



1923



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1923

Record: 7-2-1 (T-3rd)

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- In 1923 and 1924, the Packers played their home games at Bellevue Park. A new Green Bay East High School was being built on Hagemeister Park.
- The Packers strong finish in 1922 carried over into 1923. They shut out seven opponents and only lost to the Chicago Bears and the Racine Legion.
- In August, the team was reorganized as the Green Bay Football Corporation with the right to sell shares of stock.
- The reorganized franchise chose as its first President Andrew Turnbull. Along with four advisors, they eventually became known as the "Hungry Five." They were: Grocer Leland Joanness, Dr. W. Webber Kelly, Attorney John Kittell, and Curly Lambeau.
- Turnbull guided the franchise through its earliest financial challenges. "The plan for financing professional football in Green Bay during the season of 1923 includes the combination of stock in the Green Bay Football corporation and box seats for all the games played here this fall. The financial campaign got underway today, and it is the aim of the committee to get in immediate touch with every football fan in the city."¹
- The first stock sale was launched on August 20, 1923. Shares sold for \$5 each. If you bought five shares, you received a box seat ticket to all home games.
- The stock sale raised 5,545. The franchise was solvent for the 1923 season. On September 17th, the first stockholder meeting was held at the Brown County Courthouse.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/18/23, p. 10



1919-2018

MINNEAPOLIS
MARINES
PACKERS

0
12 9.30.1923

Good Opener!

A record-setting crowd was rewarded with a beautiful day and a shutout by the Packers. Curly Lambeau broke his nose during the contest, but he played the entire game.

After a scoreless first half, rookie running back Biff Basings scored both Packer touchdowns. After his first touchdown run, "the roar of the crowd could be heard for miles."¹ The second touchdown capitalized on a fourth-quarter interception.

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

Attendance: 3,008

*"Tickets will be on sale Thursday night at the usual places about town. There has been a healthy demand from out-of-towners for reservations and those who desire good seats are advised to grab up the pasteboards early."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette,10/2/23, Calhoun, p. 12

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette,10/3/23, p. 13



1919-2018

ST. LOUIS

ALL-STARS
PACKERS

0
0

10.7.1923

The Packers outplayed the All-Stars, but they missed several scoring opportunities. At least, "a half dozen times during the game, it seemed as if Captain Lambeau's aggregation was going to tuck away a victory, but the fates ruled otherwise."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	2,831				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/23, p. 11



1919-2018

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

3
0 10.14.1923

Da Bears Come North!

The Chicago Bears came to Green Bay for the first time. They attracted the largest crowd ever to attend a sporting event in Northeastern Wisconsin!

The Bears capitalized on a costly fumble in the second quarter by Packer running back Biff Basings. Dutch Sternaman's 15-yard field goal put up the game's only points. The Packers outgained the Bears, but Curly Lambeau missed a dropkick in the third quarter that would have tied the game.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	3	0	0	3

Attendance: 4,451

The Packers haven't scored in two games.

"Pro football as it is played and supported in Green Bay does more to put the game on a firm foundation than anything else,"¹ said referee, Bobbie Cahn.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/23, p. 10



1919-2018

MILWAUKEE
BADGERS
PACKERS

0
12 10.21.1923

Bounce Back Win

A fine game by the Packers. Though both teams moved the ball easily, Cub Buck's 35-yard field goal provided all of the scoring in the first half. Green Bay's aerial attack had the Badgers completely fooled. Lambeau's 40-yard touchdown to Cowboy Wheeler in the third quarter ended all doubt, and it sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Milwaukee	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	3	0	7	2	12

Attendance: 5,000

GB outgained the Badgers 273-216.

"Nobody came off the field unless he was really hurt. But nobody got hurt, either. The extra men didn't get in unless somebody had to come out. I won't tell you who the fellow was, but he was one of the extra men. It was cold that day; oh, it was cold. This fellow was all bundled up on the sidelines, in a heavy coat and sunk into the bales of straw they used in those days. And he was sitting there, all huddled up, and he kept hollering, 'Don't get hurt, boys. Stay in there, but don't get hurt.' He knew he wouldn't have to play unless someone got hurt."¹ Whitey Woodin, Packer Guard

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Blesdoe, p. 35



1919-2018

RACINE

LEGION
PACKERS

24 10.28.1923
3

The Packers were upset at home. With both teams preferring to throw the ball, the Legion surprised Green Bay with a superior aerial attack. Racine scored the only points of the first half and led 10-0. Right after halftime on Green Bay's first possession, a fumble by quarterback Charlie Mathys resulted in a touchdown for Racine. The 17-point lead proved too much.

Racine	0	10	7	7	24
Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Attendance:	2,800				

"The management is anxious to get in touch with any of the fans who are planning to accompany the team (to St. Louis), and if so desired, will make train and hotel reservations for the rooters on the trip."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/23, p. 11



PACKERS
ST. LOUIS
ALL-STARS

3
0

11.4.1923

Who's Who?

The field was so muddy that St Louis did not want to play the game. "Five minutes after the first whistle blew, it was hardly possible to tell one player from the other."¹ Cub Buck's 28-yard field goal in the second half won it. The All-Stars never got inside the Packer 30-yard line.

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	750				

*"Yesterday, the phone wire was extended along one sideline with a man who telephoned every move of the game against the Bulldogs. He stated that there were as many fans in the hall at Green Bay as there were in the Sportsman's Park enclosure."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/23, Calhoun, p. 11

² St. Louis Star and Times, November 5, 1923



PACKERS
 RACINE
LEGION

16
0

11.11.1923

With an easy win two weeks ago, a large Racine crowd hoped to see a sweep of Green Bay. They were disappointed as the front line of the *Big Bay Blues* blew apart Racine's front seven.

Green Bay's offense smacked Racine with 439 total yards while the Legion generated 122. "It was one of the greatest games ever played by a Packer team, and the game was witnessed by the greatest following that ever followed a Green Bay eleven to a foreign field."¹

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

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/12/23, Calhoun, p. 12



PACKERS
MILWAUKEE
BADGERS

10
7

11.18.1923

Big Crowd!

A loud and enthusiastic group of nearly 6,00 fans packed Borchert Field for this in-state battle. The comeback win on the road made by the Packers made it three in a row.

Cub Buck broke the ice with a field goal in the first quarter that sailed 30 yards. After a great goal-line stand by the Packers, the Badgers drove back again and scored for a 7-3 lead at intermission.

In the third quarter, a screen pass from quarterback Charlie Mathys to Curly Lambeau went for a 41-yard touchdown. Lambeau evaded several Badgers on his way to the end zone for a 10-7 Packer lead. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's defense came up big with four interceptions to protect the lead.

Green Bay	3	0	7	0	10
Milwaukee	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 5,500+



1919-2018

DULUTH
KELLEYS
PACKERS

0
10 11.25.1923

Another Shutout!

This game belonged to Cub Buck. His punting consistently gave the Packers better field position, and in the second quarter, he kicked a 25-yard field goal. On Duluth's next series, he intercepted a pass that Lambeau immediately turned into a 40-yard scoring strike to running back Stan Mills. The Packers maintained the upper hand all game with a superior passing game.

Duluth	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	10	0	0	10

Attendance: NA



HAMMOND
PROS
PACKERS

0
19 11.29.1923

Seven Shutouts!

A fifth straight win ends the franchise's most successful season to date. Touchdowns were scored by Charlie Mathys, Stan Mills, and Curly Lambeau. Lambeau, who was injured in the first half, came back and scored the game's final touchdown. Hammond never got close to scoring.

Hammond	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	6	0	7	6	19
Attendance:	NA				



1923 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W-L-T</u>		
Canton	11-0-1		
Chi. Bears	9-2-1	Minnesota	2-5-2
Green Bay	7-2-1	Rock Island	2-3-3
Milwaukee	7-2-3	St. Louis	1-4-2
Cleveland	3-1-3	Hammond	1-5-1
Chi. Cards	8-4-0	Akron	1-6-0
Duluth	4-3-0	Dayton	1-6-1
Columbus	5-4-1	Oorang	1-10-0
Buffalo	4-4-3	Louisville	0-3-0
Racine	4-4-2	Rochester	0-4-0
Toledo	2-3-2		

Team Leaders

Passing tds	Lambeau
Rushing tds	Basing
Receiving tds	Lambeau, Mills
Field Goals	Buck
Scoring	Buck

All-Pro

Lambeau



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

NOTICE:

You may print out a copy for your own personal use.
Not for republication or resale.
Do not forward.

©2019 Jim Rice / Packers Century Project
All rights reserved.

packerscentury.com