



**1952**



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)



## 1952

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**Record: 6-6-0 4th Place – National Conference**

**Coach: Gene Ronzani**

- A great draft helped immediately. Rookies Babe Parilli (QB) and Billy Howton (E) led the team in passing and receiving.
- Howton also led the league in receiving yards, and he broke Don Hutson's team record set in 1942. He caught 53 passes for 1,231 yards. Many of the passes came from his old college quarterback Tobin Rote!
- The Packers played three Milwaukee games at Marquette University's Stadium.
- The defense improved, but the Packers were the most penalized team in the league.
- A four-game winning streak was their longest since 1944. At 6-3 and tied for first place, they lost their last three games. Their 6-6 finish was their best since 1947.
- Tony Canadeo played his last game. His #3 was retired on Tony Canadeo Day!



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**24**  
**14** 9.28.1952

In another chippy game between rivals, 21 penalties were called in a “festive” opener for 186 yards. George Halas was now 3-0 against his former pupil and assistant coach, Gene Ronzani.

Green Bay took a late first-half lead when John Martinkovic blocked a quick-kick, and Tobin Rote ran it in a few plays later for a 7-3 lead. In the second half, Chicago took control when signal-caller Bob Williams and fullback “Kayo” Dottley connected for a 10-7 lead. Then, on consecutive plays, Ed Sprinkle sacked Rote on third down and blocked the ensuing field goal attempt. The block gave Chicago good field position, and they scored minutes later for a 17-7 lead.

After Dottley’s 45-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter made it 24-7, Rote and Billy Howton connected to wrap up the scoring.

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

**Attendance: 24,656**

*Yards gained: GB 239 CHI 392*



1919-2019

WASHINGTON

**REDSKINS**  
**PACKERS**

**20**  
**35**

**10.5.1952**

### **Curly goes down!**

A disappointing crowd of only 9,000 came out to see Curly Lambeau take on his old Packers. The team had expected close to 20,000 fans since they were playing their former coach for the first time during the regular season.

Curly Lambeau and the Redskins came to Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee and felt the sting of two exuberant Packer rookies. Quarterback Babe Parilli and end Billy Howton struck gold early with an 89-yard touchdown. The Packers never trailed in the game, and Parilli threw another touchdown pass to fellow quarterback Tobin Rote late in the contest!

In between the sensational passing, the Packers ran for 178 yards. A trio of running backs also scored for Green Bay: Breezy Reid, Tony Canadeo and Fred Cone. After the contest, Curly Lambeau graciously acknowledged Green Bay's win. "The Packer team outplayed us and out-gamed us all the way. We were just outfought today – I have no alibis."<sup>1</sup>

**Washington 7 0 7 6 20**

**Green Bay 7 14 7 7 35**

**Attendance: 9,657**

**Milwaukee**

*"Milwaukee's notoriously fickle fans were behind the Packers all the way. They gave them a round of applause as they left the field at intermission, and in the late stages wherever the Packers lost possession."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/52, Rimmel, p. 15

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/52, Rimmel, p. 16



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**  
**PACKERS**

**30**  
**28**

10.12.1952

"After 45 minutes of the finest football ever played by a Green Bay team in Milwaukee,"<sup>1</sup> the Packers led 28-6 at Marquette Stadium. Tobin Rote led the way and threw three touchdown passes to Bob Mann(2) and Billy Howton.

In the fourth quarter, the Rams scored 24 unanswered points. "Deacon" Dan Towler's one-yard plunge started the run. A third field goal by Bob Waterfield and a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown, sliced the Packers lead to 28-23. With four minutes left, L. A. took over on their eight-yard line. Waterfield's strong-arm took them downfield in seven impressive plays. Towler's second touchdown run completed the comeback.

Long-time Packer player and coach Dave Hanner called this loss one of the biggest disappointments of his long career.

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

**Attendance: 21,693**  
**Milwaukee**

**Jim Becker, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame \***

*After Jim and Pat Becker had their first child, Pat's mom was going to babysit so she could go to this game with Jim. Pat's dad, however, convinced Pat to stay at home with her mom and the baby while he went to the game with his son-in-law!*

*"Fans in the bleachers at the south end were highly vocal, particularly before halftime. 'We want a touchdown!' 'We want a touchdown!' a la high school."<sup>2</sup>*

\* Interview: 2/28/17

1 packershistory.net/1952Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/52, Rempel, p. 18



**PACKERS**

DALLAS

**TEXANS**

**24**

**10.18.1952**

**14**

This was the Packers first regular-season win in Dallas, Texas. Tobin Rote threw two touchdown passes, and Babe Parilli threw one to pace Green Bay.

A fumble by Dallas at midfield led to Tobin Rote's touchdown pass to Bob Mann and a 7-0 Green Bay lead. Before halftime, the Texans scored twice to go in front 14-7.

In the final 30 minutes, Green Bay's defense stiffened. Big John Martinkovic "swiped the ball from (quarterback) Bob Celeri on the statue of liberty play."<sup>1</sup> Rote hit Howton for a 22-yard score to tie the game. In the fourth quarter, Bobby Dillon's interception led to Parilli's 10-yard touchdown pass to Billy Howton to clinch it!

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

**Attendance: 14,000**

*Several hundred fans were at Austin Straubel Field Sunday afternoon to congratulate the Packers!*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/52, Daley, p. 2



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**52**  
**17** 10.26.1952

### Not in the game

The Packers hoped to snap a five-game losing streak to the Lions. Unfortunately, they went down in flames. The Packers outgained Lions 423-384, but they didn't come close to outscoring them. They fell behind 14-0 early, and it didn't get better as they trailed 28-10 at half and 42-17 after 45 minutes.

Quarterbacks Tobin Rote and Babe Parilli threw for 380 yards and two touchdowns. But Green Bay committed nine turnovers, including five interceptions. Former Packer Jug Girard haunted his old team by catching two touchdown passes from Bobby Layne.

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance:**

*"The Green Bay's Women's Quarterback Club is having another 'first.' The club announced plans to have its own cheering section at the Packer-Bear game on Nov. 9. Members of the club and their guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in this group to provide concentrated effort in support of the team."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/52, p. 15



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA  
**EAGLES**  
**PACKERS**

**10**  
**12** 11.2.1952

## **Defense!**

"We expected this to be the toughest game on our schedule, and it was,"<sup>1</sup> said Philadelphia coach Jim Trimble. In a defensive battle at Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee, the Packers held the Eagles to 126 total yards. Green Bay won despite six turnovers, including interceptions thrown by quarterbacks Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote.

A Packers fumble by Fred Cone led to a 3-0 Philly lead. In the second quarter, the Packers went in front 6-3 lead on a 21-yard strike from Parilli to Floyd "Breezy" Reid. It stayed 6-3 until the fourth quarter when Eagles' cornerback Russ Craft returned an interception of Tobin Rote 30 yards for a touchdown.

With a 10-6 lead, Philadelphia held on until late in the game. When they were forced to punt from the 10-yard line, it was blocked by linebacker Deral Teteak. John Martinkovic recovered the kick and went five yards into the end zone for the win. The Eagles gained only 126 yards all game, and their 10 points came directly after Green Bay turnovers.

<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>

**Attendance: 10,149**  
**Milwaukee**

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/52, Rimmel, p. 20





**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**41**  
**28**

**11.9.1952**

## **Tony I!**

This was Tony Canadeo's last game at Wrigley Field as a member of the Packers. It was also Green Bay's first win at Wrigley since 1941! Canadeo pitched-in with 61 yards on 11 attempts.

Green Bay had no trouble with the Bears. Quarterbacks Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote both threw for touchdowns. Parilli's 19-yard toss to Billy Howton struck the first blow. After a Chicago kickoff return tied it, Fred Cone scored the next 17 points with two touchdowns, a field goal, and two extra points! After a second Chicago kickoff return, the Packers did not permit "the Bears inside the Bay 45 until the last seven minutes of the game."<sup>1</sup>

With the score 24-17, another 17-point outburst by the Packers ended any doubt. Parilli's second touchdown of the game, this one to Bob Mann, made it 41-14. The defense held the Bears to 164 total yards.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>

**Attendance: 41,751**

*Total Yards: GB 390 CHI 157*

*"In addition to that post-game snake dance down the field, a number of jubilant Green Bay partisans cut a sprightly rug below the stands – to the accompaniment of a four-piece band."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/52, Daley, p. 21

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/52, Rimmel, p. 22



**PACKERS**

NEW YORK

**GIANTS**

**17**

**11.16.1952**

**3**

This was a dominant performance by the 4-3 Packers. The first-place Giants scored their only points in the first quarter for a 3-0 lead. In the second quarter, a New York fumble was recovered near midfield by Green Bay's Clarence Self. The Packers took advantage, and with less than a minute left in the half, Parilli took it in from the one-yard line.

With Green Bay leading 7-3, New York quarterback Charlie Conerly fumbled on the first possession of the second half. Hal Faverty of the Packers recovered, and Parilli connected with Bob Mann to stretch the lead to 14-3. Though the Packers were outgained 226-121, they made up for it with fumble recoveries and three interceptions!

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

**Attendance:**

*NYG threw 31 passes and completed 10.*

*"Nearly 1,000 fans braved a cold, late-night rain to greet the Packers in November 1952 upon their return home from New York after a victory that knocked the Giants out of a first-place tie in the NFL's American Conference."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 150



DALLAS  
**TEXANS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**42** 11.24.1952

**Tony III!**

This was an outstanding day for Green Bay! Before their last home game of the season got underway, the Packers honored Tony Canadeo for 11 fantastic seasons. The “Gray Ghost of Gonzaga” returned the boisterous cheers of the fans by opening both the game and the second half with touchdowns!

Despite turning the ball over seven times, the Packers never trailed as quarterbacks Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote each threw two touchdowns passes. The offense put up 340 yards while the Texans were held to 45 yards rushing and 187 overall!

“We made a lot of mistakes, but the kids fought back and overcame them,”<sup>1</sup> said a happy Ronzani. The Packers had won four in a row for the first time since 1944, and they moved into a first-place tie with the Lions, 49ers, and Rams!

<b>Dallas</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>16,340</b>				

*“Green Bay’s Junior Packers, who play in the Santa Claus Bowl in Lakeland, Fla., in December, were introduced along with coaches Ted Fritsch and Charley Tollefson, between halves.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/52, Rimmel, p. 17



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

DETROIT

**LIONS**

**24**

11.27.1952

**48**

The first of three straight losses to finish the season.

Green Bay's winning streak and its share of first-place crash-landed in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day. After a 3-3 first quarter, it was all Lions. Quarterback Bobby Layne threw three touchdown passes, and Pat Harder scored three times to account for nearly all of Detroit's points. The Packers turned the ball over eight times, and three of the drops led directly to Detroit touchdowns.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>39,101</b>				



1919-2019

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

**27**  
**45**

**12.7.1952**

### **Eliminated**

Both teams wore yellow jerseys with different colored numbers.

Touchdown runs by Breezy Reid and Tobin Rote gave Green Bay an early 14-10 lead. The lead vanished quickly and permanently when the Rams erupted for the 35 points. Quarterback Bob Waterfield got it rolling before the half with a touchdown run for a 17-14 Rams lead.

L. A. surged ahead in the second half with four touchdowns. An 80-yard pick-six by rookie Dick "Night Train" put the Packers back on their heels. Another interception by Jack Dwyer of the Rams set up "Deacon" Dan Towler's touchdown run for a 31-14 lead. Bob Waterfield's touchdown pass, and Andy Robustelli's fumble recovery for six put the game out of reach.

Quarterback Bob Waterfield led the Rams in scoring with 16 points on one touchdown run, a field goal, and six extra points. The loss officially eliminated Green Bay from title contention.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>

**Attendance: 49,822**

*Interceptions: GB 1 LA 5*



**PACKERS**

SAN FRANCISCO

**49ers**

**14**

**12.14.1952**

**24**

San Francisco never trailed in this game, and their quarterback, Frankie Albert, led three scoring drives in the final game of his seven-year career.

Billy Howton scored both of Green Bay's touchdowns. Tobin Rote and Babe Parilli each through one to Howton, with Parilli's going for a 90-yard touchdown ride. Three consecutive losses ended a once-promising season for Green Bay. In their final three games, they turned the ball over 18 times, and they were outscored 117-65.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>17,579</b>				

*"After his playing career, Canadeo continued his association with the team as a broadcaster and member of the organization's executive committee. He played a small part in helping Jack Vainisi reassure Vince Lombardi in 1959 that the transition from New York City to Green Bay would be comfortable for his family. "The Gray Ghost of Gonzaga," was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1974."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1952Packers (packerville.com/blogspot)



## 1952 Team Statistics

THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**

1919-2019

### FINAL STANDINGS – National Conference

	<u>I</u>			
Detroit	9	3	0	
Los Angeles	9	3	0	
San Francisco	7	5	0	
Green Bay	6	6	0	
Chicago	5	7	0	
Dallas	1	11	0	

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Parilli
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Rote
Scoring	Howton
Interceptions	Loomis

### ALL-PRO

Howton                      End

### NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Babe Parilli (1, QB)  
Billy Howton (2, E)  
Bobby Dillon (3, CB)  
Dave Hanner (5, DT)  
Tom Johnson (6, T)  
Bill Reichardt (7, FB)  
Deral Teteak (9, G)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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