

SEASON
28

1946



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1946

Record: 6-5-0 3rd Place - Tie - Western Division

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- From 1946-49, the Packers held training camp and some practices at the Rockwood Lodge, 15 miles north of Green Bay.
- The All-America Football Conference (AAFC) began play in 1946 with eight teams. The new league increased competition for players and boosted salaries across the NFL.
- Lambeau fired team doctor, Dr. W. W. Kelly. Kelly was also a member of the Executive Committee.
- With Don Hutson on the sidelines coaching, the Packer offense wasn't nearly as threatening. The passing game was the league's weakest (four touchdown passes). Their running game was more potent as Ted Fritsch led the league in touchdowns with nine.
- For the first time in team history, the Packers also gave up more points than they scored.



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

30
7 **9.29.1946**

“Bears Outslug Packers, 30 Punches to 7”¹

The above Press-Gazette headline described accurately how the Bears beat up the Packers. Green Bay was pushed around by Chicago, manhandled, and outgained 432-114.

Sid Luckman’s two second-quarter touchdown passes gave Chicago a comfortable 17-0 lead. The lead was never threatened, and the Bears scored twice on the ground in the second half. The Packers played poorly. They “bumped into each other in the backfield, pawed instead of tackled, and completely forgot whatever blocking lessons they had ever learned.”¹ The intense, physical nature of the rivalry injured several players including Carl Mulleneaux of the Packers. On a punt return, Mulleneaux was knocked out on a brutal hit to the face by 240-pound John Schiechl. Mulleneaux had to be carried from the field.

Roy McKay scored Green Bay’s only touchdown in a disappointing start.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Chicago | 3 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 30 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |

Attendance: 25,049

First Downs: GB 5 CHI 18

*“A wild story came in that Mulleneaux had died of injuries suffered in Sunday’s game. Mulleneaux was immediately reached in Green Bay. ‘Dead? I’m only in a hospital, and glad of it. I don’t want to be near Lambeau for a week.”*²

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

² packershistory.net/1946Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 1, Milwaukee Journal)



LOS ANGELES

RAMS
PACKERS

21
17

10.6.1946

Six seconds!

This game held the crowd's attention for the full 60 minutes. There was a lot of scoring, exciting action, and a controversy at the finish.

The teams traded touchdowns early. The Rams scored first after a fumble by Irv Comp on the Packers' 21-yard line. Green Bay responded with a 32-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Herm Rohrig to end Nolan Luhn.

Leading 10-7 after the first half, an 85-yard pick-six by Rams' rookie Tom Harmon stunned the Packers and the crowd. Ted Fritsch reclaimed the lead 17-14 with an 11-yard run around right end. It stayed that way until the final three minutes.

With time running out, the Rams drove 80 yards for the winner. In a very controversial decision at the end of the drive, a timeout was called by a referee with six seconds left because he claimed the Packers were slow to "disentangle themselves from the heap."¹ The call gave the Rams another play which was all they needed. With Curly Lambeau irate along the sideline, Mike Holovak ran it in from the one.

The Packers started 0-2 for the first time since 1937.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Los Angeles | 7 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 21 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 17 |

Attendance: 27,049
Milwaukee

“The fans were treated to another chuckle when an enthusiastic spectator caught the ball after Waterfield’s conversion following the Rams contested touchdown in the waning seconds and refused to give it up to the stadium police. It took the referee and four cops to pry him (loose of the ball).”³

1 packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/46, p. 13



PACKERS

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

19

10.13.1946

7

The losing streak ends! Ted "The Bull" Fritsch scored of all of Green Bay's points (except the safety) with two touchdowns, two extra points, and a field goal!

Philadelphia went in front 7-0 on big Steve Van Buren's touchdown run. But the Eagles didn't score after the first quarter, partly because they turned the ball over six times. With 19 seconds left in the first half, Green Bay tied it on rookie Bob Forte's 12-yard touchdown pass to Ted Fritsch.

In the third quarter, on defense, Ted Fritsch's tackle on Van Buren jarred the ball loose. Fritsch recovered the fumble, and two plays later, he scored from the 10!

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 19 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Attendance: | 36,127 | | | | |



1919-2019

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS

PACKERS

7
17

10.20.1946

#200

The Packers ran the ball 63 times for 288 yards! They threatened often but had a difficulty getting into the end zone. Trailing 7-3 with 10 minutes left in the game, Irv Comp's touchdown pass to Nolan Luhn made it 10-7 Packers. When a fourth-down gamble by the Steelers backfired on their 39-yard line, Green Bay took over. Walt Schlinkman scored in six plays for the game's final points.

This was Green Bay's 200th win in the NFL since 1921. Their record: 200-81-21.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 17 |

Attendance: 22,588



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

7
10 10.27.1946

“Gus Dorais, coach of the Detroit Lions, will be honored by a group of old friends from his native Chippewa Falls, Wis., in a pregame ceremony at State Fair Park Sunday.”¹

In a slow first half, a fumble by Tony Canadeo was returned 36 yards for a touchdown by Dave Ryan. The Lions kept a 7-3 lead into the third quarter when Charley Brock practiced more thievery. Brock stole the ball from rookie fullback Camp Wilson on Detroit’s 22-yard line. A few plays later, Walt Schlinkman scored for the win!

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Detroit | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |

Attendance: 23,564

Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 158 DET 158

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 26)



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

7

11.3.1946

10

Second best?

Five of Green Bay's next six games were on the road. The first one was a first-place showdown with the Bears.

This was a defensive standoff in the first half. In the third quarter, the game turned quickly on the first play of the third quarter on a fumble by Ted Fritsch. It was recovered by Chicago's Ed Sprinkle who rumbled 30-yards to the end zone. A field goal soon followed to put the Bears in front 10-0.

In the final quarter, with only a few minutes left, Ted Fritsch pounded his way over several Bears to get to midfield. He scored with a minute left in the game to redeem himself. It was too late, however, for the Packer offense that was handcuffed all day with just eight first downs and 125 total yards.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |

Attendance: 46,321

Total Yards (Net): GB 125 CHI 159

Before the game: "Coach George Halas reports the Bears devoted an hour of their drill in Wrigley field yesterday to reviewing defenses for Don Hutson. The Bears usually carry about 12 defenses in their repertoire, but - with special Hutson variations - the number always was raised to 28 when the Packers' pass catching end came to town. Hutson will be here again Sunday afternoon. The Packers insist Don will act solely as bench assistant to Coach Curly Lambeau. However, Halas seems suspicious that, with the Western Division lead at stake, Don will assist Curly with a brief pass-catching appearance."¹

¹ Packershistory.net/1946Packers (News & Notes, Nov. 1, Chicago Tribune)



PACKERS
CHICAGO
CARDINALS

19
11.10.1946
7

“The Bull”

On a wet field, the Packers never trailed. Ted Fritsch took over in the first half with 11 of Green Bay’s 17 points. He booted a 25-yard field goal, ran for a touchdown, and kicked two extra points.

Quarterback Paul Christman got the Cardinals on the board in the third quarter. It took just four plays, and a 27-yard touchdown pass went to Frank Seno.

The Cardinals turned the ball over 10 times – five interceptions and five fumbles. Herm Rohrig of Green Bay had three of the interceptions, while the run defense shut down the Chicago ground game yielding just 16 yards.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 3 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 19 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Attendance: | 30,681 | | | | |

“Train Note: Ted Fritsch enjoying himself a little on the return trip. The burly fullback, one of the team’s top comedians, was having quite a time collecting tickets with a porter’s hat, brakeman’s lantern, and curve-stemmed pipe he had pilfered along the line.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/46, Rimmel, p. 17



PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

9
0

11.17.1946

"The Bull 2"

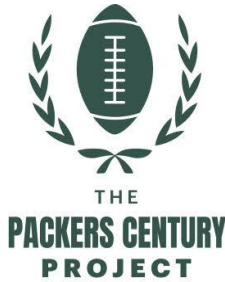
Both offenses came up empty in the first 30 minutes. The Packers especially struggled with penalties – 80 yards worth.

This time, Ted "The Bull" Fritsch dominated the second half and scored all nine Green Bay points! First came his field goal, and in the fourth quarter, he scored on the ground from the one! The Packers held the Lions to 81 total yards while they generated 292. The Milwaukee Journal summed up the game with, "It was Green Bay's game by a wide margin in everything except the score."¹

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Detroit | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Attendance: 22,950

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal, Nov. 17)



1919-2019

CHICAGO
CARDINALS
PACKERS

24
6

11.24.1946

This one hurt as the Packers were officially eliminated from title contention.

In a steady rain, the Cardinals beat Green Bay for the first time since 1937. In a tight, 6-3 game, the Cards erupted for three fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away. The touchdowns were scored on the ground from Paul Christman, Marshall Goldberg, and Elmer Angsman.

Chicago's defense had no trouble with Green Bay's offense. The Packers produced 168 total yards with only 24 yards passing. They also threw five interceptions and were outgained 349-155.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Chicago | 0 | 3 | 0 | 21 | 24 |
| Green Bay | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Attendance: | 16,150 | | | | |

At halftime, members of the 1919 Packers were introduced! The Press-Gazette's All-Time Packer team was also announced. The team was selected by fan voting. The team: Lavvie Diweg, Cub Buck, Buckets Goldenberg, Charley Brock, Mike Michalske, Don Hutson, Johnny Blood, Arnie Herber, Clarke Hinkle, Verne Lewellen, and Cal Hubbard. The team "ran" two plays for fans and photographers!



1919-2019

PACKERS
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS

20
7

12.1.1946

The Packers ran the ball 64 times (still a franchise record) and dominated the game with 301 yards rushing. Ted Fritsch provided all of the scoring with three touchdown runs and two extra points. Washington turned the ball over eight times, and they did not score until late in the third quarter. They were outgained 316-187

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 20 |
| Washington | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |

Attendance: 33,691

First Downs: GB 14 WASH 4



PACKERS

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

17

12.8.1946

38

This battle for second place changed hands five times before the Rams took control in the fourth quarter.

After an early Ted Fritsch touchdown, Rams' quarterback, Bob Waterfield took over the spotlight. He completed 10 of 17 passes for 174 yards. He tossed three touchdown passes, kicked one field goal, and converted five extra-points. He also intercepted one pass! The fourth quarter explosion turned the game into a rout.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 7 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 17 |
| Los Angeles | 7 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 38 |

Attendance: 46,838



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1946 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

| | <u>W</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>T</u> |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Chicago Bears | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Los Angeles | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| Green Bay | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| Chicago | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| Chicago | 1 | 10 | 0 |

TEAM LEADERS

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Passing | Comp |
| Receiving | Goodnight |
| Rushing | Canadeo |
| Scoring | Fritsch |
| Interceptions | Rohrig |

ALL-PRO

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Charley Brock | Center |
| Ted Fritsch | Fullback |
| Nolan Luhn | End |

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

- - -



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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