



1974



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1974

Record: 6-8-0 3rd Place – NFC Central Division

Coach: Dan Devine

- A labor dispute, two months before the start of the season, was called off by the players. A new collective bargaining agreement was not reached until 1977.
- The defense was the team's strength. Offensively, they ranked near the bottom of the league in most categories.
- After a loss to the Bears in October, Dan Devine traded five draft picks to the Rams for John Hadl – two first-round picks, two seconds, and a third. Previously, in July, he sent a fifth-round pick to Dallas for quarterback Jack Concannon. In 1973, Devine also traded two second-round picks to Miami for Jim Del Gazio.
- On December 16th, Devine resigned to become head coach of Notre Dame. His four-year Packers record was 25-28-4 (.473). His difficulties with the executive committee, and his struggles developing a quarterback were significant factors.
- Bart Starr was named the new coach on December 24, 1974.



1919-2019

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

PACKERS

32

17

9.15.1974

Jerry Tagge's first pass of the season was picked off by Jeff Wright to setup a field goal. Fullbacks on both squads, John Brockington and Chuck Foreman, scored in a 10-10 first half.

Green Bay stayed close for 30 minutes. After intermission, Chuck Foreman took over in the third quarter. When Tagge was picked off by Nate Wright, Foreman scored five plays later for 17-10 edge. At the end of the quarter, the powerful Foreman finished off a 15-play drive with his third touchdown run for a 23-10 lead.

In the final 4:13, Green Bay rookie Steve Odom went 18 yards around left end to cut the Vikings lead to nine, 26-17. Moments later on a punt return, Odom fumbled the ball on a reverse to end any comeback.

In the second half, the Packers were outscored 22-7, but Brockington was optimistic when he left the field. "Nobody quit that's a good sign,"¹ he said

Minnesota	3	7	13	9	32
Green Bay	0	10	0	7	17
Attendance:	55,131				

"It looks like the Packers may make it possible for men to do a lot of outside chores on Sunday afternoons this fall."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/74, Christl, p. 20

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/74, Larson, p. 3



1919-2019

PACKERS

BALTIMORE

COLTS

20

9.22.1974

13

There was no second-half letdown in this game as the Packers built on a solid first half. After trading field goals, Jim Hill intercepted a pass that bounced into his arms after the receiver was hit by Willie Buchanon. He returned it to the one-yard line where MacArthur Lane took it in.

While the Colts held the Packers' strong ground game to 84 yards, MacArthur Lane's first touchdown gave Green Bay the lead for good. After trading field goals, they led 13-6 at the break.

Early in the third quarter, Green Bay put together a 70-yard drive. MacArthur Lane plowed over right guard for the final 13 yards and a 20-6 lead. Colts quarterback Bert Jones made it interesting with a touchdown pass with nine minutes left.

Still trailing 20-13 with 1:26 left, the Colts had one more opportunity. On the game's final play, Jones looked to the end zone, but cornerback Charley Hall, who had just entered the game as a fifth defensive back, grabbed it for the win!

Green Bay 3 10 7 0 20

Baltimore 3 3 0 7 13

Attendance: 35,873

Total Yards: GB 193 BAL 282



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

19
21

9.29.1974

2-1

The Packers kept the Lions in the winless column thanks to their first two points of the game! After the Lions took a 6-0 lead with two field goals, Packers linebacker Ted Hendricks blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Those two points ultimately were the difference.

Green Bay moved the ball easily. They averaged 5.1 yards per play, and Jerry Tagge threw for 200 yards and a touchdown. Each team connected on three field goals.

Midway through the third quarter, Green Bay moved in front on Jerry Tagge's touchdown pass to Barry Smith. For the final 25+ minutes, the teams traded field goals. With 5:50 left, and the Lions leading 19-18, a big defensive stop by Green Bay forced Detroit to punt. With 1:05 left, Chester Marcol's fourth field goal gave the Packers a two-point victory!

Detroit	3	10	6	0	19
Green Bay	0	8	10	3	21

Attendance: 45,970

Milwaukee County Stadium

"Devine has his friends in Packerland. He also has his enemies. The latter have been more outspoken of late than the former."



1919-2019

BUFFALO
BILLS
PACKERS

27
7

10.6.1974

In a battle that was halted 17 times by penalties, quarterback Joe Ferguson kept the Bills' offense moving. He completed 13 of 16 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown. Seven of the completions went to Ahmad Rashad who also caught Ferguson's nine-yard touchdown pass.

The Packers held O. J. Simpson to 62 yards and no touchdowns. The Bills led 20-0 before Green Bay scored in the fourth quarter on a MacArthur Lane three-yard run. Quarterback Jerry Tagge (17-31-141-0-2) threw two interceptions, both of which led to Buffalo touchdowns.

Buffalo	7	6	7	7	27
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Attendance:	51,919				

Total Yards: GB 231 BUF 305

"Packer great, Tony Canadeo, received his Hall of Fame Ring during halftime ceremonies."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/74, p. 20



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

RAMS

PACKERS

6

10.13.1974

17

A rainy-day helped the Packers upset of the heavily-favored Rams. L. A. put up two field goals and generated only 251 yards. They had trouble holding on to the ball with five turnovers, and the Packers capitalized with 10 points. Three interceptions by linebacker Ted Hendricks led the turnover parade.

Both quarterbacks struggled. John Hadl and James Harris threw two interceptions each, and west coast writers questioned Hadl's arm strength again. "It's a bunch of bull,"¹ Hadl said, when asked about the ongoing speculation. For Green Bay, Jerry Tagge completed two passes for minus one yard, and he threw one interception. In the second quarter, a 68-yard punt return by Jon Stagers gave the Pack a 7-3 halftime lead. After a Hendricks interception in the fourth quarter, John Brockington's five-yard touchdown run put the Rams away.

Los Angeles	0	3	0	3	6
Green Bay	0	7	3	7	17

Attendance: 45,938

Milwaukee County Stadium

"Two banners were hanging from the outfield wall, which were later taken down at the direction of an usher. One read: "Bart for Coach!" The other: "A Fresh Start With Bart!"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/74, Christl, p. 26



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

9

10.21.1974

10

Big loss; big trade

It's Monday Night Football, and the Bears scored all the points they needed in the first quarter. A field goal and a 57-yard touchdown from quarterback Gary Huff to Charlie Wade gave them a 10-0 lead.

Green Bay's offense in the second half amounted to three Chester Marcol field goals. An interception by Ted Hendricks set up the second field goal, and his blocked punt led to three more points with 6:00 left in the game.

Five times the Packers were inside Chicago's five-yard line, but they came away empty-handed. Two days after the loss and convinced he was just a good quarterback away from contending, traded away the team's future. He shipped five draft choices to the Rams for veteran quarterback John Hadl. For a veteran, 34-year old quarterback, Devine sent to L. A. first and second-round picks in 1975 and 1976, plus a third-round choice in 1975.

Green Bay	0	0	6	3	9
Chicago	10	0	0	0	10

Attendance: 50,623



1919-2019

PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

17

10.27.1974

19

Detroit split the season series with Green Bay. They earned the split with nine seconds left on Errol Mann's 41-yard field goal.

Lions' quarterback Bill Munson outplayed Jack Concannon of the Packers by the slightest of margins. The Lions led 9-7 in the third quarter when Chester Marcol delivered a 49-yard field goal for a 10-9 Green Bay lead.

After Munson came back with a touchdown pass to Larry Walton, Concannon ran for a touchdown, and the Packers still had the lead 17-16 early in the final quarter. With two minutes left, Ted Hendricks blocked Errol Mann's field goal try. When the Packers went three-and-out, Mann had another shot to beat his former team. He converted from the 41 with nine seconds left.

Green Bay	0	7	3	7	17
Detroit	3	6	7	3	19
Attendance:	51,775				



1919-2019

WASHINGTON
REDSKINS

PACKERS

17
6

11.3.1974

Chester Marcol's first-half field goals provided all the offense for Green Bay. Jack Concannon started at quarterback, but he completed just eight passes and threw two interceptions. The interceptions led to ten points for Washington. In the fourth quarter, a pick-six by linebacker Harold McClinton put the game away.

Even though the Packers gained more yards, delivered two more sacks, and had one less turnover, Washington prevailed. Newly acquired quarterback John Hadl replaced Concannon late in the game. He played well against a prevent defense. On the game's final play, Hadl was intercepted at the goal line by cornerback Pat Fischer.

Washington	0	3	7	7	17
Green Bay	3	3	0	6	12
Attendance:	55,288				

"There was a brief scrimmage in the stands near the Press Box when a feller unfurled a big banner saying something about a 'Fresh start with Bart' and was attacked by a rather determined middle-aged lady."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/74, Wagner, p. 21



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

3
20 11.10.1974

This was the only regular-season game between the Bears and the Packers played in Milwaukee. In a steady, drenching rain, the baseball diamond became a mud pit. In the first quarter, a field goal gave the Bears the lead.

The Packers scored the next 20 points, including Steve Odom's 95-yard punt return, the longest in Packers' history. It broke a record set by Veryl Switzer against the Bears 20 years ago on November 7, 1954! Odom's return made it a 10-3 game at halftime.

Overall, the Packers recovered four fumbles, intercepted one pass, and sacked Gary Huff four times! In the fourth quarter, an interception by defensive tackle Mike McCoy led to John Brockington's touchdown run that clinched it.

Chicago	3	0	0	0	3
Green Bay	0	10	0	10	20

Attendance: 46,567
Milwaukee County Stadium



PACKERS
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

19
7

11.17.1974

Green Bay evened the season series with Minnesota. They held the favored Vikings to 74 yards rushing, and Chester Marcol's four field goals provided all the points the Packers needed.

Marcol's field goals gave Green Bay a 12-0 lead. The Packers outgained Minnesota 393-284, and they "inflicted a thorough beating."¹ But the outcome wasn't settled until late in the game. With 5:08 left, quarterback Fran Tarkenton threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Chuck Foreman to pull to within five 12-7. Quarterback John Hadl, who played the entire game, came right back and squelched any thoughts of a comeback. Hadl's short pass to MacArthur Lane went 68 yards to the end zone to ice it!

Green Bay	0	6	3	10	19
Minnesota	0	0	0	7	7
Attendance:	47, 924				

*Everett "Hub" Meeds was the Vikings' first mascot, Regnar. He roamed the sidelines from 1970-1992. In fact, Regnar cheered for the green and gold. "I was a Packer fan for quite a few years and even for the first three or four years that the Vikings were around. The Packers were all we had in those days."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/74, Christl, p. 17

² Cold Wars, Mishler p. xviii



1919-2019

SAN DIEGO
CHARGERS

PACKERS

0
34 11.24.1974

Three straight

This was the last home game of the season, and it would be Dan Devine's last win as coach of the Packers. It wasn't much of a contest after Eric Torkelson scooped up a fumble on a kickoff in the second quarter and went 29 yards for six. The Packers led at halftime 13-0.

Three turnovers and four sacks killed the Chargers on offense. The Packers capitalized on the turnovers with 17 points. With a ground game not as successful as last week, Green Bay threw more. John Hadl (157) and Jack Concannon (77) led the passing attack, and each threw for a touchdown in the second half. After the easy win, Dan Devine said, "I'm happy we put on a good demonstration for the hometown fans."¹

San Diego	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	3	10	14	7	34

Attendance: 56,267

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/74, p. 24



1919-2019

PACKERS

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

14

12.1.1974

36

The Packers were officially eliminated from playoff contention.

Though they outgained the Eagles 302-214, they fumbled the ball away five times in the rain and mud of Veterans Stadium. Philadelphia, led by rookie quarterback Mike Boryla, turned four of turnovers into three touchdowns and a field goal. Green Bay got on the scoreboard just before halftime on a John Brockington touchdown run.

Offensively, the Packers struggled with just 81 yards on the ground while John Hadl completed only 16 of 40 passes. This was the first of seven straight losses for Green Bay that extended until October 19, 1975, when they beat the Cowboys.

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14

Philadelphia 9 20 0 7 36

Attendance: 42,030

Turnovers: GB 6 PHI 1



1919-2019

PACKERS

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

6

12.8.1974

7

Chester Marcol's two field goals gave Green Bay a 6-0 lead until early in the fourth quarter. Rookie running back Delvin Williams put San Francisco in front with a short touchdown run. The drive was aided by a 34-yard pass interference penalty against Ken Ellis that the Packers protested vigorously. They also complained loudly about two other calls late in the game, but without much success.

Overall, the Packers didn't take full advantage of their five trips inside San Francisco's 30-yard line. They came away with just two field goals. The Niners outgained them 283-228, and quarterback John Hadl was ineffective again (16-30-123-0-2). The Packers were 6-7 with one game remaining.

Green Bay 3 0 3 0 6

San Francisco 0 0 0 7 7

Attendance: 47,475



PACKERS

ATLANTA

FALCONS

3

12.15.1974

10

Over & Out

Atlanta snapped their eight-game losing streak, and the Packers finished with three straight losses. A field goal was all the offense Green Bay could muster in Dan Devine's last game. Former Packer Dave Hampton led the Falcons' offense with a five-yard touchdown run and 94 yards rushing.

In the eight games John Hadl was active for Green Bay – he started six – he was a major disappointment. Green Bay traded away five draft choices which hurt their drafting for years.

Hadl: 89-184-1072-3-8

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Atlanta	7	3	0	0	10

Attendance: 10,020

Marcol's FG gave him the NFL's scoring title for 1974.



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1974 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	10	4	0
Detroit	7	7	0
Green Bay	6	8	0
Chicago	4	10	0

Team Leaders

Passing	Hadl
Receiving	Brockington
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Hendricks

All-Pro

Gale Gillingham	Guard
Ted Hendricks	Linebacker
Chester Marcol	Kicker

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Barty Smith (1, RB)
Steve Odom (5, WR, KR)
Ken Payner (6b, WR)
Eric Torkelson (11, RB)
Dae Wannstedt (15, T)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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