

THE PROVERS GENURY

PROJECT

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



- Tampa Bay was moved to the new NFC South, and the NFC North Division made its debut.
- In July, new administrative offices opened in the renovated stadium. A new Pro Shop also opened.
- Despite numerous injuries, Green Bay started 8-2. They set a franchise record with four second-half comebacks.
- Green Bay had no trouble winning the first NFC North Championship. They finished with six more wins than the second-place Vikings.
- The offense ranked in the league's Top 10, but the defense was not as strong.
- A disappointing loss in the final game of the season against the Jets carried over into the postseason. The Packers lost its first postseason game ever at Lambeau Field to the Atlanta Falcons.



34 9.8.2001 **37**(от)

The Packers squeaked by Atlanta on a hot 83-degree day in Green Bay. It tied the record for the warmest home opener set in 1976.

Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, and Ahman Green kicked-in 197 all-purpose yards to show the way. There were six lead changes, and five came in a turbulent second half.

The cat-like quickness of Atlanta's second-year quarterback Michael Vick stole the show. For the game, Vick ran "here, there, and everywhere"₁ for 72 yards and a touchdown that gave Atlanta an early 7-3 lead. Vick also threw for 209 yards, and his second-quarter touchdown pass made it 21-10 Falcons. In between Vick's exploits, a fumble by Ahman Green set up a touchdown for Atlanta.

Two field goals by Ryan Longwell and Brett Favre's touchdown pass to David Martin kept the Packers close. Green Bay surged in front in the second half starting with a 42-yard completion from Favre to Terry Glenn. It set up the first of two scores. The second touchdown was a 13-yard pass from Favre to Javon Walker. It was Walker's first NFL touchdown, and it put Green Bay back in front 27-24.

Atlanta retook the lead on Dunn's second touchdown run. Favre struck back an 80-yard drive, and William Henderson's one-yard run to lead 34-31 with 1:10 left. In six plays that took 65 seconds, the Falcons tied it on Jay Feeley's 52-yard field goal with five seconds left.

When the defense got its second stop of the game in overtime, Ryan Longwell's third field goal won it!

Atlanta	0	21	3	10	0	34
Green Bay	3	10	14	7	3	37
Total Yards: GB	484 A1	TL 374				

"Tailgate Champions: For the second year in a row, the best tailgate team in Green Bay is Scott Schwartz and his Phanatics crew. Jack Daniels' is traveling the country this fall searching for the NFL best tailgaters."₂

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/02, Havel, p. 17 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/02, p. 22



Defense?

Brett Favre lost his first game in the Superdome to his former back-up, Aaron Brooks. The Saints led the entire afternoon, and Brooks' offense had no trouble moving the ball.

Brooks started quickly with a 68-yard opening drive, and Deuce McAllister's touchdown run. Brooks extended it to 21-3 with touchdown passes to Jerome Pathon and Donte Stallworth. With 40 seconds left in the half, Brett Favre finally found the end zone on a pass to Terry Glenn that made it 21-10.

The final 30 minutes didn't go much better for Green Bay. On their first series, Terry Glenn fumbled, and it was returned for a 38-yard touchdown. Now trailing 28-10, Green Bay trimmed it back to eight on Favre's second touchdown pass and Ryan Longwell's field goal. With under three minutes left, and the ball on the New Orleans 33, Deuce McAllister took it 62 yards to the five-yard line. He scored two plays later to seal the deal.

Green Bay	0	10	7	3	20
New Orleans	7	14	7	7	35
Attendance: 6	5,95 8				
Total Yards: GB 3	57 N	0 357			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/02, p. 17 (Finney, Times-Picayune)



Escaped

The Detroit Lions opened their new stadium, Ford Field, against the Packers. The visitors obliged and gave up 30+ points for the third straight game while outgaining them 442-271.

But they got out-of-town with a victory despite being beatenup and bruised by the end of the game. In fact, in short-yardage plays, Green Bay "linebacker Torrence Marshall lined up at fullback and center Mike Flanagan played at tight end despite his broken right thumb."1

Two minutes into the game, Detroit took the lead on Az-Zahir Hakim's 72-yard punt return. Five minutes later, a 78-yard pick-six by Packers rookie Marques Anderson tied it. Brett Favre and rookie Joey Harrington threw first-half touchdown passes, with Favre's going to Donald Driver in a 17-17 first half.

The Packers grabbed the momentum early in the second half. Brett Favre threw touchdown passes to both Robert Ferguson and Bubba Franks and, along with a Ryan Longwell field goal, took control 34-17.

But poor play by Green Bay on special teams in the fourth quarter almost cost them. A 50-yard kickoff return set up a short touchdown drive for the Lions with eight minutes left. After the Packers were forced to punt with 3:39 left, the Lions went 95 yards in 1:47 and scored on a 52-yard touchdown pass from Harrington to James Stewart.

After Longwell's third boot gave Green Bay a 37-31 lead, two offside penalties on the ensuing kickoff by the Packers moved the kick back to the 20. Detroit began at midfield with 59

seconds left. An interception at the three-yard line by Tod McBride with 35 seconds left ended it!

Green Bay	7	10	14	6	37
Detroit	7	10	0	14	31
Attendance:	61,50	5			
Favre: 31-47-35	57-3-1				

"I'll remember the broken plays that turned into gold, all the wild blocks on reverses that made us cringe, the 40-yard rockets on a line between three defenders, the great performances playing through injuries, running around on the field like a little kid, the goofy grins after ridiculous plays. That is the stuff of legend."₂

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/02, Walsh, p. 18 2 Brett Favre: A Packer Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 147



Emotional win

With both receivers Terry Glenn and Javon Walker out injured, the Packers had trouble scoring in this close contest.

In the first half, their only touchdown came on a lateral from Brett Favre to Bubba Franks, who threw to Donald Driver for a 76-yard score! "It was the first touchdown pass tossed by a Packers end since Don Hutson threw to Harry Jacunski for a score against the Giants in 1943."1 The option play gave the Pack a 10-7 lead at the half.

Two minutes into the fourth quarter, the Panthers took a 14-10 lead on a 55-yard touchdown drive that took only five plays. The Packers hit back with 4:10 left in the game as Favre and spotted Driver for a 22-yard touchdown and a 17-14 lead. Driver, who was becoming a Favre favorite, caught five passes for 97 yards and two scores.

With time left, the Panthers drove to the five-yard line before the Packers held. With 13 seconds left, Shayne Graham missed a 24-yard field goal, and Green Bay celebrated!

Sherman, who had exploded and tossed his headset on the sidelines on a penalty (later overurned) on Favre's lateral before Frank's touchdown pass, said after the game, " I see a need for our team to play with more passion."¹ The players saw it for themselves, and their intensity never wavered.

Carolina	7	0	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	7	0	7	17
Attendance	: 63,32	9			

Advertisement: "Brett Favre – Mike Flanagan – Your Child. Your children deserve more than standing in the shadows of greats, how about standing next to them? Want your kids in the game? Enter the Verizon Wireless Junior Captain Contest."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/02, Dougherty, p. 15 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/02, p. 19



Soldier Field was being renovated, but Brett Favre didn't miss a beat when he defeated the archrival Bears at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

On Monday Night Football, the first half was busy. With solid protection from his offensive line, Favre feasted on the Bears for three touchdown passes. The first was an 85-yard bomb to Donald Driver. Touchdown passes followed to tight ends Tyrone Davis and Bubba Franks. Quarterback Jim Miller of the Bears nearly matched Favre with touchdowns to Marty Booker and Johnny Davis. Davis' touchdown came after a Donald Driver fumble, and the Packers led at halftime 24-14.

The "best defensive effort of the season"¹ kept the Bears out of the end zone for the first 23 minutes of the second half. The defense also scored Green Bay's lone second-half touchdown on a fourth-quarter 72 yard pick-six by KGB!

Packers outgained the Bears 457-380. Favre had another great game against them (22-33-359-3-0), and passed 40,000 yards passing in his career!

Green Bay	14	10	7	3	34
Chicago	7	7	0	7	21
Attendance:	63,220	6			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/02, Schwab, p. 18



Brett Favre outplayed Tom Brady, and the Packers defeated the defending Super Bowl Champions on the road! After a field goal and 3-0 New England lead, Green Bay scored the next 28 points as Favre threw three short touchdown passes to three different receivers. Late in the first half and still trailing 3-0, he directed a 76-yard drive that found paydirt with a three-yard toss to William Henderson. Forty-three seconds later, KGB recovered a fumble on New England's eight-yard line. Favre found Ahman Green for a short touchdown and a 14-3 lead.

Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, the Packers put it away. In a 94-yard drive, Favre tossed a two-yard touchdown pass to Bubba Franks with 11:10 gone in the third quarter. Green, who ran for 136 yards, ran for his second touchdown in the fourth quarter to ice it 28-3.

The Packers' defense impressed. They held the Pats to 289 total yards, and they intercepted Tom Brady three times. New England's lone touchdown came with six minutes left on Brady's four-yard toss to David Givens. "We showed when we're clicking, we're good,"1 said center, Mike Flanagan.

Green Bay	0	14	7	7	28
New England	0	3	0	7	10
Attendance: 6	8,43	6			

Favre: 17-27-147-3-0 / Brady: 24-44-183-1-3

"I never watched football until Brett Favre started playing for the Geen Bay Packers. I have children his age, and I always considered him one of them." 2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/02, Dougherty, p. 17

2 Brett Favre: A Packer Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 139





<u>6-1</u>

The Packers easily dominated this penalty-filled battle with the Redskins (2-3). Twenty-two infractions were called – 11 by each team – for 234 total yards!

The outcome of the game was never in question. Green Bay held Washington to 238 total yards and three field goals. The Redskins fumbled the ball away four times, and the Packers sacked rookie quarterback Patrick Ramsey six times. Green Bay moved the ball behind Ahman Green's 100 all-purpose yards and his three-touchdown performance!

With Green Bay leading 17-6 in the third quarter, Brett Favre was sacked by linebacker LaVar Arrington. Favre had to leave the game with a badly sprained left knee. He was replaced by Doug Pederson who, "made just enough plays to keep the Packers in control."¹ After Favre's injury, the Redskins fumbled the ball away on their next three possessions, and Green Bay put up 10 more points to clinch it. After the game, regarding Favre's injury, Sherman had this to say. "I don' think you rule out anything until you get the MRI results,"² said Sherman.

Washington	3	3	3	0	9
Green Bay	7	10	0	13	30
Attendance:	63,36	53			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/02, Dougherty, p. 19 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/02, Dougherty, p. 15



After the bye week, the Packers have it easy on Monday Night Football. Four turnovers by Miami and five sacks by the Packers made it no contest.

Brett Favre's left knee improved, and he played well. Green Bay enjoyed a 24-0 lead seven minutes into the fourth quarter! Ahman Green scored Green Bay's first two touchdowns. After a short touchdown run, he caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from Brett Farve 10 minutes later. In the third quarter, a field goal and Darren Sharper's 89-yard pick-six wrapped up the scoring for Green Bay. Miami's only touchdown came on a quarterback sneak with 1:31 left.

After eight games, the Packers have the NFL's best record at 7-1.

Miami	0	0	0	10	10
Green Bay	0	14	10	0	24
Attendance:	63,28	4			
Total Yards: GB	270 M	IA 306			



Green Bay won its seventh straight. In this blowout, Brett Favre threw for 351 yards and two touchdowns as the Packers outgained the Lions 503-362.

After Detroit took a 7-3 lead midway through the first quarter, the Packers ran off the next 37 points. Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes. The first to Bubba Franks took the lead for good 10-3. Fullback William Henderson caught the second at the 10-minute mark of the third quarter. It gave the Packers a 40-3 lead!

The ground game of Ahman Green, Najeh Davenport, and Tony Fisher punished Detroit for 150 yards and one touchdown. Ryan Longwell's four field goals helped to bury as the second-place Lions.

Detroit	7	0	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	27	10	0	40
Attendance:	63,31	.3			

Even though Packer Terry Glenn's Lambeau Leap was for naught when he was ruled down at the Detroit one-yard line, he enjoyed the experience. "It was nice. I've been looking forward to it for so long. It's an amazing thing to be here." 1

Luther Elliss, Detroit Lions: "The fans are unbelievable. I remember you'd pull into Appleton the day before the game (where the team hotel was located), and there wasn't much going on. But the next morning, there's this big ruckus going on in the lobby. It's Green and Gold, and the town's transformed. It was like a little fairy waved a wand, and it was game day." 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/02, Dougherty, p. 18 2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 118



In the Metrodome, the Packers lost for the ninth time in their last 11 tries. In this one, they were outgained on the artificial turf 425-367.

With an inconsistent ground game (71 yards), Brett Favre threw 43 passes for 296 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw three interceptions. Vikings quarterback Dante Culpepper and wideout Randy Moss had another good game against the Packers. They started the scoring on Minnesota's first drive, and at halftime, the Vikings led 14-7. "They came at us with the no-huddle and a great rhythm and tempo. We settled down, but it wasn't enough,"1 defensive coordinator Ed Donatell explained.

Favre brought Green Bay back with two second-half touchdown passes. The second, an 85-yard bomb to Donald Driver, tied the game at 21 early in the fourth quarter. The Vikings controlled the final 12 minutes beginning with a 51-yard kickoff return that set up a field goal. A back-breaking, 62-yard run from scrimmage by Michael Bennett up set up the winning touchdown run by Mo Williams from the three-yard line with 1:56 left.

"I know every time I step into this building, it's a challenge," said Favre. "Regardless of records, regardless of statistics, who is favored, and all that stuff, it just is the way it is."²

Green Bay	0	7	7	7	21
Minnesota	14	0	7	10	31
Attendance:	64,153	3			

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/02, Havel, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/02, Havel, p. 15



Hello again?

In a meeting of former divisional rivals who were both 8-2, the Packers lost to the NFC South's top team. In a game perhaps more remembered for the post-game confrontation between coach Mike Sherman and Tampa Bay's Warren Sapp, the Buccaneers dominated after the first 10 minutes.

Green Bay led early with a Brett Favre to Donald Driver touchdown pass. From that point forward, it was all Tampa Bay. Martin Gramatica's two fields made it 7-6, and Brad Johnson's two second-half touchdown passes put the Packers away. Both of the touchdowns followed interceptions of Brett Favre. Favre was picked off four times, and the Bucs gave up just 267 total yards.

After the game, a confrontation between Sherman and Sapp that captured headlines. "The superb effort (by Tampa) was overshadowed by an obscenity-laced exchange between Packers' coach Mike Sherman and Tampa Bay defensive lineman Warren Sapp as they walked off the field. Sherman was angry about a block Sapp put on Chad Clifton during Brian Kelly's interception return in the third quarter that set up the Bucs' go-ahead touchdown. Sherman thought the hit was questionable and felt Sapp made it worse by standing over Chad Clifton. 'I just don't think there's any place in the game for that.'"1 Clifton was hospitalized with a severe pelvic injury and lost for the season.

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Tampa Bay	0	3	11	7	21
Attendance:	65,67	2			

1 packershistory.net/2002Packers



20 12.1.2002 30

They're tops!

Green Bay clinched the first-ever NFC North title, and they also won their first division championship since 1997! Thanks to two amazing plays, they also snapped their two-game losing streak

Chicago controlled the first half (14-6) with two touchdown passes to tight end, Dustin Lyman. They should have scored a third touchdown before halftime when they picked off Brett Favre. The interception was fumbled and picked up by Roosevelt Williams on the Bears' 40-yard line. Williams was caught from behind by Javon Walker at Green Bay's 13-yard line to save what looked like a sure score. Walker sprinted from the end zone!

After Walker's play and halftime adjustments, the Packers warmed-up and were red-hot in the second half. They scored 24 unanswered points as Favre threw touchdowns to Bubba Franks and William Henderson. Rookie Tony Fisher also scored on the ground.

After the touchdown to Franks put Green Bay in front 14-13, Packers' defensive tackle Rod Walker made an incredible play. On a first-down for the Bears on Green Bay's one-yard line, Walker, "decided to try the near impossible – anticipate quarterback Jim Miller's cadence and steal the snap. It worked."1 Walker stole the ball from center Olin Kreutz as he snapped it. The Packers took over and marched 98 yards for the go-ahead field goal and a lead they'd never give up 16-14. Tony Fisher starred on the drive, and he led a potent ground attack with 91 yards rushing. Ahman Green ran for 78 more as the Packers pounded the Bears for 181! In the fourth quarter, Green Bay pulled away after a fumble recovery by Antuan Edwards on Chicago's 35. It took six plays before Favre tossed his second touchdown pass of the game to William Henderson. Late in the game, they slammed the door shut with a 58-yard touchdown drive, and Tony Fisher carried the ball on all seven plays of the drive.

Chicago	7	7	0	6	20
Green Bay	3	3	10	14	30
Attendance:	64,19	6			

"Tight end Bubba Frank will ring bells for The Salvation Army from Noon – 1:00p.m. today at Bay Park Square Mall." 2

Fans waited on line to pick up, "Packers gear – shirts and hats emblazoned with the (first) NFC North Championship Logo." 3

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/02, Dougherty, p. 15

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/02, Rozwadowski, p. 9

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/02, p. 9



This was a quick border-rival rematch on a Sunday night. Early on, it looked like a repeat of three weeks ago, but the Packers rallied to split the season series.

In a chilly 11-degrees (wind chill -6), Green Bay's offense looked frozen in the first half. They fell behind 13-0, and Minnesota's touchdown pass from Dante Culpepper to Randy Moss was set up by a Brett Favre fumble. Other than two Ryan Longwell field goals, Green Bay's offense was quiet.

That changed in the second half. After Minnesota struck first to stretch the lead to 19-6, Favre threw two touchdown passes to Robert Ferguson to bring Green Bay back. The second came early in the fourth quarter with 10:48 left. With Favre scrambling to his right, threw across his body to Ferguson near the middle of the field. Ferguson went 40 yards to cut the lead to 22-20.

In the waning minutes, Favre led a nine-play, 85-yard drive that rookie Tony Fisher capped-off with a 14-yard burst off the left side with 1:06 left for the win. Fisher led the ground game with 96 yards, and he caught five passes for another 19.

Minnesota	10	3	9	0	22		
Green Bay	0	6	7	13	26		
Attendance: 64,070							

Favre is now 34-0 when the game-time temperature is below 34 degrees.



In a miserable, driving rain, the Packers trailed 6-3 after a first-half of field goals. "It was a well-played game in terrible conditions,"1 was how Favre described the windy conditions that had gusts up to 25mph.

On the opening drive of the second half, the rain temporarily stopped, and Favre completed passes of 15, 23, and 22 yards to set up Ahman Green's nine-yard touchdown run for a 10-6 lead. An interception by Vonnie Holiday led to Favre's touchdown to Donald Driver and a 17-6 Packers lead.

But the Niners cut it to three, 17-14, on a 45-yard strike from quarterback Jeff Garcia to Terrell Owens and a two-point conversion. Ryan Longwell's field goal kept Green Bay in front 20-14, and San Francisco's final, frantic drive "ended on downs at the Packers' 11-yard line with 26 seconds to play."² Overall, the defense held the 49ers to just 263 yards.

Green Bay	3	0	14	3	20
San Francisco	0	6	8	0	14
Attendance: 67,947					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/02, Demovsky, p. 15 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/02, Kelly, p. 14



12.22.2002

<u>Holiday</u>

The defense played another outstanding game, and the Packers finished the season undefeated at home. Green Bay scored on a first-half field goal by Ryan Longwell, and on a fourth quarter touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Donald Driver.

The Bills were held to 185 total yards (43 yards rushing). They turned the ball over six times, and quarterback Drew Bledsoe was sacked six times. Five of the sacks were by Vonnie Holiday (still a Packers record), and two forced fumbles. The first turned into the game's only touchdown, and the second stopped a Bills drive at Green Bay's 17 with under two minutes left!

Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	
Green Bay	0	3	0	10	13	
Attendance: 64,106						

"After the game, several Packers players went around the first row of the stadium hugging fans, shaking their hands, and delivering highfives. Fullback William Henderson, sporting a Santa hat, was among the well-wishers."1

Mike Sherman on Brett Favre: "No player in the NFL identifies or is more closely linked to a specific team like Brett Favre is to the Green Bay Packers. He embodies the spirit and character of Packer fans everywhere. I do not think there is a player in the NFL that experiences a relationship with the fans like Brett Favre does. That is very, very special."2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/02, Dougherty, p. 19 2 Brett Favre: A Packer fan's Tribute, Kertscher p. 155



Giant Letdown

In a very, very disappointing loss, the Packers missed an opportunity with a win to clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Jets, on the other hand, won the AFC East with the win, and they held the lead the entire game.

After a scoreless first quarter, Jets quarterback Chad Pennington began to tear Green Bay's secondary to shreds. His first two touchdowns went to Richie Anderson and Wayne Chrebet for a 14-10 first-half lead. The Jets reeled off the first 21 points of the second half, and after Curtis Martin scored, Pennington tossed for two more scores! In the first minute of the fourth quarter, Chrebet's second touchdown catch put it out of reach 35-10.

The Packers, of course, still qualified for the postseason, "but they're walking with a limp."1

Green Bay	0	10	0	7	17
New York	0	14	14	14	42
Attendance: 78,733					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/02, Dougherty, p. 19



For the first time EVER, the Green Bay Packers lost a postseason game at home.

In a playoff game that the Packers lost control of early, Michael Vick orchestrated a crushing postseason upset. Like he did in the season opener, Vick proved to be far too quick for Green Bay's defense. He threw a touchdown pass in the game's first six minutes, and he kept plays alive all night. Vick ran for 64 yards on 10 carries, and his ability to change direction was unparalleled.

The game became a mismatch quickly. Atlanta scored the game's first 24 points, and they outplayed the Packers from start to finish. The Packers only points came right after halftime when they drove 73 yards in 10 plays for Donald Driver's touchdown. But as more and more boo-birds continued to expressed their displeasure – Green Bay turned the ball over five times – many fans just "streamed out of Lambeau during the third quarter"1 to put the loss behind them immediately.

Atlanta	14	10	3	0	27	
Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7	
Attendance: 65,358						

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Kauh, p. 24



2002 Team Statistics

PROJECT

1919-2019

PACKERS CENTURY FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central Division

	W	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	4	0
Minnesota	6	10	0
Chicago	4	12	0
Detroit	3	13	0

Team Leaders

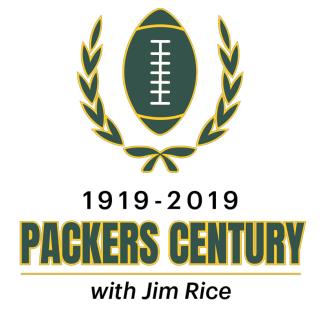
Passing Favre Receiving Driver Rushing Green Scoring Longwell Interceptions Sharper Sacks KGB

<u>All-Pro</u>

Favre Quarterback Sharper Safety

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Javon Walker (1, WR) Marques Anderson (3, S) Najeh Davenport (4, FB) Aaron Kampman (5a, DE) Craig Nall (5b, QB)



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