

SEASON
92

2010



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2010

Record: 10-6-0 NFL Champions

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- Before the season, the Packers were among those expected to contend for the Super Bowl.
- In the Packer locker room before the season, McCarthy placed an empty photo frame next to the 12 photos of Green Bay's 12 championship teams!
- Among the 15 players placed on the Injured Reserve List were: Nick Barnett, Morgan Burnett, Brandon Chillar, Jermichael Finley, Ryan Grant, Justin Harrell, Al Harris, Brad Jones, Mike Neal, Brady Poppinga and Mark Tauscher
- Throughout the season, the team's leaders – Charles Woodson, Ryan Pickett, Donald Driver, and Aaron Rodgers – kept the team afloat with outstanding play. League-wide, the defense ranked in the top five, and the offense finished in the top 10.
- Ryan Grant's injury decimated the ground game until the emergence of James Starks in December.
- Aaron Rodgers suffered a concussion in Week 14 against the Lions. He was replaced by Matt Flynn.
- With a defense ranked in the top 5 and an offense in the league's top 10, the Packers made the postseason with wins over the Giants and Bears in their final two games. They were the NFC's 6th and final seed.



PACKERS
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

27
20

9.12.2010

A Win in Philly!

The teams wore throwback uniforms for the 50th anniversary of the 1960 championship team. That game, won by the Eagles 17-13, was Green Bay's first championship game under Lombardi and their only postseason loss from 1959-1967.

In their first win in the *City of Brotherly Love* since 1962, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdowns passes, and the Packers held on. In the first half, he connected with Donald Driver for six and Mason Crosby drilled field goals of 49 and 56 yards. After a second-half touchdown by John Kuhn for a 20-3 lead, the Eagles made their move.

Quarterback Michael Vick replaced Kevin Kolb who suffered a concussion on a sack by Clay Matthews near the end of the first half. Vick brought the Eagles' offense alive. He dominated the second half with 103 yards rushing, and he put on an impressive passing display as well (16-24-175-1-0). Touchdowns by LeSean McCoy and Jeremy Maclin weren't enough though to overcome a 32-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Greg Jennings in the third quarter that proved to be the difference.

Green Bay	0	13	14	0	27
Philadelphia	3	0	7	10	20
Attendance	69,141				

Lost for the season: Ryan Grant (RB)



BUFFALO
BILLS
PACKERS

7
34 **9.19.2010**

As Expected

The Packers won their home opener for the fourth straight year. It was an easy victory with Green Bay getting out to a 13-0 lead. The Bills cut the lead to six on Fred Jackson’s touchdown run, but it that would be it for the Buffalo offense.

The second half was all Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers threw touchdown passes to Donald Driver and to James Jones. Sandwiched between these aerial strikes, Rodgers ran for a nine-yard touchdown to make it 27-7. Without running back Ryan Grant who was out for the season, “running back by committee”¹ produced 91 yards.

Green Bay’s defense was stubborn all afternoon. Four sacks – three by Clay Matthews – and two interceptions stopped quarterback Tent Edwards and the Bills. Overall, Buffalo gained just 186 yards.

Buffalo	0	7	0	0	7
Green Bay	13	0	14	7	34

Attendance: 70,741

At halftime, Bart Starr was introduced and welcomed home to Lambeau Field!

¹ Return to Titledown, p. 32



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

17

9.27.2010

20

Killer Penalties

The Packers set a franchise record for the most penalties in a single game – 18! They broke a team record (17) that stood for 65 years. Their poor play cost them 152 yards, and they gave the game away, “haphazardly, with green gift wrap and a big yellow bow.”¹

The Packers got off to a great start with a 60-yard drive and an Aaron Rodgers to Greg Jennings touchdown pass. Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler matched it with a touchdown toss to tight end Greg Olsen. At halftime, with Mason Crosby’s 38-yard boot, it was 10-7 Green Bay.

It stayed 10-7 until the fourth quarter when Devin Hester’s 62-yard punt return put Chicago up 14-10. With 6:59 remaining, an Aaron Rodgers touchdown run took the lead back 17-14. Roughing penalties on Frank Zombo and Nick Collins helped the Bears to a tying field goal with 4:03 left.

With the Packers looking to run down the clock and gain field position, James Jones fumbled at midfield after a hit by linebackers Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs. The Bears recovered at the Packer 46-yard line. A few plays later, Robbie Gould won it from the 19 with four seconds left.

Green Bay	7	3	0	7	17
Chicago	0	7	0	13	20
Attendance:	62, 179				

¹ One: Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 26



DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

26
28 **10.3.2010**

Though the Lions pounded the Packers for 461 yards, three Aaron Rodgers touchdown passes in the first half outdid four second-half field goals by Detroit's Jason Hansen! Rodgers threw touchdowns to Donald Driver, Jermichael Finley, and Greg Jennings. But with eight seconds left in the first half, Detroit Calvin Johnson's second touchdown of the game kept Detroit close 21-14.

Green Bay's only second half points came early on Charles Woodson's 48-yard pick-six of back up quarterback Shaun Hill. With the Packers in control 28-14, the defense did a lot of bending, but it did not break. It gave up yards, but only four field goals. Rodgers threw two interceptions, yet the defense kept the Lions out of the end zone. Green Bay closed it out in the last six minutes with a 12-play, 87-yard drive that ate up the clock. Fullback John Kuhn carried the ball seven times in the drive for 34 yards.

Detroit	0	14	6	6	26
Green Bay	7	14	7	0	28
Attendance:	70, 729				

Lost for the season: Mark Tauscher (T), Nick Barnett (MLB) and Morgan Burnett (S)



PACKERS
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS

13 **10.10.2010**
16 (OT)

A new coaching staff in the nation's capital led by an old nemesis, Mike Shanahan, pulled off the upset. They were able to keep Green Bay's offense under control including a four-play goal-line stand.

Yet the Packers led 13-3 in the fourth quarter. An Aaron Rodgers touchdown pass to Donald Lee in the first quarter was backed up all game by a great ground game (157 yards) and Mason Crosby's kicks. But injuries also took their toll as Michael Finley (TE), Mike Neal (DL) and Derrick Martin (DB) were lost for the season.

The Redskins mounted a fourth-quarter comeback. A 48-yard touchdown from quarterback Donovan McNabb to Anthony Armstrong came with 11:35 left. It cut the lead to 13-10. The Packers held on, but they could not score on six drives in the fourth quarter and overtime.

With 67 seconds left in regulation, Redskin rookie Graham Gano hit a 45-yard field goal to tie the game. With one second left, Mason Crosby missed from the 53 when he hit the left upright. In the overtime, Rodgers was intercepted by LaRon Landry on Green Bay's second series. With the help of two defensive penalties on the Packers, Gano booted the winner from the 33-yard line.

After the game, McCarthy addressed the increasing number of injuries. "You can't control the injuries, and we're not going to spend a whole lot of time discussing those types of things or worrying about them."¹

Green Bay	7	3	3	0	0	13
Washington	0	3	0	10	3	16

Attendance: 87,760

On the interception in OT, Rodgers suffered a concussion.

Jim Becker, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Famer *

*Jim and Pat Becker attended this game as part of Jim's induction into the Packer FAN Hall of Fame. They enjoyed a very nice trip to the nation's capital. Their seats at FedEx Field "were pretty high up there," and unbeknownst to them beforehand their granddaughter was sitting in a section very close to them! Crosby's field goal would have made it a perfect day. **

* Interview 2/13/2017

1 One: Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 34



MIAMI

DOLPHINS
PACKERS

23 10.17.2010
20 (OT)

Going In Wrong Direction?

Aaron Rodgers was cleared to play. He threw for 313 yards while being chased down and sacked five times. With injuries taking their toll, Green Bay lost their second straight in overtime. It was also their third loss in four games.

An 86-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Greg Jennings gave the Packers an exciting 10-7 lead in the first quarter. Miami crept back in front with two field goals, but Mason Crosby's fourth-quarter field goal tied it at 13 with 10 minutes left. A 22-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Fasano put the Dolphins in control 20-13 with 5:20 left.

Rodgers then marched the Packers 69-yards for the tying touchdown that he scored on a quarterback sneak with 13 seconds left in regulation. In the overtime, a 37-yard punt by Tim Masthay gave the Dolphins the ball at midfield. It took six plays before Dan Carpenter nailed his third field goal of the game to leave the Packers floundering at 3-3.

Miami	7	3	7	3	3	23
Green Bay	10	0	0	10	0	20

Attendance: 70,781

Two overtime losses in a row.



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

24
28 10.24.2010

Packers Beat Brett!

The Packers faced their old quarterback again and their season was at the brink.

After losing twice to Brett Favre last year, this win was more than sweet. It did not come easy or without great tension. But as Steve Schumer, a member of the Packer Hall of Fame put it, "The season was teetering. It was like a playoff game at midseason with one dramatic ending." *

Aaron Rodgers bounced back from an early interception by Jared Allen and marched Green Bay 76 yards in four plays to take a 7-0 lead. The Vikings tied it on Percy Harvin's 17-yard run right up the middle of the Green Bay defense. The Packers took the lead right back on a touchdown pass to Andrew Quarless. But Favre and the Vikings would have none of it. Adrian Peterson's touchdown run tied it at 14, and a field goal by another former Packer, Ryan Longwell, gave the Vikings the halftime lead.

In the second half, Favre threw three interceptions that gave the game away. After the game, he admitted, "For me, it's devastating. I don't know how else to put it."¹

In the third quarter, Aaron Rodgers and Greg Jennings connected and gave Green Bay a lead it never relinquished. On Minnesota's next series, as Favre was being sacked, his pass was picked off by linebacker Desmond Bishop who took it to the house for 28-17 Packer lead. Three minutes later, Favre struck right back at the heart of the Packers with a touchdown pass to Randy Moss that narrowed the Green Bay lead to 28-24.

A four-point Packer lead with four minutes left. Could the defense contain number four in the fourth quarter to win it?

It was a slugfest for the final 15 minutes. The Packer defense stiffened with an interception by Nick Collins' and outstanding play by their young and injury-plagued defensive line. On Minnesota's the final drive, from the Green Bay 35-yard line, Favre unloaded a first-down pass to Percy Harvin in the back of the zone. It was ruled a touchdown. "The crowd gasped as one, too. Thinking he had done it again."² The play was reversed by the replay official as one of Harvin's feet landed out of bounds. Whew!

Three plays later Favre overthrew Moss and Green Bay's season was back on track. The radio voice of the Packers, Wayne Larrivee, put it perfectly, "I felt that Green Bay – and certainly Packers Nation – need this game for closure."³

Minnesota	7	10	7	0	24
Green Bay	7	7	14	0	28

Attendance: 71,107

GB moved into a first-place tie in the division.

For Packer fans, "even with all the rage and debate over the last two years, it's still jarring to see Brett Favre at Lambeau Field in a Minnesota Vikings jersey."⁴

* Interview 2/8/17

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel , 10/25/10, D'Amato, p. 3c

2 Packer Plus, 10/28/10, Hart, p. 4

3 These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 158

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/25/10, UP Steele, p. 2c



PACKERS

NEW YORK

JETS

9

10.31.2010

0

Against one of the strongest teams in the AFC, Mason Crosby's three field goals provided all the scoring. Aaron Rodgers, who was held in check by the Jets' defense, completed just 15 of 34 passes for 170 yards. New York quarterback Mark Sanchez was less effective completing 16 of 38 passes for 256 yards and two interceptions.

Green Bay's defense featured several new names including former New York Jet Howard Green. Green pitched-in impressively against the Jets' strong ground game. In a game of field position, Packer punter Tim Masthay tilted the field in Green Bay's favor. He was named Special Teams Player of the Week for his punting.

Crosby's winning kicks came from the 20, 41 and 40-yard line.

Green Bay	3	0	0	6	9
New York	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 78,484

First shutout for GB on the road since 1991.



DALLAS

COWBOYS
PACKERS

7
45

11.7.2010

What a difference a week makes! In a complete domination of Dallas, the Packers “outplayed, then overwhelmed, and finally embarrassed”¹ the Cowboys.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns. The defense tacked on two scores, a 62-yard pick six by Clay Mathews and a fumble that was recovered in mid-air by Nick Collins and returned 26 yards for six more! The sixth touchdown was Brandon Jackson’s two-yard run that completed an 80-yard touchdown drive.

It was 28-7 Green Bay after 30 minutes. The defense played well despite the loss of Ryan Pickett to an ankle injury the second quarter. The Cowboys were held to 39 yards on the ground and 205 overall.

Dallas	0	7	0	0	7
Green Bay	0	28	7	10	45

Attendance: 70,913

¹ Return to Titledown, Carlson, p. 64



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

31
3

11.21.2010

Goodbye Brett!

Three weeks after their last game – and after Green Bay’s bye week – it was no contest. The Packers played “three of the most sensational quarters of football”¹ in years. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes, and the defense kept Brett Favre under control (17-38-208-0-1) to secure the win.

Though Rodgers was sacked three times, he had an outstanding afternoon (22-31-301-4-0). Before halftime, he threw two touchdown passes – to Greg Jennings and James Jones – for a 17-3 Packer advantage. In the second half, he tossed two more to Jennings to put the game out of reach. Jennings caught seven passes for 152 yards and three touchdowns.

Favre was erratic both in and out of the pocket, and his interception led to a Green Bay touchdown. The win for the Packers made it 2-2 against their former quarterback, and that’s the way it would remain.

Green Bay	0	17	7	7	31
Minnesota	3	0	0	0	3
Attendance: 64,120					

“Was Brett Favre pumped up? When the Vikings took the field for warm-ups, he ran up behind third-string quarterback Joe Webb and smacked him so hard on the butt that Webb’s knees buckled and he reached back with his right hand to grab his stinging backside.”²

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 49

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/22/10, D’Amato, p. 4c



PACKERS

17

11.28.2010

ATLANTA

FALCONS

20

If the Packers could win the in the Metrodome, they could win anywhere right? This was a very competitive and well-played game between the 8-2 Falcons and the 7-3 Packers. Green Bay put on a great show (418 total yards) that came just short.

With the game tied 3-3 midway through the second quarter, the Packers rode nine straight completions by Aaron Rodgers to bring them to the Falcons two-yard line. On a second try with the quarterback sneak, Rodgers fumbled, and it was recovered by Mike Peterson of the Falcons. The play would haunt the Pack.

Just before halftime, Matt Ryan gave the Falcons a 10-3 lead with a touchdown pass to Tony Gonzalez. Green Bay came back after intermission and tied it with Rodgers scoring himself on a one-yard run. For the game, he led the Packers with 51 yards rushing.

Early in the fourth quarter, Michael Turner, who ran for 110 yards, scored to put Atlanta back on top 17-10. With six minutes left, the Packers marched 90 yards in 16 plays. On fourth-and-10-yard line with 56 seconds left, Rodgers threw a bullet to Jordy Nelson in the end zone for the tying touchdown. On the ensuing kickoff, Eric Weems brought it back 36 yards and, along with facemask penalty on Green Bay, the ball was put on the Packer 49-yard line. A few plays later, Matt Bryant's 47-yard boot won it.

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

Attendance: 68,204

GB ran for just 77 yards.



SAN FRANCISCO

49ers
PACKERS

16
34

12.5.2010

Driver's TD Sparks Pack!

The Packers wore 1929 throwback jerseys for this game, and they had an easy time with San Francisco. They outgained the Niners 410-269.

Rodgers threw for 298 yards and three touchdowns. Two of his touchdowns bombs were to Greg Jennings (57 yards) and Donald Driver (61 yards). The Jennings touchdown came on a free-play after Rodgers had drawn linebacker Ahmad Brooks offside. Quarterback Alex Smith countered with a 66-yard touchdown pass to Vernon Davis to cut the lead before halftime to 14-13.

Green Bay owned the last 30 minutes with a defense that gave up just one field goal. On offense, Rodgers and Donald Driver connected on their first possession of the second half for a 61-yard touchdown. In an amazing play by the great Driver, seven 49ers could not bring him down on his way to the end zone and a 21-13 Packer lead.

In the third quarter, Rodgers threw a final touchdown pass to Jennings, and Mason Crosby kicked two fourth-quarter field goals to put it away.

San Francisco	3	10	3	0	16
Green Bay	0	14	14	6	34

Attendance: 70,575

Rookie James Starks ran for 73 yards.



PACKERS

DETROIT
LIONS

3

12.12.2010

7

Are you Kidding?

A shocking upset, but it only got worse. Near the end of a scoreless first half, Aaron Rodgers suffered a concussion while he was diving head first trying to get a first down. Matt Flynn replaced him.

The Lions were led by third-string quarterback Drew Stanton. They kept the ball on the ground most of the game with 41 carries for 190 yards.

After the scoreless first half, Mason Crosby's early field goal in the third quarter looked like it might be enough. But with eight minutes left in the game, Stanton threw a touchdown pass to Will Heller for a 7-3 Lions lead.

The Packers couldn't score, and they suffered a disappointing loss. Rodgers medical condition after the game wasn't clear. In that light, McCarthy reminded the team that, "everything we want to accomplish is still in front of us."¹ As everyone knew, that depended on whether or not they had Aaron Rodgers.

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Detroit	0	0	0	7	7

Attendance: 57,659

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 63



PACKERS
NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS

27
31

12.19.2010

With Aaron Rodgers in the concussion protocol and Matt Flynn starting against the heavily-favored Patriots, McCarthy rallied the Packers leading up to the game with the call and challenge of *We're nobody's underdogs!*

The Packers took the game right to the Pats with an onside kick to start the game. Nick Collins recovered it, and Mason Crosby's field goal made it 3-0. Flynn played extremely well with two first-half touchdown passes. His 66-yard connection with James Jones stunned the Foxboro faithful, and his second touchdown was a one-yard toss to Greg Jennings. The Packers led 17-14 at the break.

Early in the third quarter, Kyle Arrington's pick-six gave the lead back to New England 21-17. Flynn responded with a 69-yard drive, and he fired his third touchdown to John Kuhn. After trading field goals early in the fourth quarter, Green Bay led 27-24 with 11:05 left.

Tom Brady's second touchdown pass proved to be the eventual winner with 7:14 left. Green Bay's final drive made it to New England's 15-yard line before Flynn was sacked for the fifth and final time. After the game, Donald Driver remarked, "We didn't win the game. But after that game, we knew we could play with anybody again."¹

Green Bay	3	14	7	3	27
New England	7	7	7	10	31
Attendance:	68,756				

GB outgained New England 369-249.

¹ If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 166



NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

17 12.26.2010
45

Rodgers Returns!

To make the postseason, Green Bay needed to defeat the Giants and Bears on the road. Aaron Rodgers was cleared to play in this all or nothing battle. Both teams needed a victory to keep their postseason hopes alive.

The Packers never trailed, and the Giants “were swept right off their feet”¹ by Rodgers. A-Rod had a career day with 404 yards passing and four touchdowns. He started with two touchdowns in the first quarter that Giant quarterback Eli Manning matched in the second quarter. Before halftime, fullback John Kuhn’s eight-yard touchdown run gave the Pack a 21-14 lead.

Green Bay’s defense shut down the Giants with four picks and two fumble recoveries. They outscored New York 24-3 in the second half with Rodgers throwing two touchdowns to Donald Lee and John Kuhn. Kuhn also scored on the ground as the Packers won going away.

Rodgers sensational performance moved the Packers one step closer to the postseason. This great win also started the longest winning streak in Green Bay Packer history – 19 games – that extended through the first 13 games of 2011!

New York	0	14	3	0	17
Green Bay	14	7	10	14	45

Attendance: 70,649

GB gained 515 yards.

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 73



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

3
10

1.2.2011

We're In!

The Bears wanted to keep the Packers out of the postseason. The Packers wanted to make the postseason for the second straight year with Aaron Rodgers.

To keep Green Bay out, Lovie Smith played his starters all game. In the lowest scoring game between the rivals in nearly 20 years, defense dictated all the action. Neither team generated more than 300 yards, and the Packers couldn't move the ball on the ground (60 yards). Chicago couldn't protect their quarterback, Jay Cutler, and Erik Walden's three sacks led the Packer sack attack with six. The defense also picked off two passes.

Late in the second quarter and late in the third, field goals by Robbie Gould and Mason Crosby made it a 3-3 game. After Crosby's kick, the game's only touchdown came early in the fourth quarter. Rodgers drove the Packers 75 yards in five plays. Passes to Donald Driver and Greg Jennings covered 67 yards and put them at the doorstep. Tight end Donald Lee caught the short touchdown pass for a 10-7 lead with 12:42 to go.

On Chicago's final drive, they reached the Packer 32-yard line before a Nick Collins interception closed it out.

Chicago	0	3	0	0	3
Green Bay	0	0	3	7	10

Attendance: 70,833

The Bears gained just 227 yards.

NFC Wild Card Game



1919-2018

PACKERS

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

21

1.9.2011

16

Winning a second game in Philadelphia was a big challenge and a great way to start the postseason. The third-seeded Eagles were slightly favored, but Green Bay's defense prevailed and did not allow Philadelphia quarterback Micheal Vick to get untracked (32 yards rushing) and control the tempo of the game.

Vick was sacked on the first play from scrimmage by linebacker Desmond Bishop. For most of the game, the Packers kept Philadelphia's offense guessing by disguising their defensive scheme. Green Bay's was also tough to stop on offense. Rookie James Starks injected new life into the ground game with 123 yards.

Aaron Rodgers threw for three touchdowns with the first two going to Tom Crabtree and James Jones for a 14-3 halftime lead. Both Vick and Rodgers threw third-quarter touchdown passes for a 21-10 Green Bay lead.

With eight minutes left in the game, Vick led a 75-yard drive to the Green Bay one-yard line. On fourth down, he dove in for the touchdown to make it a four-point game with 4:02 left.

The Eagles got the ball back with 1:45 left. They moved quickly from their 34 to the Packers' 27-yard line. On first down with 44 seconds left, Vick went for the end zone and Riley Cooper. In a moment, "that will stick in the memories of Eagles' fans just like fourth-and-26 will stick in the memories of Packers' fans,"¹ Tramon Williams leaped in front of Cooper and intercepted Vick's pass, and the Packers moved on.

Commenting on the win, broadcaster Troy Aikman said, "This thing that has impressed me is (the Packers) have never used injuries as an excuse. They have never done it. I have never heard the coaches use it as an excuse. I have never heard the players use it as an excuse. And that's rare. That comes from Mike McCarthy."²

Green Bay	7	7	7	0	21
Philadelphia	0	3	7	6	16

Attendance: 69,144

"The little boy who loved his Green Bay Packers died on December 29 from leukemia. Ryan Luxem, 11, of Union Grove, Wisconsin had been battling T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia since 2006. He was undergoing treatment once again when he was surprised with a visit from Packer running back Ryan Grant in November."³

Erik Walden: "I didn't really have a favorite team. As I grew up in the dorms in college, we were fans of Madden (video game). I used to be the Green Bay Packers, believe it or not, because the colors were the same as my high school. How ironic it is that I'm playing for the Packers. I'm just happy to be here."⁴

1 The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 81

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wolfley, p. 2c

3 Packer Plus, 1/13/2011, Nickel, p. 2

4 Packer Plus, 1/13/2011, p. 18

NFC Divisional Playoff



PACKERS

ATLANTA

FALCONS

48

1.15.2011

21

Rodgers Shines!

The Packers returned to the Georgia Dome for a rematch with the #1 seeded Falcons who finished the regular season 13-3. In November, the Falcons defeated the Packers 20-17 on a 47-yard field goal by Matt Bryant with nine seconds left.

In one of greatest games of Aaron Rodgers' young career, this upset of top-seeded Atlanta established the sixth-seeded Packers as the hottest team in the Super Bowl chase. Their defense held the high-flying Falcons to 194 total yards, and they forced four turnovers and delivered five sacks.

But it didn't start that way as Greg Jennings' fumble near midfield led to Michael Turner's 12-yard touchdown run. The Packers came back with an 81-yard drive and a Jordy Nelson touchdown catch to tie it. On the ensuing kickoff, Eric Weems got the Atlanta crowd off its feet with a 102-yard kickoff return to retake the lead 14-7.

Green Bay answered with a touchdown run by John Kuhn. Kuhn followed big defensive tackle B. J. Raji over right tackle and into the end zone. This touchdown began an impressive run of five straight Green Bay touchdowns against the #1 seeded Falcons.

"It starts up front. We were in control of the line of scrimmage,"¹ said Mike McCarthy. The control allowed Rodgers to pick apart the Atlanta secondary and play, "like a possessed man,"² said Matt Flynn.

With 2:30 left before the break, Tramon Williams made the first of two interceptions of Matt Ryan. His stole this pass in the end zone, and the Packers proceeded 80 yards in the opposite direction. With 48 seconds left, a Rodgers to James Jones touchdown made it 21-14 Packers. Undeterred, the Falcons drove right back into Packer territory. On a second and 19 from the Green Bay 35, Tramon Williams stepped in front of a Matt Ryan pass intended for Roddy White and went 70 yards for the decisive blow. It gave the Packers a 28-14 lead at the break, and it stunned the Atlanta crowd so much, you could easily hear the "Go Pack Go!" chants echoing in the dome!

The second half was a foregone conclusion after Green Bay took the kickoff and drove 80 yards for another score. A seven-yard run by Rodgers made it an insurmountable 35-14 lead.

Green Bay generated 442 total yards and Rodgers finished the game 31-36-366-3-0-1. "His performance against Atlanta was arguably the greatest postseason game ever by a Packers quarterback and one of the finest in NFL history."³

Green Bay	0	28	14	6	48
Atlanta	7	7	0	7	21
Attendance:	69,210				

GB never punted!

"Next Week Is For All The Cheese"⁴ said a sign spotted in the stands of the Bears-Seahawks playoff game.

- 1 The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 91
- 2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/16/2011, McGinn, p. 7c
- 3 If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 173
- 4 Packers Plus, 1/20/19

NFC Championship Game



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

21

1.23.2011

14

Super Bowl Bound!

For only the second time in their history, the Packers and Bears met in the postseason. The last time was in 1941, one week after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. That outcome went Chicago's way, but this time, the Packers prevailed.

The Packers opened the game with an 84-yard touchdown drive that picked up right where they left off in Atlanta. Rodgers went four-for-four on the drive, and he scored the touchdown. In the second quarter, he led the way on a short 44-yard drive that James Starks finished for a 14-0 Packer lead with 11:13 to go before halftime.

In the third quarter, trailing 14-0, Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler injured his knee and left the game. He was replaced by Todd Collins who threw four incomplete passes before being replaced by coach Lovie Smith with Caleb Hanie.

On Green Bay's first drive of the second half, they were on the verge of putting the game out of reach. On Chicago's six-yard line, Rodgers was intercepted by Brian Urlacher. Urlacher headed down the sideline with only one person between him and the end zone – Aaron Rodgers. Urlacher made a move inside, but Rodgers made a clutch tackle and brought Urlacher down on Chicago's 45-yard line. "We just couldn't get the game to a three-score game,"¹ McCarthy said afterward.

After Urlacher's interception, Green Bay's offense lost the momentum it had been riding since the Atlanta game. In the second half, they couldn't run the ball (16 yards). Rodgers

completed only seven of 18 passes for 90 yards with one interception and no touchdowns.

In the fourth quarter, the Bears got on the scoreboard to make it 14-7 with 12:05 left in the game. Two possessions later, Packer defensive tackle B. J. Raji dropped into coverage and intercepted Caleb Hanie's pass to Matt Forte. Raji went 18 yards for a touchdown – did a great dance in the end zone – and restored Green Bay's 14-point lead with 6:12 to go.

The Bears hit back just over one minute later. Caleb Hanie's 35-yard touchdown strike to Earl Bennett kept them close 21-14. After the Packers went three-and-out, the Bears took over again with 2:53 left. After three first downs, They marched to Green Bay 29-yard line. On fourth-and-five, Hanie's pass to Johnny Knox was intercepted by Sam Shields with 47 seconds left!

The Packers proudly accepted the George Halas Trophy as the NFC Champion at Soldier Field. "We always thought we were a very good football team. Now we have a chance to claim greatness and bring the Lombardi Trophy back home."²

Green Bay	7	7	0	7	21
Chicago	0	0	0	14	14
Attendance:	62,377				

Steve Newman, a Wisconsin native, and his son David probably traveled the farthest, coming in from Wasilla, Alaska. The tickets cost \$3,300 for the pair. He didn't care. He had to show his son what it's like to cheer for the Packers. 'It was his first pro game. It was worth every penny, every second of it. To watch his face, that's what the Packers are about, a family experience.'"³

*"To come into enemy territory and win is beyond words, to hear 'Go Pack Go' is beyond description"*⁴ Jeff Roznowski of Wauwatosa.

*"Mike Scaminaci, an airline pilot from Chicago, proudly wore his green and gold jersey. 'I fly, and I am closer to God, and God is a Packer fan,' Scaminaci said with a grin."*⁵

Packer Fan Tours: "It's unbelievable, it's overwhelming. We're selling out airlines and properties as we speak and adding more."⁶

From Lambeau61: "Living in Chicago, words do not describe the feeling I have. I have been here for seven years. This is bragging rights forever not only for me, the wonderful state of Wisconsin, along with the franchise. Unreal! Now a Super Bowl victory would put the icing on the cake."⁷

Bill Brye: "I have lived in Knoxville for 21 years having moved here from Wisconsin. It's hard to explain to people here what it is like being a Packer fan. UT football is great, but there's nothing like Packer football; as a child growing up in the La Crosse area, on Sunday's after church, you gathered in front of the television with your family, ate lunch, listened to Ray Scott and watched Packer football."⁸

Inventor of the Cheesehead! "Milwaukee's, Ralph Bruno, 49, told the Los Angeles Times the idea dawned on him in 1987 when Chicagoans were calling Wisconsinites cheeseheads. He made the first one out of foam from his mother's couch. His wedges have blossomed into Foamation Inc, and he is the big cheese in the industry thanks to the taunts from flatlanders. 'Don't get me wrong I don't dislike Bear fans. I hate to say it, but I guess I've made a living off them."⁹

Mike McCarthy on the plane arriving in Green Bay and going through the terminal: "It was awesome running the 'gauntlet.' It was incredible. You could hear the fans when you were getting off the plane. It was something I'll never forget; it was unbelievable."¹⁰

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, D'Amato, p. 5a

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Hunt, p. 8c

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 6a

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 1

5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 6a

6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Jones, p. 6a

7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, p. 9c

8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, p. 9c

9 Packer Plus, 1/27/11, Hart, p. 26

10 Packer Plus, p. 22

Super Bowl XLV



1919-2018

PITTSBURGH
STEELERS
PACKERS

25
31

2.6.2011

Green Bay became the first sixth-seeded team from the NFC to reach the big game. A great matchup pitted two of the most decorated franchises in NFL history, and the game lived up to its name!

The young and confident Packers (14-6-0) squared-off against the veteran Steelers (14-5-0) who had won Super Bowls XL and XLIII. Twenty-five Steelers had played in a Super Bowl – just two for the Packers – and they were five-point favorites.

This game belonged to Aaron Rodgers. He started fast on Green Bay's second series with a beautiful 29-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. On the next play from scrimmage, defensive tackle Howard Green hit Ben Roethlisberger's arm as he released his pass. Nick Collins grabbed the wounded duck and went 37 yards for a 14-0 Packer lead with just 11 minutes gone in the game!

Just before halftime, the Packers threatened to blow the game open. Jarrett Bush picked-off Ben Roethlisberger and four plays later, Rodgers and Greg Jennings hooked up for a 21-yard touchdown and a stunning 21-3 Green Bay lead. Pittsburgh woke up, and five plays after Charles Woodson broke his collarbone, Roethlisberger tossed an eight-yard touchdown pass to Hines Ward.

The Packers did not escape the first half without injuries. Both Charles Woodson and Donald Driver were lost for the game in while Sam Shields and Nick Collins missed stretches of time due to injuries. An emotional locker room at halftime eventually

refocused the Packers for a pressure-packed second half as the Steelers mounted their comeback.

On their first drive, Pittsburgh narrowed it to 21-17 on Rashard Mendenhall's eight-yard touchdown run. Green Bay's offense struggled in the third quarter, but the game turned their way on the first play of the fourth. With Pittsburgh driving for the go-ahead touchdown, Clay Matthews and Ryan Pickett hit Mendenhall to force a fumble that Desmond Bishop recovered on Green Bay's 45-yard line! Rodgers wasted no time. He threw seven straight passes and found Jennings open in the end zone. Packers 28-17.

Roethlisberger stormed back with a touchdown, and Randle El's two-point conversion made it 28-25. With 7:29 left, the Packers drove 70 yards to the Pittsburgh five-yard line. The key play came on the drive's first third down when "Rodgers rifled a throw so hard that even though it crazed the fingertips of cornerback Ike Taylor, it stayed on course for Jennings to haul it in."¹ The 31-yard bullet to Jennings led to Mason Cosby's 23-yard field goal that made it a six-point game with 2:10 left.

The Steelers needed a touchdown to salvage the Super Bowl. After the kickoff, Roethlisberger had 1:59 for go 87 yards. After completing two passes, he missed on the next three to send the Lombardi Trophy back to Green Bay!

Pitsurgh	0	10	7	8	25
Green Bay	14	7	0	10	31
Attendance:	91,060				

Aaron Rodgers was voted MVP (24-39-304-3-0).

A story we could all tell? To be ready for the Super Bowl, fans had prepared all week. "They had purchased big screen TVs and recliners. They had donned their colors early Sunday and hurried through such pre-Super Bowl warm-ups as walking the dog, cleaning the garage and shopping for green and gold party plates to go with the cold beer, cheddar brats, and chicken wings. They wrapped their newborns in Tiletown towels. They prayed – hard – and had even lit candles after Sunday Mass. Many resorted to their superstitions, sporting the same sweatshirts, jerseys and beads they have been wearing since the

Packers elbowed their way into the playoffs and started their Super Bowl run.”²

“We’re a community-owned football team, so you can see all the fingerprints on our trophy. It was passed around. Everybody had a lot of fun with it.”³

Alison Struve of DePere: Just to be surrounded by so many people who care about this team. It’s more than a game. It seems bigger than that.”⁴

Packer Fan Tim: “The last six games were incredible. My friends and I met at a bar every week to watch and had a lot of fun cheering on the Packers. We all have families, and it is hard to get away on Sundays, but it was well worth it.”⁵

Packer Fan: “Cried like a baby.....got online to read the posts and started cryin’ again.”⁶

Who needs a ticket? “The Baier family, transplants from Wisconsin, held a reunion on a patch of grass at an apartment complex across the street (from AT&T Stadium) Philip Baier, his wife, Jeannie, and a couple of their kids drove from Florida, picked up a few more family members in Georgia and made it to Texas a few hours before kickoff. It was 23 hours door to door because of the icy roads. They cooked brats on the grill, drank beer and watched the game with other fans on television sets perched on tables.”⁷

Aaron Rodgers on Charles Woodson: “You know all week he talked about the one thing he wanted to do was celebrate with his little son, Charles, in the, you know, in the confetti here.”⁸

Running back Brandon Jackson: “That jersey (#32) will not be washed. It will be hung up, framed.”⁹

Rev. Susan Paterson-Sumwalt: “ ‘Somewhere in the world, the loser of the Super Bowl will be the winner.’ She meant the losing team’s preprinted incorrect, official shirts, done in anticipation of a victory, will go to a good cause. Through a long-standing partnership between the NFL and World Vision, millions of dollars of Super Bowl paraphernalia and other championship shirts are sent to poor countries. Which means a lot of Steelers Super Bowl Champion T-shirts will soon end up overseas.”¹⁰

- 2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/8/11, D'Amato, p. 3c
- 3 Post-Crescent, 2/7/11, Walsh -Nufer, p. A -4
- 4 Post-Crescent, 2/7/11, Woods. P. A-3
- 5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Victory Tour, 2/13/11, p. 25
- 6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, p. 21s
- 7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, Glauber, p, 9s
- 8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/8/11, Walker, p. 2c
- 9 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/9/11, p. 1c
- 10 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, Herzog/Carey, p, 18s



2010 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

Chicago	11-5-0
Green Bay	10-6-0
Detroit	6-10-0
Minnesota	6-10-0

Team Leaders

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Jennings
Rushing	Jackson
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Williams
Sacks	Matthews

All-Pro

Collins	Safety
Matthews	Linebacker
Woodson	Cornerback

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Bryan Bulaga (1, OT)
Mike Neal (2, DE)
Morgan Burnett (3, S)
Andrew Quarless (5a, TE)
James Starks (6, RB)
C. J. Wilson (7, DE)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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