



**1957**



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)



## 1957

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**Record: 3-9-0 6th (last) - Western Conference**

**Coach: Lisle Blackbourn**

- New City Stadium opened on Green Bay's west side. It was the first stadium built exclusively for football, and cost \$960,000.
- Weekend celebrations were held at both stadiums. Vice-President Nixon, actor James Arness, and Miss America, Marilyn Van Derbur, were special guests. A win over the Bears topped off a perfect weekend.
- With the #1 Bonus Pick in the 1957 draft, Green Bay selected Paul Hornung of Notre Dame.
- Before the season, popular quarterback Tobin Rote was traded to Detroit. Rookie Bart Starr and veteran Babe Parilli, who was reacquired from Cleveland, would share the play-calling duties.
- After an opening win against the Bears, the Packers lost three straight. This happened two other times during the season where after wins in Baltimore and Pittsburgh they lost three in a row. The offense and defense were both ranked at the bottom of the league.
- In January of 1958, Coach Blackbourn was fired by the Packers.



CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**17**  
**21**      **9.29.1957**

*“From Hagemeister Park to this magnificent stadium is a giant step that could only be accomplished by people who have tremendous faith in their city and in their football.”<sup>1</sup>*  
*Dedication Program from NFL Commissioner Bert Bell*

With a 21-17 victory over the Bears, the Packers christened their new home with “one of their guttiest performances in history.”<sup>1</sup> Bart Starr started the game at quarterback, but Babe Parilli replaced him.

Parilli starred in his return with 197 yards passing. Each time the Bears scored the Packers kept pace. During the rough contest, Howie Ferguson of the Packers was knocked out of the game, and two players were ejected for fighting.

A 14-14 first half, saw quarterback Ed Brown of the Bears run for one score, and throw an 11-yard touchdown to Harlon Hill. The Packers countered with a 37-yard touchdown pass from Parilli to Billy Howton and Fred Cone’s short touchdown run.

The second half was comparatively quiet. The only points in the third quarter were put up by George Blanda’s field goal for 17-14 Chicago lead. With 8:21 left, Parilli connected with Gary Knalfec to take back the lead 21-17. Green Bay protected the lead with Bobby Dillon’s second interception of the game, and a fumble recovery by Larry Lauer.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>32,132</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 119



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**24**  
**14**

**10.6.1957**

The excitement and optimism of the previous week slowly faded when the Lions came to new City Stadium.

The Lions dominated with the first 24 points, and they did most of their damage on the ground. Fullback John Henry Johnson led the way with 100 of their 249 rushing yards. Detroit scored the first time it had the ball when quarterback Tobin Rote, acquired from the Packers, scored on a rollout from the two-yard line. A pick-six by Jack Christiansen and a field goal by Bobby Layne made it 17-0 at intermission.

The Packers didn't score until Bart Starr engineered two late touchdown drives. That cut the advantage to 10, but it wasn't enough. The Packers threw five interceptions – Parilli (3) and Starr (2) – and they produced just 217 yards.

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

**Attendance: 32,120**

*"Football is in Green Bay to stay, this proves it to me,"<sup>1</sup> said Lions GM W. Nicholas Kerbawy.*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/57, Rummel, p. 19



BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**  
**PACKERS**

**45**  
**17**

**10.13.1957**

## Overtaken

Bart Starr's five-yard touchdown pass to Gary Knafelc in the second quarter gave Green Bay a 10-7 edge at the half. The lead vanished quickly in the second half as the undefeated Colts shredded the Packers defense for 38 unanswered points.

The Colts ran the ball for 243 yards. Johnny Unitas threw two touchdown passes to tight end Jim Mutscheller, but overall he completed only seven passes for 130 yards. Lenny Moore led the ground game with 81 rushing yards and Alan Ameche scored three touchdowns on three one-yard plunges.

Bart Starr threw two touchdown passes and three interceptions. Green Bay turned the ball over seven times, with five miscues coming in the second half. For the game, they were held to 47 yards on the ground and 192 yards overall. Baltimore coach Weeb Ewbank had this to say about the blowout. "The turning point of this game was when they blew the whistle for the start of the second half."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance: 26,322**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*"Seven members of the world champion Braves and their President Joseph Cairnes, were guests of the Packers and introduced between halves by General Manager Verne Lewellen."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/57, Rimmel, p. 21

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/57, Rimmel, p. 23



SAN FRANCISCO

**49ers**  
**PACKERS**

**24**  
**14**

10.20.1957

### Y. A. wins it

Green Bay led briefly 7-3 before Y. A. Tittle took over the game with two touchdown passes and a touchdown run.

San Francisco led 3-0 before quarterback Babe Parilli put Green Bay in front 7-3 on a one-yard run. An interception by San Francisco led to Tittle's first touchdown pass five plays later for a 10-7 halftime lead.

On the first drive of the second half, the Niners extended the lead to 17-7. After a scoreless third quarter for Green Bay, a second interception thrown by Parilli led to Tittle's one-yard touchdown run that sealed the deal in the fourth quarter.

Trailing 24-7, rookie Paul Hornung showed his early nose for the end zone with a nine-yard touchdown run. Though Tittle threw four interceptions and Green Bay's defense controlled the strong 49ers ground game (78 yards), they were unable to capitalize fully.

**San Francisco 3 7 7 7 24**

**Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14**

**Attendance: 18,919**

*Total Yards: GB 298 SF 246*



1919-2019

**PACKERS**  
BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**

**24**  
**21**

**10.27.1957**

## **Payback**

After getting hammered by Baltimore two weeks ago in Milwaukee, the Packers hit the road hoping for some revenge. They trailed the Colts most of the game, but Baltimore's 14-0 lead evaporated in Green Bay's explosive fourth quarter.

In the first half, the Colts went in front on a 52-yard touchdown pass from Johnny Unitas to Raymond Berry. They stretched it to 14-0 before the half on Alan Ameche's one-yard touchdown run.

After a quiet third quarter, Bart Starr and rookie Paul Hornung took control. Two touchdown runs by Hornung tied the game at 14. After a field goal by the Packers made it 17-14 with 2:20 left, the Colts struck back with under a minute to play. A six-yard touchdown pass from Unitas to Lenny Moore seemingly put matters to rest 21-7. However, "the Kentucky Babe came off the bench"<sup>1</sup> and threw a 50-yard bullet to Billy Howton. Howton took it another 25 yards to the end zone for the win with 29 seconds remaining!

After the game, the Packers celebrated and gave the game ball to Coach Blackbourn.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>48,510</b>				

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1957Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)



1919-2019

NEW YORK  
**GIANTS**  
**PACKERS**

**31**  
**17**

11.3.1957

Green Bay outgained the defending champions by more than 100 yards, but they didn't outscore them.

In the first half, the Giants controlled the action. They struck first on defense with a blocked punt that linebacker Sam Huff recovered in the end zone. The Packers responded with a 77-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Billy Howton. The rest of the half belonged to New York. Frank Gifford scored on a three-yard run, and quarterback Charlie Conerly threw for one touchdown. The Giants led at halftime 24-10.

A key goal-line stand by the Giants and Emlen Tunnel's 52-yard pick-six in the fourth quarter, wrapped it up. The Packers' only points in the second half came on a 40-yard run by new acquired Don McIlhenny.

<b>New York</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance: 32,070**

Total Yards: GB 410 NY 278

*"The Packerettes, 40 majorettes strong, repeated their recent Milwaukee performance between halves. Yesterday's performance was supported as always by the Packer Lumberjack Band."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/57, Rummel, p. 23





1919-2019

**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**14**  
**21**

11.10.1957

### Tough one

In an outstanding first half, the teams traded a pair of touchdowns. Rick Casares of the Bears scored first on a 16-yard run right up the middle. Quarterback Bart Starr fought back with touchdown passes to Billy Howton and Don McIlhenny. Before halftime, Chicago quarterback Zeke Bratkowski tied it with a 35-yard touchdown pass to Harlon Hill.

In the third quarter, a controversial call reversed what looked like a sure Bart Starr touchdown to Joe Johnson. Green Bay's bench exploded when the touchdown was overruled. "The lost touchdown was a brutally frustrating thing for the Packers who were having enough trouble scoring against the Bears, without having the officials to combat, too."<sup>1</sup>

In a tense 14-14 game in the fourth quarter, Paul Hornung was stopped on a fourth-down gamble at Chicago's 41-yard line. With three minutes left, the Bears capitalized, and Rick Casares scored again to put it away with 45 seconds left.

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

**Attendance: 47,183**

*Turnovers: GB 1 CHI 4*

*The Packers "were not without support, visual as well as vocal. A big sign Go! Go! Packers! was set up at the south end of Wrigley Field between halves."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/57, Daley, p. 21



LOS ANGELES  
**RAMS**  
**PACKERS**

**31**  
**27** 11.17.1957

Bart Starr put the Packers in front 10-0 in the second quarter with a touchdown pass to Don McIlhenny. They stretched it to 24-3 on Al Carmichael's touchdown run and a Bill Forester interception that was lateraled to Bobby Dillon who took it 55 yards to the house.

Bart Starr was hurt in the second quarter on a botched handoff that resulted in a fumble. The Rams capitalized with a field goal, and Babe Parilli stepped-in for Starr.

In the final 30 minutes, L. A.'s offense put it all together with four touchdowns. They pounded Green Bay on the ground for 271 yards for the game, and rookie Jon Arnett and veteran Tank Younger ran for touchdowns. Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin also threw two touchdown passes.

Arnett's 68-yard sprint for the end zone tied the game in the fourth quarter. After Green Bay went back in front 27-24 on a Fred Cone field goal with six minutes left, Lamar Lundy caught Van Brocklin's second touchdown pass for the win.

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>19,540</b>				
<b>Milwaukee County Stadium</b>					
<i>Total Yards: GB 307 LA 521</i>					

*"Henry Aaron and his hard-hitting (Milwaukee) Braves colleague Eddie Matthews, were guests on the Packers bench."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/18/57, Rimmel, p. 18



1919-2019

**PACKERS**  
PITTSBURGH  
**STEELERS**

**27**  
**10**

**11.24.1957**

At Forbes Field, seven turnovers by the Steelers set the stage for Green Bay's final win of the season. The Packers capitalized on four of the turnovers.

In the second quarter, Green Bay scored three touchdowns, and the Steelers never recovered. Both teams struggled to pass the ball all game. They threw a combined 70 passes and completed just 24. The performance didn't please Steeler fans who booed their team when they left the field at halftime and when they returned from the locker room!

Twice during the contest, the angry fans confronted Packers personnel on the sidelines. Both times, they were escorted to the police. But the second enthusiastic fan, who had jumped on the back of Don McIlhenny, was put to the ground by McIlhenny "with a well-placed right hand."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

**Attendance: 29,701**

*Rushing Yards: GB 151 PITT 59*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/57, Rimmel, p. 26



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**6**

**11.28.1957**

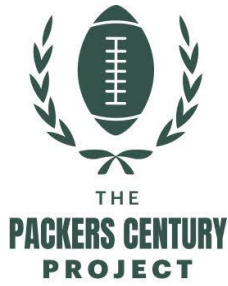
**18**

This was another Thanksgiving Day loss on national television for Green Bay. It was the first of three losses to end the season, and it brought to a close the four-year coaching tenure of Lisle Blackbourn.

Though Bart Starr played reasonably well (21-38-247-0-1), he did not throw a touchdown pass. Green Bay's offense generated just two field goals all game even though they ran 43 more plays than Detroit (96-53). The game's only touchdown came on the first play from scrimmage in the second half. John Henry Johnson rumbled 62-yards downfield to put the Lions in front to stay 10-6.

During the game, Detroit quarterback Bobby Layne was injured. The shoulder injury ultimately prevented him from completing the season which opened the door for former Packer quarterback, Tobin Rote, to lead the Lions to the 1957 NFL Championship.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>54,301</b>				



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**

**17**

**12.8.1957**

**42**

### **Big leaks on D**

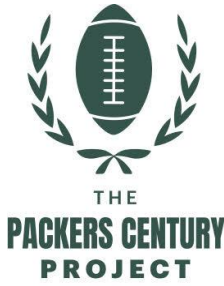
"In their annual and usually ill-fated December,"<sup>1</sup> Green Bay trailed the Rams 14-3 at halftime and never got closer. L. A. quarterback Norm Van Brocklin threw five touchdown passes, and the Rams put up 599 total yards. This remains the second most yards ever given up by a Green Bay defense, second only to the 611 they gave up to the Rams last December.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>

**70,572**

*First Downs: GB 18 LA 27*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/57, Daley, p. 23



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

SAN FRANCISCO

**49ers**

**20**

**12.15.1957**

**27**

In a game of nine turnovers, Green Bay led 20-10 at intermission. They scored on a 72-yard march that Bart Starr finished off himself with a one-yard touchdown. A bit later, Starr also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to halfback Joe Johnson.

In the second half, with a possible playoff berth on the line, the 49ers replaced rookie quarterback John Brodie with a limping Y. A. Tittle. Playing through pain, Tittle made the difference. He completed 10 for 14 passes as he and running back Joe Perry led the 49ers comeback. Perry scored both second-half touchdowns, and he ran for 130 total yards.

**Green Bay      0      20      0      0      20**

**San Francisco 10      0      10      7      27**

**Attendance: 59,100**

*Turnovers: GB 5 SF 4*



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2019

## 1957 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	8	4	0
San Francisco	8	4	1
Baltimore	7	5	0
Los Angeles	6	6	0
Chicago	5	7	0
Green Bay	3	9	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Mclhenny
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Dillon/Symank

### ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Howton	End
Ringo	Center

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Bonus Choice: Paul Hornung (1, HB)  
Ron Kramer (1, E)  
Dalton Truax (3, T)  
Carl Vereen (4, T)  
John Symank (23, DB)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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