



1958



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1958

Record: 1-10-1 6th (last) - Western Conference

Coach: Ray "Scooter" McLean

- Lisle Blackbourn was fired in January and Ray "Scooter" McClean, a favorite on the Packer coaching staff, was named the next head coach.
- Dominic Olejniczak became the Packers' seventh President. He would serve for 24 years.
- The team began holding training camp at St. Norbert's College in DePere, Wisconsin.
- This was the worst season in Packer history. They scored the fewest points in the NFL and gave up the most.
- The team had talent. Seventeen players played on the 1961 championship team, and seven were enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- "Scooter" McClean resigned after the season. He was too lenient and did not hold the players accountable.



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

34
20

9.28.1958

With former coach Curly Lambeau watching in the Press Box, George Halas returned to the sidelines for the Bears after a two-year retirement.

Green Bay got out to a quick 7-0 lead on Bobby Dillon's pick-six. With the Packers leading 10-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Bears woke up. From that point forward, it was all Chicago with halfback Willie Galimore and quarterback Ed Brown dominating the action. Galimore scored two more touchdowns while Brown ran for a score and threw two touchdown passes. For Green Bay, Paul Hornung was nearly the entire offense. He scored one touchdown, kicked two field goals and added two extra points.

Chicago	7	14	7	6	34
Green Bay	10	3	0	7	20
Attendance:	32,150				

"Seymour's Norm Buckman saw only the opening kickoff. He left in haste after field announcer Claire Stone intoned, 'Norm Buckman, you are asked to go home immediately – your house is on fire.'"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/58, Rimmel, p. 21



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

13
13

10.5.1958

Since Green Bay had beaten Detroit just twice in the last 16 games, this was a moral victory of sorts. But it did not feel that way.

Tobin Rote, now with the Lions, got things going with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Jim Doran for a 6-3 lead. Later in the second quarter, Bart Starr found Max McGee for a 40-yard touchdown to retake the lead 10-6. After Paul Hornung's second field goal made it 13-6, Bart Starr threw an interception in the third quarter which led to Detroit's tying touchdown. After two games, the Milwaukee Journal reported, "So far, at least, this is 1957 all over again."¹ By season's end, the fans could only wish.

Detroit	0	6	7	0	13
Green Bay	3	10	0	0	13

Attendance: 32,053

*"Soon after the final gun sounded, rumors flew about Green Bay that the Lions' free-wheeling, future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Bobby Layne had been seen imbibing in the lobby of the Northland (Hotel) on Sunday morning before the game. True or not, Layne didn't start, missed an extra point and was traded to Pittsburgh the next day."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

² Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 42



1919-2019

BALTIMORE
COLTS
PACKERS

24
17

10.12.1958

Green Bay jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Bart Starr's day (26-46-320-1-4) began with a 55-yard touchdown bomb to Hugh McIlhenny. On their next series, Starr scored for a 14-0 lead, and Paul Hornung's field goal then pushed it to 17-0.

After 17 unanswered points, the Packers offense went cold as Bart Starr's interceptions slowed down Green Bay. Baltimore quarterback Johnny Unitas rallied the Colts with a one-yard touchdown run before halftime. In the second half, he uncorked a 55-yard touchdown bomb to tight end Jim Mutscheller. Steve Myhra's field goal tied it at 17. With just over two minutes left in the game, Bart Starr threw his fourth interception that linebacker Andy Nelson returned 52 yards for the win.

Baltimore	0	7	7	10	24
Green Bay	14	3	0	0	17

Attendance: 24,553

Milwaukee County Stadium



1919-2019

PACKERS

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS

21

10.19.1958

37

Each team put up over 400 yards of offense, but the Redskins dominated and led 34-0 in the fourth quarter. The Packers got on the scoreboard when Babe Parilli replaced an injured Bart Starr. Parilli threw two touchdown passes, and Paul Hornung scored on the ground.

Green Bay	0	0	0	21	21
Washington	10	10	14	3	37

Attendance: 25,228

Turnovers: GB 5 WASH 2

“As the plane dipped its wings in the direction of Green Bay, everyone felt tense, waiting for the reception. Some 150 fans quietly watched in the dimly lighted surroundings as their Sunday heroes climbed out. There was no applauding, no booing. These are proud fans with a chip on their shoulder, waiting for the day their Packers will return to winning ways. Next Sunday is a perfect time for redemption with a home game against the Eagles.”¹

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes, 10/21/58)



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES
PACKERS

35
38

10.26.1958

Ten touchdowns were scored, five by each team, but it was Paul Hornung's first-quarter field goal that made the difference! The Eagles outgained the Packers, and Norm Van Brocklin threw for 293 yards and three touchdowns. For Green Bay, Babe Parilli tossed four touchdown passes – two to Max McGee – and they capitalized on key Philadelphia turnovers.

Looking ahead to next week against the Bears coach McClean stated, "we can't have any foolishness out there, or we'll get killed."¹

Philadelphia	0	14	0	21	35
Green Bay	3	14	21	0	38

Attendance: 31,043

Turnovers: GB 1 PHI 4

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (New & Notes, 10/26)



PACKERS

BALTIMORE

COLTS

0

11.2.1958

56

This is the largest margin of defeat in Green Bay Packer history. They trailed 28-0 at halftime and managed just eight first downs all game (Baltimore had 30). Green Bay threw five interceptions, and they never stood a chance.

After the game, Coach McLean had this to say. "We've got to cut out some bad roots. They're getting to be a problem because they're starting to affect the rest of the team. We know who some of them are and we're going to do something about it."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	7	21	14	14	56
Attendance:	51,333				

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes, Nov. 4)



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

10
24

11.9.1958

The Bears swept the season series, and the loss gave the Packers sole possession of last place. Green Bay's offense struggled again with only 145 yards, while Rick Casares alone led the Bears with 113 of their 273 rushing yards.

In the third quarter, Chicago linebacker Bill George hit Bart Starr caused a fumble that was recovered by Bill Bishop in the end zone for a touchdown. It gave the Bears a 21-3 lead, and they were never threatened.

Green Bay	3	0	0	7	10
Chicago	0	7	14	3	24
Attendance:	48,424				



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

PACKERS

20
7

11.16.1958

Unfortunately, the last home game of the season featured the explosive offense of the L. A. Rams. They generated 484 yards in this contest, 200 more than Green Bay.

The Packers led briefly 7-3 before the Rams took the lead. L. A. quarterback Billy Wade threw 42 times for 372 yards and one touchdown. Babe Parilli of the Packers threw four interceptions to doom the offense.

Los Angeles	10	0	3	7	20
Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Attendance:	28,051				



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

PACKERS

33

12

11.23.1958

San Francisco continued the NFL's assault on Green Bay's defense with 539 yards. While it was a tight 12-12 battle in the fourth quarter, the Niners scored the next 21 points. Quarterback Y. A. Tittle of the 49ers capitalized on two of Green Bay's three fumbles for touchdown passes, and Hugh McElhenny scored on the ground.

San Francisco 6 3 3 21 33

Green Bay 9 0 3 0 12

Attendance: 19,786

Milwaukee County Stadium



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

14

11.27.1958

24

The defending champions were a disappointing 3-5-1, but they still gobbled-up Green Bay on Thanksgiving. Bart Starr played the entire game, and he had the Packers right on Detroit's heels most of the contest.

Trailing 17-14 late in the game, Max McGee surprised everyone (including his coaches) with a fake punt from Green Bay's 24-yard line. McGee came up short of the first down, and the Lions scored the clincher six plays later.

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14

Detroit 10 0 7 7 24

Attendance: 50,971

Former Green Bay quarterback, Paul Christman said: "When someone gets drafted by the Packers or traded to them, he usually says, 'Green Bay, I don't want to go there.' Then he goes there and finds it's quite a place. The people treat you real fine. They really make things nice for you." Christman, who now telecasts with the Cardinals, was asked if he thought that close contract with the fans in a town like Green Bay was good for the players. "Sure, it is," he said. "Green Bay is a good place for a pro football player."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes, 11/30, Milwaukee Journal)



1919-2019

PACKERS

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

21

12.7.1958

48

It was 34-0 before the Packers took notice. Y. A. Tittle tossed two more touchdown passes, and the Niners generated 468 total yards. Green Bay turned the ball over six times.

Green Bay	0	7	7	7	21
San Francisco	27	7	14	0	48
Attendance:	50,793				

“Two local merchants Monday launched a petition campaign seeking the return of Earl (Curly) Lambeau as coach. The plan is the brainchild of H. H. Eaton, who operates a food market, and Harry Norton, a restaurant owner. Eaton said he and Norton were long-time Packer fans who are ‘fed up with the way things have been going.’”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/58, p. 21



PACKERS
LOS ANGELES
RAMS

20
34

12.14.1958

With a touchdown pass to Max McGee, quarterback Joe Francis had the Packers in front 14-7 in the second quarter. The rest of the way, however, they converted just two field goals by Paul Hornung.

In a 24-point explosion in the second quarter, L. A.'s Billy Wade threw two touchdown passes on his way to 243 passing yards. For Green Bay, rookie Jim Taylor had another good game (99 yards), but it wasn't nearly enough.

On December 17, 1958, head coach Scooter McClean resigned. "Some of the players just let them (the coaches) down, that's all – some of the ones who were supposed to carry the load. A lot of us feel real bad about Scooter,"¹ said defensive tackle, Dave Hanner.

Green Bay	7	7	3	3	20
Los Angeles	0	24	3	7	34
Attendance:	54,634				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/58, p. 37



THE
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PROJECT**

1919-2019

1958 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Baltimore	9	3	0
Chicago	8	4	0
Los Angeles	8	4	0
San Francisco	6	6	0
Detroit	4	7	1
Green Bay	1	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Parilli
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Hornung
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Ringo	Center

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Dan Currie (1, C)
Jim Taylor (2, FB)
Ray Nitschke (3b, LB)
Jerry Kramer (4, G)
Joe Francis (5, QB)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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