



2006



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2006

Record: 8-8-0 (2nd Place)

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- On January 12, 2006, Mike McCarthy is hired as the 14th coach in franchise history.
- John Jones was named to succeed Bob Harlan in May 2007 as the team's president and chief operating officer.
- Reggie White was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- Major free agent acquisitions included Charles Woodson and Ryan Pickett.
- Brett Favre turned 37 in October. He threw 18 touchdown passes and 18 interceptions. Ahman Green bounced back and ran for over 1,000 yards.
- The Packers gave up 65 more points than they scored. Aaron Kampman led the defense with 15.5 sacks.
- The team won its last four games to finish 8-8.



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

26
0 9.10.2006

No Chance

Mike McCarthy's coaching debut did not go well as Brett Favre threw two interceptions, and he was sacked three times. This was the first shutout of Brett Favre's career. It was also the first for the Packers since a 10-0 loss to the Bears in 1991.

Chicago's two touchdowns were long distance strikes. On their opening drive, quarterback Rex Grossman threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Bernard Berrian that got everyone's attention. In the fourth quarter, Devin Hester's 84-yard punt return closed out the Packers. In between, four Robbie Gould field goals helped the Bears pull away.

As Green Bay grew more desperate in the fourth quarter, Favre threw two interceptions. For the game, he threw for only 172 yards. Ahman Green led the ground game with 110 yards.

Chicago	7	9	3	7	26
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 70,918

"The Packers commemorated the 10th anniversary of their Super Bowl XXXI-winning season with a pregame ceremony. More than 35 players were introduced on the field. The ceremony ended with the unveiling of the name of the late Reggie White on the southeast façade of Lambeau Field. White's widow, Sara, and their son, Jeremy, were on hand."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/2006, Dougherty/Demovsky, p. 34



NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS
PACKERS

34 9.17.2006
27

A Shootout!

Drew Brees and Brett Favre hooked up in a wild one. Between these two great quarterbacks, there were 96 passes thrown for 693 yards and five touchdowns!

Green Bay grabbed the lead after two fumbles by Brees in the first quarter. It opened the door for Favre's first touchdown pass to Greg Jennings and 10-0 Green Bay lead. The Saints came back in the second quarter and took 14-13 lead into the locker room at the half.

After two field goals made it 20-13 Saints in the third quarter, Favre and Robert Ferguson hooked up at the start of the fourth to tie the game 20-20. Midway through the quarter, Brees broke the tie with a 35-yard bomb to Marquez Colston. Trailing 27-20 with 8:20 remaining, Ahman Green fumbled on the first play after the ensuing kickoff. Will Smith recovered for New Orleans, and Deuce McAllister's second touchdown run made it 34-20. With four minutes left, Favre threw his third touchdown pass of the game, but the Packers fell to 0-2 at home.

New Orleans	0	14	6	14	34
Green Bay	13	0	0	14	27

Attendance: 70,602

"A sign at Lambeau Field read, 'No. 4 for Prez in 2008.' My first thought: Hasn't Favre suffered enough? My second thought: Only if Donald Driver was his choice for vice president."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/06, Havel, p. 36



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

31

9.24.2006

24

#400 for Brett

This is Mike McCarthy’s first win as Green Bay’s coach. In an exciting first half, Brett Favre became just the second quarterback in NFL history at the time to throw 400 touchdown passes – Dan Marino was the other. His 75-yard bomb to rookie Greg Jennings was #400, and it opened the scoring. After the Lions tied it, Marquand Manual’s pick-six kept Green Bay a step ahead 14-7.

With six minutes left in the third quarter, Favre finished an 80-yard drive with a touchdown pass to Donald Driver to push the advantage to 24-14. Detroit struck back on their next series to bring the lead back to three.

In the fourth quarter, the game turned Green Bay’s way. Favre’s third touchdown pass of the game went to Ahman Green, and the defense held the Lions to a field goal. According to the Press-Gazette, the formula for winning was clear: “Now we know what it takes for the Packers to win a game. Nearly flawless play by their quarterback. If Favre screws up, they have no chance.”¹

Green Bay	14	3	7	7	31
Detroit	14	0	7	3	24

Attendance: 61,095

Favre & Kitna both threw for more than 340 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/06, p. 3



PACKERS
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

9
31 **10.2.2006**

Tough road venue

The Packers return to the scene of the 4th and 26 debacle in 2003, and they get blown out. Three Dave Rayner fields goals were all the points the Packers could muster. After his field goals and a 9-7 lead at halftime, they were crushed in the second half 24-0.

For Philadelphia, quarterback Donovan McNabb caught fire. He threw two touchdown passes, and ran for two others. His 288 yards passing and 57 yards rushing accounted for 345 of the Eagles 398. Favre was pulled from the game late in the fourth quarter with a head-shoulder injury. He was replaced by Aaron Rodgers.

Green Bay	3	6	0	0	9
Philadelphia	0	7	17	7	31
Attendance:	69,222				



St. LOUIS
RAMS
PACKERS

23
10.8.2006
20

Killer Fumble

Green Bay fell to 1-4 with this tough loss. In the first five minutes, the Rams capitalized right away on a Packer fumble. It set up the first of two touchdown passes by quarterback Marc Bulger. St. Louis led at the half 14-13.

The Packers comeback began with a stingy defense that allowed just three field goals in the second half. Trailing 23-13 with six minutes left, Favre and rookie Greg Jennings connected for a 46-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 23-20. With 2:46 left, "Favre indeed took them to the brink of victory"¹ with a 68-yard drive. With 44 seconds to go at the Rams 11-yard line, Favre tried to avoid a sack and Leonard Little poked the ball from his grasp. It was recovered by the Rams. Game over.

St. Louis	7	7	3	6	23
Green Bay	7	6	0	7	20

Attendance: 70,804

<u>SAME STATS</u>	<i>GB</i>	<i>StL</i>
<i>Yards Passing</i>	220	220
<i>Yards Rushing</i>	121	118
<i>First Downs</i>	20	19
<i>Sacks</i>	2	2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/06, Dougherty, p. 33



PACKERS

MIAMI

DOLPHINS

34

10.22.2006

24

Though the Packers were outgained 448-346, they persevered with a strong second half in the hot sun.

Green Bay generated only two Dave Rayner field goals in a 10-6 first half. They took over the game in the second 30 minutes as “Charles got us all started,”¹ Ahman Green said. Charles Woodson’s pick-six came just 50 seconds into the second half! It was Woodson’s first pick-six since 1999, and it gave Green Bay the lead. Later in the quarter, a spectacular touchdown catch by Donald Driver – who caught 10 passes – made it 20-10.

Green Bay didn’t let up in the fourth quarter. Ahman Green’s 70-yard dash made it 27-16. The teams traded touchdowns as a Favre to David Martin touchdown brought the scoring to a close.

Green Bay	0	6	14	14	30
Miami	7	3	3	11	23

Attendance: 73,548

GB sacked Joey Harrington 4 times.

The Green Bay Optimist Club sponsored a Packer party for the PALS Program of Brown County. “The children in the program and their mentors or parents will come dressed in their Packer attire, eat pizza and treats, and participate in activities including the Packer Experience obstacle course, passing and kicking contests and other games. Green Bay Packer players will run plays, play games with the children and sign autographs.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/06, Tomlinson, p. 36

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/06, p. 5



1919-2019

ARIZONA
CARDINALS
PACKERS

14 10.29.2006
31

Explosive!

The Packers never trailed in this one, and they easily defeated the 1-6 Cardinals. They jumped out to a 21-0 lead behind Brett Favre's touchdown pass to David Martin, and two Ahman Green two touchdown runs.

Favre ran for a touchdown in the second half, and he followed it with his first Lambeau Leap after being encouraged by Donald Driver! "I don't think I've ever done one, but I hope that's the last one. I should have found a lower spot. I'm not real savvy in the stands-jumping department."¹

Both Ahman Green and Vernand Morency ran for over 100 yards. Green Bay's defense also got into the act. They held the Cards to 218 total yards, and they sacked of rookie quarterback Matt Leinart four times.

Arizona	0	7	7	0	14
Green Bay	7	14	7	3	31

Attendance: 73,548

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/06, Dougherty/Demovsky, p. 36



PACKERS

BUFFALO

BILLS

10

11.5.2006

24

Let Down

Buffalo defeated Green Bay despite being outgained 427-184! A field goal Rian Lindell and London Fletcher's pick-six gave the Buffalo a 10-0 first-half lead. In the second 30 minutes, the Packers came back to tie the game on Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Donald Driver and Dave Rayner's 49-yard field goal.

In the fourth quarter, Buffalo stormed back with two touchdown drives in the final eight minutes. They retook the lead 17-10 on a miscommunication in Green Bay's defensive backfield. Lee Evans break loose for a 43-yard touchdown. The Bills scored again with three minutes left in the game when safety Ko Simpson intercepted Favre at the Buffalo one-yard line. Simpson dashed 76 yards to the Packer 27. Three plays later, a 14-yard touchdown run by Anthony Thomas sealed the deal for Buffalo. After the game, a frustrated McCarthy pointed out, "It's getting too late in the year to let those type of opportunities to slip away."¹

Green Bay	0	0	7	3	10
Buffalo	7	3	0	14	24

Attendance: 72,205

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/06, p. 42



PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

23

11.12.2006

17

A win in the dome!

In the biggest win to date for new coach Mike McCarthy, Green Bay wins in the Metrodome! Brett Favre threw for 347 yards and two touchdowns without an interception. Donald Driver caught six passes for 191 yards and one touchdown. The defense delivered four sacks and held Minnesota to three points in the second half.

After Green Bay took a 10-0 lead, Minnesota came back with two long touchdown drives to pull ahead 14-10. Forty-eight seconds before the half, Green Bay took the lead on Favre's 82-yard touchdown pass to Driver. The play sent Driver on a slant pattern over the middle, and he went nearly the length of the field untouched for 17-14 halftime lead.

The second half amounted to a field goal contest. Green Bay's Dave Rayner kicked two, and former Packer Ryan Longwell booted one. Green Bay's win tied the all-time series between the teams at 45-45-1.

Green Bay	10	7	3	3	23
Minnesota	0	14	0	3	17
Attendance:	63,924				



NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS
PACKERS

35 11.19.2006
0

Shocker

After beating the Vikings in the Metrodome, this was a stunning defeat. It was an embarrassing loss at home to the team by which all others are measured.

Green Bay's offense generated a dismal 120 total yards. Brett Favre, who made his 251st consecutive start including playoff games, threw for 73 yards before he injured his elbow in the second quarter. He landed on his throwing arm when linebacker Teddy Bruschi sacked him. Favre completed just five passes and he was sacked five times.

Aaron Rodgers finished the game and did poorly (4-12-32-0-0). New England quarterback Tom Brady threw for 244 yards and four touchdowns.

New England	7	14	7	7	35
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 70,753

"The players are more accessible here than in other towns. One time, my two young grandsons, probably four or five years old at the time, went to Brett Favre's TV show. They had a little rubber football with them, and for about five minutes Brett Favre was out there playing catch with these two boys. I had my camera, snapping pictures left and right, and I know they'll cherish those some day. They really treat kids right."¹

1 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 35 (Beatrice Froelich)



PACKERS

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS

24

11.27.2006

34

On a snowy Monday night, four turnovers by Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck paved the way for an early Packer lead. Charles Woodson's interception led to a touchdown, and a fumble recovery by Abdul Hodge made it 14-12. Two other Packer interceptions did not lead to points. Seattle's points in the first half came on Josh Brown field goals.

Brett Favre's 48-yard touchdown strike to Donald Driver made it 21-12 on the first drive of the second half. Green Bay's defense weakened as Matt Hasselbeck bounced back to throw three touchdown passes in a 15-minute span to three different receivers. The Seahawks retook the lead in the fourth quarter as running back Shaun Alexander continued to ride roughshod over the Green Bay defense. He carried 40 times for 201 yards – the most against the Packers in 17 years.

The Packers failed "to capitalize enough on the turnover windfall (in the first half) to beat a superior team."¹ Dave Rayner's 34-yard field goal was all Green Bay could produce after Driver's touchdown.

Green Bay	7	7	7	3	24
Seattle	3	9	7	15	34
Attendance:	68, 256				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/06, Dougherty, p. 32



1919-2019

NEW YORK
JETS
PACKERS

38
10 12.3.2006

After getting shutout by the Patriots in their last home game two weeks ago, the Packers were slaughtered by the Jets. Before the game, New York coach Eric Mangini showed his team a video of the Ice Bowl. The motivator worked, and the playoff-bound Jets pounded Green Bay.

The Jets used a no-huddle offense to confuse the Packers and outgain them 441-351. Two first-half touchdowns passes by quarterback Chad Pennington led to a 31-0 halftime lead. The Packers were booed on the way to the locker room.

The second half wasn't much different except the Packers actually scored on a Favre to Driver touchdown pass. McCarthy nailed it after the blowout when he said, "to play like that at home, it infuriates everyone involved,"¹ said Mike McCarthy.

New York	10	21	0	7	38
Green Bay	0	0	10	0	10

Attendance: 70,527

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/06, Dougherty, p. 31



1919-2019

PACKERS

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

30

12.10.2006

19

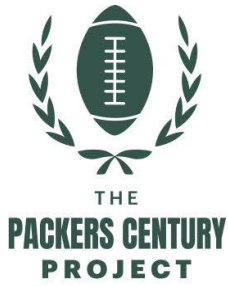
This was Mike McCarthy's first game against his former team. Riding a three-game losing streak, the Packers made changes on both sides of the ball. "Sometimes you've got to shake things up in order to get the most out of players,"¹ observed cornerback Charles Woodson.

Two long touchdown passes from Brett Favre also sparked the win. A 38-yard toss to Revell Martin put Green Bay in front to stay 7-3. In the third quarter, two plays after a Nick Collins interception, Favre and Donald Diver connected on a 68-yard bomb that made it 23-14.

Dave Rayner's two field goals, and a late touchdown by the San Francisco finished the scoring. Favre's great game (22-34-293-2-0) included the 413th touchdown pass of his career. That put him in second place all-time behind Dan Marino's 420.

Green Bay	7	10	7	6	30
San Francisco	3	3	7	6	19
Attendance:	68,539				

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/11/06, Demovsky, p. 29



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

9
17

12.17.2006

Favre passes Marino

The Packers held the last place Lions to 142 yards and three field goals! Brett Favre had an inconsistent game (20-37-274-0-3) with three interceptions, but his two touchdown drives saved the day. Running back Vernand Morency scored both touchdowns.

After one of Favre's interceptions, Jason Hanson's third field goal made it 10-9 Packers with nine minutes left. On the ensuing drive, Favre marched Green Bay 78 yards in 12 plays. On the 21-yard line, Morency' took a handoff and cut back over right tackle to go the distance with 2:48 left. The Packer defense kept the Lions out of the end zone for the win.

Detroit	3	0	3	3	9
Green Bay	3	7	0	7	17

Attendance: 70,472



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

7 12.21.2006
9

Four days later, the Packers got back to .500 in a tough, defensive battle with their neighbor to the North.

Green Bay's defense held the Vikings to an astonishingly low 104 yards and three first downs. In the cold rain, Dave Rayner's two first-half field goals gave Green Bay a 6-0 they took into the locker room at the break. With 5:10 left in the third quarter, an underthrown pass from Brett Favre to Greg Jennings was picked off by Fred Smoot. He took it 47 yards for a touchdown, and the Vikings led 7-6.

It stayed 7-6 for nearly 20 minutes. With five minutes left, the Pack went 41 yards in seven plays for Rayner's 44-yard winning boot with 1:34 left!

Minnesota	0	0	7	0	7
Green Bay	3	0	3	3	9

Attendance: 70,864

Was this Brett Favre's last game at Lambeau Field? Fans had to wonder as they watched Packer President Bob Harlan being honored in a brief video presentation in the first quarter. Harlan, who brought the franchise back to respectability beginning in June 1989, led the Packers back to the Super Bowl and completed the renovation of Lambeau Field. He retired in May and was greeted warmly by fans. "The tribute ended with a long embrace between Harlan and Favre on the field."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/06, Tomlinson, p. 40



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

26

12.31.2006

7

The Packers won their last four games to finish 8-8, and set a positive tone for 2007. Against the 13-2 Bears on a Sunday night at Soldier Field, Brett Favre had a good game (21-42-285-1-1) while speculation was rampant about his possible retirement after the season.

Favre's first-quarter touchdown pass to Donald Driver, followed by a 55-yard pick-six by Nick Collins, put Green Bay up 13-0. Cornerback Patrick Dendy also intercepted a Rex Grossman pass for a 30-yard touchdown and a 23-0 lead. The defense picked off five passes overall, and they held the Bears to a one 75-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter.

On the field after the game, Favre was emotional. "If this is my last game, I want to remember it," his voice cracking and tears streaming from his eyes. "It's tough. I love these guys. I love this game. What a great way to go out against a great football team. I couldn't ask for a better way to get out."¹

Green Bay	13	10	0	3	26
Chicago	0	0	7	0	7
Attendance:	62,287				

"He'll be back. He needs to break Dan Marino's record,"² said fan Bill Winterrowd of Janesville.

¹ packershistory.net/2006 Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/07, Srubas, p. 1



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2018

2006 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	13	3	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Minnesota	6	10	0
Detroit	3	13	0

Team Leaders

Passing	Favre
Rushing	Green
Receiving	Driver
Scoring	Rayner
Interceptions	Woodson
Sacks	Kampman

All-Pro

Kampman Defensive End

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

A. J. Hawk (1, LB)
Daryn Colledge (2a, G-T)
Greg Jennings (2b, WR)
Abdul Hodge (3a, LB)
Jason Spitz (3b, G-C)
Johnny Jolly (6a, DT)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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