16





## 1936 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS – Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	1	1
Chicago	9	3	0
Detroit	8	4	0
Chicago	3	8	1

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hutson

### ALL-PRO

Lon Evans	Guard
Milt Gantenbein	End
Arnie Herber	Quarterback
Clarke Hinkle	Running Back
Don Huston	End
Ade Schwammel	Tackle
Ernie Smith	Tackle

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Russ Letlow (1, G)  
 J. W. Wheeler (2, T)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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