

SEASON
30

1948



THE
PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1948

Record: 3-9-0 5th Place (last) - Western Division

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Only six players remained from the 1944 championship team.
- Green Bay opened on the road for the first time since 1924.
- New working groups appointed by the Executive Committee became more involved in daily operations. They clashed with Lambeau. "At more than one executive committee meeting, he (Lambeau) was cuttingly referred to by men who were once his close friends as "that gentleman in the gray suit across the table."¹
- The Packers scored the fewest points in the league (154), and were outscored 290-154.
- For the first time since 1934, Green Bay finished with a losing record.

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Kuechle, p. 47



PACKERS

BOSTON

YANKS

31

9.17.1948

0

This Friday night opener on the road proved too easy.....but it certainly wasn't pretty with 193 yards in penalties!

The Packers' defense was dominant. They allowed just 16 yards rushing and nine first downs. Boston crossed midfield just once, and, on that occasion, they had a touchdown called back because of a penalty.

Green Bay had its way in the trenches. They pounded the ball for 274 yards rushing. Five different players scored – Ted Fritsch, Bob Forte, Nolan Luhn, Ralph Earhart and Tony Canadeo. A field goal by Ted Fritsch got the scoring started, and the touchdowns came on both the ground and through the air. The Packers, however, were far from a well-oiled machine as they botched several other scoring opportunities.

Green Bay	10	7	7	7	31
Boston	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 15,443

Total Yards: GB 361 BOS 126



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

45
7

9.26.1948

BIG ouch!

In a crushing loss to their chief rival, The Milwaukee Journal called it, “the worst thing that has happened to Green Bay since Prohibition.”¹ Indeed!

The Packers were never in the game and they didn’t score until the fourth quarter. Three quarterbacks for the Bears – Sid Luckman, Bobby Layne, and Johnny Lujack – handled Green Bay easily, particularly with the running game. Lujack scored the first touchdown with a short run in the first quarter. A pick-six by Noah Mullins followed, and the Bears were on their way to a 31-0 first-half lead.

Luckman and Layne each threw touchdowns in the second half, while the ground attack remained unstoppable. The Bears rumbled for 240 yards on 54 carries. Defensively, they stole four passes, three by Lujack, and they held Green Bay to 183 yards overall.

Chicago	14	17	7	7	45
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7

Attendance: 25,546

QB Jack Jacobs has an injured arm that he trying to play through

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

21 10.3.1948
33

With a very uneven 1-1 start, Packer fans weren't sure if this year's squad was "one of Lambeau's greatest teams, as had been rumored, or whether it's showing against the Bears was the limit of its effectiveness."¹ While it took a little time to get rolling, the Packers woke up after the Lions went in front 7-0.

Green Bay took control with three touchdowns and a field goal in the second and third quarters. Quarterback Jack Jacobs hooked up with Clyde Goodnight for a 23-yard touchdown pass. Fullback Walt Schlinkman's one-yard touchdown run gave Green Bay the lead before halftime.

The Packers stretched the lead to 23-7 before Detroit rallied. Joe Margucci starred for the Lions. He scored one touchdown and set up another with a lateral. The Lions closed the gap to five points before Tony Canadeo scored in the final minute.

Detroit	7	0	0	14	21
Green Bay	0	13	10	10	33

Attendance: 24,206

Total Yards: GB 426 DET 225.

*Tony Canadeo: "Believe it or not, Tony Canadeo got my first two tickets for me. We found out where he lived in Green Bay and just dropped in on him. He and his wife Ruth accepted us for who we were, and it just started a friendship."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 2)

² Stadium Stories, D'Amato, p. 11



1919-2019

CHICAGO
CARDINALS
PACKERS

17 10.10.1948
7

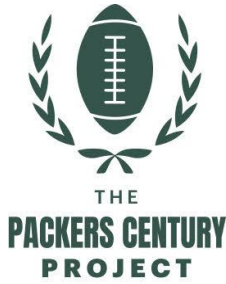
“The Dream Backfield” for the Cardinals had a field day with the Packers. Elmer Angsman led the way with a 72-yard touchdown run and 146 yards rushing. Charley Trippi returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown, and he ran for 60 yards.

Leading 14-0 at halftime, the Cardinals had their way with the Packers the entire game. They outgained them 376-231 and intercepted four passes. Pat Harder’s field goal sealed the deal in the fourth quarter, and the Packers didn’t score until the game’s final minute.

After the loss, Lambeau was livid. “Salary adjustments will be made until we begin to play the brand of ball we’re capable of. There was a decided lack of spirit.”¹ He docked each player ½ of his weekly salary which upset everyone.

Chicago	7	7	0	3	17
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Attendance:	34,369				
Milwaukee					

To date, this was the largest crowd to see the Packers in Milwaukee.



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

PACKERS

0

10.17.1948

16

“The veteran Green Bay coach said he would wait until after next Sunday's game to determine what players will receive the money which was withheld from this week's paychecks. Lambeau said yesterday the fines ‘will stick in all cases except possibly several who may be saved by a review of motion pictures of the game’ with the Cardinals.”¹

Bob Waterfield threw seven interceptions, and the Rams turned the ball over nine times.

The Packers scored twice in the first half to take control. A 64-yard touchdown pass from Jack Jacobs to Ralph Earhart had the crowd on its feet. Minutes later, in the second quarter, an interception by Ted Cook put the Packers right back on track for the end zone. Walt Schlinkman ran it in from three yards out for a 13-0 lead.

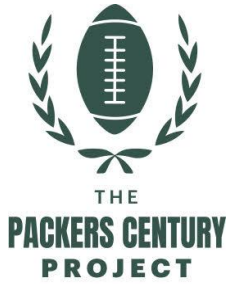
After the win, the players hoped Lambeau would return the salaries he withheld the previous week. He chose not to do so. Morale plummeted, and the Packers did not win another game.

Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	6	7	3	0	16

Attendance: 25,119

Total Yards: GB 289 LA 335

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/48, p. 37



1919-2019

WASHINGTON
REDSKINS
PACKERS

23
7

10.24.1948

The game began with a brilliant 96-yard kickoff return by Redskins rookie Don Standifer. Green Bay kept pace and moved ahead 7-6 on a Jack Jacobs touchdown pass later in the first quarter. For the rest of the game, the Packers threatened, but they couldn't score. Drives to Washington's 15, 5, 33, 9 and 3-yard lines were all turned away on downs or turnovers.

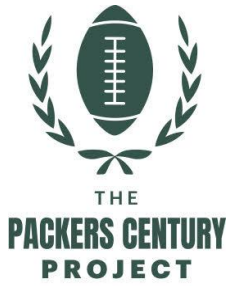
The Packers couldn't help but notice that there 21,000 fewer fans at this game in Milwaukee than two weeks ago.

Wasington 6 7 0 10 23

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7

Attendance: 13,433

Milwaukee



1919-2019

PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

20
24

10.31.1948

In a shocking defeat, the winless Lions took down the 3-3 Packers. Touchdown runs by Ted Fritsch, and Tony Canadeo gave the Packers an expected lead. With the Packers in front 14-7 at halftime, Detroit bounced back with 17 straight points to take the lead. Any hope of a Green Bay comeback was squashed when they fumbled twice in the last 10 minutes.

This was only the sixth win for Detroit over Green Bay (6-25) since 1934. That prompted the Milwaukee Journal to state, "so things have clearly reached a new low along the Fox."¹

Green Bay	7	7	0	6	20
Detroit	0	7	10	7	24

Attendance: 16,174

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)



1919-2019

PACKERS
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS

7
11.7.1948
38

To salvage the season, the Packers hoped for a strong finish on the road. It didn't start in Pittsburgh as nothing worked all game for Green Bay. Before the fourth quarter, the closest the Packers came to scoring was the Steelers' 25-yard line. They finally scored a "consolation touchdown after the hand on the big clock had started its last trip around the dial."¹

Dissatisfaction with the season and the coach continued to grow. "A 'Get Lambeau' group consists of many citizens, including some former players. The poor showing of the team this year has given them a more effective weapon. However, a check of Packer Corporation directors indicates Lambeau's position is as strong as ever."²

Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Pittsburgh	7	17	7	7	38
Attendance:	26,058				

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers
² packershistory.net/1948 (News & Notes, Nov. 10)



1919-2019

PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

6
7

11.14.1948

Extra-Point miss

It was a well-played game by the Packers even though they came up short. It was a defensive struggle throughout, with 20 punts, 10 per team. Neither team sustained many long drives, and the ball changed hands 29 times!

Green Bay played a fine game against the first-place Bears. Chicago's rookie quarterback, Bobby Layne, broke the ice in the third quarter with a 34-yard touchdown pass to halfback George McAfee. The Packers rallied in the final five minutes of the game. An 80-yard drive produced quarterback Jack Jacobs' 13-yard touchdown pass to Nolan Luhn. Ed Cody's extra-point attempt sailed wide right.

"The Packers are probably the worst team in the league the week before against Pittsburgh if our scout reports were right, and they were probably the best team in the league Sunday - even though we won,"¹ said Papa Bear Halas.

Green Bay	0	0	0	6	6
Chicago	0	0	7	0	7

Attendance: 48,113

*The Packers "returned late last night after the great battle with the Bears in Chicago. It was something to behold and hear: More than 4,000 men, women, and children jammed in and around the station as the train pulled in through a dazzling lane of red lights...traffic completely blocked at least eight blocks in all directions...fire engines, sirens screaming and spotlights flashing...factory whistles tooting as they haven't tooted in five or six years, except for VJ Day. The players, especially the newcomers getting their real Packer spirit baptism, were all but speechless."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (News & Notes, Milwaukee Journal, Nov. 16)

² packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)



1919-2019

NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

49
3

11.21.1948

Still sinking

This was the Packers third straight loss in Milwaukee. Ted Fritsch's 24-yard field goal started the scoring, but after that, it was all New York.

The Giants scored the next 49 points behind a stubborn defense with nine interceptions and great game from quarterback Charlie Conerly. Conerly threw for 334 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for a touchdown in the second half. Overall, the Packers were outgained 445-232, and it was their worst loss in their history to date. Lambeau was embarrassed and he said, "The exhibition this afternoon was as sad a thing as I have ever seen."

New York	0	21	14	14	49
Green Bay	3	0	0	0	3

Attendance: 12,639

Milwaukee

First Downs: GB 11 NY 28



PACKERS

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

10

11.28.1948

24

The Rams rolled over the Packers. Quarterback Bob Waterfield had a much better day than several weeks ago, and he threw for 206 yards and one touchdown. He also kicked one field and three extra points. L. A's defense held the Packers to eight first downs and 215 total yards. The Rams gained 490.

Green Bay	0	10	0	0	10
Los Angeles	7	7	7	3	24
Attendance:	23,874				



PACKERS

CHICAGO

CARDINALS

7

12.5.1948

42

The end.

After a 7-7 first quarter, the Cardinals ran off the next 35 points. The three-headed monster in the Chicago's backfield – Elmer Angsman, Charlie Trippi and Pat Harder – put up an astounding 283 yards rushing!

The loss put an end to the worst season so far in Packers history. The last time Green Bay won as few as three games was in 1921 when they played just six. The 10-1-1 Cardinals headed for a final game against the Bears for the conference title. The Cardinals won!

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Chicago	7	7	7	21	42
Attendance:	26,072				



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1948 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	11	1	0
Chicago Bears	10	2	0
Los Angeles	6	5	1
Green Bay	3	9	0
Detroit	2	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Jacobs
Receiving	Goodnight
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Cook

ALL-PRO

Tony Canadeo	Fullback
Dick Wildung	Tackle

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jug Girard (1, B)
Ed Smith (2, B)
Larry Olsonoski (6, G)
Jay Rhodemyre (7, C)
Perry Moss (14, B)
Fed Provo (15, B)
Stan Heath (25, B)
Clarence McGeary (30, T)
Ralph Earhart (32, B)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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