

SEASON
29

1947



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1947

Record: 6-5-1 3rd Place - Western Division

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Lee Joannes, Packer President since 1930, stepped down and he was replaced by Emil R. Fischer.
- Lambeau fired George W. Calhoun the co-founder of the franchise. Calhoun had served as the team's public relations director, record keeper, and all-around Packer-backer since 1919. He was replaced by George Strickler, formerly of the Chicago Tribune.
- Disappointment was building after third-place finishes in 1945 and 1946. Though 1947 was slightly better, it was the last season above .500 until 1959.
- Lambeau changed his offense from the single-wing to the "T" formation. The Packers scored 126 more points than in 1946, but they still struggled to replace Cecil Isbell and Don Hutson. The defense gave up the fewest points in the league and intercepted 30 passes.
- Three straight losses in November left them 4-4-1 and out of contention. A third-place finish again. Rumors swirled about Curly Lambeau leaving Green Bay for the West Coast.
- **Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame** *
One of this Hall of Fame Member's first memories about becoming a Packers fan was in 1947. Vivian remembers being huddled around the radio listening intently to a game with her twin brother, Stewart. After one game, Vivian knew she was hooked. Now she's in the Packer FAN Hall of Fame!!

* Interview: 5/12/1



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

20
29

9.28.1947

Yes!

This was game #55 between the rivals – #56 if you count the 1941 playoff game.

This was an exciting and encouraging upset of the defending champion Bears! It was a fantastic performance put on by new Packer quarterback "Indian Jack" Jacobs who came over from the Rams. On the first play of the second quarter and trailing 7-3, the Packers took the lead on the first touchdown pass by Jacobs to Nolan Luhn. A bit later in the quarter, his second touchdown pass went to Bruce Smith for a 17-6 lead. Sid Luckman's touchdown pass cut it to 17-13 before halftime.

In the second half, the Packers added a safety and a field goal by Ward Cuff. For the Bears, Sid Luckman threw his second touchown pass to Jim Keane to bring Chicago to within two (22-20). With two minutes left, it took only three plays before Jacobs took it in himself to seal he deal. Not a bad day for the Packer newcomer who also intercepted two passes on defense!

Chicago	6	7	0	7	20
Green Bay	3	14	2	10	29

Attendance: 25,461



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES
RAMS
PACKERS

14
17

10.5.1947

Two potent offenses went nowhere in the first 30 minutes. The second half had all the scoring, and it started with Bruce Smith's touchdown run and Ed Neal's blocked punt recovery in the end zone for a 14-0 Packer lead. Ted Fritsch's toe made it 17-0 to start the final quarter.

There were two sides to this game, and side #2 revealed itself with 10 minutes left. The Rams rallied with two touchdown drives. The first went 75 yards and the second went for 52. With 1:45 left, and leading 17-14, Packer quarterback Jack Jacobs fumbled the ball away on his 30-yard line. Fortunately, the defense rose to the occasion and didn't yield a single yard! Bob Waterfield then missed a 37-yard field goal!

Los Angeles	0	0	0	14	14
Green Bay	0	0	14	3	17

Attendance: 31,613
Milwaukee

"Meanwhile, George Strickler, Packer publicity director and assistant to Lambeau, said that the Packers' office is being besieged for tickets for Sunday's game. None has been available for the last two weeks. The seating capacity of City stadium is 24,800, and more than 25,000 tickets already have been sold."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 10, Chicago Tribune)



1919-2019

CHICAGO
CARDINALS
PACKERS

14
10

10.12.1947

“We’ll need a little luck against the Cards”¹ Curly Lambeau warned. He knew they weren’t the Cardinals of old, and their impressive backfield of Charlie Trippi, Elmer Angsman and Pat Harder put up 217 yards against the Packers.

A record crowd of 25,502 saw a close first half. Ted Fritsch’s 51-yard field goal, and Elmer Angsman’s two-yard touchdown run were the only points. The Cardinals added a touchdown right away in the third quarter as back-up halfback “Red” Cochran finished a scoring drive from the one-yard line. The Packers snapped right back with another touchdown. For the rest of the game, Green Bay threatened three more times on Chicago’s 8, 17 and 24-yard line, but they came away without points.

Chicago	0	7	7	0	14
Green Bay	0	3	7	0	10
Attendance:	25,502				

¹ When Football Was Football, Ziemba, p. 325



1919-2019

WASHINGTON
REDSKINS
PACKERS

27
10

10.19.1947

Green Bay took a 10-0 lead on a Ted Fritsch touchdown and a Ward Cuff field goal. The Redskins narrowed it to 10-7 on quarterback Sammy Baugh's six-yard touchdown pass to John Lookabaugh.

By the fourth quarter, the Redskins had tied it. In a 10-10 game, the Green Bay scored 17 points in the final 15 minutes. Tony Canadeo threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Nolan Luhn, and Ted Fritsch added a 49-yard field goal. When Bob Forte's pick-six went for a 68-yard touchdown, the Redskins never recovered.

Green Bay did a good job containing Baugh (19-39-242-1-2). "We played stupid ball today. In fact, it was the stupidest game we've played all season,"¹ said Redskins owner, George Preston Marshall.

Washington 0 7 3 0 10

Green Bay 10 0 0 17 27

Attendance: 28,572

Milwaukee

"Would-be gate-crashers were more ingenious than ever. One brash fellow insisted he was scouting for the Bears, but hasily gave up the dodge. Another did even better. He said his missing tickets were gobbled up by his pet pup. Strickler (Packer Publicity Chief) told him to bring in the dog to be x-rayed to establish his ticket numbers."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/47, Rimmel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/47, Rimmel, p. 18



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

17
34

10.26.1947

Rushing record!

The Packers moved to 4-1 by pummeling Detroit for a franchise record of 366 yards rushing. Green Bay pulled away behind rookie fullback Ed Cody. He led the way with 111 yards, and two touchdowns runs. Quarterback Jack Jacobs threw a touchdown pass to Clyde Goodnight, and Ted Fritsch also scored on the ground. Green Bay led 24-3 in the second half before the Lions scored a touchdown.

Detroit	0	3	7	7	17
Green Bay	7	7	13	7	34

Attendance: 25,179

“Between halves entertainment, which each week features a different organization, was provided by the Escanaba, Michigan, American Legion All-Girl Drum and Bugle Corps, twice champion at Upper Michigan contests.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/47 Rimmel, p. 14



1919-2019

PITTSBURGH
STEELERS
PACKERS

18
17

11.2.1947

The loss dropped the Packers into a second-place tie with the Bears. Green Bay again got out to an early 10-0 lead. A 69-yard pass from quarterback Jack Jacobs to Clyde Goodnight started the scoring. But the Packers struggled all game with Pittsburgh's defense, and they made it into Steeler territory just four times.

With only a missed extra-point separating them, the Packers led at halftime 10-9. But, a 55-yard pick-six by Tony Compagno gave the Steelers a 16-10 lead. In the fourth quarter, the Steelers sacked quarterback Jack Jacobs in the end zone for a safety and an 18-10 lead. This was the difference, and it knocked the Packers out of a first-place tie with the Cardinals.

This was Pittsburgh's first win over Green Bay.

Pittsburgh	3	6	7	2	18
Green Bay	10	0	0	7	17
Attendance:	30,073				
Milwaukee					



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

17

11.9.1947

20

Hello...hello?

During the game, Green Bay's phone line between the press box and the sideline failed. Lambeau questioned if the failure was really an accident, and he protested that the Bears continued to use their phone while Green Bay's was down.

The Packers got out to a very familiar 10-0 lead with Ted Fritsch scoring the first touchdown. They had trouble building on it, even though the Bears turned the ball over nine times. The Bears scored twice before halftime. The first was an 81-yard pass from quarterback Sid Luckman to Ken Kavanaugh. After a Packer fumble, the Bears scored again for a 14-10 lead at the break.

The teams traded touchdowns in the second half, and when the Bears missed their extra point, it opened the door for a possible tie at 20-17. On the Packers' last drive, it took just six plays to get the Bears' 20-yard line. But with 12 seconds left, Ward Cuff's field goal attempt was blocked by Noah Mullins.

Green Bay	0	10	0	7	17
Chicago	0	14	6	0	20

Attendance: 46,112

Ward Cuff told a story of how difficult it was to get Lambeau to pay the players. It got to a point where, "I went up to his office and said, 'Ok, Curly, pay up or else you go out the window.'"¹

¹ Packers Heritage Trail, Cristl, p. 54



1919-2019

PACKERS

20

CHICAGO

11.16.1947

CARDINALS

21

After a Paul Christman touchdown pass gave the Cardinals a 7-0 lead, the Packers scored the next 20 points. Ted Fritsch and Bob Forte scored touchdowns, while Ward Cuff and Fritsch booted field goals.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers "went flat, and the Cardinals just suddenly caught fire."¹ Chicago's ground game proved unstoppable. Pat Harder and Elmer Angsman led both drives, and the Cardinals took back the lead 21-20. With 30 seconds left in the game from the 23, Ward Cuff missed the game-winner.

Green Bay	3	10	7	0	20
Chicago	7	0	0	14	21

Attendance: 40,086

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette/1947Packers (Game Recap, Milwaukee Journal)



1919-2019

PACKERS

NEW YORK

GIANTS

24

11.23.1947

24

A small crowd turned out to watch the winless Giants outplay the Packers. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's quarterback Jack Jacobs threw two touchdown passes to wrap up a fine three-touchdown performance.

In a nine turnover game (GB-4, NY-5), the Packers scored first after a New York fumble. After the Giants tied it, Jack Jacobs threw an interception that sparked the Giants to another touchdown. New York had the edge at halftime 17-10.

In the third quarter, New York put to good use another interception as quarterback Paul Governali threw his second touchdown pass of the game. Green Bay struck back with an 80-yard drive and Jack Jacob's second touchdown pass. This one went to Jim Gillette, and it brought the Packers back to within seven. Jacobs kept his hot hand into the fourth quarter and connected with Nolan Luhn for the tying touchdown. In the final seconds, a 52-yard field goal attempt by Ted Fritsch fell short.

Green Bay 7 3 7 7 24

New York 14 3 7 0 24

Attendance: 27,939



1919-2019

PACKERS

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

30

11.30.1947

10

Having gone over one month without a win, the Packers finally took charge of this contest in the second half. Trailing 3-2 at halftime, Green Bay fell behind 10-2 in the third quarter when quarterback Bob Waterfield and Ray Hamilton hooked up for a touchdown.

Green Bay took charge behind a Ted Fritsch touchdown after a 73-yard drive. Tony Canadeo and Clyde Goodnight also scored touchdowns, and Fritsch cashed-in at the end of another long march. Green Bay's defense did its job. They picked off four passes, and held Bob Waterfield to 90 yards passing.

Green Bay	2	0	14	14	30
Los Angeles	0	3	7	0	10

Attendance: 31,040

NFL owners were concerned about profits dropping in light of competition with the rival All-America Football Conference. "It's easy to understand why crowds of 20,000 to 25,000 aren't big enough."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1947Packers (News & Notes, Milwaukee Sentinel, Dec 3)



PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

35
14

12.7.1947

Another blowout of the 3-7 Lions. Jack Jacobs three touchdown passes stole the show with two going to Clyde Goodnight. The defense came up big with five interceptions. Detroit didn't score until they were down 35-0 in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay	7	7	14	7	35
Detroit	0	0	0	14	14
Attendance:	14,055				

*"The Philadelphia-Green Bay next Sunday is a natural so why not move it to Franklin Field (Philadelphia) or Municipal Stadium (Cleveland) where up to 100,000 can be seated.....the present playing location is shabby Shibe Park where the limit is around 37,000."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/47, Daley, p. 17



PACKERS

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

14

12.14.1947

28

The game was not moved to a bigger stadium which was fortunate since only 24,216 fans showed up!

The Eagles intercepted six Green Bay passes and never trailed. Three touchdown runs by Steve Van Buren put the game away. Van Buren finished the season with 1,008 yards, a new league record. Green Bay's points came on two touchdown passes by Jack Jacobs.

Green Bay	0	7	7	0	14
Philadelphia	7	7	14	0	28
Attendance:	24,216				



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1947 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	9	3	0
Chicago Bears	8	4	0
Green Bay	6	5	1
Los Angeles	6	6	0
Detroit	3	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Jacobs
Receiving	Luhn
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Forte

ALL-PRO

Tony Canadeo	Fullback
Larry Craig	Defensive End
Walt Schlinkman	Fullback
Dick Wildung	Guard

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Buddy Burris (5, G)
Bob Skoglund (13, E)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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