



**1964**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

---

**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

---

**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

[packerscentury.com](http://packerscentury.com)



1919-2019

## 1964

---

**Record: 8-5-1 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tie) – Western Conference**

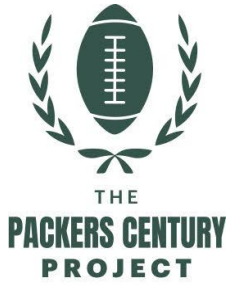
**Coach: Vince Lombardi**

- The Packers struggled to a 3-4 record in the first half of the season.
- After losing to the Rams in late October, Lombardi had a closed-door meeting with the team. They went 5-2 the rest of the way.
- Hornung returned from his suspension, but he had difficulty in the kicking game. He missed 26 of 38 field-goal attempts.
- Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, and Tom Moore were the league's best backfield.
- The defense allowed the fewest yards in the league, and it had the stingiest pass defense.
- "The Green Bay Packers were a better team than their 8-5-1 record indicated, and their fling with mediocrity would be brief."<sup>1</sup>

*Bob Matthews attended three Packers practices in 1964. He met Vince Lombardi. "My last day there, Tom Fears took me into Vince Lombardi's office to introduce me. I was petrified. When we walked into Lombardi's office, he was sitting behind his desk, and Fears introduced me. Lombardi stood up, shook hands with me, and with that trademark grin that he had, he said, "Dennis, it's nice having you up here. I hope you enjoyed the experience. When you play football, remember two things – work hard and have fun because it's very short." I told him how being there was the thrill of my life. It was probably only 20 seconds out of Vince Lombardi's day, but that's something that has stuck with me throughout my life."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> packers history.net/1964Packers

<sup>2</sup> For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 20



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**12**  
**23**

**9.13.1964**

### **Golden opener!**

The Packers crowd warmly welcomed Paul Hornung back from his one-year suspension. The versatile Hornung played well with three field goals and 77 yards rushing.

Green Bay led from start to finish. In the first half, Bart Starr's touchdown passes went to Max McGee and Tom Moore. They helped set them on their way to avenge their two 1962 losses to the Bears.

Paul Hornung followed Starr's touchdowns with three field goals. Just before halftime, the Packers were awarded a *free kick* after Elijah Pitts made a fair catch of a punt on Chicago's 48-yard line (the rule at the time). Hornung nailed an uncontested 52-yard kick which not only gave them the halftime lead 17-3, but it tied a Packers record for distance.

The Bears were fired-up after the break. In the third quarter, they added a field goal and a Rudy Bukich to Mike Ditka touchdown pass to cut the lead to 17-12. Green Bay's defense regrouped and turned back Chicago the rest of the way. Two more field goals by Hornung provided insurance.

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>

**Attendance: 42,327**

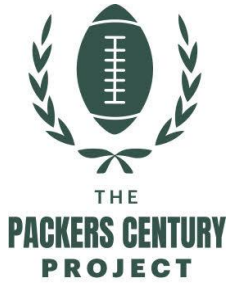
*Total Yards: GB 294 CHI 129*

*"The team would go up to Green Bay and stay in the Northland Hotel. Fans would do their best to see that the visiting Bears got as little sleep as possible. Doug Buffone of the Bears: 'It was nothing at 3 o'clock in the morning to hear someone playing 'Bear Down Chicago Bears' with a trombone. Or someone pulls the fire alarm at 4 o'clock*

*and players in their shorts started running out the door, then stood there in front of a bunch of Packers' fans wearing antlers on their heads."*<sup>2</sup>

1 Geen Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/64, Rimmel, p. 14

2 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. p. 306



1919-2019

BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**20**

**9.20.1964**

This was Baltimore's first win in Green Bay, and most of the points came early.

Running backs Paul Hornung and Lenny Moore dominated the first half. They both scored two touchdowns, and the difference was Hornung's missed the extra point after his second touchdown run. Before halftime, quarterback Johnny Unitas extended Baltimore's lead to 21-13 with a 40-yard bomb to John Mackey.

In the third quarter, Jim Taylor ran over the Colts defense for a 23-yard touchdown run. It cut the lead to one 21-20, but it wasn't enough. Bart Starr threw two interceptions in the fourth quarter that pretty much-decided matters. The first killed a drive at the Colts' six-yard line. The second, by linebacker Don Shinnick, came with just 1:35 left.

After the game, Lombardi said, "You win some, and you lose some. We've won our share of games like this. It all evens up."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance: 42,327</b>					

*Public Address Announcement: "Doctor from Marinette, the glasses you lost last week are at the lost and found window."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/64, Rimmel, p. 17

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/64, Daley, p. 15



**PACKERS**  
DETROIT  
**LIONS**

**14**  
**10**

**9.28.1964**

In a Monday night game in Detroit, Paul Hornung and Bart Starr ran for touchdowns that gave Green Bay a 14-3 halftime lead. Starr had an outstanding half throwing for 255 yards.

Early in the second half, Starr injured his shoulder and had to leave the game. The defense played well and held the Lions scoreless. Hank Gremminger intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble to thwart Detroit's two scoring opportunities.

With four minutes left., the Lions drove 80 yards, and quarterback Earl Morrall connected with Pat Studstill for a 15-yard touchdown. Still trailing 14-10, Detroit got the ball back near midfield with 1:42 left. On another pass completion to Studstill, Herb Adderley's hit jarred the ball loose, and Gremminger recovered it to end the comeback.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>59,203</b>				



1919-2019

MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**  
**PACKERS**

**24**  
**23**

**10.4.1964**

A blocked extra-point was the difference in this first-ever win for the Vikings over the Packers! In the first half, the teams traded touchdowns. For Minnesota, Bill Brown scored twice while Bart Starr, Boyd Dowler, and Paul Hornung did the damage for Green Bay.

After Bart Starr's 50-yard touchdown to Dowler, Hornung's extra-point was blocked by Rip Hawkins. Before halftime, Hornung scored on a one-yard run, but the Vikings led at the break 14-13.

In the third quarter, Starr's second touchdown pass to Dowler made it 20-14. Quarterback Fran Tarkenton found Tom Hall for a short touchdown to retake 21-20 lead. With five minutes left in the game, Hornung's 20-yard field goal made it 23-21 Packers. On their last drive of the game, Minnesota faced a fourth-and-22 on their 35-yard line. An electrifying scramble by quarterback Fran Tarkenton, "eluded Hall of Fame defensive end, Willie Davis, more than once."<sup>1</sup> Tarkenton completed a 44-yard pass to Gordy Smith – not the intended receiver – and two plays later, Fred Cox kicked the winner with 18 seconds left.

After the game, Lombardi on the elusive Tarkenton, "He's just a tough little guy to catch, that's all. He threw the ball when an ordinary quarterback wouldn't – he's a great scrambler."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>

**Attendance: 42,327**

*"The Beaver Dam High School Band, a competent and colorful ensemble, also entertained between halves."*

<sup>1</sup> Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 138

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/64, Rimmel, p. 13

<sup>3</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/64, Rimmel, p. 1



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

**49ers**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**24**

10.11.1964

In a very even game statistically, Jim Taylor tipped the game in Green Bay's favor. In his first game back from a shoulder injury, Taylor ran for 133 yards and two touchdowns!

After a 7-7 first half, Green Bay fell behind in the third quarter on quarterback John Brodie's touchdown run that made it 14-10 San Francisco.

The Packers grabbed control in the fourth quarter on a secret play. Taylor smashed over the left side of the 49ers front and scored from the 27. It gave them the lead 17-14. Moments later, Willie Woods' 42-yard punt return gave Green Bay great field position. Bart Starr took full advantage with a touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler that finished off San Francisco.

**San Francisco**    0    7    7    0    14

**Green Bay**        0    7    3    14    24

**Attendance: 47,380**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**





**PACKERS**  
BALTIMORE  
**COLTS**

**21**  
**24**

**10.18.1964**

## Heartbreaker

There were five lead changes in this gut-wrenching loss as Bart Starr outplayed Johnny Unitas.

Jim Taylor and Max McGee scored in the first half to give Green Bay a 14-7 halftime lead. After a Lou Michaels field goal made it 14-10, Lenny Moore's 21-yard touchdown run gave the Colts the lead at the end of the third quarter.

In the final 15 minutes, Elijah Pitts returned a punt 65 yards for a touchdown to put Green Bay back in front 21-17. It stayed a four-point game until Hornung's fifth field goal attempt was blocked and returned to Green Bay's 34-yard line. Four plays later, and with a minute left in the game, Unitas gave it to Lenny Moore for a five-yard touchdown run and the win.

"Missing the field goals beat us," Lombardi said of Hornung's five unsuccessful attempts, "but I am proud of the way we kept fighting back."<sup>1</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 60,213**

*Starr: 18-38-247-2-0*

*Unitas: 14-27-157-0-0*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/64, Daley p. 13



1919-2019

LOS ANGELES

**RAMS**  
**PACKERS**

**27**  
**17**

**10.25.1964**

## Collapse

The Rams came back after falling behind in the first half. They managed to prevail despite turning the ball over five times.

Jim Taylor's touchdown run and Willie Wood's pick-six helped the Packers to a 17-0 lead. After this point, Green Bay fell apart, and it was all Rams. L. A. scored the next 27 points. They hit back with a 52-yard touchdown run by Les Josephson and a 55-yard rocket from quarterback Roman Gabriel to Bucky Pope. The Milwaukee crowd was shocked.

Immediately after halftime, a blocked field goal attempt by Paul Hornung was returned 94 yards by Bobby Smith to put L. A. in front to stay 21-17. The Packers didn't score after halftime as L. A.'s "Fearsome Foursome" – Lamar Lundy, Merlin Olsen, Deacon Jones, and Rosey Grier – racked-up five sacks and held the Packers passing game to just 60 net yards. Bruce Gossett's two field goals in the fourth quarter sealed the deal.

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Attendance: 47,617**

**Milwaukee County Stadium**

*"The Milwaukee East Division Drill Team, a highly precise unit, presented "Age of Jazz" routine between halves, accompanied by Wilner Burke's Packer Band."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette 10/26/64, Rimmel, p. 16



**PACKERS**  
MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**

**42**  
**13**

**11.1.1964**

### **Bart throws four!**

Green Bay's collapse against the Rams left Lombardi fuming. In front of a record crowd at Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis, the Packers responded with a fine effort on both sides of the ball.

In the rain, Bart Starr threw for 186 yards and four touchdowns. Three of the touchdowns came in the first half, and Green Bay led at the break 28-10. Max McGee caught the first touchdown, and Jimmy Taylor caught two more before intermission. Taylor then scored a rushing touchdown for the game's final points, and he ran for 108 total yards.

The Packers clamped down on Fran Tarkenton. They contained his scrambles to one-yard gained! Minnesota's only touchdown tied the game 7-7. After that, it was all Green Bay with the Vikings held to 167 total yards.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

**Attendance: 44,278**

*Frst Downs: GB 19 MINN 8*

*"Father Fleming, pastor of St. Olaf's Catholic Church in Minneapolis, drew a hearty chuckle at the 10 o'clock mass Sunday morning when he closed his sermon by announcing: It was suggested that I put a tag on the bulletin today saying that any visitors from Green Bay may receive communion even if they are going out to the stadium to root for the Packers – it isn't a mortal sin."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette 11/2/64, Rummel, p. 17



1919-2019

DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**7**  
**30**      **11.8.1964**

The Lions ran for just 50 yards, and they were outgained by 193! Their quarterback, Milt Plum, was sacked eight times, and they didn't get on the scoreboard until it was 30-0.

For Green Bay, Jimmy Taylor ran for 145 yards on 19 carries. He scored twice in the first quarter with a one-yard run and an 84-yard sprint! It would be all the Packers would need, but Hornung delivered nine points from 19, 34, and 40 yards out.

The Packers put it away 30-0 on a 55-yard completion from Starr to Ron Kramer. Kramer fumbled, and it was recovered by Max McGee who took it the final 27 yards for six. It was that kind of day for Green Bay!

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>42,327</b>				

*Headline: "57 Ex-Packers Honored in Annual Alumni Festivities"<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette 11/9/64, p. 13



**PACKERS**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
**49ers**

**14**  
**24**

**11.15.1964**

## **5-5**

Paul Hornung missed three-field goals, had one attempt blocked, and the 49ers won with rookie quarterback, George Mira. Mira threw for just 73 net yards.

Green Bay scored on its opening drive, and then lost Bart Starr for the rest the game when he was sacked and knocked out by big defensive tackle Roland Lakes in the second quarter. After the 49ers took a 10-7 lead, Max McGee caught his second touchdown of the game, this time from Zeke Bratkowski, for a 14-10 lead at halftime.

Green Bay was shut out again in the second half, and the 49ers went in front for good when Jimmy Johnson intercepted Bratkowski. The pick led to Mike Lind's touchdown run, the first of two third-quarter touchdowns by the Niners that completed the upset. The other was scored by Rudy Johnson.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 38,483**



1919-2019

CLEVELAND  
**BROWNS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**28**

**11.22.1964**

The Browns had a 14-7 lead at the half on touchdowns by Paul Warfield and Jim Brown. But four turnovers in the second half spelled doom.

The Packers were out of contention for the division title and had little to lose. They gambled on fourth-and-inches from their own 44-yard line. Starr hit Max McGee with a short pass that McGee took 55 yards to the Browns one-yard line. Jim Taylor scored and knotted it at 14.

After an interception, Starr put the Packers in front with a four-yard sneak of his own that "left the crowd howling and the Browns clutching air."<sup>1</sup> Taylor put the game away a short time later with his second touchdown of the game.

Browns coach Blanton Collier thought the Packers had played "near-perfect football."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Attendance: 48,065</b>					
<b>Milwaukee County Stadium</b>					

*Attendance in Milwaukee was up 5,000 over 1963.*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/23/64, Daley, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/23/64, Rempel,, p. 19



**PACKERS**

DALLAS

**COWBOYS**

**45**

**11.29.1964**

**21**

Bart Starr's touchdown passes to Boyd Dowler, Jim Taylor and Tom Moore helped rout the Cowboys. Green Bay jumped in front 17-0, had it narrowed to 17-14, and then blew it open 45-14.

Dallas turned the ball over six times, and Green Bay's defense allowed just 132 total yards and eight first downs.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>44,975</b>				

*Dan Reeves on Tom Landry: "Every time he played the Green Bay Packers, it was a big game. He always wanted to beat the Packers, and he always pointed to the Packers as the team we needed to be one day."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 16



**PACKERS**  
CHICAGO  
**BEARS**

**17**  
**3**

**12.5.1964**

## **Golden!**

Paul Hornung scored 11 of Green Bay's 17 points, and his second-quarter touchdown put them in front to stay. Jimmy Taylor also scored, and his 89 yards rushing made him the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in five straight seasons!

Both touchdowns were set up by punt returns by Willie Wood. On defense, Wood also intercepted a pass that set up Hornung's field goal. Wood was given the game ball, and the defense allowed just 197 yards overall.

Bart Starr played conservatively, going 9 for 13 for 75 yards. Taylor (89) and Hornung (41) led the productive ground game that pounded out 170 yards.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Attendance: 43,636**

*Turnovers: GB 2 CHI 5*

*A brave Packers Fan: "Waving a Green Bay pennant, he paraded unwaveringly up and down the aisle in the 'third base boxes' despite an unremitting barrage of snowballs from Bear partisans."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette 12/6/64, Rimmel, p. 29





**PACKERS**  
LOS ANGELES  
**RAMS**

**24**  
**24**

**12.13.1964**

A disappointing season came to an end with this tie with the 5-7-2 Rams. Los Angeles led nearly the entire contest. At halftime, the Packers trailed 21-7 with their only points coming on a Tom Moore's touchdown run.

Green Bay's comeback began with a Paul Hornung field goal. Boyd Dowler caught a touchdown pass from Bart Starr, and Jimmy Taylor tied it in the fourth quarter on a short run.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>40,735</b>				

## 1964 NFL Playoff Bowl



1919-2019

**PACKERS**

**17**

ST. LOUIS

**1.3.1965**

**CARDINALS**

**24**

This was Green Bay's second straight year in the consolation game for second-place finishers. Billy Gambrell of St. Louis caught six passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns. Jim Taylor scored both of Green Bay's touchdowns, but the Packers were held to 131 total yards. The Cardinals put up 365 yards with quarterback Charley Johnson's passing for 243.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>56,218</b>				



## 1964 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS - Western Conference

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>I</u>
Baltimore	12	2	0
Green Bay	8	5	1
Minnesota	8	5	1
Detroit	7	5	2
Los Angeles	5	7	2
Chicago	5	9	0
San Francisco	4	10	0

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Adderley

### ALL PRO

Herb Adderley	Cornerback
Willie Davis	Defensive End
Forrest Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Henry Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Ray Nitschke	Linebacker
Bart Starr	Quarterback
Jim Taylor	Fullback
Fuzzy Thurston	Guard
Willie Wood	Cornerback

### NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Position & Round)

Tommy Crutcher (LB, 3c)  
 Bob Long (CB, 4a)  
 Steve Wright (T, 5b)  
 Ken Bowman (C, 8)  
 Bill Curry (C, 20)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

**NOTICE:**

You may print out a copy for your own personal use.

Not for republication or resale.

Do not forward.

©2019 Jim Rice / Packers Century Project

All rights reserved.

[packerscentury.com](http://packerscentury.com)