



**1937**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

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**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

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**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

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



## 1937

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**Record: 7-4-0 (2nd Place – tie)**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- Six thousand seats were added to City Stadium bringing its capacity to 18,000.
- The Packers lost the College All-Star Game in Chicago. Both Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett were injured.
- The Packers started 0-2 as Herber and Monnett did not play. Herber sat out two games with a shoulder injury. After the poor start, they won seven in a row! Green Bay remained in contention until they lost their final two games.
- Green Bay had the top offense in the league, but the defense was average. They had trouble defending the pass.
- On November 23, the Packers announced: “a Thanksgiving gift to the people of Green Bay and Wisconsin.”<sup>1</sup> The addition of 6,544 seats to City Stadium will include a “band shell for concerts, dramatic works, fights, and other entertainment. (It) will give Green Bay and the surrounding country a magnificent new facility for outdoor events.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/37, p. 13



1919-2019

CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**14** 9.12.1937  
**7**

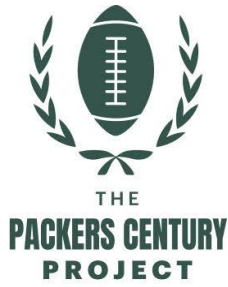
### **Poor start**

With quarterbacks Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett unable to play, the defending champions had trouble finding the end zone. They ran the ball for 246 yards, but turnovers ruled the day. Green Bay put up five interceptions, and the Cardinals scored their first touchdown after a pick thrown by Hank Bruder.

In a 7-7 game in the third quarter, Clarke Hinkle missed the snap from center and Chicago's defensive end Bill Smith picked it up in stride and went 25-yards for a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, rookie Herb Banet of the Packers threw two interceptions deep in Chicago territory. The picks killed two promising drives for Green Bay, and they clinched the opener for the Cardinals.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

**Attendance: 10,000**



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**2** 9.19.1937

Arnie Herber was still out injured. Bob Monnett played, but the Packers still had difficulty scoring. Fortunately, the Bears did too in a scoreless first half.

On the opening drive of the third quarter, halfback Ray Nolting's touchdown run gave Chicago the lead. On their next series, the Bears struck again when a short pass from quarterback Bernie Masterson to "Automatic" Jack Manders went 40-yards down the sideline for a touchdown.

Green Bay's only points came when Don Hutson blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Otherwise, the Packers couldn't run the ball (38 yards), and they threw four interceptions. Despite being 0-2, Papa Bear thought the Packers would be in contention by season's end. "Don't think they won't be giving the Bears and Lions a real battle for that championship,"<sup>1</sup> he said.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Attendance: 16,658</b>					
<b>Rushing Yards: GB CHI</b>					

*"Until the NFL passed a rule against it, it was popular in the late '30s for players to stop the clock by faking injuries. Packers coach Curly Lambeau once was asked how the players knew which one of them should take a dive. His classic response: "I stand on the sideline with a player next to me. If he's a right end, the right end knows it's his turn to faint."<sup>2</sup>*

*Headline: "End of World at Hand, But Woman Wants Packer Seats."<sup>3</sup>*

1 packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Sept. 20)  
2 The National Forgotten League, Daly, p. 137  
3 Packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Sept. 22)



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**6**  
**26** 10.3.1937

The Packers broke into the win column with this pummeling of the Lions. A blocked punt by George Svendsen of Green Bay led to a Clark Hinkle touchdown run and a 6-0 lead. The Packers made it 12-0 in the second quarter on a touchdown pass by Joe Laws. The Lions got on the scoreboard with Dutch Clark's touchdown pass and trailed 12-6 at the half.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers put the game out of reach thanks to Michigan State alum Bob Monnett. Singlehandedly, Monnett put the game out of Detroit's reach with a 77-yard touchdown pass to Milt Gantenbein. Monnett also scored on a nine-yard touchdown run for the final points. Second-year receiver, Don Huston, had this to say about the Lions rivalry. "They all talk about this Bear rivalry up here, but I've always found the Detroit game harder."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>17,553</b>				

*"Lots of them (fans) who thought "we can always get tickets" were turned away.....they'll learn."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 4)

<sup>2</sup> packershistory.net/1973Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 4)



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**13**  
**34** 10.10.1937

### No problem

Three weeks after exacting a bit of revenge for past failures against the Cardinals, the Packers had a much easier time with Arnie Herber back in the saddle directing traffic. They moved the ball easily, and outgained the Cardinals 345-257.

Green Bay led 24-7 at halftime. Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett each threw a touchdown pass while Clark Hinkle kicked a field goal and scored on the ground. In the second half, Milwaukee native Eddie Jankowski gave friends and family a thrill with 46-yard sprint for a touchdown. This was the highlight of the day for the hometown crowd, and it gave Green Bay an insurmountable 31-7 lead. For the game, Jankowski ripped off 92 yards on 11 carries!

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>

**Attendance: 16,181**  
**Milwaukee**



**PACKERS**  
CLEVELAND  
**RAMS**

**35**  
**10.17.1937**  
**10**

Green Bay's potent and balanced offense was unstoppable. They demolished the Rams with 205 yards on the ground and 199 more through the air!

A short, four-yard pass from Herber to Hutson opened the scoring. Hutson caught a second touchdown pass from Bob Monnett before halftime. In the second half, Herber and Hutson hooked up again from 36 yards out. Running backs Clarke Hinkle and Joe Laws also scored in the fourth quarter for an easy win.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

**Attendance: 12,100**

*Total Yards: GB 399 CLE 175*

*Clarke Hinkle: "We were kings in Green Bay. We traveled in the best of society. Whenever they had charity balls that people attended in evening gowns and all that, we were invited. There was a lot of money up there – a lot of money made in lumber and in the paper industry."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Game that Was, Cope, p. 101



1919-2019

CLEVELAND  
**RAMS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**37** 10.24.1937

A second game with the Rams in seven days wasn't much different in outcome.

This time the scoring started right away with two Bob Monnett touchdown passes in the first 10 minutes. Clarke Hinkle and Herm Schneidman caught the aerals, and Hinkle also kicked five extra points. The Rams kept it close until the second half when the Packers pulled away. They scored on the opening drive on Hank Bruder's touchdown run and they began to pull away. Milt Gantenbein starred with a touchdown pass and an interception. The pick was returned for a touchdown after Gantenbein lateraled to guard Zud Schammel!

The Packers topped 30+ points in three straight games. Behind the points in this game were 442 yards of offense! The defense also stood tall holding the Rams to six first downs and 168 total yards.

<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>8,600</b>				





**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**14**

**10.31.1937**

**13**

After a scoreless 30 minutes, Detroit's Dutch Clark took over. In six minutes, he scored two touchdowns and made one of two extra point attempts. Clark's second touchdown came after he intercepted Arnie Herber pass for a 13-0 lead.

Near the end of the third quarter, Don Hutson blocked a punt that was recovered by Buckets Goldenberg. Two plays later, Green Bay scored on Eddie Janikowski's 34-yard run to make it 13-7. With three minutes left in the game, Clarke Hinkle completed a 52-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown run. Ernie Smith delivered the critical extra point. In the final minute, Clark missed a 31-yard drop-kick!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>21,311</b>				



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**BEARS**

**24**

**11.7.1937**

**14**

### **A split!**

After the Packers defeated the Lions, many excited Green Bay fans made plans to travel to Wrigley Field for the rematch against the Bears. A round trip train ticket cost \$3.95.

Green Bay delivered the knockout punch to the undefeated Bears in the second quarter. They took a 17-0 lead on a 78-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Arnie Herber to Don Hutson. Ernie Smith's field goal and Ed Jankowski's 27-yard pick-six stretched the lead to 17-0 at halftime.

The Bears regrouped and scored on back to back drives that produced two big plays. A 54-yard pick-six by Jack Manders made it 17-7. On their next possession, a 64-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bernie Masterson to Ed "Eggs" Manske cut the lead to three.

In the final minutes, a punt by the Bears went straight up in the air and was downed on Chicago's 23-yard line. Three plays later, Clarke Hinkle caught the winner from Bob Monnett. For the game, Don Hutson lead all receivers with five catches for 140 yards and one touchdown.

**Green Bay      0      17      0      7      24**

**Chicago        0      0      14      0      14**

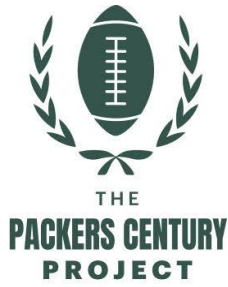
**Attendance: 44,977**

*First Downs: GB 7 CHI 9*

*"Don Hutson provided the greatest thrill of the day with his catch of Arnold Herber's 78-yard forward pass gain. Of that play an Iowan sitting next to Frank Jonet, Packer corporation treasurer, said, "This*

*is what I paid to see, and now I'm satisfied. The outcome doesn't interest me, but I have heard so much about the Herber-Hutson combination that I had to see it for myself. That pass alone was worth the price of admission for me."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Nov. 8)



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA  
**EAGLES**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**37** 11.14.1937

## **Blowout!**

The Packers rang up 436 total yards, and Arnie Herber threw three touchdown passes! All of the touchdowns came through the air, and Don Hutson caught two.

Philadelphia didn't score until the fourth quarter. After the game, Bert Bell the Eagles owner, and future NFL Commissioner said, "Without question the Packers are the best team we have met this year."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>37</b>

**Attendance: 23,340**

**Milwaukee**

*Total Yards: GB 436 PHI 197*



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

NEW YORK

**GIANTS**

**0**

**11.21.1937**

**10**

On a soft and soggy field, New York's defense pulled off the upset and grounded Green Bay. The aerial-prone Packers completed just five passes in 20 attempts for 19 yards!

Green Bay turned the ball over seven times with five interceptions. New York took the lead on a first-half field goal. The lone touchdown of the game came in the second half after the Giants recovered a fumble by George Sauer on Green Bay's 33-yard line. Four plays later, quarterback Ed Danowski and Jim Poole hooked up for the touchdown.

Green Bay's offense never got going. The Packers complained throughout the game about the rough, hands-on play of New York's secondary. The Press-Gazette noted, "The Giants were covering Hutson like a tent and sometimes even holding him to slow up his progress down the field. This happened so frequently that the Packers protested continually, but it was of no avail."<sup>1</sup> The loss snapped Green Bay's seven-game winning streak, and in all practicality, ended their title hopes.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

**Attendance: 38,965**

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/37, Calhoun, p. 13



1919-2019

**PACKERS**  
WASHINGTON  
**REDSKINS**

**6**  
**11.28.1937**  
**14**

An aerial duel between Arnie Herber and rookie *Slingin* Sammy Baugh never materialized. It was Bob Monnett, not Arnie Herber, who threw the first-quarter touchdown pass to Don Hutson. Washington started slowly.

In the second half, the Redskins' offense came alive. After trading interceptions with the Packers, Baugh and running back Cliff Battles, led the Redskins on a 70-yard drive to go in front 7-6. The highlight of the drive was a 53 yard pass play from Baugh to Chuck Malone. It stayed 7-6 until midway through the final quarter when Don Irwin intercepted a Packer pass on the Green Bay's 34-yard line. Four plays later, Sammy Baugh's touchdown pass to Chuck Malone won it.

**Green Bay** 6 0 0 0 6  
**Washington** 0 0 7 7 14  
**Attendance: 30,000**

*"All fans who appreciate the men's work during the past season are urged to visit the Oakland avenue station of the Milwaukee Road to extend them a welcome."*



## 1937 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS – Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago Bears	9	1	1
Green Bay	7	4	0
Detroit	7	4	0
Chicago	5	5	1
Cleveland	1	10	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hinkle

### ALL-PRO

Lon Evans	Guard
Milt Gantenbein	End
Clarke Hinkle	Running Back
Don Huston	End
Russ Letlow	Guard
Ernie Smith	Tackle

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ed Jankowski (1, B)  
Charles (Bud) Wilkinson (3, T)  
Earl Svendsen (4, C)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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