

THE PROVERS GENIURY

PROJECT

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1985

Record: 8-8-0 2nd Place

Coach: Forrest Gregg

- 1919-2019
- In 1984, to boost future revenues, the Packers approved adding • 72 suites to Lambeau Field to be completed before the 1985 season.
- Larry McCarren retired. John Jefferson was traded to Cleveland. ٠ In November, Mossy Cade was found guilty of sexual assault.
- For a third straight season and the second under Forrest Gregg, ٠ the Packers finished 8-8. The defense improved significantly, but the offense was inconsistent at best.
- Running backs Eddie Lee Ivery, Jessie Clark, and Gerry Ellis, • combined for 1,840 yards. Ellis' 5.49 rushing yards per attempt ranked third in Packers history.
- Net yards in the passing game (197.7) was the team's lowest • since 1979. Injuries plagued quarterback Lynn Dickey who started just 10 games.
- After the season, Dickey and the Packers could not reach a ٠ contract agreement, and he was released.



The Patriots had a 7-0 lead when they took complete control with an interception, a fumble recovery, and a safety in the second quarter. They stretched the lead to 19-6 on quarterback Tony Easson's touchdown pass to Cedric Jones with eight seconds left in the half.

After a quiet third quarter along with the first eight minutes of the fourth, a 65-yard touchdown run by fullback Craig James put the game out of reach 26-6. The Packers rallied for two touchdowns in the final minutes to make it close. "We can't move the ball at all. We can't move it on the ground. We can't move it through the air," said Forrest Gregg. The Packers gained just 56 yards rushing, Lynn Dickey was sacked seven times, and Green Bay was outgained 410-205.

Green Bay	0	6	0	14	20
New England	7	12	0	7	26
Attendance: 49	9,488	3			

John Anderson broke thumb in this game.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/85, McGinn, p. 17



Green Bay won it's home opener thanks to Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run with four minutes remaining.

An early turnover by the Giants led to a 3-0 Green Bay lead. They made it 10-0 in the second quarter after a short drive and Jessie Clark's one-yard run. In the first half, the Giants were held to two field goals by Ali Haji-Sheikh. The Packers topped off the first 30 minutes with a run-pass option play. Dickey found Paul Coffman open for the touchdown for a 17-6 lead at halftime. "I do have the option to run. I bet that scared them to death,"1 Dickey said with a smile.

In the second half, Phil Simms threw two touchdowns passes. Midway through the fourth quarter, his second touchdown went to Lionel Manuel to put the Giants in front for the first time 20-17. On their next possession, the Packers drove 75 yards and moved back in front on Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run with 4:07 left. In the final minutes, New York drove back to the Packers 37-yard line where Haji-Sheikh missed a 47-yard field goal with 1:06 left.

New York	0	6	7	7	20
Green Bay	10	0	7	6	23
Attendance:	56,149	9			

Defensive End Donnie Humphrey of the Packers on The Wave done by the crowd: "Crowd support is great, but it screwed me up one time. I jumped offsides." 2

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/85, Egle, p. 21
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/85, p. 20



For Green Bay, the "fun" began on their first offensive play. Lynn Dickey fumbled the snap, and the Jets recovered at the 18. Six plays later, Tony Paige caught a five-yard touchdown pass from Ken O'Brien. A Green Bay field goal by Al Del Greco ended a relatively quiet first half.

The Jets pulled away after halftime, and Pat Leahy started it with a field goal. Lance Mehl's interception of Lynn Dickey set up Tony Paige's second touchdown on the next play. When the Packers fumbled another snap on a punt deep in their own territory, Tom Baldwin recovered it at the nine and scored for the Jets.

After a third straight lackluster performance by Lynn Dickey, Forrest Gregg responded to questions about the quarterback position with, "Don't even ask me about my quarterbacks. That is for next week. You'll know soon enough."1

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 Attendance:
 53,667

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 Milwaukee County Stadium

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1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/85, Christl, p. 17



Dickey benched

After an inconsistent start to the season, Lynn Dickey "asked to be demoted last week,"1 and he sat on the bench into the third quarter. Back-up Randy Wright started in his place, but he struggled (8-17-77-0-2).

Dickey stayed on the bench into the second half, and Wright's second interception prompted his return. Trailing 26-0, Dickey drove the Packers right downfield. They marched 74 yards with Gerry Ellis scoring on a 39-yard draw-play with seven minutes left in the third quarter. After the Cardinals matched it, Dickey tossed the first of three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter! James Lofton caught it, and the Packers trailed 33-14.

In the final six minutes, Dickey and Paul Coffman hooked up twice for touchdowns. In between, quarterback Neil Lomax of the cardinals threw his third touchdown pass of the game. The Packers outgained St. Louis 454-397, but the Cardinals took advantage of two interceptions, a blocked punt, and a safety for 19 points.

Green Bay	0	0	7	21	28
Cardinals	0	19	14	10	43
Attendance:	45,59	8			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/85, p. 1



Before the game, former Packers center Larry McCarren was honored for his work with the Disabled Citizens of Neenah and the Fox Valley. "For several years, McCarren would interrupt his pre-game warmups To spend time with the group of disabled fans seated near the north end zone. McCarren would talk to the group, sign autographs, and pose for pictures." 1

Lofton passes Hutson

"We had fun today. We've been struggling,"² said Lynn Dickey of the now 2-3 Packers. After Detroit scored first for 3-0 lead, it was all Green Bay with the next 43 points! The Packers pounded the Lions for 512 yards, and the Lions kept graciously giving the ball back with six turnovers.

Lynn Dickey threw two touchdown passes before he left the game with an injured thumb. Randy Wright stepped in and performed nicely with two touchdown passes. Phillip Epps caught touchdowns from both quarterbacks, Eddie Lee Ivery and Ed West caught the others.

Though James Lofton did not score a touchdown, he had 10 catches for 151 yards. It moved him past Don Hutson for the most receiving yards in Packers' history (8,050). The game got especially chippy before it was all over as tackle Greg Koch of the Packers and linebacker Jimmy Williams of the Lions were both ejected.

Detroit	3	0	0	7	10
Green Bay	7	13	23	0	43
Attendance:	55,91	.4			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/8, White, p.1 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/8, McGinn, p.19



Green Bay got back to .500 with this big win.

The game was tied three times, and the Packers forged ahead each time. They grabbed 7-0 lead on a short drive after an interception by safety Mark Murphy. The Vikings tied it before halftime, and Green Bay scored late in the third quarter on a sixyard fumble recovery by cornerback Tim Lewis.

Minnesota had trouble running the ball (62 yards) and quarterback Tommy Kramer's 237 yards passing, and two touchdowns led the offense. In the third quarter, the Vikings tied the game 14-14 on Kramer's 43-yard touchdown pass to Leo Lewis.

John Anderson's interception for the Packers late in the fourth quarter proved critical. They capitalized with Al Del Greco's 45yard boot for a 17-14 lead. The Vikings responded in kind and drove from midfield to the Green Bay one-yard line before turning to kicker Jan Stenerud to tie it.

In the final minute, Dickey with passes to Eddie Lee Ivery and James Lofton, set up Al Del Greco's chip shot from the 22 for the win.

Minnesota	0	7	7	3	17
Green Bay	0	7	7	6	20
Attendance:	54,67	'4			
Milwaukee C	County	y Stadi	um		



A refrigerator?

On Monday night, the Bears remained undefeated despite four fumbles early in the contest. A fumble by fullback Matt Suhey in the first quarter led to Green Bay's only points on Lynn Dickey's touchdown to James Lofton.

Dickey also threw two interceptions, and both did damage. The first got the Bears going as Mike Ditka put rookie defensive tackle William "The Refrigerator" Perry in the offensive backfield. He escorted Walter Payton into the end zone to tie the game. Minutes later, after Wilbur Marshall's interception, Perry ran one in himself from the one-yard line for a 14-7 lead.

The Bears finished the 21-point assault with a second touchdown run by Payton. Perry again showed the way, and he became an overnight sensation. Ditka's decision to use Perry to humiliate the Packers angered everyone associated with the team, and fired-up the fans. "There's been bad blood between the two teams since 1923, or whatever. It carries on,"1 said Paul Coffman after the game.

The Packers were not only bowled over by Perry, but Lynn Dickey left the game with a thigh bruise in the second quarter. Back-up Randy Wright lasted until the final two drives of the game when his knees gave way to Jim Zorn. Overall, the Packers ran 16 fewer plays, turned the ball over five times, and gave up five sacks.

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Chicago	0	21	0	2	23
Attendance:	65,09	5			

Tom Thayer, Chicago Bears: "Green Bay still has the same loyal fan base. They can't wait to get to their parking location. People all over the country go to Notre Dame games, and it was similar in Green Bay. It was just like a college atmosphere, and I loved it. Everybody converges, and then they leave. It's just neat to see what the stadium means to the area."₂

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/85, McGinn, p. 19 2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 123



10 10.27.1985 **37**

<u>3-5</u>

"Humiliated"¹ read the accurate headline. Two first-quarter touchdown runs got the Colts rolling. Both were set up by interceptions by Eugene Daniels. Wayne Capers scored the first touchdown, one of three on the day for the third-year receiver.

Trailing 14-0, the Packers struck back on a Lynn Dickey to Paul Coffman touchdown. Indy then went on to outscore the Packers 23-3 the rest of the way. Their strong defense gave up just 74 yards rushing, and they forced Dickey to throw 47 times. He completed only 20, and four were intercepted. In a frustrated Packers' locker room after the game, there was some shouting and scuffling!

Green Bay	7	3	0	0	10		
Indianapolis	14	6	7	10	37		
Attendance: 5							
Total Yards: GB 2	77 IN	D 496					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/85, p. 21



There were more brawls, cheap shots, and penalties in this game than points! It began before the game when a five-pound bag of horse manure was delivered to the Chicago locker room. On the field, Mark Lee and Walter Payton tusseled a bit and only Lee was ejected. Later, rookie Kenny Stills of the Packers, "took a 15-yard head start and blasted Bears fullback Matt Suhey a good five seconds after the play was over."¹ In all, there were five penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct and unnecessary roughness.

In the game itself, Jim Zorn started at quarterback for Green Bay. The Bears were led by Walter Payton's 192 yards rushing. Green Bay held a 3-0 lead until there were 25 seconds left in the first half. "The Refrigerator" smacked down the Packers again by catching a four-yard touchdown pass from Jim McMahon for a 7-3 lead. Late in the third quarter, the Packers went back in front on a 55-yard touchdown pass from Jim Zorn to Jessie Clark.

With 12 minutes left in the game, Jim Zorn was sacked in the end zone to make it a one-point game, 10-9. On the safety's free-kick, the Bears took over on Green Bay's 49. Two minutes later, Payton sprinted around right end for a 27-yard touchdown run that proved to be the winner.

Chicago	0	7	0	9	16
Green Bay	3	0	7	0	10
Attendance:	56,89	5			

"Your fans have a total knowledge of football. It was a good, basic football game, a real fighting match. This town deserves a winner." 2

1 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/85, Murphy, p. 1



27 11.10.1985 17

Series sweep

Lynn Dickey relieved Jim Zorn in the second quarter and rallied the Packers in a dramatic comeback. He was backed-up by Eddie Lee Ivery's great running and the receiving of Phillip Epps and James Lofton.

Trailing 17-6 in the fourth quarter, the Packers rallied. In the final 12 minutes, Dickey led an 11-play drive that Gerry Ellis finished with a touchdown run with 7:33 left. After the defense forced a three-and-out, the Packers took over on their 32-yard line. On first down, Dickey hit Phillip Epps streaking down the right sideline for a 63-yard gain to Minnesota's five-yard line. Two plays later, a pass to Ivery gave them the lead for the first time 20-17 with 5:29 remaining. Packers safety Mark Murphy topped off the comeback with a 50-yard pick-six of Tommy Kramer with 3:56 left!

Green Bay	3	3	0	21	27
Minnesota	7	0	7	3	17
Attendance:					

"My sister-in-law was a Vikings fan, so we started getting into the rivalry and decorating our home and making big deal about it. We had all our family over, and they've all become Packer fans." 1

1 Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 152



14 11.17.1985 38

Piece of cake

No contest here as the Packers led 24-0 before a pick-six got the Saints on the scoreboard. By the time the Saints scored on offense, they trailed 31-7.

The Packers outgained New Orleans 433-207, and Lynn Dickey had a fantastic game. He threw for 305 yards and two touchdowns. The ground game backed him up with 137 yards, with touchdown runs by with Gerry Ellis and Gary Ellerson.

The Packers had little trouble on defense. They held the Saints to 75 yards rushing, and they sacked quarterback Bobby Herbert six times. The victory kept Green Bay's postseason hopes alive for a possible wild card berth.

New Orleans 0 0 7 7 14 Green Bay 0 17 7 14 38 Attendance: 52,104 Milwaukee County Stadium



17 11.24.1985 34

Can't keep up

The 9-3 Rams snapped their two-game losing streak. They were led by the former Olympic sprinter, Ron Brown who returned two first-half kickoffs 98 and 86 yards for touchdowns.

Lynn Dickey's touchdown passes to Paul Coffman and James Lofton matched it, and with Al Del Greco's field goal, gave the Packers a 17-14 lead at intermission. But the Rams also unleashed running back Eric Dickerson who blew through the Packers' defense for 150 yards. His second-half touchdown run, and Ron Brown's third touchdown put the game out of reach for Green Bay.

The defense couldn't slow down L. A. The Rams pulled away with 20 unanswered points in the game's final 24 minutes! The Rams controlled the line of scrimmage, and they held the Packers to 77 yards rushing. They also sacked Dickey five times. After the loss, Green Bay was 5-7, and Forrest Gregg said, "Right now I don't feel very well."1

Green Bay	0	10	7	0	17		
Los Angeles	7	7	7	13	34		
Los Angeles 7 7 7 13 Attendance: 52,710							
Total Yards: GB 2	281 L	A 329					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/85, McGinn



This was the "Snow Bowl!" The Packers and Buccaneers battled during a blizzard that dropped 13.6 inches of snow on Green Bay. Wisely, only 19,856 fans showed up.

Conditions were almost unimaginable! Besides the obvious, "Tampa Bay wore their white away team jerseys, which were difficult to see during the whiteout conditions. Coaches and commentators had difficulty seeing the field. Between plays, grounds crew workers swept snow off the lines marking the field."1

The 2-10 Bucs were as bad as their record. They produced just 65 yards of offense in 60 minutes. After a scoreless first quarter, the Packers went to work with three touchdown runs by Lynn Dickey, Gerry Ellis, and Jessie Clark. They put up 512 total yards of offense, with 210 on the ground. Eddie Lee Ivery led the ground game with 109 yards.

Lynn Dickey was right at home in the blizzard. He completed 22 of 36 passes for 299 yards. The game takes its "rightful place next to the Ice Bowl on the all-time inclement weather list,"² and the conditions put up more resistance than the Buccaneers!

Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	7	7	7	21
Attendance:	19,85	6			

"The game was good, but the fans were great. When a little kid slipped in the aisle, all hands within reaching distance were helping him up. When a beer vendor fumbled with change with frozen fingers, the standard reply was to keep it."3 From a Luxury Box: We "had great empathy for the fans in the stands. But I noticed a lot of them in the south end zone were having a great time sliding down the aisles, climbing back up and sliding again."4

- 1 wikipedia.org/wiki/SnowBowl (1985), bucpower 4-1
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/85, Langenkamp, p. 2.
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/85, Langenkamp, p. 2
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Murphy, p. 4



In the last home game of the season, the Packers could not stop Miami quarterback Dan Marino. Almost singlehandedly, Marino took down Green Bay with five touchdown passes to five different receivers.

After the Packers took the lead on an early field goal, Marino connected with Tony Nathan to make it 7-3. Mark Clayton scored on a 21-yard strike from Marino, and a fumble by quarterback Jim Zorn on Green Bay's 18-yard line led to Marino's third touchdown pass four seconds before halftime. The 16-yard toss to Nat Moore connected for a 20-3 lead.

In the second half, the Packers came back with three touchdowns to go in front 24-20 lead. They took the second-half kickoff and drove 66 yards for Zorn's 29-yard touchdown to Preston Dennard. Zorn threw a second touchdown pass to James Lofton. In the fourth quarter, Eddie Lee Ivery's one-yard run topped off a 66-yard march.

After the Pack took the lead 24-20, the Dolphins bounced back with a drive that caused a "bit of confusion"¹ for Green Bay's defense. Using both receivers and running backs for his aerial strikes, Marino drove the Dolphins to Green Bay's two-yard line. A fourth touchdown pass from the two went to tight end Joe Rose for a 24-21 edge. With two minutes left, Zorn's second interception led to Marino's fifth touchdown, a 61-yard bomb to Dan Johnson. For the game, Marino was 30-44-345-5-1.

Miami	6	14	0	14	34
Green Bay	3	0	14	7	24
Attendance:	52,67	1			

In the last home game of the season, things got a bit rowdy in the stands: "One of the fans at Sunday's game at Lambeau Field is thrown over the railing and onto the playing field by other fans after cheering for Miami. The fan was escorted off the field by two police officers." 2

Several Packer fans from Florida attended the game. "One of them is 28 years old and has never seen snow. He's been like a little kid playing in the snow." 3

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, Egle p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, Stingl/Shaw, p. 2



23 12.15.1985 26

Nice comeback

Detroit controlled the first half with two touchdown runs by Alvin Moore. The first came after a Packers fumble, and the second came with 33 seconds left before halftime for a 17-6 lead.

Green Bay rallied. A third-quarter touchdown run by rookie Gerry Ellerson brought it to 17-13. With nine minutes left, they took the lead 23-17 after Al Del Greco's field goal and Mike Douglass's 80-yard pick-six!

With under two minutes left, the Lions struck again on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Joe Ferguson to Leonard Thompson. Eddie Murray's extra point was wide right, and it stayed tied at 23. Al Del Greco made them pay as time expired with a with 27-yard field goal!

Green Bay	0	6	7	13	26
Detroit	14	3	0	6	23
Attendance:	49,379	9			



In a game of eight turnovers and eight sacks, the Packers finished 8-8 for the third straight season. Major changes were on the horizon. In the final game, touchdowns by Philip Epps and Jessie Clark were wrapped around two Al Del Greco field goals for the win. The defense pitched-in with five sacks and two fumble recoveries.

Green Bay	7	3	3	7	20
Tampa Bay	3	7	0	7	17
Attendance:	33,99	2			



1985 Team Statistics

PROJECT

1919-2019

PACKERS CENTURY FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	W	<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

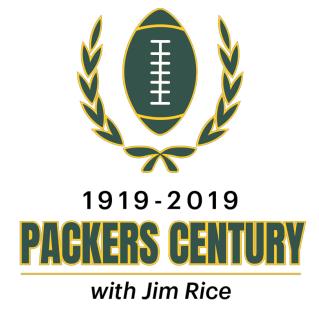
Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ivery
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Del Greco
Interceptions	Lewis

ALL-PRO

Wide Receiver Lofton

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ken Ruettgers (1, OT) Rich Moran (3, C/G) Walter Stanley (4, WR) Brian Noble (5, LB) Gary Ellerson (7b, RB) Ken Stills (8, S)



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