



1962



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1962

Record: 13-1-0 NFL Champions

Coach: Vince Lombardi

- Though it's impossible to compare teams across decades, many say this the best team in Packer history. They won their first 10 games, then lost to Detroit on Thanksgiving, and finished with three straight wins.
- The Packers had the league's best offense. They outscored their opponents 415-148.
- Jim Taylor led the league in rushing with 1,474 yards. Their 36 rushing touchdowns is still an NFL record.
- Defensively, they gave up the fewest points in the league, made the most interceptions and recorded three shutouts.
- The ten straight wins from the start of the season tied a Packer record first set in 1929. Both were topped in 2011.



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

7
34
9.16.1962

The defending NFL champs easily brushed aside the young Vikings. Minnesota helped the cause with seven turnovers, including five interceptions – two each by Willie Wood and Herb Adderley.

Paul Hornung, *The Golden Boy*, picked up right where he left off in 1961. He scored the first 20 of Green Bay's points on his way to an incredible performance with three touchdown runs, two field goals, and four extra points.

Hornung and Jim Taylor accounted for 132 of the team's 185 rushing yards. The defense held the Vikings to 177 total yards, and they contained Viking quarterback Fran Tarkenton most of the game. He was sacked five times and, according to his coach Norm Van Brocklin, Tarkenton, "got the hell knocked out of him"¹

Minnesota	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	14	3	10	7	34

Attendance: 38,669

Ron Kramer scored the only other points!

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 9/17/62, Rimmel, p. 17



1919-2018

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS

0

9.23.1962

PACKERS

17

In the Packers' first game against this ancient franchise since 1956, the defense dominated. Behind the shutout, Green Bay allowed just 16 yards rushing and 131 yards overall.

The Packers had a tough time getting untracked. They drove inside the Cardinals' 31-yard line four times in the first half, but shockingly Bart Starr threw two interceptions and they lost a fumble. They came away with just one field goal.

Green Bay opened the second half with an 80-yard touchdown drive. Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor pounded the Cardinals most of the way and Hornung took it in from the three-yard line. In the fourth quarter, Bart Starr found little resistance and he closed the scoring with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee.

St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	3	7	7	17

Attendance: 44,885

Milwaukee County Stadium

Two obstreperous fans, streaking past the dumbfounded gendarmes, dashed out onto the field with 1:21 remaining in the game to shake hands with Willie Davis and Dan Currie. Then, as quickly as they had come, the intelopers wheeled back up into the stands without a hand being laid on them.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/62, Rimmel, p. 14



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

0
49

9.30.1962

This remains the biggest margin of victory in the history of the Packers-Bears rivalry. Green Bay generated 409 yards and seven touchdowns while holding the Bears to 176 yards.

After the game, Lombardi remarked, "I felt badly about it, but there was nothing we could do about it."¹

On the first drive of the second quarter, Jimmy Taylor scored the first of three rushing touchdowns. For the game, he ran over the Bears for 126 yards. Bart Starr found Ron Kramer for a touchdown pass in the first half, and he ran for a touchdown in the second. Starr had a fine game (9-12-154-1-1), and he spread out his 12 passes to five different receivers.

The defense made five interceptions and sacked Billy Wade and Rudy Bukich five times! Though the Bears were without the services of Bill George and Willie Galimore, George Halas summed it up with, "it was a combination of a bad game on our part and an excellent game on theirs."²

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	14	21	14	49

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/62, Rimmel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/62, Rimmel, p. 14



1919-2018

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

7
10.7.1962
9

Hornung's Toe

In a battle of two undefeated teams, a packed house at City Stadium watched intently. Three Paul Hornung field goals in the rain proved to be just enough in this classic battle.

On the Packers' first series, the *Golden Boy* kicked his first. In the second quarter, Detroit capitalized on Bart Starr's fumble and scored the game's only touchdown. Former Wisconsin Badger, Danny Lewis scored on a six-yard run for a 7-3 lead.

The Packers kept the pressure on with Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung running for 132 yards against the great front four of the Lions – Alex Karras, Roger Brown, Darris McCord and Dave Lloyd. With 1:53 left in the game and leading 7-6, the Lions faced a third and eight on the 50-yard line. Quarterback Milt Plum's intended receiver Terry Barr fell, and Herb Adderley returned the pick 40 yards to the Detroit 18. Three plays later, Hornung drilled his third field goal from the 26-yard line for the winner.

Detroit	0	7	0	0	7
Green Bay	3	0	3	3	9

Attendance: 38,669

Packers outgained the Lions 319-199.



PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

48

10.14.1962

21

Hornung Hurt in Blowout

Starting with this game, the Packers outscored their next five opponents 183-47. Bart Starr directed this blowout of the winless Vikings as the Packers started fast and won going away with 522 total yards! Starr completed his first ten passes and 20 out of 28 for 297 yards and three touchdowns!

The Packers scored the first 27 points and led 34-7 before Minnesota scored in the fourth quarter. Paul Hornung scored Green Bay's first touchdown before he had to leave the game with a severe knee bruise. Jerry Kramer took over Hornung's kicking responsibilities and delivered nicely with two field goals and five extra points.

Jimmy Taylor ruled the ground game with 164 yards on 17 carries. "He was running over Vikings or stinging them with head-on crashes."¹ Max McGee led all receivers with 10 catches for 159 yards and two touchdowns. The only drawback was Hornung's injury which would limit him to just one carry over the next six games.

Green Bay	10	17	7	14	48
Minnesota	0	7	0	14	21
Attendance:	41,475				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/62, Daley, p. 22



SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

PACKERS

13

31

10.21.1962

The 49ers scored on two field goals and an 86-yard punt return. San Francisco quarterback John Brodie completed only six passes for 41 yards, and he threw three interceptions. Other than that, it was all Green Bay!

Late in the second quarter, an interception by Willie Wood upset the 49ers. After tackling Wood, several San Francisco players kicked him which sparked a confrontation. The Packers responded by not only standing up for Wood, but they scored 10 points before halftime to take a 10-6 lead.

Tom Moore, who filled in for an injured Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor had outstanding games. They pounded the Niners for 244 yards rushing. Taylor ran for 160 and two touchdowns while Moore picked up 84 yards and one score.

Abe Woodson's impressive 85-yard punt return gave the lead back to San Francisco in the second half. But two long drives that Jimmy Taylor finished with touchdown runs took the lead back. The Pack finished the scoring on a Bart Starr to Ron Kramer touchdown pass. "They didn't do anything we didn't expect," said 49er coach Red Hickey. "They just knock you down and run over you."¹

San Francisco 3 3 7 0 13

Green Bay 0 10 14 7 31

Attendance: 46,010

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ The First America's Team: 1962 Green Bay Packers, Berghaus, p. 75



PACKERS
BALTIMORE
COLTS

17
6

10.28.1962

Not Now Johnny!

For the first time under Lombardi, the Packers defeated the Colts in Baltimore. With the victory, the Packers moved two games in front of Detroit in the division.

This nasty battle had 163 yards of penalties! The Packer defense contained Johnny Unitas all game (18-30-161-0-1) and they held Baltimore to two field goals. Two fumbles on handoffs from Unitas to Lenny Moore killed two promising drives for the Colts in Packer territory.

Green Bay led 10-3 at halftime on a Jerry Kramer field goal and a Ron Kramer touchdown catch. Leading 10-6 with six minutes remaining, Ray Nitschke's interception led to Jim Taylor's 37-yard touchdown run that clinched it. This 10th straight win was also the third time this season that the defense held an opponent without a touchdown.

Green Bay	0	10	0	7	17
Baltimore	0	3	3	0	6

Attendance: 57,966

Jim Taylor bowed to the crowd as he left the field!

"A delegation of about 500 fans was on hand at Austin Staubel Field Sunday evening to greet the Packers."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/62, p. 14



PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

38

11.4.1962

7

Seven Turnovers!

Though they stayed close in the first half, seven turnovers by the Bears defined this blowout. Jim Taylor's first touchdown run made it 7-0 and Ray Nitschke's interception led to a field goal for a 10-7 halftime lead.

The turnovers gave Green Bay too many chances. Leading 10-7 in the third quarter, a Packer punt bounced off Roosevelt Taylor and was recovered by Green Bay. Moments later, Jimmy Taylor scored his second touchdown for a 17-7 edge.

The Packers ran for 215 yards! Taylor scored twice more in the second half to finish his four touchdown assault. When Green Bay didn't have the ball, their defense stopped the Bears cold. They gave up just 65 yards on the ground and 212 yards overall.

Green Bay	7	3	7	21	38
Chicago	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 48,753

GB swept the season series and outscored the Bears 87-7.

"Hawg Hanner buttons are now on sale in stores in Green Bay and throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. Proceeds from the sale will be used to present a gift to the veteran Packer player."¹ Hanner was a rookie for the Packers in 1952!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/62, p. 15



PACKERS
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

49
0

11.11.1962

1960 Payback

The Packers moved easily to 9-0. They generated 37 first downs and put up a franchise record of 628 yards of offense! Their seven touchdown drives went for 86, 88, 85, 76, 71, 66 and 65 yards. Jim Taylor ran for four touchdowns, and Bart Starr's outstanding play (15-20-274-0-1) overwhelmed the Eagles and secured a measure of revenge for the championship game that was lost here in 1960. Defensively, the Packers held Philadelphia to 54 total yards and three first downs!

Green Bay	7	28	14	0	49
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0

Attendance: 60,671



1919-2018

BALTIMORE
COLTS
PACKERS

13
17 11.18.1962

It was *Hawg Hanner Day* and *Homecoming* for this City Stadium crowd. Curly Lambeau was also on hand! The fun started with Herb Adderley's 103-yard kickoff return in the first quarter for a 7-0 edge. But just before halftime, Johnny Unitas and Raymond Berry connected for a touchdown to tie the game at 10.

The Packers' defense stopped the Colts twice deep inside Green Bay territory in the first half. They forced a fumble at the two-yard line, and later Bill Forrester sacked Unitas on fourth down at the Packer one-yard line!

Trailing 13-10 heading into the fourth quarter, the Packers took advantage of the great field position provided by Willie Wood's punt return that brought the ball to the Baltimore 32. Three plays later, Tom Moore's 23-yard burst off right tackle made it 17-13 Packers. The defense rose up twice more in the fourth quarter and stopped the Colts at the Packer seven-yard line and at the two-yard line! The last stop came with two minutes left to clinch it.

Tragically, in the fourth quarter, Packer linebacker Nick Toburen broke his neck tackling Johnny Unitas.

Baltimore	3	7	3	0	13
Green Bay	10	0	0	7	17
Attendance:	38,669				

Helping the Bobcats!! The Packers helped the city's semi-pro hockey team. "Bobcat ticket books purchased during the special two-day ticket drive will be autographed by members of the world champion Packers."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/62, p. 11



PACKERS

14

DETROIT

11.22.1962

LIONS

26

Two of the league's top defenses battle it out as the Lions upset the undefeated Packers on national television. Detroit quarterback Milt Plum and split end Gail Cogdill hooked up twice in the first half to put the home team in front 14-0.

The Lions defense protected the lead by hitting, chasing and sacking quarterback Bart Starr 11 times for losses totaling 100 yards. Green Bay turned the ball over five times including a second-quarter fumble by Starr that defensive end Sam Williams took six yards into the end zone. In the same quarter, Starr was sacked in the end zone for a safety.

In the third quarter, a 47-yard field goal gave Detroit a 26-0 lead. The Packers scored twice in the fourth quarter after it was too late. For the game, they generated just 122 yards.

While there were a lot of hard feelings between the teams in 1962 and beyond, time has helped heal the bruises and wounds. The great Detroit linebacker Joe Schmidt (HOF '73) explains, "After all these years those Green Bay guys, I have a lot of admiration for them. Vince (Lombardi) was always very, very kind to me, so as a result, I have a little soft spot in my heart for those guys."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14
Detroit	7	16	3	0	26
Attendance:	57, 578				

¹ The First America's Team, Berghaus, p. 113



1919-2018

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

PACKERS

10

12.2.1962

41

The return of Paul Hornung put Green Bay's offense back at full strength, and it didn't take long! Five minutes into the game, a 30-yard bomb from Bart Starr to Hornung got the scoring started. Hornung also caught a 38-yard pass from Starr to set up another Green Bay score.

After the Rams took an early lead on a Danny Villanueva field goal, the Packers scored the next 27 points to take command. Starr had a fantastic afternoon with 260 yards passing and two touchdowns. Jim Taylor remained the league's scoring leader with two more touchdown runs.

Starr's touchdown pass to Ron Kramer before halftime made it 27-3 and pretty much put the game away. Defensively, there were 12 sacks in the game – seven by Green Bay. Green Bay's defense proved dominant throughout, holding the Rams to 237 total yards.

Los Angeles	3	0	0	7	10
Green Bay	10	14	3	14	41

Attendance: 6,833

Milwaukee County Stadium

"One hero worshipping Milwaukee teenager was being threatened with incarceration by a park policeman after he leaped into the Packers' path as they filed from the field into the first base dugout. He saucily shot back, "Throw me in. I don't care –I shook Taylor's hand!"¹

¹ Press-Gazette, 12/3/62, Rimmel, p. 16



1919-2018

PACKERS
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers

31
21

12.9.1962

Second Half Rally Wins It

The Packers trailed 21-10 at halftime, and the Niners held on to their lead until the fourth quarter. Three touchdowns – two on John Brodie touchdown passes to Monty Stickles and Clyde Connor – put them in front early.

Jerry Kramer's field goal and Tom Moore's touchdown run kept Green Bay within striking distance. In the second half, the Packers' defense rallied. They shut down San Francisco's man-in-motion-offense that produced their first-half lead while continuing to throttle their ground game (36 total yards).

Tom Moore's second touchdown run started Green Bay's comeback, and Jim Taylor's touchdown put them in front 24-21. Late in the fourth quarter, Bart Starr topped it off with an eight-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ron Kramer.

Green Bay	3	7	7	14	31
San Francisco	7	14	0	0	21
Attendance:	53,769				

“As the game ended, a group of fans carried a banner reading “Go Packers” on the field.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/10/62, Daley, p. 18



PACKERS
LOS ANGELES
RAMS

20
17

12.16.1962

Repeat!

The Packers learned they clinched the Western Conference title during a timeout in the second quarter!

Green Bay never trailed and they outgained the Rams 427-303. Ron Kramer, Jim Taylor, and Paul Hornung scored touchdowns. The Packers scored on the game's opening drive with a 45-yard halfback option pass from Tom Moore to Ron Kramer. Jim Taylor's 28-yard touchdown run in the second quarter made it 13-3, and he set a new NFL record for rushing touchdowns in a season with 19.

In the second half, after Merlin Olsen's pick-six, Bart Starr and Hornung connected on an 83-yard touchdown for a 20-10 lead. L. A. struck back with a 69-yard drive and a 15-yard touchdown to Carroll Dale from Jon Arnett. With 7:01 left, the Packers held on. After the game, "Curly Lambeau was highly pleased in the press box after the Pack's win in L. A. 'Well that's great. Three (division) championships in a row. I want to go down to the dressing room.' Lambeau who coached the Packers to six world titles congratulated Lombardi and all the players."¹

Green Bay	7	6	0	7	20
Los Angeles	3	7	0	7	17

Attendance: 60,353

GB's 13 wins sets a new Packer record.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/62, Daley, p. 17

1962 NFL Championship Game



PACKERS

16

NEW YORK

12.30.1962

GIANTS

7

The Giants repeated as Eastern Conference Champions, and after their collapse last year's debacle in Wisconsin, they were eager for another shot at the Packers. They relished meeting them in front of, "65,000 wind-whipped New Yorkers chanting *Beat Green Bay! Beat Green Bay!*"¹

Unfortunately for the Giants, the weather was more like Green Bay than New York City. It was "eighteen degrees and falling combined with winds of around 40 miles an hour that made it feel well below 10."² Some Packers thought the conditions were more brutal than The Ice Bowl.

The only offensive touchdown of the game came after Dan Currie's hit shook the football loose from Phil King on the New York 30-yard line. Ray Nitschke recovered it and two plays later, Jimmy Taylor scored the touchdown. Taylor's great play and his physical battle with Giant linebacker, Sam Huff, led the way for the Packers. He carried several Giants on his back all game while rushing for a grueling 85 yards on a record 31 carries.

Though the Giants managed a better showing than in 1962, they still couldn't find the end zone. With the hometown crowd chanting, their only points came on a blocked punt in the third quarter that was recovered in the end zone. It cut the lead to 10-7 and momentarily gave the Giants new life. After the Packers went three-and-out, Max McGee's punt was fumbled by Sam Horner of the Giants and recovered by Ray Nitschke. The Packers regained the upper hand 13-7 on Jerry Kramer's second field goal. In the fourth quarter, Kramer's third boot finished the scoring.

The Giants outgained the Packers 291-244, but New York's three turnovers were costly. The game's MVP, Ray Nitschke, had a hand in all three. He recovered both Giant fumbles, and he deflected the pass that was intercepted by Dan Currie. For the second straight championship game, the Packer defense shut down the dynamic New York offense. "In 1962, the Packers scored the most points in the league, and they gave up the least. They lost only one game. This just may have been the greatest team of the Lombardi Dynasty!"³

Green Bay	3	7	3	3	16
New York	0	0	7	0	7

Attendance: 64,892

Championship Stories

Sign in Stands: "N.Y. can have Tittle. G.B. has Title!"⁴

"Though the plane arrived two hours late at 11:00pm on a Sunday night, between 8,000-14,000 fans showed up in below zero temperatures to greet their heroes."⁵

King Vincent: At the airport "a 12-year old boy, who got within touching distance of the headmaster Lombardi as the Packer coach threaded his way through Austin Straubel Field's terminal lobby Sunday night, told him, "You're not only great, Vince, you're king!"⁶

Bart Starr: "After the game, some New York sportswriters suggested that the results might have been different had the game had been played in better conditions. I agree. We would have beaten them by more than nine points."⁷

- 1 Packer Dynasty, Bengston, p. 60
- 2 Giants Among Men, Palladino, p. 252
- 3 Giants Cheeseheads, Rice, p. 28
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p. 1
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p. 1
- 6 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p.12
- 7 Bart Star: My life in Football



1962 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Packers	13	1	0
Lions	11	3	0
Bears	9	5	0
Colts	7	7	0
49ers	6	8	0
Vikings	2	11	1
Rams	1	12	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Taylor
Interceptions	Wood

ALL PRO

Herb Adderley	Cornerback
Dan Currie	Linebacker
Willie Davis	Defensive End
Bill Forester	Linebacker
Forrest Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Henry Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Jerry Kramer	Guard
Ray Nitschke	Linebacker
Jim Ringo	Center
Bart Starr	Quarterback
Jim Taylor	Fullback
Fuzzy Thurston	Guard
Willie Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Position & Round)

Earl Gros (FB, 1)
Ernest Green (HB, 14)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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