



2016



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2016

Record: 10-6-0 (1st - NFC North)

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In August, Brett Favre was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. He became the 24th Green Bay Packer enshrined in Canton.
- Just west of Lambeau Field, the Tiletown District continued its development with the opening of the Hinterland Brewery and Bellin Health Sports Medicine Clinic.
- At the end of training camp, the Packers cut guard Josh Sitton.
- Across the league, controversy erupts when players decide to kneel to protest the treatment of black citizens by the police.
- The Packers celebrate the 20th anniversary of Super Bowl XXXI!
- Offensively, the Packers ranked in the top 5 in points scored. They ranked in the bottom 10 defensively, and their pass defense was their Achilles heel.
- After getting off to a 4-6 start, Rodgers said the Packers could “run the table” and make the postseason. They went on a six-game winning streak and won two more games in the postseason.



PACKERS
JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS

27

9.11.2016

23

A hot and humid day in Florida couldn't take down the Packers. Aaron Rodgers got the Packers off on the right foot in the opener with two touchdown passes.

The Packers scored on their first series and running back T. J. Yeldon tied it up for Jacksonville. In the second quarter, Rodgers heated up with two touchdown passes. The first went to Jordy Nelson, who returned after sitting out 2015 with a torn ACL. Davante Adams caught the second touchdown with 20 seconds left in the half for a 21-17 lead.

The second half was all field goals. Each team booted two, and with 3:17 left, a short punt by the Packers gave the home team one more opportunity. Quarterback Blake Bortles marched the Jags to the Packers' 14-yard line, but the 12-play drive ran out of gas. On fourth-and-one with 23 seconds left, a tackle by Damarious Randall sealed the deal!

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 7 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| Jacksonville | 7 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 23 |
| Attendance: | 63,179 | | | | |

Fans of the Green Bay Packers travel well. "Jean Yurk of Sheboygan wears her heavily decorated cheesehead, complete with old game tickets and a Santa Claus train, as she chants, 'Go Pack Go!' at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/16, p. 3C



PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

14

9.18.2016

17

Border bruise

The last time the Packers opened the season with two games on the road was 1924! But this was a special occasion in the Twin Cities with the first NFL game at new U. S. Bank Stadium.

On their second series, the Packers christened the stadium with the first touchdown. A one-yard toss from Aaron Rodgers to Jordy Nelson gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. The Vikings tied it in the second quarter, and they led at halftime 10-7.

A goal-line stand by the Vikings early in the second half made the Packers regret not going for a short field goal. The Vikings capitalized and drove 87 yards in six plays. Newly acquired quarterback Sam Bradford connected with Stefon Diggs to extend the lead to 17-7. In the fourth quarter with 12:50 left, Green Bay stayed close with a 10-yard touchdown run by Rodgers. But on their final two drives, Green Bay gave the game away. Rodgers fumbled and, with less than two minutes to play, he threw his first interception of the season. "It's Week 2, there's always a lot of work to do,"¹ said, Rodgers.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| Minnesota | 0 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 17 |

Attendance: 66,813

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/16, Silverstein, p. A7



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

27
34 9.25.2016

A nice home opener. The Packers jumped out to a 31-10 first half-lead, and they held on in the second half, to enter an early bye week at 2-1.

Aaron Rodgers threw four short touchdown passes in the first half. Jordy Nelson felt right at home with two, while Davante Adams and Richard Rodgers settled for one each. The Packers scored the first three times they had the ball. For the game, Nelson caught six passes for 101 yards, and Eddie Lacy delivered 103 on the ground.

Green Bay led 31-3 just before halftime when the Lions scored on a 73-yard touchdown from Matt Stafford to Marvin Jones. Detroit scored 24 of the next 27 points with three touchdown passes by Stafford. In the fourth quarter, two sacks by linebacker Nick Perry slowed down Detroit's comeback. The Packers took over with 3:34 left and never let go.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Detroit | 3 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 27 |
| Green Bay | 14 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 34 |

Attendance: 78,411

Rodgers: 15-24-205-4-0

"Lois Morris, 84, from Adrian, Michigan, (but born in Manistique) is a longtime Green Bay Packers fan who was last at a Packers game 50 years ago. She completed a "bucket list" wish by attending the Packers-Lions game Sunday in Green Bay."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/16, p. 3C



1919-2019

NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

16
23 10.9.2016

After the early bye, the Packers overcame an inconsistent performance in the passing game to defeat Giants. They were kept afloat on a solid ground game led by Eddie Lacy and a strong performance by the defense. New York's offense consisted of three Josh Brown field goals until the fourth quarter.

Green Bay took the lead on the game's opening drive. They went 75 yards in 16 plays and kept New York's offense off the field for almost nine minutes! The touchdown went to Jordy Nelson, his 50th from Aaron Rodgers. In the first quarter, the Giants were outgained 141-18.

Midway through the second quarter, Rodgers and Davante Adams connected for a 29-yard score. At halftime, the Packers led 17-6. Green Bay's ground game led by Eddie Lacy (81 yards) rolled over New York for 147 yards. "Guys just kind of just bounce off him. The crowd enjoyed it too, a little too much sometimes when we're on offense, they start chanting his name,"¹ Rodgers noted.

The second half was all field goals until the Giants finally found the end zone on Eli Manning's pass to Odell Beckham with 2:54 left. The Packers kept the Giants in check all game. They held them to 47 yards rushing, 14 first downs and they sacked Manning four times.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| New York | 0 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 16 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 23 |

Attendance: 78,401

Total Yards: GB 406 NY 221

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/16, Dougherty, p. A3



DALLAS
COWBOYS

PACKERS

30

16

10.16.2016

Lassoed

The 4-1 Cowboys had no trouble with the Packers. Dallas was led by rookie quarterback Dak Prescott who replaced Tony Romo after a preseason back injury shelved the Wisconsin native.

In the first half, Prescott threw two touchdown passes. The Dallas ground game had the edge over Green Bay's top run defense with 191 yards. Ezekiel Elliot led the charge with 157 yards on 28 carries. Green Bay also turned the ball over four times, leading to 10 points for the Cowboys.

With an offense that looked "flat and musty,"¹ the Packers managed just two field goals in the first half by Mason Crosby. At halftime, the Cowboys led 17-6. In the second half, Dallas extended the lead on Prescott's third score of the day. It was his second touchdown pass to Cole Beasley, and it put the game out of reach 27-9.

This was Green Bay's worst defeat at home since the 2011 season. The crowd was restless throughout the game and Rodgers heard the occasional booing. "Look. We're upset, they're upset, it's part of it."²

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dallas | 7 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 30 |
| Green Bay | 3 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 16 |

Attendance: 78,481

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/16, McGinn p. A2

² packershistory.net/2016 Packers (Game Recap - Packers.com)



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

10
26 10.20.2016

Lady luck?

In a three-game stretch against the Giants, Cowboys, and Bears, the Packers went 2-1. They beat their oldest rival with a second-half comeback led by the arm of Aaron Rodgers.

With a national television audience on a Thursday night, the first half was all field goals. It was 3-0 Green Bay until the last two minutes of the half when they traded field goals for a 6-3 halftime lead.

Less than 20 seconds into the second half, the Bears took the lead. Defensive tackle Leonard Floyd won the trifecta. He sacked Rodgers in the end zone, stripped him of the football, and recovered the ball for a touchdown. The Bears led 10-6. The play was the turning point of the game, but not in the way expected.

Rather than igniting the Bears, the touchdown woke up the Packers. Rodgers threw touchdowns passes on three straight drives. Davante Adams caught the first two, and Randall Cobb the other. Cobb's touchdown came with 5:39 left in the game, and it was his 11th catch of the game (95 yards). Rodgers broke Brett Favre's team record of 36 completions in a game with 39! Rodgers' line: 39-56-326-3-0.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Chicago | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Green Bay | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 26 |

Attendance: 78,217

Time of Possession: GB 39:36 CHI 20:24

"Packers back 'Stock the Shelves' campaign" ¹ to fight hunger in Green Bay.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/16, p. A4



1919-2019

PACKERS

ATLANTA

FALCONS

32

10.30.2016

33

The final statistics were as close as the score. On a Monday night in the Georgia Dome, quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Matt Ryan directed an aerial circus of 73 passes. Each quarterback completed 28 of them, and they threw seven touchdowns between them (Rodgers threw four). Rodgers also led Green Bay's ground game with 60 yards.

The second quarter had most of the action. After throwing one touchdown to Jordy Nelson, Rodgers threw two more before intermission to Geronimo Allison and Trevor Davis. Matt Ryan kept pace with one touchdown to Devonta Freeman, but the Packers led at halftime 24-19.

Atlanta scored on their first possession in the second half. They went 80 yards in 15 plays, and Matt Ryan completed five of six passes. Devonta Freeman took it home from the one-yard line, and Atlanta took the lead 26-24. In the fourth quarter, after consecutive sacks by Mike Daniels and Julius Peppers, the Packers took over with 12:31 left. Rodgers directed a 14-play drive, and threw his fourth touchdown pass of the game to Jeff Janis to retake the lead 32-26 with 4:04 left.

A red-hot Ryan won the shootout with a final march that was nearly flawless. Atlanta did not run the ball, and Ryan went 9-11 for all 85 yards of the drive. The winner went to Mohamed Sanu with 36 seconds left.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 3 | 17 | 0 | 8 | 32 |
| Atlanta | 10 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 33 |
| Attendance: | 70,165 | | | | |

"Packer wives kick off Give-A-Kid-A-Book Campaign featuring Molly Crosby, Jessica McCarthy and Monica Goode"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/16, p. A3



1919-2019

INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS
PACKERS

31
26 11.6.2016

Too much Gore

Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, but it wasn't enough. The 3-5 Colts pulled off the upset in Green Bay, and the Packers looked completely out of sync for most of the game.

The opening kickoff was returned 99 yards for a touchdown by Jordan Todman. Frank Gore scored the first of his two touchdowns, while Aaron Rodgers warmed up the Packers with a touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. Just before halftime, quarterback Andrew Luck threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to Donte Moncrief for 24-10 lead.

An 11-play Packer drive to start the second half fizzled as Rodgers was intercepted. Indy couldn't capitalize, and the Packers cashed in with a field goal. Any thoughts of a comeback were squashed quickly when Frank Gore's second touchdown made it 31-13 Indy. The lead withstood two more touchdown passes by Rodgers in the final eight minutes.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Indianapolis | 14 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 31 |
| Green Bay | 10 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 26 |

Attendance: 78,437

Time of Possession: IND 30:03 GB 29:57



PACKERS
TENNESSEE
TITANS

25

11.13.2016

47

Three straight

The Packers fell to 4-5. Tennessee jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Titans' quarterback Marcus Mariota threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns. DeMarco Murray led their ground game with 123 yards and one touchdown.

Tennessee opened the game with an onside kick that the Packers recovered at midfield. They went three-and-out, and when Tennessee got the ball back, it didn't take long. Murray's touchdown run came on Tennessee's first play from scrimmage. He went 75 yards over left tackle for a 7-0 lead, and the annihilation had begun.

Green Bay's offense struggled all game. They had trouble running the ball (69 yards), and Rodgers threw it 55 times! Though he threw two touchdowns in the second quarter, the Packers still trailed at halftime 35-16. A 20-yard run by Rodgers up the middle was Green Bay's only touchdown in the second half. Otherwise, the offense went nowhere. Rodgers was sacked five times, and he threw two interceptions.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 25 |
| Tennessee | 21 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 47 |

Attendance: 69,116



1919-2019

PACKERS
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS

24

11.20.2016

42

Green Bay lost its fourth straight as quarterback Kurt Cousins tore the Packer secondary to pieces. He threw for 395 yards, and the Redskins totaled 515. The 4-6 Packers were in the “worst position after 10 games since McCarthy’s first season.”¹

After Aaron Rodgers and Cousins traded touchdowns in the first half, the Redskins led at halftime 13-10. The third quarter made the difference as Washington scored nine unanswered points. Trailing 22-10 with 15 minutes left, Rodgers threw a 31-yard touchdown to James Starks. Two plays later, Cousins and Pierre Garcon got the points back with a 70-yard touchdown strike that fooled Green Bay and made it 29-17.

Four minutes later, the Packers marched 82 yards, and Rodgers threw a six-yard touchdown pass to Jared Cook to cut the lead to five. In the final four minutes, the Redskins did not panic. They scored twice on touchdown runs by Robert Kelley, the second coming after a Jared Cook fumble.

On Wednesday after the loss, Aaron Rodgers felt confident to say, “I feel like we can run the table, I really do. We’ve really been clicking at times in the past two games. You’ve got to take it one at a time.”²

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 10 | 0 | 14 | 24 |
| Washington | 7 | 6 | 9 | 20 | 47 |
| Attendance: 77,137 | | | | | |

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/16, McGinn, p. A2

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/16, Wood/Silverstein, p. C3



PACKERS

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

27

11.28.2016

13

Finally!

Five days after telling Packer Nation that they could *run the table* and make the postseason, Rodgers began delivering.

The 5-6 Eagles would lose for the first time at home in 2016. The Packers off to a fast start with touchdowns on their first two drives. Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to Davante Adams, the second of which was a pinpoint pass in the back end of the end zone. The Packers led at the break 14-10.

Green Bay dominated in the second half as the Eagles managed just one field goal. After a Mason Crosby field goal, the Packers went on a 15-play drive that extended into the fourth quarter. Fullback Aaron Ripkowski scored from the one-yard line. Later in the quarter, a 19-play drive by the Packers took eight minutes off the clock, and Crosby's second field goal downed the Eagles.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 7 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 27 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 |

Attendance: 69,596

"The Green Bay Packers are hosting 'The Green Bay Packers Community Blood Drive' at the Lambeau Field Legends Club at 7:00pm."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/16, McGinn, p. C3



1919-2019

HOUSTON
TEXANS
PACKERS

13
21 12.4.2016

“This is our time of year” proclaimed McCarthy on a snowy Sunday afternoon at Lambeau. Though the snow and cold are indeed friends of the Packers, the Texans almost pulled off the upset!

The only points in the first half came on an Aaron Rodgers touchdown to Randall Cobb. Rodgers went five-for-five on the drive, and the touchdown to Cobb came from the eight. Cobb then celebrated with a snow angle!

Houston tied it on the first drive of the second half on Brock Osweiler’s touchdown pass to Ryan Griffin. Early in the fourth quarter, Green Bay retook the lead on a Rodgers to Jordy Nelson touchdown. On their next drive, the Packers scored again on Aaron Ripkowski’s three-yard touchdown run with 4:18 left.

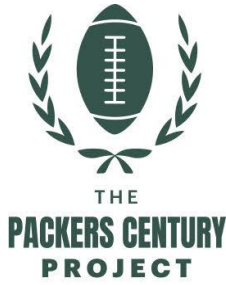
Osweiler uncorked a 44-yard touchdown bomb to DeAndre Hopkins with two minutes left. But when Davante Adams recovered the onside kick, the Packers ran out the clock. “That was a good bad-weather win,” said McCarthy.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Houston | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 21 |

Attendance: 77,867

Rodgers played with a sore left hamstring.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/16, McGinn, p. A2
2 packershistory.net/2016Packers (Associated Press)



1919-2019

SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS

PACKERS

10

38

12.11.2016

No contest here! Green Bay scored on the third play from scrimmage and never looked back. Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams connected for a 66-yard score, and Ty Montgomery soon followed with his first NFL touchdown. When Jordy Nelson caught a nine-yard touchdown from Rodgers, Green Bay led 21-3 at the half.

The injury-riddled Packer defense had no problem with quarterback Russell Wilson. They sacked the elusive signal-caller three times and intercepted five of his passes. At one point, he threw interceptions on three straight drives! Damarious Randall picked off two of them with the second leading to another Rodgers to Nelson touchdown.

Leading 28-3, the fourth quarter was academic. Rodgers had a spectacular game. He completed 18 of 23 passes for 246 yards and three touchdowns. He did not throw an interception, and the Packers were 3-0 since he predicted the turnaround.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Seattle | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 38 |

Attendance: 78,057

Turnovers: SEA 6 GB 0

“The Green Bay City Council will weigh in on recommendations for awarding stadium tax money. The Council had earmarked \$1 million of its \$5.5 million in excess Lambeau Field stadium tax money for economic development projects.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/16, Rodewald p. C3



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

30

12.18.2016

27

With this great victory, the Packers tied their all-time series with the Chicago Bears at 94 wins each!

"This is a game we needed and we got it done,"¹ said a relieved Mike McCarthy after the game. After 60 minutes of football, it all came down to Mason Crosby's kick as time expired. On Green Bay's first possession, Ty Montgomery scored on the ground. It stood 7-3 Green Bay until quarterback Matt Barkley put the Bears in front 10-7 on a 10-yard touchdown pass. At halftime, it was 10-10.

Green Bay took a 13-10 lead after a sack, strip, and fumble recovery by former Chicago Bear Julius Peppers. Mason Crosby gave Green Bay the lead, and the Packers poured it on. After a second Crosby field goal and another Montgomery touchdown, running back Christine Michael broke through the right side of the line and went 42 yards for a 27-10 lead.

The Bears charged back with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. With 1:19 left in the game and Green Bay's defense reeling from the touchdowns, Connor Barth's 22-yard kick tied it at 27. With one final opportunity with 31 seconds left, Rodgers hit Jordy Nelson deep down the middle for 60-yard gain. On the next play with three seconds left, Crosby kicked his third field goal for the win.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 3 | 7 | 17 | 3 | 30 |
| Chicago | 0 | 10 | 0 | 17 | 27 |

Attendance: 61,137

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/16, McGinn, p. A2



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

25
38 12.24.2016

The Packers won their fifth straight game to stay in the hunt for the division title. With "Aaron Rodgers playing like an MVP again,"¹ they had no trouble with the Vikings, who had lost eight of their last 10 games.

Aaron Rodgers dominated this game and threw for 347 yards and four touchdowns. On Green Bay's second possession, it took only five plays, all completed passes, for Rodgers to find Jordy Nelson for a 21-yard touchdown. On their next series, Rodgers and Nelson connected on a 48-yard bomb to put the ball on Minnesota's 26. Three plays later, Davante Adams and Rodgers connected for six. In the second quarter, Rodgers came back to Nelson for touchdown #3. He finished a spectacular first half with a six-yard touchdown run with 24 seconds left for a 28-13 lead.

After a quiet third quarter, Rodgers threw his fourth touchdown pass to Richard Rodgers. Green Bay led 38-13 before the Vikings scored two meaningless touchdowns in the final four minutes. After the game, Rodgers described his performance, "I was for whatever reason, at a heightened awareness and focus and I was seeing things better."²

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Minnesota | 3 | 10 | 0 | 12 | 25 |
| Green Bay | 14 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 38 |

Attendance: 77,856

Photo Caption: Before the game, "Haley Hodek, 14 of Neenah, puts the hat on a snowman dressed as Jordy Nelson outside the stadium."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 12/25/16, p. A3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 12/25/16, p. A3

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, p. AA3



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

31

1.1.2017

24

Happy New Year Fans!

It all came down to this. After wins over the Bears and Vikings, the Packers met the Lions with the division on the line. Aaron Rodgers came up big once again with four touchdown passes.

After the Packers punted twice and the Lions missed a field goal, Aaron Rodgers started the scoring with a touchdown pass to Aaron Ripkowski. The Vikings scored on their next series, and again late in the second quarter, for a 14-7 lead. It was shaved to a four-point lead after Mason Crosby's 53-yard goal.

The Packers took over in the second half. Rodgers and Davante Adams connected early in the third quarter for six. Rodgers put the Lions away in the fourth quarter with touchdowns to Geronimo Allison, and another to Davante Adams. After a last gasp touchdown by the Lions with 22 seconds left, Richard Rodgers secured the onside kick as well as the 2016 NFC North Championship!

Reflecting on his *run the table* prediction in November, Rodgers said, "That's what you have to do sometimes as a leader. You have to exude confidence. I believed in myself and my abilities, but I also believed in this team."¹

Green Bay 0 10 7 14 31

Detroit 0 14 0 10 24

Attendance: 66,345

Total Yards: GB 448 DET 408

Wild Card Game



NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

13
38 1.8.2017

Yes!

The prospect of the New York Giants coming to Lambeau Field for a playoff game was not the most comforting thought for Packer fans given the 2007 and 2011 seasons. This time though, it was different.

The Monday before the game on a day-off, four receivers on the Giants flew to Miami for some clubbing and a cruise. They didn't miss any meetings or practices, but the event created quite a distraction for the Giants during their week of preparation for the Packers.

Green Bay got off to a slow start. New York kicked two field goals for an early 6-0 lead, but late in the first half on a third down, Julius Peppers sacked quarterback Eli Manning. A short punt followed, and the Packers took over on New York's 38-yard line. Three plays later, Rodgers to Davante Adams gave Green Bay a 7-6 lead.

The Packers got the ball back with 1:38 left in the half. On fourth down at the New York 42 with six seconds left, Rodgers dropped back and heaved a Hail Mary to the end zone that Randall Cobb caught! Similar to Hakeem Nick's Hail Mary reception against Green Bay in the 2011 playoffs, this prayer to Cobb, "killed our momentum and it gave them all the momentum,"² said Giant linebacker Jonathan Casillas.

On the Giants' second series in the third quarter, Eli Manning threw a 41-yard touchdown pass. That was it for New York as Green Bay ran off the next 24 points. They did it without Jordy Nelson who left in the second quarter with a rib injury. Rodgers

threw two more touchdowns to Cobb, and Aaron Ripkowski scored from one-yard out with 2:43 left. After the game, a happy Datone Jones said of teammates, "Guys are willing to die for each other in this locker room. That's shown on film."²

The #1 seeded Cowboys await in Dallas.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| New York | 3 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 13 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 14 | 10 | 14 | 38 |

Attendance: 77,549

Rodgers was sacked 5 times.

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, McGinn, 1/9/17, p. 3B

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, McGinn, 1/9/17, p. p. 1B

NFC Divisional Playoff



PACKERS

DALLAS

COWBOYS

34

1.15.2017

31

The final play from scrimmage in this game was one of the most remarkable in Packer history. Aaron Rodgers found Jared Cook on a spectacular pass play that enabled Mason Crosby to save the day for the Packers on the next play!

Green Bay started fast. A touchdown pass to Richard Rodgers and two touchdown runs by Ty Montgomery made it 21-3 midway through the second quarter. A Dallas field goal and a touchdown pass to Dez Bryant made it 21-13 at halftime.

The third quarter was relatively quiet with a Rodgers to Jared Cook touchdown pass making it 28-13. But late in the quarter, Rodgers was picked off by safety Jeff Heath. Dallas capitalized with a touchdown on Dak Prescott's pass to tight end Jason Whitten. On Green Bay's next possession, after one first down, they punted. The Cowboys marched 80 yards in 11 plays and scored on a second Prescott to Bryant touchdown pass. After the two-point conversion, it was tied at 28 with 4:08 left.

After trading field goals, the Packers had the football last. Starting at their 25-yard line with 35 seconds left, Rodgers threw a 17-yard pass to Ty Montgomery for a first down. After a sack and an incomplete pass, Rodgers faced third down and 20 on his 32-yard line. With 12 seconds left, Rodgers scrambled out of the pocket to his left and threw a perfect pass to tight end, Jared Cook. As he caught the ball just inbounds at the sideline, Cook went down to his knees at the Dallas 32. With three seconds left, Mason Crosby nailed a 52-yard boot for the win!

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 7 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 34 |
| Dallas | 3 | 10 | 0 | 18 | 31 |
| Attendance: | 93,396 | | | | |



NFC Championship Game

PACKERS

21

ATLANTA

1.22.2017

FALCONS

44

The Packers were playing to go to the Super Bowl for the second time in three years. They had *run the table* like Rodgers anticipated, but they were stopped one step shy of the Super Bowl once again.

Back on October 30th, the Packers lost to the Falcons by one point. The Falcons won it on a last-minute touchdown pass from Matt Ryan to Mohamed Sanu. The Packers surprised the oddsmakers by even being in this game, and the #1 seeded Falcons had no trouble scoring. While Green Bay's offense had played well of late, the defense still had considerable trouble stopping the pass.

In the first half, Matt Ryan threw touchdown passes to Sanu and Julio Jones. Ryan also scored on a 14-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Two of the touchdowns came after Packer turnovers, and Green Bay generated just 115 yards of offense in the first half. The Falcons led at the break 24-0.

Rodgers opened the second half with three straight incomplete passes and the Packers punted. It took two plays for the Falcons to strike with a 73-yard touchdown pass from Ryan to Julio Jones. The Packers finally located the end zone, and the Falcons scored again. The Packers continued to move the ball as Atlanta's dropped back to keep everything in front of them. Rodgers threw two more touchdowns to Jordy Nelson and Jared Cook, but the game was well beyond reach. The defense had been shredded for 493 yards, and Matt Ryan's arm accounted for 392.

Because of Green Bay's slow start and the poor play of its secondary, the Packers couldn't topple the #1 seed. A banged-

up receiving corps played valiantly, but it couldn't match Atlanta's firepower. "Those guys performed great and we didn't have enough to keep up with them," lamented McCarthy.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 21 |
| Atlanta | 10 | 14 | 13 | 7 | 44 |

Attendance: 71,127



2016 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

| | <u>W</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>T</u> |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Green Bay | 10 | 6 | 0 |
| Detroit | 9 | 7 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Chicago | 3 | 13 | 0 |

Team Leaders

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Passing | Rodgers |
| Receiving | Nelson |
| Rushing | Montgomery |
| Scoring | Crosby |
| Interceptions | Clinton-Dix |
| Sacks | Perry |

All-Pro

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Bakhtiari | Tackle |
| Clinton-Dix | Safety |

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Kenny Clark (1, DT)
 Jason Spriggs (2, T)
 Kyler Fackrell (3, LB)
 Blake Martinez (4a, LB)
 Dean Lowery (4b, DE)
 Trevor Davis (5, WR)
 Kyle Murphy (6, T)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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