



1984



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1984

Record: 8-8-0 2nd Place

Coach: Forrest Gregg

- Cincinnati Bengals head coach Forrest Gregg was named the ninth head coach in Green Bay's history on December 26, 1983.
- The Packers started slowly. After winning the opener against the Cardinals, they lost seven straight.
- Dick Modzelewski took over the defense, and they allowed 130 fewer points than in 1983. The pass defense finished in the top ten in interceptions, fewest yards allowed, and fewest touchdowns.
- Jan Stenerud was traded to Minnesota. Green Bay lost running back Eddie Lee Ivey for the first six games due to knee problems.
- During the season, Gregg made several changes to the offensive line. In the first eight weeks, the Packers allowed 31 quarterback sacks. They cut it to 11 in the second half.



1919-2019

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS

23

9.2.1984

PACKERS

24

A first game win for Forrest Gregg!

After quarterback Neil Lomax and Pat Tilly gave the Cardinals a 7-0 lead in the second quarter, rookie Tom Flynn grabbed his first interception. The Packers jumped right on it with Jessie Clark's touchdown run. They took a 14-7 lead before halftime on quarterback Lynn Dickey's touchdown to Paul Coffman.

The Packers also struck on the opening drive of the second half. With just 2:15 gone in the half, a quarterback sneak by Dickey made it 21-7. St. Louis' defense stiffened, and they began to take control of the game. They allowed just one Eddie Garcia field goal the rest of the way while Otis Anderson and Roy Green scored touchdowns. The Packers led to 24-20.

A 48-yard field goal by Neil O'Donoghue cut the lead to one. But with 2:15 left, he missed the potential game-winner from the 45!

St. Louis	7	0	6	10	23
Green Bay	0	14	10	0	24

Attendance: 53,738

Total Yards: GB 266 STL 417



PACKERS
LOS ANGELES
RAIDERS

7
9.9.1984
28

The Packers took on the defending Super Bowl Champions in 80+ degree weather in Los Angeles.

With less than two minutes gone in the game, Lynn Dickey bruised his back after being sacked by Lyle Alzado and Mike Davis. Dickey left the game, and did not return. Rookie quarterback Randy Wright took over. His touchdown pass to Ed West provided Green Bay's only points in the second quarter, and Rich Campbell replaced him for the last 10 minutes of the game.

After a 7-7 game at halftime, quarterback Jim Plunkett had no trouble moving the Raiders in the second half. A long kickoff return set up their first touchdown, and an interception by Vann McElroy led to Marcus Allen's touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Dickey's early injury shelved Green Bay's offense which gained only 209 total yards. After Forrest Gregg watched the game on film, the Press-Gazette reported, "Forrest Gregg's temper was near its hottest of the season."¹ After just two games?!

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Los Angeles	7	0	7	14	28

Attendance: 46,269

Sacks: GB 5 LA 4

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/84, p. 2



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

9
7 **9.16.1984**

Two former players from the 1960s, Forrest Gregg and Mike Ditka, met for the first time as coaches during the regular season. There was still animosity between the two. In a preseason game in Milwaukee, they got into a shouting match along the sideline that both teams shared at County Stadium.

Not surprisingly, there were a few skirmishes. The major confrontation took place with Charles Martin's hit on Jim McMahon (not *the* hit). It sent the quarterback to the bench, and he was replaced by Bob Avellini.

After an injury in the previous game, Lynn Dickey started the game and threw for only 142 yards and one interception. The game story came down to three field goals by Chicago's Bob Thomas vs. one touchdown run by Jessie Clark. Clark's touchdown run in the second quarter came after the Bears botched a punt.

Bob Thomas' third field goal came with 11 minutes left in the game. Eddie Garcia of the Packers missed his field goal try with four minutes remaining. The Bears held on for the as they controlled the game with 72 plays (345 yards) compared to Green Bay's 45 (154 yards). After the victory, Bears' defensive tackle, Dan Hampton, had this to say, "Anytime we win here in Green Bay, it's like winning the Super Bowl to an extent."¹

Chicago	3	3	0	3	9
Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Attendance:	55,942				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/84, McGinn, p. 22



PACKERS
DALLAS
COWBOYS

6
9.23.1984
20

Green Bay's offense was shutout. The Packers' only points came in the second quarter on a pick-six by defensive end Robert Brown. The offense was stymied by Dallas' defense that sacked quarterback Lynn Dickey five times and picked off two passes.

Trailing in the fourth quarter and trying to marshall a late rally the Packers got inside Dallas' 25-yard line twice. An interception by Everson Walls in the end zone ended the first threat, and a missed field goal the second.

Through three games, Green Bay's defense looked vastly improved while the offense with Lynn Dickey's injuries, appeared to have regressed. Linebacker George Cumby looked at it this way, "They (the defense) took care of us all last year. We know we can't get on the offense now."¹ After the game, Dickey revealed to reporters that his injury on September 9th against Oakland was more serious than first reported. "He fractured three transverse processes in his lower back"¹ and his recovery is week to week.

Green Bay	0	0	6	0	6
Dallas	7	6	0	7	20
Attendance:	64,222				

*Packer trainer Dominic Gentile spoke, "at a community breakfast that was part of Ashwabenon's Alcohol and Drug Awareness week activities. Gentile told about 100 persons that only changes in basic attitudes will lead to progress against drug and alcohol abuse."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/84, McGinn, p. 19
² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/84, Hildebrand, p. 1



PACKERS

27

TAMPA BAY

9.30.1984

BUCCANEERS 30 (OT)

Extra Time

This was an exciting game of offensive football with eight lead changes and nine turnovers. The Packers converted three Tampa turnovers into 17 points, but it still was not enough. Tampa Bay ran 18 more plays than the Packers in the first half, and they enjoyed a 17-13 lead at the break.

Green Bay's passing game came alive in the second half. Late in the third quarter, Lynn Dickey found Paul Coffman for six to take a 20-17 lead. Tampa Bay took the lead back 27-20 with just under seven minutes remaining on a field goal followed by a pick-six by David Logan.

With no timeouts left, Green Bay marched 75 yards to tie it. They scored when Dickey's completion to James Lofton was lateraled to Gerry Ellis. Ellis took it the final 14 yards to tie it with eight seconds left. In the overtime, a third field goal by Obed Ariri won it for Tampa Bay.

Green Bay	10	3	7	7	0	27
Tampa	7	10	0	10	3	30

Attendance: 47,487

Total Yards: GB 383 TB 406



SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS

34

10.7.1984

PACKERS

28

1919-2019

San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts threw 50 passes, including three touchdowns, without an interception. Lynn Dickey threw 40 passes for three touchdowns and three interceptions. Two of the interceptions were critical. The first gave the Chargers an early second-half lead 21-14, while the second snuffed out Green Bay's comeback bid with 1:28 left in the game.

The Chargers rolled up 459 yards of offense. Green Bay suffered its fifth straight loss, though Forrest Gregg thought the team was "over the hump. We'll play good football from now on in."¹

San Diego	7	7	10	10	34
Green Bay	7	7	7	7	28
Attendance:	54,045				

"No attempts were made Sunday to enter the Packer game at Lambeau Field with any of the 23 tickets reported stolen last week from an Allouez tavern, police said today. The Packer organization did not report finding any of the tickets that were stolen from Fuzzy Shenanigan's, a tavern owned by ex-Packer Fuzzy Thurston. Thurston was given new tickets for Sunday's game"²

Members of the Super Bowl I Team were welcomed back. "Sunday's gathering presented them a chance to get together once again. But it also presented them with something else – a rare opportunity to give something back. They had a chance to regroup and raise money for worthy causes at the same time. They seemed to relish both."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, McGinn, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, p. 4

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, Langenkamp p. 5



PACKERS
DENVER
BRONCOS

14
17

10.15.1984

Blizzard!

It was Monday Night Football in the Rockies in the midst of a blizzard! Before the game was a minute old, fumbles by both Gerry Ellis and Jessie Clark were returned for touchdowns. By halftime, Denver led comfortably 17-0.

The Broncos held on. The Packers did their best to cooperate as Lynn Dickey threw an interception to end the first half, and he fumbled away a snap at the start of the second. Late in the third quarter, safety Mark Murphy intercepted a John Elway pass on Denver's 22-yard line. Gerry Ellis scored four plays later. In the fourth quarter with seven minutes left, Lynn Dickey uncorked a 54-yard bomb to James Lofton to make it 17-14. Lofton caught 11 passes for 206 yards!

But that's where the comeback ended. Though the Packers outgained the Broncos 423-193, they never recovered from those two early fumbles.

Green Bay	0	0	7	7	14
Denver	14	3	0	0	17

Attendance: 62,546

Turnovers: GB 5 DEN 1



SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS
PACKERS

30
24
10.21.1984

Lynn Dickey threw three touchdown passes and three interceptions in this disappointing loss.

It took just 19 seconds for Dickey to give the Packers the lead with a 79-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton. On Seattle's ensuing drive, quarterback Dave Krieg, a Wisconsin native, tied the game with a touchdown pass to Steve Largent. Dickey came right back to Lofton again for a 14-7 lead with just 7:34 gone in the first quarter! Field goals took over, but Seattle's touchdown before halftime gave them a 20-17 lead.

The Seahawks stormed out of the locker room with a decisive drive. Krieg found Daryl Turner for a 25-yard touchdown pass to extend the lead to 10. A Gerry Ellis touchdown brought Green Bay back to within three, but a fourth-quarter field goal by Seattle handed the Packers their seventh straight loss which tied a franchise record.

After the game, Gregg was blunt. "That was the worst game we played all year. You can talk about valiant effort and everything else, and you can accept that if you want. But I don't accept it. Winning is the bottom line, and we didn't win."¹

Seattle	7	13	7	3	30
Green Bay	17	0	7	0	24
Attendance: 52,286					
Milwaukee County Stadium					

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/84, p. 1



DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

9
41
10.28.1984

A win!

"Many fans are arguing today whether the win was a result of a great game by the Packers or a terrible game by the Lions."¹

Green Bay's offense annihilated the Lions to halt the losing streak. Quarterback Lynn Dickey threw four touchdown passes without an interception, and Eddie Lee Ivey returned from his injury to run for 116 yards on nine carries. The Packers outgained the Lions 439-308.

Three Eddie Murray field goals were all Detroit could muster. Green Bay's defense held them 65 yards on the ground, and rookie safety Tom Flynn intercepted three passes! There were 20 penalties in this divisional grudge match and a few minor flare-ups.

The Lions never stood a chance. Paul Coffman, who caught two touchdown passes, felt confident after the victory. "I think it's realistic that we can win our last seven games,"² he said.

Detroit	3	6	0	0	9
Green Bay	14	14	10	3	41
Attendance:	54,289				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/84, p. 6

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/84, p. 1



PACKERS
NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS

23
13

11.4.1984

Two more touchdown catches for Paul Coffman kept the offense rolling. Along with Al Del Greco's three field goals, it was all the Packers needed for a second straight win. "We're on a roll, and we think we can beat anybody,"¹ said linebacker John Anderson.

The Packers took control for good in the third quarter on Coffman's second touchdown catch. On the play, Coffman carried linebacker Glenn Redd on his back into the end zone! The Packers ran for over 200 yards for the first time this season as Gerry Ellis (86) and Eddie Lee Ivery (78) led the way.

The defense kept the Saints out of the end zone after the first quarter. Tom Flynn starred again with an interception, and he also recovered a fumble that led to Green Bay's first touchdown.

Green Bay	0	10	10	3	23
New Orleans	7	3	0	3	13

Attendance: 57,426

Penalties: GB 12 NO 6

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/84, McGinn, p. 21



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

17
45 11.11.1984

The last place Vikings were clobbered! The Packers took a 17-10 first-half lead behind touchdowns by Paul Coffman and rookie tight end Ed West. Even though the Packers led at the half, Forrest Gregg lit into his team in the locker room for uninspired play.

After the Vikings tied it to start the second half, the Packers scored the next 28 points. Lynn Dickey had a great day with four touchdown passes. In the third quarter, two touchdowns by fullback Jessie Clark to put the game in good hands. To slam the door completely, Dickey hit Lofton for a 63-yard touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter. The Packers ran up 513 total yards – 313 yards passing and 211 yards rushing!

Minnesota	0	10	7	0	17
Green Bay	7	10	14	14	45

Attendance: 52,931

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 513 MINN 272



LOS ANGELES

RAMS

PACKERS

**6
31**

11.18.1984

Four straight!

This victory made it two straight wins in Milwaukee!!

L. A.'s only points came on field goals after two interceptions by safety Johnnie Johnson. Johnson's first pick came on Green Bay's first play from scrimmage, and it set up a Mike Lansford field goal. A second interception by Johnson set up another three-pointer in the second quarter.

From there, Green Bay dominated. Linebacker John Anderson explained how. "We nullified (Eric Dickerson) and forced them to pass. Then we were in the driver's seat."¹ The Rams also threw three interceptions.

Eddie Lee Ivery scored on three short touchdown runs, and cornerback Tim Lewis returned an interception 99 yards for six to end any doubt. Ivery ran for 77 yards, had 22 yards receiving. His touchdowns finished drives of 62, 60, and 45 yards. James Lofton had several key catches for the Packers that kept drives going, and put Green Bay in scoring position. Lofton caught six passes for 129 yards.

Los Angeles	3	3	0	0	6
Green Bay	0	14	10	7	31

Attendance: 52,031

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/84, McGinn, p. 22



PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

28
31

11.22.1984

The Packers' four-game winning streak comes to an end on their first trip to Detroit for a Thanksgiving game since 1963.

Choosing not to mince any words after this loss on national television, Forrest Gregg started his press conference with, "That was probably the worst 60 minutes of defensive football that I've ever seen a defensive team play. That was just horrible."¹

The Packers got out to 14-0 lead on a 40-yard burst around left end by Gerry Ellis. Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman followed. The Lions offense began to rev-up in the second quarter. Quarterback Gary Danielson led the charge with three touchdown passes, and the ground game had its way with 186 yards. They put up 539 yards and 33 first downs to realistically eliminate Green Bay from the postseason.

Green Bay	14	7	0	7	28
Detroit	0	17	7	7	31
Attendance:	63,698				

*"The Green Bay Packer organization has announced plans to build private box seats which can be rented to the public at a yearly cost of \$8,000-\$12,000 yearly. All the planned boxes were sold in only six hours after the announcement."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/84, p. 19
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/84, p. 4



TAMPA BAY

BUCANEERS

14

12.2.1984

PACKERS

27

After being virtually eliminated from the postseason last week by the Lions, the Packers bounced back at muddy Lambeau Field.

In this Battle of the Bays, the Buccaneers led 14-0 in the third quarter when the Packers ripped the game away. Eddie Lee Ivery's first touchdown run got the Packers on the board. Despite throwing three interceptions, Dickey pulled Packers even on a one-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. On their next series, Green Bay took the lead on Dickey's touchdown pass to rookie Ray Crouse. The Packers then put it out of reach on Eddie Lee Ivery's second touchdown run with four minutes left.

Tampa Bay	0	7	7	0	14
Green Bay	0	0	7	20	27
Attendance:	46,800				

"The Wave reached Lambeau Field for the first time. Dickey and Gregg each tried to tone down the racket when the Packers had the ball."¹



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

20
14

12.9.1984

Rich who?

With Lynn Dickey held out with severe headaches, rookie Randy Wright from Wisconsin started in his place. When Wright injured his knee in the second quarter, third-string quarterback Rich Campbell replaced him. Campbell had been Green Bay's #1 draft choice in 1981.

The only points in the first half belonged to Campbell's touchdown pass to tight end Ed West. It put Green Bay in front 7-0. In the third quarter, the Bears tied it on a two-yard pass from Walter Payton to Matt Suhey. Payton had an outstanding game with 175 yards rushing, a touchdown run, and the touchdown pass.

On the ensuing kickoff, Del Rodgers of the Packers took it back 95 yards for a 13-7 lead. The Bears answered two drives later with a second interception of Campbell. Six plays later, Payton took back the lead, 14-13, on a seven-yard dash to pay dirt with 12 minutes left.

With two minutes remaining and still leading 14-13, the Bears were stopped on fourth down on Green Bay's 28. The Packers took over, and Rich Campbell responded by firing three straight completions followed by three incompletions. On third down, the Bears accepted a holding penalty to move the Packers out of potential field goal range. On third-and-20 with 34 seconds left, Campbell dropped back and threw a 43-yard touchdown pass Phillip Epps to win it!

The win dealt a fatal blow to Chicago's hopes of hosting a home playoff game. It would also prove to be Coach Gregg's first and only win against Mike Ditka and the Bears.

Green Bay	0	7	6	7	20
Chicago	0	0	7	7	14

Attendance: 59,374

Scott Kelnhofer, Packers Fan:* "I had been covering the game for Channel 4 in Milwaukee, and I made it down to the sideline just as Green Bay stopped the Bears on fourth down. I was dreading going into the locker room after another loss because players don't like to be interviewed after a loss. With 34 seconds left, Campbell executed what is possibly the only play on his career highlight reel. Suddenly, the postgame questions changed dramatically. Campbell was obviously thrilled, not only for the game-winning drive but also to finally give Packers fans reason to not view him as a disappointment. To have seen it from the field level was thrilling. To see what it meant to Campbell immediately after the game was pretty cool as well."

* Interview: 4/28/17



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

38
14

12.16.1984

The Packers finished at .500, and quarterback Lynn Dickey returned to action. Dickey threw touchdown passes to Phillip Epps and Ed West, and he scored another on the ground. Along with Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown, the Packers built a 31-0 first-half lead.

Overall, the Packers outgained the Vikings 448-241. Cornerback Mark Lee led the defense with an interception and a fumble recovery. Rookie Tom Flynn grabbed his league-leading ninth interception. Green Bay won seven of its last eight games to finish 8-8 while the Vikings fell to 3-11 and finished last.

Green Bay	10	21	7	0	38
Minnesota	0	0	7	7	14
Attendance:	51,197				

James Lofton's 1,361 receiving yards set a new Packers record.



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1984 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	10	6	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Tampa Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	4	11	1
Minnesota	3	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ellis
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Del Greco
Interceptions	Flynn

ALL-PRO

Coffman	Tight End
Lofton	Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Alphonso Carreker (1, DE)
Donny Humphrey (2, DE)
John Dorsey (4, LB)
Tom Flynn (5, S)
Randy Wright (6, QB)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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