



**1965**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

---

**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

---

**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

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



## 1965

---

**Record: 10-3-0 NFL Champions**

**Coach: Vince Lombardi**

- Curly Lambeau died on June 1, 1965. The Packers renamed City Stadium in his honor.
- Hopes were high for this season. After missing the championship game for two years, a return to the top was the goal.
- Green Bay had the #1 defense in the league. They gave up the fewest points, the fewest touchdown passes, and they picked-off the most passes (27).
- Baltimore and Green Bay finished at 10-3-1 in the Western Conference. Though the Packers beat the Colts twice during the regular season, a playoff game would determine the conference champion.
- Green Bay returned to the championship game against the defending champion Cleveland Browns at Lambeau Field.

**Jim Becker, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame \***

*In July, Jim and four of his children – Tom, Rob, Paul, & Kathy – went to a Packer practice during training camp. Between the morning and afternoon sessions, they watched a commercial being filmed featuring Lombardi and Herb Adderley. As Jim and the kids watched excitedly, Lombardi spotted a few bicycles laying on the ground near the set. He snapped to no one in particular, “get those bikes out of here!” Tom and Rob Becker, who didn’t own the bikes, jumped at Lombardi’s command and moved the bikes out of the way!*

\* Interview: 2/13/17



**PACKERS**  
PITTSBURGH  
**STEELERS**

**41**  
**9**

**9.19.1965**

## Good Start

The last time the Packers opened the season outside of Green Bay or Milwaukee was in 1948! That season began with a shutout of the Boston Yanks, but the Packers finished 3-9.

On a scorching, late summer day with temperatures in the 90s, Green Bay took a 7-6 lead on Herb Adderley's pick-six in the first quarter. After a third Pittsburgh field goal, the Packers exploded with 34 straight points.

Bart Starr and Marv Fleming warmed-up the airways with a 31-yard touchdown. Two Don Chandler field goals – one after Adderley's second pick – made it 20-9 after three quarters. A third interception by Ray Nitschke led to the first of two Elijah Pitts' touchdown runs in the fourth quarter. The final touchdown came after a Pittsburgh fumble late in the game.

Regarding the heat, Herb Adderley explained, "It was like this every day in training camp. Coach Lombardi worked us hard in it, and it made us a little mad, but you saw how it paid off today."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>38,383</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/65, p. 13



BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**  
**PACKERS**

**17**  
**20**

**9.26.1965**

The turnover-prone Colts turned the ball over six times! Two of the miscues resulted in 14 points for Green Bay.

With Jim Taylor already out with an ankle injury, the Packers were hit hard in the second half with injuries to Bart Starr (foot) and Paul Hornung (shoulder). They still managed to come from behind with a strong defensive effort that contained Baltimore quarterback Johnny Unitas (14-32-210-1-2).

In a 3-3 game, Herb Adderley's pick-six in the second quarter put Green Bay in front 10-3. Baltimore tied it before halftime, but Don Chandler's fourth-quarter field goal broke the tie for 13-10 Packer lead.

The Colts rallied after Tom Moore's fumble gave them the ball at Green Bay's 24-yard line. A Unitas to Raymond Berry touchdown made it 17-13 Colts. With 2:48 left in the game, Willie Wood recovered a fumble, and backup quarterback Zeke Bratkowski capitalized with a 37-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee for a three-point Green Bay lead! With 56 seconds left, Adderley sealed the deal with a final fumble recovery. From Lombardi's perspective, "we were in no great shakes offensively, but we stayed in there – we didn't fall over and play dead."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance: 48,130</b>					
<b>Milwaukee County Stadium</b>					

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/65, Rempel, p. 18



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**23**

**10.3.1965**

### **Packers Win / Sayers Stars**

The Packers took control quickly. To open the game, they recovered a fumble by Chicago quarterback Billy Wade and drove 88-yards for a touchdown. Wade then threw a pick that linebacker Lee Roy Caffey returned 42 yards for a 14-0 lead. A 48-yard strike from Bart Starr to Bob Long extended the Packer halftime advantage to 20-0.

Years later, Dick Butkus acknowledged, “only perfection would have beaten the Packers”<sup>1</sup> in this game. But the Bears woke up in the second half when Halas changed to quarterback Rudy Bukich and rookie halfback Gale Sayers woke up the football world. Both Chicago touchdowns were scored by *The Kansas Comet*. His first came in the third quarter when he finished an 80-yard touchdown drive with a six-yard run. His second came with six minutes left in the game on a short pass from Bukich. Sayers electrified the crowd by taking the pass on a 65-yard ride to the end zone.

The morning paper praised Sayers with Art Daley observing, “Sayers put on one of the finest performances ever seen by a rookie here.”<sup>2</sup> He finished with 80 yards rushing, and he caught five passes for 104 yards and one touchdown. A star was born, but the Packers won!

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>50,852</b>				

*“The 140-piece (Green Bay) West High School Wildcat Marching Band, a shining example of masterful maneuvers and musicianship, did not let superstition affect its performance. Making its 13<sup>th</sup> appearance at a Packer game, Director L. A. Skornicka’s well-*

*schooled unit made a resounding hit with the capacity house, which enthusiastically applauded the blue and gold Wildcats' intricate efforts."*<sup>3</sup>

1 Butkus: *Flesh and Blood*, p. 148

2 *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 10/4/65, Daley, p. 16

3 *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 10/4/65, Rimmel, p. 20



SAN FRANCISCO

**49ers**

**PACKERS**

**10**

**10.10.1965**

**27**

The only blemish in this game came when Bart Starr was intercepted for the first time in 294 attempts by cornerback Jimmy Johnson. Other than that, the game belonged to Green Bay and Don Chandler.

The newly acquired kicker from the New York Giants set up Green Bay's first points with a fake punt. He took off for a 27-yard run that set up Bart Starr's touchdown pass a few minutes later to Bob Long. Chandler also kicked two field goals and three extra points. To top it off, with five minutes left, Chandler set a Packer record that still stands today with a 90-yard punt!

Green Bay's offense was in high gear. Starr threw two touchdown passes, and the ground game pounded the Niners for 186 yards. Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung accounted for 116. A critical goal-line stand in the fourth quarter clinched it for the 4-0 Packers.

**San Francisco 0      7      3      0      10**

**Green Bay      7      6      7      7      27**

**Attendance: 50,852**

*Chandler decided on his own to try the fake punt!*

*Lombardi: "We appreciate the great support we got from the fans. It had a great deal to do with our performance."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/65, Daley, 17



**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**31**

**10.17.1965**

**21**

### Pep Talk Works

Detroit took control of the first half with two Milt Plum touchdown passes. One went to former Packer Ron Kramer, and the second, a 55-yard bomb, to Terry Barr.

Trailing 21-3 at the half, the Packers regrouped. As Bob Long recalls: "Lombardi came into our tiny locker room at Tiger Stadium and said, 'Gentleman, that was the worst exhibition of football I've ever seen. Wait until I get a hold of you on Monday.' Then he turned and walked out."<sup>1</sup> Long and company charged out of the locker room and ripped the game away from the Lions with a 21-point third quarter.

The defense shut out the Lions in the second half. Bart Starr threw three long touchdown passes – 62, 31, and 77 yards – to take the lead. In the fourth quarter, Starr ran for a four-yard touchdown to complete a thrilling day (15-23-301-3-1). After the game, Lombardi commented, "This was a great comeback. This team has a great deal of pride."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>56,712</b>				

*"Willie Wood, Packer player (was) named chairman of the first state wide fund campaign of the Association for Retarded Children."<sup>3</sup>*

1 Stadium Stories, D'Amato, p. 25  
 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/65, p. 13  
 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/65, p.6





DALLAS

**COWBOYS**

**PACKERS**

**3**

**10.24.1965**

**13**

### **Fumbles Dooms Dallas**

This was a game of defense and field goals. The Green Bay Press-Gazette called it a "throwback to grandpa's day,"<sup>1</sup> The Packers generated only 63 yards all game and Bart Starr completed only four passes for minus 10 yards. The Cowboys turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Craig Morton was sacked nine times.

In the second quarter, Don Chandler's 44-yard field goal put the first points on the board. Danny Villanueva's kick tied it 3-3 in the third quarter. When Chandler's punt was fumbled by Mel Renfro, it was recovered by Junior Coffey on the Dallas 22. Chandler's second field goal gave Green Bay a 6-3 lead.

A few minutes later, halfback Don Perkins was hit hard by Henry Jordan and Ron Kostelnick. The ball sprung loose and Willie Davis recovered on the Dallas seven-yard line. On the next play, a Packer Sweep, Jim Taylor scored behind Jerry Kramer to seal the deal.

<b>Dallas</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

**Attendance: 48, 311**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*The teams totaled minus 11 yards passing!*

*In Green Bay, "the bank president is likely to get a frantic call on Sunday morning from a guy who neglected to get his Packer tickets out of his safe deposit box."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/65, Daley, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/65, Larson, p. 5



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**10**  
**31**

**10.31.1965**

## Halloween Nightmare

The first loss of the season didn't start that way as the Packers scored on their opening drive. Along with a field goal, that was it for their point production.

In the first half, two interceptions of Bart Starr by Doug Atkins and Bennie McRae helped Chicago get out to a 17-7 lead. The Bears had a fine afternoon running the ball (212 yards), and they threw only 11 passes.

In the second half, the Packers were shutout, and they never got beyond their 35-yard line. The final dagger came on a spectacular 62-yard punt return by Gale Sayers. He broke four tackles on his way to the Green Bay 15. Jon Arnett's touchdown a few plays later slammed the door on the Packers. For good measure, the Bears finished the scoring with a touchdown run by Ronnie Bull.

After the game, Lombardi was impressed. "This is a far better club than the one that won the championship in 1963 – all the way around."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>

**Attendance: 45,644**

*"St. Norbert's College football coach Howie (Chick) Kolstad and Green Bay Packer all-pro linebacker Ray Nitschke will be the featured speakers at the first annual city-wide high school football banquet."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/65, Rempel, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/65, p. 47



DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**12**  
**13**

**11.7.1965**

For a third straight game, the offense sputtered with only 68 *total* yards. The game was eerily reminiscent of the Thanksgiving Day loss in 1962. Bart Starr completed just nine passes for 111 yards, and he was sacked 11 times for minus 109 yards.

In the second quarter, Jim Taylor scored Green Bay's lone touchdown for a 7-0 lead. Joe Don Looney tied it on Detroit's next series. In the second half, the Packers couldn't get beyond midfield. It stayed 7-7 until late in the fourth quarter when a Paul Hornung option pass was intercepted on Green Bay's 21-yard line. Wayne Walker's field goal with 4:51 left made it 10-7 Detroit. Twenty-eight seconds later, Roger Brown sacked of Starr in the end zone for a safety. "They overpowered us all the way,"<sup>1</sup> Lombardi said of the Lions who ran 59 plays compared to Green Bay's 38. The loss also knocked the Packers out of first place.

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>57,578</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/65, Rimmel, p. 13



LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**

**PACKERS**

**3**

**11.14.1965**

**6**

### **Nine-Point Battle**

Between the teams, there were 10 sacks, five turnovers, and 319 total yards. The game belonged to Green Bay's Don Chandler who's two field goals proved to be enough.

Chandler traded field goals with Bruce Gossett in the first quarter. Offensively, the Packers gained 75 net yards passing. The Lions produced a paltry 26. Neither team put together a sustained drive, and the winning kick didn't come until there were 37 seconds left in the game.

Ron Kostelnik's hit on L. A. quarterback Bill Munson caused a fumble on the Rams 20 that Lionel Aldridge recovered. Six plays later, on fourth down from the one-inch line, Chandler delivered his seven-yard winner!

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

**Attendance: 48,485**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*GB remains one game behind Baltimore.*



**PACKERS**

**38**

**11.21.1965**

MINNESOTA

**VIKINGS**

**13**

Six turnovers by the Vikings were the difference. In the first half, Green Bay took a 7-6 lead on a Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler touchdown pass. After halftime, quarterback Fran Tarkenton put the Vikings back in front 13-10 with a 27-yard touchdown pass to Paul Flatley.

Green Bay's defense completely took over in the fourth quarter. "Ray Nitschke's recovery of Bill Brown's fumble set up a Packer touchdown, Doug Hart scored another on a 20-yard run with another Brown fumble, Herb Adderley intercepted a pass, and Lionel Aldridge fell on a Viking fumble that led to the game's final score."<sup>1</sup> Whew!

Bart Starr threw three touchdown passes to Carroll Dale, Boyd Dowler and Bob Long. Dowler and Long scored in the fourth quarter to lock-up the win. Jim Taylor balanced the attack with 111 yards rushing as the Packers crushed the Vikings.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>47,426</b>				

*Painted on a Packer fan's face: "I'd rather fight than switch" shiner around her left eye."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1965Packers

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/65, Rimmel, p. 20



**PACKERS**

LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**

**10**

**11.28.1965**

**21**

## **Ouch!**

The Rams, who had lost eight in a row, pulled the shocking upset. After Don Chandler's field goal opened the scoring, L. A. scored the next 18 points.

Ben Wilson's touchdown run, three Bruce Gossett field goals, and a safety by "Deacon" Jones fueled the upset. The Rams' defense held Green Bay to 22 yards rushing and both quarterbacks, Bart Starr, and Zeke Bratkowski had trouble getting the offense moving. Green Bay's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on an 80-yard connection between Bratkowski and Elijah Pitts. The defeat put the Packers 1.5 games behind Baltimore.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>

**Attendance: 39,733**

*The 1965 draft was held before this game.*



MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**  
**PACKERS**

**19**  
**24**

**12.5.1965**

### **A 59-Yard Field Goal?**

In a "screamer right down to the end,"<sup>1</sup> the Packers were outgained, but not outscored. In the first minute, Bart Starr and Boyd Dowler connected for a quick touchdown and a 7-0 lead. A short time later, Starr left the game with an injured finger on his throwing hand, and Zeke Bratkowski replaced him.

While the Packers regrouped, the Vikings scored the next 16 points. Halfback Tommy Mason scored on the ground, and Fred Cox kicked three field goals. In a surprising move, in the first half's final seconds, Cox tried for a fourth field goal. With the wind at his back from 59 yards away the kick fell short. Perched near the goal line, Willie Wood returned the kick 71 yards to the Minnesota 21-yard line with 19 seconds left! Elijah Pitts then scored from the three-yard line to narrow Minnesota's lead to 16-14 at halftime.

A third-quarter touchdown pass from Bratkowski to tight end Bill Anderson put Green Bay back on top 21-19. Early in the fourth quarter, Don Chandler's field goal attempt was partially blocked before hitting the crossbar and amazingly still going over! Those three points made the difference as the Vikings were within field goal range when time ran out.

<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 50,852**

*Fran Tarkenton: 11-30-106-0-0*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/65, Daley, p. 15



**PACKERS**  
BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**

**42**  
**27**

**12.12.1965**

## Hornung's Game

In a thick fog, the Packers flattened the Colts in Baltimore. Paul Hornung scored a Packer record of five touchdowns. Three came on short touchdown runs, and two on Bart Starr touchdown passes of 50 and 65 yards!

Baltimore quarterback Gary Cuzzo, who filled in for an injured Johnny Unitas, kept the Colts close until Dave Robinson's interception late in the first half. When Robinson returned the pick 87 yards, he set up Starr's short touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler 14 just before halftime.

Two Hornung touchdown runs in the third quarter pushed the advantage to 35-17. The second touchdown came after a Tom Brown interception. Baltimore rallied to cut the lead to seven 35-27 with 5:43 left. On Green Bay's next series, Hornung's fifth score came on a 65-yard pass play to clinch this big win.

This was Green Bay's most productive game of the season – 42 points, 366 yards – and they moved one-half game in front of the Colts in the Western Conference.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>

**Attendance: 60,238**

*Colts were held to 264 total yards.*

*"Dave Robinson, who seemed more eager to talk about Hornung than himself said, 'Before the game I heard the fans saying, 'Want to bet, Paul?' and things like that. People haven't forgotten, and they can be cruel. I'm just overjoyed to see Paul have a good day. He's a fine athlete.' "1*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/65, Rimmel, p. 20





**PACKERS**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
**49ers**

**24**  
**24**

**12.19.1965**

### **Brodie Leads Comeback**

A win would have clinched the Western Conference for Green Bay. In a quiet first half, a Tommy Davis field goal started the scoring for San Francisco. Two minutes later, Green Bay struck back with a 43-yard bomb from Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler. It stood 7-3 at halftime.

After the break, Herb Adderley's pick-six pushed the lead to 14-3. The interception woke up 49er quarterback John Brodie, who drove the Niners 82 yards and threw his first touchdown to halfback John David Crow.

In the fourth quarter, when Doug Hart fell in the end zone, Brodie and Dave Parks connected for a 17-14 lead with 11 minutes left. Green Bay scored the next 10 points to seemingly take control. Jim Taylor's touchdown run and Don Chandler's field goal made it 24-17 Packers with two minutes left.

With the season on the line, the defense couldn't stop Brodie. The 49ers went 56 yards in four plays, and with seven seconds left, Brodie's 27-yard pass to Vern Burke tied the game. The tie setup a playoff game between the Packers and the Colts next week in Green Bay.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 45, 710**

*The Packers were welcomed back in Green Bay "by 500 of the weary but boisterous faithful...just after 2:30 this morning."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/65, Rummel, p. 35



## Western Conference Playoff

BALTIMORE

**COLTS**

**PACKERS**

**10**

**12.26.1965**

**13** (OT)

### **Chandler Wins It!**

Though the Packers had beaten the Colts twice during the regular season, they played another 73:39 to decide the Western Conference championship. In the second playoff game in NFL history to go into overtime, it was a tense, thrilling battle that left the crowd "limp and delirious."<sup>1</sup>

The game was a battle of backup quarterbacks. With Johnny Unitas and backup quarterback Gary Cuzo already injured, halfback Tom Matte led the Colts. Matte carried, "a list of plays on a wristband for easy reference."<sup>2</sup> For Green Bay, Bart Starr was injured on the first play from scrimmage. His pass to tight end Bill Anderson was fumbled and picked up by linebacker Don Shinnick. Shinnick returned it for a touchdown, and Starr injured his ribs as he was blocked trying to tackle Shinnick. Starr was replaced by Zeke Bratkowski. After Shinnick's touchdown, a field goal by Lou Michaels made it 10-0 Baltimore.

After a scoreless first half, the Packer season looked like it was slipping away with Starr on the bench and Zeke Bratkowski off to a slow start. But after intermission, Bratkowski heated-up. A poor snap by Baltimore on a punt gave him an opportunity. With the ball on the Colts' 35-yard line, Carroll Dale's diving, over the shoulder catch of a Bratkowski pass went for 34 yards! Hornung took it the final yard to cut the lead to 10-7.

It stayed a three-point game until Bratkowski put together a 14-play drive that setup Don Chandler's controversial field goal. The kick came from the 22-yard line with 1:58 left in regulation. It tied the game, and sent it into overtime...but not without controversy. The Colts argued that the kick sailed wide right and the play remains controversial to this day.

In overtime, the Colts had the ball first, but Lou Michaels missed a 48-yard field goal partially due to another bad snap. The Packers capitalized with a 62-yard drive in 10 plays that brought the ball to Baltimore's 25-yard line. After 13:39 of the overtime, Don Chandler delivered one of the greatest field goals in Packer history from the 25-yard line for the conference title!

The next day, a relieved Vince Lombardi praised his conference champions: "This may not be the best team I've ever had, but it has a great deal of character...which I think is most important."<sup>3</sup>

<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>50,484</b>					

*NFL extended the goals posts in 1966.*

*"Green Bay football fans, veterans now at this business of celebrating championships, hollered, whistled, ate and drank after Sunday's playoff game. But they seemed to be saving the big outburst for what, they assume, will be a league championship party next Sunday night."<sup>4</sup>*

*Green Bay's mayor encouraged residents to "display flags and decorate display areas with a 'Packer-Backer' theme since we want the Packers to know we are bursting with pride over the fact that the greatest football team in the United States is a component of the greatest All-American city, Green Bay."<sup>5</sup>*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, Daley, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/21/65, Beard, p. 19

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/65, Daley, p. 13

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, p. 1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, p. 1

## NFL Championship Game



CLEVELAND

**BROWNS**

**PACKERS**

**12**

**1.2.1966**

**23** (OT)

The NFL Championship Game and *Mother Nature* have had some fierce battles over the years. Of the 33 championship games played between 1933-1965, the weather played havoc with many. This last NFL Championship Game before the Super Bowl Era brought a little bit of everything weather-wise: rain, sleet, snow, mud and ice!

Before the game, four inches of snow had to be cleared from the field by shovels, plows and a helicopter! Volunteers cleared the stands. The conditions slowed everything to a crawl including the bus carrying the Cleveland Browns. What normally would have been a 30-minute bus ride to Lambeau field took 90 minutes.

The Browns were the defending NFL Champion. In 1964, they disposed of Johnny Unitas and the Colts 27-0. Led by their great fullback Jimmy Brown, the Browns also featured an impressive passing game led by quarterback Frank Ryan and top-ranked receivers Gary Collins and Paul Warfield. They faced a Green Bay team that had an "overpowering offense coupled with a stingy defense"<sup>1</sup> that allowed the fewest points in the league, and was especially strong against the pass.

Both teams started quickly. Green Bay scored on the game's opening drive when Carroll Dale adjusted to an underthrown pass from Starr for a 47-yard touchdown. The Browns countered on their first series with a 66-yard drive and a Frank Ryan to Gary Collins touchdown pass in the corner of the end zone. But a bad snap foiled the extra point and Green Bay led 7-6. For the rest of the half, veteran kickers Lou Groza and Don Chandler traded field goals for a 13-12 Packer lead.

Green Bay's first drive of the second half was one for the ages. It lasted 11 plays, covered 90 yards and featured the team's

impressive power and skill. Only two passes were thrown on the drive as Paul Hornung and Jimmy Taylor ran roughshod over the Browns. Hornung's 13-yard touchdown gallop around left end in the mud gave Green Bay a 20-12 lead and all the momentum. Hornung and Taylor ran for 201 yards!

The defense took it from there. The Browns were held to just 26 total yards in the second half, and Jim Brown managed only 50 yards rushing all game. In the third quarter, Ray Nitschke made the defensive play of the game when he tipped the ball out of Brown's hands in the end zone. That drive ended for Cleveland when Henry Jordan blocked Lou Groza's field goal attempt. "That's the best defensive club we've faced in the last couple of years,"<sup>2</sup> Frank Ryan conceded after the game. Their sensational defense along with an unstoppable, machine-like offense, led Green Bay back to the top of the NFL.

<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>50,777</b>				

### **Championship Stories**

#### **Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer Fan Hall of Fame \***

*It was 1965, and Vivian and her girlfriend went to this title game by themselves. They drove to Green Bay in her friend's new yellow convertible! The snow and cold didn't bother these two Packer fans. "Handling the cold was different then. You bundled up so much more, and you wanted to stay close together so that you would stay warm."*

*"After the Packers had grabbed the early lead, most of the beer vendors chose to use the cases as stools, watched the game and sold the suds refreshment only when somebody asked."<sup>3</sup>*

*Cheering fans "tore down the four-inch pipes that make up the goal posts. A short time later, the posts were displayed in downtown Green Bay as fans celebrated into the wee hours of the morning."<sup>4</sup>*

*I'll keep my ticket stub for this game the rest of my life."<sup>5</sup>*

\* Interview 11/16/2016

1 Greatest Moments in Green Bay Packer Football History, Korth, p. 71

2 Greatest Moments in Green Bay Packer Football History, Korth, p. 72

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, Devenport, p. 6

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, p.1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, Devenport, p. 6



## 1965 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	3	1
Baltimore	10	3	1
Chicago	9	5	0
San Francisco	7	6	1
Minnesota	7	7	0
Detroit	6	7	1
Los Angeles	4	10	0

### Team Leaders

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Chandler
Interceptions	Adderley, Wood w/6

### All-Pro

Adderley	Cornerback
Davis	Defensive End
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Nitschke	Linebacker
Wood	Safety

### Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Donny Anderson (1, HB)  
 Junior Coffey (7c, HB)  
 Jim Weatherwax (11, T)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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