



1987



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1987

Record: 5-9-1 (3rd Place)

Coach: Forrest Gregg

- Tom Braatz was hired as an executive vice-president of football operations. He would handle the draft, and work with Forrest Gregg on trades and player acquisition.
- A second players' strike short-circuited the season. The players walked out after two games. The owners signed replacement players, and for three weeks in October, the games went on!
- When the strike was settled and play resumed for Green Bay on October 25, the defense played better than the offense the entire season.
- Cornerback Mossy Cade went to prison for sexual assault, and defensive end Charles Martin was waived after a bar fight.
- In 1987, the Packers reported a profit of over \$3 million.
- Forrest Gregg resigned in January to take the head coaching job at his alma mater SMU.



LOS ANGELES
RAIDERS
PACKERS

20
0 **9.13.1987**

Since 1970, the Packers have won just three home openers. In this one, "we were inept,"¹ said, coach Forrest Gregg. The feeble offense generated only 147 yards, and they committed 12 penalties. Quarterback Randy Wright threw three picks, and two of them led directly to Raider touchdowns. Wright was eventually replaced in the fourth quarter by rookie Don Majkowski.

Marcus Allen of L. A. ran for 136 yards and one touchdown. In the second half, a pick-six of Randy Wright by Vann McElroy made it 14-0. Chris Bahr's two field goals then put it beyond reach.

The Raiders dominated on the ground 193-66, and they also handed Green Bay its first shut out since 1978.

Los Angeles	0	7	7	6	20
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance:	54,983				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/87, Langenkamp, p. 2



DENVER
BRONCOS
PACKERS

17 9.20.1987
17(OT)

New Quarterback

This was the last game before another players' strike. Rookie quarterback Don Majkowski started his first game for Green Bay. He spent most of the day throwing out of the mud, and he had an inconsistent debut (10-21-121-1-0).

Green Bay's first touchdown came after a Denver fumble. They scored again after an interception by linebacker John Anderson. It set up Majkowski's first career touchdown pass to Paul Ott Carruth for a 14-0 lead.

Trailing 14-3 in the second half, Denver rallied back behind quarterback John Elway. They opened with a quick 71-yard drive that made 14-10 in less than three minutes. Al Del Greco's 32-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, put the lead back to seven.

With six minutes left, Elway engineered an 18-play drive that overcame four third-down plays before tying it. In the overtime, the game stayed 17-17 as both teams turned the ball over once and missed a field goal.

Denver	0	3	7	7	0	17
Green Bay	7	7	0	3	0	17

Attendance: 50,624

Milwaukee County Stadium

Fan of the Broncos did not to not worry cheering for their team at Lambeau. Packer fan, Steve Boettcher, reminds us of something John Maden once said about Green Bay. "Even though you are

competitors, there's a kind of graciousness that the people in Green Bay extend to other fans. It's more fun-loving banter, as opposed to mean-spirited viciousness – worried about your life kind of thing when you go somewhere else.”¹

1 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 212



1987 NFL Players' Strike

Games were played with "Replacement
Players" from 9/22 – 10/24

Teams recruited replacement players. The "Replacement Packers" played three games, and the results counted in the standings.

10/4 @ Minnesota Vikings W 23-16

For the first time in NFL history, each franchise had a "B" Team to replace their "A" Team that went on strike. The Replacement Packers won two of three games. The first game against the Vikings "B" Team was witnessed by 13,911 fans. Alan Risher, Green Bay's replacement quarterback, threw one touchdown and ran for another.

10/11 Detroit Lions L 19-16 (OT)

Thirty-five thousand fans showed up at Lambeau Field. The regular players milled around outside the stadium encouraging fans not to attend. Quarterback Alan Risher was sacked seven times, and Green Bay committed 11 penalties. Mike Prindle's field goal won it for the Lions.

10/18 Philadelphia Eagles W 16-10 (OT)

The players knew it was the last game, and it took over four hours to complete. There were nine turnovers and 18 penalties! Alan Risher threw another touchdown pass the Packers came back in the second half to win.



1919-2018

PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

34

10.25.1987

33

Nice Return

The Packers held voluntary workouts during the strike, and they looked sharper than Detroit's at the outset. They grabbed a 21-0 lead in the first nine minutes, and the highlight came on Don Majkowski's 70-yard touchdown bomb to Walter Stanley.

The rusty Lions fell behind 31-7 before getting in gear. Quarterback Chuck Long threw for 362 yards and two touchdowns, and he was happy that the Lions came back. "It was certainly a gut check for us. But, we answered the challenge, and came back."¹ From the middle to the second quarter until there was 3:02 left in the game, the Lions crept back with 26 unanswered points to overtake the Packers 33-31.

After the two-minute warning, the Packers marched to Detroit's 28-yard line. Al Del Greco's 45-yard boot won it with a minute left, but only after Eddie Murray's 45-yard try went wide.

Green Bay 21 10 0 3 34

Detroit 0 16 3 14 33

Attendance: 27,278

Detroit ran for 17 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/87, p. 19



TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS
PACKERS

23
17

11.1.1987

Comeback Falls Short

In a defensive struggle, Tampa Bay had a 3-0 lead at halftime thanks to Don Majkowski's first fumble on Tampa's one-yard line. In the second half, the Bucs started fast with an 84-yard touchdown drive on their first possession. Three plays after their touchdown, a second fumble by Majkowski gave the ball back on Green Bay's 10-yard line. Quarterback Steve DeBerg touchdown pass to Gerald Carter made it 17-0 lead.

Randy Wright replaced Don Majkowski at quarterback, and he rallied Green Bay. After Al Del Greco's field goal got the ball rolling, two rookies stepped up. Frankie Neal caught a touchdown pass from Randy Wright, and after the Packers got the ball back, Brent Fullwood scored with 3:51 left to cut the lead to six, 23-17. But the Packers never got the ball back, and halfway through the season, they stood at 3-3-1.

Tampa Bay 0 3 17 3 23

Green Bay 0 0 3 14 17

Attendance: 50,308

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB had 13 penalties.



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

26
24 11.8.1987

Butler Wins It

There were 23 penalties for 193 yards in this brutal meeting – Green Bay was flagged 16 times for 125 yards.

The Bears took an early lead 7-0 before Randy Wright got going and threw touchdown passes to Ed West and Phillip Epps. Brent Fullwood's touchdown gave them a shocking 21-13 lead at the break.

The third quarter was scoreless. In the fourth, Walter Payton's touchdown run and Kevin Butler's field goal gave the lead back to the Bears 23-21. Al Del Greco's 47-yarder into the wind to put the Pack back on top with a minute left! But after two long completions by quarterback Jim McMahon, Kevin Butler kicked field goal #4 from the 52-yard line to win it.

Chicago	7	6	0	13	26
Green Bay	14	7	0	3	24

Attendance: 53,320

Johnny Morris, a former Bears receiver and now an analyst with CBS-TV, was barred from watching Green Bay's practices during the week as he prepared for this telecast. The Packers were convinced he would share information with his former team.



PACKERS
SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS

13
11.15.1987
24

Other than a field goal, all of the points were scored in the first half. After a Packer field goal, Curt Warner’s 57-yard sprint gave Seattle a 7-3 lead. Quarterback Randy Wright came right back with a 47-yard touchdown pass to rookie Keith Paskett for a 10-7 lead. After this touchdown, Wright hurt his ankle, and the Packers managed only a field goal the rest of the way.

Seattle scored twice more in the final 2:08 of the first half. They took the lead 14-13 when they blocked a Don Bracken punt that was returned for a touchdown by Eugene Robinson. “Evidently, somebody relaxed or made the wrong decision. The blocked punt was the big play of the game,”¹ Forrest Gregg said after the game. Moments later, Randy Wright fumbled, and the Seahawks recovered inside Green Bay’s 20. From the eight-yard line, quarterback Dave Krieg scrambled into the end zone to finish an action-packed first half.

Wright’s ankle injury kept him on the bench in the second half. Rookie Don Majkowski (4-16-80-0-1) fared poorly replacing him. After the game, “Gregg, asked if he planned to sign Chuck Fusina or Alan Risher as his No. 3 quarterback: How ‘bout Johnny Unitas?”²

Green Bay	3	10	0	0	13
Seattle	0	21	3	0	24

Attendance: 60,963

Both teams had 5 turnovers.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/87, McGinn, p. 25

² Green bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/87, McGinn, p. 26



PACKERS
KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS

23

11.22.1987

3

Dan Majkowski started in place of injured Randy Wright, and the 4-5-1 Packers beat the 1-8-0 Chiefs.

Majkowski completed just two passes in the first half. Though Green Bay led 7-0 at halftime, Randy Wright came off the bench to start the second half. Wright delivered two touchdown strikes to Frankie Neal within a minute of one another. The first was a great one-handed catch, and the second came moments later when K. C. fumbled the ensuing kickoff. The Packers took over 20-3.

Green Bay's defense dominated the Chiefs. They had five sacks, forced three turnovers, and gave up only 201 total yards.

Green Bay	7	0	13	3	23
Kansas City	0	0	3	0	3

Attendance: 34,611

GB held KC to 201 total yards.



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

10
11.29.1987
23

This was the last rivalry game for the great Walter Payton and Green Bay coach Forrest Gregg. Touchdowns by Brent Fullwood of the Packers and Neal Anderson of the Bears led the way in a 10-10 first half. Chicago’s defense asserted control in the second half with a blocked field goal attempt by Max Zendejas. The Bears capitalized with a 27-yard field goal by Kevin Butler.

Later in the quarter, Maurice Douglass intercepted a Randy Wright pass at midfield. A personal foul by linebacker John Anderson helped to keep the drive alive, and halfback Thomas Sanders ran it in from the seven for 20-10 lead. Kevin Butler’s third field goal of the game, this one from the 52, put it away.

Seventeen penalties marred this contest. Ten were called on Green Bay for 88 yards. Both teams pointed the finger at each other for dirty play and, “the two coaches, Gregg and Ditka, gave a quick wave to each other from across the field in lieu of a post-game handshake.”¹

Green Bay	7	3	0	0	10
Chicago	0	10	3	10	23
Attendance:	61,638				

Packer Wives Fashion Show for Muscular Dystrophy - “Last fall, the Packer wives held their 10th annual fashion show to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. They raised \$12,000. Last week the wives held their 11th – and maybe last – annual show and grossed \$4,000 to \$5,000. What happened? It’s believed there were many factors contributing to the show’s decline.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/87, p. 21
² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/87, Schulz, p. 15



SAN FRANCISCO
49ers
PACKERS

23 12.6.1987
12

All Joe!

Quarterback Joe Montana started out on fire completing his first 17 passes. He controlled the game from start to finish with two touchdown passes and a touchdown run.

Montana's touchdown pass to fullback Tom Rathman started the scoring. In the second quarter, Montana stretched it to 13-0 on a 10-yard scamper to the end zone through the middle of Green Bay's defense. In the first half alone, San Francisco put up 302 yards.

Trailing 16-6 in the third quarter, cornerback Dave Brown picked-off a Montana pass. Four plays later, Paul Ott Carruth's touchdown cut the lead to four 16-12. From there, Randy Wright threw two interceptions, and Walter Stanley fumbled a punt. The fumble led to Montana's 57-yard touchdown strike to Jerry Rice with 7:32 left. Case closed.

San Francisco	7	9	0	7	23
Green Bay	0	6	6	0	12

Attendance: 51,118



MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

10 12.13.1987
16

Last win for Gregg

A fine defensive performance by Green Bay slowed down the postseason bound Vikings.

Minnesota started the scoring in the first quarter on a Tommy Kramer to Anthony Carter touchdown pass. The Packers came right back with a 73-yard drive that Paul Ott Carruth finished with a one-yard dive into the end zone.

After intermission, Minnesota's Darrin Nelson fumbled for the second time. Max Zendejas followed with a 47-yard field goal followed. With nine minutes left, the Vikings tied it 10-10 on Chuck Nelson's field goal. The game went to Green Bay when Ed West and Kenneth Davis led a drive downfield with six minutes remaining. A big catch by West went for 33 yards, and Davis picked up the next 27. He scored on the ground from the seven-yard line to win it with 1:14 left!

Minnesota	7	0	0	3	10
Green Bay	0	7	3	6	16

Attendance: 47,059

Milwaukee County Stadium



PACKERS
NEW YORK
GIANTS

10
12.19.1987
20

On national television, Green Bay’s slim postseason hopes went out the window. Quarterback Phil Simms had a great day for New York completing 21 of 26 passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns. Randy Wright struggled for the Packers throwing for only 131 yards and one interception.

The Giants took the lead early, and the Packers didn’t get on the board until the second half. Simms threw touchdowns to Lee Rousen and Zeke Mowatt. Green Bay’s only touchdown came when Walter Stanley’s 48-yard punt return put the ball at the Giants’ seven. Paul Ott Carruth took a handoff and flipped a short touchdown pass to Jessie Clark to make it 20-10 with 2:32 left. New York ran out the clock.

New York’s defense held Green Bay to 179 total yards, and Forrest Gregg summed it up accurately. “We looked really bad. Let’s face it. The way we played today we’re not a playoff team.”¹

Green Bay	0	0	3	7	10
New York	0	13	7	0	20

Attendance: 51,013
GB ran for 74 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/87, p. 1



1919-2018

PACKERS

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS

24

12.27.1987

33

Don Majkowski started at quarterback and played well. In the first quarter, he threw two touchdown passes to Walter Stanley for a 14-3 lead. Four field goals by Morten Andersen kept the 11-3 Saints close, but they trailed at halftime 17-12.

In the second half, New Orleans scored three touchdowns to pull away. Majkowski's third touchdown pass put the Packers back on top momentarily, but it wasn't enough. The loss brought to an end "perhaps, the most forgettable year in Packers history."¹

Green Bay	14	3	7	0	24
New Orleans	9	3	14	7	33

Attendance: 68,364

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¹ The Packers Experience, Freedman. P. 165



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2018

1987 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	11	4	0
Minnesota	8	7	0
Green Bay	5	9	1
Tampa Bay	4	11	0
Detroit	4	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Wright
Rushing	K. Davis
Receiving	Stanley
Scoring	Zendejas
Interceptions	Morris/Brown tied at 3
Sacks	Harris

ALL-PRO

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Brent Fullwood (1, RB)
Johnny Holland (2b, LB)
Scott Stephen (3b, LB)
Don Majkowski (10, QB)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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