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1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1992

Record: 9-7-0 2nd Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

1919-2019

- On January 11, Mike Holmgren was named the 11th head coach in Packer history. Holmgren was an assistant coach with the San Francisco 49ers. He brought with him a winning pedigree, and the West Coast Offense.
- In February, Wolf traded a first-round draft pick in the '92 draft for back-up quarterback Brett Favre of the Atlanta Falcons.
- Due to an injury to Don Majkowski, Favre became the starting quarterback for Green Bay until 2008.
- Favre and wide receiver Sterling Sharpe made the Pro Bowl. Favre completed 64.1% of his passes. Sterling Sharpe caught 108 passes for an NFL record at the time.
- In Holmgren's firsts season, the offense showed more improvement than the defense.



9.6.1992 **20** (**o**T)

A rainstorm greeted two new coaches who knew each other well. Mike Holmgren of Green Bay and Dennis Green of the Vikings previously worked as offensive coaches for the 49ers at different times.

The Packers, using Bill Walsh's West Coast Offense, began scripting the first 15 offensive plays. Their opening drive covered 84 yards, and the first 15 plays went smoothly. Don Majkowski hit Sterling Sharpe on play #17 for a 7-0 lead! Quarterback Rich Gannon of the Vikings also threw a touchdown pass for Minnesota in a 10-10 first half.

Vince Workman was the Packers' spark plug all game with 89 yards rushing, and 12 catches for another 50 yards. But Terry Allen of the Vikings broke off two long runs that turned the game Minnesota's way. The first, in the fourth quarter, went for 51 yards and set up Ganon's touchdown pass to Hassan Jones for 20-17 lead.

After Chris Jacke's field goal kick forced overtime, they played for 10 minutes before Allen took off again. This time, a 45-yard dash set up a third field goal for Faud Reveiz for the win. After the game, Packers fan John Hickey of Green Bay said: "I don't think we have a quarterback yet, but that will come in time." 1

Minnesota 0 10 3 7 3 23 Green Bay 7 3 0 10 0 20

Attendance: 58,617



Quarterback Vinny Testaverde had a spectacular game with 363 passing yards, and two touchdown passes. His two-yard touchdown run also closed-out one of the best games of his career.

A fumble by the Packers and a Don Majkowski interception put them behind early 14-0. They trailed at halftime 17-0. In the third quarter, Majkowski was injured on a sack by defensive tackle Santana Dotson. He left the game, and Holmgren replaced him with Brett Favre.

Favre's first pass was batted back to himself by Ray Seals. Favre caught the batted pigskin, and then led his team to a field goal on his first drive to avoid the shutout. Overall, he went 8-14-73-0-1, and he was sacked four times. After the game, Holmgren made it clear there wasn't a quarterback controversy, and that Majkowski would start against the Bengals.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3 Tampa Bay 14 3 7 7 31

Attendance: 50,051

Favre: 8-14-73-0-1

"Vince Workman played in Green Bay from 1989-1992 before signing a free-agent deal with Tampa Bay. 'I never wanted to leave. It was a business decision. I wanted to come back. I wish I'd never left." 1



23 9.20.1992 **24**

A sign on the marquee outside Motor Parts West in Ashwaubenon read, "Go Pack! Beat Someone. Anyone. Please!" 1

Brett Favre!

A memorable game in that unfolded in front of a group of former Packer players back in town for Homecoming!

In the first quarter, Don Majkowski left leg was injured and Brett Favre came off the bench. The Packers struggled through three quarters and trailed 17-3 in the fourth quarter. Terrell Buckley sparked the comeback with a 58-yard punt return for a touchdown. Favre's first NFL touchdown followed to Sterling Sharpe cut the lead to 20-17.

After a Bengals field goal made it 23-17, only 1:07 separated the Packers from an 0-3 start. They were 92 yards away with no timeouts remaining. In four plays, they were at Cincinnati's 35-yard line with 19 seconds left. On second-and-ten, Favre launched the winner to a streaking Kitrick Taylor who beat Rod Jones down the right sideline. It was Taylor's first catch for the Packers and the only touchdown catch of his career!

After the game, Favre described what he saw on the final play. "I just closed my eyes and waited for the crowd to let me know," he said. This spectacular finish would be the first of 22 fourth-quarter comebacks that Favre would orchestrate for the Packers. Center James Campen, who would see many of them said, "Yeah, I was crying. I'm an emotional kind of guy. But it meant a lot to me." 3

Cincinnati 0 10 7 6 23 Green Bay 0 3 0 21 24

Attendance: 57,272

Steve Mariucci, former Quarterbacks Coach: "What a lot of people don't know is that Don Majkowski was also our holder for field goals and extra points, so Brett had to take that role. He was the back-up holder, and he only practiced it once in a while. So, after he throws the touchdown pass, he was going crazy, celebrating on the sidelines, and Mike says, 'Where's the holder?' So, he came out there late, and he really didn't even hold the ball. He caught it and let it go, and the ball stuck straight up.' And it stayed up long enough for Chris Jacke to kick the extra point through the uprights. And a legend was born. Favre completed 22 of 39 passes for 289 yards, and two touchdowns that day leading Green Bay back from a 17-3 deficit. It was the first win of Holmgren's career, the first win for Favre, and it signaled the start of a magical run."4

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Schultz, p. 5

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Havel, p. 15

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Havel, p. 15

⁴ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 176



3 9.27.1992

Brett Favre started his first game, and his rifle right arm upset the 3-0 Steelers.

In a first half that had only two field goals, the Packers stirred things up just before halftime. Vinnie Clark blocked a Steelers' field goal attempt. Favre dropped back on the very next play and unloaded a 76-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe! The Packers enjoyed a 10-3 lead at the break.

In the fourth quarter of a 10-3 game, Rod Woodson muffed a punt. Favre converted the turnover into a touchdown. Rookie Robert Brooks caught it in the right corner of the end zone for a 17-3 lead.

Favre played well (14-19-210-2-0), and on both touchdowns, he took advantage of the aggressiveness of all-pro corner Rod Woodson. The defense also held Pittsburgh's quarterback Neil O'Donnell to 16 completions in 41 attempts. In the second half, they gave up just 28 rushing yards!

After the game, with his starting status uncertain, Favre said bluntly, "I went into the game feeling I didn't have anything to prove. But I'd like to think I changed some people's minds today."1

Pittsburgh 3 0 0 0 3 Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17

Attendance: 58,724

Favre's QBR - 144.6



Atlanta quarterback Chris Miller torched Green Bay's secondary and spoiled Brett Favre's return to Atlanta. Miller passed for three touchdowns while Favre threw for 276 yards, one touchdown along with one interception.

Miller struck twice in the first quarter with touchdowns to Mike Pritchard and Andre Rison. Trailing 14-0 at halftime, the Packers bounced back with quarterback Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. In the fourth quarter, Chris Jacke's 41-yard field goal cut Atlanta's lead to 17-10.

Miller ended Green Bay's comeback with his third touchdown pass. He found Andre Rison again for a 21-yard strike. After the loss, Holmgren commented, "I think we're walking, ya know? I'd like to be sprinting."1

Green Bay 0 0 7 3 10 Atlanta 14 0 3 7 24 Attendance: 63,769

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/92, Isaacson, p. 15



10.18.1992

1919-2019

The Browns' defense won this game. The Packers did not score a touchdown, and they were shutout until the second half. Green Bay got inside Cleveland's 30-yard line five times, but they came away with just two field goals.

In the second quarter, fumbles also got in the way. After Darrell Thompson fumbled deep in Browns territory, Cleveland fumbled it back on the next play. Vince Workman then fumbled it back to Cleveland, and the Packers went to the locker room trailing 3-0.

Chris Jacke's third-quarter field goal tied it, and later in the quarter, Browns' fullback Kevin Mack broke the tie with a touchdown run. In the fourth quarter, Mack scored on a five-yard run to end all doubt.

Cleveland ran the ball 35 times for 142 yards. Gaping holes in Green Bay's defense forced safeties LeRoy Butler and Chuck Cecil to make 17 tackles. Brett Favre's play at quarterback (20-33-223-0-0) also had some questioning who should be the starter once Majkowski was ready.

Green Bay 0 0 3 3 6 Cleveland 3 0 7 7 17

Attendance: 69,268



30 10.25.1992

With Brett Favre at quarterback – and Paul Hornung serving as the honorary captain – it looked like an unbeatable combination. Not quite yet, though as Brett Favre didn't begin his domination over the Bears until their next game.

Chicago's first touchdown came after a trick play. As Chris Gardocki prepared to punt, Mark Green of the Bears ran onto the field just before the snap. He was waved off by teammates because allegedly, the Bears had enough players. But they didn't. As Green ran to the sideline, the ball was snapped, and Green quickly turned upfield and caught Gardocki's pass for a huge gain.

In the second quarter, Jim Harbaugh's 13 straight completions included a touchdown pass to Keith Jennings for a 17-3 advantage. Brett Favre and Sterling Sharpe connected for a touchdown to trim the lead to seven, but the Bears pulled away. They scored the next 13 points on two Kevin Butler field goals, and Darren Lewis' touchdown run.

Chicago 3 17 3 7 30 Green Bay 10 0 0 10

Attendance: 59,435

Dog Plank, former Chicago Bears Safety: "I remember every time I played there, I'd look around and I'd think to myself, 'Where are all these people coming from?' The place was always packed. And the next day there were motor homes and campers and cars all over the place. It was stunning. They came from all over the place. These guys are all about football and community." 1



The Packers held Detroit to 150 net yards of offense, and they sacked quarterback Rodney Peete four times. After Jason Hanson's kick gave the Lions an early 3-0 lead, Green Bay scored the next 20 points.

Detroit's only touchdown came on a blocked punt late in the third quarter. It narrowed Green Bay's lead to 20-13, and it rallied the hometown fans. But Green Bay responded with a clutch, 77-yard drive. Favre's quick, over the middle pass to Sterling Sharpe went for a 30-yard touchdown and put the Lions away.

"Before the drive, the crowd was fired up. After the drive the crowd was going home," 1 observed linebacker Johnny Holland. Favre had a great game (22-37-211-2-0) with touchdown passes to Jackie Harris and Sterling Sharpe. Vince Workman became the first running back in 40 games to crack the 100-yard mark with 101. All in all, the Packers were starting to believe in themselves and in their young signal caller!

Green Bay 7 10 3 7 27 Detroit 3 0 10 0 13

Attendance: 60,694



7 11.8.1992 **27**

This was a big setback for the Packers and Brett Favre as Green Bay's defense did an outstanding job holding the Giants to 177 total yards and just nine first downs.

In the second quarter, Vince Workman's touchdown gave Green Bay a 7-6 lead. Unfortunately, they did not score again. Brett Favre's three interceptions teed-up scoring opportunities for the Giants. Added to that were four huge mistakes on special teams – a blocked punt, a fumbled punt, a muffed snap on a punt, and a missed field goal – that handed the game to the Giants.

New York took a 13-7 lead on Rodney Hampton's first of two touchdown runs. It stayed 13-7 until late in the game. With four minutes left, "Pepper Johnson intercepted a weak pass by Brett Favre and, while returning it, made several turns rather than falling down. Favre then knocked the ball loose, and Sanjay Beach recovered for Green Bay." Two plays later, Reyna Thompson jumped Favre's pass to tight end Jackie Harris and took it to the end zone after Favre missed the last chance at stopping him. The Giants led 20-7, and Hampton's second touchdown run put it out of reach.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7 New York 6 7 0 14 27

Attendance: 72,038

1 packershistory.net/1992Packers



24 11.15.1992 27

MNF & Brett

The Packers outgained (410-272) and outscored the favored Eagles. They took a 14-3 lead on a Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe and Vince Workman's touchdown run.

After Favre's second touchdown pass stretched the lead to 21-10, Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham brought them back. A screen pass to fullback Heath Sherman turned into a 75-yard touchdown, and Herschel Walker's touchdown run put them in front 24-21 with 5:45 remaining.

In the final minutes, two fumbles by Sherman and Walker gave the game away. The Packers capitalized on both with field goals. Chris Jacke tied it from the 31, and he kicked the winner as time expired from the 41.

In this game, Brett Favre suffered a separated shoulder after being sacked by Reggie White and Andy Harmon. Favre stayed in the game and led the Packers to a win. After Reggie White signed with Green Bay as a free agent, he mentioned Favre's courageous play in this game helped convince him to come to Green Bay.

After the game, Ron Wolf's commented on Favre's leadership. "In time, the locker room will become his locker room, and in time, the team will become his team."1

Philadelphia 3 0 7 14 24 Green Bay 0 14 0 13 27

Attendance: 52,689

Milwaukee County Stadium

Steve Mariucci, former Quarterbacks Coach: "I remember when I first began coaching with Mike Holmgren in Green Bay. I remember the "G" in the carpeting, and late at night I'd walk down the hall and walk the facility, and I'd take it all in and say, 'I can't believe I'm working for the Green Bay Packers.' Talk about a dream come true. It absolutely was. For a kid from the Upper Peninsula, this was it. And when they remodeled the locker room, I grabbed some of that carpeting, and I kept it with me for years. My wife finally got disgusted with it and threw it out. That really bummed me out."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/92, Isaacson p. 13 2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 124



11.22.1992

3

In a steady rain, 10,000 fans stayed away rather than watch the Bears lose their fourth straight game. They also missed the first of many fine games by Brett Favre against the Bears and Edgar Bennett's first start!

In a 3-3 game in the first quarter, a short punt gave the Packers great field position. Favre reared back and capitalized with a 49-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe for a 10-3 lead. It stayed a seven-point game until the fourth quarter. Favre found Harry Sydney out of the backfield on a crucial third down play that put the ball on the Bears' one. Two plays later, Favre clinched it with the first rushing touchdown of his career.

In a very emotional and happy locker room, linebacker Johnny Holland observed, "We'll look back and say this is where it all turned around, right here." 1

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

Attendance: 56,170

Rushing Yards: GB 130 CHI 54

Linebacker Brian Noble: "Packer fans all over the country, just say, 'Please beat the Bears.' Here's your victory. We're all going to savor this one for a while." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/92, p. 15

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/92, Isaacson, p. 1



#100

This was the Packers' 100th regular-season game in Milwaukee, and they celebrated with a win to get back to .500.

Chris Jacke's field goals and Brett Favre's arm won this one! With the running game going nowhere, Favre threw 41 times for 223 yards. For Tampa Bay, Vinny Testaverde threw touchdowns to Mark Carrier and Anthony McDowell. He also threw three interceptions.

Four field goals by Chris Jacke had the Packers in front 12-7 in the third quarter. Testaverde put Tampa Bay back on top 14-12 with his second touchdown pass. The Packers responded with a 69-yard drive to go back in front on a Favre to Jackie Harris touchdown.

With a 19-14 lead with 10 minutes remaining, the defense stood tall. An interception by cornerback Roland Mitchell with 1:32 left clinched it, and the victory kept Green Bay in the hunt for the postseason.

Tampa Bay 7 0 7 0 14 Green Bay 3 6 3 7 19

Attendance: 52,347

Milwaukee County Stadium



10 12.6.1992

No problem

On a snowy field in Milwaukee, Green Bay led 28-0 before Detroit scored. By halftime, it was 35-10.

Favre threw for three touchdowns, and the Pack pounded the ball for 166 yards. Darrell Thompson led the ground game with 81 yards, and he scored the game's first touchdown. Two of the touchdown passes went to Sterling Sharpe.

The Lions turned the ball over five times, and one fumble was returned for a touchdown by linebacker Tony Bennett. Green Bay won its fourth straight game for the first time in eight years! "We're probably a little bit ahead of schedule," 1 said coach Mike Holmgren. Indeed! For the first time in 10 years, the Packers would be, "mailing orders for playoffs tickets to season-ticket holders today." 2

Detroit 0 10 0 0 10 Green Bay 14 21 0 3 38

Attendance: 52,347

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/41, Isaacson, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/41, p. 1



In the Astrodome, it was the 8-6 Packers vs. the 8-6 Oilers.

Green Bay won for the fifth straight time! The defense led the way and contained Houston's run-and-shoot offense. The Oilers ran for just 59 yards, and they turned the ball over four times on two fumbles, two interceptions. Green Bay capitalized for 10 points.

Green Bay led 9-0 in the third quarter behind three Chris Jacke field goals. After Houston's Cody Carlson scored on a one-yard run to give the home team a 9-7 lead, he fumbled late in the game on Green Bay's 37-yard line. The Packers made the Oilers pay as Favre went five-for-five on the drive and found his favorite target, Sterling Sharpe, for a six-yard touchdown and a 16-7 edge.

The Oilers drove 77 yards and scored with 1:55 left to make it 16-14. Green Bay recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Green Bay 0 3 6 7 16 Houston 0 0 7 7 14

Attendance: 57,285



13 12.20.1992 28

Six straight

The temperature at kickoff was eight degrees with a wind chill of minus 15!! On the second play from scrimmage, Darrell Thompson's fumble led to a quick 7-0 L. A. lead. David Lang intercepted Brett Favre and almost scored, but Terrell Buckley's game-saving tackle stopped him on the one-yard line. The defense held for a field goal, and the momentum began to turn.

The Packers heated up late in the second quarter. They scored all 28 points in the final 6:48 of the half. The onslaught began with a nine-play drive and Darrell Thompson's redeeming touchdown run. A 33-yard pick-six by Terrell Buckley then gave Green Bay the lead 14-10. Incredibly, before halftime, Favre squeezed-in two touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe for a 28-10 lead!

For all practical purposes, the game was over. The defense intercepted two more passes, and linebacker Johnny Holland led the charge with 13 tackles. "The fact that those guys won six in a row, regardless of what happens next week, I'm very, very proud of them," 1 said a happy Mike Holmgren.

Los Angeles 7 3 3 0 13
Green Bay 0 28 0 0 28

Attendance: 57,796

"There's something about the Green Bay Packer mystique that makes cold-weather games something special," 2 said Jeff Hoerning of Appleton.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/92, p. 27

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/92, McGillis, p. 1



7 12.27.1992 **27**

To make the postseason, the Packers needed to win this game and also get some help. Unfortunately, they couldn't defeat the Vikings. After getting out to a 7-0 lead, Minnesota scored the next 27 points, including two touchdown passes by quarterback Sean Salisbury. Salisbury threw for 292 yards.

The Packers were held to 29 yards rushing, and Minnesota's defense forced three Brett Favre interceptions. The loss was a disappointing finish to an unexpectedly fine season. For the new coaching staff, other than 1989's "Cardiac Pack," the last time the Packers won nine games was 1972!! But as Favre reminded everyone, there's more to do. "We keep telling ourselves that we had a good year, but I can't accept a loss like this. We've got to work harder to become a playoff team."1

Sterling Sharpe's six catches for 108 on the season set a new NFL record.

 Green Bay
 7
 0
 0
 0
 7

 Minnesota
 7
 13
 7
 0
 27

Attendance: 61,461

Bob Harlan, Packer President: "The cornerstone is laid. The foundation is in place. Things are going to get better." 2

¹ Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 168

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/92, Walter, p. 1



1992 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	W	<u>L</u>	I
Minnesota	11	5	0
Green Bay	9	7	0
Detroit	5	11	0
Tampa Bay	5	11	0
Chicago	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing Favre
Rushing Workman
Receiving Sharpe
Scoring Jacke
Interceptions Cecil

Sacks T. Bennett

ALL-PRO

Cecil Safety
J. Harris Tight End
Sharpe Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Terrell Buckley (1, CB)

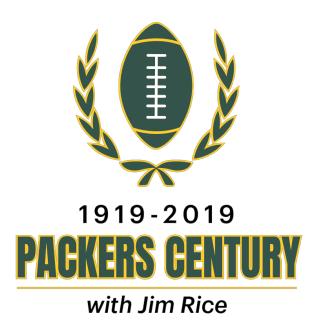
Mark D'Onofrio (2, LB)

Robert Brooks (3, WR)

Edsgar Bennett (4, RB)

Mark Chmura (6, TE)

Ty Detmer (9a, QB)



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