



**2014**



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY**

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**P R O J E C T**

*ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.*

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**1919-2019**

BY JIM RICE

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



## 2014

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**Record: 12-4-0 (1st – NFC North Champions)**

**Coach: Mike McCarthy**

- The Bob Harlan Plaza in front of Lambeau Field was rededicated, and a new Pro Shop opened.
- At the July Shareholder's Meeting, a profit of 25.3 million was announced for fiscal 2013-14.
- After three games, Rodgers delivered his RELAX message to fans. As the season progressed, the team got stronger.
- The Packers were one of only four teams that won 12 games. Offensively, Rodgers had his second MVP season. He threw 38 touchdown passes, five interceptions, and for 4,381 yards.
- The offense was #1 in points scored. A new 4-3 defense was not as stout against the run, especially early in the season.
- Ted Thompson & Mike McCarthy signed contract extensions.
- The Packers made the postseason for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight season. They defeated Dallas and then lost to Seattle in the NFC Championship Game.



**PACKERS**  
SEATTLE  
**SEAHAWKS**

**16**  
**9.4.2014**  
**36**

The defending Super Bowl Champions raised the championship flag, and then pounded the Packers. They sacked Aaron Rodgers three times and, offensively, they ran all over Green Bay. "Without Ryan Pickett, B. J. Raji, and Johnny Jolly, the Packers' run defense conceded 210 yards."<sup>1</sup>

In the first half, fullbacks John Kuhn and Marshawn Lynch ran for touchdowns. Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson also tossed a 33-yard touchdown to Ricardo Lockette. At halftime, the Seahawks led 17-10, and it didn't get better for the Packers.

As expected, Seattle's defense was disruptive. Rodgers' first pass of the second half was intercepted and returned to the Green Bay eight. The defense held for a field goal. When the defense stopped Seattle again, the Packers got the ball back on their 10-yard line. A fumble by Rodgers was recovered in the end zone by tackle Derek Sherrod for a safety.

Five seconds into the fourth quarter, Marshawn Lynch scored his second touchdown and Seattle led 29-10. Both squads scored in the final 15 minutes, and the Seahawks won going away.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>

**Attendance: 68,424**

*Total Yards: GB 255 SEA 398*

*"If you noticed lot of fans taking selfies in Packers jerseys, it was part of the Back to Football Campaign."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/14, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/14, Frank, p. C4



NEW YORK

**JETS**

**PACKERS**

**24** 9.14.2014  
**31**

This was an exciting home opener with 37 first-half points. The Jets started quickly, and second-year quarterback Geno Smith looked sharp in the early going.

The Jets scored 21 of the game's first 24 points. A fumbled snap by Rodgers on Green Bay's first play set up Geno Smith's touchdown run. A short time later, Smith threw a 29-yard strike to Eric Decker. Chris Ivory also scored on the ground.

Green Bay's offense got going with three field goals by Mason Crosby. Trailing 21-9, Tramon Williams' interception began to turn the tide. Aaron Rodgers and Randall Cobb connected for a touchdown with 0:08 left in the half. Cobb and Rodgers hooked up again early in the third quarter, and a two-point conversion put them in front 24-21. After a Jets field goal tied it, Rodgers tossed his third touchdown pass of the game to Jordy Nelson. The 80-yard strike came with 2:08 remaining in the third quarter, and the Packers overcame their slow start to win the opener.

<b>New York</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>

**Attendance: 78,041**

*Rodgers was sacked four times.*

*Titletown Brewing: "Rebranding and logo changes are not something companies do lightly. Titletown Brewing Company which was founded as a brew pub, is now adding bottling to its business, thus the need to rebrand."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/14, Ryman, p. C6



**PACKERS**  
DETROIT  
**LIONS**

**7**  
**9.21.2014**  
**19**

At 1-1, the Packers hoped to find the going a bit easier against the Lions. Not so, and Packer fans were alarmed.

Neither Aaron Rodgers or Matthew Stafford had great games. Detroit's defense contained Rodgers (16-27-162-1-0) and it grabbed the early lead on a fumble by Eddie Lacy that Don Carey returned 40 yards for six. After Rodgers tied it with a 10-yard pass to Andrew Quarless, the Lions took away the momentum with a safety and a field goal for a 12-7 lead at the half.

Detroit's defense squelched Green Bay's offense all game. They held Rodgers to 162 yards passing and the Packers to 238 yards overall. In the fourth quarter, Detroit sealed the deal on Reggie Bush's 26-yard romp around left end for six with 10:40 remaining.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>

**Attendance: 62,418**

*"A few Green Bay Packer players used part of their day off to give back to the community. The players joined volunteers from Humana to help build a playground at Sand Hill Park in DePere."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/14, p. A3



**PACKERS**

CHICAGO

**BEARS**

**38**

**17**

**9.28.2014**

## **Back in gear**

With a 1-2 start that included a loss to the Lions, Packer fans were panicking. On his Tuesday radio show on ESPN Milwaukee, Rodgers had this message for fans: "R-E-L-A-X."<sup>1</sup> Indeed!

For the second time in NFL history, neither team punted in the game. Using the no-huddle offense to drive the passing game, the Packer offense enjoyed its first breakout game of 2014 and the defense also rose to the occasion.

Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes and Jay Cutler threw two. Chicago's scoring started with on a 15-play opening drive and Jay Cutler's touchdown to Brandon Marshall. The Packers came back in six plays with a touchdown by Eddie Lacy. On their next two possessions, the Bears settled for a field goal, and Green Bay moved in front on a Rodgers to Jordy Nelson touchdown.

The final four minutes of the half were non-stop. The teams traded touchdowns on catches by Alshon Jeffery and Randall Cobb. The Bears had another opportunity to score in the final seconds, but Micah Hyde stopped Martellus Bennett just short of the end zone, and the Packers went to the locker room leading 21-17.

After Mason Crosby's field goal, the turning point came late in the third quarter. Jay Cutler was intercepted by Clay Matthews who returned the theft to Chicago's 35. Rodgers threw another touchdown to Nelson for a 31-17 advantage. After Sam Shields intercepted Cutler on Chicago's next series, Rodgers threw his fourth touchdown of the game to Cobb to finish off Chicago. Rodgers went 22-28-302-4-0 while Nelson and Cobb combined for 17 catches for 221 yards and four touchdowns.

Rodgers and the Packers came through. Fans could begin to relax and as Rodgers explained, "It sure is nice when people start doubting us to go out and have a performance like this."<sup>2</sup>

**Green Bay 7 14 10 7 38**

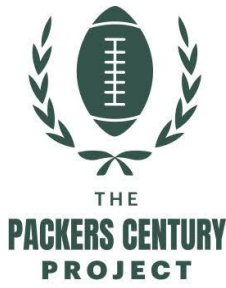
**Chicago 7 10 0 0 17**

**Attendance: 61,736**

*Rodgers' 151.2 QBR was GB's 4<sup>th</sup> highest all-time.*

1 ESPN Milwaukee, Tuesdays with Aaron, 9/23/14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/14, Hodkiewicz, p. A2



1919-2019

MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**  
**PACKERS**

**10** 10.2.2014  
**42**

The Packers completed a 2-1 swing through the NFC North, and fans anxiety diminished.

Minnesota didn't score until the fourth quarter with the Packers in front 42-0. Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers, and Eddie Lacy led a strong ground game (156 yards) with two touchdowns and 110 yards. The defense sacked Minnesota quarterback Christian Ponder six times and stole two passes. The interceptions came on back-to-back drives. A pick-six by Julius Peppers delivered the fifth touchdown of his career. Linebacker Jamari Lattimore followed with his first interception which led to rookie Davante Adams' first touchdown!

<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

**Attendance: 78,054**

*Rodgers threw his 200<sup>th</sup> career TD pass to Adams.*





**PACKERS**  
MIAMI  
**DOLPHINS**

**27**  
**10.12.2014**  
**24**

### **Rodgers stays hot!**

The Packers faced one of their former coaches, offensive coordinator, Joe Philbin. Aaron Rodgers, who worked closely with Philbin, worked his magic and defeated his former coach on a hot, steamy day in South Florida.

Rodgers put up another three-touchdown performance. He opened and closed the game with touchdowns to Jordy Nelson and Andrew Quarless. In between, he threw his third to Randall Cobb.

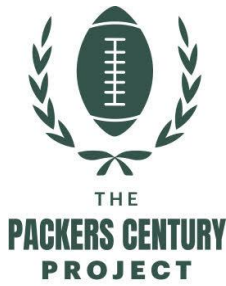
At halftime, the Packers led 10-3. Miami's offense got rolling in the second half with three touchdowns to take the lead. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill threw touchdown passes to Jarvis Landry and Mike Wallace. The touchdown to Landry tied the game at 10, and Wallace's catch gave Miami its first lead with nine minutes left 24-17.

Mason Crosby's field goal narrowed the deficit to four. Strong play by the defense forced a punt, and Green Bay got the ball back on their 40-yard line with 2:04 to play. At Miami's 16-yard line, Rodgers faked a spike of the football and threw a 12-yard completion to Devante Adams! Adams went out of bounds at the four-yard line with three seconds left. The winner came on the next play to tight end Andrew Quarless.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Miami</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>

**Attendance: 70,875**

*Turnovers: GB 0 MIA 3*



1919-2019

CAROLINA  
**PANTHERS**  
**PACKERS**

**17** 10.19.2014  
**38**

### Another thrashing

Aaron Rodgers joined Tom Brady as the only quarterback in NFL history at the time to throw three touchdown passes in four straight games without an interception. He also tied Bart's Starr's team record of six consecutive games without a pick!

"A normal football game lasts 60 minutes. This one was over after 13."<sup>1</sup> After the first quarter, Green Bay led 21-0 and had outgained the Panthers 173-5! By halftime, it was 28-3. Rodgers threw early touchdowns to Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb, while Eddie Lacy and James Starks scored on the ground. Cobb's touchdown was his eighth in seven games!

In the second half, Rodgers threw a 21-yard touchdown to Devante Adams for a 35-3 lead! The defense shut down Cam Newton and held him to one touchdown and 41 yards rushing. Carolina's fourth-quarter touchdowns were meaningless, and the Packers had won four straight and were 5-2.

<b>Carolina</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>

**Attendance: 78,106**

*The Packers Women's Association held it's 28<sup>th</sup> annual food drive around Lambeau Field before Sunday's game."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/14, Fowler, p. A8

<sup>2</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/14, p. A3



**PACKERS**  
NEW ORLEANS  
**SAINTS**

**23**  
**10.26.2014**  
**44**

This was a riveting Sunday night game in New Orleans with two pass-oriented offenses producing 1,019 total yards! Aaron Rodgers threw for 426 while Drew Brees tallied 311.

Green Bay scored first on a 70-yard bomb from Rodgers to Randall Cobb. After the Saints tied it, the teams traded six field goals until halftime when it was tied 16-16.

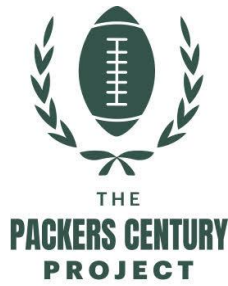
The second half belonged to New Orleans. Brees heated-up and threw three touchdowns by “throwing mostly darts over the middle and mixing in a few deep balls.”<sup>1</sup> The Saints shot in front 37-16, and Rodgers strained a hamstring early in the second half which slowed down Green Bay. The Packers didn’t score again until there were five minutes left in the game. Ironically, they scored on a 14-yard run by Rodgers. Two minutes later, the Saints finished the scoring on Mark Ingram’s touchdown run. Ingram ran for 172 of the team’s 193 yards against a weak run defense.

At the bye week, the 5-3 Packers were one game behind the Lions in the NFC North.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>73,146</b>				

*For the 3<sup>rd</sup> third time in NFL history (see 9/28), neither team punted.*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/14, Oates, p. A4



1919-2019

CHICAGO  
**BEARS**  
**PACKERS**

**14**  
**55**  
11.9.2014

## **Big ouch!**

Though this wasn't the largest margin of victory over their ancient rivals, it certainly was the most stunning. In the first 30 minutes alone, Aaron Rodgers lit up the night sky in Green Bay with six touchdowns to tie an NFL record.

As the Bears invaded Lambeau Field, Green Bay's offense hit its stride. The first half was all Rodgers. He threw six touchdown passes to tie Daryl Lamonica's NFL record set in 1969. Rodgers threw two touchdowns to Jordy Nelson and one each to Brandon Bostick, Andrew Quarless, Eddie Lacy, and Randall Cobb. The longest of the strikes went for 73 yards to Nelson and 56 yards to Lacy.

After one series in the third quarter, Rodgers came out of the game with a stat line that read: 18-27-315-6-0 and a QBR of 156.3. "It's tough to execute like that, but that's what happens when everybody works together and believes in each other,"<sup>1</sup> he said.

The 42 points the Packers scored in the first half were most the Bears had ever given up in their history!

Defensively, in a desperate effort to stop the bleeding against the run, Clay Matthews was moved to inside linebacker. The change worked as Matt Forte was held to 54 yards on 17 carries, and Bears gained just 55 total net yards on the ground. Chicago found the end zone in the third and fourth quarters, and Casey

Hayward's 82-yard pick-six of Cutler finished Green Bay's scoring with 10:41 left in the game!

On Monday, the Chicago Tribune's headline read: "Lambeau Bleep."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Chicago</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>

**Attendance: 78,292**

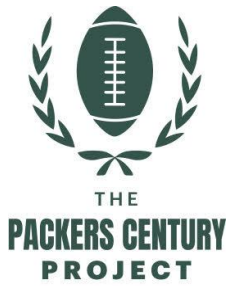
*Rodgers is now 13-1 against Chicago.*

*Friday: "Former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver will host a book signing for his new book, 'Quickie stands up to a Bully' in the Packers' Pro Shop from 2-4pm. The event is free."<sup>3</sup>*

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/10/14, Dunne, p. 6C

2 Chicago Tribune, 11/10/14, p. 1 (Sec. 3)

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/14, p. C3



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA  
**EAGLES**  
**PACKERS**

**20** 11.16.2014  
**53**

The Packers wore throwback jerseys honoring their first championship team in 1929. This undefeated 1929 squad had the second most powerful offense in the league, and they outscored opponents 198-22!

The 2014 team scored 50+ points in back to back games for the first time in franchise history! Aaron Rodgers tossed three more touchdown passes, and Packers jumped out to a 17-0 first quarter lead behind Mason Crosby's field goal, a Rodgers touchdown to Davante Adams, and a 75-yard punt return by Micah Hyde. Rodgers threw a 27-yard touchdown to Jordy Nelson who tipped-toed down the right sideline into the end zone. Eddie Lacy also ran for six for a 30-6 halftime lead.

The second half was academic. The defense stepped up to make it 53-13 on a 52-yard pick-six by Julius Peppers and a 49-yard fumble return for a touchdown by Casey Hayward. Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb set a new Green Bay record with a ninth game of over 200 combined yards in receiving. They surpassed Paul Coffman and James Lofton as well as Donald Driver and Greg Jennings who did it eight times.

<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>

**Attendance: 78,270**

*Only the 5<sup>th</sup> time a team scored 50+ points in consecutive games.*

*A lighted, 50-foot Lombardi Trophy was unveiled at the new American Family Insurance Gate at Lambeau Field.*



**PACKERS**  
MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**

**24**  
**11.23.2014**  
**21**

This third straight win for the Packers was a squeaker at brand new TCF Bank Stadium. Aaron Rodgers and Eddie Lacy starred for Green Bay, and the Vikings fell to 4-7.

Eddie Lacy began the game with a touchdown run and closed it with a touchdown catch. For the afternoon, he ran for 125 yards, even though he wasn't feeling well. With Green Bay leading 7-0, Rodgers and Minnesota quarterback Teddy Bridgewater traded touchdown passes. Green Bay's touchdown came after Bridgewater was picked-off by Micah Hyde. A field goal by Minnesota's Blair Walsh 16 seconds before halftime, cut the lead to 14-10.

After intermission, the Vikings crept to within one, 14-13, on a 51-yarder by Walsh. Mason Crosby then nailed his own 48-yard kick. With eight minutes left in the game, Rodgers took the Packers 87 yards and cashed-in with a 10-yard shovel pass to Lacy for a touchdown. That proved to be enough even after former Packer, Greg Jennings, scored with 3:23 left.

Since the "Relax" statement, the Packers are 7-1! The victory was also McCarthy's 90<sup>th</sup> regular season win as Green Bay's coach, one more than Vince Lombardi.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>

**Attendance: 52,386**

*Rodgers #s to date: TDs 30 INTs 3*



NEW ENGLAND  
**PATRIOTS**  
**PACKERS**

**21**  
**26** 11.30.2014

"A Super Bowl preview, and a big game between heavyweights that lived up to its billing."\* That's how Packer FAN Hall of Fame Member Steve Schumer described the action. This late Sunday afternoon battle was one of the signature wins of the McCarthy Era. It was Rodgers vs. Brady and McCarthy vs. Belichick. The Packers won both!

The Packers held the lead the entire game. They took a 13-0 first-quarter lead on two Mason Crosby field goals and a Richard Rodgers touchdown catch. The second quarter had most of the action. New England scored twice. Tom Brady's second touchdown pass went to Brandon LaFell with 1:09 left in the half. Rodgers struck right back, and with 14 seconds left, he hit Nelson on a slant pattern and he beat Darrelle Revis to the end zone for a 45-yard touchdown. Green Bay led at the break 23-14.

After a quiet start to the second half, Brandon LaFell caught his second touchdown pass from Brady. For Green Bay, after Mason Crosby's fourth field goal with 8:41 left, the defense stood tall. When Green Bay picked up its last first down to run out the clock, "Rodgers wrapped it up on a pinpoint pass to a well-covered Randall Cobb."\*

The Packers outgained New England 478-320 and won the time of possession battle by 13:10. The defense had proved its mettle against the best. The win kept Green Bay undefeated at home, and they moved into first place. Tramon Williams put it in perspective, however, "We've still got quality opponents to play."<sup>1</sup>



<b>New England</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>

**Attendance: 78,431**

*“Well, Lambeau Field has its Christmas Tree. The spruce tree, about 38 feet tall, came from Douglas Vanden Langenberg’s front yard in Green Bay.”<sup>2</sup>*

*Paul Hornung “still creates a stir when he comes to Green Bay. He was recently at Barnes & Noble in Ashwaubenon to sign his new book, The Paul Horning Scrapbook.”<sup>3</sup>*

\* Interview: 2/8/2017

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/14, Wood, p. A4

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/14, Bailey, p. A1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/14, p. A3



ATLANTA  
**FALCONS**  
**PACKERS**

**37**  
**43** 12.8.2014

**MNF!**

This Monday Night win was easier than the final score looked. Green Bay dominated with the first 31 points in a 31-7 first half!

Aaron Rodgers continued his hot streak with three more touchdown passes without an interception. The ground game, behind James Starks and Eddie Lacy, pummeled the Falcons defense for 179 yards. Both backs scored on the ground, and they each caught a touchdown pass. Rodgers threw his third touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to Jordy Nelson for a 40-24 lead.

After their 31-7 lead in the first half, the Green Bay defense lost its edge. Atlanta outscored Green Bay in the second half 30-12. Quarterback Matt Ryan finished with four touchdown passes, and Julio Jones led all receivers with 11 catches for 259 yards. With just over two minutes left, Atlanta had closed to within six when Green Bay's ground game ate up the final two minutes.

<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>

**Attendance: 75,512**

*Total Yards: GB 506 ATL 426*

*Brett Favre returned to Green Bay for the first time since 2010. "Appearing at a fundraising event for Rawhide at Brett Favre's Steakhouse, the future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback received a long and loud standing ovation from the about 200 in attendance."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/14, Woods, p. C1



**PACKERS**

BUFFALO

**BILLS**

**13**

**12.14.2014**

**21**

A huge loss for the Packers that had postseason implications. "We weren't sharp, there's no doubt about it. The passing game, that's not the kind of numbers we're used to producing,"<sup>1</sup> said McCarthy after the game.

While the blame for this shocking upset did not fall solely on Aaron Rodgers, he was responsible for much of it. In one of the poorest performances of his career, Rodgers threw 25 incomplete passes, two interceptions, and he didn't throw a touchdown. His QBR was 35.3.

Buffalo on the other hand played well. After a 10-10 first half, three field goals gave them a 19-10 lead. Dan Carpenter's third field goal (he kicked four) was set up by a second interception of Rodgers by Bacarri Rambo. Mason Crosby's field goal narrowed it to 19-13, and the Packers had one more opportunity with under two minutes left. From their own 10-yard line, Rodgers dropped back to pass and he had the ball stripped from his hands by Mario Williams and Eddie Lacy fell on it in the end zone and all hope ended.

According to Jordy Nelson, "You've got to show up every week, and we didn't show up today."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>

**Attendance: 70,214**

*"The team plans to develop land west of Lambeau Field to provide it with non-football sources of income."<sup>3</sup>*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/14, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/14, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/14, Ryman, p. A6



**PACKERS**

TAMPA BAY

**BUCCANEERS**

**20**

**12.21.2014**

**3**

### **Postseason date**

The Packers clinched a postseason berth with this victory as the defense led the charge. Tampa Bay controlled the ball for only 21 minutes, and they generated six first downs, 109 net yards, and one field goal. Their quarterback Josh McCown was sacked seven times.

Green Bay moved the ball easily for over 400 total yards, and Rodgers completed 31 of his 40 passes for 318 yards and one touchdown. But on the fifth play of the game, that all looked doubtful when Rodgers strained his left calf muscle. But with an o.k. from the medical staff, he continued playing, and McCarthy changed the offense at halftime to limit his movement.

In the first quarter, Eddie Lacy's 44-yard sprint to the end zone started the scoring. In the second and fourth quarters, Mason Crosby kicked two field goals. Rodgers, who was limping during the game, slammed the door closed in the fourth quarter with a one-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson.

**Green Bay    7    3    0    10    20**

**Tampa Bay    0    3    0    0    3**

**Attendance: 64,247**

*"Fans of the 10-4 Green Bay Packers hoping for a decisive victory against the 2-12 Tampa Bay Buccaneers descended on Raymond James Stadium."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/14, p. A



DETROIT  
**LIONS**  
**PACKERS**

**20**  
**30** 12.28.2014

A lot was riding on the season's final game. Just like last year when the Packers and Bears met on the last day of the regular season, the victor would win the NFC North, and the loser would go home for the postseason.

The Packers faced the streaking Lions who were riding a four-game winning streak. It didn't phase Green Bay as they ran out to a quick 14-0 lead. Micah Hyde's 55-yard punt return set up a Rodgers to Cobb touchdown that had the Lions reeling. But the touchdown, with 2:24 left in the half, was costly. As Rodgers threw the pass, he "collapsed as if he had been shot in the back of the leg."<sup>1</sup> He aggravated his left calf injury.

A quiet Lambeau crowd watched Matthew Stafford rally the Lions with two drives and two touchdowns to Calvin Johnson. The first score came with 24 seconds left in the first half. The second, which tied the game tied at 14, came midway through the third quarter.

With the pivotal nature of the game, a muscle injury was not going to keep Rodgers out. "It was kind of on me,"<sup>2</sup> he said about going back into the game. With the ok from the medical staff, he returned after the first series of the third quarter to the deafening roars of the Packer faithful and to the chants of "MVP, MVP, MVP." Playing out of the pistol and shotgun, he engineered a 60-yard drive with Cobb's second touchdown catch stoking the Lambeau crowd. The Packers retook the lead 21-14.

In the fourth quarter, Rodgers scored from the one-yard line, and a safety by Matthew Stafford for intentional grounding in the end zone, made it 30-14 with 2:32 to go.

The Lions lose for the 24<sup>th</sup> straight time in Wisconsin. After the game, fans and teammates marveled at Rodgers' performance. "That's about as gutsy as it gets,"<sup>3</sup> said right tackle Bryan Bulaga. The next day's headline in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel captured what many fans had been thinking. "Rodgers ensures legendary status after he returns hurt, leads team to victory."<sup>4</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>

**Attendance: 78,408**

*At the end of one play, Ndamukong Suh stepped on Aaron Rodgers' left ankle and injured calf.*

- 1 If These Walls Could talk, Larrivee/Reischel, p. 216
- 2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/29/14, Dunne, p. 6B
- 3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/29/14, Dunne, p. 6B
- 4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/29/14, McGinn, p. 5B

## NFC Divisional Playoff



DALLAS

**COWBOYS**

**PACKERS**

**21**

**26**

1.11.2015

### **The Boys return!**

For the first time since the 1967 Ice Bowl, the Packers and the Cowboys meet at Lambeau Field in the postseason.

In more moderate temperatures (24 above), the Packers defeated the Cowboys and moved on to the NFC Championship Game. The battle boiled down to a critical play with four minutes left in the game. A replay overturned a spectacular catch by Dez Byrant on Green Bay's one-yard line. The fourth down reversal gave the Packers the ball on their 32-yard line and they ran out the clock!

In the early going, the teams traded touchdowns in the first quarter. Quarterback Tony Romo threw his second touchdown of the game to Tyler Clutts, and Dallas led at halftime 14-10.

Green Bay's defense was holding up its end of the bargain, and Julius Peppers led the way. He had one sack, two forced two fumbles, six tackles, and he drew a holding penalty. His forced fumble in the third quarter stopped a near certain touchdown by DeMarco Murray, and Green Bay capitalized with a field goal.

Later in the third quarter, when DeMarco Murray's touchdown put Dallas up 21-13, McCarthy became more aggressive offensively. Rather than keeping one or two backs in to protect and run the ball, McCarthy emptied the backfield and spread out the Cowboys.

With Rodgers moving cautiously in and out of the pocket, Green Bay found a rhythm. Two near perfect drives took the game away from the Cowboys. In the first, after a few completions, Rodgers stayed in the pocket and rocketed “a pin-point throw to Davante Adams, who ran 20 yards after the catch to get in the end zone.”<sup>1</sup> With Dallas leading 21-20, Rodgers directed an 80-yard drive and rookie Richard Rodgers caught a 13-yard touchdown. After 13 unanswered points, and the overturned fourth down catch by Dez Bryant, the Packers had a date in Seattle!

<b>Dallas</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Attendance: 79,704</b>					

*Total Yards: GB 454 DAL 357*

*Mason Crosby passed Ryan Longwell as Green Bay's all-time points leader.*

<sup>1</sup> Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/12/15, Silverstein, p. 3



## NFC Championship Game



**PACKERS**

SEATTLE

**SEAHAWKS**

**22**

**1.18.2015**

**28**

It was Green Bay's top scoring offense against Seattle's #1 defense. In the Packers' most crushing loss since 2011, the Seahawks came back from a 19-7 deficit with 5:04 left to win.

Other than Richard Sherman's pick on Green Bay's first drive, the first quarter was all Packers. Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson threw three interceptions and picks by safeties Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix and Morgan Burnett led to field goals, not touchdowns. An Aaron Rodgers to Randall Cobb touchdown made it 13-0 after 15 minutes!

At halftime, the Packers enjoyed a 16-0 lead, and they outgained the Seahawks 178-59. Late in the third quarter, Seattle shook things up with a fake punt, and Green Bay's lead began to unravel. The fake punt by former Packer Jon Ryan took advantage of an aggressive A. J. Hawk. Ryan lofted a pass over Hawk's head for a 19-yard touchdown to lineman Gary Gilliam. Seattle trailed 16-7. After a Mason Crosby field goal made it 19-7, an interception by Morgan Burnett with 5:13 left seemingly clinched it. Burnett went down voluntarily right after the pick to protect the ball.

McCarthy called three straight running plays for Eddie Lacy that lost four yards. Seattle got the ball back with 3:52 left, and they torched the Packers with two punishing drives. On both drives, Marshawn Lynch was unstoppable (71 total yards), and Clay Matthews sat out with a leg injury. Russell Wilson scored from the one-yard line with 2:13 left on the first drive. When the onside kick was misplayed by Brandon Bostick, Seattle got the ball back at the 50-yard line. Four plays later, Lynch went over

left tackle for a 24-yard touchdown for a 20-19 lead. For a two-point conversion, Wilson scrambled before lofting a towering pass into the end zone. Clinton-Dix couldn't get to the uncovered Luke Willson who made it 22-19.

Rodgers marched the stunned Packers downfield with passes to Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb. A six-yard toss to Nelson put the ball on the Seattle's 30. Crosby's fifth boot came with 19 seconds left and tied the game at 22. Overtime.

In the extra session, the Seahawks won the toss. On the sixth play from scrimmage, Wilson fired a 35-yard touchdown pass to Jermaine Kearse for the win.

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>68,358</b>					



THE  
**PACKERS CENTURY  
PROJECT**  
1919-2019

## 2014 Team Statistics

### FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	4	0
Detroit	11	5	0
Minnesota	7	9	0
Chicago	5	11	0

### Team Leaders

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Nelson
Rushing	Lacy
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Shields
Sacks	Williams/Hayward with 3

### All-Pro

Nelson	Receiver
Rodgers	Quarterback
Sitton	Guard

### Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (1, S)  
Davante Adams (2, WR)  
Ricard Rodgers (3b, TE)  
Corey Linsley (5a, C)  
Jeff Janis (7, WR)



1919 - 2019

# **PACKERS CENTURY**

*with Jim Rice*

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