

THE PROVERS GENURY

PROJECT

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2012

Record: 11-5-0 (1st – NFC North Champions)

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In February, Aaron Rodgers received his first NFL MVP Award.
- The stock sale officially closed in March. The sale of 268,000 shares netted \$67 million of \$143 million needed for expansion of the south end zone.
- Charitable grants by the Packers Foundation totaled \$6 million.
- The NFL's lockout of officials ended on September 26, two days after the "Fail Mary" debacle in Seattle. The call ultimately cost the Packers a home playoff game against the 49ers.
- Aaron Rodgers had another incredible season. He threw for over 4,000 yards with 40 touchdowns and six interceptions.
- After starting the season 2-3, the Packers went a 9-1 as they got healthier and stronger. The offense wasn't as strong as 2011, but the defense improved significantly.



Former #1 draft choices Aaron Rodgers and Alex Smith met for the second time in their careers. In a battle of two NFC heavyweights, Smith came out on top.

San Francisco defeated Green Bay for the first time since 1998 (8 games). The Packers' powerful offense struggled most of the game against the Niners highly regarded defense. Green Bay's no-huddle offense had little success, and it was abandoned in the second half.

The 49ers had the advantage in the first half, and David Akers' 63-yard field goal tied an NFL record. Both quarterbacks threw touchdown passes, and San Francisco led at halftime 16-7. In the second half, the Niners pulled away 23-7 on Smith's touchdown pass to Vernon Davis. Green Bay's lone turnover, a fourth-quarter interception by Rodgers, set up San Francisco's final touchdown.

Though Rodgers came back with his second touchdown pass a short time later, the Niners prevailed. Rodgers was Green Bay's leading rusher with 23 yards, and he was also sacked three times. "They've got a great defense. You've got to give them credit, "1 Rodgers said after the game.

San Francisco	6	10	14	5	30
Green Bay	7	0	0	15	22
Attendance: 70,523					

"City officials closed the Ray Nitschke Memorial Bridge to vehicular and pedestrian traffic Monday for a project that is scheduled to

continue until mid-November."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/12, Dougherty p. F1 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/12, Williams, p. A1



On four days' rest, the Packers bounced back to beat the Bears convincingly. The defense led the way with four interceptions and seven sacks of Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler.

Green Bay owned the first half as the Bears were held scoreless. The highlight of the half was a fake field goal attempt in the second quarter by the Packers. Holder Tim Masthay took the snap and flipped a shovel pass to tight end Tom Crabtree who went 27 yards to the end zone!

After the Bears got on the board in the third quarter with a field goal, Mason Crosby followed with his third boot of the game. The 54-yarder was the longest field goal to date at Lambeau Field by a Green Bay Packer. The Packers kept up the pressure with Tramon Williams' second interception of the game. His first pick led to an earlier Packer field goal. The second set up a Rodgers to Donald Driver touchdown on the very next play to put the Bears away.

Chicago	0	0	3	7	10
Green Bay	0	13	0	10	23
Attendance:	70,54	3			

After two games, Clay Matthews had 5 sacks.



Fail Mary

"I've never seen anything like this in all my years of football. It was the most unusual football game I have ever been a part of."1 That was Coach Mike McCarthy's assessment of what had just transpired in Seattle, and it was probably one of the more polite descriptions of what had just taken place.

In one of the most infamous games in Packer history, this Monday Night telecast not only affected Green Bay, but the impact was felt by the rest of the league. After a very controversial finish due to a replacement official's call, the lockout of NFL officials came to an end 48 hours later.

Midway through the second quarter, a personal foul on Packer linebacker D. J. Smith kept a Seattle drive going. The Seahawks capitalized with the first of two Russell Wilson touchdown passes to Golden Tate for a 7-0 lead at the half. Green Bay had an atrocious first half as Aaron Rodgers was sacked eight times, and the team gained just 87 yards.

Green Bay scored on its first three possessions of the half to go in front. Two field goals by Mason Crosby made it 7-6 entering the fourth quarter. Green Bay then marched 81 yards in 16 plays to go up 12-7 on a touchdown run by Cedric Benson. On their next possession, Seattle drove into Packer territory before being stopped. With 1:54 left, Green Bay needed a first down to put the game away, but Seattle's defense rose up and stopped the Packers. After the punt, Seattle took over at the Packer 46-yard line with 46 seconds left. Six plays later, Wilson threw a 24-yard *Hail Mary* to the left corner of the end zone. Tate pushed cornerback Sam Shields away before going up for the ball. M. D. Jennings of the Packers appeared to have caught it first, and he fought with Golden Tate for possession. When they hit the ground, one official ruled it a touchdown, the other an interception. The play was reviewed, and the touchdown was confirmed.

Controversy swirled after the teams reached the locker room. "The ball was pinned to my chest the whole time, even when we were on the pile," 2 said Jennings. "The game was taken from us, "3 said a frustrated defensive tackle Ryan Pickett. For many Packers fans, the debate continued all season. Ultimately, the call would cost Green Bay a first-round bye in the postseason and a home playoff game against the 49ers.

Green Bay	0	0	6	6	12
Seattle	0	7	0	7	14
Attendance:	68,21	8			

1 packershistory.net/2012Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 9/25/12, p. F2

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 9/25/12, p. F2



An aerial bombardment by quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees entertained everyone. They threw 95 passes between them and completed 66, still the second most in Packer history! The passes went for 748 net yards and five touchdowns. Fortunately, the Packers, they "sidestepped a big early season hole with a winning fourth quarter performance."1

In the first half, Green Bay's offense looked sharp. Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to James Jones (2) and Greg Jennings. Cedric Benson also led a ground game that put up over 100 yards. Drew Brees nearly matched Rodgers with two touchdown strikes to Marques Colston and Darren Sproles. After a 21-14 first half, the momentum shifted to New Orleans.

Two field goals wrapped around an 80-yard touchdown bomb from Brees to rookie Joseph Morgan gave the Saints a 27-21 edge early in the fourth quarter. The Packers came back with the winner with eight minutes left. Rodgers connected for his fourth touchdown of the game with Jordy Nelson. The Packers' defense backed it up with two big stops on the Saints' last two drives.

New Orleans	7	7	10	3	27
Green Bay	7	14	0	7	28
Attendance: 7	0,57	71			

"Halftime should be extended to allow the University of Wisconsin band to play longer." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 10/1/12, p. F1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Vandermause, 10/1/12, p. F3



27 10.7.2012 **30**

<u>Collapse</u>

A very emotional game for Indianapolis as their coach Chuck Pagano was hospitalized with leukemia. Offensive coordinator Bruce Airans guided the Colts who played inspired football.

The Packers got off to a nice start. They played a fine first half as Aaron Rodgers threw touchdowns to James Jones and Randall Cobb. Along with John Kuhn's touchdown, McCarthy commented, "When you're 21-3 at halftime, you expect to keep that thing going."1

The Packers' 18-point collapse was one of the biggest in team history. It began on the opening drive of the second half when Rodgers was intercepted by Jerraud Powers. Rookie quarterback Andrew Luck capitalized with an eight-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-10. Luck also scored on the ground in between field goals by Adam Vinatieri. By the time Green Bay looked up with eight minutes left, it was 21-20 Colts.

Four minutes later, Green Bay grabbed the lead back 27-22 on a second touchdown to James Jones. But on the game's final drive, the Colts wouldn't be stopped. They went 80 yards behind Reggie Wayne's five catches including the winning touchdown from Luck with 35 seconds left.

Green Bay	7	14	0	6	27
Indianapolis	0	3	16	11	30
Attendance: (57,02	20			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/12, Dougherty, F1



42 10.14.2012 **24**

Back to .500

On the road, the Packers pounded the 5-0 Texans. Aaron Rodgers threw six touchdown passes which tied a franchise record set by Matt Flynn last January!

The offense wanted to win this game. Rodgers led the way with 338 passing yards, and Green Bay outgained the Texans 427-321. Overall, Jordy Nelson caught three touchdown passes, James Jones grabbed two, and tight end Tom Crabtree snared one.

With Green Bay leading 21-10 in the second half, Nelson's third touchdown catch provided the winning points 28-10. The defense contained Houston with three sacks and three interceptions of quarterbacks Matt Schaub and T. J. Yates. One of the interceptions along with several penalties on another drive helped hand the Packers 14 points.

Green Bay	14	7	7	14	42
Houston	0	10	7	7	24
Attendance:	71,702	2			
Turnovers: GB	р ной з	3			



30 10.21.2012 **20**

No contest

Aaron Rodgers' hot-hand continued as he threw for 347 yards and three touchdown passes without an interception. In a first half filled with field goals, Rodgers and Jordy Nelson hooked up for the only touchdown. After a 10-6 lead at halftime, the pace quickened. Rodgers and Randall Cobb connected for a touchdown, and Mason Crosby's field goal made it 20-6.

The Rams began to make a game of it in the fourth quarter, but Cobb and Crosby came through again, this time from much further away. Rodgers found Cobb from 39-yards out for six, and Crosby booted his third field goal from the 48 for an insurmountable 30-13 lead.

Green Bay	10	0	7	13	30
St. Louis	3	3	0	14	20
Attendance:	64,359	9			

Charles Woodson broke his collarbone.

In St. Louis, there were so many Packers fans, that Mike McCarthy commented on his way into the city, "you thought you were walking down Oneida street." 1

" 'Go Pack Go!' could be heard throughout the game. Some players thought there were more Packers fans than Rams fans at the game." 2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/12, Vandermause, p. F3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/12, Vandermause, p. F3



A third straight win for the Packers even though they were outgained 341-238. Blaine Gabbert and the Jaguars had no trouble moving the ball, but they had trouble finding the end zone.

Aaron Rodgers threw touchdown passes to Randall Cobb and Donald Driver, and he looked to be in MVP form. The special teams pitched in with Devon House's blocked punt even though there were only 10 men on the field! The block went into the end zone and linebacker Dezman Moses recovered it for a 14-3 Packer lead. With under a minute left in the half, the Jaguars got the points back when Rodgers fumbled on Green Bay's 13yard line. Blaine Gabbert took advantage of the opportunity with a one-yard touchdown pass.

Leading 14-12 in the second half, Green Bay made it 21-12 with a "pass-heavy,"1 drive that Rodgers completed with a four-yard touchdown toss to Driver. From there, the teams traded field goals, and the Packers were 5-3.

Jacksonville	3	9	0	3	15
Green Bay	7	7	0	10	24
Attendance:	70,46	54			

Clay Matthews: "You saw the fans out there today. They had a lack of energy. We had a lack of energy." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/12, Hodkiewicz, p. F4

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/12, Demovsky/Dougherty, p. F5



6-3 @ the bye

A fifth straight loss for Arizona. Aaron Rodgers threw three firsthalf touchdown passes to put this game out of reach quickly. His first touchdown went to Randall Cobb on a slant pattern for a 13-yard score. The Cardinals tied it 7-7, but Rodgers and Cobb struck again for a 14-0 lead.

Along with the most potent ground attack of the season (176 yards) the Packers led at halftime 21-7. Eric Walden's first career interception led to a Mason Crosby field goal that stretched the lead to 24-7 lead. The Cardinals hit back with the next 10 points. Now leading by only seven, Rodgers and tight end Tom Crabtree connected over the middle for a 72-yard touchdown to finish the scoring.

The game was costly for Green Bay. Bryan Bulaga, Jordy Nelson, and Clay Matthews all left the game injured. The bye week was a welcome site for the Packers.

Arizona	0	7	10	0	17
Green Bay	7	14	10	0	31

Press-Gazette Headline: "Expanded Lambeau Events sought Board members say community expects more."1

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/12, Ryman, p. A



Green Bay's fifth straight win was finally wrapped up after lead change #5! The Lions put up a tough battle before falling to 0-4 in the NFC North.

The difference in the game was the quarterbacks. Aaron Rodgers led Green Bay with two touchdown passes and one interception. Matt Stafford of the Lions threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions. He also fumbled once.

Midway through the third quarter with Detroit leading 10-7, Stafford threw his second interception. M. D. Jennings to the pick back 72 yards for 14-10 lead. Detroit took the lead back on an 11-play drive and Stafford's touchdown to big Calvin Johnson. On their next series, the Packers defense rose up to stop the Lions on the 10-yard line. Detroit settled for field goal and a six-point lead with 4:25 left.

Rodgers marched the Packers 82 yards in six plays. A 22-yard touchdown pass to Randall Cobb made it 21-20 Packers with 1:55 left. The defense forced four incomplete passes, and Mason Crosby added some insurance with a 39-yarder.

Green Bay	0	7	7	10	24
Detroit	3	7	7	3	20
Attendance	: 63,7	716			
Claus Marttheau		at alau i			

Clay Matthews did not play.



The Packers fell behind the Bears in the NFC North after this Sunday night loss on the road. New York quarterback Eli Manning continued his spell over Green Bay, and he directed an explosive first half. Manning threw two first-half touchdown passes to Rueben Randle and Victor Cruz. Running backs Andre Brown and Ahmad Bradshaw also scored on the ground before the half.

After a touchdown to Jordy Nelson to tie it 7-7, the Packers never stood a chance. Rodgers was inconsistent (14-25-219-1-1), and the offense struggled. He was sacked five times and intercepted by old "friend" Corey Webster.

New York ran the ball very well (147 yards), and they used a heavy pass rush to defeat the Packers. This was Green Bay's lowest point total in two years, and the second-worst defeat of the McCarthy Era. "I've never been part of a loss like this. It's not what we do. We're too good to be putting that out there, "1 said guard Josh Sitton.

Green Bay73010New York17147038Attendance:80, 365

"Jim Temp, former Green Bay Packer defensive end who remained active in the community for years after his playing days, has died. He was 79. In the 1980s, he led a 2.5 million fundraising drive for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and was honored with the university's naming of James A. Temp Hall, a student dormitory that opened on 1989."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/12, Vandermause, p. F3 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/12, Williams, p. A3



Aaron & Adrian!

Each team's marquee star led the way. Aaron Rodgers completed 27 of 35 passes for 286 yards, and Adrian Peterson ran the ball 21 times for 210 yards!

12.2.2012

It was a nice bounce-back win for Green Bay, and they defeated the Vikings for the sixth straight time. They got out to an early 10-0 lead on a Rodgers touchdown pass to James Jones. The Vikings got on the board with a Christian Ponder touchdown pass. They moved in front when Peterson broke five tackles to go 82 yards for a 14-10 lead.

After intermission, "it was time to put up or shut up."¹ The Packers responded by not allowing another point. The offense moved easily both in the air and on the ground. James Starks led a strong ground game (152 yards) with a 22-yard touchdown run to put the Packers ahead to stay. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay ate up 11 minutes of the clock with an 18-play drive. Crosby kicked his third field goal with four minutes left, and a key tie-breaker in the NFC North belonged to the Packers.

Minnesota	0	14	0	0	14
Green Bay	10	0	10	3	23
Attendance	: 70.5	67			

Woodson, Matthews, Driver & Shields did not play.

This week, a number of Packers participated in Ryan Pickett's Christmas 'Shop with a Jock' Program and a holiday party for families with children with cancer.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/12, Vandermause, p. F3



The last time the Lions won in Green Bay was 1991. Early on, things were looking up for the Lions on a Sunday night. They took a 14-10 lead behind the running and passing of quarterback Matt Stafford. The opening drive went 80 yards, and Stafford's bootleg around left end went clear sailing into the end zone. Their second scoring drive went 79 yards with Stafford's passing putting Green Bay back on its heels.

The Packers righted the ship before halftime. After a field goal, a fumble by Stafford was returned 43 yards for a touchdown by rookie defensive tackle Mike Daniels. The play, "was the momentum shift we needed," 1 McCarthy said.

Though it was 14-10 Detroit at the break, momentum stayed with Green Bay in the second half. Rodgers led a quick drive into Lions territory with four straight completions. On a third down from the 27, he escaped the pocket, rolled right, and took off on a 27-yard sprint for a touchdown. The Lions tied it with a field goal, and the Packers responded with a statement drive. McCarthy called seven straight running plays to bulldoze the Lions down the field. On play #7, newly acquired DuJuan Harris went 14 yards up the middle for a lead the Packers would protect.

Detroit	7	7	3	3	20
Green Bay	0	10	7	10	27
Attendance	: 70,3	882			

DET outgained GB 386-288

"Some fans waited more than five hours to snag close up seats for Rodgers' appearance on "Clubhouse Live" a Gannett Wisconsin Media weekly sports talk show."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/12, Dougherty, p. F1 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/12, Daly, p. A1



The Bears had trouble moving the ball, and the Packers clinched the NFC North! After a quiet first quarter, Aaron Rodgers caught fire with three touchdown passes, and he guided the offense to nearly 400 yards. Rodgers completed 23 passes for 291 yards and three touchdowns. All three touchdowns went to James Jones!

The Bears took an early 7-0 lead, but two Rodgers to Jones touchdown passes made it 14-7 Packers. The second touchdown came after Casey Hayward intercepted Jay Cutler. In the second half, Rodgers and Jones also connected on a back-shoulder pass for a 21-7 lead.

The defense performed very well, holding the Bears to 190 total yards. Jay Cutler was also sacked four times. Trying not sound overconfident, McCarthy said later, "We fully expected to come in here and win this thing."1

Green Bay	0	14	7	0	21
Chicago	0	7	3	3	13
Attendance:	62.53	4			

Clay Matthews returned and had 2 sacks.

"A trail of historic sites highlighting the early years of the Green Bay Packers (Packers Heritage Trail) could soon feature a goalpostshaped monument that lights up at night."₂

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/12, Dougherty, p. F1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/12, Williams, p. A3





No contest

The Packers finished the home schedule on a Saturday with a bang! On their second drive, Aaron Rodgers ran for a touchdown to start the scoring. Three minutes later, he threw his first touchdown pass to Randall Cobb. Two field goals by Mason Crosby made it 20-0 at the half.

In the final 30 minutes, the Packers completed the annihilation. Rodgers threw his second and third touchdown passes to Greg Jennings and James Jones. Ryan Grant, who returned to Green Bay in December, scored twice as well. The Packers also held the Titans to 180 total yards, and they delivered seven sacks.

Tennessee	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	14	6	14	21	55
Attendance:	70,508	3			

Charles Woodson was ready to return from a broken collarbone.

Anna Walentowski's battle with a rare genetic disorder (Alexander's Disease) was shared with Meghan Parkansky in the documentary, 'Extreme, Loyal Victorious: The Packers' Fan Experience.' Anna became close friends with Brett & Deanna Favre during this effort and beyond.



With a first-round bye at stake for Green Bay and a playoff berth on the line for the Vikings, this battle had everything you could ask for offensively. The result? The teams would play next week in the Wild Card Playoff Game at Lambeau Field.

With so much on the line, both teams held nothing back. Together, they threw 68 passes, completed 44, for 849 yards and seven touchdowns. For Minnesota, Adrian Peterson did further damage with a career-high of 199 yards rushing and two touchdowns. For the season, he finished nine yards shy of Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record.

Except for two ties, the Vikings led the entire game. Christian Ponder played much better than three weeks ago with three touchdown passes and no interceptions. When Ponder's first touchdown stretched the lead to 20-7, the Packers woke up.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 365 yards and four touchdowns. Two touchdowns went to Greg Jennings while James Jones, and Jordy Nelson caught one each. Nelson's score tied it 34-34 with three minutes left. Blair Walsh's winning kick from the 29 set up a postseason rematch at Lambeau!

Green Bay	0	10	14	10	34
Minnesota	10	10	7	10	37
Attendance:	64,1	.34			

Rodgers was sacked 5 times.

The Sunday Best Company sells Packer apparel in the Twin Cities. "I think there's a lot of displaced Packer fans around here. Even when you walk down the streets (in Minneapolis) you just have this special friendship that doesn't really exist, but you feel like it should because you both cheer for the same team." 1

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/13, Meinert, p. D1

NFC Wild Card Game



Wild Card Win!

The Packers won the big one between the border rivals unlike 2004. With Minnesota's quarterback Christian Ponder out with an elbow injury suffered in last week's game, the Vikings were at a serious disadvantage.

Back-up quarterback Joe Webb was no match against Aaron Rodgers. He completed 11 of 30 passes for 180 yards including a touchdown and one pick. Without Ponder, Adrian Peterson's effectiveness was diminished. He managed just 99 yards rushing, down 100 yards from last week!

After Blair Walsh's field goal on Minnesota's opening drive, the next time the Vikings scored came with 3:39 left. In between, Rodgers completed 23 passes to 10 different receivers. His lone touchdown pass went to John Kuhn in the third quarter. Kuhn and DuJuan Harris also ran for touchdowns in the first half.

Late in the third quarter, Clay Matthews, leveled the decisive defensive blow when he "sacked Joe Webb, forced a fumble and recovered the loose ball all in the same motion."1

Minnesota	3	0	0	7	10
Green Bay	7	10	7	0	24
Attendance	: 71,	548			

A healthy Donald Driver did not play in GB's last home game.



With another NFC Conference Championship Game on the line, the Packers came up short. A young man who was born in Milwaukee and grew up rooting for the Packers, dissected Green Bay's defense and denied them the right to play for the Super Bowl.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, after throwing a pick-six on the Niners first drive, exploded on the NFL scene with a recordsetting postseason performance. He ran over his childhood team for 181 yards and two touchdowns. He threw for another 263 and two touchdowns. He used the read-option offense, and halfback Frank Gore also ran for 119 yards and one touchdown.

The Packers did not have an answer defensively. As Charles Woodson put it, "We expected them to get him out on the perimeter. But we didn't expect (them) to let him do what he did. Give him credit. He made plays, a lot of great plays. It was hard to swallow."1

Green Bay	14	7	3	7	31
San Francisco	7	17	7	14	45
Attendance: 69,7	732				
GB aque un 579 vara	lc				

GB gave up 579 yards.



2012 Team Statistics

PACKERS CENTURY FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

PROJECT 1919-2019

	W	L	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	11	5	0
Minnesota	10	6	0
Chicago	10	6	0
Detroit	4	12	0

Team Leaders

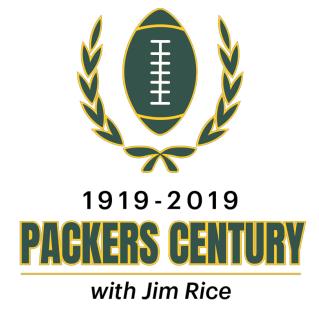
Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Cobb
Rushing	Green
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Hayward
Sacks	Matthews

<u>All-Pro</u>

Rodgers	Quarterback
Matthews	Linebacker

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Nick Perry (1, LB) Jerel Worthy (2a, DT) Casey Hayward (2b, CB) Mike Daniels (4a DT) Jerron McMillian (4b, S) Terrell Manning (5, LB)



NOTICE:

You may print out a copy for your own personal use. Not for republication or resale. Do not forward.

> ©2019 Jim Rice / Packers Century Project All rights reserved.

> > packerscentury.com