

SEASON  
27

1945



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)



## 1945

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**Record: 6-4-0 3rd Place - Western Division**

**Coach: Curly Lambeau**

- After winning his sixth championship in 1944, Curly Lambeau signed a contract extension through 1949.
- Attendance topped 20,000 for every home game except the game against the Cardinals which drew over 19,000.
- The defending champions scored the most points in the division, but their pass defense ranked at the bottom.
- With a 4-2 record in early November, the Packers were in contention. A 2-2 finish dashed their hopes.
- This was the last year for three great Packers who played on the 1936, 1939, and 1944 championship teams – Don Hutson, Joe Laws, and Buckets Goldenberg. Goldenberg played for the Packers for 13 seasons, a franchise record at the time.



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**31**

**9.30.1945**

### **Bears at Bay!**

The Packers proudly raised its 1944 championship pennant in front of the visiting Chicago Bears! Green Bay opened its title defense with a very physical game. Right at the start, Chicago's Lee Artoe landed a vicious uppercut to the jaw of Larry Craig. A scuffle ensued, and Artoe was ejected.

Don Hutson returned for another season! He caught three passes for 85 yards in the opener, and he also had an interception. Ted Fritsch started the scoring with a first-half touchdown. He also booted a 35-yard field goal. When Roy McKay opened the second half with a touchdown, the Packers led 17-0.

The Bears suddenly roared back with three touchdown runs by veteran running back Gary Famiglietti. He pulled them to within three, 24-21. With three minutes left, "like a boxer about down for the count,"<sup>1</sup> Green Bay regrouped and marched 61-yards in four plays. Second-year back Don Perkins scored the winner from the two.

After the game, Luke Johnsos, co-coach of the Bears, said, "It was old man Hutson. Without him they would be equal to us. I hope the fifth time he retires he means it."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>

**Attendance: 24,525**

*"Rumors that the Packer-Cleveland game at City Stadium Oct. 14 are sold out are untrue, Ticket Director Ralph C. Smith said today, adding*

*a word of warning, however, that all \$3.60 tickets have been sold and that there is a brisk demand for other ducats. Approximately 10,000 remain to be sold. Tickets are also moving fast for the Packer-Detroit contest at State Fair Park in West Allis next Sunday.”<sup>3</sup>*

- 1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p.
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/45, Rimmel, p. 13
- 3 packershistory.net (News & Notes, Oct. 2)



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**57**      **10.7.1945**

This remains the most points the Green Bay Packers have ever scored in a single game.

The Lions may have scored first, but six interceptions by Green Bay took the game away. The Packers scored 41 points in the second quarter on four touchdown passes from quarterback Roy McKay to Don Hutson. "Hutson and McKay set off a display of offensive football that was (the) greatest in the Packers' 27-year history."<sup>1</sup>

Don Hutson alone scored 29 points in the second quarter, and his 31 points for the game is second in NFL history. He scored on four touchdown passes of 59, 46 17 and 6 yards! Years later, Detroit's Hall of Fame center/linebacker Alex Wojciechowicz would say of Hutson: "if you didn't knock Hutson down, he'd score four or five touchdowns a game."<sup>2</sup>

Though the game was no contest and they intercepted six passes, the Packers were outgained by Detroit 385-293! Even Lambeau acknowledged that the score was deceiving. "Although we won by a decisive score, we made a lot of mistakes we have to correct."<sup>3</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>21,396</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/45, Yuenger, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> The Game That Was, Cope, p. 182

<sup>3</sup> packershistoru.net/1945Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 7)



1919-2019

CLEVELAND

**RAMS**

**PACKERS**

**27**

**14**

**10.14.1945**

Fans were excited about this big matchup between teams tied for first place. The Rams scored the only points of a quiet first half on quarterback Bob Waterfield's touchdown pass to end Jim Benton. Still trailing 7-0 in the third quarter, the Packers capitalized on a Cleveland fumble to go in front 7-6. Green Bay made it 14-6 in the fourth quarter on Ted Fritch's one-yard plunge.

But after Fritsch's touchdown, the Packers fell apart. In a collapse that many newspapers described as one of the worst ever witnessed in Green Bay, the Rams put up 21 points in the final 15 minutes. Early in the quarter, a 72-yard drive paid dividends as Waterfield's second touchdown pass, this one Tom Colella, narrowed the lead to 14-13. When Roy McKay fumbled on Green Bay's next play from scrimmage, the Rams recovered on the 35. Dan Greenwood scored from the one for a 20-14 lead. Albie Reisz sealed the deal with a 55-yard interception that he brought back to the Packers five-yard line. Tom Colella scored, and the Packers dropped into second place.

**Cleveland      6      0      0      21      27**

**Green Bay      0      0      7      7      14**

**Attendance: 24,607**

*From a Cleveland fan: "Everybody seemed to be rooting for Cleveland when we made our first touchdown, but the silence couldn't have been any deeper when we scored the second time."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1945Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 16)



BOSTON  
**YANKS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**38** 10.21.1945

### **Don Hutson Day!**

In anticipation of Don Hutson's coming retirement, it was *Don Hutson Day* at State Fair Park in Milwaukee. Hutson's Hall of Fame career was celebrated, and he was given a new car!

Hutson thanked the Milwaukee crowd by catching two touchdown passes. The first was a 75-yard bomb from Irv Comp that got the crowd on its feet. Roy McKay threw the second score to Hutson for a 21-7 lead. In between the touchdowns to Hutson, McKay ran for a 24-yard touchdown, and the Packers led 21-14 at the half.

Ted Frisch and Lou Brock provided all the points in the second half. They both scored on touchdowns runs, and Fritsch added a field goal as the Packers won going away.

<b>Boston</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>

**Attendance: 20,846**

**Milwaukee**

*GB set an NFL record at the time with 17 penalties for 179 yards.*

*Don Hutson: "I have been lucky all my life, but the luckiest day I ever had was the day I decided to play with the Packers and live in Wisconsin."<sup>1</sup>*

*"The ticket sale for the argument with the Windy City Redbirds had been unusually brisk, and there is every indication that another record crowd will be on hand."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> The Game That was, Cope, p. 182

<sup>2</sup> packershistory.net/1945Packers (News & Notes p. Oct. 23)



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**CARDINALS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**33** 10.28.1945

Another blowout of the Cardinals. Don Hutson scored three touchdowns in the first half to quickly settle the issue. He caught two touchdown passes from Irv Comp, and he scored on the ground on an end-around play. Statistically, the game was amazingly even.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>19,221</b>				

*“The Racine Drum and Bugle Corps performed for the spectators between halves, taking the place of the Packer Lumberjack Band on the field. The Lumberjacks entertained from the bandshell throughout the afternoon.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1945Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 29)





1919-2019

**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**BEARS**

**24**

**11.4.1945**

**28**

### **Even-Steven?**

Ken Keuper of Green Bay settled the score with the Lee Artoe who punched Larry Craig in the previous game. Keuper sent Artoe to the hospital with a broken jaw!

Green Bay got rolling behind the spectacular play of quarterback Irv Comp. A 67-yard touchdown pass from Comp to Clyde Goodnight made it 7-0. Comp then turned around on defense and came through with a 54-yard pick-six that made it 14-0 after 15 minutes.

Thirty-one points were scored in the second quarter! Two touchdown runs by Henry Margarita and Sid Luckman's 15-yard touchdown toss Ken Kavanaugh cut Green Bay's lead to 24-21. After intermission, the Bears stormed out of the locker room with a powerful, 71-yard touchdown drive that beat up Green Bay's defense. That was all the Bears needed as Green Bay did little offensively. For the game, the Packers managed just 29 yards rushing, and they were outgained 396-180.

**Green Bay    14    10    0    0    24**

**Chicago       0    21    7    0    28**

**Attendance: 45,527**

*According to the Bears' Ken Kavanaugh, a fan approached him and said, 'Artoe got what he deserved.' I was having none of that, so I whirled around and grabbed him by the neck. I took him and thrust him into a small phone booth. Then I lifted him to the top of the booth and started punching him. But I guess that gives you a pretty good idea of just how intense those Green Bay-Chicago games really were."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bear Memories, Gorr, p. 24



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

CLEVELAND

**RAMS**

**7**  
**20**

**11.11.1945**

### Consecutive losses

This was the first time since 1937 that the Packers lost consecutive games! No surprise, though, as the Packers threw seven interceptions.

The first quarter featured all the scoring. Cleveland halfback Fred Gehrke exploded for two long touchdown runs of 72 and 42 yards. Bob Waterfield's interception set up the second score.

Green Bay came right back on their next drive with a 75-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Irv Comp to Clyde Goodnight. But Bob Waterfield topped that with an 84-yard touchdown to Jim Benton. Benton was double-covered by Don Hutson and Joe Laws, but he still managed to make a spectacular catch. It was 20-7 Cleveland after 15 minutes.

For the rest of the game, the Packers had a number of scoring opportunities inside Cleveland's 20-yard line. But "fumbles and pass interceptions ruined"<sup>1</sup> those chances. After the game, reports surfaced that a scuffle broke out in the Packers locker room. Details, however, were lacking.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>

**Attendance: 28,686**

*Sections of the bleachers collapsed in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter – 32 people were hurt.*

*"We can never outdraw some of the other cities in the league, but we recognize the problem and plan to increase the capacity of City Stadium. We have long been considered as the league's best drawing card on the road, and the records prove it."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/45, Yuenger, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/45, p. 21



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

BOSTON

**YANKS**

**28**

**11.18.1945**

**0**

After two straight losses, this one was never in doubt. In a complete mismatch, the Packers held the Yanks to 12 yards rushing and 36 yards passing! For the Packers, Lou Brock ran for two scores, and Don Hutson caught a touchdown pass from Irv Comp. The Redskins never threatened.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Boston</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Attendance: 31,923**

*Total Yards: GB 206 BOS 48*



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

NEW YORK

**GIANTS**

**23**

**11.25.1945**

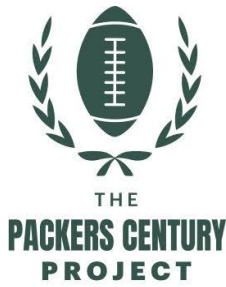
**14**

New York took an 7-0 lead, but the Packers bounced back with 23 unanswered points!

This was Charley Brock's game. In the third quarter with the score knotted at seven, the veteran center of the Packers stole the ball from Ward Cuff deep in New York territory. Two plays later, Ted Fritsch scored his second touchdown of the game for a 13-7 lead. Minutes later, an interception by Roy McKay helped set up Don Hutson's field goal. Charley Brock then struck again with a pick-six to put the game out of reach.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>

**Attendance: 52,681**



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**3**

**12.2.1945**

**14**

In this battle for second place, Green Bay turned the ball over five times, and the Lions won. They did it by holding Don Hutson to a field goal in his final game.

The field goal came in the second quarter, and it gave Green Bay a 3-0 halftime lead. After stopping the Packers early in the second half, Detroit scored twice in the third quarter. They picked apart Green Bay's secondary for 249 passing yards. Detroit's second touchdown, a 25-yard pass from quarterback Chuck Fenenbock to Andy Farkas, clinched it and locked-up second place for the Lions.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>23,468</b>				



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2019

## 1945 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Cleveland	9	1	0
Detroit	7	3	0
Green Bay	6	4	0
Chicago Bears	3	7	0
Chicago	1	9	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Comp
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Fritsch
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	C. Brock, Hutson w/4

### ALL-PRO

Charley Brock	Center
Ted Fritsch	Fullback
Don Hutson	End

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Walt Schlinkman (1, B)  
Clyde Goodnight (2, E)  
Don Wells (6, T)  
Nolan Luhn (25, E)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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