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1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

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2011

Record: 15-1-0 (1st – NFC North Champions)

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- The off-season news was dominated by a lockout of the players by the owners from March 12-July 25. A new 10-year collective bargaining agreement was eventually signed.
- Ted Thompson and Mike McCarthy signed contract extensions.
- The Packers put together a franchise record 15-1 regular season. They were undefeated through 13 games and, along with their six wins at the end of 2010, their 19 straight is the second longest streak in NFL history.
- Aaron Rodgers won his first NFL MVP Award. He threw 45 touchdowns and only six interceptions. He broke Lynn Dickey's record for the most yards passing in a season set in 1983.
- The team had the #1 offense in the league scoring 560 points the third most in league history at the time. Defensively, they ranked 32nd (last) in yards allowed, but 19th in points allowed.
- Ryan Grant returned to the lineup after being injured in 2010.
 He and James Starks led the ground game.
- On November 7th, Rodgers and his receiving corps appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated as "The Perfect Pack."
- The franchise announced the 5th stock sale in its history on December 6, 2011. Shares cost \$250.00.
- In January, the son of assistant coach Joe Philbin died in an accidental drowning.



34 9.8.2011

A great opening night for the NFL. A nationally televised game on a Thursday Night matched the last two Super Bowl Champions who slugged it out with 76 total points!

The Packers used their no-huddle offense to start the game, and they scored in nine plays! In the first 13 minutes of the game, Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to Greg Jennings, Jordy Nelson, and Randall Cobb. Saints quarterback Drew Brees countered with one touchdown, and the first quarter ended 21-7 Packers. In the second quarter, the teams traded touchdowns, and the Saints added a field goal for a 28-17 game at halftime.

After a New Orleans field goal started the second half, the teams marched up and down Lambeau Field for another 28 points! It continued to be quite a debut for rookie Randall Cobb who added a record-tying 108-yard kickoff return to his first-quarter touchdown! Brees kept it close though (35-27) with a touchdown pass to Devery Henderson.

In the fourth quarter, Rodgers led a 93-yard drive in 12 plays that John Kuhn finished off with a one-yard run. Undaunted, Brees hooked up with his tight end Jimmy Graham to keep it within eight 42-34 with 2:15 to go.

In a heart-stopping final drive, the Saints went 70 yards to the Packers nine-yard line. With no time left on the clock, a pass interference penalty in the end zone on Green Bay's A. J. Hawk put the ball at the one-yard line. With no time on the clock and one play to run, rookie Mark Ingram got the ball. Somehow "the Packers' defense that allowed the Saints to pile up 477 total

net yards of offense wouldn't allow one more."

Ingram was stuffed B. J. Raji and Ryan Pickett and the Packers won this battle of NFC heavyweights!

New Orleans 7 10 10 7 34 Green Bay 21 7 7 7 42 Attendance: 70,555

Packer fan Steve Tate of DeForest, Wisconsin, on the new season: "It's in our blood. Green and gold. It's a big community with a long tradition that means a lot to a lot of us." 2

"We're an hour before game time, and the place is almost full" *s* observed season ticket-holder Joel Hermann.

"The NFL's pre-game spectacle was impressive. There was a Super Bowl-type buzz in the air. Which is exactly what the league wanted." 4

"Green Bay is like Las Vegas. It shouldn't exist, but it does" said Blair Daoust, of North Bay, Ontario. 5

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Demvosky, p. 33
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 1
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 4
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Vandermause, p. 34
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 4



This game was the first meeting between Aaron Rodgers and rookie quarterback Cam Newton. Rodgers got the best Newton in this one, as the rookie threw three interceptions and was sacked four times.

In his first game in front of the home crowd, Newton threw 46 times for 432 yards and one touchdown! On his first series, he completed six passes on a 10-play drive that went for a touchdown. When the Packers fumbled the ensuing kickoff, it led to the first of two Carolina field goals. Before the half, John Kuhn's touchdown run cut the Panthers lead to 10-7.

Green Bay stormed out of the locker room to take over the game. In five plays, Rodgers connected with Greg Jennings on a 49-yard strike to take the lead. On Carolina's next series, Charles Woodson's first interception set up a Mason Crosby field goal. Woodson also recovered a fumble that led to another field goal (Crosby kicked three). By the fourth quarter, it was 23-13 Green Bay.

The Packers iced it with an 84-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. With under three minutes left, it completed an excellent game by Rodgers (19-30-308-2-0).

Green Bay 0 7 16 7 30 Carolina 10 3 0 10 23

Attendance: 73,167

Donald Driver became GB's all-time leader in receiving yards.



27 9.25.2011

17

Big D

The Packers returned to the scene of last year's NFC Championship Game that put them in the Super Bowl!

This game was no contest. Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdowns to Jermichael Finley to knock out the Bears. His first two touchdowns led to a 17-10 Green Bay lead. On the two scoring drives, Rodgers completed eight of 11 passes. Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler came back with a touchdown pass and, after trading field goals, Green Bay led 17-10 at intermission.

The Packers controlled the final 30 minutes. They put the pressure on the Bears with another Mason Crosby field goal, and a third touchdown pass to Finley. The Bears couldn't run the ball (13 yards), and Matt Forte was held to two yards. Quarterback Jay Cutler also threw two interceptions. "We just completely stuffed them. We just did a good job up front, the linebackers coming up, made them one-dimensional." 1 said Ryan Pickett.

Green Bay led 27-10 with 13 minutes left. The Bears cut it to 27-17 after a Packer fumble, but that was as close as they came. Ryan Grant (95 yards) and Greg Jennings (110 yards) put up the big yards for Green Bay, and the defense held Chicago to 291 total yards with two interceptions and three sacks.

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

Attendance: 62,339

"Family Services will host its 23rd annual Green and Gold Gala fundraiser with the Green Bay Packers at 6:00 p.m. Thursday in the

Lambeau Field Atrium. More than 20 former players – including Lynn Dickey, Paul Coffman, Zeke Bratkowski and Frank Winters – will join guests for dinner and auctions to benefit Family Services' child and youth programs. Tickets cost \$150 or \$1500 for a business table sponsorship."2

- 1 Green Bay Press Gazette, 9/26/11, Dougherty, p. 29
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/11, p. 3



23 10.2.2011

"Four touchdowns passing, two touchdowns running, and 400-plus yards through the air. No NFL quarterback in history had pulled off that trifecta, according to the Elias Sports Bureau."1

An amazing game for Mister Rodgers. The Packers trailed 3-0 in the first quarter when Rodgers began to heat up. They scored three touchdowns in four minutes starting with a 50-yard bomb from Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. On Denver's next series, a pick-six by Charles Woodson made it 14-3. The Packers recovered the ensuing onside kick and cashed it in with an 11-yard touchdown run by Rodgers! Denver quarterback Kyle Orten hit back with two touchdown passes to Eric Decker, but a Rodgers to Jennings touchdown closed the first-half scoring at 28-17 Green Bay.

The Packers locked up the game in the second half. Rodgers led three scoring drives for a 49-17 lead. He scored his second touchdown on the ground while turnovers by Denver led to two more touchdown passes from Rodgers!

Denver 3 14 0 6 23 Green Bay 14 14 14 7 49



10.9.2011

14

The Falcons jumped out to a 14-0 lead, and their prospects for exacting some revenge against Green Bay for their victory in the postseason last year looked promising.

After a 14-6 first half, the Packers slowed down Atlanta's ground game. They held Michael Turner 65 yards overall, and the game turned into a quarterback duel between Matt Ryan and Aaron Rodgers.

Mason Crosby's third field goal made it 16-9 in the third quarter. The Packers took control with two Aaron Rodgers touchdown passes while Matt Ryan threw two interceptions! James Jones caught "a perfect strike from Rodgers on a post pattern" 1 that went 70 yards for six points late in the third quarter. Early in the fourth quarter for the knockout blow, Greg Jennings made a fantastic catch for a 29-yard touchdown.

The Falcons didn't have an answer. The Packers sealed the deal with a six-minute drive and Crosby's fourth field goal with a minute left. Green Bay was 5-0!

Green Bay 0 6 9 10 25 Atlanta 7 7 0 0 14

Attendance: 69.576

Cosby kicked a 56-yard FG to tie his franchise record.

"The sizable contingent of Packers fans could be heard above the din of the crowd shouting "Go Pack Go!" throughout the game." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 10/10/11, p. 27

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/11, Vandermause, p. 28



3 24 10.16.2011

No problem

Even in throwback jerseys, Green Bay's offensive juggernaut continued. Aaron Rodgers put the game away quickly with three touchdown passes. The Rams kept pace with Green Bay in yards gained, but they couldn't keep pace visiting the end zone.

In the second quarter, Rodgers continued on his torrid pace with three touchdown passes against in injury-riddled St. Louis secondary. A 33-yarder went to James Jones, a 93-yard bomb found Jordy Nelson and a seven-yard toss to Driver put the 0-5 Rams in a deep hole. Green Bay's defense gave up a lot of yards, but no touchdowns. St. Louis was 3 for 13 on third downs, and quarterback Sam Bradford was sacked three times, and he threw one interception.

St. Louis 0 3 0 0 3 Green Bay 3 21 0 0 24

Attendance: 70,604

In six games, Rodgers has thrown 15 touchdowns and three picks.



33 10.23.2011

27

In the first half, Minnesota set the pace, and Green Bay stayed close. Touchdowns passes from Christian Ponder of the Vikings, and Aaron Rodgers got the scoring started. Adrian Peterson also scored on the ground, and the Vikings led at halftime 17-13.

Rodgers lit up the second half immediately. In the first five minutes of the third quarter, he threw two more touchdowns passes. On his 79-yard touchdown pass to Greg Jennings, "Rodgers threw on a flat line while rolling to his right, and Jennings was so wide open that he jogged in from the 40."1 Cobb's great punt return set up Rodgers' touchdown to Jermichael Finley. Rodgers and his receivers were confident, and after the game, Greg Jennings said, "it really doesn't matter who's on the opposing team. We have the mindset we are going to beat our guy."2

In the second half of the third quarter, Charles Woodson took over. His two interceptions led to Mason Crosby field goals, the second a team-record 58 yarder. With a 33-17 lead, the Packers held on and went into their bye week 7-0.

 Green Bay
 7
 6
 20
 0
 33

 Minnesota
 7
 10
 0
 10
 27

Attendance: 63,946

¹ Sports Illustrated, Layden, 11/7/12, p. 62

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Copeland, 10/24/11, p. 27



45 11.6.2011

The Packers started the season 8-0 for the first time since 1962! They took this game convincingly, but not before a late rally by San Diego.

Aaron Rodgers was outstanding. He threw four touchdown passes without an interception (21-26-247-4-0), and he ran for 52 yards! After trading first-quarter touchdown passes with quarterback Phillip Rivers of the Chargers, the Packers defense stepped in. On back-to-back possessions, Rivers was picked off twice. Charlie Peprah and Tramon Williams took both picks back for touchdowns.

Leading 21-7, the Packers didn't let up. Jordy Nelson caught a 16-yard touchdown pass right before halftime for a 28-17 lead. The Rodgers and Rivers duel heated up after halftime as Rivers brought San Diego to within seven points on his 11-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates. Early in the fourth quarter, Rodgers threw touchdowns to James Jones and Greg Jennings for a 45-24 lead with 10:45 remaining. The Chargers responded with two more touchdowns from Rivers, but it wasn't enough. Green Bay's defense gave up 460 yards, but never the lead.

Green Bay 7 10 7 14 45 San Diego 7 10 7 14 38

Attendance: 69, 908

"The Green Bay Packers have teamed with the American Red Cross for a blood drive from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday at Lambeau Field. All blood types are needed. Visitors can also sign pre-printed holiday cards donated by Oshkosh-based Miles Kimberly Company which sends messages to service members."1



7 45

A Monday win!

In a Monday Night blowout of the Vikings, there was never any doubt. Aaron Rodgers threw for four more touchdown passes without an interception. Less than two minutes into the game, Randall Cobb started the rout with an 80-yard punt return. Rodgers then threw touchdowns to Greg Jennings, Jordy Nelson (2), and John Kuhn. On the day, he went 23 of 30 for 250 yards.

Minnesota's only points came in the third quarter on Adrian Peterson's touchdown run. The Packer defense held Peterson to 51 yards rushing, and the Vikings to 266 total yards.

Minnesota 0 0 7 0 7 Green Bay 14 3 14 14 45

10-0!

The Packers match the best start in franchise history with this win. The Packers were 14-point favorites, but they didn't put this game away until late.

The Packers scored on their opening drive when defensive tackle B. J. Raji bulled his way into the end zone to finish off the 88-yard drive. They stretched it to 14-0 when Rodgers and tight end Tom Crabtree connected. After Tampa Bay cut it to 14-10, an unexpected onside kick was recovered by Green Bay on Tampa's 38-yard line! Four plays later, Rodgers to Jordy Nelson made it 21-10 at the break.

The Bucs narrowed it to 21-19 early in the fourth quarter. John Kuhn's touchdown run pushed Green Bay's lead to 28-19. With five minutes left, Rodgers was intercepted by Ebert Mack, and the Bucs scored in five plays to make it 28-26. Green Bay recovered another onside kick, and Rodgers and Nelson hooked up again, this time for 40 yard strike.

Tramon Williams closed it out with a second interception. "It doesn't look pretty. We make plays at the end. Get picks, do something to close out the game. We definitely do not like giving up that many yards (342)," said defensive tackle Ryan Pickett.

 Tampa Bay
 0
 10
 3
 13
 26

 Green Bay
 7
 14
 0
 14
 35

[&]quot;The annual appearance of the University of Wisconsin Marching band is always a treat for Packer fans." 1



The Packers avoided the downfall that befell the undefeated Packers of 1962 by defeating the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving Day to move to 11-0. The Packers were never threatened, and Aaron Rodgers threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns.

An interception by Clay Matthews set up a Rodgers to Greg Jennings touchdown. Leading 7-0 at halftime, the Packers exploded in the third quarter. It was 14-0 after Detroit tackle Ndamukong Suh was flagged for a personal foul and ejected from the game for stomping on Packers' center Evan Dietrich-Smith. The penalty gave the Packers a first down, and John Kuhn scored two plays later. The second interception of Stafford by linebacker Robert Francois led to a 65-yard touchdown from Rodgers to James Jones. A Charles Woodson interception set up Mason Crosby's field goal and a 24-0 lead after three quarters.

Green Bay 0 7 17 3 27 Detroit 0 0 0 15 15

Attendance: 66,263

GB vs. DET on Thanksgiving: Lions lead 11-8-1



38 12.4.2011

35

12-0!

With 0:00 left, Mason Crosby's kick won the game and clinched the NFC North for Green Bay! The Giants had just tied the game 35-35 on Eli Manning's two-yard touchdown pass to Hakeem Nicks. Green Bay took over with 58 seconds left, and Rodgers went four-for-four on the march, including a spectacular back-shoulder catch by Jordy Nelson along the sideline. Crosby then delivered from the 31-yard line.

The game had five lead changes, and Green Bay's porous defense gave up 447 yards. The offense overcame it this time, and Donald Driver's touchdown gave Green Bay the lead just before halftime 21-17. Rodgers and Manning each threw two second-half touchdown passes, and Manning's touchdown to Hakeem Nicks with 58 seconds left made it 35-35. Enter Mason Crosby and "just like that, the Packers were 12-0 on a day when they weren't as sharp as they've been most weeks."1

Green Bay 7 14 7 10 38 New York 10 7 0 18 35

Attendance: 80,634

Clay Matthews' pick six made it 14-7.

"The Green Bay Packers could not have arranged a better time to sell shares in the team. They are selling shares to help pay for the \$143 million in expansion and improvement projects at Lambeau Field. The Packers allotted 250,000 shares, which will cost \$250 each." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/11, Dougherty, p. 28 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/11, Ryman, p. 1



16 12.11.2011

Packers clinch 1st round bye

The Packers won their 13th straight. They dominated from start to finish, scoring on their first five possessions. Aaron Rodgers threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns. The Raiders didn't score until they trailed 34-0.

Rodgers led an offense that rolled over Oakland from the start. The defense got it started with two interceptions of quarterback Carson Palmer in the first half. The picks led to Ryan Grant's touchdown runs that opened and closed the first half. In between Grant's touchdown runs, Rodgers threw his two touchdown passes to Ryan Taylor and Jordy nelson for a 31-0 halftime lead.

After the Raiders scored in the third quarter to make it 34-7, two more Mason Crosby field goals and a fumble recovery for a touchdown by Packer linebacker Eric Walden ended all doubt. Late in the third quarter, Matt Flynn replaced Aaron Rodgers.

Oakland 0 0 7 9 16 Green Bay 14 17 12 3 46

Attendance: 70,524

Greg Jennings hurt his left knee and was lost for the season.



Streak ends at 19

Green Bay suffered its first loss since December 19, 2010 as the K. C. defense dominated the game and corralled Green Bay's potent offense.

K. C.'s new interim coach, Romeo Crennel, started Kyle Orten at quarterback. The first half was especially quiet with the only points coming on two field goals by K. C.'s Ryan Succop. The Packers got on the board in the third-quarter on an Aaron Rodgers to Donald Driver touchdown for a 7-6 lead.

The offense had trouble moving the ball without Greg Jennings. Injuries on the offensive line – to tackles Chad Clifton and Bryan Bulaga – also left Rodgers vulnerable, and he was sacked four times. The Packers had trouble converting third downs (6 for 14), and the Chiefs led in the time of possession by 13+ minutes.

This was the first game this season that the Green Bay defense, which gave up 438 yards, did not produce a turnover. Without help, the offense couldn't win it alone. "We didn't answer the bell,"1 explained McCarthy, and the Packers were definitely "outhustled, outcoached, and outplayed."2

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14 Kansas City 6 0 3 10 19

Attendance: 74,093

GB's last loss was on 12/19/2010.

"Packers fans showed up in force at Arrowhead Stadium making this almost a neutral site. 'Go Pack Go' chants could e heard throughout the game." 3

"About 80 children with cancer got to spend spent Monday night outside the hospital hanging out with their heroes. Eight members of the Green Bay Packers played games and took photos with about 300 people during the annual Families of Children with Cancer Holiday Party."4

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/11, Vandermause, p. 25
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/11, Vandermause, p. 25
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/11, Vandermause, p. 26
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/11, O'Brien, p. 3



No. 1 seed in NFC

A mild Christmas night of 37 degrees wasn't the best gift Green Bay fans received. The weather was topped by a nice, bounce back win by the Packers after their first loss of the season.

12.25.2011

The Bears outgained the Packers (441-363), but they couldn't outscore them. Aaron Rodgers had another spectacular game that not only locked up the team's #1 seed, but it just may have secured his first NFL MVP Award. Rodgers went 21 of 29 for 283 yards and no interceptions. He threw five touchdown passes and his passer rating of 142.7 was his third highest of the season.

After last week's loss to the Chiefs, the Packers made more adjustments on offense without the injured Greg Jennings. On their first drive, Rodgers went eight-for-eight, and Jermichael Finley caught the first touchdown from Rodgers.

After Chicago cut the lead to 14-10 early in the third quarter, the Packers put the game away with three more touchdown drives. Rodgers threw five touchdown passes overall for the first time in his career to Finley, Jordy Nelson (2) and James Jones (2).

 Chicago
 0
 3
 7
 11
 21

 Green Bay
 7
 7
 14
 7
 35



41 1.1.2012 **45**

This game holds the Packers record for the most yards gained in a single game by both teams -1,125. It surpassed by 100 yards the Green Bay-Washington game in 1983. Green Bay's defense gave up 575 yards, while the offense put up 550!

Aaron Rodgers did not play, and Matt Flynn threw a team-record six touchdown passes! Quarterback Matthew Stafford of the Lions threw five more. Like most games in 2011, the offense didn't miss a beat.

Detroit 9 10 15 7 41 Green Bay 10 14 7 14 45

NFC Divisional Playoff



NEW YORK GIANTS PACKERS

37 1.15.2011

This loss ranks with the most disappointing losses in Packers history. Since 1992, it stands with the other disappointing losses in 1997, 2003, 2007, and 2014. When you win as often as the Packers do, there are bound to be a few missteps!

The shocking upset of the 15-1 Packers by the 9-5 Giants was a devastating end to a great regular season. The Giants came in as the NFC East Champs, and winner of a first-round Wild Card game against the Falcons 24-2. Even so, the Packers were favored by eight points.

The teams traded field goals and touchdown passes early. A 66-yard bomb from quarterback Eli Manning to Hakeem Nicks gave New York 10-3 lead. After a controversial first down catch by Greg Jennings, Green Bay evened the score as fullback John Kuhn scored on an eight-yard pass from Rodgers.

With the Giants leading 17-14 with 15 seconds left in the first half, Ahmad Bradshaw broke off a 23-yard run to set up one final play. With six seconds to go, quarterback Eli Manning launched a Hail Mary pass from Green Bay's 37-yard line. Hakeem Nicks pulled it down in the end zone, and the Packers walked to the locker room shell-shocked and trailing by 10.

The only points in the third quarter came on a field goal by Mason Crosby. After the Giants' Lawrence Tynes got the points back in the fourth quarter, there was 7:48 left. On Green Bay's next series, Ryan Grant fumbled, and middle linebacker Chase Blackburn took it 40 yards to Green Bay four-yard line. On the next play, Manning and Mario Manningham connected for a 30-13 New York lead.

Green Bay played uninspired football, and "the Giants peaking defense kept the Packers from dominating offensively and ended several promising drives by prying (away) four turnovers." 1 The four turnovers were the most for Green Bay all season.

New York 10 10 0 17 37 Green Bay 3 7 3 7 20

Attendance: 72,080

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/12, Dougherty, p. 21



2011 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	I
Green Bay	15	1	0
Detroit	10	6	0
Chicago	8	8	0
Minnesota	3	10	0

Team Leaders

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Nelson
Rushing	Starks
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Woodson
Sacks	Matthews

All-Pro

Kuhn Fullback Rodgers Quarterback Wells Center Woodson Cornerback

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

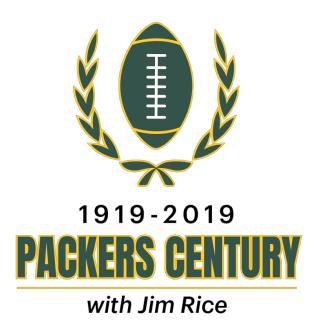
David Sherrod (1, OT)

Randall Cobb (2, WR)

Devon House (4, CB)

D. J. Williams (5, TE)

Ryan Taylor (7a, TE)



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