



1995



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1995

Record: 11-5-0 1st Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- Two new franchises joined the league – the Carolina Panthers and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Two other franchises relocated from Los Angeles. The Rams left for St, Louis, and the Raiders moved back to Oakland.
- On February 28, the Packers released Sterling Sharpe because of his neck injury. Before the season, linebacker Bruce Paup was not resigned, and receiver Andre Rison left for Cleveland. In late October, tight end Keith Jackson ended his holdout.
- After three straight 9-7 finishes, 1995 would be a breakthrough season. Green Bay played in their first conference championship game since 1972!
- On both sides of the ball, the Packers ranked among the very best in the league.
- Brett Favre came into his own. He led the league with 38 touchdown passes, and he won the first of three NFL MVP Awards.
- Robert Brooks, who replaced Sterling Sharpe, caught 102 passes and set a new team record with 1,497 receiving yards. Edgar Bennett led the ground game with 1,067 yards.



1919-2019

ST. LOUIS
RAMS
PACKERS

17
14

9.3.1995

Oooops!

The *new* St. Louis Rams pulled off the upset, and the Packers were booed at halftime. With both teams unable to establish a ground game, quarterbacks Brett Favre and Chris Miller, once teammates in Atlanta, threw 81 passes, and they were sacked nine times.

But turnovers and big plays gave the game to L. A. On the opening drive, Favre's first interception came on the Rams six-yard line. In the second quarter, Isaac Bruce of L. A. blocked a punt that he also recovered on the Green Bay's 23. On the next play, Bruce caught a touchdown pass to complete the trifecta for a 7-0 St. Louis lead.

After the booing, Brett Favre's touchdown to Mark Chmura tied it 7-7. Later in the third quarter, Chris Miller broke the tie with a 30-yard touchdown to wideout Alexander Wright. When Favre tossed his third pick of the game in the fourth quarter, the Rams cashed-in with a field goal with 5:22 remaining. It proved to be enough after a late Favre to Charles Jordan touchdown. "It's a tough loss. But it isn't anything a good win can't erase,"¹ commented LeRoy Butler.

St. Louis	0	7	7	3	17
Green Bay	0	0	7	7	14

Attendance: 60,104

First Downs: GB 21 STL 11

"I'm eight and I went to my first Packer game today. Even though they lost, I enjoyed my first game."² said Any Hansen of Algoma.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/95, Havel, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/95, p. 20



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

27

9.11.1995

24

Monday Night Football at Soldier Field was host to the 150th meeting of the Packers and the Bears.* The Packers celebrated with their third straight over their ancient rival!

"We know we are a much better team than we showed last week,"¹ said Brett Favre describing the team's mindset. He set out to prove it, and the Packers scored the first five times they had the ball. They jumped out to a 21-0 lead behind three Favre touchdown passes. Robert Brooks caught two of the bullets, including a 99-yard record-setting touchdown in the second quarter. Anthony Morgan caught the one in between, and after taking a commanding 24-7 into the locker room at the half, the momentum swung to the Bears.

Chicago's defense regrouped and held the Packers to just three points in the final 30 minutes. Poor punting plagued Green Bay and a blocked punt fueled the comeback. Quarterback Erik Kramer rallied the Bears with a touchdown pass to Jim Flanigan, and Rashaan Salaam's second touchdown run made it 27-21.

In the final 10 minutes, Green Bay's defense led by Reggie White and Johnny Holland slowed down the Bears. On one drive, they stopped them with a goal line stand, and a few minutes later, Reggie White's strip-sack sealed the deal.

Green Bay	14	10	3	0	27
Chicago	0	7	7	10	24

Attendance: 64,855

Total Yards: GB 431 CHI 243.

* 1941 Playoff Game Included

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/95, Havel, p. 2



1919-2019

NEW YORK
GIANTS
PACKERS

6
14
9.17.1995

Great start!

A Packers win got them off to 2-1 start for the first time since 1983! Two first-half touchdown passes by Brett Favre to Mark Ingram, and Robert Brooks gave Green Bay the lead for keeps. Rookie Antonio Freeman also caught three passes.

The defense kept the lid on the potent New York offense that outgained Green Bay 303-198. They kept the Giants out of the end zone, and they settled for two Brad Daluiso field goals.

In the second half, Green Bay's offense stalled, and the team played conservatively. They generated only 36 total yards, and Craig Hentrich punted nine times! "If the Packers game plan called for punting enough times to iron out their blocking deficiencies, they executed it to perfection."¹

Brad Daluiso kicked his second field goal with under one minute to play. With the Giants driving for a tying touchdown, an interception by safety Mike Prior ended the threat.

New York	0	3	0	3	6
Green Bay	7	7	0	0	14

Attendance: 60,117

"Unlike the first time Milwaukee season ticket holders came to Lambeau Field this year, they found their way there Sunday without creating massive traffic jams."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/95, Havel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/95, Mahesh, p. 7



1919-2019

PACKERS
JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS

24
14

9.24.1995

On a Sunday night, the Packers visited the *new* Jacksonville franchise. Their starting quarterback, Mark Brunell, was Brett Favre's former back up, and Jacksonville chose him in the expansion draft.

Both Brett Favre and Brunell had good games. Brunell, though was sacked five times, and harassed often. The dominant Packers' defense did not allow a first down in the first half. They outgained the Jaguars 322-201.

A 49-yard field goal by Green Bay's Craig Hentrich started the scoring. Favre extended the lead just before halftime with a six-yard touchdown pass to Robert Brooks. After Dorsey Levens' touchdown made it 17-0, Brunell got his offense untracked with two touchdown passes to Willie Jackson. In between Brunell's touchdowns, Favre put it away with a touchdown pass to Anthony Morgan.

Jacksonville	0	0	7	7	14
Green Bay	0	10	7	7	24

Attendance: 66,744

Favre threw 2+ TDs in his 12th straight game, which tied a record held by Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith, and Dan Marino.



1919-2019

PACKERS
DALLAS
COWBOYS

24
34

10.8.1995

Ouch

After their bye, the Packers lost to Dallas for the fifth straight time. Cowboys' quarterback Troy Aikman, who wasn't expected to play, threw for 316 yards and two touchdowns. He had help from Emmitt Smith, who ran for two touchdowns and 106 yards. Michael Irvin also got the best of Green Bay's secondary with eight catches for 150 yards and a touchdown.

Dallas took a 7-0 lead after linebacker Godfrey Myles intercepted Brett Favre. With under a minute to play in the first half, Emmitt Smith also scored on the ground for a comfortable 17-3 lead.

The Cowboys also struck first after halftime with a 48-yard touchdown pass from Aikman to Michael Irvin. Trailing 24-3, the Packers mounted a comeback. Favre scored twice on the ground in the final 18 minutes, and he also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Mark Chmura. The Packers got as close as 31-24, with 8:13 left, but the Cowboys used up the next six minutes and clinched it with a field goal.

Green Bay	0	3	7	14	24
Dallas	0	17	7	10	34

Attendance: 64,806



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

21
30

10.15.1995

“Everyone knows the importance of this stretch of games,”¹ said Mike Holmgren after the Packers finished the first of five straight wins over division opponents. Though they didn’t stop Barry Sanders (124 yards), they did lead from start to finish!

After their loss to the Cowboys, the Packers expected to win this game, and they played with urgency. Brett Favre got off to a great start. He went 15 for 19 for 215 yards and one touchdown in a dominating first half. His touchdown pass went to rookie Dorsey Levens, and Edgar Bennett scored on the ground.

In the second half, Detroit roared back. Quarterback Scott Mitchell threw three touchdown passes. Two went to Herman More and the other to Johnnie Morton. Favre kept pace with a touchdown pass to Robert Brooks, and with eight minutes left, Chris Jacke’s field goal sealed the deal.

Detroit	0	0	14	7	21
Green Bay	3	17	7	3	30

Attendance: 60,302

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/95, Havel, p. 1



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

21
38 10.22.1995

Back-to-back wins over Central Division rivals proved to be good medicine for the Packers! Quarterback Brett Favre threw for 295 yards with four touchdown passes going to four different receivers – Mark Chmura, Charles Jordan, Dorsey Levens, and Edgar Bennett.

This victory was all about turnovers. With the score 7-7 in the second quarter, an interception by Packers’ linebacker George Koonce set up Favre’s second touchdown pass. With a minute left in the half, Warren Moon’s touchdown pass tied it.

An interception by Doug Evans after the break helped Green Bay take control. Favre’s third touchdown pass followed to Dorsey Levens, and early in the fourth quarter, Edgar Bennett’s touchdown run stretched it 28-14. Less than a minute later, defensive end Sean Jones recovered a fumble in the end zone for six more. The ball had been knocked away by Reggie White, and the Packers pulled away 35-14.

With seven minutes left, quarterback Warren Moon benched himself after a poor performance. He threw two picks and lost a fumble that Packers recovered for a touchdown!

Minnesota	7	7	0	7	21
Green Bay	7	7	7	17	38

Attendance: 60,332

Cartoon

Frame 1: “It’s blasphemy to hold trick or treat on Sunday.

Frame 2: Those God-forsaken little witches and goblins begging door-to-door desecrates everything we hold dear.

Frame 3: We want this pagan celebration moved to another day, which doesn’t conflict with our most sacred of traditions.

Frame 4: Watching the Packer game!” 1

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/95, Heller, p. 7



PACKERS
DETROIT
LIONS

16
24

10.29.1995

More of Moore

This was a reversal of fortune from two weeks ago as mistakes doomed the Packers. Four turnovers by Brett Favre, several dropped passes, and soft coverage in the secondary were the primary offenders.

Eight-hundred yards of offense filled this game. Quarterback Scott Mitchell of the Lions threw three first-half touchdown passes, all to Herman Moore. Though Brett Favre threw for more yards than Mitchell (304-249), he also threw three more interceptions. Favre also turned it over on a fumble. The picks ended two promising Green Bay drives, and one eventually led to a Detroit touchdown. The fumble came with three minutes left in the game when Favre was sacked deep in Detroit territory.

Detroit led 21-10 at halftime, and the second half was all field goals. The Lions didn't turn it over, and the Packers lost for the ninth straight game on artificial turf.

Green Bay	0	10	6	0	16
Detroit	7	14	0	3	24

Attendance: 73,462

First Downs: GB 28 DET 18



1919-2019

PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

24

11.5.1995

27

In one of the most forgettable finishes in Packers history, third-string quarterback T. J. Rubley made a name for himself. After injuries during the game shelved both Brett Favre and Ty Detmer, the Packers turned to Rubley to save the day. Unfortunately, he saved it for the Vikings.

The game went back and forth with seven turnovers and seven lead changes. Six of the turnovers belonged to the Packers, and five came in the second half. But in the second quarter, guard Aaron Taylor fell on Favre and injured his left ankle. He let the game and was replaced by Ty Detmer. Detmer lasted until the fourth quarter when he had to leave with an injured thumb. Reggie White also left the game with a sprained his right knee and defensive end Sean Jones suffered a concussion at the end of the game and had to be "removed from the locker room on a stretcher"¹ and hospitalized.

The Packers took an early 16-10 lead behind Edgar Bennett's touchdown and Chris Jacke's three field goals. Early in the second half, quarterback Warren Moon put Minnesota back in the lead with two touchdown passes less than four minutes apart. With the Packers trailing 24-16 in the fourth quarter, Detmer and Mark Chmura hooked up for a touchdown that tied it with a two-point conversion.

With five minutes left in the game, the tension switched into high gear with four turnovers! To start the roller-coaster finish, Detmer was intercepted by Roy Barker at midfield. He also injured his hand on the play and was replaced by T. J. Rubley. On his first play under center, Rubley fumbled and lost the football. The Packers got it right back when safety LeRoy Butler stripped running back James Stewart of the ball. George

Teague recovered it with 2:52 left, and Rubley was given another chance.

After four completed passes and the ball on Minnesota's 38, Rubley called an audible on third-and-one after a safety came into the box to stop the run. Forced out of the pocket and being chased to his right, he launched a pass across his body toward Antonio Freeman. It floated, never got to its destination, and it was intercepted by former Packer Jeff Brady. Quarterback Warren Moon led a six-play, 51-yard drive for Faud Reveiz's 39-yard kick for the win.

When Rubley was asked about his decision to audible after the safety moved into the box, he said, "I thought I was doing what I've been coached to do. I learned later we can adjust (among the offensive linemen) to block that."²

Green Bay	7	9	0	8	24
Minnesota	10	0	14	3	27
Attendance: 62,839					

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/95, Havel, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/95, Dougherty, p. 18



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

28
35

11.12.1995

Leaders return

"Brett Favre undergoes round the clock treatment to get him set to play Sunday against the Chicago Bears."¹

"Reggie White says a knee injury won't sideline him, but the Packers are preparing Matt LaBounty just in case."²

On the Tuesday before the game, these two headlines appeared in the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Why then did the Bears make such a big issue about Favre and White playing?

Though Chicago scored on its opening drive, Favre had one of his greatest games. With his ankle taped so tight "that it would essentially be a cast,"³ He threw for five touchdowns (25-33-336-5-0) while Reggie White's inspirational play solidified the defense with a deflected pass, a shared sack, and constant pressure. Favre was unstoppable with three first-half touchdown passes – one each to Robert Brooks, Edgar Bennett and Dorsey Levens. Quarterback Erik Kramer threw two for the Bears, and the first-half closed 21-21.

Rashaan Salaam's second touchdown run put Chicago back in front 28-21. Near the end of the third quarter and early in the fourth, Favre struck again. The first was a 44-yard bomb to Brooks, and the second was a 16-yard pass to Bennett with three minutes left.

The defense stopped Kramer and the Bears on the 14-yard line with 11 seconds to play. They forced three incompletions, and Kramer's last pass was thrown "with White draped around his ankles."⁴

Chicago	7	14	7	0	28
Green Bay	14	7	7	7	35

Attendance: 59,996

Total Yards: GB 356 CHI 444

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/95, p. 1
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/95, p. 1
- 3 Game of my Life, Carlson, p. 71
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/95, Havel, p. 1



1919-2019

PACKERS
CLEVELAND
BROWNS

31
20

11.19.1995

On November 6, 1995, Cleveland owner Art Modell announced his attention to move his team to Baltimore for the 1996 season. The Browns lost their next two games on the road. Their first home game after the announcement came against the Packers. Only 55,388 fans showed up compared to 69,268 that attended the last Packers-Browns game played in 1992.

Cleveland suffered its third straight loss as quarterback Brett Favre had another excellent game. The "Gunslinger" threw three touchdown passes in the first half, and he ran for another score in the fourth quarter. He completed 23 of 28 passes for 219 yards without an interception. Green Bay had a 24-6 lead in the fourth quarter before Vinnie Testaverde threw two touchdown passes to Michael Jackson to make the final score respectable.

Green Bay	7	14	3	7	31
Cleveland	3	0	0	14	17
Attendance:	55,388				



TAMPA BAY

BUCANEERS

13

PACKERS

35

11.26.1995

The Buccaneers got buried in the cold. A game-time temperature of 35 degrees and three inches of snow overnight made it a challenging game for Tampa Bay.

Brett Favre threw three more touchdown passes without an interception. In the first half, Mark Ingram and Robert Brooks caught the touchdowns. Dorsey Levens ran for the first of his two touchdown runs, and the Packers had the edge at halftime 21 10.

In the second half, Levens added a second one-yard touchdown run, and Favre escaped from a pass rush to find Brooks again for a three-yard score midway through the fourth quarter to put it away. The defense held the Bucs to 42 yards rushing and their rushing leader, Errict Rhett, to minus 1 yard! Without a ground game, quarterback Trent Dilfer was forced to throw 50 times for 312 yards. Dilfer did not throw a touchdown pass, and he was sacked four times.

After the game, Tampa Bay coach Sam Wyche had high praise for Favre. "I couldn't have more respect for any quarterback playing the game than Brett Favre. I think he's on top of his game."¹ Since leaving the game against the Vikings with an ankle injury three weeks ago, Favre has thrown 11 touchdown passes without an interception!

Tampa Bay	0	10	3	0	13
Green Bay	7	14	7	7	35
Attendance:	59,218				

*"Excellent game. Robert Brooks is better than Sterling Sharpe because he does participate with the fans."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/95, Dougherty p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/95, Walter p. 18



CINCINNATI
BENGALS
PACKERS

10
24

12.3.1995

9-4

Brett Favre led the Packers into sole possession of first place in the NFC Central! He threw three more touchdown passes and for 339 yards overall. Cincinnati led 10-3 when Favre's first touchdown pass to Mark Ingram tied it six seconds before intermission. He threw two more in the second half to Edgar Bennett and Mark Chmura.

The defense clamped down on the Bengals in the second half. For the game, they ran for just 31 yards. Quarterback Jeff Blake was intercepted twice and sacked three times. Reggie White was credited with 1.5 sacks before injuring his left hamstring with six minutes left in the game. On the play White was hurt, LeRoy Butler intercepted a pass in the end zone to end Cincinnati's last scoring threat.

Cincinnati	0	10	0	0	10
Green Bay	3	7	7	7	24

Attendance: 60,318

Favre became the third-fastest QB in history to reach 100 TD passes.



1919-2019

PACKERS

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS

10

12.10.1995

13 (OT)

In the Battle of the Bays, Green Bay was upset by the red-hot Buccaneers 6-7), who won their sixth straight game.

The Packers failed to clinch the division title, and Reggie White missed the first game of his 11-year career. Green Bay ran the ball for just 61 yards, and quarterback Brett Favre had a modest game by recent standards (27-46-285-1-1).

The Packers produced just three points on its first six drives. Tampa Bay took a 7-3 lead in the third quarter on a three-yard run by rookie running back Jerry Ellison. In the fourth quarter, with five minutes left, Keith Jackson's first touchdown catch as a Green Bay Packer made it 10-7. Tampa tied it on a 38-yard field goal by Michael Husted. With five seconds left in regulation time, Chris Jacke missed a 45-yard field goal, and the overtime went to the Bucs on Husted's 47-yard boot.

Green Bay	0	3	0	7	0	10
Tampa Bay	0	0	7	3	3	13
Attendance:	67,557					

Kevin Matzke, Packers fan: "The game was right before Christmas. The hotel we were staying in was hosting this big corporate Pepsi dinner, all black-tie. All the Packer fans were staying in the same hotel. They saw this big party going on where no one was dancing or partying. Finally, the Packer fans started going out on the dance floor, and before you knew it, there were 50 or so Packer fans out there all decked out in green and gold, and all the people in tuxedos sitting around watching. They let it go for about an hour or so, then finally they came on the microphone and said, "OK, Packers fans, it's time to go!"¹

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, p. 106



1919-2019

PACKERS

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS

34

12.16.1995

23

Reggie White returned, and Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes. Favre's touchdowns went to Anthony Morgan, Robert Brooks (2), and rookie Antonio Freeman, and the Packers clinched a playoff berth! Green Bay sprinted out to a 28-7 lead in the first half before the offense stalled after halftime. The rest of the way, the Packers managed just two Chris field goals.

Edgar Bennett ran for 80 yards, which made him the first Packers running back since 1978 to gain more than 1,000 yards! He also caught three passes for another 70. Reggie White's presence inspired the defense, and they held the Saints to 55 yards rushing. Defensive Coordinator Fritz Shurmur had this to say about White's performance, "I'm never going to write him off. He was magnificent and a boon to our team."¹

Green Bay	14	14	6	0	34
New Orleans	7	7	0	9	23

Attendance: 50,132

GB snapped it's 10 game losing streak on artificial turf!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/95, Dougherty, p. 26



PITTSBURGH

STEELERS

PACKERS

19

24

12.24.1995

Green Bay clinched the Central Division title, thanks to a near miracle at the end of the game. The best regular season in decades came to a close with a victory thanks to a dropped pass by Yancey Thigpen in the end zone!

After a quiet first quarter, Green Bay broke the ice with Edgar Bennett's nine-yard touchdown run. They led the entire game behind Brett Favre, who was nearly flawless (23-32-301-2-0). Edgar Bennett ran for a nine-yard touchdown, and Favre connected with Robert Brooks for a 14-10 halftime lead.

Mark Chmura's touchdown catch from Favre made it 21-10 with just five minutes gone in the new half. On their next series, Favre was pulverized by a hit from unblocked Steelers linebacker Kevin Greene. Favre "stood up, then went to a knee and began spitting up blood."¹ He left the game, but only for the rest of the series, and the Packers settled for a field goal.

After trading field goals, Tim Lester scored on the ground to bring the Steelers to within five, 24-19. With five minutes remaining, Pittsburgh took possession and drove 75 yards to the Green Bay's five. On the fourth-and-goal from the five, O'Donnell threw to a wide-open Thigpen for a sure touchdown. But the football was bobbled, and it bounced off Thigpen's knee incomplete! The Packers crowd erupted in shock, disbelief, and finally ecstasy! Green Bay had finally clinched a division championship for the first time since 1972, and Thigpen could only say, "Merry Christmas, Green Bay"² and to all a good night!

Pittsburgh	0	10	3	6	19
Green Bay	0	14	7	3	24
Attendance:	60,649				

"Sometimes they (the fans) don't realize how important they are to

us,” was Favre’s comment after the game.

1 Game of my Life, Carlson, p. 74

2 Game of my Life, Carlson, p. 72

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/96, Walter, p. 1

NFC Wild Card Game



1919-2019

ATLANTA

FALCONS

20

PACKERS

37

12.31.1995

The favored Packers easily disposed of the Falcons with an overwhelming first half. Green Bay stopped Atlanta's "run-and-shoot" offense by applying the brakes to their running game. Fullback Craig "Iron Head" Hayward – picked up just 21 yards on the ground on nine carries. Falcons' quarterback Jeff George threw 54 times for 366 yards including two touchdowns and two interceptions. Brett Favre outplayed George with three touchdown passes without a pick.

Atlanta struck first on their opening drive with a 65-yard bomb from George to Eric Metcalf with just three minutes gone in the game. The Packers came right back on their first drive to tie it, and later in the quarter, Favre and Robert Brooks connected for a 14-7 lead that they never relinquished. By halftime, Antonio Freeman's 76-yard punt return and Favre's second touchdown pass made it 27-10 Packers.

Edgar Bennett sparkled in the backfield again with 108 yards and one touchdown. Robert Brooks led receivers with seven catches for 73 yards and a score. In the fourth quarter, the teams traded a touchdowns and field goal, and the Packers won going away.

Atlanta	7	3	10	0	20
Green Bay	14	13	0	10	37

Attendance: 60,453

Total Yards: GB 307 ATL 360

From Darrin White who grew up in Ontonagon, Michigan, and lives in Green Bay... 'Hell, the first word I ever heard in my life was 'Packers'.'¹

*"I just want to tell the players and coaches; God Bless You. Our hearts and prayers will be with you next year, and thanks for some wonderful football."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/96, Walter, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/96, Walter, p. 2



NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS

27

1.6.1996

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

17

This was Green Bay's breakthrough game. The win over the defending Super Bowl Champions put the Packers in the NFC Championship Game for the first time! They came up huge on the road for their biggest postseason win in 20+ seasons. They did it convincingly as Favre was brilliant (21-28-299-2-0), and the defense set the tone early.

Green Bay's first drive ended on a blocked field goal. On San Francisco's first play from scrimmage, Adam Walker caught a short swing pass out of the backfield. Green Bay linebacker Wayne Simmons delivered a crushing tackle that forced a fumble. Cornerback Craig Newsome scooped up the ball and returned it 31 yards for a 7-0 lead. A statement was made, and the Packers never looked back!

Quarterback Brett Favre completed 15 of his first 17 passes to take command. By halftime, he threw touchdowns to Keith Jackson and to Mark Chmura to take 21-3 lead. On defense, Reggie White "played like a man who never heard of a (left) hamstring tear."¹ He hit quarterback Steve Young a few times and helped the defense shut down the NFL's top-scoring team. Green Bay's secondary was under attack all game from Young who threw a playoff record 65 passes, but did not throw a touchdown!

After Steve Young scored on the ground in the third quarter, two Chris Jacke field goals made it 27-10 with seven minutes left. San Francisco's second touchdown came with 50 seconds remaining, and Craig Newsome's interception with nine seconds left clinched a date in the NFC Championship Game!

Though the Packers managed only two Chris Jacke field goals in the final 30 minutes, they were in control from start to finish.

After the game, Holmgren called it "my biggest win."² The 8,000 fans who mobbed the team at Austin Straubel Field agreed.

Green Bay	14	7	3	3	27
San Francisco	0	3	7	7	17

Attendance: 69,311

This was the only road win by an a NFC team in the divisional playoffs from 1990-99.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/96, Langenkamp, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/96, Walter, p. 21



NFC Championship Game

PACKERS

27

DALLAS

1.14.1996

COWBOYS

38

“Leah Baxter, who couldn’t find a cheesehead in Green Bay bought a giant foam Cowboy hat at the Stockyards in Forth Worth, and carved holes in it. She wore it to Texas Stadium, and before the game strolled down to the front row to watch the teams warm-up. Someone offered her \$50 for the hat. Leah turned it down.”¹

“There were also Texans that wore blue Cowboy hats and cheered for the Packers. And they nicknamed themselves The Blue Cheeseheads.”²

The Packers tried to excise their Dallas demons and move on to Super Bowl XXX. They led 27-24 early in the fourth quarter, but it was not to be.

The Cowboys had no trouble moving the ball, and they rolled over the Packers for 419 yards. In the first quarter, two quick Troy Aikman to Mickael Irvin touchdown passes made it 14-3 Dallas. Favre kept the game close, with two touchdown passes of his own in the second quarter. A 73-yard bomb to Robert Brooks and a 24-yard toss to tight end Keith Jackson matched Aikman. With 14 seconds left in the half, and the score knotted at 17, Emmitt Smith’s nine-yard touchdown run gave the Cowboys the edge 24-17.

The Packers came back strong in the second half. Chris Jacke’s field goal and Favre’s second touchdown pass to Brooks gave Green Bay a 27-24 lead in the fourth quarter. The final 15 minutes though, were all Dallas. After Green Bay pulled in front, quarterback Troy Aikman led a 90-yard touchdown drive that Smith topped off with a five-yard run to retake the lead 31-27. A few minutes later, an interception by cornerback Larry Brown led to Smith’s third touchdown and a Super Bowl for Dallas.

Green Bay Assistant coach Gil Haskell, who suffered a fractured skull and a brain bruise when he was inadvertently run over on the sidelines by Robert Brooks, remained in intensive care after the game at Baylor University Medical Center. Haskell fully recovered.

"On the flight home, White, Butler, Favre, and safety Mike Prior found themselves together at the rear of the plane, discussing what went wrong. Next year, White said, we're winning the Super Bowl. Favre's mood changed from despondent to hopeful. Hell, yes, he said. Hell, yes."³

Green Bay	10	7	10	0	27
Dallas	14	10	0	14	38
Attendance: 65,135					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/96, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/96, p. 2

3 Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 199



1919-2019

1994 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	11	5	0
Detroit	10	6	0
Chicago	9	7	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Tampa Bay	7	9	0

Team Leaders

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Brooks
Rushing	Bennett
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Butler
Sacks	White

All-Pro

Brooks	Wide Receiver
Chmura	Tight End
Favre	Quarterback
White	Defensive End

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Craig Newsome (1, CB)
Darius Holland (3a, DT)
William Henderson (3b, FB)
Brian Williams (3c, LB)
Antonio Freeman (3d, WR)
Travis Jervey (5b, RB)
Adam Timmerman (7, G)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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