



1963



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1963

Record: 11-2-1 2nd – Western Conference

Coach: Vince Lombardi

- The Pro Football Hall of Fame's first class included Curly Lambeau, Johnny Blood, Cal Hubbard, and Don Hutson.
- On April 17th, Paul Hornung and Alex Karras of the Lions were suspended for one year by the NFL for gambling. Tom Moore and Elijah Pitts stepped-in for Hornung. Along with Jimmy Taylor, they topped the league in rushing touchdowns.
- In late October, after Bart Starr broke his hand, the Packers signed veteran quarterback Zeke Bratkowski.
- The two-time defending champions lost two games to the Chicago Bears which cost them a third straight title.
- The Packers ranked second to the Giants on offense and second to the Bears on defense.
- This was the last year of the annual Thanksgiving game in Detroit.



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

10
3

9.15.1963

After being hammered twice by the Packers in 1962, George Halas planned long and hard to defeat Green Bay. They found success quickly in the opener, and the largest crowd to date in Green Bay's history witnessed it.

In a game that Halas told his players was "the greatest team effort in the history of the Chicago Bears"¹ the defense clamped down on Green Bay. They allowed just 150 total yards, nine first downs, and they intercepted quarterback Bart Starr four times.

Other than a field goal by each team in the first quarter, the game was scoreless. In the third quarter, Bart Starr's pass to Boyd Dowler bounced off the receiver's hands into the arms of safety Rosey Taylor. Billy Wade then marched the Bears 68 yards in 10 plays for the game's only touchdown. Joe Marconi scored on a one-yard run.

"We'll give you a better performance next week,"² promised a grim-faced Bart Starr.

Chicago	3	0	7	0	10
Green Bay	3	0	0	0	3
Attendance:	42,327				

Paul Mazzoleni: "My father wasn't a personal friend of Vince Lombardi, but he certainly had a friendly relationship with him. My dad always had lots of Packer paraphernalia around the house. He would get those official "Duke" NFL footballs. In those days, they didn't have the three-sided white footballs for autographs; they just had the regular footballs that were signed by these championship teams. We didn't know any better, so my two older brothers and I would play with those footballs out on the road. I found one a few

years ago, and you can see that there were signatures on them, but you can't make any of them out.”³

1 Packers vs. Bears, p. 218

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/63, Rimmel, p. 13

3 For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 32



DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

10
31

9.22.1963

Easy peasy!

The Packers ran the ball 43 times for 204 yards and three touchdowns. Jim Taylor's touchdown run and Jerry Kramer's field goal gave them a 10-0 halftime lead.

They picked up more steam after halftime on a Willie Wood interception that set up Tom Moore's first touchdown run. Moore's second touchdown run in the fourth quarter covered 77 yards, and it put the game away.

Detroit's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on Milt Plum's touchdown pass to Tom Hall. With eight minutes left, Bart Starr finished off the Lions with a 39-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee.

Detroit	0	0	3	7	10
Green Bay	3	7	7	14	31

Attendance: 49,912

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 316 DET 147



1919-2019

BALTIMORE
COLTS
PACKERS

20
31

9.29.1963

The only points in the first half came on Jerry Hill's touchdown run for Baltimore.

The first of five lead changes took place in the second half when the Colts fumbled. Quarterback Bart Starr capitalized with two touchdown drives. On the first, Starr's and Boyd Dowler hooked up to tie the game at seven. Later in the quarter, a three-yard run by Tom Moore put the Packers in front 14-7. The Colts tied it when cornerback Bobby Boyd stole the ball from fullback Earl Gros and went all the way. A field goal put them in front 17-14.

The fourth quarter went Green Bay's way. The football gods must have been watching because the Packers went back in front on a broken play. It occurred on a fumble on a power sweep! The quick-thinking Starr picked up the loose ball and heaved a 35-yard touchdown pass to Dowler to retake the lead for keeps 21-17.

Green Bay outgained Baltimore 355-333. The Colts turned the ball over seven times, including two interceptions thrown by Unitas. "Ten fumbles. We recovered five of theirs, and they recovered three of ours. Holy good gravy,"¹ said Lombardi.

Baltimore	0	7	10	3	20
Green Bay	0	0	14	17	31
Attendance:	42,327				

*"The Green Bay team is so different. We were able to become friends with a lot of the fans. A lot of people who go to games you also see around town and get to know them. It's a great relationship. There's no question in my mind that the Packers have got more (football) fans in the world than anyone else."*¹

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 163



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

RAMS
PACKERS

10
42

10.6.1963

With temperatures in the 80s, Herb Adderley returned the opening kickoff 98 yards to start the scoring! Nine plays later, the Rams tied it. For the rest of the game, L. A. scored just three more points, and they were blanked in the second half.

Green Bay's strong defense recorded six sacks. Defensive end Willie Davis delivered the big one when he took down big quarterback, Roman Gabriel, in the end zone for a safety. It gave the Packers a 9-7 lead that they would not relinquish.

Offensively, the Packers did damage all over the gridiron. Jimmy Taylor led the backfield with 90 of its impressive 214 yards. He also caught the first of three Bart Starr touchdown passes. Starr threw for 183 yards, and he connected with Max McGee and Ron Kramer in the third quarter to put the game away. After the blowout, Lombardi remarked, "I was giving some of the coaches hell on the sidelines. I said we weren't making any yards running. And here we gained 214 yards rushing."¹

Los Angeles 7 3 0 0 10

Green Bay 9 6 20 7 42

Attendance: 42,327

"East High's colorful band drew a rousing response with spectacular and melodious pre-game and halftime performances. A humorous skit in which a pint-sized Packer, bearing Ray Nitschke's number 66, vainly pursued a much bigger 'Ram' around the perimeter of the band as the climax to an imaginative NFL Merry-Go-Round routine."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/63, Rempel, p. 15

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/63, Rempel, p. 15



PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

37

10.13.1963

28

Bombs away!

Quarterbacks Bart Starr and Fran Tarkenton directed this aerial bombardment. Starr threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, while Tarkenton aired it out for 282 and one score. Each also threw an interception.

Starr's touchdown tosses to Max McGee and Elijah Pitts led Green Bay to 24-7 halftime lead. The Vikings rallied. After linebacker Roy Winston returned a Packer fumble for a touchdown, Tarkenton drove the Vikings to two fourth-quarter touchdowns that brought them to within two 30-28.

Unlike the previous game, Herb Adderley waited until the end of this one to star. With 1:48 left, he blocked a Viking field goal that would have given them the lead. Hank Gremminger grabbed the football and went 80 yards to end Minnesota's comeback.

Green Bay	17	7	3	10	37
Minnesota	7	0	7	14	28
Attendance:	42,567				

"An impartial outsider might have wondered which was the home team when pre-game introductions were made. The Packers to their surprise drew a bigger cheer from the record audience than did the home-standing Vikings."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/63, Rimmel, p. 22



1919-2019

PACKERS

30

ST. LOUIS

10.20.1963

CARDINALS

7

The Packers first visit to St. Louis was a rough one as both Tom Moore and Bart Starr were injured and had to leave the game. The game was played before the largest regular season crowd in Chicago Cardinals' history – 32,224.

Green Bay beat up the Cardinals and scored the first four times they had the ball. On defense, they also held St. Louis to just 16 offensive plays in the first half.

Jimmy Taylor and Tom Moore ran for touchdowns and Jerry Kramer booted two field goals for a 20-0 lead at halftime. In the third quarter, Bart Starr was roughed-up when he was taken out of bounds by cornerback Jimmy Hill. Hill was ejected from the game, and Starr was lost for four weeks with an injured throwing hand. He was replaced by back-up John Roach.

Green Bay had no trouble finishing off Chicago. They held them to 40 yards rushing, and they also intercepted quarterback Charley Johnson four times. The Packers led all game, and they ran the ball 56 times for 225 yards and three touchdowns! Jim Taylor's second touchdown completed the scoring in a "bruising fourth quarter in full view of NFL Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, and the league's supervisor of officials, Joe Kuharich."¹

Green Bay	10	10	3	7	30
St Louis	0	0	7	0	7
Attendance:	32,224				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/63, Daley, p.13



1919-2019

PACKERS

BALTIMORE

COLTS

34

10.27.1963

20

The Packers enjoyed a productive first half, and Jimmy Taylor's touchdown run broke an early 3-3 tie. The ground game led Green Bay's offensive charge, as back-up quarterback John Roach filled in for the injured Bart Starr.

Trailing 3-0 in the second quarter, the Packers scored 17 unanswered points that stretched into the second half. Jim Taylor scored on a one-yard run, and Roach threw an 11-yard touchdown to tight end Marv Fleming. Green Bay led at the half 17-3.

Jerry Kramer's 37-yard field goal started the second-half scoring. Trailing 20-3, Johnny Unitas, in spite of six turnovers by the Colts, brought the Colts back with touchdown passes to Lenny Moore and John Mackey. The 58-yard touchdown bomb to Mackey came early in the fourth quarter, and it tied the game at 20.

With three minutes left, a blocked field goal by Henry Jordan led to a 34-yard touchdown run by Elijah Pitts to regain the lead. Jim Taylor's second touchdown run any doubt.

Green Bay	0	17	3	14	34
Baltimore	3	0	7	10	20
Attendance:	60,065				

Letter to the Editor: "One of the happiest days of my life was spent at the beautiful, new Packer stadium on October 6th at the Ram-Packer game. I am 72 years old and have been confined to a wheelchair for the past 25 years. It was 25 years ago that I attended my past Packer game. Now, my activities are quite limited. Seeing a Packer game has been uppermost in my mind these years and my wish to see a game was fulfilled. Thank you all again, Mrs. Joe Pribyl"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/63, p. 4



PITTSBURGH

STEELERS
PACKERS

14
33

11.3.1963

7-1

The Packers put away the Steelers once they got to the second half! Overall, they ran the ball for 258 yards and three touchdowns. They also kicked four field goals courtesy of Jerry Kramer.

The Steelers scored first on Gary Ballman's shocking, 93-yard return of the opening kickoff. Ballman took it to the two-yard line, and running back Don Hoak scored on the next play. But that would be all the scoring for Pittsburgh until they trailed 26-7 in the fourth quarter.

With Bart Starr's hand broken, Green Bay's offense stayed on the ground. Jimmy Taylor lowered his head and rolled over the Steelers 30 times for 141 yards. He also scored a touchdown. In the second half, two touchdown runs by Elijah Pitts put the game out of reach.

Pittsburgh	7	0	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	6	14	10	33

Attendance: 49,293

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 2 PITT 5



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

7
28 11.10.1963

The Vikings took an early 7-0 lead, and they held the upper hand in a 7-7 first half. They outgained Green Bay 209-60, but they produced just one touchdown.

Minnesota took the lead on Fran Tarkenton's 18-yard touchdown pass to Paul Flatley. That would be it for Green Bay's newest border rival, as the defense clamped down on "Scramblin Fran" and held him to minus -1-yard rushing. Overall, Tarkenton was sacked three times, and the Vikings struggled with just 259 net yards.

The Packers were a different team in the second half with 334 total yards. Quarterback John Roach had a fantastic game filling-in for Bart Starr. He threw three touchdown passes with two coming in the second half. Halfback Tom Moore also proved to be a one-man wrecking crew. He caught two touchdown passes, one from Roach and the other from recently signed Zeke Bratkowski. Moore also ran for 82 yards, caught two passes for another 60, and threw one halfback option pass for 49 yards to set up a touchdown.

Lombardi on the game, "They were keying on Taylor a little bit. But Moore had a little better day as a result. They played us for the run all day."¹

Minnesota	7	0	0	0	7
Green Bay	0	7	7	14	28

Attendance: 42,327

Fifty-five former Packers returned for Homecoming festivities including Curly Lambeau, Don Hutson, and Arnie Herber.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/63, Rimmel, p. 15



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

7

11.17.1963

26

Chet Coppack: "I've covered football and watched it as a fan which would roughly be 48 years. I have never been in ballpark, and this includes the Bears' Super Bowl year, where the feeling of the tension before the game was as stiff and also suffocating."¹

This highly anticipated rematch went to Chicago. Without Bart Starr and Paul Hornung, the Packers had trouble moving the ball and scoring against the league's top defense.

The Packers gave the ball away seven times. Quarterbacks John Roach and Zeke Bratkowski threw five interceptions, and Green Bay lost two fumbles. The offense produced just 232 total yards, and the quarterbacks completed only 11 of 30 passes.

The Bears ground game tore through Green Bay's defense with 248 yards. Willie Galimore, Joe Marconi, and Rick Casares gained most of it. The Bears never trailed, but the Packers spoiled the shutout with 4:10 left in the game.

The Bears swept the season series, and "Papa Bear" called it the "biggest victory for us since the 1946 championship game."² The Packers now had the work cut out for them to win a third straight championship.

Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Chicago	13	0	3	10	26

Attendance: 49,166

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 217

² Sports Illustrated, 11/25/63, Maule, p. 31



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers
PACKERS

10
28

11.24.1963

November 22, 1963

After President Kennedy was assassinated on the Friday before this game, the NFL decided to play its games on Sunday despite a shocked nation. It was an agonizing decision for NFL Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, that stayed with him long after the games were played.

Rozelle decided to go ahead with the games after consulting with Pierre Salinger, JFK's press secretary, and Rozelle's old college friend. Salinger felt "Jack would have wanted you to play the games."¹ The games would go on, but they would not be televised.

The atmosphere for the game on Sunday was different. The crowds were mostly quiet and reverential. Quarterback Bart Starr returned to the Packers lineup after missing four games, and Green Bay started quickly with four first-half touchdowns. Boyd Dowler and Ron Kramer caught the touchdowns while Jimmy Taylor and Elijah Pitts ran for scores that put Green Bay in command at halftime 28-3.

The Packers ran all over the Niners for 246 yards, and the defense held San Francisco to 235 total yards on just 80 net passing yards.

San Francisco	0	3	0	7	10
Green Bay	7	21	0	0	28

Attendance: 45,905
Milwaukee County Stadium



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

13

11.28.1963

13

"It wasn't turkey, and it wasn't hash.....it was a darned shame"¹ was the classic line written by Art Daley of the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

In the first 30 minutes, the defenses controlled matters forcing 11 punts. In 6-6 first half, the Lions kicked just two field goals while Green Bay scored on a three-yard run by Elijah Pitts. The extra point was blocked.

In a 6-6 game with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter, Bart Starr and Ron Kramer connected to put the Packers back in front 13-6. On Detroit's next possession, Earl Morrall marched the Lions 78 yards in 20 plays. The drive used up all but 16 seconds of the time left on the clock, and Nick Pietrosante scored from the one-yard line for the tie.

After the game, the Packers learned they had lost Ray Nitschke for the rest of the season with a broken arm. They also learned that his would Green Bay's last Thanksgiving Day visit to Detroit.

Green Bay 0 6 0 7 13

Detroit 0 6 0 7 13

Attendance: 54,016

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/63, Daley, p. 13



PACKERS
LOS ANGELES
RAMS

31
14

12.7.1963

On an 85-degree day in Southern California, the Packers bounced back from a 14-10 halftime deficit to trounce the Rams.

Bart Starr threw three touchdowns passes to Max McGee in the blowout. The first touchdown was from 25-yards out, and the others came in the second half from the 16 and 13-yard lines.

Green Bay's second-half comeback started with Jim Taylor's 40-yard touchdown run. The defense shut out the Rams in the second half and held them to 170 total yards. They also intercepted three Roman Gabriel passes. With the Packers still trailing the Bears by one-half game, Lombardi commented later that, "The only big game (left) for us is the one the Bears lose."¹

Green Bay	7	3	14	7	31
Los Angeles	0	14	0	0	14
Attendance:	52,357				

*Dan Karasch, Packers Fan:** "As a boy growing up in a small town in central Wisconsin, the most memorable and influential pastimes took place on Sundays. At the end of Sunday Mass, the priest would always say a prayer for the Packers. In addition, he would make sure we were always were out in time for the Packers game. I remember my mom would spend the afternoon preparing Sunday dinner while my dad, my brother, and my sisters would watch the Packers game."*

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/8/63, Hall, p. 37

* Interview: 12/5/2018



PACKERS

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

21

12.14.1963

17

San Francisco (2-11) held its own against Green Bay, but the potent offense of the Packers could not be stopped. They pounded the Niners with 429 total yards, and Bart Starr threw for 305 yards and two touchdowns.

After the teams traded touchdowns, Starr's 53-yard touchdown strike to Boyd Dowler gave the Packers a 14-7 lead. J. D. Smith's 52-yard gallop to the end zone matched it quickly for San Francisco. In a 14-14 game in the third quarter, Starr and Dowler connected again from 50 yards out for what turned out to be the winner.

The Chicago Bears did not lose another game, and Green Bay finished in second place.

Green Bay	7	7	7	0	21
San Francisco	0	14	0	3	17

Attendance: 31,031

Total Yards: GB 429 SF 271

*Dan Karasch, Packers Fan: * "Our church began to have a father-son dinner in the winter or spring each year. The church basement would be packed with all my friends and kids from town and their fathers. We would all get dressed up for it, as this was a most special evening. I was spellbound as a member of the Green Bay Packers would be the guest speaker. He would talk to us about being a Packer player, but most importantly, about life and being a good person. After the evening's events, we were able to go up and get autographs. I still have autographs from Bob Skoronski, Fred "Fuzzy" Thurston, and Henry Jordan. I treasure these memories and my memorabilia."*

* Interview: 12/5/2018

1963 NFL Playoff Bowl



PACKERS

40

CLEVELAND

1.5.1964

BROWNS

23

This was an NFL postseason game for the second-place finishers in each conference. It was played in the Orange Bowl in Miami.

While fans hoped for a great battle between fullbacks Jimmy Brown and Jimmy Taylor, both men played sparingly. In a game that had more of a preseason atmosphere than postseason, halfback Tom Moore scored two touchdowns for the Packers, and the Browns were outgained 490-418. Though the Packers controlled matters with early leads of 14-0 and 21-3, Lombardi not like playing in a consolation game. He felt it was a game for losers, and he called it "hinkydinky."¹

Green Bay	14	14	7	5	40
Cleveland	0	10	7	13	23

Attendance: 54,921

¹ Lombardi, Wells, p. 99



1963 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	11	1	2
Green Bay	11	2	1
Baltimore	8	6	0
Detroit	5	8	1
Minnesota	5	8	1
Los Angeles	5	9	0
San Francisco	2	12	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Kramer
Interceptions	Adderley, Wood w/2

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
Tom Moore	Fullback
Ray Nitschke	Linebacker
Jim Ringo	Center
Jim Taylor	Fullback
Fuzzy Thurston	Guard
Willie Wood	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Position & Round)

Dave Robinson (LB, 1)
 Tom Brown (CB, 14)
 Lionel Aldridge (4a, G)
 Marv Fleming (11, E)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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