

SEASON
62

1980



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1980

Record: 5-10-1 (5th Place – last)

Coach: Bart Starr

- Green Bay's #1 draft pick, defensive end Bruce Clark of Penn State, decided to play in Canada and not in Green Bay.
- Ezra Johnson was caught eating a hotdog on the bench during the last preseason game which led to the resignation of defensive line coach Fred von Appen.
- Rumors abound early in the season about Starr's eventual demise. At season's end, he was stripped of his General Manager responsibilities.
- Defensively, they changed to a 3-4 alignment with little improvement. John Meyer replaced Dave Hanner as defensive coordinator.
- Offensively, Eddie Ivey returned to lead the team in rushing with 874 yards. He teamed with rookie Gerry Ellis to lead a resurgent ground game.
- Lynn Dickey threw 15 touchdowns and 25 interceptions. The Packers scored the fewest points in the league, but Dickey's 3,529 yards passing were the most in Packer history up to that point.



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

6 9.7.1980
12 (OT)

Chester!

This was one of the most remarkable openers in Packers history. Photos of the winning play even appeared above the fold in the Green Bay Press-Gazette on November 8th.

Before the stunning finish, Green Bay's defense was the story. Walter Payton was held to 65 yards rushing, and the game was a field goal contest between Marcol and Bob Thomas. The shortest of the four kicks was 34 yards, and it came from Thomas with 11:35 left in the third quarter.

It stood 6-6 at the end of regulation time. In overtime, the Bears went nowhere on their first possession. They punted to midfield where Green Bay took over. Quarterback Lynn Dickey, who did not have a good game (10-22-13-0-1), connected with James Lofton on first down for a 32-yard gain to set up the field goal attempt. Chester Marcol's kick bounced off Alan Page's helmet right back to Marcol! He caught the ball and ran around left end untouched into the end zone! "It was clear sailing,"¹ said a delirious Marcol in the locker room."¹

The great broadcaster Lindsey Nelson was so stunned as the play unfolded, his classic call still resonates, "Taken by Marcol. Chester Marcol! Chester Marcol takes it in!"² The Packers released Marcol on October 8, 1980, after nine years.

Chicago	3	0	3	0	0	6
Green Bay	0	6	0	0	6	12

Attendance: 54,381

¹ packershistory.net/1980Packers

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA2fHoUkG2g&t=77s&fbclid=IwAR2DMOSSkbyZJ6o54qDabfPd7fiwLZtaWamJLXjQDMMRPEGNgKFI5WpBghQ>



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

29
7 9.14.1980

1-1

Detroit rookies Billy Sims and Eddie Murray starred in this easy win over the 1-0 Packers. Sims scored two touchdowns, and Eddie Murray kicked five field goals and two extra points for all of Detroit's points. The Lions' offense pushed around the Packers for 459 total yards.

Green Bay led only briefly, 7-6, in the second quarter on Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown. The lackluster offense managed just 59 yards rushing and Lynn Dickey was intercepted twice and sacked three times. After two games, the Packers look "inept, boring and punchless"¹ with one touchdown and two field goals.

Detroit	3	13	6	7	29
Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 54,099

Milwaukee County Stadium

"It used to be a sin to play football on Sunday. The way the Packers play, it still is."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/80, Christl, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/80, Larson, p. 17



PACKERS

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

21

9.21.1980

51

Ouch!

A 37-point second quarter by the Rams settled matters. Vince Ferragamo and Elvis Peacock sparked this rout, and the Packers trailed 51-7 before scoring twice in the final eight minutes. Ferragamo threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers, and Peacock led the ground game and scored a touchdown.

For Green Bay, quarterbacks Lynn Dickey and back-up Bill Troup helped the Rams to 34 points with five interceptions. L. A.'s defense over-powered Green Bay and allowed just 60 yards rushing. They also sacked Lynn Dickey seven times. After losing, Dickey questioned his own performance with, "I'm wondering, if I'm the man for the job."¹

Green Bay	0	7	0	14	21
Los Angeles	7	37	7	0	51

Attendance: 63,850

LA outgained GB 381-192

"Unless all Packer fans and reporters devote every waking moment to the support of the football team, this isn't going to get turned around. It's time that all of us, fan and reporters alike, take a hard look at ourselves. It's time for some soul-searching. Are we doing all we can?"²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/80, Christl, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/80, Walter, p. 17



1919-2019

DALLAS

COWBOYS
PACKERS

28
7 9.28.1980

The Cowboys had no trouble with the Packers. They generated over 400 yards of offense, and Danny White directed four touchdown drives, three of which went for 70, 80 and 90 yards. White threw for 227 yards, and in the second half, his two touchdown passes broke the game open.

The Packers looked lost. Lynn Dickey was 11 for 26 for 141 yards and one interception. He was sacked three times, and the Packers committed nine penalties for 90 yards. Their touchdown came in the second quarter on a Steve Atkins touchdown run. Despite the loss, several players saw progress. "I felt we came together today, despite the score,"¹ linebacker, Mike Douglass said. The running game was indeed a bright spot, and the team hung together and played hard until the very end.

Dallas	7	7	7	7	28
Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 54,776

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/80, Christl, p. 17



CINCINNATI
BENGALS
PACKERS

9 10.5.1980
14

Before this game, Bart Starr got a vote of confidence from the 45-member board. The Packers responded with a win that snapped their three-game losing streak.

Two former Lombardi Packers graced the sidelines in this contest. Bart Starr and his former right tackle, Forrest Gregg, coached against each other, and both teams came into the game 1-3 looking for a win.

The Packers came out on top behind two Lynn Dickey touchdown passes. Both came in the first half. James Lofton caught the first for 15-yard score, and in the second quarter, a 92-yard drive culminated in a short pass to Steve Atkins for six. Green Bay's defense allowed only three field goals, held the Bengals to 216 total yards and sacked Kenny Anderson four times.

Cincinnati	6	0	0	3	9
Green Bay	7	7	0	0	14

Attendance: 55,006

The marching band of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay regaled the fans at halftime!



PACKERS

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS

14

10.12.1980

14

Missed chances

An offensive explosion netted no more than a tie for the Packers. Green Bay put up 569 total yards with most of it from the arm of Lynn Dickey: 51 passes for 418 yards and one touchdown. Dickey's 418 passing yards broke a team record set by Don Horn in 1969. He also broke Bart Starr's team record for pass completions (26) with 35.

Leading 7-0 on Terdell Middleton's first-quarter touchdown run, Dickey threw a pick-six that tied the game. He redeemed himself on the next series with a touchdown pass to Paul Coffman. Trailing 14-7 in the fourth quarter, Tampa tied it again on a touchdown run by quarterback Doug Williams. The Packers' new kicker, Tom Birney, who had just replaced Chester Marcol earlier in the week, missed opportunities both at the end of regulation and in overtime to win it. After the game, as reporters questioned Starr about his decision to release Marcol in light of Birney's misses, "Starr was unwilling to second-guess himself."¹

Tampa Bay	0	7	0	7	0	14
Green Bay	7	7	0	0	0	14
Attendance:	64,854					

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/80, Christl, p. 18



PACKERS
CLEVELAND

BROWNS

21

10.19.1980

26

The Packers did little in the first half. The Browns led 13-0 at halftime behind two Don Cockroft field goals and Mike Pruitt's touchdown run.

In a span of 12 minutes in the third and fourth quarters, Lynn Dickey directed three touchdown drives. Dickey and running back Gerry Ellis scored on the ground in the third quarter. The Packers went in front with 7:23 left on Dickey's 23-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton to take a 21-13 lead.

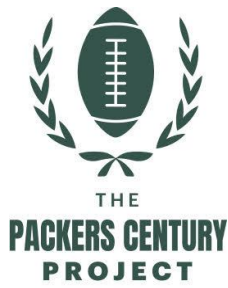
In the final seven minutes, Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe wrapped up a fantastic afternoon (24-39-391-2-0) with two touchdown drives. The first covered 69 yards in two plays with Ozzie Newsome catching a 19-yard touchdown pass to cut the Packer lead to 21-20. With 1:53 left, the Browns got the ball back. With 16 seconds left, Sipe threw a 46-yard touchdown pass to Dave Logan to win it. Logan beat rookie cornerback Mark Lee. Lee, who was so choked-up after the game to the point of tears, said, "I know I can shake it off."¹

Green Bay	0	0	14	7	21
Cleveland	0	10	3	13	26
Attendance:	75,548				

"A Pep Rally for the Packers will be held Saturday at the Lambeau Field parking lot. All Packer players and coaches will attend the rally. Prizes will be given away, and entertainment will be provided by the UW-Green Bay Pep Band and the Packer Sideliners. Admission to the Packer Hall of Fame will be half-price all day Saturday. Packer practice will be open to the public from 11:30 to Noon Saturday. The rally will start at noon."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/80, Christl, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/80, p. 21



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

3
16 10.26.1980

Amazingly, the last time the Packers beat the Vikings in Green Bay was in 1965! After a scoreless first half, the Packers broke the losing streak in the fourth quarter with two touchdown passes by Lynn Dickey.

Field goals by both teams in the third quarter started the scoring. With a 3-3 game in the fourth quarter, nine straight running plays set up the Packers at the four-yard line for Dickey's touchdown toss to tight end Bill Larson. On their next series, Dickey threw the clincher to Paul Coffman with 7:01 left from the 12-yard line. On both drives, the running of Gerry Ellis and Eddie Lee Ivey kept the chains moving. The defense, on the other hand, contained Minnesota's quarterback Tommy Kramer (19-38-222-0-1), and allowed only 85 yards on the ground.

Minnesota	0	0	3	0	3
Green Bay	0	0	3	13	16

Attendance: 59,191

Turnovers: GB 5 MN 3



1919-2019

PACKERS

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS

20

11.2.1980

22

A bad snap by Buddy Aydelette went over the head of Packer punter David Beverly out of the end zone. The safety came with just 1:48 gone in the game, and it made all the difference.

Lynn Dickey picked up right where he left off against the Vikings with two first-half touchdown passes to Gerry Ellis. The first was set up by an interception of Terry Bradshaw. Another bad snap by the Packers on a punt, gave Pittsburg the ball at Green Bay's 24. Bradshaw's seven-yard touchdown to Lynn Swan made it 9-7 Steelers. Dickey came right back with a 69-yard touchdown bomb to Ellis "who outraced Jack Ham, Mike Wagner and Ron Johnson"¹ to the end zone for 14-9 lead at intermission.

In the second half, two field goals by Matt Bahr, and a touchdown catch by Wisconsin native Rocky Blier led Pittsburgh's comeback. Bleier, "rushed four times during the drive for 38 yards,"² and the touchdown was a four-yard pass from Bradshaw with five minutes left. With 46 seconds left, Dickey threw one more touchdown to Aundra Thompson, but Green Bay remained two points short.

Green Bay 7 7 0 6 20

Pittsburgh 2 7 6 7 22

Attendance: 52,165

LB John Anderson broke his arm early in the 3rd quarter.

Rocky Bleier: "The biggest thing for Packer fans is their tailgating frenzy. The Pittsburgh fans are kind of the same way in their elaborate tailgates. I think Packer fans have first dibs on that. They have recognition for their bratwursts and their cookouts and being at Lambeau Field at a time when it may not have been happening at other venues."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/80, p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/08, Christl, p. 29

3 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 159



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers
PACKERS

16
23 11.9.1980

Green Bay's offense continued to click with 415 total yards. But it didn't start that way as the 49ers capitalized Eddie Lee Ivery's fumble in the first quarter for a 7-0 advantage. Later in the quarter, they made it 13-0 before two field goals by Tom Birney, wrapped around Terdell Middleton's touchdown run tied it.

The second half belonged to Green Bay as James Lofton continued his outstanding performance. Overall, Lofton caught eight passes for 146 yards. His catches set up Green Bay's first field goal, first touchdown, and the go-ahead score early in the fourth quarter. Due to injuries on the defense, he also played safety on five plays!

While Lofton and Lynn Dickey tore up the airways, the ground game of Gerry Ellis and Eddie Lee Ivery ran for 174 yards and gained another 44 receiving. Defensively, due to injuries, the Packers used a variety of alignments (5-1-1, 4-1-6, and 3-4-4) that the 49ers were not expecting.

San Francisco	13	0	0	3	16
Green Bay	0	13	0	10	23

Attendance: 54,475



1919-2019

PACKERS

NEW YORK

GIANTS

21

11.16.1980

27

Second-year quarterback Phil Simms threw three touchdowns passes to Earnest Gray to knock off Green Bay. Two of the touchdowns were given up by Packer cornerback Estus Hood. Simms threw for 322 yards to lead the Giants to its second straight win after eight straight defeats.

On New York's first offensive play, Simms connected with Gray for a 50-yard touchdown. After an early 7-7 tie, Green Bay played catch-up. The offense produced 410 yards, and Lynn Dickey threw two touchdown passes. His second touchdown went to James Lofton which cut the lead to 24-21 with eight minutes left. A field goal by New York's Joe Danelo made it a six-point game with 50 seconds left.

Green Bay	0	7	7	7	21
New York	7	7	7	6	27

Attendance: 72,368



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

25
11.23.1980
13

Sweep!

Eddie Lee Ivery and Gerry Ellis ran for 245 yards and two touchdowns to lead Green Bay. Lynn Dickey passed for over 200 yards and one touchdown as the offense dominated the Vikings.

The defense sacked quarterback Tommy Kramer four times, and the Packers took both games from the Vikings for the first time since 1965! After the game, the Packers cut kicker Tom Birney and signed veteran Jan Stenerud.

James Lofton caught five passes for 93 yards to become only the third player in Packers' history to surpass 1,000 receiving yards in a season.

Green Bay	0	10	6	9	25
Minnesota	0	6	7	0	13

Attendance: 47,234

GB outgained MN 443-276



TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS
PACKERS

20
17

11.30.1980

With a chance to get within a ½ game of first place, the Packers lost the Battle of the Bays. Gerry Ellis' early fumble on the Packer 24-yard line led to a touchdown pass by quarterback Doug Williams and a 10-0 Tampa Bay lead.

The Bucs held the lead until a valiant Green Bay rally at the end of the third quarter and early in the fourth. Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run, and minutes later, Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman gave Green Bay a 17-13 edge with 14:06 left in the game. It stayed that through the quarter until the final minutes when Williams marched the Bucs 80 yards in seven plays. A one-yard touchdown run by Johnny Davis with 1:58 left gave the game to Tampa.

Tampa Bay	10	0	3	7	20
Green Bay	0	3	0	14	17

Attendance: 54,225

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB's Jan Stenerud missed a 45-yard field goal in the final seconds.



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

7

12.7.1980

61

It was payback time for the Bears after their stunning overtime loss to the Packers in September. In the rain, they stomped all over Green Bay for 594 total yards. Walter Payton ran for 130 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Vince Evans had a spectacular game (18-22-316-316-3-0).

The Packers scored their only points on a Lynn Dickey to James Lofton touchdown. After the blowout at midfield, Starr exchanged words with Chicago coach Neil Armstrong for blitzing in the fourth quarter, putting Walter Payton back in the game late, and throwing the long ball to run up the score.

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Chicago	0	28	13	20	61
Attendance:	57,176				



HOUSTON
OILERS
PACKERS

22 12.14.1980
3

Earl Campbell beat up Green Bay's defense for 181 yards and two touchdowns. The Packers were never in the game, and their only points came on a Jan Stenerud field goal. Though quarterback Lynn Dickey threw for 309 yards, he also tossed three interceptions. Green Bay ran the ball for just 54 yards and turned it over five times.

Houston	6	3	0	13	22
Green Bay	0	3	0	0	3

Attendance: 53,201

"More than 200 hundred students from six Wisconsin high schools entertained at halftime: Bay Port, Marinette, New London, Pulaski, and West De Pere."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/80, p. 6



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

3

12.21.1980

24

A dismal finish. The Lions' defense allowed just three points, and they sacked Lynn Dickey and David Whitehurst four times. Gary Danielson led Detroit's offense that had little trouble moving the ball. They outgained the Packers 357-190.

After the loss, the Executive Committee of the Board began evaluating Bart Starr and the team because it "has experienced almost nothing but failure for six years."¹

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Detroit	0	10	0	14	24
Attendance:	75,111				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/80, Christl, p. 18



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1980 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	9	7	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	5	10	1
Green Bay	5	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ivery
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Ellis
Interceptions	Gray

ALL-PRO

Lofton Wide Receiver

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

George Cumby (1b, LB)

Mark Lee (2, CB)

Karl Swanke (6, T/C)

Buddy Aydelette (7, T)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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