



1988



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1988

Record: 4-12-0 5th Place - Last

Coach: Lindy Infante

- Forrest Gregg resigned on January 15 to become the head coach at his alma mater Southern Methodist University.
- Lindy Infante, Cleveland's Offensive Coordinator, became the 10th head coach in franchise history on February 8, 1988.
- The season was plagued by "less than satisfactory kicking, injuries, an anemic running attack, and contract holdouts." Brian Noble held out for four games into the regular season.
- The offense struggled with Lindy Infante's the new system, and the Packers were shut out three times. The defense showed improvement, especially in the secondary.
- An 0-5 started start morphed into a 4-12 finish which tied 1986 for the most losses in franchise history.



LOS ANGELES
RAMS
PACKERS

34
7 **9.4.1988**

Green Bay linebacker Brian Noble was on the cover of the game program, but he remained a holdout and did not play. It was that kind of a year for Green Bay.

The opener was a complete beat down of new coach Lindy Infante and the 1988 Packers. Green Bay didn't score until the fourth quarter partly because of seven turnovers – four fumbles and three interceptions.

In the first half, two fumbles helped the Rams to a 21-0 halftime lead. After a 47-yard pick-six by L. A. cornerback Jerry Gray in the third quarter, the game was all but over. The Packer offense generated only 209 total yards as Randy Wright and Don Majkowski were sacked seven times. After his first game, Infante remarked, "We were our own worst enemies today. I honestly don't think there's as big a difference between them and us as the score (indicates)."¹

Los Angeles	7	14	10	3	34
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Attendance:	53,769				

*'It was the magic of Lambeau Field that mattered most to Denise Dufault, 31, and Darren Paradis, 26, Packer fanatics who traveled from their native Massachusetts to be part of opening day. They weren't even upset when they lost their tickets stubs. Unable to be seated, they watched the game and yelled themselves hoarse from the entrance tunnels into the stands. 'This is the best stadium for football in the world. We'll keep coming till we die.' "*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/88, Egle, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/88, Lyons, p.



TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS
PACKERS

13
10

9.11.1988

With this loss to the traditionally lowly Bucs, the Packers lost their first two games at home for the first time since 1956. They started out with a 10-0 lead in the first quarter on a 50-yard field goal by Max Zendejas, and a 30-yard touchdown pass from Randy Wright to Brent Fullwood. In the second quarter, Fullwood fumbled, and the Buccaneers capitalized with a touchdown. They tied it at 10 before intermission on Donald Igwebuike's 53-yard field goal.

The second half was a scoreless tug-of-war. Nine penalties didn't help Green Bay, especially the delay of game call after a 43-yard field goal by Max Zendejas in the fourth quarter. The kick was brought back for a second try and Eugene Marve blocked it. After a fumble by quarterback Vinnie Testaverde of the Bucs, another Zendejas boot from 52 yards out drifted wide right.

Unable to contain Testaverde, the Bucs drove downfield, and with no time left on the clock, Igwebuike split the uprights from the 28-yard line.

Tampa Bay	0	10	0	3	13
Green Bay	10	0	0	0	10

Attendance: 52,984



PACKERS

MIAMI

DOLPHINS

17

9.18.1988

24

Too Late

Miami dominated early with 17 first-quarter points, and they never lost the lead. A blocked punt led to a touchdown, and Dan Marino and Mark Clayton also connected a short time later for a 17-0 lead.

In the second quarter, Randy Wright directed a 77-yard drive that narrowed it to 17-7 when he scored on a one-yard rollout. Marino took the points right back three minutes later on a 92-yard touchdown drive that took just seven plays. Green Bay put together another drive just before halftime, and Brent Fullwood's touchdown run brought it to ten, 24-14. A Max Zendejas field goal cut the lead to seven, but the rest of the half was scoreless. Wright left the game in the third quarter with bruised ribs, but Don Majkowski couldn't get the Packers into the end zone.

Green Bay	0	14	3	0	17
Miami	17	7	0	0	24
Attendance:	54,409				



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

24 9.25.1988
6

Standing Alone

When the game ended, the Packers were the only winless team left in the NFL. But, they took the lead early after a Mark Lee interception led to a Brent Fullwood touchdown run. Because they were one-dimensional offensively – they could not run the ball – they were overwhelmed by the Bears’ defense. Quarterback Randy Wright was sacked five times, and he threw two interceptions, one in the end zone.

The Bears scored 17 quick points in the last five minutes of the first half. Neal Anderson, Walter Payton’s heir apparent, scored twice. The first was a 42-yard sprint from midfield that grabbed the lead 7-6 lead with 5:20 left in the half. Linebacker Ron Rivera’s interception led to another Anderson touchdown from the four-yard line with 1:47 left. When Green Bay couldn’t generate a first down, the Bears and Kevin Butler added another field goal with 15 seconds left for a 17-6 lead at the break.

Green Bay’s offense went nowhere after their opening touchdown. The Bears on the other hand chewed-up 242 yards on the ground, and they outgunned the Packers 358-233.

Chicago	0	17	0	7	24
Green Bay	6	0	0	0	6

Attendance: 56,492

GB ran for 34 yards.



PACKERS **24**
 TAMPA BAY **10.2.1988**
BUCCANEERS **27**

Eight lead changes and 800 yards of offense kept everyone’s attention. Very much like two weeks ago, it came down to a Donald Igwebuike field goal. This time, it came with 12 seconds left.

Throughout the game, both teams found the airways wide open. Vinnie Testaverde of Tampa threw for 300 yards, and a touchdown and Randy Wright and Don Majkowski of the Packers added 377 more and a touchdown.

After a 10-10 first half, Green Bay went back in front 17-10 on Brent Fullwood’s touchdown run after Chuck Cecil’s interception. After the Bucs tied it, Randy Wright scored on a rollout and “made a touchdown leading with my head”¹ for a 24-17 lead with four minutes left.

The Bucs tied it again on Vinny Testaverde’s third touchdown pass of the game. After a three-and-out by the Packers, the Bucs took over at their 42-yard line with 47 seconds remaining. Testaverde fired two passes to reach the Green Bay 26-yard line, and Igwebuike nailed the winner from the 44.

Green Bay	3	7	7	7	24
Tampa Bay	0	10	0	17	27
Attendance:	40,003				

Testaverde threw four interceptions.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/88, Langenkamp, p. 21



1919-2019

NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS
PACKERS

3
45 10.9.1988

Easy Peasy!

Don Majkowski started at quarterback in place of an injured Randy Wright. In the second quarter, he ran for a touchdown and threw another to tight end Joey Hackett that gave the Packers a 17-3 lead at halftime.

Fullback Brent Fullwood ran over New England for 118 yards, and in the second half he scored three touchdowns. Green Bay held New England to 76 yards on the ground and they grabbed five interceptions from Doug Flutie and Steve Grogan. After the victory, Infante joked, "This is a very unfamiliar place for me. What do you do after one of these? I don't know."¹

New England	3	0	0	0	3
Green Bay	0	17	7	21	45

Attendance: 51,932

Milwaukee County Stadium

When the Packers didn't "self destruct for a sixth straight time Sunday, they provided merciful relief for thousands and thousands of football fans in this state."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/88, Egle, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/88, Langenkamp, p. 17



1919-2019

PACKERS

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

34

10.16.1988

14

Two straight for Don

Don Majkowski started again and completed 19 of 32 passes for 243 yards to spark the Packers. Green Bay capitalized on five turnovers and 15 penalties by Minnesota to pull off the upset.

The Packers scored the first time they had the ball. They scored again in the second quarter when they recovered a fumble on Minnesota's 22-yard line (after Majkowski had initially fumbled the ball). Keith Woodside scored for a 16-0 lead. When the Vikings replaced Tommy Kramer at quarterback with Wade Wilson, Minnesota got on the board with a 46-yard touchdown pass to Leo Lewis to make it 16-7 before the half.

In the second half, three Zendejas field goals and a safety by Tim Harris made the difference. Harris had an outstanding game recording two sacks, one for a safety. He also blocked a punt later in the game that he recovered for a touchdown. Four field goals from Max Zendejas set a club record at the time, and the Packers won going away.

Green Bay 9 7 8 10 34

Minnesota 0 7 0 7 14

Attendance: 59,053

Letter to the Editor: "People of Green Bay who want to ridicule the players still ought to reevaluate their ideas and thoughts. The players are doing their best to win except for a few, which is no more than other teams."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/88, p. 6



WASHINGTON
REDSKINS
PACKERS

20 10.23.1988
17

This game against the Super Bowl Champs was a nightmare for Green Bay kicker Max Zendejas as the former Redskin missed a game-tying field goal against his old team with 11 seconds left.

Don Majkowski and Doug Williams threw touchdown passes, and Max Zendejas and Chip Lohmiller traded field goals for a 10-10 first half. In the first minute of the second half, a fumble by Don Warren of the 'Skins was recovered by Brian Noble on Washington's eight-yard line. Two plays later, Majkowski and Keith Woodside connected for their second touchdown of the game and a 17-10 Packer lead.

Doug Williams and the Redskins came back with two long drives. They tied it on a great catch by Kelvin Bryant who "caught the ball behind his helmet!"¹ Lohmiller's second field goal gave them the lead with 10:59 left. In the final 10 minutes, Zendejas missed from the 47 and 24-yard lines. He was waived two days later.

Washington	10	0	7	3	20
Green Bay	7	3	7	0	17

Attendance: 51,767
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/88, Egle, p. 23



PACKERS

BUFFALO

BILLS

0

10.30.1988

28

Blanked

The upstart Buffalo Bills sacked quarterback Don Majkowski six times and forced four turnovers to defeat Green Bay. Buffalo's ground game, led by rookie Thurman Thomas, gashed Green Bay all game or 195 yards. With a potent ground game, quarterback Jim Kelly threw just 10 passes. In the second half, Buffalo's defense did all the damage. An interception by safety Mark Kelso and a fumble recovery by Leon Seals both went for touchdowns that put the game out of reach. "It's certainly not a step forward. Their defense totally outplayed our offense,"¹ commented Infante.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	7	7	7	7	28

Attendance: 79,176

GB was outgained 261-131.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/88, p. 1



PACKERS
ATLANTA
FALCONS

0
11.6.1988
20

Blanked II

For the first time since 1932, the Packers were shut out in consecutive games. They turned the ball over seven times – four interceptions, three fumbles – against the worst defense in the league.

The Falcons (2-7) struck paydirt the second time they had the ball with a 45-yard touchdown pass from Chris Miller to running back Gene Lang. After a critical pass interference call against Packer safety Mark Murphy, Miller got them back to the end zone. John Settle scored on the ground, and the Packers trailed 17-0 at the half.

Green Bay had the ball in Atlanta territory seven times but couldn't score.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Atlanta	7	10	0	3	20

Attendance: 29,952



1919-2019

INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS
PACKERS

20
13 11.13.1988

Points Again!

The Packers scored again after being shut out in the previous two games, but they could not salvage a win. Indy quarterback Chris Chandler completed just nine passes, but two of them went for touchdowns to defeat Green Bay.

After an opening field goal, the Packers weren't heard from again offensively until the fourth quarter. Indianapolis took the lead behind two Chandler touchdown passes that capitalized on Green Bay fumbles. After giving up only two field goals, they led comfortably 20-6 with 2:31 left in the game. A quick drive by Green Bay paid dividends with a Don Majkowski touchdown pass to Aubrey Matthews with 42 seconds left. When Ken Stills recovered the onside kick on the 49-yard line, the Packers were still in business trailing 20-13. They drove to the Indy two-yard line before Majkowski's final pass was knocked down by Harvey Armstrong.

Indianapolis	0	13	7	0	20
Green Bay	3	0	0	10	13

Attendance: 53,942

*"I own a share of stock. They' don't screw around with that. They send out their income statement, just like any corporation would. You can see their bottom line. It's cool to look at their profit-and-loss statement. The Pacjers are are a no for profit corporation. In order for them to qualify for that, they have to pour a ton of their profits into all these chariries all over the place. I don't live there, but I can see they pour so much back into the community."*¹

1 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p, 37



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

19
9 11.20.1988

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a relatively small crowd in Milwaukee saw Green Bay lose for a fifth straight time. They watched as the poor 2-10 Packers handed the Lions nine points during the game with two turnovers and a poor punt.

By halftime, three field goals by Eddie Murray had given Detroit a 9-0 lead. They stretched it to 16-3 in the third quarter with an 11-play touchdown drive – all running plays. Eddie Murray added a fourth field goal before Green Bay scored with 10 seconds left for only their second touchdown in four weeks. It was clear the next day that even the Press-Gazette was unimpressed. It described the game this way: “In this limbo contest, the Packers proved that they can go lower than anyone else in the league.”¹

Detroit	3	6	0	10	19
Green Bay	0	0	3	6	9

Attendance: 44,327

Milwaukee County Stadium

Smallest Milwaukee crowd since 1961.

Lew Carpenter – Detroit assistant coach – played for Green Bay for five years and coached here for 10 more. Commenting on his return: “You come in here, and you feel like, somewhere along the line, you’re still part of the organization.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/88, Langenkamp. P. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/88, Egle, p. 23



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

0
11.27.1988
16

QB Trouble?

The offense sputtered again with 189 total yards and just nine first downs. The Bears moved the ball at will with 213 yards rushing and 22 first downs. Running back Neal Anderson put up 139 yards and scored both Chicago touchdowns. After an interception by Vestee Jackson, Anderson took off on an 80-yard touchdown run, the longest in Chicago Bear history.

Green Bay's offense did little, and Don Majkowski (14-34-184-0-2) was sacked four times and threw two interceptions.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	7	0	7	2	16

Attendance: 62,026



PACKERS

DETROIT
LIONS

14

12.4.1988

30

Seven Straight

Brent Fullwood's fumble on the first play from scrimmage helped the Lions get off to a 27-point head start. The Packers never recovered.

Randy Wright returned at quarterback and threw 52 passes for 284 yards. The Packers didn't score until the fourth quarter when Wright threw touchdown passes to Ed West and Sterling Sharpe – the first of his career. Wright also threw three interceptions including a 90-yard pick-six by safety Devon Mitchell. Green Bay's six turnovers led to 24 points for Detroit. After the game, Mark Lee echoed what many players were feeling, "this is about as low as it gets."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14
Detroit	10	17	0	3	30

Attendance: 28,124

Total Yards: GB 360 / DET 220.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/88, McGinn, p. 21



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

6
18 12.11.1988

In six-degree temperatures, the Packers upset the 10-4 Vikings.

Despite four turnovers of their own, the Packers shut down the Vikings for the second time this season. They sacked quarterback Wade Wilson three times – once for a safety – intercepted one pass, and held Minnesota to just 44 yards rushing. On Green Bay’s second series of the game, Randy Wright led the Packers to a 7-0 lead with key completions to Aubrey Matthews and Perry Kemp. After a groin injury forced Wright to leave the game, Don Majkowski threw a third-quarter touchdown pass to Patrick Scott for a 16-3 lead and the game.

Minnesota	0	3	0	3	6
Green Bay	7	3	6	2	18
Attendance:	48,892				



PACKERS
PHOENIX
CARDINALS

26
12.18.1988
17

A busy first half had all the scoring that ultimately mattered. A 63-yard punt return for a touchdown by Ron Pitts helped the Packers get off to a 14-0 lead. But two Green Bay turnovers helped the Cardinals to bounce back with 17 points. They took the lead with seven minutes remaining in the half.

The Packers charged back on their next series with a 61-yard march. Two Don Majkowski to Larry Mason completions accounted for 49 yards and a touchdown which provided the lead (20-17) and the eventual winning points. Majkowski's second touchdown pass made it 26-17, and the Packer defense protected it. At least, as Brian Noble pointed out, "we're not the worst team in the NFL."¹

Green Bay	13	7	6	0	26
Phoenix	7	10	0	0	17
Attendance:	44,586				

Press-Gazette Headline: "26-17 win costs Pack top pick; Mandarich now likely choice"²

"Lindy has them hungry for next year. Watch out Bears!"³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/88, Langenkamp, p. 28
 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/88, p. 1
 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/88, p. 2



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2018

1988 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	12	4	0
Minnesota	11	5	0
Tampa Bay	5	11	1
Detroit	4	12	0
Green Bay	4	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Majkowski
Rushing	Fullwood
Receiving	Sharpe
Scoring	Fullwood
Interceptions	M. Murphy
Sacks	Harris

ALL-PRO

Harris Linebacker

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Sterling Sharpe (1, WR)
Shawn Patterson (2, DT)
Keith Woodside (3, B)
Chguck Cecil (4b, S)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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