



1989



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1989

Record: 10-6-0 (2nd Place)

Coach: Lindy Infante

- Bob Harlan was elected Packer President succeeding Judge Robert Parins.
- The Packers selected Tony Mandarich, a tackle from Michigan State, with their first draft choice.
- Green Bay's returned to prominence surprised everyone. Ten wins were the team's most since 1972.
- The team was nicknamed the "Cardiac Pack" for being a resilient squad that won four games by one point. They also came from behind to win seven times.
- Lindy Infante's offense scored the most points in the division. With quarterback Don Majkowski at the helm, Sterling Sharpe became the first Packer since Don Hutson to lead the league in receptions. The defense though was not as strong, especially against the run.
- The Packers and Vikings tied for first place. Minnesota won the tie-breaker with a better division record (6-2 vs. 5-3).



TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS
PACKERS

23
21

9.10.1989

Brent Fullwood's short touchdown run gave Green Bay the early lead. Tampa Bay took control in the second quarter with three touchdown drives led by quarterback Vinnie Testaverde. Testaverde played well completing 22 of 27 passes for 205 yards and a touchdown. His touchdown pass to William Howard ended the first half scoring with Tampa leading 20-7.

In the third quarter, Don Majkowski's touchdown pass to Ed West narrowed the deficit to 20-14. The Bucs pushed back with a 52-yard field goal. But a fumble by Tampa Bay in its end zone was recovered by Carl Bland of the Packers to cut the lead to 23-21.

With five minutes left, the Packers drove deep into Tampa territory. From the eight-yard line, Majkowski dropped back and looked to the end zone only to be intercepted for the second time by Mark Robinson to clinch the "Battle of the Bays."

Tampa Bay	0	20	3	0	23
Green Bay	7	0	7	7	21

Attendance: 55,650

Majkowski threw three interceptions.



NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS
PACKERS

34
35 9.17.1989

Wild Win!

With 857 yards of offense, fans kept a close eye on all the action. They watched New Orleans lead the entire game until there was 1:26 remaining. The Saints scored the first three times they had the ball. Two touchdown passes by Bobby Herbert helped them get out to a 21-0 lead. At halftime, they led 24-7.

Despite trailing, the Packers were fired-up in the second half. On the opening drive, they went 80 yards for Brent Fullwood's second touchdown of the game. From there, they rode the arm of quarterback Don Majkowski who threw three touchdown passes – two to Ed West and one to Sterling Sharpe. West's second touchdown brought Green Bay to within three 31-28.

With just over two minutes left in the game, the defense held the Saints to a field goal and a six-point lead 34-28. When Green Bay got the ball back, "The Cardiac Pack" and "The Majik Man" debuted. In 55 seconds, they went 80 yards. With 1:26 left, Majkowski's third touchdown pass of the game went to Sterling Sharpe to complete the dramatic 21-point comeback!

New Orleans	14	10	0	10	34
Green Bay	0	7	14	14	35

Attendance: 55,809

Majkowski threw for 354 yards, including 18 straight completions.

On a controversial call that went Green Bay's way on the game winning drive, Saints cornerback Toi Cook commented, "If they'd have changed it the whole stands would have come on to the field."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/89, McGinn, p. 17



PACKERS

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

38

9.24.1989

41

Another squeaker, this time with 882 yards of offense! The Rams owned the first 30 minutes (38-7) behind Jim Everett's two touchdown passes, and Greg Bell's two touchdown runs. The defense also intercepted three Don Majkowski passes that led to 17 points including an 81-yard pick six by Vince Newsome.

In the second half, Majkowski caught fire. He brought the Packers back with touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe and Ed West. An interception by linebacker Brian Noble also led to Brent Fullwood's 11-yard burst off left tackle for six. West's touchdown catch cut the advantage to 38-28 at the start of the fourth quarter.

After Chris Jacke's field goal narrowed it to seven, a pass interference penalty against the Rams put the ball on the one-yard line. Brent Fullwood fumbled on the next play. The Rams took off on a six-minute drive that ended with Mike Lansford's field goal for the win.

Green Bay	0	7	21	10	38
Los Angeles	10	28	0	3	41
Attendance:	57,701				



ATLANTA
FALCONS
PACKERS

21
23 10.1.1989

Comeback #2

The "Cardiac Pack" never let up, and a second-half comeback burned the Falcons. Though it was only game #5, the "schizophrenic Packers"¹ were beginning to inject drama back into Sunday afternoons in Wisconsin!

The Falcons led 14-6 at halftime with Green Bay's only points coming on field goals by rookie kicker Chris Jacke. With 7:07 left in the third quarter, Atlanta stretched it to 21-6. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay caught a huge break when Jeff Query's fumble inside the Falcons five-yard line was picked up by Sterling Sharpe and taken into the end zone! The touchdown narrowed the lead to eight.

With nine minutes left, Green Bay trimmed it to 21-20 on a 37-yard touchdown pass from Don Majkowski to Herman Fontenot. Late in the game, Majik led them to within striking distance again, and Chris Jacke's field goal with 1:42 left finished the comeback. At the time, this tied for the biggest fourth-quarter comeback in Packer history (see 10/28/51).

Atlanta	7	7	7	0	21
Green Bay	0	6	0	17	23

Attendance: 54,647

Milwaukee County Stadium



DALLAS
COWBOYS
PACKERS

13
31 10.8.1989

No Contest

The real "America's Team" won this battle fairly easily! Don Majkowski threw four touchdown passes to lead the league's top offense to 502 yards against the 0-5 Cowboys. Majik threw two touchdown passes to Herman Fontenot and one each to Sterling Sharpe and Perry Kemp. Sharpe's 79-yard touchdown connection put Green Bay ahead to stay 17-13 at halftime.

Green Bay's defense shined all game giving up just 45 yards rushing and shutting out Dallas in the second half. Brent Fullwood ran for 119 yards to lead a powerful ground attack that put up 189 yards.

Dallas	6	7	0	0	13
Green Bay	10	7	7	7	31

Attendance: 56,656

*"The best way to tell whether the Pack is Back may be to watch what is going on outside Lambeau Field. The Green Bay Packers may have reached a turning point even before they thrashed Dallas Sunday when Green Bay Police made their first ticket-scalping arrests of the season."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/89, Bell, p. 1



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

14
10.15.1989
26

Big Debut!

This was Herschel Walker's first game for the Vikings after being traded from Dallas. He ran for an impressive 148 yards on 18 carries. His first run from scrimmage went for 47 yards as he shot through right guard like a rocket.

Green Bay scored on its opening drive with Herman Fontenot's one-yard run. The Vikings came back with 26 straight points. Leading 10-7 in the second quarter, they pulled away on two Tommy Kramer's touchdown passes.

Minnesota's defense overwhelmed Majkowski. He completed just nine passes for 198 yards, his lowest output of the season. He threw two interceptions which led to 10 points, and he was sacked eight times. The Packers were outgained by nearly 200 yards (398-219). The Majik Man's assessment summed it up pretty well. "They took us out of our game by stopping the run and getting to me with pressure. They had good coverage downfield."¹

Green Bay	7	0	0	7	14
Minnesota	0	17	9	0	26

Attendance: 62,075



PACKERS
MIAMI
DOLPHINS

20
10.22.1989
23

Other than Chris Jacke’s two field goals, the Packers were shut out in the first half. The Dolphins controlled most of the game with Dan Marino’s two touchdown passes and Pete Stoyanovich’s three field goals.

Marino’s touchdowns went to Jim Jensen and Mark Clayton, and he threw for 333 yards overall. The Dolphins ran the ball well (105 yards), and Stoyanovich’s second field goal in the fourth quarter put them ahead 20-6.

With six minutes left, the Packers awoke! Majik threw two quick touchdown passes of 22 and 10 yards to Sterling Sharpe. The second touchdown came after Johnny Holland’s fumble recovery. With 55 seconds left, Majkowski found Sharpe in the back of the end zone to tie it at 20!

Not to be outdone in front of the home crowd, Marino threw three quick strikes for fast, 58-yard drive. It set up Stoyanovich’s winning kick from the 33 with six seconds left. As the Press-Gazette reported, “To beat Marino, however, the offense had to outscore him or keep the defense off the field. It did neither well enough to stave off one of the game’s great all-time quarterbacks.”¹

Green Bay	3	3	0	14	20
Miami	7	3	7	6	23
Attendance:	56,624				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/89, McGinn, p. 19



DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

20 10.29.1989
23 (OT)

With five lead changes, this one ended up in the win column for Green Bay. In a 10-10 first half, the teams traded touchdowns and field goals. After halftime, the Packers owned the third quarter on Chris Jacke's field goal and Don Majkowski's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. In the fourth quarter, quarterback Rodney Peete of the Lions, who earlier threw a touchdown pass to Troy Johnson, scored himself to tie it.

With the game still tied in the final minutes, Detroit marched to the Green Bay 36-yard line when Rodney Peete's fumble gave Green Bay a final chance in regulation. Though Chris Jacke missed a 50-yard field goal to force the overtime, Mark Murphy intercepted Rodney Peete's first pass in the extra session intended for former Packer Walter Stanley. Jacke then nailed his second chance to win the game from 38 yards out.

After the game, Packers' coach Willie Peete said, "I'm a coach for the Green Bay Packers. That's my job. I can't recall one moment when I wasn't behaving like I was the coach of the Packers. Nope, not one time. I can't recall even wanting to do it. But that's only because I spent all week long preparing myself for it. I had to remain focused on my job, not his."¹

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

Attendance: 56,624

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/89, Mulhearn, p. 16



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

13
14 11.5.1989

Packers Become Instant Heroes ¹

The "Instant Replay Game" was one of the most memorable games in Green Bay Packer history. The Bears entered the game 5-3, having lost three of their last four games. The Packers hoped to move above .500 after winning three of their last five.

In a dogfight between rivals, Don Majkowski's first quarter touchdown pass to Clint Diddier held up until the fourth quarter. On an 80-yard drive, the Bears took the lead 13-6 on Brad Muster's two-yard touchdown. It stayed a seven-point game as Majkowski had a difficult time handling the ball early in the fourth quarter. He fumbled once and threw an interception.

But with under five minutes left, Majik and the Packers took over on their 27-yard line. They drove into Bears territory, and with 32 seconds left, faced fourth down at Chicago's 14. Majkowski moving to his right threw to Sterling Sharpe in the end zone for what appeared to be a touchdown. But it was ruled an incomplete pass because an official said Majkowski had crossed the line of scrimmage when he threw the pass.

In the early days of using the replay to review calls, a five-minute delay ensued. The call was eventually reversed and the play was ruled a touchdown. Chris Jacke's extra point set off one of the loudest and joyous celebrations in Green Bay Packer history!

"When you've got an athletic quarterback like Don, he's going to make some great plays for you. And he did"² was Lindy Infante's assessment!

Chicago	3	0	10	0	13
Green Bay	7	0	0	7	14

Attendance: 56,556

Prior to this win, GB had lost eight straight to the Bears.

Infante: "This one is for the fans as well as the football team."³

Frank Lamping, Member, Green Bay Packer Fan Hall of Fame *

"I remember it like it was yesterday. I was in our living room jumping up and down and running around screaming, "We beat the Bears! We beat the Bears! Then I was very upset when they threw a flag that Majik had crossed the line of scrimmage. After what seemed like an eternity, we heard, "We have a reversal. Touchdown." Instantly, it was back to euphoria! I ran out the front door, running around the yard screaming, 'We won! We won!'"

"About 10 years ago in 2008, I was lucky enough to be on Lambeau Field during pre-game. Majik was on the field with his wife and kids. I had a brief conversation with him. He explained that when he was injured in 1992, it was such a devastating injury, that he almost had to have his leg amputated from the knee down."

1 Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/6/89, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, McGinn, p. 18

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, McGinn, p. 19

* Interview: 12/21/18



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

22

11.12.1989

31

Hello Barry

The Lions led the whole game thanks to four turnovers by the Packers. Quarterback Don Majkowski, who threw 59 passes, committed three miscues in the first half. One fumble, one interception and one pick-six – helped Detroit to a 24-3 halftime lead.

The Packers rallied in the third quarter with two touchdowns. The second scored by Vince Workman narrowed the lead to 24-17. But Michael Haddix's fumble in the fourth quarter led to a touchdown by rookie running back Barry Sanders that clinched the win. Though the Lions gained only 128 total yards, Rodney Peete threw two touchdowns to Troy Johnson in the victory.

Green Bay	0	3	14	5	22
Detroit	3	21	0	7	31

GB's offense generated 432 total yards.



PACKERS

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

21

11.19.1989

17

Nice Win

Green Bay upset the defending Super Bowl Champions on the road! Quarterback Don Majkowski had a hand in all of Green Bay's points. He ran for two scores and he threw a touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. The defense forced four turnovers, and they sacked quarterback Joe Montana six times!

In the second quarter, Chuck Cecil's pick of Joe Montana led to Majik's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe and a 14-7 lead. Montana and wide receiver Jerry Rice came back to tie it before halftime 14-14.

After a scoreless third quarter, three penalties on San Francisco kept the winning drive alive for Green Bay. With 12 minutes left in the game, a quarterback-draw by Majik went for eight yards and the go-ahead touchdown! The defense held the Niners to a 44-yard field goal by Mike Cofer to help close out this fantastic win over the defending champs.

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21

San Francisco 7 7 0 3 17

Attendance: 62,219

This win moved GB to within one game of first-place Minnesota.

In hopes of rekindling an old winning tradition, 100 or so fans greeted the victors when they arrived home after midnight!



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

19
20 11.26.1989

Comeback #3

Though he didn't practice much the week before due to sore ribs, a strong, comeback performance by Majik (26-35-276-2-1) moved the Packers into a first-place tie with Minnesota.

Majik's two touchdowns to Sterling Sharpe, and Chris Jacke's two field goals provided all of Green Bay's points. Sharpe's first touchdown, a 34-yard connection, gave Green Bay a 10-3 lead. Minnesota rallied for 13 straight points, and Hershel Walker's touchdown put them in front 16-10 in the third quarter.

The Majik Man's second touchdown pass to Sharpe with 11 minutes left put Green Bay up 20-19. The Packers' defense protected the lead with one big defensive stop, and two picks by Dave Brown in the final four minutes!

Minnesota	3	3	10	3	19
Green Bay	3	7	3	7	20

Attendance: 55,592

Milwaukee County Stadium

"My wife and I got married at halftime of a Packer-Viking game. There were over 200 people there, and the judge who married us was dressed in a ref's outfit."¹

Don Majkowski: "We're thrilled that we've finally fulfilled the need of this community, which has been so hungry for such a long time."²

¹ For Packer Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 229

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/89, Mulhern, p. 1



PACKERS

17

TAMPA BAY

12.3.1989

BUCCANEERS

16

Another One!

In this tight divisional battle, Don Majkowski threw 53 times for 331 yards and two touchdowns. Sterling Sharpe caught the touchdowns as well as six other passes for 169 yards. He set a new Green Bay record with 77 catches in a season.

Sharpe’s first-quarter touchdown gave Green Bay a 7-6 lead that held up into the fourth quarter. The defense made it stand up with four sacks and five interceptions.

In an exciting fourth quarter, the lead changed hands four times! After the Bucs went in front 13-7 on a 21-yard run by Sylvester Stamps, Majkowski threw a 55-yard bomb to Sharpe to retake the lead 14-13. A field goal by Donald Igwebuikie put Tampa back on top 16-14 with 1:35 left. But Majik did the trick again as Green Bay drove 52 yards in 11 plays for Chris Jacke’s 47-yarder as time expired!

Green Bay	7	0	0	10	17
Tampa Bay	0	3	3	10	16
Attendance:	58,120				

“Police estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 people jammed and crammed into the airport terminal, many waiting more than three hours, many dressed in various versions of Packer colors, many carrying hastily-prepared signs, to welcome the Packers back from Tampa Bay.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4, Walter, p. 1



KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS
PACKERS

21
3 12.10.1989

Big Loss

"A frozen crowd sat in numbed silence,"¹ as quarterback Steve DeBerg outdueled Don Majkowski. The K. C. defense was also dominant as they sacked Majik four times, intercepted one pass, and recovered his fumble late in the game.

All the scoring took place in the second quarter. Early on, the Chiefs drove 65-yards drive for DeBerg's 11-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Hayes. With a 7-3 lead and a minute left in the half, the Chiefs struck again – twice. After fullback Christian Okoye scored with 1:01 left, Majkowski fumbled with 43 seconds remaining on the Packer 15-yard line. Neil Smith recovered for K. C., and DeBerg hit Emile Harry in the end zone for a 21-3 halftime lead.

Unable to get the offense going, Green Bay was held to 11 first downs and 208 total yards.

Kansas City	0	21	0	0	21
Green Bay	0	3	0	0	3

Attendance: 56,964

The loss damaged GB's postseason chances.

¹ packershistory.net/1989Packers



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

40

12.17.1989

28

Don Majkowski backed-up his miraculous finish against the Bears in November with another exceptional outing. Green Bay led from start to finish. Majik passed for 241 yards, threw for one touchdown and scored two others on the ground.

The Packers pounded the Bears with 217 yards on the ground. The game stayed close into the second half as Green Bay piled-up 456 total yards! Five turnovers by the Bears cost them 10 points and field position throughout the game.

After Chicago narrowed it to 30-28 in the third quarter, the Packers pulled away for the win when linebacker Scott Stephen intercepted Jim Harbaugh. Majik's second touchdown run followed and Jacke's fourth field goal tied a Packer record. "The last time the Packers scored that many points against the Bears, Vince Lombardi, and George Halas were coaches and John F. Kennedy was president."¹

Green Bay	14	10	6	10	40
Chicago	7	7	14	0	28
Attendance:	44,781				

¹ Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 356



PACKERS
DALLAS
COWBOYS

20
12.24.1989
10

Majik produced more magic and Chris Jacke continued his steady kicking! Majkowski threw two touchdown passes – one in each half – to Jeff Query and Ed West. In between, Jack Del Rio’s 57-yard fumble recovery for Dallas tied it 10-10. Ed West’s touchdown catch gave Green Bay the lead late in the third quarter, and Jacke sealed the deal with a 24-yard kick in the fourth.

Despite not making the postseason because of Minnesota’s better divisional record, 1989 was an unqualified success!

Green Bay	3	7	7	3	20
Dallas	3	0	7	0	10
Attendance:	41,265				

“When The Majik Man returned to Lambeau Field years later retiring, he was received warmly by Packer fans. “As he walked around the field before the game, the fans were unbelievably gracious to him. He had a chance to take a final bow. He went around and shook hands. And it was if he never left. It had been 10 or 12 years since his career-ending injury. His wife pulled me aside and whispered to me, ‘You’ve done something great for this man who left the game he loved - had to leave, not on his terms, but because of an injury – and you brought him back to say goodbye in a very personal and final way.’”¹



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2018

1989 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	10	6	0
Green Bay	10	6	0
Detroit	7	9	0
Chicago	6	10	0
Tampa Bay	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Majkowski
Rushing	Fullwood
Receiving	Sharpe
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	D. Brown
Sacks	T. Harris

ALL-PRO

Harris	Linebacker
Majkowski	Quarterback
Moran	Guard
Sharpe	Wide Receiver

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tony Mandarich (1, OT)
Matt Brock (3a, DE)
Anthony Dilweg (3a, C)
Jeff Query (5b, WR)
Vince Workman (5c, RB)
Chris Jacke (6, K)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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