



1972



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1919 - 2019

1972

Record: 10-4-0 1st Place – NFC Central Division

Coach: Dan Devine

- The Packers made the postseason for the first time since 1967!! They led the NFC Central from start to finish.
- The defense finished in the Top 5 in both the fewest the points allowed and the fewest yards allowed
- Offensively, John Brockington and newly acquired MacArthur Lane were a powerful backfield. Chester Marcol set a new Packers record with 33 field goals.
- After four wins in 1971, Dan Devine completely overhauled the roster with 21 new players. A number of players retired: Bart Starr, Zeke Bratkowski, Elijah Pitts, Willie Wood, and Doug Hart. Others were traded: Donny Anderson, Lionel Aldridge, and Dave Hampton.
- Bart Starr stayed as the quarterback coach.

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

In 1972, Steve Schumer, a 15-year old Packers fan in New Jersey, was desperate for more information about his favorite team. In the days before cable tv and the internet, Steve called the Packers and was put in contact with Shirley Leonard in the public relations office. A friendship developed between Shirley and this young fan. Occasionally, Steve would call Shirley to get a “pulse” on the team, and Shirley put his name on a mailing list for a Packers newsletter. In 1984, after Steve bought his first VCR, he began sending blank video cassettes to Shirley who would tape the Packers game that week and send the video back to him. This went on for about 10 years! In 1985, Steve finally met Shirley when he made his first trip to Lambeau for a game with his brother, Arlen. On October 6, 1985, the Packers beat the Lions 43-10 and, Steve, finally got to meet his dear friend Shirley Leonard.

* Interview: 11/14/16



1919-2019

PACKERS
CLEVELAND
BROWNS

26
10

9.17.1972

Road opener

A warm, steamy start in Cleveland! Great games by tight end Rich McGeorge and rookie kicker Chester Marcol lead the way. They scored all of Green Bay's points with two touchdown catches, four field goals, and two extra points!

But McGeorge and Marcol did have some help. McGeorge's first touchdown came after the first interception of rookie Willie Buchanon's career. Green Bay's new backfield of John Brockington and McArthur Lane was impressive nearly (145 yards) and they outgained the Browns overall 290-188.

Cleveland's only touchdown came when defensive tackle Jerry Sherk blocked a field goal attempt by Marcol. It was returned for a touchdown by Clarence Scott. But the Browns gave the ball away four times, and an interception by linebacker Dave Robinson led to Marcol's fourth field goal that finished the scoring.

Green Bay	7	10	3	6	26
Cleveland	3	7	0	0	10

Attendance: 78,771



1919-2019

OAKLAND
RAIDERS
PACKERS

20
14

9.24.1972

A controversial call proved to be the difference. In the first quarter, MacArthur Lane misplayed a lateral from Scott Hunter inside Oakland's five-yard line. The officials ruled Lane had fumbled the lateral. The ball bounced into the end zone where it was picked up and taken 104 yards by Jack Tatum for a 10-7 Oakland lead. The Packers disputed the call, but it was for naught.

The call upset the Packers and the fans. Some of the reporters also questioned the call, and Press-Gazette wrote "Six men in stripped shirts hijacked a Packer victory in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon and gave it to the Oakland Raiders."¹

After the dispute, Brockington scored his second touchdown, and Green Bay led at halftime 14-10. Oakland scored the only points of the second half on George Blanda's field goal and a touchdown run by Charlie Smith. Green Bay was scoreless after halftime, and they were outgained overall by Oakland 313-207.

Oakland	10	0	10	0	20
Green Bay	7	7	0	0	14
Attendance:	56,263				

The United Way: "Another special guest at the meeting, along with the area civic, government and education leaders, was Green Bay Packer Chester Marcol, who kicked-off a mock football"² to begin the campaign.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/72, Wagner, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/72, p. 8



1919-2019

DALLAS

COWBOYS

PACKERS

13

16

10.1.1972

The Packers' injury-riddled offensive line held firm, and they upset the defending Super Bowl Champions!

Scott Hunter had a rough outing completing just four of 17 passes for 53 yards. Chester Marcol and John Brockington kept the offense moving with Brockington scoring Green Bay's only touchdown.

Green Bay's defense set the pace. They intercepted Dallas quarterback Craig Morton three times, two by Al Matthews. Both of Matthew' picks set up Marcol field goals including the winner early in the final quarter. The third pick by Willie Buchanon came with a minute left and it ended Dallas' final bid.

The Cowboys turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Craig Morton was sacked five times. After the big win, Devine shared that "this was our most important win since I've been with the Packers."¹

Looking back, years later, Dan Reeves, had this to say about the Packers. "I'm not sure we could have had that much success without having played the Packers and learned how they played the game the right way."²

Dallas	3	3	7	0	13
Green Bay	3	7	3	3	16

Attendance: 47,103

Milwaukee County Stadium

Sacks: GB 4 DAL 1

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/72, Rimmel, p. 15

² Facing the Geen Bay Packers ,Carlson, p. 61



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

17
20

10.8.1972

Chester!

The Packers enjoyed a 17-3 halftime lead thanks to good fortune. Clarence Williams recovered a fumble by Jim Harrison and returned it for a touchdown. In the second quarter, quarterback Scott Hunter's pass was deflected into the arms of Jon Stagers, who also fell down, for a 48-yard touchdown! Chester Marcol wrapped up the first half with his first field goal.

The Bears regained some control after halftime with a nine-play 53-yard touchdown drive. In the fourth quarter, they tied it on a one-yard run by quarterback Bobby Douglas. With 5:13 left, the Packers rode Scott Hunter's arm into Chicago territory. Chester Marcol delivered a 37-yard field goal with 30 seconds left. But fans held their collective breath until Mac Percival's 51-yard boot came up short with five seconds left!

Chicago	0	3	7	7	17
Green Bay	7	10	0	3	20

Attendance: 56,263

"I was very impressed with the National Anthem ceremonies at Lambeau Field Sunday. The color guards, the Drake University Band, and the manner in which the two teams lined-up and observed the playing of the Star Spangled Banner with proper respect. And the crowd's singing too."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/72, Wagner, p. 18



1919-2019

PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

24

10.16.1972

23

Doing fine!

Monday Night Football showcased this early-season battle for first place in the Central Division. Both teams came in 3-1.

The Packers had trouble protecting the ball in the first half. Quarterback Scott Hunter was intercepted by Lem Barney and the Lions scored eight plays later. Detroit then capitalized on MacArthur Lane's fumble to extend the lead to 17-0. Before halftime, Green Bay got on the board with an 81-yard drive, and Scott Hunter's one-yard touchdown run around right end.

After the break, a field goal by Chester Marcol and Kenny Ellis' 80-yard punt return sliced the deficit to 20-17. Though Errol Mann's kick made it 23-17, the Packers responded with an 84-yard touchdown drive. Scott Hunter found rookie receiver Leland Glass for a 15-yard touchdown with 1:54 left!

With a 24-23 lead, Green Bay's sideline was ready to explode. "Particularly in the last two minutes, Coach Hanner was giving us instructions on remaining cool and not playing any differently than we had been"¹ said safety, Jim Hill. It worked, and the Packers were 4-1 for the first time since 1966!

Green Bay 0 7 10 7 24

Detroit 7 10 3 3 23

Attendance: 54,48

"The Riverside Ballroom will be the scene Sunday, October 29, for the Premontre Parents Club "Post Game" Party, following the Packers-Minnesota Vikings Game."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/72, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/72, p. 19



1919-2019

ATLANTA
FALCONS
PACKERS

10
9 10.22.1972

In spite of the rain, the Packers got out to a 9-0 lead on three Chester Marcol field goals (44, 32, and 35 yards). Just before halftime, the Falcons flew 86-yards for a touchdown to cut it to 9-7. A controversial pass interference call kept the drive going.

In the third quarter, Atlanta took the lead after a Green Bay interception was called back on a penalty. The Falcons capitalized with Bill Bell's 24-yard field goal that made it 10-9 in the third quarter.

In a ball-control game, Atlanta ran twice as many plays as Green Bay (71-35). Former Packer, Dave Hampton, carried 30 times for 93 yards. With 1:56 left, 39-yard field goal try by Marcol went wide to end it. "It was a great game. A real fine battle for men only,"¹ said Falcons' coach Norm Van Brocklin.

Atlanta	0	7	3	0	10
Green Bay	6	3	0	0	9
Attendance: 47,67					
Milwaukee County Stadium					

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/72, p. 18



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

27
13

10.29.1972

A second-half comeback by the Vikings made it two straight losses for Green Bay.

The Packers jumped in front 10-0. Chester Marcol split the uprights from the 41, and quarterback Scott Hunter threw a touchdown to Carroll Dale. But the Packers were outscored 27-3 over the next 45 minutes. Overall, the offense was inconsistent with just 12 first downs and 232 total yards.

The Vikings' defense was especially dominant in the fourth quarter. They picked-off three Scott Hunter passes and ran back two for touchdowns. Vikings quarterback Fran Tarkenton, who was 13 for 22 for 192 yards, commented after the game, "I don't know if I always have good games here. Some people tell me that. If I do, I sure hope it continues."¹

Minnesota	0	3	7	17	27
Green Bay	10	0	3	0	13
Attendance:	56,263				

*Bob Lurtsema, former Vikings Defensive Tackle: "That's the great thing about Packer fans. Even when they weren't very good, the fans were always there. And the way the people embrace that team is nothing short of spectacular."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/72, p. 20

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 66



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

PACKERS

24

34

11.5.1972

5-3

A big win for Green Bay which kept them in the postseason hunt. They never trailed, and their defense shut down San Francisco's ground game allowing just 21 yards.

A long-distance strike by the Packers started the scoring. Quarterback Scott Hunter and John Brockington connected for a 48-yard touchdown. Brockington also ran for two touchdowns on his way to 133 yards overall.

With the Niners trailing 24-10 in the fourth quarter, Steve Spurrier tossed two long touchdown passes to wideout Gene Washington. Both cut into Green Bay's lead, but Chester Marcol also kicked two field goals. With 23 seconds left, Kenny Ellis' 35-yard pick-six ended any doubt.

San Francisco 7 0 3 14 24

Green Bay 7 7 10 10 34

Attendance: 47,897

Milwaukee County Stadium

An advertisement for Vitamin C in the Green Bay Press-Gazette had the backing of Packers' Trainer Domenic Gentile. The caption read: "Packer Trainer Recommends New Way To Take Vitamin C."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/72, p. 26



1919-2019

PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

23
17

11.12.1972

Chester II!

For the opening kickoff, Gary Kosins of the Bears was ordered to *take out* kicker, Chester Marcol. Chicago coach Abe Gibron had enough of Marcol's winning kicks, and he wanted to send the man he called "The Polish Prince" a message. Kosins, however, was unsuccessful!

It was Marcol ironically who would send the message! It came in the form of three more field goals which made the difference in this edition of the rivalry. In the first quarter, John Brockington and Scott Hunter scored touchdowns for a 14-7 Packers lead. By halftime, despite not throwing a pass in the first half, Green Bay led 17-7.

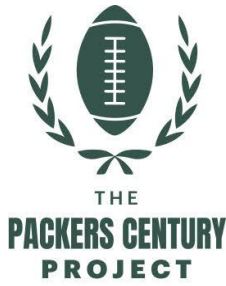
The Bears moved the ball more successfully in the second half. After trading field goals in the third quarter, quarterback Bobby Douglass ran for a one-yard touchdown to make it 20-17. But the Packers emerged victoriously, and Marcol's third kick provided some insurance.

Though the Bears couldn't get to Marcol, Scott Hunter was leveled by Dick Butkus in the second quarter and had to leave the game. Green Bay native Jerry Tagge replaced him. Tagge didn't turn the ball over, and he later commented, "There was nothing they threw at me that I wasn't prepared for."¹

Green Bay	14	3	3	3	23
Chicago	7	0	3	7	17

Attendance: 56701

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/72, Rimmel, p. 18



1919-2019

PACKERS
HOUSTON
OILERS

23
10

11.19.1972

The Packers held onto first place in the Central Division with this win in the Houston Astrodome.

Two special teams touchdowns in the second quarter paved the way for Green Bay's win. An 85-yard punt return by Jon Stagers came first. After Houston tied it, the Packers converted a fake punt by Ron Widby for a 68-yard touchdown pass to wideout receiver Dave Davis! Houston's coach, Bill Peterson, was stunned. "We gambled in putting on that 10-man rush to try and get a block. I would have bet you Devine wouldn't have thrown (the football). But he did."¹ In the fourth quarter, MacArthur Lane took off around right end and rumbled 36 yards to put the game away 21-10.

Green Bay	0	14	0	9	23
Houston	0	7	0	3	10

Attendance: 41,472

Arriving back in Green Bay, a sign "SUPER BOWL '73" greeted the team. "This optimistic placard, one of many signs in evidence, inevitably caught the eye as an estimated 2,000 fans streamed onto the apron at Austin Straubel Field Sunday night. Also to be seen were a number of "NO. 1" banners. In a moment of exuberance, Bay Port High School Band struck up "Jesus Christ Superstar," although the identity of the honoree, if indeed there was one, was not readily apparent."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/72, Rimmel, p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/72, p. 21



1919-2019

PACKERS
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS

16
21

11.26.1972

Washington's defense shut down the passing game (67 yards), and they held Green Bay to two Chester Marcol field goals until the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Billy Kilmer threw two touchdown passes for the Redskins. The first to Jerry Smith gave them an early 14-3 lead. After MacArthur Lane's touchdown cut it to 14-13 in the fourth quarter, Charley Taylor caught Kilmer's second touchdown pass for a 21-13 lead with 6:24 left.

Chester Marcol booted a third field goal, but it wasn't enough. After the victory, Billy Kilmer predicted, "I think we're going to be facing them in the playoffs. There isn't a weak link in the lineup except maybe at quarterback."¹

Green Bay	3	3	0	10	16
Washington	0	14	0	7	21

Attendance: 53,039

Total Yards: GB 187 WASH 281

"500 Welcome Packers.....upon their arrival at Austin Straubel Field on Sunday night."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/72, Wagner, p. 20

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/72, p. 19



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

7
33
12.3.1972

Nice!

This showdown of division leaders was a blowout! The Lions didn't score until Green Bay led 33-0, and Chester Marcol continued his record run with four more field goals.

The Packers ran the ball 55 times for 233 yards and three touchdowns. Rookie John Brockington ran for two of the touchdowns which gave him eight for the season.

The Lions turned the ball over six times. Both of Brockington's touchdowns followed interceptions by Ken Ellis. The Packers defense dominated, and defensive tackle Bob Brown explained the easy win this way. "We shut off their running game early today, and then we had a chance to come off the ball and tee off."¹ The Lions ran for just 27 yards.

Detroit	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	9	14	7	3	33

Attendance: 56,263

Thomas DePetro, Packers fan: "In 1972, my parents drove my older bother to Austin Straubel Fied in Green Bay. I was eight-years old. Upon leaving the gate, I saw this tall, strong shoulders looking silhouette walking toward us. He was walking with a shorter, very pretty lady. As he got closer, I saw is face. I couldn't help myself and said outloud, "BART STARR!" He walked across the width of the hall to shake my hand. I told him how much I liked him. He thanked me for my compliment, spoke to us for a few minutes, and introduced his lovely wife, Cherry, to us. >>>> Fast Forward to 1983. My college football coaches set it up with the Packers to visit and practice at Ray Nitschke Field. I can't describe what it was like to be the linebacker on my team, to wear the same color uniform as the Packers and to look up at the side of the Hutson Building and see the "G" helmet looming over us. Once we lifted and showered at Lambeau Field, we*

were told to stay in the locker room and wait for a talk. The locker room door opened and in walks Coach Bart Starr. Get this, he thanked us for stopping, and sharing our time with the Green Bay Packers and they were honored to host such a great group of men. Then he walked with the equipment manager to each player, shook our hand, wished us luck on our game, and gave us a game day pair of Packers socks (I still have them!!). I reminded Coach of our meeting in 1972, and he asked me how I still remembered that. I said, "Are you kidding...you're Bart Starr!" My teammates cracked-up. We won the next day."

* 11/14/18

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/72, Rummel, p. 19



1919-2019

PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

23

12.10.1972

7

Champs!

In a wind chill of minus 19 degrees, the Packers clinched the NFC Central Division for their first championship since 1967!

It didn't look that way in the first half as their offense was as cold as the wind chill. The Vikings scored the first time they had the ball, and they led 7-0 at the half.

Chester Marcol's first field goal broke the ice for Green Bay. Linebacker Fred Carr intercepted Fran Tarkenton, and the Packers capitalized. Quarterback Scott Hunter followed center Kenny Bowman into the end zone to take the lead 10-7. Rookie Willie Buchanon picked-off another Tarkenton pass, and the Packers scored on MacArthur Lane's three-yard touchdown. Lane and rookie John Brockington proved hard to stop, and they pounded Minnesota for 213 yards on 44 carries!

Marcol's third field goal followed another interception, this one by Ken Ellis. It completed an impressive afternoon for the defense that sacked Tarkenton four times. They also held the Vikings to nine first downs and 144 total yards.

Green Bay broke Minnesota's hold on the division. It changed some minds, as well. Last year, "folks around here wanted to know what was wrong with the Packers and how long Devine's contract had to run. Suddenly, that's all forgotten."¹

Green Bay	0	0	17	6	23
Minnesota	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 49,784

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/72, Wagner, p. 56



1919-2019

PACKERS

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS

30

12.17.1972

20

Laterals win it!

In the first quarter, Chester Marcol's blocked field goal attempt was picked up by holder Ron Widby. Ray Nitschke took a lateral from Widby and went 34 yards to the New Orleans seven-yard line! Scott Hunter scored a few plays later for a 7-0 lead.

The Packers never trailed in this game. After Bob Brown blocked a Saints field goal attempt, he lateraled to Willie Buchanon who went 48 yards for six for a 17-0 lead. The Saints' only touchdown in the first half came after a blocked punt was recovered in the end zone by Richard Neal.

In the second half, the Saints rallied behind two Archie Manning touchdown passes. But Manning's touchdowns came after Jerry Tagge's first NFL touchdown that gave the Packers a 24-7 lead! Chester Marcol kicked two more field goals in the fourth-quarter to top-off the scoring for Green Bay. The Packers finished the season 10-4, and they won the Central Division.

Green Bay 7 10 7 6 30

New Orleans 0 7 6 7 20

Attendance: 65,881

Total Yards: GB 244 NO 152

NFC Divisional Playoff



PACKERS

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS

3

12.24.1972

16

Billy Kilmer was right about a rematch. Unfortunately, the result was also the same.

The Packers couldn't run the ball. They were less effective than the 120 yards they put up in November. They managed only 78 yards compared to their season average of 151. MacArthur Lane was held to 56 yards, and John Brockington added only nine more.

After Chester Marcol's first-quarter field goal, it was Washington's game. The game's only touchdown came in the second quarter on a 32-yard pass from Billy Kilmer to Roy Jefferson. Larry Brown's 101 yards rushing kept Green Bay's defense honest, and Curt Knight added three field goals, two in the fourth quarter.

The Packers and Scott Hunter could not pass the ball well enough to force the Redskins out of their five-man front. Hunter completed just 12 passes for 150 yards and no touchdowns.

This was Ray Nitschke's last game.

Green Bay	0	3	0	0	3
Washington	0	10	0	6	16
Attendance:	53,140				



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1972 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>I</u>
Green Bay	10	4	0
Detroit	8	5	1
Minnesota	7	7	0
Chicago	4	9	1

Team Leaders

Passing	Hunter
Receiving	Lane
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	3 tied w/4

All-Pro

Ken Ellis	Cornerback
Chester Marcol	Kicker

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Willie Buchanon (1a, CB)
Jerry Tagge (1b, QB)
Chester Marcol (2, K)
Dave Pureifory (6b, DT)
Leland Glass (8, WR)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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