

SEASON
87

2005



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



2005

Record: 4-12-0 4th NFC North *(last)*

Coach: Mike Sherman

- Ted Thompson is hired by Packers President Bob Harlan to be the General Manager. Mike Sherman remained as coach.
- Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was Green Bay's first pick in the 2005 Draft.
- The season began with losses to Detroit and Cleveland.
- Javon Walker injured his knee in Game 1 and was lost for the season. After Game #5, Ahman Green was lost for the season, and Najeh Davenport went down in the next game. Undrafted rookie Samkon Gado was the leading rusher with 582 yards.
- As the season slipped away, Brett Favre tried to do it all. He finished with 20 touchdown passes and 29 interceptions.
- Green Bay finished in last place for the first time since 1988. Mike Sherman was fired in January. His record in Green Bay was 59-43-0.



1919-2019

PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

3

9.11.2005

17

This was a disastrous opener as Brett Favre turned the ball over three times, and the Lions capitalized with 10 points. Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington opened and closed the game with touchdown passes. The second touchdown came with four minutes left in the game after Favre had been intercepted.

The Lions defense smothered Green Bay. They held the Packers not only to a field goal, but they sacked Favre four times, recovered his fumble, and intercepted two passes in the fourth quarter. The Packers couldn't run the ball (46 yards), and they did not pick up a first down in the third quarter.

Green Bay was penalized 14 times for 100 yards, and coach Mike Sherman had this to say, "That will not work this season if we have that many penalties. Playing stupid like that does not bode well."¹

Green Bay	0	3	0	0	3
Detroit	0	7	3	7	17

Attendance: 61,877

"It's been said that if you want to rob a bank in Green Bay, the time to do it might be on Sunday during a Packers game."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/05, Gozka, p. 37

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/05, Zarling, p. A1



1919-2019

CLEVELAND
BROWNS
PACKERS

26
24

9.18.2005

#92

The Packers unveiled Reggie White's retired #92 on the Lambeau Field façade during halftime. Sara White and their two children attended the emotional ceremony before a warm Packers crowd.

The two opposing quarterbacks took over this game as Brett Favre and Trent Dilfer each threw three touchdown passes. Favre's first went to Donald Driver to open the scoring. Dilfer found paydirt twice, including an 80-yard touchdown bomb to Braylon Edwards after Brett Favre's fumble in the third quarter.

Trailing 19-7, Green Bay rallied in the fourth quarter with two touchdown passes by Favre in the last four minutes. In between those touchdowns – the second to halfback Tony Fisher with four seconds left – Dilfer countered with his third touchdown pass of the game.

Cleveland	7	6	6	7	26
Green Bay	7	0	0	17	24

Attendance: 70,400

*Ron Wolf said the key to recruiting Reggie White was to get him to see what a friendly place Green Bay is. "Once we did that, he saw that people here are genuine and real. Everything that is good about the team is personified by the people here."*¹

*Gilbert Brown on Reggie White: "His character can't be matched. I wish I was half the person he was."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/05, Reinsch, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/05, Reinsch, p. 2



TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS 17
PACKERS 16

9.25.2005

In a defensive battle of 553 yards between the two teams, critical mistakes proved costly for the Packers. The Buccaneers turned an interception thrown by Brett Favre and a fumble by William Henderson into 10 points and a victory.

The Packers fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1988.

All the points, except for a field goal, came in the first half. Tampa Bay took a 7-0 lead on quarterback Brian Griese's touchdown pass to Joey Galloway. Favre's first touchdown pass made it 7-6, but a poor snap doomed the extra point. The Bucs pulled back in front on a second touchdown by Galloway. Before halftime, Favre's strike to Antonio Chatman made it 17-13.

A field goal by Ryan Longwell midway through the fourth quarter cut it to 17-16. But that was it for the Packers, and as Favre pointed out later, "we're not good enough yet to overcome mistakes."¹

Tampa Bay	7	10	0	0	17
Green Bay	6	7	0	3	16
Attendance:	70,518				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/05, Demovsky, p. 37



PACKERS
CAROLINA
PANTHERS

29
32

10.3.2005

0-4

In the first half, Carolina capitalized on a fumble and an interception thrown by Brett Favre for 10 points. Panthers Quarterback Jake Delhomme highlighted a dominant first half by the Panthers with two touchdown passes for a commanding 23-7 lead.

Trailing 26-7 with 3:06 left in the third quarter, Favre and Donald Driver made it 23-13. Carolina scored again after a pass interference penalty was called against Mark Roman, who was covering Julius Peppers. It put the ball at Green Bay's one-yard line, and Carolina led 32-13 after the two-point conversion failed. On the Panthers' next series, KGB's hit on Delhomme caused a fumble that was recovered by Cullen Jenkins on Carolina's 13. On the first play, Favre hit Donald Lee for six, and the two-point conversion was successful – 32-21.

When the defense stopped the Panthers with 7:28 left, Favre kept the pressure on with his fourth touchdown pass of the game to Antonio Chatman. After a three-and-out by Carolina, the Packers got it back with 1:58 on the clock, but they could not complete the comeback.

For the game, the Packers ran the ball 19 times for 58 yards. Brett Favre threw 47 passes with four touchdowns and one interception. With an 0-4 record, right tackle Mark Tauscher had this to say. "I'm frustrated. It starts wearing on you mentally, but 0-4 is the reality of the situation. We made our bed, and now we have to get ourselves out of it."¹

Green Bay	7	0	6	16	29
Carolina	7	16	3	6	32

Attendance: 73,657

Total Yards: GB 352 CAR 286

*Letter to Editor, Mark Krell, Packers Fan: "It's time to cut Sherman loose. Until he's replaced, I will no longer watch the Green Bay Packers, nor will I purchase any Green Bay Packers merchandise."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/05, Havel, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/05, p. 9



1919-2019

NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS
PACKERS

3
52 10.9.2005

On a sunny day at Lambeau Field, the Packers won their first game. It was no contest as Brett Favre completed 20 of 28 passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns without an interception. Najeh Davenport ran for two touchdowns, and the Packers wrapped up by halftime 35-3.

Green Bay intercepted three passes, with Al Harris and Nick Barnett returning their picks for touchdowns. In all, New Orleans turned it over five times. In the fourth quarter, rookie quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, completed his first NFL pass to fullback Vonta Leach.

New Orleans	3	0	0	0	3
Green Bay	14	21	10	7	52

Attendance: 70,580

*“Tobin and Sherrie Koehler came from Orange County, California, to see a game at Lambeau Field. ‘We flew out just for this game. We were hoping they’d win,’ said Tobin Koehler, who was named after former Packers quarterback Tobin Rote.”*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/05, Hoeft, p. 4



1919-2019

PACKERS

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

20

10.23.2005

23

This was quite a quarterback duel between Brett Favre and Dante Culpepper. In the first half, it was all Favre, and the Packers jumped out to a 17-0 lead. The first strike came at the end of a 96-yard drive on a 22-yard pass from Favre to Donald Driver. Antonio Chatman caught Favre's second touchdown for the halftime lead.

The Packers outgained the Vikings (373-363), but the offense got bogged down in the second half after Najeh Davenport broke his ankle. The Vikings took full advantage and got back into the game with 20 unanswered points. Culpepper threw touchdowns to Marcus Robinson and Mewelde Moore. Paul Edinger also kicked two field goals, and with 3:10 to go in the game, the Vikings led a 20-17.

With 24 seconds left, a 39-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell tied it. But Koren Robinson's kickoff return, and a crucial catch by Marcus Robinson, put Minnesota in field goal range. Edinger delivered from 56-yards away to win it. As for the quarterbacks: Favre 28-36-315-2-0 / Culpepper 23-31-280-2-0.

Green Bay 0 17 0 3 20

Minnesota 0 0 10 13 23

Attendance: 64,278

Sacks: GB 5 MINN 0



1919-2019

PACKERS
CINCINNATI
BENGALS

14
21

10.30.2005

1-6

Two critical statistics summed up this game. Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer threw three touchdown passes, and Brett Favre threw five interceptions. Though the defense did not give up any points after four of the interceptions, the fifth pick was another matter.

Trailing 14-7 in the fourth quarter, Favre's fifth interception gave the Bengals the ball at Green Bay's 27-yard line. On the first play, Palmer gave Cincinnati a two-touchdown lead with a 27-yard touchdown to fullback Jeremi Johnson. On the Bengals next series, Ahmad Carroll grabbed an interception on Green Bay's 12-yard line to stop the drive. Favre took command after the turnover, going nine-for-12 with a touchdown pass to Bubba Franks. With 3:18 left, it was 21-14 Cincinnati.

After one first down, the Bengals were forced to punt. The Packers stood 90 yards away from the tying game with 56 seconds left. They reached Cincinnati's 30-yard line when time expired. "Unfortunately, I didn't make enough plays. But until they tell me differently as far as lining up and playing next week, I am going to do the same thing and after the game, I'm not going second guess anything,"¹ said Favre.

Green Bay	0	7	0	7	14
Cincinnati	7	7	0	7	21

Attendance: 65,940

Samkon Gado played in his first game and gained eight yards on one carry.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/05, Demovsky, p. 38



1919-2019

PITTSBURGH
STEELERS
PACKERS

20
10

11.6.2005

Brett Favre did not throw a touchdown pass in a home game for the first time in 27 games. He was inconsistent most of the afternoon going 20-35-214-0-1, and Pittsburgh had the upper hand most of the game.

The first quarter saw three field goals, two by Josh Reed and a 40-yard boot by Ryan Longwell. The turning point came early in the second quarter. A blitz by Pittsburgh got to Favre for a sack and a fumble. Safety Troy Polamalu recovered it and went 77 yards for a touchdown for a 13-3 halftime lead.

The Packers came out of the locker room, and rookie Samkon Gado scored on his fifth carry of the drive for Green Bay's only touchdown. Midway in the fourth quarter, a Favre pass bounced off Donald Driver's hands and was intercepted by safety Tyrone Carter at Green Bay's 20. "If I make that catch, we win the game,"¹ said, Driver. Four plays later, running back Duce Staley won it for the Steelers.

Pittsburgh	6	7	0	7	20
Green Bay	3	0	7	0	10

Attendance: 70, 607

Brett Favre was now in second-place, all-time, in touchdown passes, passing yards, and completions.

Dan Galvis, The Dallas Morning News: "By kickoff, all seats are filled, and they'll remain that way until halftime. The only way you'll miss a play is if you don't stand up fast enough. What sets these fans apart are their manners. Sure there's sniping at the opponents, but they're unlikely to get into confrontations."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/05, p. 37

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/05, p. 7



PACKERS
ATLANTA
FALCONS

33
25

11.13.2005

The 1-7 Packers upended the 6-2 Falcons on the road. The Packers were led by medical student turned rookie running back, Samkon Gado. Gado fueled the upset with 103 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

On his 23rd birthday, Gado scored the game's first 14 points. He ran for a nine-yard touchdown, and he caught a one-yard touchdown toss from Brett Favre. After the Falcons tied it with Michael Vick's touchdown run, three more field goals by Ryan Longwell kept Green Bay in front.

The Packers led 26-17 late in the fourth quarter when an Atlanta fumble set up Gado's third touchdown with 3:34 remaining. Green Bay's defense backed up the offense by holding the elusive Michael Vick to 20 yards rushing. They also forced three turnovers, which led to 14 points for Green Bay.

Green Bay	14	3	6	10	33
Atlanta	0	14	0	11	25
Attendance:	70,001				



1919-2019

MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
PACKERS

20
17

11.21.2005

The Packers offense struggled, and Paul Edinger kicked another winning field goal for Minnesota as time ran out. The Packers slipped to 2-8 for the sixth time in team history.

Green Bay was held to 236 total yards. They scored both touchdowns in the first half on passes from Brett Favre to Donald Driver. In between the touchdowns, Favre threw a pick-six to Devonte Edwards. At halftime, Green Bay led 14-7.

The Packers did little offensively in the second half. They managed only one field goal, and they ran just for just 21 yards all game. The Vikings looked like a different team, and they moved the ball consistently behind back-up quarterback Brad Johnson and Mewelde Moore, who ran for 122 yards. On their second possession of the half, they took nine minutes off the clock and scored. They were helped along by two critical penalties by the Packers – illegal contact and pass interference – that kept the drive alive.

After a Ryan Longwell field goal tied it at 20-20 with three minutes left, Moore's running and Koren Robinson's key catch for 35 yards put the Vikings on Green Bay's nine-yard line. Paul Edinger stepped back and kicked his third field goal to beat Green Bay once again as time ran out.

The Vikings swept the season series from the Packers for the first time since 1998.

Minnesota	0	7	7	6	20
Green Bay	7	7	0	3	17

Attendance: 70,610



PACKERS
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

14
19

11.27.2005

The Packers turned the ball over five times, and the Eagles came back in the second half despite not having their starting quarterback, Donovan McNabb, to lead them. They also didn't have receiver Terrell Owens.

Back-up quarterback Mike McMahon led the Eagles. They jumped in front 10-0 in the first quarter before Green Bay came back with two touchdowns. Samkon Gado took off around left end for a 33-yard touchdown, and just before halftime, Brett Favre hit tight end David Martin for a 13-yard score and a 14-10 edge.

In the second half, Philadelphia shut down Green Bay's offense, and David Akers kicked three field goals for Philly. The loss handed Green Bay its first losing season since 1991, and the anti-Sherman crowd began to become more vocal.

Green Bay	7	7	0	0	14
Philadelphia	10	0	3	6	19
Attendance:	67,665				



PACKERS
CHICAGO
BEARS

7
19
12.4.2005

This victory was Chicago's first win at home over Brett Favre and the Packers since 1993. Favre threw 58 passes in this rivalry game, and two were intercepted, which cost Green Bay 10 points.

Though Favre turned it over four times, the Packers still outgained the Bears 358-190. Samkon Gado, who ran for 75 yards, scored Green Bay's lone touchdown in the second quarter for a 7-3 lead. The lead was gone by halftime with two more field goals by Robbie Gould.

The Bears won it in the fourth quarter with field goal #4 for Gould, and a 45-yard pick-six of Favre by Nathan Vasher. "This is pretty sweet. They've kicked our butts here a lot of times,"¹ said the Bears' linebacker Lance Briggs.

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Chicago	0	9	0	10	19

Attendance: 62,177

Yards Passing: GB 258 CHI 49

"Green Bay Packers players Rob Davis and Brady Poppinga, along with defensive ends coach Bob Sanders, will be featured speakers Saturday at the All-Pro Dad-Fathers Kids Experience. The program begins at 1:00pm at the Lambeau Field Atrium."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/05, Dougherty, p. 31

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/05, p. 7



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

13
16 (OT) 12.11.2005

The Lions weren't used to winning in Green Bay, but they led most of this game. A field goal gave them a 3-0 lead, and a fumble by Brett Favre gave them the ball back on Green Bay's 18. The defense held them to a field goal, but after a 73-yard kickoff return by R. J. McQuarters, the Lions added a touchdown for a 13-3 lead.

Right before the break, Samkon Gado's 64-yard touchdown off right tackle narrowed it to 13-10. For the game, Gado led the offense with 171 yards rushing, which remains the seventh most in Packers' history. In the second half, the Lions couldn't move the ball. They picked-up just six first downs, and early in the fourth quarter, Ryan Longwell's 39-yard field goal for the Packers tied it.

In the overtime, Green Bay won the toss, and a 33-yard kickoff return by Antonio Chatman set up shop at the 35. In 10 plays, Favre and Gado took it down to Detroit's nine-yard line, and Longwell's third field goal clinched win #3 for Green Bay.

Detroit	13	0	0	0	0	13
Green Bay	3	7	0	3	3	16

Attendance: 70,019

The Packers are "like your kids. They may disappoint you, but you're still always there to support them,"¹ said Packers fan Toby Hodek before the game.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/12/05, Zarling, p. 1



PACKERS
BALTIMORE
RAVENS

3
12.19.2005
48

Spanked

The Packers suffered their worst defeat since 1980 on Monday Night Football.

Baltimore quarterback Kyle Boller threw three touchdown passes, and the Ravens dominated Green Bay with 435 total yards. For the Packers, Brett Favre threw two interceptions without a touchdown. He played into the late third quarter when rookie quarterback Aaron Rodgers replaced him. Rodgers threw one interception, lost two fumbles, and was sacked three times. "It was tough to watch any part of that game. We didn't execute in any phase,"¹ said Sherman.

Green Bay	3	0	0	0	3
Baltimore	14	10	10	14	48

Attendance: 70,604

Samkon Gado suffered a knee injury and would not play in the final two games.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/05, Demovsky, p. 31



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

24
17

12.25.2005

The Bears swept the Packers for the first time since 1991. Led by rookie quarterback Rex Grossman, who was making his first NFL start, Chicago led 7-0 early and 14-7 at the break.

Brett Favre threw four interceptions, and a pick-six by linebacker Lance Briggs stretched the Bears lead to 24-7 in the third quarter. Those points made the difference as Brett Favre finished the season with a career-high 29 interceptions. All in all, "this season will go down as the worst of Favre's Hall of Fame-worthy career."¹

Chicago	7	7	10	0	24
Green Bay	0	7	0	10	17

Attendance: 69,757

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/26/05, Demovsky, p. 38



1919-2019

SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS
PACKERS

17
23

1.1.2006

Favre's Last Game?

The Packers defeated Seattle as the playoff-bound Seahawks rested their starters in the second half. Brett Favre (21-37-259-1-1) played the whole game for Green Bay, and his third-quarter touchdown pass to Antonio Chatman put the Packers in front to stay 20-14. This was Favre's first touchdown pass since November 27 against Philadelphia (211 attempts).

Regarding Favre's future? "There were a lot of people with tears in their eyes. I think a lot of people had the feeling that maybe this was his last game. We're eternal optimists and think he's going to come back."¹

Seattle	0	7	7	3	17
Green Bay	6	7	7	3	23
Attendance:	69,928				

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/2/06, Behrandt/Phelps, p. 4



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2018

2005 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS – NFC North

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

Team Leaders

Passing	Favre
Rushing	Gado
Receiving	Driver
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	Harris
Sacks	Gbaja-Biamila

All-Pro

Kampman Defensive End

Notable Draft Choices (Round, Position)

Aaron Rodgers (1, QB)
Nick Collins (2a, S/CB)
Marviel Underwood (4a, S)
Brady Poppinga (4b, LB)
Michael Montgomery (6a, DE)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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