



**1982**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

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**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

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**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

[packerscentury.com](http://packerscentury.com)



## 1982

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**Record: 5-3-1 (3rd Place)**

**Coach: Bart Starr**

- The day after the 1981 season, "The board of directors of the Green Bay Packers today gave full authority to its seven-man executive committee to decide the fate of head coach Bart Starr."<sup>1</sup> Starr was given a two-year extension.
- Former Packer Bob Schnelker was hired as offensive coordinator. Zeke Bratkowski left for the same position in Baltimore.
- Judge Robert Parins succeeded Dominic Olejniczak to become the team's eight president.
- After the second weekend of the season, the NFL Players Association called a 57-day strike. Play resumed in November. The season was shortened to nine games with an expanded playoff format.
- Before the strike, the Packers were 2-0. During the strike, they held informal workouts at St. Norbert College.
- The work stoppage marked the first time since 1922 that the Packers and Bears did not play.
- The Packers finished 5-3 to qualify for the postseason for the first time since 1972.

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/81, p. 1



LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**

**PACKERS**

**35**

**9.12.1982**

**23**

What an opener as Green Bay staged the biggest comeback in its history. Down 23-0 at halftime, the Packers exploded in the second half for 35 points while the Rams never scored again.

In the first half, L. A. dominated. Though three Packer turnovers led to 13 points, the Rams moved the ball easily in the first half. The passing of quarterback Bert Jones set up both touchdowns with the second going to tight end Mike Barber. Kicker Mike Lansford added three fields goals, and the Packers had dug themselves a deep hole by halftime 23-0.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey led the comeback with three touchdown passes. The first two went to Paul Coffman and James Lofton. In between, halfback Eddie Lee Ivery scored on the ground. With the Rams' lead now cut to 23-21 early in the fourth quarter, the go-ahead score came after the Rams fumbled the kickoff after Lofton's touchdown catch. Guy Prather recovered for Packers on the L. A. 10-yard line! On the next play, Dickey and Coffman hooked up for a second touchdown, and Green Bay led 28-23 with 11:12 left.

Late in the game, Eddie Lee Ivery scored his second touchdown on a 27-yard run up the middle of the defense to seal the deal. After the game, coach Bart Starr who had seen a lot of comebacks in his day said, "This is the greatest comeback I've ever witnessed." High praise.

**Los Angeles 10 13 0 0 23**

**Green Bay 0 0 14 21 35**

**Attendance: 53,694**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*In 2013, GB came from 23 points behind to defeat Dallas.*



**PACKERS**

NEW YORK

**GIANTS**

**27**

**9.20.1982**

**19**

Green Bay staged another comeback, this time on Monday Night Football. The game would be the last one played before a strike by the players stopped the season until mid-November. Before the game, in a show of solidarity, the players met at midfield for a handshake.

Green Bay's comeback started late in the third quarter after two first-half power outages darkened the Meadowlands for 26 minutes! Touchdown runs by Joe Morris, and Cliff Chatman of the Giants staked New York to a 19-7 lead. Late in the third quarter, the comeback spark was lit by an end-around play to James Lofton. Following a key block thrown by quarterback Lynn Dickey, Lofton sprinted 83 yards untouched into the end zone. At the time, it was the third longest touchdown run in Green Bay history.

Early in the fourth quarter, Eddie Lee Ivery scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 11-yard run. With Green Bay's defense holding New York scoreless, two field goals by Jan Stenerud provided insurance for Green Bay's win. Regarding the strike? Lynn Dickey looked at the bright side. "If there's going to be a strike, I'd rather be 2-0 rather than 0-2."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>68,405</b>				

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1982Packers

**57 Day Strike = 9 game season**



MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**11.21.1982**  
**26**

## **We're back!!**

*"It was a big win over the Vikings at County Stadium in Milwaukee. James Lofton and John Jefferson ran around the stadium before game time high-fiving fans! I still have the Packers cap I bought that day, still in perfect condition!"\* Packers Fan Pat Kinney's 1<sup>st</sup> Game*

The Packers remained undefeated with this easy win. They outgained the Vikings 359-184, and as the Press-Gazette reported, "they seemed unfazed by their eight-week layoff."<sup>1</sup>

In the second quarter, after two field goals by Jan Stenerud, the Vikings scored to lead 7-6. The Packers came right back. A 76-yard touchdown drive that Lynn Dickey finished off with a 5-yard toss to Eddie Lee Ivery gave Green Bay a 13-7 halftime lead. On the second half kickoff, Green Bay's safety Maurice Harvey stole the football from Sam Harrell of Vikings and ran 25 yards to the end zone! Eddie Lee Ivery's second touchdown of the game closed the scoring.

The only matter that did not go Green Bay's way came in the quarter after all the points were scored. Dickey was sacked by Mark Mullaney and had to leave the game with a bruised hip. It was one of eight sacks that the Vikings put on Dickey, and David Whitehurst had to finish the game.

<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>

**Attendance: 44,681**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*This Packers game in Milwaukee had 4,799 no-shows, the third fewest in the league.*

*"Funny, we can say we didn't miss football on TV all those weeks. Life*

*was not total agony. But, with winter about to get down to some serious business, Sunday afternoons suddenly look a bit more bearable for some of us. And just in the nick of time.”<sup>2</sup>*

\* Facebook Story

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/82, Christl, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/82, Gerds, p. 11



**PACKERS**

NEW YORK

**JETS**

**13**

**11.28.1982**

**15**

### **3-1**

The Jets defense stymied the Packers again (see 12/20/81). Green Bay couldn't run the ball, but Lynn Dickey and Phillip Epps connected for two first-half touchdowns and a 13-6 halftime lead. Epp's second touchdown catch was set up by Mike Douglass' interception of New York quarterback Richard Todd.

Shortly after halftime, the Jets drove 61-yards and scored on Mike Augustyniak's four-yard run to make it 13-12 Packers. After a poor punt by Ray Stachowicz of the Packers, the Jets were given another scoring opportunity. They marched 48 yards to the Packers nine-yard line where Pat Leahy kicked a field goal for the lead.

Late in the game, the Packers took a turnover by the Giants and drove from their two-yard line to New York's 32. With just under five minutes to play, Jan Steneud missed a 50-yard field goal.

After the game, Bart Starr protested the vicious forearm to the helmet on John Jefferson by linebacker Stan Blinka. The Jets were penalized 15 yards for a personal foul, but Blinka was not ejected. About the loss, Starr said, "you need a better performance against the Jets because they are level above some of the teams we've beaten in the past."<sup>1</sup>

**Green Bay    6    7    0    0    13**

**New York    6    0    9    0    15**

**Attendance: 53,872**

*GB was outgained 355-263*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/82, p. 19



BUFFALO  
**BILLS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**33** 12.5.1982

Both Green Bay and Buffalo were 3-1, and the Packers prevailed in a rainstorm. On the field, the mud ran four inches deep, and both coaches were upset about the conditions.

Despite the fact that he never played in “worse conditions”<sup>1</sup> during his 16-year career, Jan Stenerud kicked four field goals for the Packers! Three of them came after Buffalo turnovers and the Bills turned it over five times!

After Buffalo took a 7-6 lead, the Packers scored the next 23 straight points. They took the lead when Gerry Ellis’ fumble rolled into the end zone and recovered by rookie Del Rodgers. Lynn Dickey had another fine game (14-23-195-1-1), and Eddie Lee Ivey’s touchdown run gave Green Bay a two-touchdown lead early in the second half. Buffalo never recovered, and their two fourth-quarter touchdowns came in the final minutes.

<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Attendance: 46,655</b>					
<b>Milwaukee County Stadium</b>					

<sup>1</sup> [packershistory.net/1982PACKERS](http://packershistory.net/1982PACKERS)





DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**30**  
**10** 12.12.1982

The Lions won in Green Bay for the first time since 1975. The loss knocked the Packers out of first place as Lynn Dickey and David Whitehurst threw five interceptions and were sacked nine times.

In the first half, Detroit capitalized on three interceptions of Dickey for 17 points. It didn't get any better in the second half. Alvin Hall of the Lions returned the second-half kickoff 96 yards for a 30-0 Detroit lead. Green Bay's only points came on a Jan Stenerud field goal and a Garry Ellis touchdown run. The Press-Gazette had plenty to write about after the game. Green Bay's poor play was outlined in detail in, "20 reasons why the Pack lost."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>51,875</b>				

*GB completed 19 of 52 passes.*

*Doug English, Detroit Lions: "There's something very interesting about the way of life up there. I guess they're shaped by bitter cold and long winters, but families all hung together. If mom and dad went to the bar, they take their kids with them. And at the game, fans weren't calling you names. They were backing their team, and that's exactly what they should do. I have an undying respect for the people and the team and the fans."*<sup>2</sup>

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/82, p. 23  
 2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 73



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

BALTIMORE

**COLTS**

**20**

**12.19.1982**

**20 (OT)**

The Packers were "riding high"\* before they stumbled in Baltimore. Packer FAN Hall of Fame member Steve Schumer drove to the game from New Jersey with friends. He recalled thinking before the game, "The Packers finally have a good team. We're having a winning season, which was unheard of, and I'm going to really, really enjoy this game."\*

On a snowy day against the winless Colts, it looked promising early. Green Bay got out to a 20-6 lead behind touchdowns by John Thompson and Eddie Lee Ivery. Jan Stenerud also kicked two field goals before things fell apart. A short punt by Ray Stachowicz from the end zone, along with a facemask penalty, set up Baltimore's first touchdown drive at Green Bay's 19-yard line. They tied the game with 1:22 left in regulation after a 55-yard touchdown drive by Baltimore. In the overtime, the Packers blocked a Baltimore field goal, and with 1:56 left, Jan Stenerud's 47-yard field goal attempt went wide right.

Paul Coffman shared his concerns after the game. "I hope it will wake us up. The last two weeks we haven't played worth a damn."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance: 25,920**

*Sacks: GB 3 BAL 4*

\* Interview: November 2016

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/82, Christl, p. 35



**PACKERS**

ATLANTA

**FALCONS**

**38**

**12.26.1982**

**7**

The Packers needed to win one of their last two games to make the playoffs for the first time since 1972. They got down to business fast and trounced Atlanta.

Eddie Lee Ivery's two touchdown runs in the first half gave Green Bay a 14-0 lead. While the Falcons cut it to 14-7, the Packers hit back right after the ensuing kickoff with Lynn Dickey's 80-yard touchdown to James Lofton. In the second half, the first time they had the ball, Dickey and Lofton connected again for a 57-yard touchdown that pretty much settled matters.

The offense's 411 yards was the most it had generated all season. Dickey threw for 248 yards. The defense held Atlanta's powerful ground game to just 58 yards, and they sacked quarterback Steve Bartkowski four times. Falcons' coach Leeman Bennett was impressed. "Green Bay was the best team we have played with the possible exception of the Raiders."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>50,245</b>				

*Lynn Dickey threw for 248 yards.*

*"The Packers have sold approximately 25,000-30,000 playoff tickets to season ticket holders so far, a team spokesman said today....(any) remaining tickets will probably go on sale Monday."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/82, p. 19

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/82, p. 19



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**24**

**1.2.1983**

**27**

The Lions clinched their first postseason berth since 1970.

In the first quarter, both teams scored on their first possession. Quarterback Gary Danielson of the Lions threw two touchdown passes in the first quarter that gave Detroit the edge 14-7. Though Lynn Dickey found James Lofton for six in the first quarter, Dickey had a rough outing throwing four interceptions in the first half. Rookie Bobbie Watkins picked off three of them leading to two field goals.

After the Packers scored late in the third quarter to take a 24-20 lead, a controversial ruling on a fumble right in front of the Packer bench went Detroit's way. Seven plays later, quarterback Eric Hipple, who had just come into the game with 10:34 left, led the Lions back into the lead with five minutes left.

**Green Bay      7      7      10      0      24**

**Detroit        14     3      3      7      27**

**Attendance: 64,377**

*In a front page photo, "Tim Clark shows the six tickets he bought for the Packers' playoff game. Clark showed up at the Packer Ticket Office at 5am today."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/83, p. 1

## NFC Playoffs – 1<sup>st</sup> Round



ST. LOUIS

**CARDINALS**

**PACKERS**

**16**

**1.8.1983**

**41**

In the first postseason action at Lambeau Field since the Ice Bowl in 1967, Bart Starr praised his team's effort and play as the best game "in his eight years as head coach."<sup>1</sup>

St. Louis got on the scoreboard first with Neil O'Donoghue's field goal. After the first quarter, the Packers scored the next 28 points to take control. Lynn Dickey had an outstanding game throwing for 286 yards and four touchdowns. John Jefferson caught two of the touchdown passes, the first one a 60-yard bomb in the first quarter to put Green Bay ahead to stay. Eddie Lee Ivery ran for two scores, both after turnovers.

After quarterback Neil Lomax and Pat Tilly hooked up for a St. Louis touchdown in the second quarter, Green Bay scored the next 13 points to negate a late Cardinal touchdown with eight minutes left. Quarterback Neil Lomax rifled 51 passes for St. Louis for 385 yards and two touchdowns.

But it wasn't nearly enough as the Packers' ground game kept the St. Louis defense guessing with 108 yards rushing. The passing game went off without a hitch as John Jefferson led receivers with six catches for 148 yards and two touchdowns. After the game, the team gave the game ball to Bart Starr.

<b>St Louis</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>

**Attendance: 54,282**

*"Things (got) a little chaotic up in Section 21, what with a guy shedding everything from the waist up and offering his body as a*

*snowball target. He revels in the attention doing a scarecrow-type dance as white missiles rain on him from above.”<sup>2</sup>*

*The costliest casualty of the post-game madness was a \$7,000 set of Lambeau Field goal posts torn down and carted off by jubilant fans. “We’ve had this happen before, but this is the first time they got the whole post. Usually, they leave the bottom part”<sup>3</sup> said Lambeau Field groundskeeper Earl Du Chateau.*

*“The Green Bay Packers did not sell out Saturday’s playoff game with the Cardinals. It was the first non-sellout in Green Bay since a game against the Washington Redskins in 1959.”<sup>4</sup>*

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, Christl, p. 31
- 2 Green Bay Press Gazette, 1/9/83, Langenkamp, p. 2
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, Chatman, p. 1
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, p.31

## NFC Playoffs – Divisional Playoff



1919-2018

**PACKERS**

DALLAS

**COWBOYS**

**26**

**1.16.1983**

**37**

“If ever a team can feel good about the way it performed in defeat, it should be the Packers.”<sup>1</sup> In their first postseason battle since the Ice Bowl, the teams put up 841 yards of offense in an exciting game of big plays.

In the second quarter, Lynn Dickey got the Packers going with a 20-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton to lead 7-6. Dallas struck back in the final seconds of the half with an 80-yard touchdown drive. On Green Bay’s first play from scrimmage on their next series, a pick-six by Dennis Thurman of the Cowboys with 14 seconds left in the half made it 20-7.

Field goals dominated the third quarter. Early in the fourth, a reverse from Eddie Le Ivery to James Lofton went for a 71-yard touchdown to trim the lead to 23-19. The Cowboys came right back riding the arm of quarterback Danny White with an 80-yard drive to push the lead to 30-19. Despite Mark Lee’s pick-six that brought the Packers to within four 30-26, Dallas countered quickly with a Robert Newhouse touchdown with 4:24 remaining to finish the scoring.

The Packers rolled over Dallas with 363 yards in the second half, but the comeback fell short. Ultimately, five turnovers by the Packers and four sacks by the Cowboys told the tale.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>37</b>

**Attendance: 63,972**

*GB ran 53 plays and DAL ran 76.*

*Super Bowl Kringle! In 1982, the Packers were playing the Cowboys. My friends and I held a playoff party in a friend's basement. A Kringle*

*(Danish pastry) was purchased and brought which along for a pre-game treat. During the exciting game, the Kringle wasn't opened, so it was put in the freezer after the Packers lost. As we were wallowing in our misery, my brother-in-law declared to everyone in the room that if the Packers ever won a Super Bowl, we would eat that Kringle. Everyone agreed and drank a toast. The Packers wouldn't make it the Super Bowl until January of 1997!!! When we arrived for the Super Bowl Party, my brother-in-law had the Kringle all cut up ready for a Packer victory! When the Packers defeated the Patriots 35-21 to win Super Bowl XXXI, we all drank a toast and finished off the Kringle piece by piece. Mine found its way into the trash can, but others were trying to wipe out their mouths with towels and killing the taste with Whiskey. Victory never tasted so sweet!!\* Packers Fan, Mike Becker*

\* Story submitted by Mike Becker

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/83, McGinn, p. 1





THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2019

## 1982 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Washington	8	1	0
Dallas	6	3	0
Green Bay	5	3	1
Minnesota	5	4	0
Atlanta	5	4	0
St. Louis	5	4	0
Tampa Bay	5	4	0
Detroit	4	5	0
New Orleans	4	5	0
New York	4	5	0
San Francisco	3	6	0
Chicago	3	6	0
Philadelphia	3	6	0
Los Angeles	2	7	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ivery
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Stenerud
Interceptions	Anderson

### ALL-PRO

Cumby	Linebacker
Douglass	Linebacker
Lofton	Wide Receiver

### NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ron Hallstrom (1, G)  
Del Rodgers (3, RB)  
Robert Brown (4, LB)  
Eddie Garcia (10, K)  
Phillip Epps (12, WR)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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