

SEASON
82

2000



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2000

Record: 9-7-0 3rd Place

Coach: Mike Sherman

- Mike Sherman was named the 13th coach in Green Bay Packers history on January 18. Sherman was Seattle's offensive coordinator and a former assistant coach with the Packers.
- Faced with limited revenues as free agency pushed player salaries higher, updating Lambeau Field became essential to create new revenue streams. The proposed \$295 million project included \$160 million from a Brown County sales tax (.05%), and a state contribution of \$9.1 million.
- The referendum was held on September 12, 2000*. It passed by 6,000 votes. The renovation would be completed in 2003.
- On the field, the defense improved. Offensively, Favre threw fewer touchdown passes and fewer interceptions.
- Running back, Ahman Green was acquired from Seattle for cornerback Fred Vinson. Green gained over 1,100 yards for six of the next seven seasons!
- The Packers finished with four straight wins over division opponents, but they fell just short of the postseason as six teams in the NFC had 10 or more wins.

* The NFL wanted the Packers to wait another year before holding the referendum. Had they done so, the referendum would have been held on 9/11/2001.



1919-2019

NEW YORK
JETS
PACKERS

20
16

9.3.2000

Green Bay lost its home opener for new coach Mike Sherman. The Packers were sunk by too many penalties, dropped passes, and not enough third-down conversions.

The Jets defense held the upper hand. The Packers generated only 211 total yards with 62 yards rushing. Quarterback Brett Favre had a rough afternoon (14-34-252-1-1), and his lone touchdown to Tyronne Davis started the scoring in a 10-10 first half. Ahman Green also made his debut for the Packers in this game.

When Green Bay managed only two field goals in the second half, the Jets stayed within striking distance. Curtis Martin kept their ground game rolling with 110 yards. With 3:20 left in the game, he caught the winning touchdown pass from Vinnie Testaverde for a 20-10 lead.

With time, Favre drove the Packers to New York's 35-yard line. His pass to Bill Schroeder was intercepted by safety Victor Green to end the comeback. After the game, Favre was treated for tendonitis in his right elbow that developed during the preseason, and a new thumb injury.

New York 7 3 0 10 20

Green Bay 7 3 3 3 16

Attendance: 59,870

Penalties: GB 10-81 NY 10-75

"The Packers put their "Vote Yes" campaign on the game program cover."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/00, Dougherty/Spofford, p. 16



1919-2019

PACKERS

BUFFALO

BILLS

18

9.10.2000

27

0-2

For the first time since 1992, Green Bay started 0-2. They played poorly and trailed the entire game. They lost three fumbles, and Brett Favre was sacked four times.

In the first half, quarterback Rob Johnson put Buffalo in front 7-0 with the first of three touchdown passes. After intermission, Johnson picked apart Green Bay's secondary and threw two more touchdown passes to tight end, Jay Riemersma. The Packers hit Johnson frequently, and they sacked him five times. But he displayed a knack for keeping plays alive, and he never lost his poise. Johnson went 18 for 26 for 259 yards and three touchdowns.

With his elbow and thumb looking a little better, Brett Favre completed his first 14 passes and threw two second-half touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman. But it wasn't enough. "I had high expectations of the offense, and we're not going to make any excuses,"¹ coach Sherman said.

Green Bay	0	0	10	8	18
Buffalo	0	10	10	7	27

Attendance: 72,722

Total Yards: GB 274 BUFF 309

"Yes to Lambeau"² said the headline of the Press-Gazette reporting on the passage Brown County referendum that approved a 0.5 sales tax for the renovation of Lambeau Field.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/00, Dougherty, p. 28

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/00, Dougherty, p. 1



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES
PACKERS

3
6 9.17.2000

Mike Sherman's first win was made possible by Ryan Longwell's first game-winning field goal! This was Green Bay's lowest-scoring game since 1979 when they lost to the Bears 6-3. Their offense was held to 236 total yards, and Brett Favre threw three interceptions, and he was sacked five times.

Philadelphia was even less productive with 171 yards of offense and 12 penalties for 115 yards. The Eagles led 3-0 at halftime on a David Akers field goal, but Ryan Longwell booted two for Green Bay in the second half. The winner came with three seconds left from the 38-yard line!

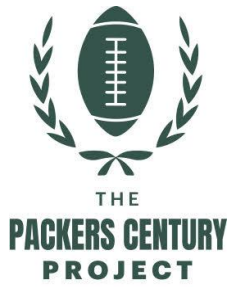
On offense, both teams combined for only 407 yards. There were 10 sacks, five by each team, and quarterbacks Brett Favre and Donovan McNabb completed only 33 of 64 passes.

Philadelphia	0	3	0	0	3
Green Bay	0	0	3	3	6

Attendance: 59,869

Photo Caption: "Former Packers quarterback Bart Starr cries after a huge ovation from the crowd during Sunday afternoon's halftime introduction of Packers alumni at Lambeau Field."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/00, p. 18



1919-2019

PACKERS

ARIZONA

CARDINALS

29

3

9.24.2000

No problem!

“With plenty of cheeseheads turning Sun Devil Stadium into Lambeau Field West”¹ two of the league’s oldest franchises clashed in the 87-degree heat of the Arizona sun.

The Packers took control early and never let go. It began on their first drive with Ahman Green’s a 19-yard touchdown run. Brett Favre’s 55-yard touchdown pass to Bill Schroeder gave them a 17-3 lead at the break.

Ryan Longwell took it from there in the second half with four more field goals to seal the deal. Favre rebounded with a strong performance (17-31-277-1-0), and Coach Sherman kept the Cardinals guessing with multiple offensive sets. Favre was sacked once, and he threw 288 yards. The defense gave up just 28 yards on the ground, and they intercepted four passes, two by Darren Sharper.

Green Bay	7	10	6	6	29
Arizona	0	3	0	0	3

Attendance: 69,568

Total Yards GB 455 AZ 209

LeRoy Butler: “I tried to shake as many hands as possible and tell them we appreciate it, we appreciate them spending their hard-earned money coming out here. They had to hear how the heat was going to kill their team and all that, so it was very loud, unbelievable.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/00, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/00, Dougherty, p. 26



1919-2019

CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

27
24

10.1.2000

“Redeem Yourself, Beat Green Bay.”¹ The winless Bears did exactly what their locker room signed urged them to do. They got rolling immediately when safety Tony Parrish intercepted Brett Favre’s first pass. They cashed-in for six with just 2:42 gone. Later in the second quarter, a 68-yard pass from Cade McNown to Marshall Robinson closed out an impressive first half.

Chicago stretched their advantage to 24-3 on a second McNown to Robinson touchdown. In the third quarter, the Packers found a rhythm. Brett Favre would eventually light up the airways with 48 passes for three touchdowns and 333 yards overall. Antonio Freeman caught Favre’s first touchdown with 2:36 left in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, Favre threw two more scores to Bill Schroeder. In between, though, Paul Edinger booted a 47-yard field goal for Chicago, which proved to be the difference.

Chicago	10	7	7	3	27
Green Bay	0	3	7	14	24
Attendance:	59,869				

“The Packers’ Women’s Association annual food drive brought in \$13,000 non-perishable items and \$8,572 in donations.”²

¹ Bear Moments, Gorr, p. 117

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/00, p. 7



1919-2019

PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

24

31

10.8.2000

The Packers got off to another slow start, and they never caught up. The Lions roared out of the locker room and, "Brett Favre was under siege from start to finish, and he had a part in all five turnovers."¹

A strip-sack of Favre forced a fumble that led to a 3-0 Detroit led. Quarterback Charlie Batch then threw two of his three touchdown passes for a 17-3 lead. With 1:33 left in the half, a pick-six by safety Lamar Campbell put the Lions up 24-3. In the second half, Batch also connected with big Herman Moore for a 30-yard touchdown strike and a 31-9 lead.

Until the end of the third quarter, Green Bay's offense consisted of three field goals. Favre got it going with a touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. With 7:15 left in the game, he struck again with a touchdown pass to William Henderson. Trailing now by just seven, 31-24, Favre uncorked two interceptions on Green Bay's last two drives. Ron Wolf put it bluntly, "You can't win when you keep turning the ball over."²

Green Bay	0	6	11	7	24
Detroit	10	14	7	0	31
Attendance: 77,549					

Thomas DePetro, Packers Fan: "My son attended William Henderson's high school football camp. William was great to me as a volunteer coach, and to all the kids. All the other Packer players who came to the camp called him Big Will. I asked William one day, what was his favorite room in his house. He said he really liked his game room. I asked if he had any pictures of himself in it. He said no, just his jersey, but he had autographed pictures of Favre, Levens, etc. I had a friend back home who knew an artist who pencil sketched a picture of William wearing his rookie jersey with #30. In the picture, he had a focused, determined, fearless look in his eyes. We left camp in August and returned for OTAs in April. After a practice, William

walked up and gave my family and I a big hug. I told him we wanted to give him something for his game room that he was missing. I had the same artist sketch another picture of William. He was so humble and appreciative. All he could say was, "Wow!" and he hugged us again. He told us it meant so much to him, and how cool it was that the sketch had him in his rookie uniform with #30. He asked what we wanted for it. We told William it was from our family for how well he treats all the kids at camp, and how well he treated my son and I. He teared up and hugged us again! We all took pictures with him and had a memory for life!"

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/00, Dougherty, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/00, Dougherty, p. 25



1919-2019

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

PACKERS

28

31

10.15.2000

This was an exciting matchup that produced almost 800 yards of offense! Quarterback Jeff Garcia of San Francisco was unstoppable, even though the Niners came up short at the end.

Brett Favre had a fine game, and he started the scoring with a 67-yard touchdown to Antonio Freeman. After the 49ers tied it on quarterback Jeff Garcia's first touchdown pass, Ahman Green's touchdown run just before halftime put Green Bay back on top 14-7.

In the second half, Dorsey Levens scored to extend the Packers lead to 21-7. Garcia brought the 49ers back at the end of the third quarter and at the beginning of the fourth with touchdowns to J. J. Stokes and Terrell Owens. On Stokes' touchdown, "he jumped into the stands in the south end zone. Wisely, Packer fans threw him back."¹

Ahman Green scored a second touchdown before Owens stunned the Packers crowd and caught a 39-yard touchdown pass from Garcia to tie it 28-28 with 5:30 left. Favre drove the Packers 44 yards in nine plays, and Longwell's 35-yard field goal won it with 54 seconds left!

San Francisco	0	7	7	14	28
Green Bay	7	7	7	10	31

Attendance: 59,870

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/00, p. 1



1919-2019

PACKERS

20

MIAMI

10.29.2000

DOLPHINS

28

3-5

After their bye week, the Packers jumped in front in the first half with a 51-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell and two touchdown runs by Dorsey Levens. The first capitalized on a Miami fumble by Thurman Thomas. Early in the second quarter, the Packers led 17-0.

The next 28 points were Miami's. With 1:15 left in the half, a quarterback sneak for six by Jay Fiedler started the comeback. On the opening drive of the second half, Fiedler hit wideout Ordone Gadsen for a touchdown to trim Green Bay's lead to three. A fake punt by Miami went for a 41-yard gain. It set up the winning points as running back Lamar Smith took it the final four yards for a 21-17 lead.

After stopping the Packers on their next series, Jeff Ogden returned the punt 81 yards to make it 28-17. At the time, "the 21 points tallied by the Dolphins in that period tied the record for the most ever scored on the Packers in the third quarter."¹

Longwell's second field goal cut the lead to eight, but Brett Favre's late interception ended it. "Good teams have a killer instinct and put teams away, and we didn't do that,"² said LeRoy Butler.

Green Bay	10	7	0	3	20
Miami	0	7	21	0	28
Attendance:	73,740				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/00, Gozka, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/00, Walsh, p. 18



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

20 11.6.2000
26 (OT)

He did what?

This was one of the craziest finishes in Packers history! If you stayed awake long enough to see the finish live, you probably thought you were dreaming!

In a game of non-stop action, the scoring went back and forth like a pinball machine. Ahman Green led Green Bay's ground game with 102 total yards, and he scored one touchdown on the ground and another through the air. Favre and Antonio Freeman also connected five times for 118 yards, including an acrobatic winner in overtime.

Green Bay was outgained 407-298, but Vikings quarterback Dante Culpepper threw four interceptions. Minnesota was also penalized 11 times for 129 yards! With the game tied 13-13, running back Robert Smith hauled in a 45-yard pass from Culpepper to break the deadlock 20-13. When Allen Rossum returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards to the two-yard line, Ahman Green's second touchdown run came on the next play to knot it again. When Gary Anderson missed a 33-yard field goal for the Vikings as time expired, the overtime loomed.

On the seventh play of the extra period, on third-and-four from Minnesota's 43, Favre threw a desperate pass to Antonio Freeman along Green Bay's sideline. As Freeman fell down trying to catch the pass, the ball hit his helmet and shoulder before he alertly, "rescued the ball just inches from the turf of rain-soaked Lambeau Field"¹ and pulled it in. Freeman landed untouched on the 15-yard line, jumped up, and took it the rest of the way for the win! This circus catch stunned the Lambeau Field crowd, but the fans recovered quickly to celebrate this spectacular overtime victory.

What did Favre think of the catch? "I didn't know he had the ball. I looked down, and he started running, and I am thinking, 'What's he doing?' Then I just ran down there and jumped on him. Then I whispered in his ear, 'Did you catch it?' And when he responded, it wasn't Free, it was Donald Driver. When I got to Free I asked the same thing, and he said, "Hell, yeah, I got it."²

Minnesota	3	10	7	0	0	20
Green Bay	0	10	10	0	6	26

Attendance: 59,854

"In Minnesota, you see, we play in a dome. We don't have to worry about rain, snow, or wind. It is unfair that we should lose this game because of Green Bay's lousy weather."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/00, Gozka, p. 18

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/00, Dougherty, p. 18

3 Cold Wars, Mishler, p. xvii



1919-2019

PACKERS

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS

15

11.12.2000

20

Tampa Bay took control of the game in the first half. Touchdown passes from quarterback Shaun King to Keyshawn Johnson, and Anthony Reidel put them on top at the break 14-3.

Brett Favre, who had to leave the game in the third quarter after his left foot got caught under defensive tackle Warren Sapp, had just 117 yards passing and no touchdowns. He was replaced by backup Matt Hasselback.

At the start of the fourth quarter, on a fake field goal attempt, Hasselback threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Bubba Franks that gave Green Bay its first lead 15-14. But, two critical plays followed that gave the game to Tampa Bay. A scramble by Shaun King set up a 54-yard field goal by Martin Gramatica. On Green Bay's next series, Ahman Green fumbled, and the Bucs capitalized with a 51-yard boot by Gramatica for a 20-15 lead with seven minutes left.

Without Favre, the Bucs held the Packers in check. Other than his touchdown pass to Franks, Hasselback threw for just 66 yards. Green ran for only 65, and the next day it was reported that "Favre almost certainly miss next Sunday's game against the Indianapolis Colts, and could be out longer."¹

Green Bay	0	3	6	6	15
Tampa Bay	0	14	0	6	20
Attendance:	65,621				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/00, p. 1



INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS
PACKERS

24
26

11.19.2000

Brett Favre's left foot responded to treatment during the week, and he bounced back to face a young Payton Manning. Both quarterbacks had fine games, with the first half going to Favre and the second to Manning.

The Colts started slowly with Manning recovering his own fumble in the end zone for a safety. A Green Bay field goal made it 5-0 before the offense heated up. Favre marched the Packers up and down the field with touchdown passes to Tyronne Davis and Antonio Freeman. After 30 minutes, Green Bay led 19-0.

In the fourth quarter, Manning's arm ignited a comeback. The second of his three touchdown passes came with 4:32 left and narrowed the lead to 19-17. On the ensuing kickoff, Allen Rossum of the Packers went 92 yards to paydirt to slow down Indy's momentum 26-17. The Colts came right back and went 61 yards in six plays to again trail by just two. The Packers ate up the final 2:39, and Manning's early safety remained the difference.

Indianapolis	0	0	3	21	24
Green Bay	5	14	0	7	26

Attendance: 59,869

Total Yards: GB 432 IND 338



PACKERS

CAROLINA

PANTHERS

14

11.27.2000

31

Reggie

On Monday Night Football, the Packers lost to their former defensive leader, Reggie White. Carolina took an early 14-0 lead before Ahman Green's 26-yard touchdown run, and Donald Driver's 32-yard touchdown pass from Brett Favre tied it up.

But that was all the scoring for Green Bay as Carolina's defense dominated the second half. Favre was intercepted three times and sacked three times as well. Reggie White, thanks to the performance of rookie right tackle Mark Tauscher, did not record a sack or a tackle.

The Panthers offense had more success against Green Bay than any team this season. Quarterback Steve Beuerlein led the Panthers with three touchdown passes, and rookie running back Brad Hoover ran for 117 yards and caught one touchdown. After the defeat, the Packers fell to 5-7, and their postseason hopes were fading.

Green Bay	0	14	0	0	14
Carolina	14	3	7	7	31

Attendance: 73,295

Turnovers: GB 5 CAR 1

Reggie White: "I miss it there immensely. The aura around Lambeau and the people there. It's something you can't get out of your blood, and it's still in my blood."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/00, Schwab, p. 25



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

28

12.3.2000

6

On a Sunday night in Chicago, the Packers blew out the Bears behind Brett Favre and Ahman Green. Favre threw for 225 yards, and Green ran for 69 more. They accounted for 294 of the team's 304 total yards.

In the first half, Favre's one touchdown pass went to Antonio Freeman, and it gave the Packers a 14-3 lead at the half. Green's touchdowns came on the ground in the second and third quarters. The defense also intercepted two Shane Matthews passes, and Tyrone Williams' pick-six at the start of the fourth quarter ended any doubt. The win made it seven in a row at Soldier field for Brett Favre and Green Bay.

Green Bay	0	14	7	7	28
Chicago	0	3	0	3	6
Attendance:	66,944				

"I was in line to get Brett's autograph, and Brett just chatted away with me like we were old friends. I was so impressed that a multi-millionaire would sit and talk with an old lady like me. I love him as our QB, but I really appreciate his humble attitude toward the fans."¹

¹ Brett Favre: A Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 140



DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

13
26

12.10.2000

On a cold, windy day in Green Bay (5 degrees wind chill), the Lions turned the ball over five times. Until the fourth quarter, it was strictly a field goal contest with Ryan Longwell kicking four for Green Bay, and Jason Hanson booting one.

Midway through the fourth quarter, running back James Stewart scored Detroit's first touchdown that made it 12-10. On Green Bay's next possession, Favre and Ahman Green countered with a three-yard touchdown pass with under five minutes remaining. Jason Hanson's second field goal trimmed the lead back to six before Ahman Green's 39-yard touchdown run wrapped it up with 1:54 remaining. Green finished with 118 yards rushing along with four catches for another 17 yards and a touchdown.

Detroit	0	0	3	10	13
Green Bay	6	0	3	17	26

Attendance: 59,854

Turnovers: GB 2 DET 5



PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

33

12.17.2000

28

The Packers upset the division-leading Vikings with their best overall game of the season. The win also kept Green Bay's hopes alive for the postseason.

In an offensive slugfest of over 800 total yards, the Packers led the entire game as Brett Favre threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns. The ground game led by Ahman Green sparkled, and Green had a career day with 161 yards on the ground.

After Green Bay took a 10-0 lead, Vikings quarterback Dante Culpepper and Randy Moss connected for a 78-yard score. It was the first of three touchdown passes for Culpepper. The Packers responded with Favre's second touchdown to Ahman Green, and with Ryan Longwell's second field goal. They led 20-14 at halftime.

In the second half, after Green Bay stretched it to 23-14, Minnesota stormed back with two more touchdown passes by Culpepper. The first to Johnny McWilliams put them within two 23-21. Green Bay wasn't phased. They put up 10 more points in the fourth quarter, including Favre's third touchdown pass of the game, this one to Bill Schroeder. Along with Longwell's second field goal, they held off Minnesota.

Green Bay	10	10	3	10	33
Minnesota	7	7	7	7	28

Attendance: 64,183

Yards Rushing: GB 154 MINN 68

"We tucked our (Packers) jersey under our church clothes every Sunday."¹

¹ Brett Favre: A Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 141



TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14

PACKERS

17 (OT)

12.24.2000

Green Bay's fourth straight win wasn't enough to make the postseason. The Packers needed a victory and a loss by St. Louis to make it. Green Bay did its part, but the Rams beat New Orleans to take the final wild-card spot in the NFC.

Green Bay's points before the overtime came on two touchdown runs by Ahman Green. In the extra session, Green had to leave the game after being kicked in the ankle. Backup De'Mond Parker replaced him, and he kept the overtime drive alive with 35 yards on six carries and a crucial catch for a first down. The Packers won it six minutes into the OT on Ryan Longwell's field goal.

Tama Bay	0	0	3	11	0	14
Green Bay	7	0	7	0	3	17

Attendance: 59,692

Turnovers: GB 4 TB 0



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

2000 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC Central Division

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

Team Leaders

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Green
Rushing	Green
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	Sharper
Sacks	Thierry

All-Pro

Sharper	Safety
---------	--------

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Bubba Franks (1, TE)
Chad Clifton (2, OT)
Na'il Diggs (4a, LB)
Gary Berry (4c, S)
Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila (5a, DE)
Mark Tauscher (7a, OT)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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