



**1942**



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)



## 1942

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**Record: 8-2-1 2nd Place - Tie - Western Division**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- For the third year in a row, the Packers finished second to the Bears.
- Sixteen Green Bay Packers, including Clarke Hinkle, served in the armed forces in 1942.
- Green Bay's passing game was unstoppable. Cecil Isbell became the first quarterback in NFL history to pass for more than 2,000 yards in a season. He also passed Arnie Herber for the most touchdown passes in Packers history.
- Don Hutson had the best season to date for an NFL receiver. He set several new records including 17 touchdown catches, 1,211 receiving yards, and 138 total points.
- After the season, at age 27, Cecil Isbell surprisingly announced his retirement. He returned to his alma mater, Purdue, as an assistant coach.



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**44**  
**28**      **9.27.1942**

After their playoff loss to the Bears in 1941, the Packers looked forward to the opener.

This the was the highest-scoring game between the rivals to date. Chicago grabbed an early lead on Ray Nolting’s 39-yard sprint to the end zone over left guard. In the second stanza, the Packers surged into the lead with touchdowns by Lou Brock, Don Hutson, and Tony Canadeo. They led at the half 21-13.

The two-time defending champion Bears took control after the break. Fullback Gary Famiglietti ran for three touchdowns in the final 30 minutes. For the game, he ran 20 times for 79 yards.

At the end of the third quarter, Don Hutson’s touchdown catch kept Green Bay in the lead 28-27. Chicago struck back hard with 17 points in the final six minutes. After a field goal started a comeback, a fumble by the Packers on their next possession was recovered by Ray Nolting who went 35 yards for a 38-27 lead. Minutes later, Famiglietti’s third touchdown run finished off Green Bay.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Attendance: 20,007</b>					

*The Bears intercepted four passes.*

*“Seeing all those young men inducted into the service between halves – a mighty impressive ceremony.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/28/42, p. 13



**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**

**17**

**10.4.1942**

**13**

### **No Protest**

Though the Cardinals outplayed the Packers on Sunday night, they couldn't chalk up the win. Ted Fritsch's first-quarter field goal gave Green Bay an early edge, but Chicago came back with a touchdown and two field goals to lead at halftime 13-3.

The Cardinals played solid defense against "the foremost passing specialists of pro football."<sup>1</sup> It remained 13-3 into the fourth quarter when two Chicago fumbles set up Packer touchdowns. Early in the fourth quarter Green Bay's offense found its stride with a Don Hutson touchdown catch made it 13-10. A few minutes later, a punt pushed the Cardinals back to their 13-yard line. On third-and-two, Green Bay linebacker Charley Brock stole the ball from running back Bob Morrow. He went 20 yards untouched into the end zone for the win!

The Bears protested without success. However, the next day, a group of sportswriters watched *motion pictures* of the game which appeared to confirm that a whistle had blown the play dead before Brock's theft!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

**Attendance: 24,897**

1 When Football Was Football, Ziemba, p. 247



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**38** 10.11.1942

With a new coach - John "Bull" Karcis – Detroit enjoyed an early 7-3 lead before the Packers took the reigns. Green Bay's offense overwhelmed the Lions with 305 passing yards. Quarterback Cecil Isbell threw three touchdowns passes – two to Don Hutson – that opened up a 24-7 halftime lead. The Lions completed just seven of 26 passes, and they had three intercepted.

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>

**Attendance: 19,500**  
**Milwaukee**

*"Between halves the crowd was treated to a scrappy football game between a couple of grade school elevens."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, Pagel, p. 11



1919-2019

CLEVELAND  
**RAMS**  
**PACKERS**

**28**  
**45**

**10.18.1942**

With 73 points and 900 yards of offense between them, this contest was non-stop action. In the first quarter, Don Hutson's touchdown catch helped Green Bay out to a 10-0 lead. By halftime, the Rams led 21-17 behind two long distance touchdowns by wing-back Dante Magnani.

In the second half, the Packers had the Rams defense running in circles. Both on the ground and in the air, they moved the ball easily and scored 28 unanswered points. Quarterback Cecil Isbell ran for one touchdown, and he threw for another to Hutson. Tony Canadeo "stood the fans on their collective ears"<sup>1</sup> with a 50-yard touchdown run, and he also threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Joe Laws.

Cecil Isbell completed 23 of 33 passes for 277 yards. With two touchdown passes and a touchdown run, his performance was only topped by Hutson who set a new NFL record with 13 catches for 209 yards!

<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>45</b>

**Attendance: 12,847**

*"Among the spectators were some 450 newsboys who deliver the Press-Gazette to homes in Green Bay, DePere, and the suburbs. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, newboys from 66 communities in the 'state' circulation area will see the Chicago Cardinals play."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/42, Daley, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/42, Pagel, p. 13



**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**28**

**10.25.1942**

**7**

Other than the location, not much had changed in two weeks. The Lions were still winless, and Green Bay's winning streak now reached four games. Though the Lions outgained the Packers, they didn't score until the fourth quarter. They turned the ball over six times, and the Packers capitalized after two of the turnovers. Andy Uram's 98-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter ended all doubt.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>19,097</b>				

*Sports writers were beginning to acknowledge the popularity of the Packers beyond Green Bay. "We wouldn't draw 10,000 if the Dodgers or Rams or even the Bears were playing here. Your Green Bay club really has drawing power."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/42, Daley, p. 16



1919-2019

CHICAGO

**CARDINALS**

**PACKERS**

**24**

**55**

11.1.1942

## **Five!**

The Cardinals led 17-7 in the second quarter quarterback when Packer quarterback Cecil Isbell caught fire. He became the first quarterback in Packers history to throw five touchdown passes in one game! The touchdowns went for 40, 73, 64, 65 and 36 yards. Don Hutson caught three of them, and Andy Uram snagged two. It was Uram's best day as a Green Bay Packer, and Cecil Isbell completed 10 passes for an astounding 333 yards!

**Chicago            10        7        0        7        24**

**Green Bay        7        14       13       21       55**

**Attendance: 14,782**

*"Between halves the crowd seemed to take great interest in an exhibition contest between two squads of grade school boys. Just for fun and not to prove anything, Annunciation and SS. Peter-Paul, co-champions of the parochial league, engaged in ten minutes of lively dueling. Annunciation won, 6-0."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/42, Pagel p. 13





**PACKERS**

CLEVELAND

**RAMS**

**30**

**11.8.1942**

**12**

Cecil Isbell and Don Hutson continued their hot streak with three more touchdowns. Two came in the first half for a 16-0 halftime lead. When the Rams cut it to 16-12 in the fourth quarter, the Packers responded with two touchdown passes to clinch it. Isbell's fourth touchdown pass went to rookie fullback Chuck Sample. Tony Canadeo and Don Hutson hooked up for six more, and the Packers won easily.

**Green Bay    6    10    0    14    30**

**Cleveland    0    0    5    7    12**

**Attendance: 16,473**

*Hutson became the first player in NFL history to reach 100 pts in a season.*



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**7**  
**11.15.1942**  
**38**

This long-awaited game was a disaster for the Packers. They turned the ball over five times, and two of their turnovers led to touchdowns.

The Bears won their 21<sup>st</sup> straight game behind an impressive defensive effort. A Packer fumble returned for a touchdown started the scoring. A pick-six by defensive back Sid Luckman put them in front 14-0. Quarterback Charlie O'Rourke also threw two touchdown passes.

Green Bay's offense went nowhere. They ran for 43 yards and gained 208 overall. The shut out was avoided when Don Hutson swung around the goalpost to deceive the defense to get open. "They obviously left their pride at home,"<sup>1</sup> said the Press-Gazette the next day. Their poor performance ended all hope of a championship.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>19,500</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/42, Page1 p. 12



**PACKERS**  
NEW YORK  
**GIANTS**

**21**  
**21**

**11.22.1942**

The lead changed hands five times with 737 yards of offense. "Tuffy" Leemans put New York in front early, and a short toss from Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson tied it. The Giants retook the lead on a 60-yard bomb to Will Walls, but another Hutson touchdown tied it at the break.

In the third quarter, Leemans scored again on the ground, and Green Bay evened it up with four minutes left in the game. Ted Fritsch, who took the wrong subway to the Polo Grounds and arrived late, produced his "biggest rushing day as a pro, gaining 111 yards on nine carries, and breaking a career-best 55-yard run to set up a (tying) touchdown in the final minutes."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>30,246</b>				

<sup>1</sup> The National Forgotten League, Daly, p. 187



**PACKERS**

PHILADELPHIA

**EAGLES**

**7**

**11.29.1942**

**0**

On a field that was flooded with water during the game, the Packers survived. They scored in the first minutes on a Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson touchdown pass.

Each team punted nine times! With less than two minutes remaining, the Eagles drove to Green Bay's 35-yard line. An interception by Lou Brock ended the threat and the game.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Attendance:**

*Total Yards: GB 177 PHI 130*



PITTSBURGH  
**STEELERS**  
**PACKERS**

**21** 12.6.1942  
**24**

## Isbell!

On a frigid day, Curly Lambeau kept his players warm. Those who weren't playing stayed in the locker room and Lambeau summoned them by phone when needed!

Quarterback Cecil Isbell ended the season with three more touchdown passes. He threw one in the first half, and along with a Don Hutson field goal, it gave Green Bay a 10-0 lead at the half. Two more Isbell touchdown passes stretched it to 24-7. Pittsburgh fought back with scores by Bill Dudley and Vern Martin, but their comeback fell short. Don Hutson's field goal turned out to be the difference, and a disappointing season came to an end with a win.

<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Milwaukee</b>					

*Don Hutson's 138 points set a new record that stood until 1960.*



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2019

## 1942 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>
Chicago Bears	11	0	0
Green Bay	8	2	1
Cleveland	5	6	0
Chicago	3	8	0
Detroit	0	11	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Fritsch
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Hutson

### ALL-PRO

Buckets Goldenberg	Guard
Clarke Hinkle	Fullback
Don Hutson	End

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Urban Odson (1, T)  
Bruce Smith (13, RB)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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