



**1927**



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)



## 1927

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**Record: 7-2-1 (2nd Place)**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- The Packers continued to improve as they beat all opponents *except* the Chicago Bears.
- Defense was the team's strength. Other than the Giants, Green Bay gave up the fewest points. Offensively, point production slipped.
- The Packers were #1 in every offensive and defensive category except in their number of touchdowns passes (6<sup>th</sup>) and number of rushing touchdowns (3<sup>rd</sup>).
- Green Bay hosted a league-wide, owners meeting to put together the 1927 schedule.



DAYTON  
**TRIANGLES**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**14** 9.18.1927

The Triangles played an inspired first half and held the Packers scoreless. At halftime, Lambeau fired-up his squad. "The spirit was catching with the spectators. Some in the stands yelled out 'It won't be long now' – hoping for some points – and the crowd laughed."<sup>1</sup>

Lambeau's intensity at halftime did the job. Early in the second half, Green Bay drove deep into Dayton territory. An offside call against the Triangles gave Green Bay new life. Two plays later, Lambeau bulled his way into the end zone for a 7-0 lead. In the fourth quarter, a bad punt by Dayton's Johnny Blood went out of bounds on his 15-yard line. Lambeau then scored the game's second touchdown on a seven-yard scamper.

<b>Dayton</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>3,600</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/27, p. 11



CLEVELAND  
**BULLDOGS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**12** 9.25.1927

A rainy first half with no points scored made for a long 30 minutes! In the second half, "the air was full of footballs as the invaders hurled pass after pass."<sup>1</sup> A blocked punt by Green Bay's Lawvie Dilweg was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown by Tiny Cahoon. Later in the third quarter, when Cleveland's coach decided to put himself into the game, Green Bay ran right at him, and Rex Enright took it home from the nine-yard line!

This loss to Green Bay spoiled the professional debut of quarterback Benny Friedman of the Bulldogs.

<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4,500</b>				

*"There was a big delegation of 'down valley' fans in attendance. Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Neenah-Menasha, Appleton and Kaukauna football followers were well represented."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/27, p. 11

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/27, p. 11



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**6** 10.2.1927

In a physical battle, "there was no love lost on either side, and the players went after each other with hammer and tongs."<sup>1</sup>

Green Bay helped set up Chicago's only touchdown when a short punt by Verne Lewellen went out of bounds on the 50-yard line. The Bears capitalized with an 11-play drive and Bill Senn's one-yard plunge for a 7-0 lead.

It stayed 7-0 until the fourth quarter when the tension mounted. Curly Lambeau uncorked a few long passes to Lavvie Dilweg, and Verne Lewellen and the Packers drove deep into Bears territory. After a touchdown pass to Lambeau was called back due to off-setting penalties, Lewellen took it over left tackle for the score. Pid Purdy's extra point attempt wasn't even close, and Bears ran out the clock.

<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>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>5,500</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/27, p. 11



DULUTH  
**ESKIMOS**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**20** 10.9.1927

### No Worries

Ernie Nevers, Johnny Blood and the rest of the Eskimos never stood a chance. The closest they came to the Packer end zone was the 12-yard line before they were pushed back them on three straight plays!

The Eskimos also couldn't stop Green Bay. Verne Lewellen's touchdown run started the scoring in the second quarter. With a 7-0 lead in the fourth quarter, Green Bay struck twice more. A bad punt set up Curly Lambeau's touchdown pass to Red Dunn, and with three minutes to go, Lavvie Dilweg's pick-six of Ernie Nevers sealed the deal.

<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>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4,000</b>				



CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**13** 10.16.1927

## **Big Win!**

The Packers dominated from start to finish. Green Bay quarterback Red Dunn took great pleasure throwing bullets and running circles around his old team and coach, Chris O'Brien.

Green Bay put up six points in the second quarter on a new play. It featured a lateral from Dunn to Eddie Kotal who took it in. In a nine-play drive in the fourth quarter, Verne Lewellen's two-yard touchdown run clinched it.

The Cardinals threatened only twice, and Green Bay stopped both incursions with a strong pass defense. Their second threat was stopped by Rex Enright's interception.

<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>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>

**Attendance: 4,500**

*The Press-Gazette reported on additional seating for the upcoming game against Red Grange and the Yankees. "Arrangements were completed last night for an additional 800 seats which will be set up at the east end of the gridiron. The stands at the west end of the field are being moved slightly to afford better view and to also provide for three rows of bench seats and a greatly enlarged standing room space."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/18/27, p. 13



NEW YORK  
**YANKEES**  
**PACKERS**

**0**  
**13** 10.23.1927

A record-breaking crowd of 11,000 hoped to watch the Packers battle Red Grange and the *new* New York Yankees. Grange didn't play due to an injury, but he still received a warm reception from Packer fans.

In a game that featured a lot of punting, the Yankees could have used the "Galloping Ghost!" The Packers won the punting duel as Verne Lewellen's punts, "zoomed through the air for over sixty yards and the ball sailed so high that it must have looked like a pea in the sky."<sup>1</sup> Two very short punts by New York in the first half led to Packer touchdowns. Pid Purdy scored the first, and a triple pass play – Kotal, to Dilweg to Lewellen – set up the second touchdown by Rex Enright.

<b>New York</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

**Attendance:**

*This was the biggest football crowd ever in Wisconsin – college or pro!*

*Nearly 2,000 persons, including some women, and a great many children stood up to watch the contest. Many of these came to the field early in the hope of getting a good place from which to watch the contest and this gave them an additional hour of standing.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/27, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> packershistory.net/1927Packers





**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**

**6**  
**11.6.1927**  
**6**

### **Blocked!**

The final score was deceptive. Green Bay easily outplayed the Chicago, but in a quiet first half, the Cardinals got on the board first. A 33-yard touchdown pass to Bub Weller before halftime gave the Cards a 6-0 edge.

After the break, Lambeau led several deep drives into Cardinal territory, but came away empty-handed. On their final march starting on the Cardinal's 44, long pass completions by Verne Lewellen and Red Dunn quickly put the Packers on the one-yard line. Lewellen's plunge tied it, but Red Dunn's the extra was blocked by Bill Springsteen. In the final minute, the Cardinals drove to Packers' 10-yard line, but Evar Swanson's field goal attempt went wide.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**Attendance: 3,500**

*"The Packer management has invited the football squad from twenty-five of the leading high schools in Northeastern Wisconsin to be guests at Sunday's game. The scholastic gridgers will all be parked in the north stands. At least five hundred youthful knights of the cowhide are expected to be present."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/9/27, p. 13



**PACKERS**  
DAYTON  
**TRIANGLES**

**6**  
11.13.1927  
**0**

### **Final Home Win**

In the last game at home, the defense didn't let Dayton get closer than the 40-yard line. It also didn't allow a first down on the ground.

As punts were exchanged during the game, Green Bay gradually won the field position battle. Early in the second quarter, Packer quarterback Red Dunn and Eddie Kotal teamed up on a 55-yard pass play. Kotal sped past two defenders, fooled two others, and made it to the four-yard line. Verne Lewellen then scored the game's only points!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Dayton</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Attendance: 2,500**

*GB finished 6-1 at home.*

*"Just as the second half got underway, buckets were passed through the crowd to help finance the trip of the Legion "Lumberjack" band to the Bear game in Chicago next Sunday."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/27, p. 13



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**6** 11.20.1927  
**14**

About 1,000 Packer fans and the Lumberjack Band made the trip from Wisconsin to Chicago, but the Bears proved too much for Green Bay. It was a well-played game that one local sportswriter called “the best exhibition of the professional game ever played in the Windy City”<sup>1</sup> the Bears prevailed thanks to Paddy Driscoll.

Driscoll, a Packer nemesis from his days with the Cardinals, threw two touchdown passes to Bill Senn to lead the Bears to victory. The first was a short toss to Senn who turned it upfield for a 52-yard sprint through several tackles for a 7-0 lead. The Packers made it 7-6 after intermission with Rex Enright’s touchdown catch from quarterback Red Dunn.

Late in the game, big George Trafton blocked a Green Bay field goal attempt. On the ensuing possession, the Bears drove 87 yards in nine plays, and they put the game away on Driscoll’s second touchdown to Senn.

In 1927, the Packers lost both games to the Bears, but they finished ahead of them in the standings for the first time!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>6,000</b>				

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/27, p. 13



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

**17**  
**9**

**11.24.1927**

Four days later, a Thanksgiving game in Philadelphia brought the season to a close. Frankford started the scoring after they recovered Verne Lewellen's fumble to take a 6-0 lead. After a field goal pushed it to 9-0, Green Bay bounced back with a Marquette special – a Red Dunn to Lavvie Dilweg touchdown – and Pid Purdy's field goal gave them a 10-9 lead.

The defense held down the Yellow Jackets in the second half. With five minutes left in the game, Eddie Kotal's interception led to Red Dunn's second touchdown pass, this time to Rex Enright that finished off the Jackets.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Frankford</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>9,000</b>				



## 1927 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W-L-T</u>		
NY Giants	11-1-1		
Green Bay	7-2-1	Buffalo	0-5-0
Chi. Bears	9-3-2	NY Yankees	7-8-1
Cleveland	8-4-1	Dayton	1-6-1
Providence	8-5-1	Duluth	1-8-0
Frankford	6-9-3	Buffalo	0-5-0
Pottsville	5-8-0		
Chi. Cardinals	3-7-1		

### Team Leaders

Passing tds	Dunn
Rushing tds	Lewellen
Receiving tds	Enright
Field Goals	Purdy
Scoring	Lewellen

### 1927 All-Pro

Dilweg  
 Lewellen

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1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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