

# THE PROMISS GAMUN

**PROJECT** 

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



# 1994

Record: 9-7-0 2nd Place (tie)

**Coach: Mike Holmgren** 

• Before the season, Brett Favre signed a contract extension.

- On the day before the opener, Sterling Sharpe threatened to sit out the season unless his contract was renegotiated. The sides reached a guick settlement.
- This was the Packers' last year playing in Milwaukee. With luxury boxes added to Lambeau Field, it became financially more profitable to play all home games in Green Bay. They played in Milwaukee from 1933-1994.
- Favre threw a team record 33 touchdown passes. Sterling Sharpe caught 18 of them to break Don Hutson's team record of 17 set in 1942. Due to a neck injury, this would be Sharpe's last season.
- Though defense did not play as well in the second half of the season, the Packers made their second straight trip to the postseason.

Bill Hammann, Packers Fan: "I own a share of stock. They don't screw around with that. They send out their income statement, just like any corporation. It's cool to look at their profit and loss statement. The Packers are a not for profit corporation. To qualify for that, they have to pour a ton of their profit into all these charities all over the place. I don't live there, but I see they pour so much back into the community." 1



10 9.4.1994

Mike Holmgren finally won his first game against the Vikings! But it did not come without a heavy dosage of pre-game strife. The day before the opener, Sterling Sharpe "skipped practice, missed the team photo, and threatened to sit out the whole season"1 unless his contract was adjusted. Frantically and fortunately, the issue was resolved Saturday night, and Sharpe came through against Minnesota (7-53-1).

Green Bay's new defensive coordinator, Fritz Schumer, matched wits with Minnesota's new quarterback Warren Moon (20-37-166-0-3). The defense blanked the Vikings in the first half and gave up only three points and 194 yards all game. On the Vikings first play from scrimmage, George Teague picked off Warren Moon, and they capitalized with Chris Jacke's first field goal. It was the first of two picks for Teague, and it put the Vikings on notice early. A happy Sterling Sharpe connected with Brett Favre for a second-quarter touchdown, and the Packers went to the locker room leading 13-0.

The Vikings charged back in the second half. Late in the third quarter, a field goal put them on the scoreboard. On Green Bay's next possession, Favre's fumble was returned for a touchdown by defensive end James Harris. With the Packers leading 13-10, the defense held firm, and Chris Jacke added a 49-yard field goal.

Minnesota 0 0 3 7 10 Green Bay 3 10 0 3 16 Attendance:

Turnovers: GB 3 MINN 1

"Jim Nelson, a Packers fan who lives in Alexandria, Minn., had dreamed of proposing at Packers game. His dream came true,

ittingly, just as the Packers were preparing to beat the Vikings. 'Everybody knew what was going on, but she didn't have a clue. It was wonderful,' he said." 2

1 packershistory.net/1994Packers

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/94, Schultz, p. 1



# **Replace Favre?**

The Packers were never in this one. Brett Favre got off to a poor start, and Miami jumped in front behind the running of rookie Irving Spikes and two Dan Marino touchdown passes. Marino found the end zone with tosses to Keith Jackson and Keith Byars. At halftime, Miami led 17-0, and Holmgren gave serious thought to replacing Favre with rookie Mark Brunell.

In the third quarter, Miami made it 24-0 after recovering Brett Favre's fumble. Green Bay's offense never got going. They ran the ball just seven times for 38 yards, and Favre threw 51 passes for 362 yards. Many of the yards (129) came after the game had been decided, and Favre's two touchdown passes came with less than seven minutes to play.

Miami 3 14 7 0 24 Green Bay 0 0 0 14 14

**Attendance:** 

**Milwaukee County Stadium** 

GB ran for just 38 yards.



**7** 9.18.1994 **13** 

A dismal game for Green Bay. The Packers wore their 1937 throwback uniforms, and one fan even commented, "the players played liked they felt they looked – ugly." 1

On Reggie White's return to Philadelphia, the "Minister of Defense" was double and triple-teamed most of the game. He was held in check with three tackles and no sacks. Green Bay took a late first-quarter lead on Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Reggie Cobb. The offense struggled the rest of the way, and in the second half, the Eagles took full control.

In the third quarter, the Packers managed minus 22 yards on 13 plays. For the game, they ran for just 37 yards. Favre was sacked six times, and he tossed two interceptions (24-45-280-1-2). Reggie Cobb's fumble in the third quarter led to the Eagles' only touchdown. The 1-2 Packers looked to regroup.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Philadelphia 0 3 10 0 13

Attendance: 63,922



## **Brett!**

Brett Favre came alive! He put on quite a show for the 60 or so former Packers who returned for Homecoming!

Favre found his rhythm quickly, and he connected on 30 of 39 passes for 306 yards. He tossed three touchdown passes with no interceptions. Green Bay also ran the ball better than they have all season with 95 yards.

Tampa got off to a bad start with three turnovers which led to all of Green Bay's points in the first half. In the second half, the Bucs finally scored, but Favre's second and third touchdown passes to Ed West and Sterling Sharpe put it out of reach.

After the blowout, Favre was relieved. He knew many were questioning his erratic play. "It was probably as comfortable as I've felt since I've been here, "1 he said. Reggie White also had a big impact with a sack, a fumble recovery, and one blocked pass!

Tampa Bay 0 0 3 0 3
Green Bay 0 13 10 7 30
Attendance:

Total Yards: GB 401 TB 231



Two promising young quarterbacks met for the first time – Brett Favre and Drew Bledsoe. The duo threw 100 passes, completing 54 for 928 yards and three touchdowns. There were also three interceptions.

Green Bay controlled the first half. Chris Jacke's field goal and Brett Favre's touchdown to Sterling Sharpe gave them a 10-0 halftime lead. Drew Bledsoe came back with two second-half touchdown passes to put the Patriots on top 14-10.

Back-to-back interceptions of Favre – one on the goal line – stalled Green Bay's offense. But with just over a minute left, the young gunslinger marched the Packers downfield for a touchdown and 16-14 lead. A bad snap doomed the extra point, which proved critical.

When Chris Jacke's kickoff went out of bounds, New England started at their 40-yard line. With four seconds left, Matt Bahr delivered from the 33.

Green Bay 3 7 0 6 16 New England 0 0 7 10 17

Attendance: 57,522



**17** 10.9.1994

A tale of two halves. The first half went to the Rams, and the second belonged to Green Bay.

Two Chris Miller touchdown passes to Troy Drayton put the Rams in control at halftime 17-3. As the Packers left the field for the locker room, the fans let them have it with "their jeers, and their boos, and their hisses."1

Dismayed by the reaction, the Packers rallied. The Rams were forced to punt on their first five possessions of the second half. The comeback started with Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. A little over a minute later, Robert Brooks returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown that shifted the momentum to the Packers in a 17-17 game.

Edgar Bennett's two-yard touchdown run early in the fourth gave Green Bay a 24-17 lead. The defense protected the lead with a shutout in the second half. Overall, they held the Rams to 64 yards rushing and 211 total yards. Reggie White also had two sacks.

Los Angeles 7 10 0 0 17 Green Bay 3 0 14 7 24 Attendance: 58,911

Vanity license plates went on sale in Wisconsin. A lottery was held for the "PACKERS" plate.



10 10.20.1994 13 (от)

After a bye week for the Packers, the first quarter of this Thursday Night Game was rough. Brett Favre was intercepted by James Harris who fumbled the ball, and Anthony Parker recovered it and took it home for 7-0 Minnesota lead. Later in the quarter, Favre injured his hip and had to leave the game.

Back-up quarterback Mark Brunell played the rest of the game, and his touchdown run just before halftime gave the Packers a 10-7 lead. It stayed that way until late in the game. With five minutes remaining, Minnesota quarterback Warren Moon led a quick, 58-yard drive that set up Faud Reveiz's game-tying field from the 29 with 17 seconds left. Four minutes into the overtime, Reveiz came through again from the 27-yard line for the win.

This loss was a low-point in Favre's career. During the week after the game, Holmgren polled his coaching staff about who should be the team's starting quarterback. Brunell won the vote, but Holmgren stayed with Favre saying, "We're joined at the hip. Either we're going to the Super Bowl together, or we're going down together."1

Green Bay 10 0 0 0 10 Minnesota 7 0 0 3 3 13 Attendance: 63.041



The Monsoon Bowl hammered the Monday Night Football crew and the Chicago Bears. In a game played in throwback jerseys at Soldier Field, "the peak wind gust(s) was measured at 43 mph" just before the game.

The all-day downpour seemed to affect only Chicago. Green Bay had no trouble navigating the horizontal rain and swamp-like conditions after the first quarter. They ran the ball for 233 yards (the most since 1989), and Edgar Bennett scored three touchdowns.

In the wind-swept conditions, Brett Favre completed just six passes for one touchdown. In the second quarter, he ran for the longest touchdown of his career (36 yards), and he nearly had more rushing yards than passing.....58 to 82!

Punting played a big role in this battle, and Craig Hentrich and the Packers held the edge. "Once they turned field around on us, we were in trouble," 1 Bears' Coach Dave Wannstedt pointed out. The defense held the Bears scoreless for 45 minutes. They turned the ball over five times, and their two fumbles led to Green Bay touchdowns.

Green Bay 0 14 7 12 33 Chicago 0 0 0 6 6 Attendance: 47,381

"When the game was over, nearly every player dumped his shoes into a garbage can. (Red) Batty and his crew pulled them out, and let them dry out; the team then sold them at various auctions for charities." 2

On the big screen at Lambeau Field, 2,500 fans watched the game!

<sup>1</sup> Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D'Amato & Christl, p. 152

<sup>2</sup> Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D'Amato & Christl, p. 154



**30** 11.6.1994 **38** 

It looked like a rout early, as "Green Bay scored its first 17 points off three turnovers on its way to a seemingly safe 31-7 halftime lead." Linebacker Bryce Paup got the fun started with a pick-six just four minutes into the game. Three Brett Favre touchdown passes followed – two to Robert Brooks and one to Edgar Bennett – and the first half closed with a 24-point Packer lead. Detroit's points came on Mel Gray's 91-yard kickoff return.

After halftime, quarterback Dave Krieg, who had replaced in injured Scott Mitchell in the first quarter, brought the Lions back into the game with three touchdown passes. Two of the touchdowns went to Herman Moore, with the second one cutting the lead to 38-30 with 8:31 left to play.

On Detroit's final drive, Krieg led them to Green Bay's 15-yard line. On fourth down with 42 seconds left, Krieg's pass to Aubrey Matthews in the end zone was knocked down by Doug Evans. The Packers were 5-4.

Detroit 0 7 7 16 30 Green Bay 10 21 7 0 38

Attendance: 54,995

**Milwaukee County Stadium** 

On the team's decision beginning in 1994 to play all its home games in Green Bay, one fan had this to say, "I am surprised it took this long to leave given all the concern about the new stadium (in Milwaukee)." 2

<sup>1</sup> packershistory.net/1994Packers

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/94, Hayes, p. 1



**10** 11.13.1994

# **Brett & Boomer**

The Jets won the statistical battle, but not the game. Brett Favre's two touchdown passes led the Packers to their third straight win. Favre targeted safety Pat Terrell of the Jets, who played in place of an injured Ronnie Lott.

Green Bay took a 7-0 lead on Favre's touchdown to Robert Brooks. Trailing 7-3 just before halftime, New York quarterback Boomer Esiason threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Rob Moore for a 10-7 lead. Early in the third quarter, Favre and Anthony Morgan hooked up for what proved to be the winner.

The Jets didn't score in the second half. Green Bay's defense stopped the bigger receivers of the Jets when it counted. "We saw Minnesota go after them. That was our game plan – if we could take advantage of our receivers' size against those guys. I thought we did,"1 said Esiason. But not against Doug Evans whose tight coverage on the Jets Rob Moore secured the win.

New York 0 10 0 0 10 Green Bay 7 0 7 3 17

Attendance: 58,307
Total Yards: GB 234 NY 315

#1 Fans! "Bob Gauber, The Sporting News football columnist, rated Packers fans the No. 1 fans in the National Football League. His comments came in the tabloid's Nov. 14 issue, which praised fans here for such things as showing up in lousy weather and supporting the teams when it's rebuilding." 1



**20** 11.20.1994

29

Green Bay's three-game winning streak came to an end in the first of back-to-back losses to 1993's Super Bowl teams.

In this game, the Packers didn't score until it was 24-0 Buffalo. The blowout saw Jim Kelly and Andre Reed connecting 15 times for two touchdowns and 191 yards. Thurman Thomas also ran for a touchdown, and at the break, it was 27-6 Buffalo.

In the second half, Favre cut the lead to seven with his second and third touchdown passes to Edgar Bennett and Sterling Sharpe. But the rally fell short when they couldn't put together a scoring drive in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, they couldn't stop Jim Kelly, who threw for 365 yards. After the game, Holmgren didn't bother looking for the silver lining, "We lost a football game. I think we're beyond the moral victory stage." 1

Green Bay 0 6 14 0 20 Buffalo 14 13 0 2 29

Attendance: 79,029

Total Yards: GB 266 BUFF 455



A Thanksgiving Day disappointment in Dallas.

Green Bay missed an opportunity for a road win when both Dallas quarterbacks, Troy Aikman and Rodney Peete, were ruled out for this game with injuries. Jason Garrett started for the Cowboys.

For the second time in his career, Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes in a game. All of the aerials went to Sterling Sharpe, and two came in the first half for a 17-6 halftime lead.

After holding Dallas to six points for 30 minutes, the defense collapsed in the second half. The Cowboys scored 36 points for a team record. They took the opening kickoff back 87 yards to set up a quick Emmitt Smith touchdown run with just 23 seconds gone. Favre struck right back with touchdown pass #3 to Sterling Sharpe from 30 yards away to make 24-13.

The Cowboys scored the next four touchdowns to take control. Darryl Johnston's two-yard run in the third quarter gave them the lead 25-24. Emmitt Smith continued to tear up Green Bay's defense for 228 total yards. Touchdowns by Smith and Michael Irvin in the fourth quarter put the game away 39-24. The Cowboys put up 436 yards on the Packers, the most they had given up all season.

Green Bay 7 10 7 7 31 Dallas 0 6 19 17 42

Attendance: 64,597



12.4.1994

34

# **Three straight losses**

In the first half, Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, and Robert Brooks returned a kickoff 96-yards for a touchdown. But the defense struggled again to stop a potent offense. Barry Sanders had a record-setting day against Green Bay with 188 yards rushing. The Packers as a team ran for just 58!

Sanders' first-half touchdown was the first of six lead changes. Brett Favre threw for 366 yards and three touchdowns – two went to Anthony Morgan and one to Sterling Sharpe. He was also intercepted twice. At halftime, Lions held a 24-21 lead.

Green Bay surged back in front early in the new half on a field goal by Chris Jacke and Favre's 47-yard touchdown to Anthony Morgan. Leading 31-27 after three quarters, the Packers couldn't hold on. The only points in the fourth quarter came on Derrick Moore's touchdown run with six minutes left. In the last few minutes, Detroit's defense protected the lead with an interception and a big fourth-down stop. The Packers were now 6-7 and in a tight race for the postseason.

Green Bay 14 7 10 0 31 Detroit 3 21 3 7 34

Attendance: 76,338

"The diehards stopped by Lombardi Avenue anyway on Monday, just in case. They came to buy their Green Bay Packers playoffs tickets, despite their team's three game skid." 1



3 12.11.1994 **40** 

There's nothing wrong with the Packers that a game against the Chicago Bears couldn't cure!

In this blowout, Green Bay moved the ball up and down Lambeau Field at will. They generated 516 total yards with Brett Favre throwing three touchdowns and kicker Chris Jacke hitting four field goals to annihilate the Bears!

It started slowly with Chicago's only points of the game coming on an early field goal. After the kick, it was 40 unanswered points by the Packers. Brett Favre threw three touchdown passes, two to Sterling Sharpe and one to Robert Brooks.

Green Bay's ground game was also dominant. Edgar Bennett (106) and Reggie Cobb (78) led a 257-yard effort, the best so far this season. The Packers ran 80 plays while the Bears had the ball for just 49!

Chicago 3 0 0 0 3 Green Bay 7 17 10 6 40

Attendance: 57,927
Total Yards: GB 516 CHI 176

"Toward the end of the game, a few thoughtless Packer fans, smelling blood and wanting the Packers to run up the score, began booing when they failed to go for a touchdown while deep in Bear territory. After the boos died down, many started chanting, "Bears still suck! Bears still suck! At least one Chicago Bear agreed with the chanting throng. "Hey we did," Bears linebacker Joe Cain said after the game. "I'm not going to lie to you."



**17** 12.18.1994

## **Last Milwaukee Game**

After 61 seasons, the Packers played their last game in Milwaukee. Faced with elimination from the postseason with a loss, the game belonged to Brett Favre, who ultimately took matters into his own hands.

In the first quarter, Favre threw two touchdown passes for a 14-0 Packers lead. The touchdowns went to Sterling Sharpe and Anthony Morgan. In the second quarter, Sharpe injured his neck and had to leave the game.

By halftime, Green Bay led 14-9. In the fourth quarter, a touchdown pass by Bobby Herbert and a successful two-point conversion put Atlanta in front 17-14. Favre brought the Packers back with a 10-play, 67-yard drive that began on their 33 with 1:58 left. Favre went six-for-nine on the drive, and he marched Green Bay to the Falcons nine-yard line. On third and one with 21 seconds left and no timeouts, Favre rolled right. Not finding a receiver, he did the unthinkable...he took it himself rather than throwing it away. Favre stumbled at the three-yard line, but dove into the end zone for the win with 14 seconds left!

In one of the most exciting endings in Packers' history, the stadium erupted, and players headed for Favre! "After the game, Packers coach Mike Holmgren thrusts his fists in the air and blew kisses to the fans. 'Thank you, Milwaukee!'"1 he shouted repeatedly.

Atlanta 3 6 0 8 17 Green Bay 14 0 0 7 21

Attendance: 54,885

Sterling Sharpe's neck injury eventually ended his career.

"Ryan of Racine has been attending games at County Stadium for the past 20 years. 'I'll never disagree about how wonderful Lambeau Field is, but it was always special to come here.'" 2

"It's depressing. But they should play in Green Bay. That's their real home," 3 said Sheila Schaefer.

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand, p. 1
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand p. 1
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand p. 2

## **Postseason bound**

The Packers clinched a Wild Card berth as Brett Favre threw three first-half touchdown passes to put the Bucs away early! All three touchdown passes went to Sterling Sharpe. Sadly, this would be Sharpe's last game due to concerns about his neck and upper spine. He made it one to remember with three touchdown catches!

Touchdowns by Sharpe and Edgar Bennett gave Green Bay a 14-0 first-quarter edge. They put it out of reach before halftime with two more Favre to Sharpe touchdowns!

In the second half, Tampa scored on its first drive, but not again until there was a minute left in the game. The Packers held the Bucs to 61 yards rushing and 214 yards overall.

Green Bay 14 14 6 0 34 Tampa Bay 0 6 6 7 19

Attendance: 65,076
Total Yards: GB 433 TB 214

Laura Hollister of Suamico and nearly 300 fans showed up at the airport on Christmas Eve to greet the team. "It was the best Christmas present we could ask for," 1 she said.

#### **NFC Wild Card Game**



**12** 12.31.1994

The Packers played their first home postseason game in a non-strike season since the Ice Bowl!

This game was about stopping Barry Sanders. After he pounded Green Bay for 188 yards rushing in December, all eyes were on #20. This time around, he was "harassed, harried, and hit"1 to the tune of minus one yard (-1) in 13 carries. To slow down Sanders, Defensive Coordinator Fritz Schumer moved Reggie White inside.

Once the defense controlled Sanders, they went after Detroit quarterback, Dave Krieg. They sacked him four times, and held the Lions to nine first downs and 171 total yards.

With Sterling Sharpe out with a career-ending neck injury, Brett Favre did not throw a touchdown pass. Without his #1 target, Favre played well (22-38-262-0-0), but Green Bay's only touchdown came midway through the first quarter. Rookie Dorsey Levens scored from the three for a 7-0 Packers lead. Along with three Chris Jacke field goals, it was all Green Bay as the defense dominated.

In explaining the loss, Detroit coach Wayne Fontes said, "Since I've been here as head coach no team has dominated us on the line of scrimmage (like today)." 2 On to Dallas!

Detroit 0 0 3 9 12 Green Bay 7 3 3 16

Attendance: 58,125

Headline: "Fans bask after a 27 year wait. Celebrations were everywhere before, during and after the game." 3

"Pooh Bear Will You Marry Me" the sign read over the stadium. "Ted Thomas of Boulder Junction went to the sky with his proposal." 4 Jan "Pooh Bear" Lemorande said yes!

- 1 Measure of Greatness, Gozka, p. 404
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, Dougherty, p. 24
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, p. 1
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, p. 2

#### **NFC Divisional Playoff**



Green Bay's postseason rematch with Dallas didn't go as well as the rematch with Detroit. Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman threw for over 100 yards to three different receivers – Michael Irvin (111), Alvin Harper (108) and Jay Novacek (104) – to handily defeat Green Bay.

The Packers fell behind quickly as the the Cowboys took the opening kickoff and scored in 3:53. Emmitt Smith's five-yard run put Dallas in front 7-0 before he had to leave the game with a knee injury. After a Packers' field goal, the Cowboys' offense was a well-oiled machine. Aikman connected with Alvin Harper for a 94-yard touchdown, and Blair Thomas scored from the one-yard line.

Before halftime, the teams traded touchdowns and Dallas led 28-9. The Cowboys put up over 300 yards in the first half, and in the second half, they scored once more to finish the blowout.

Green Bay 3 6 0 0 9 Dallas 14 14 0 7 35

Attendance: 64,745
Total Yards: 450-327



# **1994 Team Statistics**

1919-2019

## **FINAL STANDINGS** – NFC Central Division

|           | W  | <u>L</u> | <u>T</u> |
|-----------|----|----------|----------|
| Minnesota | 10 | 6        | 0        |
| Green Bay | 9  | 7        | 0        |
| Detroit   | 9  | 7        | 0        |
| Chicago   | 9  | 7        | 0        |
| Tampa Bay | 6  | 10       | 0        |

# **Team Leaders**

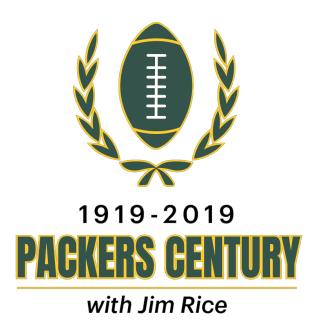
| Passing       | Favre   |
|---------------|---------|
| Receiving     | Sharpe  |
| Rushing       | Bennett |
| Scoring       | Sharpe  |
| Interceptions | Buckley |
| Sacks         | Jones   |

## All-Pro

Paup Linebacker White Defensive End

## **Notable Draft Choices** (Round, Position)

Aaron Taylor (1, G) LeShon Johnsn (3, RB) Gabe Wilkins (4, DE) Dorsey Levens (5a, WR) Bill Schroeder (6c, WR)



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