



1929



THE
PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1929

Record: 12-0-1 NFL Champions

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Lambeau knew he needed a few more pieces to win a championship. His excellent eye for talent was never more evident than in 1929 when he acquired three future Hall of Fame players that turned the Packers into perennial winners – Cal Hubbard, Johnny “Blood” McNally, and Mike Michalske.
- This squad is considered one of the top teams in Packer history. Even in a low scoring era, this defense was exceptional. In 13 games, they gave up just 22 points, and they did not allow a touchdown until the sixth game.
- Offensively, they finished first in yards gained and second in points scored.
- Packer President Ray Evrard stepped down. He was succeeded by Dr. W. Weber Kelly.
- The Packers signed a radio contract with WTMJ, AM-620, Milwaukee.



DAYTON

TRIANGLES PACKERS

0
9

9.22.1929

Easy Start

The Packers were effective running the ball. Verne Lewellen had a fine game "twisting and pivoting"¹ his way through Dayton's defense. After the scoreless first half, the Packers scored in the third quarter.

On the first drive of the second half, the ground game behind Eddie Kotal, Hurdis McCrary and Verne Lewellen led Green Bay downfield. With Dayton looking for the run, a Red Dunn pass to Lewellen scored the only points Green Bay would need. A short time later, a bad snap by Dayton went out of bounds in the end zone for a safety.

Dayton	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	9	0	9
Attendance: 5,000+					

GB held Dayton to just two first downs.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/29, Bystrom, p. 13



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

0
23

9.29.1929

No Grange, Packers Win!

This game was as one-sided as it gets. Green Bay dominated on the scoreboard and in total yards 358-79. Hurdis McCrary, Tom Nash, and Bo Molenda scored touchdowns. After the worst defeat in their history, the Bears “are seeking shelter in the lowlands, and the Green Bay Packers are perched upon the vacated throne.”¹ Red Grange, who had returned to the Bears, spoke to the crowd before the game, but he did little on the field.

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	14	9	0	23

Attendance: 13,000+

“Every tree in the vicinity of the park was filled with boys and men two hours before the game started. It was estimated that there were more than 2,000 automobiles parked in the vicinity of the park. The cars were lined up for several blocks on Walnut, Doty, Cherry and Baird streets. Many automobiles bore Michigan and Illinois licenses. The crowd was orderly, although noisy.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/29, Bystrom, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/29, p. 14



CHICAGO

CARDINALS
PACKERS

2
9

10.6.1929

Safety Spoils Shutout

Chicago's only points came in the first quarter on a safety. The Cardinals tackled Johnny Blood in the end zone after a bad snap on a punt. It stayed 2-0 until the second half.

In the third quarter, a poor punt by Chicago's Chief Elkins gave the Packers the ball in great field position on the Chicago 35-yard line. They took a 3-2 lead on a 30-yard field goal by Red Dunn. Despite a goal-line fumble early in the game, Verne Lewellen bounced-back with a one-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. With time running out and little to lose, Chicago passed on nearly every down. Lavvie Dilweg's interception wrapped up the game up for the Packers.

Chicago	2	0	0	0	2
Green Bay	0	0	3	6	9

Attendance: 6,000

The new owner of the Cardinals, Dr. David Jones, sat on the players' bench the whole game.



FRANKFORD YELLOW

JACKETS
PACKERS

2
14

10.13.1929

Dominant Defense!

The Packers threatened often, and their passing game had the Yellow Jackets on the run. A 46-yard bomb from Verne Lewellen to Eddie Kotal put them in front 7-0 early.

Green Bay's defense was outstanding. They dominated an opponent for the second game in a row. Frankford's only points came in the third quarter on a bad snap that went out of Green Bay's end zone for a safety.

Leading 7-2, the Packers didn't score again until the fourth quarter when a bevy of passes put them deep inside Yellow Jacket territory. From the two-yard line, Lewellen bulled his way into the end zone for a 14-2 lead! Green Bay picked off four passes, and Verne Lewellen's punts kept the Yellow Jackets backing up all game.

Frankford	0	0	2	0	2
Green Bay	7	0	0	7	14
Attendance:	9,000+				



MINNEAPOLIS RED

JACKETS
PACKERS

0
24 10.20.1929

Green Bay dominated and “every player came in for his share of commendations from fans after the game.”¹ The defense didn’t allow a touchdown for the fourth straight game, and Minneapolis got inside the Packer 20-yard line just twice.

Offensively, Green Bay had no trouble moving the ball. Three touchdowns by Verne Lewellen, Bo Molenda, and Johnny Blood all came on the ground. The last score came when Red Jackets’ quarterback Bob Lundell was intercepted by Verne Lewellen. The 30-yard pick-six finished the scoring.

Minneapolis	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	12	6	6	24

All extra-point attempts failed.

Welcome Back! “The ‘Homecoming’ celebration planned for the final game was a success. A few of the old-timers spoke to the fans, telling of their pleasure in being back in Green Bay for a game: Cub Buck, Mosse Gardner, Cowboy Wheeler, Charlie Mathys, Tubby Howard, Sammy Powers, Wally Ladrow, Fee Klaus and Herman Martel.”²

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/21/29, p. 13

² Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/21/29, p. 14



PACKERS
CHICAGO
CARDINALS

7
6

10.27.1929

First Touchdown

The Packers actually gave up a touchdown! But before that occurred, they took a 7-0 lead in the second quarter after an Eddie Kotal interception. The pick set up Verne Lewellen's 15-yard touchdown run.

It stayed 7-0 until the fourth quarter when Chicago's Ernie Nevers led a nine-play drive that found paydirt. The first touchdown against Green Bay in 1929 was a 28-yard pass from Ernie Nevers to Chuck Kassel. But Nevers missed the extra point, and the Packers escaped with a win!

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Chicago	0	0	0	6	6

Attendance: 8,000

For GB, Cal Hubbard and Mike Michalske played all 60 minutes.

"Verne Lewellen, the famous Nebraska halfback and captain ...liked Green Bay so well after playing football there that he settled in the town and took up the practice of law. So big a hit did he make with the citizens they elected him District Attorney last fall by a large majority."¹

¹ Minneapolis Star, 10/29/29



PACKERS

MINNEAPOLIS RED

JACKETS

16

6

11.3.1929

Dunn Leads The Way

Green Bay's 50-yard opening touchdown drive for was kept alive by Dick O'Donnell's great catch lying on his back after falling! Six plays later, quarterback Red Dunn and Johnny Blood connected for six. The extra point was wide.

The Red Jackets tied it in the third quarter, but they also missed the extra point. On Green Bay's ensuing drive, Red Dunn's field goal put the Packers back on top 9-6. Late in the fourth quarter, Green Bay put it away. A 35-yard touchdown pass from Verne Lewellen to end Lavvie Dilweg wrapped up Green Bay's seventh straight win!

"Coach C. W. Spears of the University of Minnesota football team was an interested spectator at the game. He was particularly impressed with the Packers' passing attack and said Dilweg was one of the greatest ends he had ever seen."¹

Green Bay	6	0	0	10	16
Minneapolis	0	0	6	0	6
Attendance:	3,000				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/29, p. 14



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

14
0

11.10.1929

Shutout #4!

The weather kept the crowd down, and the rain and mud made it tough on both offenses. Green Bay generated only 90 total yards, and Chicago gained just 63. "Details of the game were broadcast over a public address system. As it was hard to distinguish players from the stands because of the mud, the broadcast was particularly beneficial."¹

Great punting by Johnny Blood and Verne Lewellen kept the Bears in their territory most of the game. In the third quarter, Packer fullback Hurdis McCrary scored both of Green Bay's touchdowns. He caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Red Dunn for a 7-0 lead, and a few minutes later, he intercepted Walt Holmer's pass and returned it 52-yards for six more.

Green Bay	0	0	14	0	14
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0

3,000 Packer fans made the trip to Chicago.

¹ The Early Years of Professional Football, Peterson, p. 105



PACKERS
CHICAGO
CARDINALS

12
0
11.17.1929

The Cardinals never seriously threatened to score, and the Packers recorded another shutout. Green Bay's points came on two touchdown passes to end Lavvie Dilweg. In the first quarter, he caught a four-yard toss from Hurdis McCrary. The second came on Johnny Blood's fake field goal attempt in the fourth quarter. On defense, Blood also intercepted three passes to help keep the Cardinals off the scoreboard.

When McCrary was injured, Curly Lambeau played for the only time in 1929. His play, especially a 15-yard pass to end Tom Nash, brought back memories for Packer fans! This was Curly's last game as an active player.

Green Bay	6	0	0	6	12
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance: 10,000					



PACKERS NEW YORK **GIANTS**

20
6

11.24.1929

This was one of the biggest games in the league's first 10 years. Twenty-five thousand fans came to the Polo Grounds in New York City! They came to watch two undefeated teams collide just three weeks after the Great Stock Market Crash of 1929.

Though the Packers were without their injured quarterback Red Dunn, they capitalized on an early Giant fumble on New York's 35-yard line. Verne Lewellen's 20-yard touchdown pass to Hurdis McCrary gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead.

With Cal Hubbard and Mike Michalske chasing down New York quarterback Benny Friedman all afternoon, the Giants were held scoreless until the second half. Tony Plansky caught a Benny Friedman's touchdown pass on a fake field goal attempt. Friedman's extra-point was wide, and the Packers still had the lead 7-6.

Green Bay took control with a strong fourth quarter. They opened with a 15-play drive that fullback Bo Molenda finished off with short touchdown run for 14-6. The Packers put the game away on the Giants' next possession. Jug Earp picked off Friedman, and the Packers went 67 yards in 11-plays with Johnny Blood's touchdown run ending all doubt. As he scored, Blood rubbed it in with his sarcastic comment of "Make 'em like it!"¹

The Packers used only 12 players, and their lone substitution came in the final minute. Green Bay's win made national headlines, and it ultimately decided the 1929 championship!

Green Bay	7	0	0	13	20
New York	0	0	6	0	6

Attendance: 25,000+

This was the last touchdown GB gave up in 1929.

*"Dr. W. W. Kelly the President of the Green Bay Football Corporation wired a message to Wisconsin fans immediately after the victory. He stated: 'It was a glorious victory and had the fans witnessed it they would have additional reason to be proud of the Packers. Contributing in no small way to the success was the loyalty and faith of the fans as evidenced in the rousing send off given the team and in the hundreds of telegrams received this morning.' "*²

*"More than 400 telegrams were sent over Western Union wires while the Postal Telegraph Company handled approximately 100, before it closed at 6 p.m."*³

*Congratulations from Michigan! "The people of Crystal Falls wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Packers in regard to their splendid victory over the New York Giants. We believe we feel just as proud of the Packers' victory as the people of Green Bay and Wisconsin do themselves."*⁴

*Championship Fund: "The Press-Gazette believes this is an opportune moment to demonstrate in a substantial way the town's appreciation and loyalty to the boys of this splendid football team. It proposes that the business interests and the fans raise by voluntary subscription a fund of \$5,000 to be divided among the players as a token of public esteem for their remarkable performances this year and the nationwide credit they have brought to Green Bay. All subscriptions no matter how small will be welcomed. Let's all do our share."*⁵

Green Bay Press Gazette \$200

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, Calhoun, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, Calhoun, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/29

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/29, p. 1



PACKERS FRANKFORD YELLOW JACKETS

0

11.28.1929

0

Letdown

After the pivotal game in New York, the Packers suffered a major letdown on Thanksgiving. In a tough, physical struggle, Green Bay was fortunate to escape with a tie against Frankford.

The Yellow Jackets celebrated like they had won the game. They “played the kind of inspired ball that the Bays put up against the Giants last Sunday, and they were out to win at any cost.”¹ The wind played havoc with the passing game, and both defenses prevailed. When the game ended, several Packers thought there were at least four minutes left. They were on Frankford’s nine-yard line when the final whistle blew.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Frankford	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 12,000

The tie moved the Packers closer to their first NFL title.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/29, Calhoun, p. 17



PACKERS

PROVIDENCE STEAM

ROLLER

25

12.1.1929

0

Shutout #7

The Steam Roller never got rolling, and they didn't get inside Green Bay's 25-yard line all afternoon. The Packers cashed-in with three big plays that went for touchdowns. Lavvie Dilweg and Verne Lewellen led the way. Lewellen took it in on a 25-yard run, but the extra point failed.

In the second half, Green Bay scored three more times. Johnny Blood accounted for two of the scores as the Packers pulled away. After a Providence fumble, Blood scored five plays later on a 35-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Red Dunn. In the fourth quarter, Dunn and Blood hooked up again on a punt return. Blood took a lateral from Dunn and went 73-yards for six!

Green Bay	6	0	6	13	25
Providence	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	6,500				



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

25

12.8.1929

0

What's better? Winning your first NFL championship or shutting out the Bears three times in one season? How about both! Green Bay's defense set the pace here with four interceptions, and they gave up just one first down on the ground all game.

Fullback Cully Lidberg and tailback Eddie Kotal were unstoppable for Green Bay. The Packers led 6-0 at halftime behind Lidberg's touchdown run. In the third quarter, they wore down the Bears with 21 points. Verne Lewellen scored on the ground, and Eddie Kotal caught two touchdown passes – one from Red Dunn and other from Lewellen!

On Monday, December 9th, the banner atop the Press-Gazette building read: *Championship Packer Team arrives at 8:30 Tonight.* "An estimated 20,000 fans lined the tracks and nearby streets, stood on the rooftops of neighboring buildings and atop idle boxcars, and cheered wildly when the Packers arrived home at about 8:30 the following night."¹

Green Bay	6	0	19	0	25
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance: 6,000					

*"Factory whistles blew, screeching sirens and car horns blared. People packed together, stumbling over one another, trying to get close to the train, and shouting at the tops of their lungs to greet their heroes. Policemen had to push through the crowd to clear a path for the oncoming train."*²

*CURLY LAMBEAU: "This welcome is something that we didn't expect, and is a complete surprise. Speaking for the boys, I can say that they appreciate it and the only answer we can make is a championship again next year."*³

*"It is with great pleasure that I enclose a check for \$5.00 for the Packers fund. These boys deserve all that is to be given to them for their splendid work and final victory. Also for the wonderful advertising they have given Green Bay."*⁴ R.W. Smith, Packer Fan
CHAMPIONSHIP FUND BALANCE\$4,151

"After the Packers won their first championship, the town threw a celebratory banquet. The team also had a fight song for spectators to chant at home games titled The Locomotive. Lyrics included, "U! Rah! Rah! Packers! The two-way banter between a lead cheerleader and the crowd went this way:

"What's the matter with the Packers?"

"They're all right."

"Who's all right?"

"The Packers."

"Who says so?"

"We all say so."

"Who are we?"

*"The Bay! The Bay!"*⁵

1 The Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 145

2 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 74

3 Lambeau, Man Behind the Myth, Zimmerman, p. 87

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/29, p. 19

5 The Packers Experience, Feedman, p. 25



1929 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	0	1
New York	11	3	2
Frankford	9	4	5
Chi. Cards	6	6	1
Orange	3	4	4
Staten Island	3	4	3
Providence	4	6	2
Chi. Bears	4	9	2
Buffalo	1	7	1
Minneapolis	1	9	0
Dayton	0	6	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing TDs	Dunn
Receiving TDs	Dilweg/Kotal
Rushing TDs	Lewellen
Scoring	Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Blood	Back
Dilweg	End
Earp	Center/Tackle
Hubbard	Tackle
Kern	Tackle
Lewellen	Tackle
Michalske	Guard



1919-2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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