



2008



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2008

Record: 6-10-0 (4th Place)

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In March, Brett Favre announced he would retire from football. Tensions mounted when he changed his mind as training camp approached. In one of the most controversial and consequential trades in Packers history, Favre was traded to the New York Jets on August 7, 2008.
- Green Bay started 2-0 before losing five of seven. After beating Chicago in November, they lost five straight. The defense had difficulty protecting a late lead.
- Aaron Rodgers threw for over 4,000 yards in his first season as the starter. As expected, the team slipped offensively. Ryan Grant emerged as the teams' leading running back.
- The more significant drop in performance came on the defensive side of the ball. They gave up nearly 100 more points than in 2007.
- Regarding Favre's departure:
*Oh, somewhere in this confusing mess,
Could someone shed some light.
Brett wants to play 'gain somewhere,
And it's causing quite a fight.*

*Now, somewhere could be Lambeau.
But, somewhere else won't do.
And there won't be joy in Tiletown,
If those colors are purple or blue. ¹*

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Heller, p.6



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

19
24 9.9.2008

New Start

The post-Brett Favre Era was underway. A Monday Night Football debut for Aaron Rodgers went very well as he threw for 178 yards and a touchdown. He even had "a 68-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver called back."¹ Eighteen of his of 22 passes were on target, and he scored the winner with six minutes left in the game. Not bad!

After a field goal by former Packer Ryan Longwell, the Packers led the rest of the way. A touchdown pass from Rodgers to fullback Korey Hall made it 7-3, and Mason Crosby matched Longwell for a 10-3 lead at intermission.

Will Blackmon's 76-yard punt return gave Green Bay some breathing room 17-6. But at the start of the fourth quarter, Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Sidney Rice. With the Vikings closing-in at 17-12, Rodgers would be tested for the first time as the starter.

Starting at the 28-yard line with under nine minutes left, Ryan Grant's 57-yard run put the Packers at Minnesota's two-yard line. On his second try at a quarterback sneak, Rodgers took it in for a 24-12 lead with six minutes left. A 77-yard drive and Adrian Peterson's touchdown run made it 24-19 with 2:39 left.

A three-and-out by Green Bay gave the Vikings another shot with 1:51 left. At midfield, Jackson's pass was intercepted by Atari Bigby for the win!

After the game, Rodgers said, "It's just one win; you've got to keep it in that context, but it's an important win. It's a new

team with a lot of changes, but there's still a lot of confidence in that lockerroom."²

Minnesota	0	3	3	13	19
Green Bay	0	10	7	7	24
Attendance: 71,004					

Ryan Grant injured his hamstring.

*Rodgers took his first Lambeau Leap after his touchdown run. "I've been dreaming about that for four years."*³

*"A midday luncheon served up a feel-good menu. The Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay and the Miracle League of Green Bay we honored for their youth fitness initiatives. Recognition came from the Packers, NFL, ESPN and national sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods. The invitation-only event was not broadcast. It was attended by 150 league, Packers, and ESPN officials, sponsors and representatives of community organizations and businesses."*⁴

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Dougherty, p. 36

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Dougherty, p. 36

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Walter, p. 1

⁴ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Gerds, p. 35



PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

48
9.14.2008
25

No Problem

After shedding the pressure of starting and winning his first game at Lambeau Field, Rodgers exploded with three first-half touchdown passes against the Lions. In his first road game, he threw touchdowns to James Jones, Donald Driver, and Jordy Nelson for a 21-3 first-half lead.

In the second half, Jason Hanson's three field goals and Calvin Johnson's two touchdown catches got the Lions back in it. Johnson's second touchdown gave them the lead 25-24 with seven minutes left.

The first comeback win for Aaron Rodgers had a ferocious final seven minutes. The turning point was a six-play, 59-yard drive that led to Mason Crosby's field goal and a 27-25 lead. The defense closed the deal with Charles Woodson's interception that led to Brandon Jackson's touchdown run with 3:31 remaining. A pick-six by both Woodson and Nick Collins in the last three minutes and the Packers won going away.

Green Bay	7	14	3	24	48
Detroit	0	3	6	17	26

Attendance: 60,285

Greg Jennings caught 6 passes for 167 yards.



1919-2019

DALLAS
COWBOYS
PACKERS

27
16

9.21.2008

Stopped

This was the Dallas Cowboys' first win ever at Lambeau Field.

The game belonged to Dallas after Mason Crosby's field goal gave Green Bay a 6-3 lead with three minutes gone in the second quarter. Six minutes later, Rookie Felix Jones hit the right side of the line for a 60-yard touchdown sprint that gave Dallas a 10-6 lead it never relinquished.

Tony Romo led the offense that put up 453 yards. Marion Barber accounted for 142 on the ground. Barber's touchdown run along with Romo's 52-yard touchdown pass to Miles Austin in the second half put the game away.

After three red zone visits without touchdowns, the Packers finally scored with 2:11 left in the game on a one-yard run by Rodgers. Green Bay never got the ball back, and the Cowboys remained undefeated at 3-0.

Dallas	3	10	7	7	27
Green Bay	3	3	3	7	16

Attendance: 71,113

Rodgers was sacked 5 times.

Herbert Barnes, fan: "You should see my den. It is absolutely full of Packer memorabilia. I've got my stock, a letter from Bob Harlan, my Super Bowl ticket stubs – it's a shrine. My wife passed away in 1996, the year the Packers won the championship. Years before, she bought me a mug that had the front page of the Green Bay paper on it. It was the picture of Max McGee catching a ball, and it was titled, "Max McGee's Swan Song." When she passed away, Lee

*Rommel (Packer historian) asked me if my wife had given me anything that I'd like to give to the Packer Hall of Fame, and I gave them the cup. Now it's in the Hall, in memory of my wife. She was a great lady and a real fan."*¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 67



PACKERS

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS

20

9.28.2008

31

No offense

Beyond two touchdowns to Greg Jennings, the offense struggled. Jennings caught six passes for 109 yards, but the entire offense produced only 181.

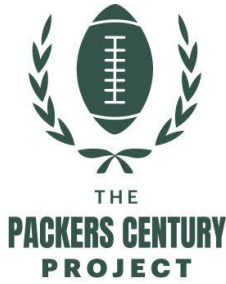
Ryan Grant carried 15 times for 20 yards, and the entire ground game managed just 28. Tampa's defense was led by veteran Derrick Brooks, who forced a fumble that was returned for a touchdown and he also intercepted a pass. The defense pressured Rodgers often and sacked him three times. The Packers managed just eight first downs, with only one in the second half.

In the fourth quarter, after a sack, Rodgers left the game with a shoulder injury. But when Matt Bryant's third field goal lifted the Bucs into a 23-21 lead, Rodgers returned only to throw an interception that led to Tampa's clinching touchdown.

Green Bay 7 0 14 0 21

Tampa Bay 0 13 7 10 31

Attendance: 64,122



1919-2019

ATLANTA
FALCONS
PACKERS

27
24

10.5.2008

Rookie quarterback Matt Ryan led the Falcons to this road victory. With a sprained shoulder, Aaron Rodgers practiced very little during the week, but he insisted on playing hurt. He had no interest in sitting out his fifth game as a starter after just replacing Brett Favre. Some people wondered, "Is Aaron going to miss more games in his first season as the starter than Favre missed in 16 years under center for the Packers?"¹

He played hurt, but the Packers lost for a third straight time. The Falcons took a 10-0 lead on Ryan's first touchdown pass and a Jason Elam field goal. Rodgers and the offense finally found a rhythm in the second quarter, and his 44-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver made it 10-7. Ryan and Roddy White then hooked up for six and Atlanta led 17-7.

Other than a Mason Crosby field goal, all of the scoring in the second half took place in the fourth quarter. It started with an interception in the end zone by Tramon Williams. The pick not only stopped Atlanta, but it ignited an 80-yard drive. Rodgers' 25-yard touchdown pass to Greg Jennings tied it 17-17.

Atlanta retook the lead on Jason Elam's second field goal. They led by 10 after Rodgers was picked off and Michael Turner eventually ran it in with 3:35 left. Rodgers came back with his third touchdown pass, but it was not enough. While he played very well, some fans expected more from him despite the injury.

Atlanta	10	7	0	10	27
Green Bay	0	7	3	14	24

Attendance: 70,610

¹ If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee/Reischel, p. 138



PACKERS
SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS

27
10.12.2008

17

Rodgers rolls!

Just in time to avoid dropping too far back in the race for the postseason, the Packers defeated their former coach, Mike Holmgren, and 1-3 Seahawks to end their three-game skid. They took advantage of an injured Seattle team that played without its quarterback, former Packer, Matt Hasselback.

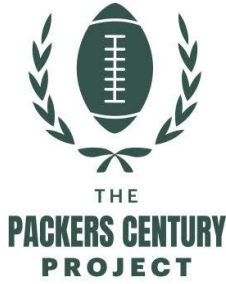
Seattle scored their first touchdown after an Aaron Rodgers fumble. They enjoyed an early 10-3 lead. But the Seahawks didn't score again until there were three minutes left in the game. The Packers tied the game before halftime on a one-yard sneak by Rodgers.

After intermission, Rodgers found Greg Jennings for six and a 17-10 Packer lead. When they got the ball back, a 15-play drive stretched the lead to 24-10 when John Kuhn scored from the one-yard line. Overall, the play of a healthy Ryan Grant – 33 carries for 90 yards – helped Green Bay to control the ball while the defense held the Seahawks to five three-and-outs and 177 total yards.

Green Bay	3	7	7	10	27
Seattle	0	10	0	7	17

Attendance: 68,302

Rodgers: 21-30-208-2-0



1919-2019

INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS
PACKERS

14
34 10.19.2008

This was a convincing win over Peyton Manning and the Colts. Indy's only lead came on a three-yard touchdown run by Dominic Rhodes. It completed an 80-yard drive in 10 plays that featured a critical Manning to Reggie Wayne completion that kept the drive alive.

The Packers came back with a Rodgers touchdown pass to Donald Lee. Before halftime, Ryan Grant's 11-yard touchdown run made it 17-7.

The defense stood tall, "by dominating one of the NFL's all-time great quarterbacks."¹ Manning completed just 21 of 41 passes, and in the second half, he was intercepted twice. Both were returned for touchdowns. Safety Nick Collins brought one back 62 yards in the third quarter, and Aaron Rouse finished off the Colts with a 99-yard pick-six with four minutes left!

The defense shut down receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne. They caught only four passes for 35 yards as the Packers got physical and disrupted their timing. "The biggest thing was we were able to get our hands on their receivers,"² said linebacker Nick Barnett. The Packers entered the bye week at 4-3, and in a first-place tie with Chicago.

Indianapolis	7	0	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	14	10	7	34

Attendance: 71,010

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/08, Dougherty, p. 29

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, p. 31



1919-2019

PACKERS

TENNESSEE

TITANS

16

11.2.2008

19 (OT)

Seven field goals ruled this contest. Unfortunately for Green Bay, the seventh came from Tennessee to win it in overtime.

Other than field goals by Mason Crosby and Rob Bironas, the only touchdowns came back-to-back in the second quarter. Green Bay took a 10-6 lead on a Rodgers to Donald Driver touchdown. On the ensuing drive, LenDale White dashed 54 yards into Green Bay territory. It set up Chris Johnson's touchdown run to retake the lead before the break 13-10.

In the second half, it was all defense and field goals. A fumble by Rodgers on a sack led to a third Bironas third field goal and a 16-10 lead. Crosby tied it with two more kicks, and Bironas sent it to overtime after missing from the 47. The Titans won the coin toss and marched into Packer territory where Bironas won it from the 41-yard line. "The Packers missed a chance to make a major statement. Taking down the league's last unbeaten team – in its stadium no less – would have sent a message the Packers are for real."¹

Green Bay 0 10 3 3 0 16

Tennessee 3 10 3 0 3 19

Attendance: 71,010

Rodgers was sacked four times.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/08, Demovsky, p. 32



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

27
28

11.9.2008

A.P.

The Vikings had the upper hand for most of this game. They led until late in the third quarter as their defense held Green Bay to 12 first downs and 184 yards overall.

The Vikings took a first-half lead on a touchdown pass, a field goal, and two safeties by Aaron Rodgers. The safeties came when Rodgers was flagged for intentional grounding in the end zone, and when he was sacked in the end zone by Jared Allen. At halftime, the Vikings led 14-10.

Trailing 21-10 after another Minnesota touchdown, two long-distance strikes by Green Bay reclaimed the lead. A 59-yard pick-six by Nick Collins and a 65-yard punt return by Will Blackmon put Green Bay back in control 24-21. When Adrian Peterson fumbled on Minnesota's 41-yard line with eight minutes left, the Packers missed a golden opportunity to put the game away. They were stopped short of a touchdown and had to settle for a field goal and a six-point lead, 27-21, with six minutes left.

The Vikings drove 69 yards for the winning touchdown behind Adrian Peterson. A. P. gained 64 of the 69 yards, and he finished the drive with a 29-yard touchdown run with 2:22 left. This topped off an incredible day of 192 yards rushing and another 33 receiving. On Green Bay's final drive with 26 seconds left, Mason Crosby missed a 52-yard field goal.

Green Bay	7	3	14	3	27
Minnesota	7	7	7	7	28

Attendance: 63,845

Rodgers was sacked 4 times, and LB Nick Barnett was injured and lost for the season.



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

3
37 11.16.2008

After being roughed up by Minnesota, Aaron Rodgers was kept completely clean in his first game against the archrival Bears! Green Bay snapped its two-game losing streak with this blowout win. Ryan Grant led a potent ground game with 145 yards and a touchdown. It's "the best I've felt all season,"¹ he said, and the offense looked unstoppable with 427 yards.

The Packers took a 7-0 lead at the end of the first quarter with a Rodgers to Jennings touchdown. The Bears scored their only points of the game a few minutes later on Robbie Gould's field goal. Thirty unanswered points began with Ryan Grant's touchdown run.

Aaron Rodgers threw a second touchdown pass to Donald Lee, and he picked the Bears apart all game (22-30-227-2-1). The defense was outstanding, holding the Bears to nine first downs and 234 yards. Defensive end, Jason Hunter, even recovered a fumble and went 54 yards for a touchdown!

Chicago	0	3	0	0	3
Green Bay	7	10	7	13	37

Attendance: 71,040

GB moved into first-place with the Bears and Vikings.

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame*

On the way into this game, Steve Schumer heard a Packer fan yell to a group of fans who were wearing Chicago Bears jerseys, "Hey, Bear Fans!" Schumer couldn't believe what he heard next! After the Bears fans turned around to see who shouted at them, the same Packer fan said, "Just wanted to welcome you to Lambeau Field. We're glad you came, and we wish you guys a great experience. Have a great game!"

* Interview: 1/9/17

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/08, Demovsky, p. 35



PACKERS

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS

29

11.24.2008

51

Shocker!

Drew Brees outplayed Aaron Rodgers, and the Saints rolled. After not scoring on their first possession, New Orleans went on a tear through the Packer defense. They scored on their next six possessions, and Brees threw for 323 yards and four touchdowns.

Brees' first touchdown pass went to Lance Moore. He found Moore again later in the game to take the lead 21-14. Rodgers, who had thrown a touchdown pass to Greg Jennings earlier, scored on a 10-yard run that tied the game at 21. New Orleans led at halftime 24-21.

The Saints controlled the rest of the game. They opened the second half with an 80-yard scoring drive. On Green Bay's next series, Jason David intercepted Rodgers and returned it to the three-yard line. Deuce McAllister scored for a 38-21 lead. Five minutes later, the Saints added one for good measure with a 70-yard bomb from Brees to Marques Colston.

Green Bay	7	14	0	8	25
New Orleans	14	10	21	6	51

Attendance: 70,668

NO outgained GB 416-343.



1919-2019

CAROLINA
PANTHERS
PACKERS

35
31 11.30.2008

This was another loss to a powerful opponent from the NFC South. The 8-3 Panthers were led by DeAngelo Williams who scored four one-yard touchdown runs.

With poor defense in the last two games, Green Bay's postseason chances were in serious jeopardy. While this loss was another blow, "the math says the Packers have a chance to win the division if they win out and finish 9-7."¹

Carolina capitalized on poor punting and special teams. Green Bay's defense had trouble with the balanced attack of the Panthers as quarterback Jake Delhomme threw for 177 yards and the ground game added 128 and five touchdowns.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 298 yards and three scores. With the game tied 28-28, Rodgers went six-for-six on a 79-yard drive, and Mason Crosby kicked his third field goal for a 31-28 lead. With two minutes left, Steve Smith "got inside position"² on Charles Woodson and made a circus catch for a 54-yard gain to the one-yard line. Williams scored his fourth touchdown on the next play.

Carolina	7	14	0	14	35
Green Bay	0	10	11	10	31

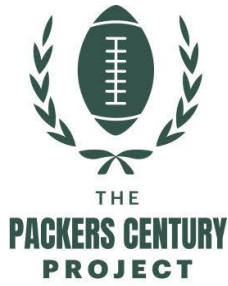
Attendance: 70,297

DeAngelo Williams on his touchdowns at Lambeau Field: "I was looking up at the names like Bart Starr and Reggie White that ring the stadium. The snow was falling. You could see your breath. It was unbelievable. Just to hear the words 'frozen tundra' gives me the chills."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Dougherty, p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Pelissero, p. 33

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Fowler, p. 37



1919-2019

HOUSTON
TEXANS
PACKERS

24
21

12.7.2008

Not close enough...again

Green Bay's offense put up 387 yards. Houston racked up 513. That's the story of this game, and pretty much the entire season for Green Bay. With the loss, Green Bay's playoffs chances took another brutal blow.

Houston quarterback, Matt Schaub started for the first time in three weeks after an MCL injury. He torched the Green Bay secondary for 414 yards and two touchdowns. Along with a ground game that produced 141 yards, Houston's offense was hard to handle. But turnovers plagued the Texans, and four almost proved to be too much to overcome.

In the first quarter, an interception by Tramon Williams led to a tying touchdown. With six minutes left in the game and the Texans leading 21-14, a muffed punt by Jacoby Jones was recovered by Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers and Jordy Nelson cashed-in with a nine-yard touchdown for a 21-21 deadlock. A short time later, with under three minutes left, the Packers were driving. But a penalty and a sack took them out of field goal range, and with just under two minutes to play they punted. Schaub's arm carried the Texans right through the Green Bay defense for a 40-yard field goal as time expired.

Houston	7	3	0	14	24
Green Bay	0	7	0	14	21
Attendance:	70,245				



PACKERS
 JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS

16
 12.14.2008
20

Final blow

This loss eliminated Green Bay from the postseason. In a 13-7 first half, the Packers held the advantage with two field goals from Mason Crosby and an Aaron Rodgers to Greg Jennings touchdown.

In the fourth quarter, Cowboys running back Maurice Jones-Drew took over. He scored two touchdowns, one through the air and one on the ground. The first pulled Jacksonville to within one 14-13. After Crosby kicked his third field goal and the Packers led 16-14, Gerrard (21-33-238-2-0) marched the Jags downfield with a series of big plays. His 41-yard completion to Dennis Northcutt got them rolling. Five plays later, Jones-Drew took it in from the three with 1:56 left. On Green Bay's final drive, Rodgers was intercepted to end it.

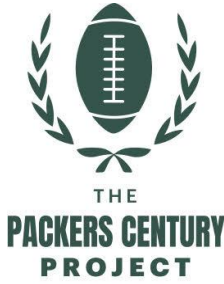
Green Bay	3	10	0	3	16
Jacksonville	7	0	0	13	20

Attendance: 65,457

GB made four trips inside the red zone. They scored once.

"Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver will sign his new children's book, "Quickie Makes the Team" from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Suamico Shopko."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/08, p. 5



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

17

12.22.2008

20 (OT)

On a chilly day along the shores of Lake Michigan – minus 13 degrees wind chill – the Packers won for the first time since beating the Bears in November.

As has happened too frequently this season, Green Bay got off to a good start and faded in the second half. They took a 14-3 lead into the locker room on two Aaron Rodgers touchdown passes to Greg Jennings and Ryan Grant.

In the second half, a Chicago punt bounced off Jarrett Bush and was recovered by the Bears. They capitalized and cut Green Bay's advantage to 14-10. Early in the fourth quarter, an interception by Charles Woodson returned the favor, but the Packers managed only a field goal and led 17-10.

Green Bay couldn't stop the Bears. They tied it on Matt Forte's touchdown with 3:11 to go. Green Bay drove back into field goal range, and with 25 seconds left, Crosby's kick was blocked by Alex Brown to force overtime. On the first possession of overtime, Robbie Gould won it on a 38-yard field goal.

Green Bay	3	14	0	3	0	17
Chicago	0	3	7	7	3	20

Attendance: 62,151

*"Shovelers are needed to clear Lambeau Field today in preparation for Sunday's game against the Detroit Lions. Recent snowfall has left the stadium under a blanket of white – enough to warrant removal. If there's more snow during the week, there could be another round of shoveling before Sunday's game. The Packers need about 350 people and will provide shovels for all who come. Shovelers must be at least 15-years old and will receive \$8 an hour."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/08, p. 3



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

21
31 12.28.2008

The Packers finished 6-10 after defeating the winless Lions. Detroit became the first team since the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers to play a full season without a win. In this finale, Rodgers threw for three touchdowns. Two came in the fourth quarter to put away Detroit. Rodgers was sacked four times, but the Packers handled the Lions when they had to.

Detroit	0	7	7	7	21
Green Bay	14	0	0	17	31

Attendance: 70,141

GB outgained Det 484-316.



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**
1919-2018

2008 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	10	6	0
Chicago	9	7	0
Green Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	0	16	0

Team Leaders

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Grant
Receiving	Jennings
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Collins, Woodson tied w/7
Sacks	Kampman

All-Pro

Collins	Safety
Woodson	Cornerback

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Jordy Nelson (2a, WR)
Pat Lee (2c, RCB)
Jermichael Finley (3, TE)
Jeremy Thompson (4a, DE)
Josh Sitton (4b, G)
Breno Giacomini (5, T)
Matt Flynn (7a, QB)
Brett Swain (7b, WR)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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