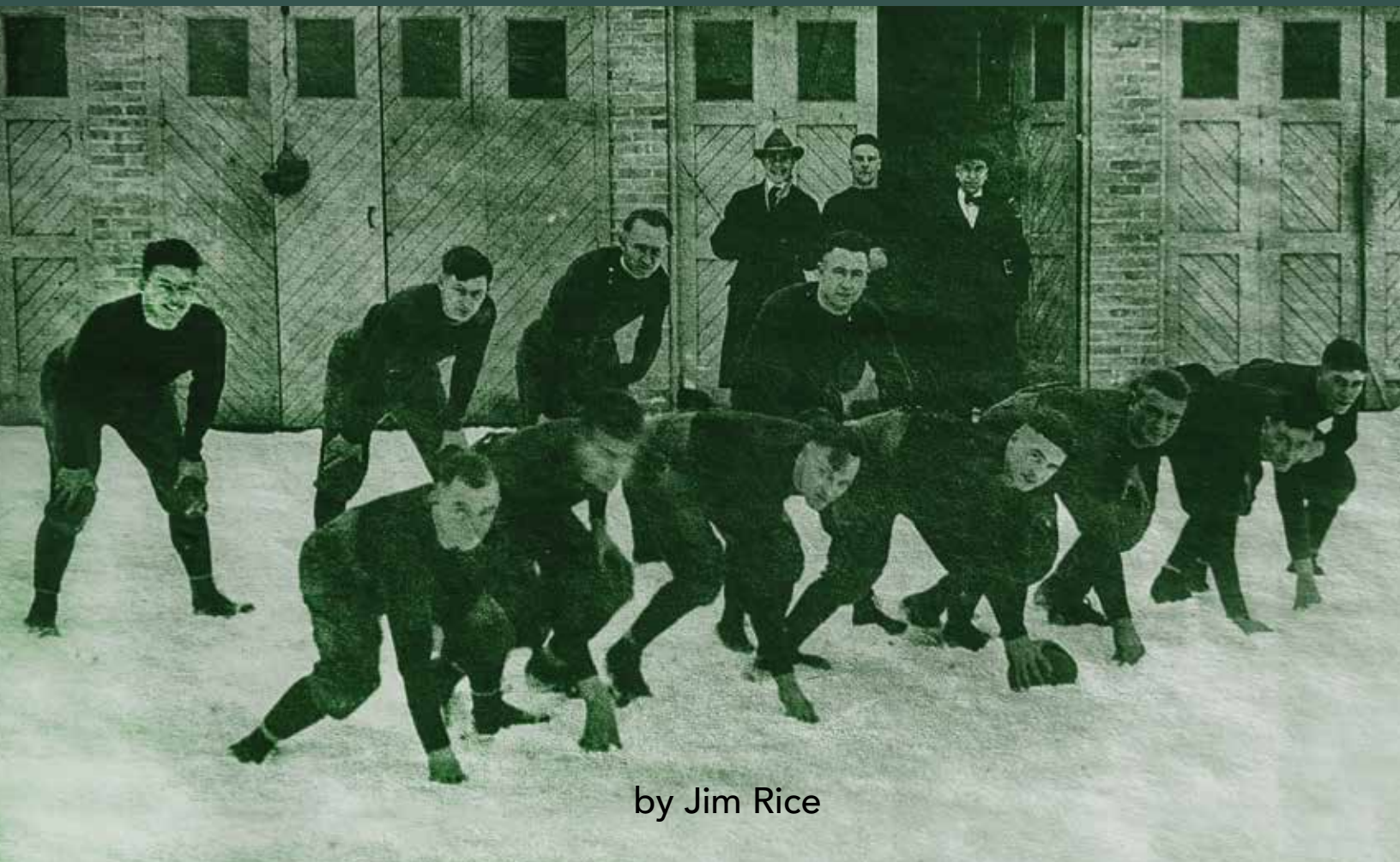


INCLUDES
2020 & 2021 Seasons



The Packers Century 1919-2019

The game-by-game history of the Green Bay Packers



by Jim Rice

“Detailing every game of pro football’s most famous team is quite a challenge. A game-by-game walk through the seasons of this historical Packers franchise is a treasure for every fan, and those fans to come.”

NFL broadcaster Kevin Harlan
Son of former Packer’s President, Bob Harlan

The Packers Century

1919-2019

The game-by-game history of the Green Bay Packers

By Jim Rice

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For every fan!

THE — PACKERS CENTURY —

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***Click on the page links to immediately connect to
the decade of choice.***

Introduction & Acknowledgements

Welcome to The Packers Century and the game-by-game journey through Green Bay's first 100+ seasons. To date, the collection includes over 1,400 regular and postseason games through the 2019 season. Games are accompanied by stories and personal experiences about the special bond between a small-town team and its community. You'll find more than 700 stories and recollections along the way from fans, players, and sportswriters about the unique relationship between the fans and the NFL's most successful franchise!

The research about the games and the stories involved many sources. Chief among them are the six listed below that were indispensable for understanding the rich history of the franchise.

Green Bay Press-Gazette @ newspapers.com
A Measure of Greatness by Eric Goska
Green Bay Packers Media Guide (2010/2019)
Packers Heritage Trail by Cliff Christl
PackersHistory.net
Pro-Football-Reference.com

Thank you to all the fans who have attended my presentations about the team's history. Special thanks to five members of the Green Bay Packers FAN Hall of Fame, who shared their love of "The Pack" with me—Richard "Ike" Eisenhower, Jim Becker, Frank Lamping, Vivian Scherf-Laabs, and Steve Schumer. You'll find a special story or two from each of these devoted fans inside.

Go Pack Go!
Jim Rice
PackersCentury.com

The Packers Century 1919-2019

The game-by-game history of the Green Bay Packers

The Packers were founded on August 11, 1919.
They played their first game on September 14, 1919.

I. Getting Started

When the National Football League began, there wasn't a community in America that supported its team more fervently than Green Bay, Wisconsin. The city's football history dated back to the 1890s. In 1919, the newest team, the Green Bay Packers, began play very close to where the city's first football game was played in 1895!

The team's leader was Earl "Curly" Lambeau, a former football star at Green Bay East High School. In 1918, Curly left Green Bay to play football at the University of Notre Dame. He played on Knute Rockne's first team, but he did not return to South Bend after Christmas.

Living back in Green Bay, Curly missed football. He began thinking about the possibility of organizing a team when he met a willing partner in George Whitney Calhoun, the city editor of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Calhoun remembered Lambeau from his standout play in high school. They both loved football and talked about the possibility of organizing a "professional" team. Players would be paid to practice during the week and play on other town teams on weekends. Both men believed a new football team would be a worthwhile venture as Green Bay emerged from World War I.

George Calhoun also knew a good sports story when he saw one. With Calhoun on board, the team found its legs. "Cal," as his byline often read, was a friendly, well-connected public relations machine whose great-grandfather founded the city of Green Bay. For three decades, Calhoun served as the team's public relations director, statistician, historian, and traveling secretary. At his disposal were the resources of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, first published in 1866.

II. Curly

In late 1918 and early 1919, Curly Lambeau's life turned completely upside down. He went from Knute Rockne's backfield at Notre Dame to the leader of a football team that would make him one of the most famous sports personalities in America. In less than one year, this bright 20-year old organized the Packers, coached the team to a 10-1 season, and began being recognized beyond Green Bay for his coaching.

After discussions with Calhoun, Lambeau asked his boss, Frank Peck, President of The Indian Packing Company, to support the new team. The company agreed and gave Curly \$500 for uniforms and equipment. They also let the team use the lot next to the packing plant for practice.

August 11, 1919	First organizational meeting
August 14, 1919	First player meeting
September 3, 1919	First practice—18 players showed up
September 14, 1919	First game—Packers win 53-0

The new team had humble beginnings. In 1919, without a fence around the field, Calhoun and others had to pass a hat to the spectators to collect donations. Before the 1920 season, a fence was put up around the field with the help of volunteers that included Curly's dad, Marcel Lambeau. Admission could now be charged. Two large sections of bleachers were also built.

Avid fans began lining up each week for single-game seats. Others bought season tickets. From the beginning and until the mid-1950s, season tickets were pitched to businesses and industries in the state and region. Players and management traveled in the offseason, meeting fans and selling tickets. Season ticket sales meant stability for the fragile franchise, and season ticket holders numbered around 2,000 into the 1940s.

Now, season tickets to Packer games are prized family possessions carefully passed down from one generation to the next.

III. Calhoun

George Whitney Calhoun, and those who came after him at the Green Bay Press-Gazette, have provided the first record of the team's history. For "Cal" the franchise was so much more than a job. He loved the new team and its coach, and he made no effort to conceal his affection for *The Bays*, *The Bay Blues*, and *The Big Bay Blues!* He also lavished praise on Curly Lambeau, who believed the forward pass was the future of professional football.

In keeping with the journalistic style of the day, Calhoun's game stories were opinionated, informative, and entertaining! His articles circulated in newspapers throughout the Upper Midwest, and he introduced millions to the Green Bay Packers and pro football. Cal was with the franchise from 1919-1947.

IV. Fast Forward

In August 1933, Packer fans were shaken when the franchise was placed in receivership with a debt exceeding \$15,000. While the team received favorable treatment from the court, it was forced to reorganize and settle its debts.

Ironically, the serious financial problems of the Packers coincided with those of the Portsmouth Spartans of Northern Ohio. By March 1934, the owners of the financially-strapped Spartans had exhausted all their financial options, and the team was sold to George Richards, owner of WJR radio in Detroit. With the sale, Green Bay became the last remaining small-town team in the NFL.

For the Packers, rather than relying on a wealthy owner or an ownership group to come to the rescue (and possibly move the team) the franchise turned to the fans. Packer President Leland Joannes rallied city residents, local businesses, and statewide friends to support the team. For his efforts, “twenty-five business and industrial leaders agreed in December 1934 to raise \$10,000 to ‘Save the Packers.’”¹ Also, for the first time since 1923, a stock sale was held. At \$25.00 per share, the community responded enthusiastically, and \$12,100 was raised!

Former reporter and Packers historian Lee Remmel said it best when asked why the Packers have survived all these years while so many other small-town teams did not? “A can-do spirit that is here absolutely has refused to let this franchise leave Green Bay.”²

Financial challenges have seriously threatened the team’s survival five times. In each case, a stock sale supported key projects and financial stability, not personnel, that have safeguarded the franchise. The shares, which have no monetary value and do not pay dividends, are essentially a donation to the team. Each stock sale stabilized the franchise at a critical moment in its history. Today, the Packers remain the only community-owned team in pro sports with more than 360,000 stockholders!

Stock sales were held in 1923, 1935, 1950, 1997, and 2011. In 2000, residents of Brown County, Wisconsin, also approved a 0.5% sales tax for Lambeau Field’s renovation.

Though the team was “perpetually in danger of folding into the 1950s,”³ the extraordinary efforts of Curly, Cal, and others overcame every financial obstacle for 31 years. After Curly Lambeau departed in early 1950, the team experienced two remarkable rebirths in 1959 and 1992 that kept it relevant on and off the field.

In 2018, the Green Bay Packers played their 100th season! After a century, the winning tradition remains strong, and the Packers have won more NFL Championships (13) than any other franchise. Curly would be proud!

100 Seasons

(1919-2018)

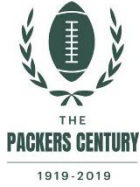
Winning Seasons – 62

Losing Seasons – 29

.500 Seasons – 9

Championship Seasons – 13

V. Town League - 1919-1920



1919

Record: 10-1-0

Coach: Curly Lambeau

Thanks to the financial backing of the Indian Packing Company, a new football club was organized in Green Bay. The team played other town teams and athletic clubs in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan.

One month after their first meeting on August 11, 1919, the Packers played their first game. It was a home game at Hagemeister Park, the current site of Green Bay East High School. Without a fence around the park, "most fans either paced the sidelines following the ball or pulled their Model Ts close enough to watch from their front seats."⁴ George Calhoun and other friends of the club *passed the hat* at home games to collect funds to cover expenses.

Lambeau's boys dominated opponents all season. They came through with shutouts in their first four games and won 10 straight. In their first game, they pounded the Menominee Michigan North End Athletic Club 53-0. In mid-October, against Ishpeming, three Packers suffered early injuries, which forced Green Bay to pass. They learned a lot during that game about passing the football and won 33-0!

In 11 games, the Packers outscored opponents 565-12! Their only blemish came in the last game of the season in Beloit. In that contest, three straight penalties called against Green Bay by an alleged hometown official kept the Packers out of the end zone and ended their undefeated season.

After the season, each player took home \$16.75!

9/14	Menominee	W	53-0
9/21	Marinette	W	61-0
9/28	New London	W	54-0
10/5	Sheboygan	W	87-0
10/12	Racine	W	76-6
10/19	@Ishpeming	W	33-0
10/26	Oshkosh	W	85-0
11/2	Milwaukee A. C.	W	53-0
11/9	Chicago A. C.	W	46-0
11/16	@Stambaugh	W	17-0
11/23	@Beloit	L	6-0



1920
Record: 9-1-1
Coach: Curly Lambeau

For their second season, a fence was built around Hagemeister Park so the Packers could charge admission. Volunteers helped build the fence, and two sets of bleachers were also opened during the season.

Though the team wasn't as strong as 1919, the Packers had another fantastic season. They easily outscored their opponents 227-24. The opener ended in a tie, and they lost to Beloit in November. In October, they settled a heated local rivalry by dispatching the DePere Pros 62-0.

In December 1920, the Acme Packing Company purchased the Indian Packing Company. After two years of easy competition, Cal informed Curly about a more competitive league known as the American Professional Football Association (APFA). The Packers joined the APFA for the 1921 season, and in 1922, the league changed its name to the National Football League.

9/26 Chicago	T 3-3
10/3 Kaukauna	W 56-0
10/10 Stambaugh	W 3-0
10/17 Marinette	W 25-0
10/24 DePere	W 62-0
10/31 Beloit	W 7-0
11/7 Milwaukee	W 9-0
11/14 @Beloit	L 14-3
11/21 Menominee	W 19-7
11/25 Stambaugh	W 14-0
11/28 Milwaukee A. C.	W 26-0

1 Green Bay Packers Media Guide, 2018, p. 555

2 For Packer Fans Only, Wolfe, p. 132

3 The Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 57

4 The Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 113

VI: American Professional Football Association - 1921

The National Football League - 1922 to present



1921

Record: 3-2-1

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The Packers joined the American Professional Football Association. With teams stretching from New York to Minnesota, stiffer competition awaited. The league changed its name to the National Football League in 1922.
- A franchise was awarded to John and J. Emmett Clair of the Acme Packing Company on August 27th. The brothers hoped the “Acme Packers” uniform would spread the company’s name far and wide.
- Eight players from 1919-1920 played in the first game in the new league.
- After playing with Green Bay for only the last game of the 1920 season, the Packers signed Howard “Cub” Buck for 1921. His large frame was intimidating: 6’3”, 250 pounds, with a size 19 neck. Buck had played with the great Jim Thorpe.
- After the season, the NFL began investigating claims that the Packers had used college players in a non-league game against Racine on December 4th.
- The team reported a loss of \$3,800 for the season.

10.23.1921

MINNEAPOLIS

MARINES 6

PACKERS 7

Hagmemiester Park hosted Green Bay’s first game in the American Professional Football Association. Minneapolis got off to a fast start with a first-quarter touchdown. It stayed 6-0 until the final quarter.

With six minutes left, Green Bay’s Cub Buck punted the ball back to Minneapolis. Ben Dvorak, who had scored the Marines’ touchdown, fumbled the punt on his own 35-yard line. It was recovered by David “Jigger” Hayes of the Packers. After a third-down pass from

Lambeau to Al "Buff" Wagner kept the drive alive, running back Art Schmael crashed over from the four-yard line. Lambeau's extra point was the difference. Once victory was assured, "cushions went flying in the air while soaring hats were as thick as Green Bay flies on a July night."¹

Minneapolis 6 0 0 0 6
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
6,000

*Following the win, "staid gray-haired businessmen jumped around like school kids, and there was one continual din that could be heard blocks away."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/21, Calhoun, p. 5

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/21, Calhoun, p. 5

10.30.1921

ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS 13
PACKERS 3

The Packers suffered their first home loss. In the first quarter, they took the lead after recovering a fumble on the Rock Island 20-yard line. Curly Lambeau's field goal made it 3-0. Later in the quarter, a blocked punt by the Independents put the ball inside Green Bay's 10-yard line. Three plays later, Jimmy Conzelman scored to put Rock Island ahead 7-3.

The next 30 minutes were a punting contest. Rock Island got the best of it early in the fourth quarter when a Green Bay punt went out of bounds on the Packer 30-yard line. A few plays later, Sid Nichols scored the winner from the one-yard line.

Rock Island 7 0 0 6 13
Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
6,000

Paul Mazzoleni, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame

*My father "moved to Green Bay in 1921 from St. Louis. Back then, it was just a club team, and about a half-dozen players lived in his neighborhood. When practice came around, he would go hang and watch practice. One day, one of the players saw him standing there and said, 'Hey, why don't you run home and get us some water?' So he ran home, got a bucket of water and a ladle, and took it back to the players. From that point forward, for the next two years, he was the official water boy to the Green Bay Packers."*¹

1 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 31

11.6.1921

EVANSVILLE

CRIMSON GIANTS **6**
PACKERS **43**

To prepare for the Evansville Crimson Giants, the Packers held twice-a-day practices the week before the game. The practices sharpened Green Bay's play as both the offense and defense had Giants back-peddling the entire afternoon.

The Packers moved the ball up and down the field all game behind the passing of Curly Lambeau who was, "shooting the oval like a bullet, and with deadly accuracy."⁵ The first score came on an interception that Gus DuMoe returned 25 yards for a touchdown. The second came after a blocked punt set up the Packers at the Evansville 12-yard line. Curly missed the extra point for a 13-0 lead. Nate Abrams also returned an interception 40 yards for a touchdown, and the Packers had no trouble the rest of the way. Evansville scored in the fourth quarter.

Evansville **0 0 0 6 6**

Green Bay **7 15 14 7 43**

Attendance Not Available

The Packers wouldn't score 43 or more points again until 1930.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/21, Calhoun, p. 10

11.13.1921

HAMMOND

PROS **7**
PACKERS **14**

Hometown boy Charlie Mathys returned to Green Bay. Mathys starred at Green Bay West High School and Ripon College. It was unusual not to see him in a Wisconsin uniform.

Early in the first quarter, a fumble gave Green Bay the ball on the Hammond 25. Curly Lambeau ran in it from the 2-yard line for a 7-0 lead. Later in the quarter, Lambeau faked a drop kick and tossed a 35-yard touchdown pass from Lambeau to Gus DuMoe that made it 14-0.

Green Bay's defense didn't let the Pros get closer than the 30-yard line all game. Hammond scored in the third quarter on a blocked punt by Jack Depler that Russ Oltz recovered and ran in for a touchdown.

Hammond **0 0 7 0 7**

Green Bay **14 0 0 0 14**

Attendance Not Available

“A committee of boosters, headed by Art Masse, George De Lair, and Ed Masse, has started a ticket-selling campaign, and they are going to canvas every business plant in the city. It is up to the citizens of Green Bay to back up the Packers. They have put Wisconsin, not alone Green Bay, on the professional football map.”¹

“The Green Bay football fans who can't make the trip to Chicago for the Packer-Cardinal game will be given an opportunity right at home to "see" the game hot off the wire. A direct wire from Normal Park, Chicago, where the game will be played, to Turner Hall, Green Bay, has been leased, and two seconds after a play is made on the Windy City gridiron, it will be known to footballers at home who are spending the afternoon in Turner Hall. The doors at Turner Hall will be opened at 1 o'clock, and it is expected that there will be a big crowd of fans.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/21, p. 12

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/21, p. 12

11.20.1921

PACKERS 3

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 3

For the first time, a Green Bay Packer game was “wired” back to Turner Hall in Green Bay. Plays were read to the crowd. Footballs were moved on a rectangular piece of wood representing the field to show each team’s progress when they possessed the ball.

Terrible field conditions contributed to a quiet and scoreless three quarters. With the field “just a mass of water and mud,”¹ players were hard to identify. In the fourth- quarter, Curly Lambeau kicked a 25-yard field goal from a two-inch puddle to put Green Bay in front. With four minutes left, Packer running back John Malone fumbled inside the Green Bay 30. Paddy Driscoll of the Cards drop-kicked a field goal from 35 yards out to tie it.

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3
Chicago 0 0 0 3 3
2,000

“Chicago now knows Green Bay has a team and what’s more loyal fans. The Green Bay delegation kept up a continual roar from first to last whistle with Jock Smith in the lead.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/21, Calhoun, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/21, p. 13

11.27.1921

PACKERS

0

CHICAGO

STALEYS

20

Twenty-five hundred Packer fans and the Lumberjack Band took the train to Cubs Park (Wrigley Field) for this eagerly awaited match. While the Packers lost to the soon-to-be Bears, the small-town team from the north earned their respect.

Green Bay was outplayed. Chicago's first touchdown in the second quarter came on Gaylord Stinchcomb's 45-yard run. Stinchcomb broke six tackles to get to the end zone, and it was all Chicago needed. Another touchdown run made it 14-0 at the half. In the fourth quarter, George Halas finished off the Packers with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chick Harley.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	14	0	6	20

7,000

The Lumberjack Band took a train to Chicago. According to band member Ernie Stiller, "The ride to Chicago was a nightmare. Then came the parade from the station and the run-in with police, which was soon smoothed over. We marched into several of the Loop hotels and spread the Green Bay football gospel all around."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/21, Calhoun, p. 10

1921

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago Staleys	9	1	1				
Buffalo	9	1	2	Washington	1	2	0
Akron	8	3	1	Cincinnati	1	3	0
Canton	5	2	3	Hammond	1	3	1
Rock Island	4	2	1	Minneapolis	1	3	1
Evansville	3	2	0	Detroit	1	5	1
Green Bay	3	2	1	Columbus	1	8	0
Dayton	4	4	1	Tonawanda	0	1	0
Chicago Cards	3	3	2	Muncie	0	2	0
Rochester	2	3	0	Louisville	0	2	0
Cleveland	3	5	0	New York	0	2	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Lambeau
Rushing	Lambeau/Schmaehl
Receiving	DuMoe
Field Goals	Lambeau
Scoring	Lambeau



1922

Record: 4-3-3, 7th Place, Tied

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- In January, the Packers were expelled from the APFA for using college players in a non-league game on December 4, 1921. Carr knew the Packers weren't the only ones doing this, "but the one team I've caught red-handed is Green Bay. So, I am hereby declaring forfeited the Green Bay franchise."¹
- The franchise was reinstated in June when Curly Lambeau pleaded the team's case at a meeting in Cleveland. "In 1922, Lambeau and Calhoun headed a small group that organized the private Green Bay Football Club and took control of the franchise."³ A \$250 franchise fee was paid, and a \$1,000 deposit forthcoming. Also, at this meeting, the APFA changed its name to the National Football League.
- Games were plagued by bad weather and poor attendance. Against Columbus on November 5, rain gutted attendance to 1,500. The Packers filed a claim with their insurance company to recover the lost revenue (\$1,500). The insurance company denied the claim because too little rain had fallen— by 3/100ths of an inch.
- On November 7th, in a letter to fans in the Press-Gazette, the Packers announced a debt of \$3,400 and an increase in ticket prices.
- The Bears canceled their Thanksgiving in Green Bay because the Packers would not agree to a \$4,000 guarantee. Green Bay still needed a game for revenue, so they scheduled a *non-league* game against the Duluth Kelleys. When a downpour threatened this game, Lambeau and Calhoun feared ticket sales wouldn't generate enough money to pay Duluth or the players. After they consulted with Andrew Turnbull, an owner of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, they played the game. Turnbull backed the Packers for the money.
- Turnbull also promised to arrange a meeting with business and industry leaders to discuss the team's future. One week after the season, he delivered. "True to his word,

Turnbull led the effort to create the nonprofit Green Bay Football Corporation before the start of the next season. The Packers were now a community-owned team. Their investors were their fans.”³

1 Pro Football’s Hall of Fame, Daley, p. 130

2 packers.com/history

3 packers.com/history

10.1.1922

PACKERS 14
ROCK ISLAND
INDEPENDENTS 19

It was a thrilling opener for the Rock Island fans. The Independents took the opening kickoff and marched right downfield for a touchdown. They never gave up the lead, and Dutch Lauer scored twice for Rock Island. Jimmy Conzelman keyed the offense with two field goals and a touchdown pass.

Trailing 19-7 in the fourth quarter, Lambeau’s touchdown pass to Tommy Cronin made it close. In the final minute, his pass to Lyle Wheeler was deflected, ending the threat.

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
Rock Island 6 10 0 3 19
3,500

10.8.1922

RACINE

LEGION 10
PACKERS 6

Busloads of fans from Racine made the trip to Green Bay! The Packers took an early 6-0 lead on a blocked punt by Cub Buck that was recovered for a touchdown by Cowboy Wheeler. The Legion put together an impressive 90-yard drive to go in front 7-6. A drop kick before halftime made it 10-6. Green Bay threatened several times in the second half, but a strong Racine defense denied them.

Green Bay fans were disappointed in the team’s 0-2 start, and Calhoun commented, “there’s a jinx somewhere around the Bay eleven. If they can shake the hoodoo, there is no question they will prove a mean foe.”¹

Racine 0 10 0 0 10
Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6
3,600

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/22, Calhoun, p. 10

10.15.1922

PACKERS 3

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 16

This game was played at Normal Park in Chicago. After a 3-3 first half, the Packers faded in the final 30 minutes. The Cardinals controlled most of the second-half action, and they capitalized on a roughing the passer penalty against Green Bay. It led to the first of two touchdown runs by Arnie Horween.

The great Paddy Driscoll guided the Cardinal offense and, as usual, he did everything well. He's "a kicking fool, he runs like an eel through an open field, and he can toss a pass at bullet speed, and he tops this all off with a real, honest-to-goodness football head."¹

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Chicago 3 0 7 6 16
3,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/22, Calhoun, p. 11

10.22.1922

PACKERS 0

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0

Green Bay's first in-state battle came against a team from Milwaukee. It was played at Athletic Park (Borchert Field) in Milwaukee.

According to the Press-Gazette, the Packers outplayed the Badgers for the most part. They more than held their own even though Curly Lambeau, "their captain and forward passing star was helped off the field, pretty badly banged up."¹

After a long drive by Milwaukee, Jug Earp blocked a field goal attempt by Fritz Pollard. In the final minutes, Curly Lambeau tried a 40-yard drop kick that came up one foot short. Since the tie ended the three-game losing streak, "Bay rooters simply went wild with joy."²

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
6,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/22, p. 10

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/22, p. 10

10.29.1922

ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS 0

PACKERS 0

It was the largest home crowd of the season for the Packers as 8,000 fans jammed the park. With Curly Lambeau out injured and a few others hurt during the game, the Packers were critically short-handed. Their defense stepped up and kept Rock Island out of the end zone. They played to a scoreless tie in front of a boisterous home crowd! Jug Earp, a former member of the Rock Island team, played fearlessly against his old team and captain Jimmy Conzelman.

Rock Island 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

8,000

*It was a huge crowd. "Hundreds of cars were parked outside the grounds. Northeastern Wisconsin was well represented. Oshkosh up north to Escanaba, east to Sturgeon Bay, and west to Shawano, they all came."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/22, p. 11

11.5.1922

COLUMBUS

PANHANDLES 0

PACKERS 3

Due to the rain, only 1,500 fans saw Green Bay's first win of the season. The wet ball made passing difficult, and running in ankle-deep mud wasn't much easier. Neither team scored in the first half. After a quick five-minute intermission, play resumed.

The Packers took the opening drive to the Columbus 20-yard line. They tried two field goals, and both were blocked. The rule at the time gave the ball to the team that recovered the blocked kick. Both times it was Green Bay. The third kick, the second by Cub Buck, sailed through from the 40-yard line for the win.

This was a big win for the Packers against a well-established team. Unfortunately, they lost about \$1,500 due to the weather.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Columbus 0 0 0 0 0

1,500

*Joe Carr, NFL Commissioner: "I am going to tell all that Green Bay is the best little football city in the country."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/22, p. 11

11.12.22

MINNEAPOLIS

MARINES 6

PACKERS 14

Partially due to an increase in ticket prices due to the team's precarious financial situation, "there were less than 2,000 paid admissions, and as a result of the poor gate, the management lost another big slice of dough."¹

Trailing 6-0 in the fourth quarter, the Packers scored twice in the final 10 minutes to pull out the win. Curly Lambeau's four-yard touchdown run capped off a 50-yard drive that took the lead 7-6. Then, in the last two minutes, Lambeau threw a short touchdown to Charlie Mathys to clinch it.

Minneapolis 0 6 0 0 6
Green Bay 0 0 0 14 14
2,000

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/22, Calhoun, p. 4

11.19.22

PACKERS 3

RACINE

LEGION 3

A fierce, physical battle. "Players went at each other with bulldog tactics,"¹ said George Calhoun the next day, alluding to the questionable officiating. In the fourth quarter, Curly Lambeau's field goal put Green Bay in front 3-0. Racine came back late in the quarter with a desperate pass from Chuck Dressen to Butch Hayes that put them on the Green Bay 15-yard line. Hank Gillo's field goal tied it with just seconds left.

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3
Racine 0 0 0 3 3
3,000

Approximately 300 fans from Green Bay attended the game, causing a Racine fan to shout, "No wonder pro football goes over big at the Bay. Look at the way their fans follow the team."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/22, Calhoun, p. 11

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/22, Calhoun, p. 11

11.26.22

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0

PACKERS 13

After their tie one month earlier, a big crowd came to see the “famous Milwaukee Badgers”¹ take on the Packers. Curly Lambeau scored all of Green Bay’s points with two touchdown runs and an extra point.

A blocked field goal by Milwaukee’s Paul Robeson stopped a first-quarter threat by Green Bay. In the second quarter, Lambeau scored on a short touchdown run. Later, when the Badgers accidentally backed into their own punt and blocked it, Green Bay recovered. Lambeau took it in two plays later.

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 7 0 6 13

Attendance Not Available

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/22, Calhoun, p. 10

12.3.22

PACKERS 14

RACINE

LEGION 0

The game was played in Milwaukee. The passing game showed the way as Green Bay won Wisconsin’s first state pro football championship!

For most of the day, the game was in Racine’s end of the field. In the second quarter, a 55-yard touchdown connection from Curly Lambeau to Charlie Mathys gave Green Bay the lead. “He was the first pro coach to realize the value of the forward pass,”¹ Packer President, Ray Evrard, would proudly note.

Green Bay scored again in the fourth quarter when their field goal was blocked and they recovered the ball (the rule at the time). Seven plays later, they put it away.

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0

4,500

¹ Greatest Packers of Them All, Johnson, p. 27

1922

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W L T</u>		<u>W L T</u>
Canton	10 0 2	Milwaukee	2 4 3
Chicago Bears	9 3 0	Oorang	2 6 0
Chicago Cardinals	8 3 0	Minnesota	1 3 0
Toledo	5 2 2	Louisville	1 3 0
Rock Island	4 2 1	Evansville	0 3 0
Racine	6 4 1	Rochester	0 4 1
Dayton	4 3 1	Hammond	0 5 1
Green Bay	4 3 3	Columbus	0 7 0
Buffalo	5 4 1		
Akron	3 5 2		

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Lambeau
Rushing	Lambeau
Receiving	Mathys
Field Goals	Buck, Mathys, Lambeau
Scoring	Lambeau

ALL-PRO

Lambeau



1923

Record: 7-2-1, 3rd Place, Tied

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- In 1923 and 1924, the Packers played their home games at Bellevue Park. Green Bay East High School was built on Hagemeister Park.
- Green Bay's strong finish in 1922 carried over into 1923. They shut out seven opponents and only lost to the Chicago Bears and Racine.
- In August, the team was reorganized as the Green Bay Football Corporation with the right to sell shares of stock.
- The reorganized franchise chose its first President, Andrew Turnbull. Along with four advisors, they eventually became known as the "Hungry Five." They were: Grocer Leland Joanes, Dr. W. Webber Kelly, Attorney John Kittell, and Curly Lambeau.

- Turnbull guided the franchise through its earliest financial challenges. "The plan for financing professional football in Green Bay during the season of 1923 includes the combination of stock in the Green Bay Football corporation and box seats for all the games played here this fall. The financial campaign got underway today, and it is the aim of the committee to get in immediate touch with every football fan in the city."¹
- The first stock sale was launched on August 20, 1923. Shares sold for \$5 each. If you bought five shares, you received a box seat ticket to all home games.
- The stock sale raised 5,545. The franchise was solvent for the 1923 season. On September 17th, the first stockholder meeting was held at the Brown County Courthouse.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/18/23, p. 10

9.30.23

MINNEAPOLIS

MARINES **0**
PACKERS **12**

A record-setting crowd was rewarded with a beautiful day and a shutout by the Packers. Curly Lambeau broke his nose during the contest, but he played the entire game. After a scoreless first half, rookie running back Myrt "Biff" Basing scored both Packer touchdowns. After his first touchdown run, "the roar of the crowd could be heard for miles."¹ The second touchdown capitalized on a fourth-quarter interception.

Minneapolis **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 0 6 6 12**
3,008

*"Tickets will be on sale Thursday night at the usual places about town. There has been a healthy demand from out-of-towners for reservations, and those who desire good seats are advised to grab up the pasteboards early."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/23, Calhoun, p. 12

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/23, p. 13

10.7.1923

ST. LOUIS

ALL-STARS **0**
PACKERS **0**

The Packers outplayed the All-Stars, but they missed several scoring opportunities. At least, "a half dozen times during the game, it seemed as if Captain Lambeau's aggregation

was going to tuck away a victory, but the fates ruled otherwise.”¹ The Packers did not substitute, and their starting 11 played the whole game.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
St. Louis 0 0 0 0 0
2,831

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/23, p. 11

10.14.1923

CHICAGO

BEARS 3
PACKERS 0

The Chicago Bears came North to Green Bay for the first time. They attracted the largest crowd ever to attend a sporting event in Northeastern Wisconsin!

The Bears capitalized on a costly fumble in the second quarter by Green Bay back Biff Basing. Dutch Sternaman’s 15-yard field goal put up the game’s only points. The Packers outgained the Bears, but Curly Lambeau missed a drop kick in the third quarter that would have tied the score.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 0 3 0 0 3
4,451

“Pro football as it is played and supported in Green Bay does more to put the game on a firm foundation than anything else,”¹ said referee Bobbie Cahn.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/23, p. 10

10.21.1923

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0
PACKERS 12

This was a fine game by Green Bay. Both teams moved the ball easily, and Cub Buck’s 35-yard field goal provided all of the scoring in the first half. Green Bay’s aerial attack had the Badgers completely fooled. Lambeau’s 40-yard touchdown to Cowboy Wheeler in the third quarter ended all doubt, and it sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 3 0 7 2 12
5,000

Whitey Woodin, Packer Guard: *"Nobody came off the field unless he was really hurt. But nobody got hurt, either. The extra men didn't get in unless somebody had to come out. I won't tell you who the fellow was, but he was one of the extra men. It was cold that day; oh, it was cold. This fellow was all bundled up on the sidelines, in a heavy coat, and sunk into the bales of straw they used in those days. And he was sitting there, all huddled up, and he kept hollering, 'Don't get hurt, boys. Stay in there, but don't get hurt.' He knew he wouldn't have to play unless someone got hurt."*¹

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Bledsoe, p. 35

10.28.1923

RACINE

LEGIONS 24

PACKERS 3

The Packers were upset at home. With both teams preferring to throw the ball, the Legion surprised Green Bay with a superior aerial attack. Racine scored the only points of the first half and led 10-0. Right after halftime on Green Bay's first possession, a fumble by quarterback Charlie Mathys resulted in a touchdown for Racine. The 17-point deficit proved too much.

Racine 0 10 7 7 24

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

2,800

*"The management is anxious to get in touch with any of the fans who are planning to accompany the team (to St. Louis), and if so desired, will make train and hotel reservations for the rooters on the trip."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/23, p. 11

11.4.1923

PACKERS 3

ST. LOUIS

ALL-STARS 0

The field was so muddy that St. Louis did not want to play the game. "Five minutes after the first whistle blew, it was hardly possible to tell one player from the other."¹ Cub Buck's 28-yard field goal in the second half won it. The All-Stars never got inside the Packer 30.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

St. Louis 0 0 0 0 0

750

*"Yesterday, the phone wire was extended along one sideline with a man who telephoned every move of the game against the Bulldogs. He stated that there were as many fans in the hall at Green Bay as there were in the Sportsman's Park enclosure."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/23, Calhoun, p. 11

2 St. Louis Star and Times, 11/5, 1923

11.11.1923

PACKERS 16

RACINE

LEGION 0

With an easy win two weeks ago, a large Racine crowd hoped to see a sweep of Green Bay. They were disappointed as Green Bay's front line blew apart Racine's front seven.

Green Bay's offense smacked Racine with 439 total yards while the Legion generated 122. "It was one of the greatest games ever played by a Packer team, and the game was witnessed by the greatest following that ever followed a Green Bay eleven to a foreign field."¹

Green Bay	6	0	3	7	16
Racine	0	0	0	0	0

3,500

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/23, Calhoun, p. 12

11.18.1923

PACKERS 10

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 7

A loud and enthusiastic group of nearly 6,000 fans packed Borchert Field for this in-state battle. The comeback win on the road by the Packers made it three in a row! Cub Buck broke the ice with a field goal in the first quarter that sailed 30 yards. After a tremendous goal-line stand by the Packers, Milwaukee came back again and scored before the break for a 7-3 edge.

In the third quarter, a screen pass from quarterback Charlie Mathys to Curly Lambeau went for a 41-yard touchdown. Lambeau evaded several Badgers on his way to the end zone for a 10-7 Packer lead. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's defense came up big with four interceptions to protect the lead.

Green Bay	3	0	7	0	10
Milwaukee	0	7	0	0	7

5,500+

11.25.1923

DULUTH

KELLEYS 0

PACKERS 10

This game belonged to Cub Buck. His punting consistently gave the Packers better field position, and in the second quarter, he kicked a 25-yard field goal. On Duluth's next series, he intercepted a pass that Lambeau immediately turned into a 40-yard scoring strike to running back Stan Mills. The Packers maintained the upper hand all game with a superior passing attack.

Duluth 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10

Attendance Not Available

11.29.1923

HAMMOND

PROS 0

PACKERS 19

A fifth straight win ends the franchise's most successful season to date. Touchdowns were scored by Charlie Mathys, Stan Mills, and Curly Lambeau. Lambeau, who was injured in the first half, returned and scored the game's final touchdown! Hammond never got close to scoring.

Hammond 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 6 0 7 6 19

Attendance Not Available

1923

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Canton	11	0	1				
Chi. Bears	9	2	1	Minnesota	2	5	2
Green Bay	7	2	1	Rock Island	2	3	3
Milwaukee	7	2	3	St. Louis	1	4	2
Cleveland	3	1	3	Hammond	1	5	1
Chi. Cards	8	4	0	Akron	1	6	0
Duluth	4	3	0	Dayton	1	6	1
Columbus	5	4	1	Oorang	1	10	0
Buffalo	4	4	3	Louisville	0	3	0
Racine	4	4	2	Rochester	0	4	0
Toledo	2	3	2				

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Lambeau
Rushing	Basing
Receiving	Lambeau, Mills
Field Goals	Buck
Scoring	Buck

ALL-PRO

Lambeau



1924

Record: 7-4-0, 6th Place

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- For the first time, Green Bay scored more touchdowns passing than running.
- The Packers won all their home games at Bellevue Park. On the road, they were shut out three times.
- In league rankings, Green Bay gained the most yards and allowed the fewest!
- Rookie Verne Lewellen was a sensational athlete who could run, pass, and catch. He was also an outstanding punter.
- The ground was broken behind Green Bay East High School for City Stadium!

9.28.1924

PACKERS 3

DULUTH

KELLEYS 6

After a scoreless first half, Cub Buck put Green Bay in front 3-0 with a 35-yard field goal. The Packers fumbled five times, twice deep inside Duluth territory.

Myrt Basing's fumble led directly to the Kelleys' winning touchdown. It came in the fourth quarter when one of the three Rooney brothers, Joe, found Jack Underwood open for a touchdown. On Green Bay's final drive, an interception by Duluth ended it.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Duluth 0 0 0 6 6

2,200

10.5.1924

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 3

Before 2016, this was the only time Green Bay opened with two consecutive road games. Two road games, no touchdowns.

Paddy Driscoll's 40-yard drop kick for three points in the first quarter won it for Chicago. In the second half, as the game wore on, the Packers threw on nearly every play. Cub Buck missed four field goals, including one that hit the upright. Lambeau also missed one in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Chicago 3 0 0 0 3

2,852

10.12.1924

KANSAS CITY

BLUES 0

PACKERS 16

A warm, 75-degree day for the home opener got Green Bay's offense going. Since they had not scored a touchdown in the first two games, doubts were creeping in. An early touchdown pass from Lambeau to Tillie Voss settled the concerns. Verne Lewellen's six-yard run in the third quarter scored Green Bay's other touchdown.

Kansas City 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 0 9 0 16
2,800+

“Hundreds of out-of-town football followers took in the encounter. Some 200 fans from Marinette and Menominee made the trip here while many of the other neighboring cities and towns sent big delegations.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/24, Calhoun p. 12

10.19.1924
MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0
PACKERS 17

“There never was a harder fought pigskin encounter in this city,”¹ said the Press-Gazette when describing this battle between with the Badgers. It was scoreless for 45 minutes before Green Bay pulled out all the stops.

Cub Buck’s field goal got it started. A bit later, on a fake field goal try, Buck took a lateral from Charlie Mathys and threw a touchdown pass to Curly Lambeau! Lambeau also threw a touchdown to Charlie Mathys, and Dutch Hendrian kicked a field goal.

Green Bay’s defense stood tall. The Badgers drove as far as the Packer 30-yard line once, where they missed a field goal try. The star halfback of the Badgers, Jimmy Conzelman, was bottled up all day and never got untracked. Another shutout for the defense!

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 0 0 17 17
4,150

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/24, p.10

10.26.1924
MINNEAPOLIS

MARINES 0
PACKERS 19

It was clear from the start that the Packers were a much better team. Even John Dunn, Minnesota’s coach, acknowledged that, “It was always said Green Bay had one of the best forward passing combinations in the game. But after what I saw out there Sunday afternoon, I am convinced the Bays’ ‘air drive’ is second to none.”¹

Two touchdown drives in the second quarter by “Dutch” Hendrian put the game away quickly. On the first, a key 25-yard pass from Lambeau to Tillie Voss kept the drive alive.

On the second, 60 yards of passing from Lambeau made up the bulk of the 71-yard touchdown march.

Minneapolis 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 13 0 6 19
2,500

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/24, Cal's Comments, p. 10

11.2.1924

RACINE

LEGION 3
PACKERS 6

The Legion led for three quarters due to Hank Gillo's early field goal, but they could not hold on to the lead. The Packers went ahead on the first play of the fourth quarter. Curly Lambeau threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Tillie Voss. Voss made a great catch stumbling into the end zone. After the extra point was blocked, there were 14 minutes left in the game. Racine missed one field goal try, and Green Bay's defense protected the lead.

Racine 3 0 0 0 3
Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6
4,000

*"The turnout sure was a humdinger, and football fans for miles around helped to jam the park. When all the seats were taken, the management announced to every purchaser of a ticket that standing room only was available, but this didn't stop the sales, and the crowd kept flocking in well along until nearly the end of the first half."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/24, Cal's Comments, p. 14

11.9.1924

DULUTH

KELLEYS 0
PACKERS 13

A small crowd of less than 3,000 witnessed a physical battle of "elbows... and every now and then a mailed fist."¹

In the first quarter, Curly Lambeau's interception led to his 20-yard touchdown pass to Tillie Voss! Just before halftime, Lambeau threw another 20-yard touchdown, this time to Charlie Mathys. The undefeated Kelleys never came close to scoring. The closest was the Packers' 40-yard line. After getting there, they fumbled.

Duluth 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 6 0 0 13
2,700

The Packers completed their home schedule undefeated.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/24, p. 12

11.16.1924

PACKERS **17**

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS **10**

This is the first of four straight road games to finish the season, and the Packers played an impressive second half to clinch an eighth Wisconsin state championship.

After a 3-3 first half, Green Bay's offense took over with two powerful marches for touchdowns. Early in the third quarter, they took a 10-3 lead on Dutch Hendrian's touchdown run. Verne Lewellen's touchdown plunge capped off a 60-yard drive in the fourth quarter to put it out of reach 17-3.

Green Bay 3 0 7 7 17
Milwaukee 0 3 0 7 10
3,800

"The Bayite followers came early and stayed late. The corridor of the Wisconsin Hotel was jammed with Green Bayians, and it seemed as if there couldn't have been anyone left in the old home town."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/24, Calhoun Comments, p. 12

11.23.1924

PACKERS **0**

CHICAGO

BEARS **3**

For the first time in NFL history—leave it to the Packers and Bears—two players were ejected for fighting. Tillie Voss of the Packers and Frank Hanny of the Bears were tossed out before halftime.

Green Bay's six-game winning streak came to an end with a Bear field goal. Late in the third quarter a fumbled punt by Dutch Hendrian opened the door for the Bears. Chicago's Jim McMillan recovered the ball on Green Bay's 30-yard line. Three plays later, Joey Sternaman kicked the winner.

Despite the loss, the Packers were impressive. "Time after time, the long passes of the Packers even drew a hand from the Chicago followers."¹ The loss, however, severely

damaged Green Bay's title chances.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 0 0 3 0 3
6,000

*Before Lombardi's arrival in 1959, Green Bay's colors were often blue and gold. "Curly played at Notre Dame, and he wanted the same colors. My other-in-law was a Missouri Lutheran. All you had to do was say the word "Catholic" to her, and her hair would stand on end. She found out that the Packer colors were copies of Notre Dame, and she refused to be a Packer fan, so she became a Bear fan instead."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/24, Calhoun, p. 14

2 For Packer Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 42

11.27.1924

PACKERS 17

KANSAS CITY

BLUES 6

On Thanksgiving Day, only 1,500 fans cheered on the Bay Blues. The scoring started with Curly Lambeau's 40-yard drop kick. Green Bay's passing game overwhelmed Kansas City. Lambeau had little trouble with aeriels to Tillie Voss, Dick O'Donnell, and Charlie Mathys. In the second half, Lambeau's two touchdown passes went to Voss. The second was set up by a poor punt. Kansas City scored in the final minute.

Green Bay 3 0 7 7 17
Kansas City 0 0 0 6 6
1,542

*"The advertising value of the Packers to the city of Green Bay cannot be computed in dollars and cents. Professional football has broadcast the name of Green Bay as a live, sport-loving, and progressive city. Such an enviable reputation could not be bought, but the means of gaining such a hold on the public mind has been and always should be supported financially. When games were shown on the play-o-graph the Press-Gazette operated the board and bore the expense and turned the proceeds over to the football corporation."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/24, Calhoun, p. 6

11.30.1924

PACKERS 0

RACINE

LEGION 7

A frozen field and windy conditions made this a tough game for both the players and fans. But even frigid conditions, 14 degrees, couldn't cool down many angry Packer fans.

Trailing 7-0 in the third quarter, Green Bay appeared to tie the game on a Lambeau to Tillie Voss touchdown pass, but a delayed penalty call brought the ball back. The head linesman said that Packer end, Dick O'Donnell, was offside. Green Bay fans made their displeasure known!

In the fourth quarter, the Legion picked off two Lambeau passes and recovered a forced fumble to complete the shutout.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Racine 0 7 0 0 7
2,200

1924

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Cleveland	7	1	1				
Chi. Bears	6	1	4	Hammond	2	2	1
Frankford	11	2	1	Milwaukee	5	8	0
Duluth	5	1	0	Akron	2	6	0
Rock Island	6	2	2	Dayton	2	6	0
Green Bay	7	4	0	Kansas City	2	7	0
Racine	4	3	3	Kenosha	0	5	1
Chi. Cards	5	4	1	Minneapolis	0	6	0
Buffalo	6	5	0	Rochester	0	7	0
Columbus	4	4	0				

TEAM LEADERS

Passing Lambeau
 Rushing Lewellen
 Receiving Voss
 Field Goals Buck
 Scoring Voss

ALL-PRO

Lambeau



1925
Record: 8-5-0, 9th Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- New City Stadium opened behind Green Bay East High School. It was built for \$960,000. Curly Lambeau’s father, Marcel, was a foreman on the project.
- City Stadium was the first stadium built exclusively for pro football. It had an initial seating capacity of 5,000. The Packers would call it home until 1957, and its capacity eventually reached 25,000.
- The Packers went undefeated in the new stadium (6-0).
- The offense improved with Lambeau’s creativity in the passing game. In the early 1920s, most teams threw about six passes per game. The Packers averaged 17.

9.20.1925
 HAMMOND

PROS **0**
PACKERS **14**

The Packers opened their beautiful, new stadium behind Green Bay East High School with a win! They began a 32-year love affair with this field that stood immediately adjacent to the old Hagemeister Park, where the Packers started play in 1919. Green Bay East High School is now on that spot.

In the second quarter, a short touchdown pass from Charlie Mathys to Verne Lewellen put the Packers in front 7-0. Halfway through the second half, Curly Lambeau was injured. Green Bay kept the ball on the ground after the injury, and early in the fourth quarter, they drove deep into Hammond territory. Nine straight running plays brought the ball to the 5-yard line. Myrt Basing scored from there to clinch the win!

Hammond **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 7 0 7 14**
3,000

“The crowd got a laugh on the opening play of the third quarter when Buck took the kickoff and scampered back eight yards before he was downed. It took about half the Hammond team to stop him.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/25, p. 12

9.27.1925

CHICAGO

BEARS 10
PACKERS 14

The week before the game, Curly Lambeau closed practices. Eight hundred more seats were set up to handle the big crowd. The Packers were primed for the first win over their big neighbor to the south.

Green Bay started the game with a goal-line stand by the defense! A bit later, they scored on a blocked punt by Moose Gardner that he recovered in the end zone for a 7-0 Packer lead. After a field goal by the Bears, Chicago took the lead when they blocked a punt and recovered it for a touchdown.

In the third quarter, a Packer punt was inadvertently touched by the Bears and recovered by Cub Buck on Chicago’s 18-yard line! On the first play of the fourth quarter, Green Bay took the lead on a Charlie Mathys pass to Verne Lewellen. “The roar of the crowd could be heard a mile away,”¹ and the Bears left Wisconsin still searching for their first win.

Chicago 0 0 10 0 10
Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
5,389

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/28/25, p. 16

10.4.1925

PACKERS 0
ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS 3

After the 3-0 first half, Rock Island kept the Packers away from the end zone with great punting and solid defense. A drop kick from the 20-yard line by veteran Rube Ursella was enough for the upset. The kick came after a 60-yard drive late in the second quarter.

The closest Green Bay came in the final 30 minutes was Rock Island’s 29-yard line. The Independents were up to the challenge, and Green Bay went home 2-1.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Rock Island 0 3 0 0 3
3,000

10.11.1925
MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0
PACKERS 31

Despite an automobile accident two days earlier, Green Bay running back Marty Norton was outstanding and scored three touchdowns. He was as elusive as ever, and he caught touchdown passes of 28 and 20 yards from Curly Lambeau. In between, he ran for a short touchdown!

The Packers dominated the game by holding the Badgers to just two first downs. During the match, the crowd got involved by tossing "a few razz-berries at the frequent penalties for offside handed out to the Packers."¹

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 3 14 7 7 31
2,300

*"Seats for the Rock Island game will be on sale tonight. Better get them early as early indications point to a bigger crowd than at the Bear game several weeks ago."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/25, Cal's Comments, p. 14

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/25, Cal's Comments, p. 14

10.18.1925
ROCK ISLAND

INDEPENDENTS 0
PACKERS 20

The Packers faced the undefeated Independents and hoped to deliver some payback for two weeks ago.

After a scoreless first half, Green Bay's offense finally got going. They took the lead on a 10-yard pass from Charlie Mathys to Marty Norton. Myrt Basing then finished off Rock Island with two fourth-quarter touchdown runs. The first, a 20-yard burst off right guard, was set up by Fred Larsen's interception. Later, on defense, Basing made an interception that set up his second touchdown.

Rock Island 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 0 7 13 20
5,000

This was GB's 13th straight win at home.

10.25.1925
ROCHESTER

JEFFERSONS 13
PACKERS 33

The visitors from upstate New York got hammered. After a scoreless first half, Green Bay went in front 7-0 on a Charlie Mathys to Marty Norton touchdown. The teams exploded for 39 points in the fourth quarter, and Curly Lambeau led the scoring barrage with three touchdown passes. His scoring strikes were from 15, 45, and 60 yards away. Dick O'Donnell caught one, and Myrt Basing caught the other two.

Bill Kellogg scored both Rochester touchdowns, and the Packers won easily.

Rochester 0 0 0 13 13
Green Bay 0 0 7 26 33
2,700

*"The Play-O-Graph board will function at Turner Hall Sunday afternoon for the Packer game in Milwaukee. Arrangements have been completed for a special wire between Athletic Park, Milwaukee, and Turner Hall. The folks at home will get everything that happens in the Packer-Milwaukee game, hot off the wire. The usual price of admission will be charged, and the profits will be turned over to the Green Bay Football Corporation."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27, p. 16

11.1.1925

PACKERS 6
MILWAUKEE
BADGERS 0

"About 700 Green Bay fans took advantage of the fine weather and hit the trail to Milwaukee."¹ The sunny day took the chill out of the air, and it also melted the ice, which slowed down the Packers. The game's only points came in the second quarter. After Johnny McNally (also known as Johnny Blood) of the Badgers punted the ball out of bounds on the Green Bay 45-yard line, the Packers heated up. They marched 55 yards on 13 straight running plays. They could not be stopped. Myrt Basing followed big tackle Jug Earp into the end zone for the eventual winner.

Green Bay 0 6 0 0 6
Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
2,300

400+ fans took in the game on the Play-O-Graph at Turner Hall.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/25, Cal's Comments, p. 16

11.4.1925

PACKERS 6

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 9

All the scoring started in the fourth quarter, and so did the controversy. With the Packers leading, a ruling went against Green Bay that cost them the game.

With the ball on Green Bay's five-yard line and trailing 6-0, Cardinal quarterback Red Dunn threw into the end zone. The ball deflected off one Cardinal player into the hands of another, Eddie Anderson, before a Packer player touched it. It was ruled a touchdown as one official said it *was* touched by Green Bay's Myrt Basing. Basing claimed he was 10 yards away!

Packer fans protested vigorously. Many "jumped from the grandstand and ran to the sides of the playing field... One of the Bayites hit head linesman McGregor on the jaw... About a dozen Chicago cops did a quick step, and the field was cleared..."¹ The Cards missed the extra point but later they blocked a Packer punt to set up Paddy Driscoll's winning drop kick with 38 seconds left.

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6
Chicago 0 0 0 9 9
3,000

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/25, Calhoun, p. 13

11.15.1925

DAYTON

TRIANGLES 0

PACKERS 7

The last home game of the season featured a spectacular ending. With both offenses having trouble gaining traction all game, a 0-0 tie looked very likely in the fourth quarter. Some fans began to leave with one minute left when the Packers took over on their 21-yard line. With the excitement and power of the forward pass never more evident, Curly Lambeau and Verne Lewellen hooked up twice on long aerials that put the ball on Dayton's one-yard line with 10 seconds left. Lewellen scored from there!

Dayton 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
3,000

"The husky individual on the Dayton bench was none other than Carl Storck, secretary of the NFL, who is a part-owner of the Dayton club. Storck said that he heard so much about Green Bay as a

football community that he couldn't pass up the opportunity to visit the Bay.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/25, Cal's Comments, p. 14

11.22.1925

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

Though the Bears had just signed the great Red Grange of Illinois before this game, he did not play. He sat on the bench, and at halftime, he received a warm ovation from the crowd.

The Packers were no trouble for the Bears. Without Curly Lambeau on the field, Green Bay looked lost. The offense produced little while the defense did its best. Chicago took a 7-0 lead in the second quarter on a touchdown run by Johnny Mohardt. In the fourth quarter, Joey Sternaman not only caught a touchdown pass, but he threw one as well to put the game away.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	7	0	14	21

6,398

11.26.1925

PACKERS 0

POTTSVILLE

MAROONS 31

It was not a Happy Thanksgiving. The Pottsville Maroons shut out the Packers and handed them their worst loss to date. Pottsville scored the first time they had the ball, and their quarterback Jack Ernst threw three first-half touchdown passes. The first touchdown went to Charley Berry. Ernst connected again with Berry in the second quarter, and his final touchdown went to Hoot Flanagan just before halftime!

The Packers were never in the game, and Pottsville tailback Armin Mahrt wrapped it up with a 50-yard sprint from scrimmage in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Pottsville	10	14	0	7	31

3,500

11.28.1925

PACKERS 7
FRANKFORD YELLOW
JACKETS 13

Two days later, the Packers hopped over to Philadelphia to take on the Yellow Jackets.

The Jackets took an early 7-0 lead, and Green Bay tied it before halftime on a Charlie Mathys to Verne Lewellen touchdown. A triple pass play by the Yellow Jackets in the third quarter went 35 yards for a touchdown to finish the scoring. Three losses in seven days dropped the Packers several spots in the standings. Calhoun lamented the next day with, "Defeats are a hard pill to swallow at any stage of the game, and when they come three in a row, it is more than a disagreeable gulp."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Frankford 7 0 6 0 13
10,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/25, Calhoun, p. 15

12.6.1925

PACKERS 13
PROVIDENCE
STEAM ROLLER 10

In the first half, several calls by the officials appeared to target the Packers. Green Bay overcame the contested calls and finished the season strong.

Providence jumped in front in the first quarter after a 30-yard punt return by Curly Oden. Halfback Cy Wentworth followed Oden's return with a 20-yard touchdown run. The Packers snapped out of their first-half slumber with a 60-yard pick-six by Eddie Kotal. The Steam Roller countered with a field goal that made it 10-6 after 45 minutes.

With a few minutes left in the game and the Packers, a long way from paydirt, Curly Lambeau and Charlie Mathys put the Steam Roller back on its heels with a 40-yard completion. Four plays later, a great catch by Jim Crowley won it for Green Bay!

Green Bay 0 0 6 7 13
Providence 7 0 3 0 10
7,000

1925 **FINAL STANDINGS**

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Cards	11	2	1				
Pottsville	10	2	0	Cleveland	5	8	1
Detroit	8	2	2	Kansas City	2	5	1
New York	8	4	0	Hammond	1	4	0
Akron	4	2	2	Buffalo	1	6	2
Frankford	13	7	0	Duluth	0	3	0
Chi. Bears	9	5	3	Rochester	0	6	1
Rock Island	5	3	3	Milwaukee	0	6	0
Green Bay	8	5	0	Dayton	0	7	1
Providence	6	5	1	Columbus	0	9	0
Canton	4	4	0				

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Mathys
Rushing	Basing
Receiving	Norton
Field Goals	Abramson
Scoring	Basing/Norton

ALL-PRO

Abramson
Lewellen
Stahlman



1926
Record: 7-3-3, 5th Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- A second professional league—the American Football League with Red Grange as the star attraction—challenged the NFL for one season.
- Cub Buck left the team for a coaching position at the University of Miami.
- Community outreach by management was critical. Promoting the team in communities large and small in Wisconsin continues today.
- A slow start—one win and two ties—hurt their title chances. In three games against

the Bears, they tied two and lost one.

- Overall, it was another good season. They outscored opponents 230-61. They were first in yards gained and allowed the fewest yards.

9.19.1926

DETROIT

PANTHERS **0**
PACKERS **21**

It was a great start for Green Bay as their passing game and defense sparkled. Curly Lambeau threw two touchdown passes to end Dick O'Donnell. In between, Charlie Mathys and Verne Lewellen hooked up through the air. The Packer defense held the Panthers to three first downs. After it was over, future Hall of Fame player Jimmy Conzelman said unabashedly, "I never saw such forward passing in my life. It really was uncanny."¹

Detroit **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 7 7 7 21**
4,500+

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/26, p. 14

9.26.1926

CHICAGO

BEARS **6**
PACKERS **6**

A punting duel between Verne Lewellen and Paddy Driscoll dominated a scoreless first half. Driscoll, who had been traded crosstown from the Chicago Cardinals, hadn't lost his touch.

While it was the usual tough game, the officials kept a close eye for any roughhousing. Green Bay scored quickly after the intermission. Curly Lambeau and Verne Lewellen connected on two pass plays that set up Cully Lidberg's 3-yard touchdown run.

With eight minutes left in the game, Rex Enright's fumble on the Packer 35-yard line gave Chicago a chance. They capitalized with a touchdown pass from quarterback Laurie Walquist to Paddy Driscoll to tie the game. Driscoll, however, missed the extra point. The game stayed tied as both Driscoll and Lambeau missed field goals in the final minutes.

Chicago **0 0 0 6 6**
Green Bay **0 0 6 0 6**
7,000

10.3.1926

DULUTH

ESKIMOS 0

PACKERS 0

The rain and mud brought both offenses to their knees. Verne Lewellen and Ernie Nevers engaged in a punting duel, with Lewellen holding the edge. With two minutes left in the game, Pid Purdy's drop kick from Green Bay's 29-yard line came up short. Despite the tie, the Packers were pleased that 2,500 fans supported them wholeheartedly in the rain.

Duluth 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

2,500

*"The damp weather didn't seem to halt the women, and there were many of them in attendance. It certainly showed that the football bug has a mighty stronghold on the sport-loving public in Green Bay and neighboring cities."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/26, p. 16

10.10.1926

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 13

PACKERS 7

The Packers have still not beaten the Chicago Cardinals. To add insult to injury, the Cardinals became the first visiting team to win at the new City Stadium.

Chicago dominated the first half. Cardinals runningback, kicker, and sometimes quarterback Red Dunn stole the show with one touchdown pass. He also ran several plays, both running and passing, that kept the Packers guessing. After Green Bay tied the score, two field goals by Dunn won it for the Cardinals.

Chicago 7 0 3 3 13

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7

5,000

The Cardinals would trade "quarterback" Red Dunn to the Packers in 1927.

10.17.1926

MILWAUKEE

BADGERS 0

PACKERS 7

Snow, sleet and, rain made this physical, in-state battle even more vicious. It was a "bitterly contested contest"¹ that had to be stopped twice when tempers flared.

A scoreless, messy slugfest entertained fans for three quarters. The winner came early in the fourth quarter after Jug Earpe's interception. Pid Purdy hit Curly Lambeau for a 25-yard gain that put Green Bay on Milwaukee's 25-yard line. On the next play, Verne Lewellen broke several tackles on the way to the end zone. Purdy booted the extra point.

For the remainder of the game, the Badgers peppered the Green Bay secondary with ten passes. Interceptions by Lewellen and Lambeau preserved the shutout.

Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
3,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/26, p. 16

10.24.1926

RACINE

TORNADOES 0
PACKERS 35

In this blowout, Racine never got closer than Green Bay's 45-yard line. The Packers, however, moved the ball easily all game, both on the ground and in the air.

On Racine's opening drive, the Packers blocked a punt. The Packers scored quickly when two rookies, Jack McAuliffe and Dick Flaherty, completed a 17-yard touchdown pass for a 7-0 lead. When Eddie Kotal intercepted a pass on Racine's next series, the Packers scored again. Halfback Jack Harris, a Racine native, had a fantastic day with two touchdown runs.

Racine 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 14 7 0 14 35
Attendance Not Available

10.31.1926

PACKERS 3

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 0

The Packers defeated the "chesty Cardinals"¹ on a first-quarter field goal by Pid Purdy. A goal-line stand by the Packers just before halftime set the tone for the rest of the game.

Even the low-scoring, physical game impressed one Chicago scribe who had this to say about pro football: "I didn't think it was possible. But I saw some football out there this afternoon that I won't forget for a long while. It was the best exhibition of 'grid-ironing'

I have seen this season, and I have been at a college game every Saturday since early in September.”¹

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
2,500

“Between 1,200 and 1,300 attended the Packer-Cardinal football game play-by-play at the Columbus Club Sunday afternoon. Every detail was shown on the grid-o-graph, and fans were given many thrills.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/26, p. 16

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/26 p. 17

11.7.1926

PACKERS 21
MILWAUKEE
BADGERS 0

A big crowd from Green Bay saw the Packers clinch the state football title with this win. A hard-hitting battle between rivals produced a scoreless first half. The game broke Green Bay’s way at the end of the third quarter on an interception by Verne Lewellen. A few plays later, Lewellen caught a 20-yard touchdown pass from Eddie Kotal. Kotal also ran for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, and Lewellen topped off his fantastic game when he took a high snap from center on a punt and ran for a 70-yard touchdown!

Green Bay 0 0 7 14 21
Milwaukee 0 0 0 0 0
4,300

11.14.1926

LOUISVILLE

COLONELS 0
PACKERS 14

Despite holding back six key players for next week’s game against the Bears, the defense delivered its fifth straight shutout.

After another scoreless first half, a sparse, rain-soaked crowd longed for some action. Verne Lewellen came through and got the Packers on the scoreboard with twotouchdowns. In the third quarter, he ran for a short touchdown. After his interception late in the final quarter, Lewellen put the game out of reach when he caught a 10-yard touchdown from Pid Purdy.

Louisville 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

1,300

*"My whole life my allegiance has been with the Packers. I couldn't really, truly in my heart, root for another team besides Green Bay. I don't care how bad they play, and I don't care what goes on. The Packers are my life. I'll die a Green Bay Packer fan. It's just been in my blood since I was old enough to know."*¹

1 For Packer Fans Only, Wolfe, p. 50

11.21.1926

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

BEARS 19

Though 300 Packer fans hopped the train to Chicago, their presence didn't phase Paddy Driscoll. The great Driscoll put on a show for the visitors with one touchdown pass, a fumble recovery for a touchdown, and two field goals.

Green Bay took the lead on a 3-yard touchdown run by Cully Lidberg. Driscoll's touchdown pass to Duke Hanny tied it, and his field goal put the Bears in front 9-6. The Packers answered when Verne Lewellen picked up a fumble and rambled 40 yards to the house for a 13-9 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, Driscoll's second field goal cut Green Bay's lead to one, 13-12. The game winning play came in the fourth quarter with under seven minutes left. Cully Lidberg fumbled on Green Bay's 20-yard line, and Driscoll scooped it up and took it home for the win.

Green Bay 6 7 0 0 13

Chicago 6 3 3 7 19

7,500

The loss ended GB's title hopes.

11.25.1926

PACKERS 14

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 20

The matchup against the Packers drew a huge crowd. Ten thousand Yellow Jacket fans jammed Frankford Stadium on Thanksgiving to see their boys take on the heralded squad from Wisconsin.

The Jackets (10-1-1) jumped in front 13-0. They scored the first time they had the ball, and a second touchdown run soon followed. After Frankford fumbled in the third quarter,

Green Bay took advantage with Cully Lidberg's touchdown run. Early in the fourth quarter, Green Bay took the lead 14-13 on a touchdown pass from Curly Lambeau to rookie Dick Flaherty. As the clock wound down, a late drive by Frankford got to the Packers' 38, when quarterback Hust Stockton threw a touchdown pass to "Two-Bits" Homan for the win.

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
Frankford 13 0 0 7 20
10,000

11.28.1926

PACKERS 7
DETROIT
PANTHERS 0

The game's only points came late in the first quarter after a long completion to halfback Cully Lidberg. Lidberg was injured on the play, and rookie Rex Enright came in and scored the touchdown.

In the second half, Detroit coach and NFL great Jimmy Conzelman put himself in the game. He rallied the Panthers with an interception on the fourth play of the new half. He proceeded to try "every trick within the book and several on the outside, but the Packers watched him like a hawk."¹ Conzelman and his mates threw 17 passes in the second half, but the Packers withstood the barrage.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Detroit 0 0 0 0 0
1,000

Shutout #8 for GB

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/26, Calhoun, p. 14

12.19.1926

PACKERS 3
CHICAGO
BEARS 3

Three weeks later, they met again for the annual Memorial Christmas Fund Game. This city-wide fundraiser supported Christmas Baskets for Chicago's poor. Soggy conditions at Soldier Field slowed down both teams. A fumble by Laurie Walquist of the Bears opened the door for Pid Purdy's 45-yard field goal in the third quarter. But late in the game, a fumble by Curly Lambeau gave Chicago the ball at Green Bay's 25. Paddy Driscoll converted a drop kick from the 20-yard line to salvage a tie.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Chicago **0 0 0 3 3**
10,000
1926

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Frankford	14	1	1				
Chi. Bears	12	1	3	Hartford	3	7	0
Pottsville	10	2	1	Brooklyn	3	8	0
Kansas City	8	3	0	Milwaukee	2	7	0
Green Bay	8	5	0	Akron	1	4	3
Los Angeles	6	3	1	Dayton	1	4	1
New York	6	4	1	Racine	1	4	0
Duluth	6	5	3	Columbus	1	6	0
Buffalo	4	4	2	Canton	1	9	3
Chi. Cardinals	5	6	1	Hammond	0	4	0
Providence	5	7	1	Louisville	0	4	0
Detroit	4	6	2				

TEAM LEADERS

Passing Lambeau
Rushing Purdy
Receiving Lewellen
Field Goals Purdy
Scoring Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Lewellen
Lidberg



1927
Record: 7-2-1, 2nd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The Packers continued to improve as they beat all opponents except the Bears.
- The defense was their strength. Other than the Giants, Green Bay gave up the fewest points. Offensively, point production slipped.
- The Packers were first in every offensive and defensive category except in their number of touchdown passes (6th) and rushing touchdowns (3rd).

- Green Bay hosted a league-wide owners meeting to create the 1927 schedule.

9.18.1927

DAYTON

TRIANGLES **0**
PACKERS **14**

The Triangles played an inspired first half and held Green Bay scoreless. At halftime, Lambeau fired up his team! “The spirit was catching with the spectators. Some in the stands yelled out, ‘It won’t be long now—hoping for some points—and the crowd laughed.”¹

Lambeau’s intensity at halftime did the job. Early in the second half, Green Bay drove deep into Dayton territory. An offside call against the Triangles gave Green Bay new life. Two plays later, Lambeau bulled his way into the end zone for a 7-0 lead. In the fourth quarter, a bad punt by Dayton’s Johnny Blood went out of bounds on his 15-yard line. Lambeau then scored the game’s second touchdown on a seven-yard scamper.

Dayton **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 0 7 7 14**
3,600

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/27, p. 11

9.25.1927

CLEVELAND

BULLDOGS **7**
PACKERS **12**

A rainy first half with no points scored made for a long 30 minutes. In the second half, “the air was full of footballs as the invaders hurled pass after pass.”¹ A blocked punt by Green Bay’s Lavvie Dilweg was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown by Tiny Cahoon. Later in the third quarter, when Cleveland’s coach decided to put himself in the game, Green Bay ran right at him, and Rex Enright took it home from the 9-yard line!

This loss spoiled the pro debut of quarterback Benny Friedman of the Bulldogs.

Cleveland **0 0 0 7 7**
Green Bay **0 0 12 0 12**
4,500

“There was a big delegation of ‘down valley’ fans in attendance. Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Neenah-Menasha, Appleton and Kaukauna football followers were well represented.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/27, p. 11

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/27, p. 11

10.2.1927

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

PACKERS 6

In a physical battle, "there was no love lost on either side, and the players went after each other with hammer and tongs."¹

Green Bay helped set up Chicago's only touchdown when a short punt by Verne Lewellen went out of bounds on the 50-yard line. The Bears cashed in with an 11-play drive and Bill Senn's 1-yard plunge for a 7-0 lead.

It stayed 7-0 until the fourth quarter when the tension mounted. Curly Lambeau uncorked a few long passes to Lavvie Dilweg, and Verne Lewellen and the Packers drove deep into Bears' territory. After a touchdown pass to Lambeau was called back for offsetting penalties, Lewellen took it over left tackle for the score. Pid Purdy's extra point attempt wasn't even close, and Bears ran out the clock.

Chicago 0 7 0 0 7

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6

5,500

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/27, p. 11

10.9.1927

DULUTH

ESKIMOS 0

PACKERS 20

Ernie Nevers, Johnny Blood, and the rest of the Eskimos never stood a chance. The closest they came to Green Bay's end zone was the 12-yard line before they were pushed back on three straight plays.

The Eskimos also couldn't stop Green Bay. Verne Lewellen's touchdown run started the scoring in the second quarter. With a 7-0 lead in the fourth quarter, Green Bay struck twice more. A poor punt by Duluth set up Curly Lambeau's touchdown pass to Red Dunn. With three minutes to go, Lavvie Dilweg's pick-six of Ernie Nevers sealed the deal!

Duluth 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 7 0 13 20

4,000

10.16.1927

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **0**
PACKERS **13**

The Packers dominated from start to finish. Green Bay quarterback Red Dunn took great pleasure throwing bullets and running circles around his old team and coach, Chris O'Brien.

Green Bay put up six points in the second quarter on a new play. It featured a lateral from Dunn to Eddie Kotal, who took it home. In the fourth quarter, a nine-play drive led to Verne Lewellen's 2-yard touchdown run that clinched it. The Cardinals threatened only twice, and Green Bay stopped both incursions with solid pass defense. Rex Enright's pick stopped the second drive.

Chicago **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 6 0 7 13**
4,500

The Press-Gazette reported on additional seating for the upcoming game against Red Grange and the Yankees. "Arrangements were completed last night for an additional 800 seats, which will be set up at the east end of the gridiron. The stands at the west end of the field are being moved slightly to afford better view and to also provide for three rows of bench seats and a greatly enlarged standing room space."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/27, p. 13

10.23.1927

NEW YORK

YANKEES **0**
PACKERS **13**

A record-breaking crowd of 11,000 hoped to watch the Packers battle Red Grange and the *new* New York Yankees. Grange didn't play due to an injury, but he still received a warm reception from Packer fans.

In a game that featured a lot of punting, the Yankees could have used the great "Galloping Ghost!" The Packers won the punting duel as Verne Lewellen's punts "zoomed through the air for over sixty yards, and the ball sailed so high that it must have looked like a pea in the sky."¹ Two very short punts by New York in the first half led to Packer touchdowns. Pid Purdy scored in the first quarter. In the second quarter, a triple pass play—Kotal to Dilweg to Lewellen—set up another touchdown by Rex Enright.

New York 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 6 0 0 13
11,000

This was the biggest football crowd ever in Wisconsin, college or pro.

“Nearly 2,000 persons, including some women and a great many children, stood up to watch the contest. Many of these came to the field early in the hope of getting a good place from which to watch the contest and this gave them an additional hour of standing.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/27, p. 13

2 packershistory.net/1927Packers

11.6.1927

PACKERS 6
CHICAGO
CARDINALS 6

The final score was deceptive. Green Bay easily outplayed Chicago, but in a quiet first half, the Cardinals got on the scoreboard first. A 33-yard touchdown pass to Bub Weller before halftime gave the Cards a 6-0 edge.

After the break, Lambeau led several deep drives into Cardinal territory but came away empty-handed. On their final march starting on the Cardinals’ 44-yard line, long pass completions by Verne Lewellen and Red Dunn quickly put the Packers on the 1-yard line. Lewellen’s plunge tied it, but Red Dunn’s extra point was blocked by Bill Springsteen. In the final minute, the Cardinals drove to Green Bay’s 10-yard line, but Evar Swanson’s field goal attempt went wide.

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6
Chicago 0 6 0 0 6
3,500

“The Packer management has invited the football squad from twenty-five of the leading high schools in Northeastern Wisconsin to be guests at Sunday’s game. The scholastic gridgers will all be parked in the north stands. At least five hundred youthful knights of the cowhide are expected to be present.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/27, p. 13

11.13.1927

PACKERS 6
DAYTON
TRIANGLES 0

In the last home game of the season, the defense didn't let Dayton closer than the 40-yard line. It also didn't allow a first down on the ground. As punts flew back and forth, Green Bay gradually won the field position battle. Early in the second quarter, Packer quarterback Red Dunn and halfback Eddie Kotal teamed up on a 55-yard pass play. Kotal sped past two defenders, fooled two others, and made it to the 4-yard line. Verne Lewellen then scored the game's only points!

Green Bay 0 6 0 0 6
Dayton 0 0 0 0 0
2,500

GB finished 6-1 at home.

"Just as the second half got underway, buckets were passed through the crowd to help finance the trip of the Legion Lumberjack Band to the Bear game in Chicago next Sunday."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/27, p. 13

11.20.1927

PACKERS 6
CHICAGO
BEARS 14

Though approximately 1,000 Packers fans and the Lumberjack Band made the trip from Wisconsin, the Bears proved too much for Green Bay. It was a well-played game that one local sportswriter called "the best exhibition of the professional game ever played in the Windy City."¹ The Bears prevailed thanks to Paddy Driscoll.

Driscoll, a Packers nemesis since his days with the Cardinals, threw two touchdown passes to Bill Senn to lead the Bears to victory. The first was a short toss to Senn, who turned it upfield for a 52-yard sprint through several tackles for a 7-0 lead. The Packers made it 7-6 after intermission with Rex Enright's touchdown catch from quarterback Red Dunn.

Late in the game, big George Trafton blocked a Green Bay field goal attempt. The Bears then went 87 yards in nine plays, and they put the game away on Driscoll's second touchdown pass to Senn. Though they lost both games to the Bears in 1927, Green Bay finished ahead of Chicago in the standings for the first time!

Green Bay 0 0 6 0 6
Chicago 0 7 0 6 13
6,000

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/27, p. 13

11.24.1927

PACKERS 17
FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 9

Four days later, a Thanksgiving Day game in Philadelphia brought the season to a close. Frankford started the scoring after they recovered Verne Lewellen's fumble to take a 6-0 lead. After a field goal pushed it to 9-0, Green Bay bounced back with a Marquette special—a Red Dunn to Lavvie Dilweg touchdown. A Pid Purdy field goal gave them a 10-9 lead.

The defense held down the Yellow Jackets in the second half. With five minutes left in the game, Eddie Kotal's interception led to another Red Dunn touchdown pass, this time to Rex Enright that finished off the Jackets.

Green Bay 0 7 3 7 17
Frankford 6 3 0 0 9
9,000

1927

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
NY Giants	11	1	1				
Green Bay	7	2	1	Buffalo	0	5	0
Chi. Bears	9	3	2	NY Yankees	7	8	1
Cleveland	8	4	1	Dayton	1	6	1
Providence	8	5	1	Duluth	1	8	0
Frankford	6	9	3	Buffalo	0	5	0
Pottsville	5	8	0				
Chi. Cardinals	3	7	1				

TEAM LEADERS

Passing TDs	Dunn
Rushing TDs	Lewellen
Receiving TDs	Enright
Field Goals	Purdy
Scoring	Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Dilweg
Lewellen



1928
Record: 6-4-3, 4th Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Andrew Turnbull stepped down as Packers President. Ray Evrard, an attorney, succeeded him.
- The six wins completed a disappointing season. A slow start (1-2-1) and a slow finish (1-2-1) doomed the campaign.
- The Packers were #1 in every offensive and defensive category except in the number of touchdowns passes and rushing touchdowns. The offense went quiet in the last six games.
- Green Bay's win over the Giants in New York made national headlines.
- Curly Lambeau's playing days were coming to an end.

9.23.1928

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 19
PACKERS 9

All the points in this opener were scored in the first half as the Yellow Jackets won their first game in Green Bay. After a Packers' field goal, Frankford tailback Ken Mercer took over. He capitalized on a poor punt by Verne Lewellen and threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Charley Rogers. He ran for a 2-yard touchdown a short time later. Before the half, Mercer's 8-yard touchdown catch capped off 19 unanswered points!

On defense, the Yellow Jackets used an aggressive five-man line to disrupt Green Bay's passing game.

Frankford 12 7 0 0 19
Green Bay 3 6 0 0 9
6,500

Frankford ran for over 200 yards.

9.30.1928

CHICAGO

BEARS 12

PACKERS 12

Injuries plagued both sides in this rivalry game. Chicago lost Paddy Driscoll in the first minutes, and the Packers lost their end Lavvie Dilweg later in the first half.

The Packers stopped an early Chicago incursion with an interception by Curly Lambeau on the 5-yard line. Later in the half, the Bears scored twice for a 12-0 lead on an 80-yard punt return by Dick Sturtridge.

In a very different second half, two Chicago fumbles helped spark Green Bay's comeback. Bill Senn fumbled a punt that led to Eddie Kotal's touchdown pass to Verne Lewellen. The second miscue came in the fourth quarter on Chicago's 20-yard line. Green Bay capitalized when Lewellen broke through right guard for a six-yard touchdown to tie the game at 12. After the extra point was blocked, the Packers had one more chance. With 15 seconds left, Harry O'Boyle's 18-yard field goal missed by inches.

Chicago 6 6 0 0 12

Green Bay 0 0 6 6 12

8,500

10.7.1928

NEW YORK

GIANTS 6

PACKERS 0

The Packers held their own against the defending NFL champs. But they fell to 0-2-1 when the Giants went on a 67-yard drive late in the third quarter for the game's only points. Mule Wilson's 40-yard run put the ball on the Green Bay 27-yard line. A few plays later, he scored from the 2-yard line.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers peppered the Giant secondary with 15 passes. New York's defense came up big with one sack and two interceptions to protect the lead. After the game, it was reported, "the Giants will remain here all this week training for the Bear game at Chicago next Sunday. They will work out every morning at the same time as the Packers."¹ After this extended stay in Green Bay, Cal Hubbard of the Giants liked it so much that he demanded a trade to Green Bay after the season.

New York 0 0 6 0 6

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

7,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/28, Bystrom, p. 12

10.14.1928

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 0
PACKERS 20

The Packers regrouped and won the first of four straight games. Eddie Kotal broke the ice in the second stanza as he “twisted, squirmed, side-stepped, and fought his way” for a 40-yard touchdown. Verne Lewellen then put it away with two short touchdown runs.

After the game, plans were in full swing for the following week’s Bears game in Chicago. “Reservations have been made for a thousand or so fans on special trains that will run to Wrigley Field.”¹

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 13 0 7 20
4,200

GB intercepted four passes.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/28, p. 13

10.21.1928

PACKERS 16
CHICAGO
BEARS 6

One of the biggest wins in early franchise history came here as the Packers beat the Bears in Chicago! The win helped turn the tide for the Packers, who hadn’t defeated the Chicago team since 1925.

The game was pure “survival of the fittest, and the Packers survived.”¹ Big interceptions and punts by Green Bay were the difference. The first pick, by Dick O’Donnell, led to a touchdown and a 10-0 first-half lead. Bruce Jones also snared a Paddy Driscoll pass for a pick-six at the Chicago seven-yard line to seal the deal.

Verne Lewellen’s punting kept the Bears at bay. At one point, he hit three straight punts for 65, 70, and 75 yards!

Green Bay 3 7 0 6 16
Chicago 0 0 0 6 6
15,00

Several railroad lines “carried more than 1,100 football fans from here to the game. It is estimated more than 900 Green Bay people motored to Chicago to attend the game.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/28, Bystrom, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/28, p. 13

10.28.1928

DAYTON

TRIANGLES **0**
PACKERS **17**

A field goal by Harry O'Boyle and a touchdown run by Verne Lewellen gave Green Bay a 10-0 halftime lead. The touchdown followed Eddie Kotal's great catch that put the ball on Dayton's three-yard line. On the next play, Lewellen went around right end for the score. The Packers ran for over 200 yards!

In the fourth quarter, an interception by Lavvie Dilweg gave the Packers the ball on Dayton's 25-yard line. Four plays later, O'Boyle plowed over right tackle to make it 17-0. Green Bay's defense stood tall and protected the lead with its second shutout. They held Dayton to two first downs and never let them inside the 40-yard line.

Dayton **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **3 7 0 7 17**
3,100

11.4.1928

POTTSVILLE

MAROONS **14**
PACKERS **26**

Green Bay (pop. 37,407) welcomed the squad from Pottsville, Pennsylvania (pop. 21,876), to City Stadium for the first and only time. The passing of Green Bay quarterback Red Dunn set the pace in the game, and the defense also came up big with four interceptions.

The first touchdown was a 44-yard strike from Dunn to the speedy Eddie Kotal. Kotal also scored on the ground in the second quarter. Before halftime, an interception by Lavvie Dilweg set up a 10-play drive that Dunn capped off with a touchdown pass to Larry Marks for a 19-0 at intermission.

The Maroons rallied with two touchdown runs by Tony Latone that narrowed the lead to five. Green Bay's defense sprung into action with Dick O'Donnell's interception of a pass by Johnny Blood. The pick doomed Pottsville when Dunn connected for his third touchdown with Verne Lewellen.

Pottsville **0 0 7 7 14**
Green Bay **6 13 9 7 26**
5,000

The Pottsville Maroons folded after the 1928 season.

11.11.1928

NEW YORK

YANKEES 0
PACKERS 0

A scoreless tie against the 1-6 Yankees? The Easterners nearly defeated the Packers as their defense matched Green Bay's in both strength and guile. The Packers never got closer than the 28-yard line. Despite always "threatening, always charging and tackling clean and hard,"¹ the Packers played to a draw.

New York 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

5,000

GB completed only 5 of 21 passes for 25 yards.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/28, Bystrom, p. 13

11.18.1928

PACKERS 7

NEW YORK

GIANTS 0

Green Bay made national headlines on the road. They held the upper hand in a very physical game against the Giants. Defense and a great punting game kept New York pinned back in its own territory most of the game. The Giants generated very little offense, and the closest they came to scoring was when they reached Green Bay's 41.

The game's only points came late in the first half when Jim Bowdoin blocked a Giants punt. The Packers recovered the ball on the New York 15-yard line, and a 1-yard dive by Verne Lewellen made it 7-0. After the game, many New York sportswriters complimented the Packers as the finest football team to have ever played in New York City!

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7

New York 0 0 0 0 0

12,000

"The Packers nearly ran afoul of the law while practicing Saturday morning in New York. The Polo Grounds was engaged, so the Giant management told Captain Lambeau to use Central Park. A bus was hired, and evidently, the driver didn't know where Central Park was any more than the Packers. He let them off on a vacant square, which the team found out later was Bronx Square... a PRIVATE Park. A sound like a referee's whistle was heard, but the players didn't pay any attention to it. Things went along for another ten minutes, and then a flock of blue coats arrived on the scene. A huddle was called, and threats of arrest were heard, but explanations followed, and the Packers beat a hasty retreat to their bus after smiling and bluffing their way out of the hoosegow."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/27, p. 13

11.25.1928

PACKERS 0

POTTSVILLE

MAROONS 26

In a snowstorm, the Pottsville Maroons (1-7) upset the Packers. They dished out quite a bit of retribution for their loss in Green Bay three weeks earlier.

Pottsville scored in every quarter. In the first half, touchdown passes by Hap Moran and Jack Ernst put Pottsville in front. Johnny Blood of the Maroons took over in the second half. He put the game out of reach with touchdowns on both offense and defense. He caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Ernst, and his 35-yard pick-six finished the scoring.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Pottsville	6	7	6	7	26

1,600

“Among the Packer rooters in Pottsville was “Red” Glass, tourist extraordinaire. He hoofed it in from Columbus, Ohio, where he had been working for several months. Red is looking younger than ever.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/28, Calhoun, 14

11.29.1928

PACKERS 0

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 2

Though the Packers outplayed the Yellow Jackets on Thanksgiving, a bad snap in the first quarter doomed them. The football sailed over Verne Lewellen’s head into the end zone for a 2-0 Frankford lead. Other than that, the closest Frankford came to the end zone was Green Bay’s 30-yard line. “Only twice did the Jackets chalk up a pair of first downs in succession.”¹ Green Bay was on Frankford’s 15-yard line when time expired.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Frankford	2	0	0	0	2

8,000+

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/28, Calhoun, p. 19

12.2.1928

PACKERS 7

PROVIDENCE

STEAM ROLLER 7

The tie clinched the NFL Championship for Providence. Green Bay's touchdown came on a 20-yard pass from Verne Lewellen to Larry Marks. On the next series, Providence came right back to tie it behind the running and passing of George "Wildcat" Wilson. The Wildcat tossed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Curly Oden to tie it.

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7

Providence 0 0 7 0 7

9,000

12.9.1928

PACKERS 6

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

Green Bay's fifth straight road game was a defensive gem at frozen Wrigley Field. It backed up their win over Chicago in October that some skeptics thought was a fluke.

Verne Lewellen won the first-half punting duel with Paddy Driscoll, and one of his punts sailed 70 yards! Green Bay threatened in the final two minutes of the game. Red Dunn cleverly faked a run and launched a 48-yard touchdown pass to Dick O'Donnell. The stunned Wrigley Field crowd left quickly and quietly!

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0

14,000

"An estimated 600 Green Bay fans came by train and car."¹

¹ Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 32

1928

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Providence	8	1	2
Frankford	11	3	2
Detroit	7	2	1
Green Bay	6	4	3
Chi. Bears	7	5	1
Chi. Cardinals	1	6	1
NY Giants	4	7	2
NY Yankees	4	8	1
Pottsville	2	8	0
Dayton	0	7	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dunn
Rushing	Lewellen
Receiving	Kotal
Field Goals	O'Boyle
Scoring	Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Ashmore
Dilweg
Kotal
Lewellen



1929

Record: 12-0-1, NFL Champions

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Lambeau knew he needed a few more pieces to win a championship. His excellent eye for talent was never more evident than in 1929 when he acquired three future Hall of Fame players that turned the Packers into perennial winners—Cal Hubbard, Johnny “Blood” McNally, and Mike Michalske.
- This team is one of the best in franchise history. Even in a low-scoring era, the defense was exceptional. The Packers gave up a total of 22 points, and they did not allow a touchdown until the sixth game.
- Offensively, they finished first in yards gained and second in points scored.

- Packer President Ray Evrard stepped down. Dr. W. Weber Kelly succeeded him.
- The Packers signed a radio contract with WTMJ, AM-620, Milwaukee.

9.22.1929

DAYTON

TRIANGLES **0**
PACKERS **9**

The Packers effectively ran the football. Verne Lewellen had a fine game “twisting and pivoting”¹ his way through Dayton’s defense. After a scoreless first half, the Packers finally broke the ice in the third quarter.

On the first drive of the new half, the ground game behind Eddie Kotal, Hurdis McCrary, and Verne Lewellen led Green Bay downfield. With Dayton looking for the run, a Red Dunn pass to Lewellen scored the only points Green Bay would need. A short time later, a bad snap by Dayton went out of bounds in the end zone for a safety.

Dayton **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 0 9 0 9**
5,000+

GB held Dayton to just two first downs.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/29, Bystrom, p. 13

9.29.1929

CHICAGO

BEARS **0**
PACKERS **23**

This game was as one-sided as it gets. Green Bay dominated on the scoreboard and in total yards (358-79). Hurdis McCrary, Tom Nash, and Bo Molenda scored touchdowns. After the worst defeat in their history, the Bears “are seeking shelter in the lowlands, and the Green Bay Packers are perched upon the vacated throne.”¹ Red Grange, who had returned to the Bears, spoke to the crowd before the game, but he did little on the field.

Chicago **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 14 9 0 23**
13,000+

“Every tree in the vicinity of the park was filled with boys and men two hours before the game started. It was estimated that there were more than 2,000 automobiles parked in the vicinity of the park. The cars were lined up for several blocks on Walnut, Doty, Cherry, and Baird streets. Many automobiles bore Michigan and Illinois licenses. The crowd was orderly, although noisy.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/29, Bystrom, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/29, p. 14

10.6.1929

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 2

PACKERS 9

Chicago's only points came in the first quarter on a safety. After a poor snap on a punt, Johnny Blood was tackled in the end zone. It stayed 2-0 through the first 30 minutes.

In the third quarter, a poor punt by Chicago's Chief Elkins gave the Packers the ball on the Chicago 35-yard line. They took a 3-2 lead on a 30-yard field goal by Red Dunn. Despite his goal-line fumble early in the game, Verne Lewellen bounced back with a 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. With time running out and little to lose, Chicago passed on nearly every down. Lavvie Dilweg's interception wrapped it up for the Packers.

Chicago 2 0 0 0 2

Green Bay 0 0 3 6 9

6,000

The owner of the Cardinals, Dr. David Jones, sat on the team bench the whole game.

10.13.1929

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 2

PACKERS 14

The Packers threatened often, and their passing game had the Yellow Jackets on the run. A 46-yard bomb from Verne Lewellen to Eddie Kotal put them in front 7-0 early.

Green Bay's defense was outstanding. They dominated an opponent for the second game in a row. Frankford's only points came in the third quarter on a bad snap that went out of Green Bay's end zone for a safety.

Leading 7-2, the Packers didn't score again until the fourth quarter when a bevy of passes put them deep inside Yellow Jacket territory. Lewellen bulled his way into the end zone from the two-yard line for a 14-2 lead. Green Bay picked off four passes, and Verne Lewellen's punts kept the Yellow Jackets backing up all game!

Frankford 0 0 2 0 2

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14

9,000

10.20.1929

MINNEAPOLIS

RED JACKETS **0**
PACKERS **24**

Green Bay dominated, and “every player came in for his share of commendations from fans after the game.”¹ The defense didn’t allow a touchdown for the fourth straight game, and Minneapolis got inside the Packer 20-yard line just twice.

Offensively, Green Bay had no trouble moving the ball. Touchdowns by Verne Lewellen, Bo Molenda, and Johnny Blood all came on the ground. The last score came when Red Jackets’ quarterback Bob Lundell was intercepted by Verne Lewellen. The 30-yard pick-six finished it.

Minneapolis **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 12 6 6 24**

GB’s four extra-point attempts failed.

“The Homecoming celebration planned for the final game was a success. A few of the old-timers spoke to the fans, telling of their pleasure in being back in Green Bay for a game: Cub Buck, Mosse Gardner, Cowboy Wheeler, Charlie Mathys, Tubby Howard, Sammy Powers, Wally Ladrow, Fee Klaus, and Herman Martel.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/29, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/29, p. 14

10.27.1929

PACKERS **7**

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **6**

The Packers actually gave up a touchdown! But before that occurred, they took a 7-0 lead in the second quarter after an interception by Eddie Kotal. The pick set up Verne Lewellen’s 15-yard touchdown run.

It stayed 7-0 until the fourth quarter when Chicago’s Ernie Nevers led a nine-play drive that found paydirt. The first touchdown against Green Bay in 1929 was a 28-yard pass from Ernie Nevers to Chuck Kassel. But Nevers missed the extra point, and the Packers escaped with a win!

Green Bay **0 7 0 0 7**

Chicago **0 0 0 6 6**

8,000

For GB, Cal Hubbard and Mike Michalske played all 60 minutes.

“Verne Lewellen, the famous Nebraska halfback and captain, liked Green Bay so well after

playing football there that he settled in the town and took up the practice of law. So big a hit did he make with the citizens they elected him District Attorney last fall by a large majority.”¹

¹ Minneapolis Star, 10/29/29

11.3.1929

PACKERS 16

MINNEAPOLIS

RED JACKETS 6

A 60-yard touchdown drive by the Packers was kept alive by Dick O’Donnell’s great catch after falling and lying on his back. Quarterback Red Dunn and halfback Johnny Blood connected for the touchdown on the 13-play drive. The extra point went wide right.

The Red Jackets tied it in the third quarter, but they also missed the extra point. On Green Bay’s ensuing drive, Red Dunn’s field goal put the Packers back on top 9-6. Late in the fourth quarter, Green Bay put it away. A 35-yard touchdown pass from Verne Lewellen to end Lavvie Dilweg wrapped up Green Bay’s seventh straight win! “Coach C. W. Spears of the University of Minnesota football team was an interested spectator at the game. He was particularly impressed with Green Bay’s passing game and said Dilweg was one of the greatest ends he had ever seen.”¹

Green Bay 6 0 0 10 16
Minneapolis 0 0 6 0 6
3,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/29, p. 14

11.10.1929

PACKERS 14

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

The weather kept the crowd down, and the rain and mud made it tough on both offenses. Green Bay generated only 90 total yards, and Chicago gained just 63. “Details of the game were broadcast over a public address system. As it was hard to distinguish players from the stands because of the mud, the broadcast was particularly beneficial.”¹

Great punting by Johnny Blood and Verne Lewellen kept the Bears in their territory most of the game. In the third quarter, Packer fullback Hurdie McCrary scored both of Green Bay’s touchdowns. He caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Red Dunn for a 7-0 lead, and a few minutes later, he intercepted Walt Holmer’s pass and returned it 52-yards for six more.

Green Bay 0 0 14 0 14
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
13,000

Three thousand GB fans made the trip to Chicago for shutout #4!

1 The Early Years of Professional Football, Peterson, p. 105

11.17.1929

PACKERS 12
CHICAGO
CARDINALS 0

The Cardinals never seriously threatened to score, and the Packers recorded another shutout. Green Bay's points came on two touchdown passes to end Lavvie Dilweg. In the first quarter, he caught a 4-yard toss from Hurdis McCrary. The second came on Johnny Blood's fake field goal attempt in the fourth quarter. On defense, Blood also picked off three passes to keep the Cardinals off the scoreboard.

When McCrary was injured, Curly Lambeau played for the only time in 1929. His play, especially a 15-yard pass to end Tom Nash, brought back memories for Packers fans. The game was Curly's last as an active player.

Green Bay 6 0 0 6 12
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
10,000

11.24.1929

PACKERS 20
NEW YORK
GIANTS 6

Here is one of the biggest game's in the early history of the league. Twenty-five thousand fans came to the Polo Grounds and watched two undefeated teams collide just three weeks after the 1929 Stock Market Crash.

Though the Packers were without their injured quarterback Red Dunn, they capitalized on an early fumble on New York's 35-yard line. Verne Lewellen's 20-yard touchdown pass to Hurdis McCrary gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. With Cal Hubbard and Mike Michalske chasing down New York quarterback Benny Friedman all afternoon, the Giants were held scoreless until the second half. Tony Plansky caught a Benny Friedman touchdown pass on a fake field goal attempt. Friedman's extra-point was wide, and the Packers still led, 7-6.

Green Bay took control with a strong fourth quarter. They opened with a 15-play drive

that fullback Bo Molenda finished off with a short touchdown run, making the score 14-6. The Packers put the game away on New York's next possession. Jug Earp picked off Friedman, and the Packers went 67 yards in 11-plays, with Johnny Blood's touchdown run ending all doubt. As he scored, Blood rubbed it in with his comment of "Make 'em like it!"¹

The Packers used only 12 players, and their lone substitution came in the final minute. Green Bay's win made national headlines, and it ultimately decided the 1929 championship.

Green Bay 7 0 0 13 20
New York 0 0 6 0 6
25,000+

This game's lone touchdane was the last GB would give up in 1929.

*"Dr. W. W. Kelly, the President of the Green Bay Football Corporation, wired a message to Wisconsin fans immediately after the victory. He stated: 'It was a glorious victory and had the fans witnessed it, they would have additional reason to be proud of the Packers. Contributing in no small way to the success was the loyalty and faith of the fans as evidenced in the rousing send-off given the team and in the hundreds of telegrams received this morning.'"*²

*"More than 400 telegrams were sent over Western Union wires while the Postal Telegraph Company handled approximately 100 before it closed at 6 p.m.""*³

*Congratulations from Michigan! "The people of Crystal Falls wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Packers in regard to their splendid victory over the New York Giants. We believe we feel just as proud of the Packers' victory as the people of Green Bay and Wisconsin do themselves.""*⁴

*Championship Fund: "The Press-Gazette believes this is an opportune moment to demonstrate in a substantial way the town's appreciation and loyalty to the boys of this splendid football team. It proposes that the business interests and the fans raise by voluntary subscription a fund of \$5,000 to be divided among the players as a token of public esteem for their remarkable performances this year and the nationwide credit they have brought to Green Bay. All subscriptions, no matter how small, will be welcomed. Let's all do our share. Green Bay Press-Gazette ... \$200"*⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, Calhoun, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, Calhoun, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/29, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/29, p. 1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/29, p. 1

11.28.1929

PACKERS 0

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 0

After the pivotal game in New York, the Packers suffered a huge letdown on Thanksgiving Day. In a physical struggle, Green Bay was fortunate to escape with a tie.

The Yellow Jackets celebrated like they had won the game. They “played the kind of inspired ball that the Bays put up against the Giants last Sunday, and they were out to win at any cost.”¹ The wind played havoc with the passing game, and the defenses prevailed. When the game ended, several Packers thought there were at least four minutes left. They were on Frankford’s 9-yard line when the final whistle blew.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Frankford 0 0 0 0 0

12,000

The tie moved the Packers closer to their first NFL title.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/29, Calhoun, p. 17

12.1.1929

PACKERS 25

PROVIDENCE

STEAM ROLLER 0

The Steam Roller never got rolling, and they didn’t get inside Green Bay’s 25-yard line all afternoon. The Packers cashed in with three big plays that all went for touchdowns. Lavvie Dilweg and Verne Lewellen led the way. Lewellen took it in on a 25-yard run, but the extra point failed.

In the second half, Green Bay scored three more times. Johnny Blood accounted for two of the scores as the Packers pulled away. After a Providence fumble, Blood scored five plays later on a 35-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Red Dunn. In the fourth quarter, Dunn and Blood hooked up again on a punt return. Blood took a lateral from Dunn and went 73-yards for six!

Green Bay 6 0 6 13 25

Providence 0 0 0 0 0

6,500

Seventh shutout of the season.

12.8.1929

PACKERS 25

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

What's better, winning your first NFL championship or shutting out the Bears three times in one season? How about both? Green Bay's defense set the pace here with four interceptions, and they gave up just one first down on the ground!

Fullback Cully Lidberg and tailback Eddie Kotal were unstoppable for Green Bay. The Packers led 6-0 at halftime behind Lidberg's touchdown run. In the third quarter, they wore down the Bears with 21 points. Verne Lewellen scored on the ground, and Eddie Kotal caught two touchdown passes—one from Red Dunn and another from Lewellen.

The banner atop the Press-Gazette building read: *Championship Packer Team arrives at 8:30 Tonight.* "An estimated 20,000 fans lined the tracks and nearby streets, stood on the rooftops of neighboring buildings and atop idle boxcars, and cheered wildly when the Packers arrived home."¹

Green Bay 6 0 19 0 25
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
6,000

*"Factory whistles blew, screeching sirens and car horns blared. People packed together, stumbling over one another, trying to get close to the train, and shouting at the tops of their lungs to greet their heroes. Policemen had to push through the crowd to clear a path for the oncoming train."*²

CURLY LAMBEAU: *"This welcome is something that we didn't expect and is a complete surprise. Speaking for the boys, I can say that they appreciate it, and the only answer we can make is a championship again next year."*³

"After the Packers won their first championship, the town threw a celebratory banquet. The team also had a fight song for spectators to chant at home games titled The Locomotive.

"U! Rah! Rah! Packers!" (The two-way banter between a lead cheerleader and the crowd)

"What's the matter with the Packers?"

"They're all right."

"Who's all right?"

"The Packers."

"Who says so?"

"We all say so."

"Who are we?"

*"The Bay! The Bay!"*⁴

*"It is with great pleasure that I enclose a check for \$5.00 for the Packers fund. These boys deserve all that is to be given to them for their splendid work and final victory. Also for the wonderful advertising they have given Green Bay."*⁵ R.W. Smith, Packers Fan (Fund Balance: \$4,151.00).

- 1 The Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 145
- 2 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 74
- 3 Lambeau, Man Behind the Myth, Zimmerman, p. 87
- 4 The Packers Experience, Freedman, p. 25
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/29, p. 19

1929

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	1	0
New York	11	3	2
Frankford	9	4	5
Chi. Cards	6	6	1
Orange	3	4	4
Staten Island	3	4	3
Providence	4	6	2
Chi. Bears	4	9	2
Buffalo	1	7	1
Minneapolis	1	9	0
Dayton	0	6	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing TDs	Dunn
Receiving TDs	Dilweg/Kotal
Rushing TDs	Lewellen
Scoring	Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Blood	Back
Dilweg	End
Earp	Center/Tackle
Hubbard	Tackle
Kern	Tackle
Lewellen	Tackle
Michalske	Guard

1930s





1930
Record: 10-3-1, NFL Champions
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Leland H. Joannes was elected President of the Green Bay Packers Corporation.
- The Green Bay Mill Company donated a new flagpole for the 1929 championship flag.
- With 10 new players, the Packers were not quite as strong as 1929. They scored 36 more points but gave up 89 more.
- Rookie Arnie Herber, a graduate of Green Bay West High School, was the most important addition. Herber became the NFL's first great long passer. He would eventually be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- With eight straight wins to start the season, the Packers extended their unbeaten streak to 23 games! They had the second-best offense and fourth-ranked defense.
- The Packers repeated as NFL Champions by .004 percentage points over the Giants.

9.21.1930
 CHICAGO

CARDINALS	0
PACKERS	14

Prior to the start of the game, Green Bay raised the 1929 Championship Flag! After the ceremony, the Packers got the new season off to a fine start.

Green Bay used a balanced attack to handle the Cardinals. The first touchdown of the season came in the second quarter after Bo Molenda's interception. A 60-yard drive and Verne Lewellen's run made it 7-0.

In the third quarter, rookie Arnie Herber impressed the Packer faithful with his first career touchdown pass. It was a 30-yard pass to Lavvie Dilweg, who took it 20-yards to the end zone. After taking a 14-0 lead, Green Bay missed a field goal, and the Cardinals finally got inside the Packer 20-yard line just before time expired.

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	7	7	0	14

8,000

9.28.1930

CHICAGO

BEARS 0
PACKERS 7

Another strong Packer defensive effort gave up just 48 yards to the great Red Grange and the soon-to-be rookie sensation Bronco Nagurski. The only points in the game came in the second quarter when Johnny Blood's interception ignited the Packer offense.

Green Bay's 10-play touchdown drive had to be halted for several minutes when Johnny Blood and Red Grange collided. Grange was "knocked unconscious from the collision and had to be carried from the field. Red returned to the game late in the fourth quarter."¹ When play resumed, Verne Lewellen's 23-yard sprint took it down to the 1-yard line, and he took it home three plays later.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
10,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/30, p. 20

10.5.1930

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7
PACKERS 14

The two top teams from 1929 clashed, and both were undefeated early in the season. Turnovers played a crucial role. In the second quarter, an interception by Wuert Engelmann led to Green Bay's first touchdown. Verne Lewellen's touchdown pass to Tom Nash gave the Packers the lead. The Giants evened it in the second quarter when they blocked a punt and scored seven plays later on Benny Friedman's touchdown pass.

In the fourth quarter of a 7-7 game, the Packers scored the winner when Johnny Blood caught Red Dunn's pass in the flat and went on a wild, 55-yard touchdown run. Years later, Friedman commented about playing the Packers. "We had no problem with anyone else, but the Packers were special. They were so big, and yet they were so fast that they almost won their games before they took the field."¹

New York 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
11,000

*"Judging from the licenses on automobiles at the City Stadium there were fans at the game from nearly every state in the Midwest."*²

¹ Passing Game, Greenberg, p. 209

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/30, 14

10.12.1930
FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS **12**
PACKERS **27**

A 20-point first quarter by the Packers set the pace. They opened the game with a 34-yard touchdown run by Herdis McCrary. Red Dunn followed with a 20-yard touchdown pass. Then, before the first quarter was out, Lavvie Dilweg made it 20-0 with a 51-yard pick-six!

The Packers eased off the gas in the third quarter and made several offensive and defensive substitutions. After Frankford woke up and scored on two touchdown passes by rookie tailback Abe Wright, Green Bay regrouped. In the final minutes, they ran the ball up the middle play after play, and McCrary finished it with a closing touchdown run.

Frankford **0 0 6 6 12**
Green Bay **20 0 0 7 27**
8,000

10.19.1930

PACKERS **13**
MINNEAPOLIS
RED JACKETS **0**

With freezing temperatures in mid-October, the Red Jackets were not only shut out, but they didn't complete a pass all game!

The Packers took a quick lead on their opening possession. A fake punt by Verne Lewellen kept the drive going, and three plays later, he scored on a six-yard run. Throughout the contest, fullback Herdis McCrary was a thorn in the side of the Red Jacket defense.

Early in the final quarter, a fumble by Oran Pape was recovered by Green Bay on the Minneapolis 38-yard line. Bo Molenda's touchdown run right up the middle settled the matter. In between the touchdowns, the Packers also won the punting duel. Lewellen's punts kept pushing the Jackets back into their territory. He booted one that went out of bounds at their 1-yard line and another at the 2!

Green Bay **7 0 0 6 13**
Minneapolis **0 0 0 0 0**
Attendance Not Available

10.26.1930
MINNEAPOLIS

RED JACKETS **0**
PACKERS **19**

For the second consecutive game, the Packers kept Minneapolis out of the end zone, and the Red Jackets did not complete a pass!

Green Bay scored the first time they had the ball even though quarterback Red Dunn was out injured. A long completion from Verne Lewellen to end Lavvie Dilweg set up Lewellen's touchdown run. Leading 6-0 in the second quarter, Green Bay took possession after a bad punt on the Minneapolis 37-yard line. Herdis McCrary, Cully Lidberg, and Verne Lewellen led the charge on the ground to the three-yard line. Lidberg took it home over left guard for a 12-0 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, rookie quarterback Arnie Herber excited the home crowd with a 30-yard touchdown pass to Paul Fitzgibbons to finish the scoring. The Packers were 6-0.

Minneapolis 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 6 6 7 0 19
6,000

"Homecoming" honored 16 former Packers.

11.2.1930
PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS **13**
PACKERS **47**

To date, this was the most points scored by a Green Bay team. It was a complete blowout by the Packers, who punched Portsmouth's defense around for 206 yards rushing. They got out to a 20-0 lead in the first half on three touchdown runs by Verne Lewellen (2) and one by Bo Molenda. The Spartans were held scoreless in the first half.

The second half started with a Packer interception by Boob Darling. Quarterback Red Dunn capitalized with a 38-yard touchdown to Herdis McCrary for a 27-0 lead. After Portsmouth scored, Lavvie Dilweg recovered a Spartan fumble to set up Dunn's second touchdown pass to McCrary to end all doubt.

Portsmouth 0 0 6 7 13
Green Bay 7 13 13 14 47
7,500

11.9.1930

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

BEARS 12

The Packers controlled the air with 101 yards passing while the Bears dominated on the ground with 196 yards.

Green Bay struck first in the second quarter. A 10-play drive grabbed the lead on Verne Lewellen's 17-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Blood. The Bears tied it in the third quarter on Joey Sternaman's 32-yard sprint to the end zone. Big rookie Bronco Nagurski also bulldozed his way through the defense all game for 109 of Chicago's 196 rushing yards.

Green Bay went right back in front after the Bears had tied it. The touchdown came on a 27-yard pass from Red Dunn to Lewellen. After his catch, the ever-versatile Lewellen got past "Sternaman with a clever sidestep"¹ before scoring. Dunn also kicked the critical extra-point.

With the Packers in front 13-6 with under four minutes left, they were forced to punt from the end zone. Another rookie, Carl Brumbaugh, returned the kick to Green Bay's 20-yard line. With two minutes left, Laurie Walquist's one-yard touchdown cut the Green Bay lead to 13-12. When Walt Holmer missed the extra point, the Packers stretched their unbeaten streak to 23 games!!

Green Bay 0 6 0 7 13

Chicago 0 0 6 6 12

22,000

"Every train from Wisconsin on Saturday evening and early Sunday brought hundreds of Packer fans to Chicago. It was estimated that more than 3,000 Wisconsin fans saw the game between the Packers and the Bears. Between halves, the Lumberjacks marched out on the field, forming a huge letter "P" and playing several numbers."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/30, Bystrom, p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/30, p. 14

11.16.1930

PACKERS 6

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 13

This was Green Bay's first loss since November 2, 1928, when they lost to Frankford 2-0. The 23-game winning streak included three ties.

After a scoreless first quarter, Chicago's Ernie Nevers, a rising star with Wisconsin roots,

began the upset with an early touchdown pass to Bunny Belden. Nevers missed the extra point attempt. The Packers tied it in the third quarter when Bo Molenda recovered a fumble on Chicago's 35-yard line. Herdis McCrary scored from the two-yard line, but a missed extra point left it 6-6.

Late in the game, Nevers was at his best. Of the final 16 yards of Chicago's game-winning drive, Nevers gained 13, and he scored the winning touchdown. They beat Green Bay with an impressive defense. The Packers completed only three passes for 58 yards, and they generated five first downs.

Green Bay 0 0 6 0 6
Chicago 0 6 0 7 13
12,000

*"The Lumberjack Band and about 800 fans from Green Bay were on hand for the game. The band played at halftime and at intermissions and was given a fine reception from the fans."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/30, p. 14

11.23.1930

PACKERS 6
NEW YORK
GIANTS 13

The nation's football fans followed this game closely as New York trailed Green Bay by only one-half game in the standings. The New York crowd was also pumped up for the debut of Army star Chris Cagle. The Giants took the lead 7-0 on a Benny Friedman touchdown pass to rookie Red Badgro. They added to their lead in the third quarter when Hap Moran, on a fake punt, blew through the Packer defense for 85 yards to set up Friedman's touchdown run.

Late in the third quarter, after Green Bay quarterback Red Dunn was intercepted on the Giant 4-yard line, Green Bay got the ball back on a punt deep in Giant territory. A 30-yard completion from Dunn to Verne Lewellen brought it to the New York 4-yard line. Lewellen scored around right end to narrow the lead to 13-6.

In the fourth quarter, five penalties were called against Green Bay. After one alleged infraction, Packer quarterback Red Dunn got into a physical altercation with one of the officials! Later in the quarter, a penalty reversed an apparent touchdown by Green Bay's Bo Molenda. Two plays later, on fourth down, Molenda was ruled just short of the end zone. The Giants took possession, and the Packers fell to 8-2-0.

This game helped to spread the word about the excitement of pro football among sports fans. Sportswriter Grantland Rice endorsed the pro game with this review: "Those who happened to see the New York Giants upset the Green Bay Packers at the Polo Grounds

saw more good football, on both sides, than they saw in any one game this year. The game was not only a thriller, but it was played with far greater skill than any of the college teams can show, which is only natural. The type of plays selected and the execution of these plays was almost as far above the average college standard as big-league baseball is above college baseball. The game was played with a dash and a spirit that had 40,000 or more fans roaring most of the afternoon. The blocking, running, and the tackling was all hard and clean, and the passing was far above anything one sees in a college game.”¹

Green Bay 0 0 6 0 6
New York 0 7 6 0 13
37,000

Yards Penalized: GB 72 NY 10

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/30, p. 14

11.27.1930

PACKERS 25
FRANKFORD
YELLOW JACKETS 7

Happy Thanksgiving! The Packers feasted on six interceptions, and they controlled matters for most of the game. Two touchdown passes to Johnny Blood brought the offense back to life after two disappointing losses. The touchdowns were thrown by Red Dunn, Green Bay’s veteran quarterback from Marquette.

Blood’s first touchdown came after he took a pass from Dunn and went for a 45-yard score. A short time later, Blood caught his second touchdown for a 12-0 lead.

Frankford scored after halftime to make it 12-7, but the fourth quarter went Green Bay’s way. Two interceptions by Lavvie Dilweg led to Herdis McCrary’s 33-yard touchdown gallop and Dunn’s third touchdown pass of the day to rookie Arnie Herber!

Green Bay 6 6 0 13 25
Frankford 0 0 7 0 7
5,000

Red Dunn: “I threw a long lateral to John (Blood) on one play, and he weaved some 50 yards down the field for the touchdown. About 10 minutes later, I called the same play, and John, it seemed, could have gone all the way again. But he didn’t. He just stood there an instant with a laugh and then threw the lateral back to me.”¹

John Gesser, Red Dunn’s Son-In-Law * Red Dunn’s son-in-law confirmed this story about the Frankford game. “The story that Red told was that it was after a night of socializing, Blood was getting a little tired of throwing and running the ball. He told Red, ‘you throw me that ball one more time, and I’m going to throw it right back at ya.’ And he did!

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, 9/28-12/9/65, p. 4

* Interview 11/19/2018

11.30.1930

PACKERS

37

STATEN ISLAND

STAPLETONS

7

The Packers suited up for another game three days later, and they put on a dominant performance. Fans “were treated to an air attack by the smooth clicking Badgers which had the onlookers pop-eyed.”¹

Green Bay scored 18 unanswered points in the first half. Six different Packers found the end zone during the game, including big Cal Hubbard. Hubbard, an outstanding lineman, replaced an injured Tom Nash at end and caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Red Dunn. The Packers bench jumped for joy after Hubbard’s catch!

Staten Island scored just before halftime on a 30-yard run from scrimmage by Ken Strong. In the second half, Green Bay pulled away as Red Dunn tossed two touchdowns, and rookie Arnie Herber threw his first touchdown pass to close the scoring.

Green Bay	6	12	13	6	37
Staten Island	0	7	0	0	7

9,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/30, Calhoun, p. 13

12.7.1930

PACKERS

0

CHICAGO

BEARS

21

The rivals met for the third time in 1930, and the Packers looked for the sweep.

It was no contest! Though the Packers had a chance to clinch a second straight NFL championship, they came up empty. The Bears picked off six passes, with Red Grange grabbing two. Both helped pave the way for rookie quarterback Carl Brumbaugh’s two touchdown passes to Luke Johnsos.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	7	0	14	21

20,000

“Five hundred feet of film depicting the battle between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears played Sunday at Wrigley Field will be shown at the Fox Theater this evening, tomorrow and Wednesday. Completing the ‘home town’ atmosphere, the organist will play “Temple of Jewels,” composed by Oliver Le Mieux of The Le Mieux School of Music, Green Bay.”¹

¹ packershistory.net/1930Packers

12.14.1930

PACKERS 6

PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS 6

After the loss to the Bears, the Packers needed at least a tie to clinch a second straight championship. They got exactly that!

Since defeating Portsmouth convincingly in November, the Packers' record was just 3-3. Early in this game, Red Dunn threw a touchdown pass to Wuert Engelmann, but Dunn missed the extra-point attempt which gave Green Bay a 6-0 lead. Portsmouth's halfback Roy "Father" Lumpkin led the Spartans downfield. Chuck Bennett's touchdown run tied it, but the Spartans missed their extra point as well.

In the final minutes, the Spartans drove to the Green Bay 14-yard line. Rather than kick a field goal, they were stopped on fourth down. The Packers took over and drove to the Portsmouth 20 before two holding penalties took them out of field goal range. The second half remained scoreless, and the tie gave the Packers their second straight NFL Championship by .004 over New York.

Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6

Portsmouth 0 6 0 0 6

4,500

3,000+ fans welcomed home the champions!

"As the world champions ride from De Pere to Green Bay, their way will be lighted by red flares, placed along the tracks while the Northwestern Depot will be gaily decorated and lighted as they step off the train and board the buses for the auditorium."¹

"It was in every respect as warm a welcome as was tendered the Packers last year when they brought to Green Bay its first championship."²

"The crowd was spontaneous in its applause for every member of the squad. As the men were introduced, the applause began and continued for several seconds until the player got to his feet to say a few words."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/30, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/30, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/30, p. 2

1930

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	3	1
New York	13	4	0
Chi. Bears	9	4	1
Brooklyn	7	4	1
Providence	6	4	1
Staten Island	5	5	2
Chi. Cards	5	6	2
Portsmouth	5	6	3
Frankford	4	13	1
Minneapolis	1	7	1
Newark	1	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing TDs	Dunn
Receiving TD	Blood
Rushing TDs	Lewellen
Scoring	Lewellen

ALL-PRO

Blood	Back
Dilweg	End
Dunn	Quarterback
Kern	Tackle
Michalske	Guard
Nash	End



1931

Record: 12-2-0, NFL Champions

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- During the offseason, the Packers put together a basketball team that traveled around Wisconsin.
- The franchise was fined \$1,000 for signing college players whose “class” hadn’t graduated. The Bears and Spartans were also fined.
- The offense scored 116 more points than any other team even without an injured

- Verne Lewellen for seven games. Their defense ranked second only to Portsmouth.
- One game separated the Packers and Spartans at season's end. Portsmouth claimed the Packers had promised to play a game after the season. Green Bay denied doing so. Portsmouth appealed to Commissioner Joe Carr, but their appeal was denied.
- Green Bay became the first team to win three straight NFL Championships!
- Go! You Packers Go!
By Eric Karll, 1931

Hail, hail the gang's all here to yell for you,
And keep you going in your winning ways,
Hail, hail the gang's all here to tell you too,
That, win or lose, we'll always sing your praises Packers.

Chorus:

Go, you Packers, go and get 'em,
Go, you fighting fools upset 'em,
Smash their line with all your might,
A touchdown, Packers, Fight, Fight, Fight,
Fight on, you blue and gold, to glory,
Win this game the same old story,
Fight, you Packers, Fight,
And bring the bacon home to Old Green Bay.

9.13.1931

CLEVELAND

INDIANS	0
PACKERS	26

The rain, the heat, and the humidity did not slow down Green Bay. As the Packers began their title defense, the "new men, in particular, looked good, and veterans were just as impressive as ever."¹ Roger Grove, Milt Gantenbein, and Hank Bruder topped a strong rookie class for Green Bay, and newcomer "Mule" Wilson, acquired from the Giants, got off to a great start.

The Packers scored in each quarter, with four different players scoring the points. "Mule" Wilson threw an early touchdown pass to rookie Frank Baker. Baker played in just two games in 1931 before calling it a career! In the fourth quarter, after a Bo Molenda interception, Wilson ran for a 39-yard touchdown to end all doubt.

Green Bay also scored on rookie Russ Sanders' touchdown run in the second quarter. Then, after a poor punt left them deep in Cleveland territory in the third quarter, they

scored six more. Green Bay outgained the Indians 262-101, with 189 yards coming on the ground.

Cleveland 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 6 6 7 26
5,000+

*Packer President I.H. Joannes of the Football Corporation said: "We aim to make it possible for the high school teams to see the Packers in action. The Packer management feels that the reduced rate for the boys is a step in the right direction and if successful, we intend to repeat it in following years."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/31, Bystrom, p. 13

2 packershistory.net/1931Packers

9.20.1931

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 6
PACKERS 32

On a hot day, Green Bay enjoyed a second straight blowout. Five different Packers scored, including lineman Whitey Woodin, whose pick-six in the third quarter made it 26-0. Lavvie Dilweg, Verne Lewellen, Milt Gantenbein, and Arnie Herber also put up points for the Packers. Green Bay's defense allowed just 10 yards rushing, and they outgained the Dodgers 301-110. Brooklyn finally scored when it was 32-0.

During the game, Green Bay Packers fan Willard Bent fell from the northwest section of the bleachers and sued the team for \$20,000. The lawsuit wasn't settled until 1933, and it added to the team's serious financial problems.

Brooklyn 0 0 0 6 6
Green Bay 0 12 14 6 32
7,000

St. Norbert's College radio station, WHBY, aired the game.

9.27.1931

CHICAGO

BEARS 0
PACKERS 7

Approximately 200 fans, tired of waiting to get in, crashed the gate!

Green Bay's defense stated its case as a championship unit. They shut down the big Bears backfield of Bronco Nagurski and Red Grange. Grange ran for minus-six yards, and Nagurski gained only nine. At the end of the first quarter, Lavvie Dilweg recovered a fumble by Joe Lintzenich on the Bears' 22-yard line. A few plays later, Verne Lewellen

slipped between Nagurski and Grange into the end zone.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
13,500

This was GB's 20th straight win at home.

10.4.1931

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7
PACKERS 27

"What a team! How those Green Bay Packers handed it to the New York Giants here Sunday—and made them like it! How they smashed! How they ran! How they blocked and played perfect football as a crowd of 14,000 cheered."¹

There's not much else to say except the Giants scored first. Red Flaherty blocked a punt, picked it up, and returned it for six. The Packers tied it up quickly on Verne Lewellen's 10-yard touchdown run. Later in the first quarter, Lewellen scored again when a bad punt gave Green Bay excellent field position. Wuert Englemann's 42-yard touchdown run topped off a fine first half, 20-7.

Quarterback Red Dunn put the icing on the cake in the fourth quarter when he teamed up with Johnny Blood for a 25-yard touchdown strike.

New York 7 0 0 0 7
Green Bay 14 6 0 7 27
14,000

*"Directors of the Green Bay Football Corporation, at a regular meeting held Tuesday evening at the Press-Gazette, voted unanimously to turn over the profits of the Packer-Stapleton game, which will be played here on Sunday, November 8, to charity. President Leland H. Joannes of the Football corporation will immediately get in touch with the Community Chest executives in regards to the game, and it is anticipated that a ticket sales campaign for the charity contest will be mapped out in a few days."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/31, Bystrom, p. 13

² packershistory.net/1931Packers

10.11.1931

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 7
PACKERS 26

The Packers faced the team that broke their historic unbeaten streak last season. Green

Bay started very slowly, and they were shut out in the first half. They came close to scoring a few times, but the Cardinals held firm.

The visitors took the lead on an Ernie Nevers touchdown pass in the first quarter. In the second half, Green Bay rallied behind Johnny Blood and quarterback Red Dunn. Blood made two spectacular leaping touchdown catches. One went for 40-yards and the other for 14. Late in the game, his 35-yard pick-six completed the hat trick!

Chicago 0 7 0 0 7

Green Bay 0 0 13 13 26

8,000

Cal Hubbard was ejected for fighting.

10.18.1931

FRANKFORD

YELLOW JACKETS 0
PACKERS 15

The Yellow Jackets seriously threatened to score three times, but Green Bay's defense wouldn't allow it. The Packers started the scoring when they blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Big Cal Hubbard also contributed an interception!

Johnny Blood starred again by scoring both touchdowns and providing a number of other exciting moments. His first touchdown was a spectacular grab in the end zone that he held on to as he landed on his face. In the third quarter, his 19-yard touchdown run put the game away!

Frankford 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 2 6 7 0 15

6,000

"Organized cheering, with East and West high school's cheerleaders leading the fans, was inaugurated."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/31, p. 22

10.25.1931

PROVIDENCE

STEAM ROLLER 20
PACKERS 48

Many former Packers returned for a reunion. The celebration was topped off by a win over Providence. The current crew put on quite a show. The 48 points set a new record for the most points in team history to date.

Fifty-five passes were thrown in the game, and at times “it probably looked like three (footballs) were in use.”¹ In the first quarter, a 21-point explosion by Wuert Engelmann—two touchdown catches and a kickoff return for six—appeared to put the game away by intermission. But Providence didn’t wilt, and running back Oran Pape, a former Packer, scored three touchdowns to keep it close. After three quarters, the two teams found themselves in a 28-20 game. The Packers put away the Steam Roller in the fourth quarter when Roger Grove, “Mule” Wilson, and Bo Molenda each scored a touchdown.

Providence 0 7 13 0 20
Green Bay 21 7 0 20 48
Attendance Not Available

“Special trains will take fans to and from Chicago Sunday to see the Green Bay Packers play the Chicago Bears. A special train leaving Green Bay at 7 a.m. Sunday will carry the Lumberjack band in addition to several hundred fans. This train will pick up passengers at Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and other cities along the lakeshore. Another special will come down through Appleton, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac. Green Bay will send about 1,500 fans to the game.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/31, Bystrom, p. 13

² packershistory.net/1931Packers (10/27)

11.1.1931

PACKERS 6
 CHICAGO
BEARS 2

Here was a hard-fought, defensive gem with the defenses scoring all the points! After a scoreless first quarter, Packers lineman, big Cal Hubbard, swatted a pass and managed to deflect it into the arms of defensive tackle Mike Michalske. Michalske returned it 80 yards for Green Bay’s touchdown! Years later, Papa Bear Halas said of Big Cal Hubbard of Green Bay, “There was never a better lineman.”¹

Chicago scored a safety in the third quarter when Red Dunn was tackled in the end zone after fielding a punt on the 2-yard line. On offense, the Bears got inside the Packer 25-yard line six times, but they came away empty-handed. In the fourth quarter, interceptions by Johnny Blood and Mule Wilson preserved the lead.

Green Bay 0 6 0 0 6
Chicago 0 0 2 0 2
30,000

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, 9/28-12/9/65, p. 15

11.8.1931

STATEN ISLAND

STAPLETONS 0
PACKERS 26

Green Bay was never threatened, and Johnny Blood took over. The Packers scored on four long touchdown marches, one in each quarter. Lavvie Dilweg and Johnny Blood caught touchdown passes in the first half for a 13-0 lead.

In the third quarter, Blood finished a 65-yard drive with a 13-yard touchdown run. He then intercepted a pass on defense in the fourth quarter, which led to his touchdown pass—after a lateral from halfback Paul Fitzgibbons—to Hank Bruder!

The Stapletons never got inside the Packers' 15-yard line, and they completed only one pass for 11 yards. They were outgained 425-130.

Staten Island 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 6 7 6 26
7,000

11.15.1931

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 21

The Cardinals (2-3-0) put an end to another Packer winning streak (see 1930), and this time they did it in the mud. They followed their sensational back Ernie Nevers, who threw two touchdown passes.

Late in the first quarter Nevers connected on four of six passes, including a 25-yarder to Mil Creighton for a touchdown that gave Chicago a 7-0 lead. In the second quarter, Nevers' quick-kick backfired. Dick Stahlman blocked the kick, and Tom Nash recovered for the Packers, and he scored.

In the second half, trailing 7-6, Green Bay's offense continued to struggle. Four times in the game, they drove inside Chicago's 25-yard line but could not score. The Cards though scored twice and extended the lead to 21-6. Their second touchdown came after an interception by George Rogge. It led to Nevers' second touchdown pass. The victory snapped Green Bay's 9-0 start.

Green Bay 0 6 0 7 13
Chicago 7 0 7 7 21
9,000

11.22.1931

PACKERS 14

NEW YORK

GIANTS 10

As the defending champs headed East, there was a big buildup for this game. Thirty-five thousand fans came out to see how the 4-5-1 Giants would handle the reigning champions.

Green Bay jumped in front when Johnny Blood caught a Red Dunn screen pass, and ran untouched for a 53-yard touchdown. New York returned fire with quarterback Benny Friedman's passing and Hap Moran's running. Moran's touchdown run tied it up, and his 22-yard field goal gave New York a 10-7 lead at intermission.

The third quarter was scoreless though the Packers began their winning drive as it ended. Red Dunn returned to the game and sparked Green Bay's offense. They went 78-yards in 15 plays, with Dunn's 20-yard pass to rookie Hank Bruder securing the win. One New York writer was so impressed with the Pack he wrote, "anything less than a spear stubbed Chinese wall would have looked sick against such devastating force."¹

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14

New York 0 10 0 0 10

35,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/31, p.13

11.26.1931

PACKERS 38

PROVIDENCE

STEAM ROLLER 7

On Thanksgiving Day, "Lambeau and company won in a walk."¹ The Packers dominated from the kickoff, and they led 32-7 at halftime. Johnny Blood and Bo Molenda knocked the Rollers around all game. Blood caught three touchdown passes for 26, 55, and 30 yards. Molenda threw two of those touchdown passes, and he scored twice on the ground himself. He also kicked an extra point.

Green Bay 13 19 0 6 38

Providence 0 7 0 0 7

5,000

Red Grange on Johnny "Blood" McNally: "I played a couple of postseason exhibition games for Green Bay, and I roomed with Blood. What a guy! I remember a couple of girls wanted Johnny to sign a program, and he said, "I'll do better than that. I'll sign it in blood." He cut his wrist with a knife and signed that program in blood, and he had to have about four stitches."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/31, Calhoun, p.15

² The Game That was, Cope, p. 54

11.29.1931

PACKERS 7

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 0

Verne Lewellen made the big play in this one-score game. In the first quarter on fourth down, Lewellen lunged off the muddy turf from the two-yard line and landed in the end zone! The defense made it stand up to clinch Green Bay's third straight NFL title!

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7

Brooklyn 0 0 0 0 0

10,000

*"To the chagrin of the 'more sophisticated' big cities, obscure, and 'uncultured' Green Bay would beat them again, again, and again during this glorious three-year reign."*¹

*"You see, we try to get every fellow who plays for us to live in Green Bay. We give him a job there, and try to get him interested in the town."*²

*"Telegraph wires from the Atlantic seaboard, as well as radio dispatches and special broadcast programs, brought the news that (the Packers) will once again be entitled to stage its flag raising ceremony at City stadium; a performance which is rapidly becoming traditional in the eyes of Badger sport followers."*³

1 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 74

2 packershistory.net/1931Packers (11/30)

3 packershistory.net/1931Packers (11/30-Green Bay)

12.6.1931

PACKERS 6

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

Eighteen thousand fans witnessed this upset that included nine interceptions, six by the Bears. On the first play from scrimmage, the Packers tried a quick pass that was intercepted by Carl Brumbaugh at the 30-yard line. Halfback Joe Lintzenich then caught Brumbaugh's touchdown pass for an early advantage. The extra point followed.

In the second quarter, the Packers scored on a 34-yard touchdown pass from Bo Molenda to Johnny Blood, who caught the ball when Red Grange fell. A missed extra point by Red Dunn proved costly. Late in the fourth quarter, interceptions by Red Grange and Dick Nesbitt stopped Green Bay's final drives.

Green Bay 0 6 0 0 6

Chicago 7 0 0 0 7

18,000

GB won two of three vs. Bears in 1931.

"A judge in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, granted a divorce to Mrs. Daisy Goldstein in 1931 because her husband was more devoted to the Green Bay Packers than to her."¹

¹ The National Forgotten League, Dan Daly, p. 77

1930

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	2	0
Portsmouth	11	3	0
Chicago Bears	8	5	0
Chicago Cardinals	5	4	1
New York	7	6	1
Providence	4	4	3
Staten Island	4	6	1
Cleveland	2	8	0
Brooklyn	2	12	0
Frankford	1	6	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dunn
Receiving	Blood
Rushing	Lewellen
Scoring	Blood

ALL-PRO

Barragar	Center
Blood	Back
Dilweg	End
Dunn	Quarterback
Hubbard	Tackle
Michalske	Guard
Molenda	Back
Nash	End
Stahlman	Tackle



1932
Record: 10-3-1, 3rd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The Packers began their quest for a fourth straight NFL championship.
- Since Red Dunn had retired, Arnie Herber took over as Green Bay's quarterback. Herber attended Green Bay West High School and Regis College. As a rookie, he led the NFL with eight touchdown passes!
- Rookie Clarke Hinkle led the team in rushing. He was also an excellent linebacker, punter, and kicker.
- Green Bay's defense was still the best in the league, but the offense wasn't as productive. Veteran Johnny Blood and second-year man Hank Bruder tied for the team's scoring lead.
- Though they won the most games in the league, a fourth straight title was not to be. In their final two games, the Packers were shut out by Portsmouth and Chicago and lost control of the top spot.

9.18.1932

CHICAGO

CARDINALS	7
PACKERS	15

Before the game, the Packers raised the championship flag, honoring the three-time world champions. "One flag, with the lettering 1929, 1930 and 1931 Champions"¹ was hoisted instead of three flags that might have had trouble fitting on the flagpole!

The Cardinals and Packers were evenly matched in a bruising battle in the rain and mud. Green Bay's defense carried the day and scored eight of their 15 points. Tom Nash started the scoring when he blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Lineman Mike Michalske also blocked a punt, and in the third quarter, he also recovered a fumble in the end zone for a 15-0 lead. In between what the defense was doing, quarterback Arnie Herber threw his first touchdown pass of the season to Hank Bruder.

Chicago	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	2	0	13	0	15

3,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/32, p. 12

9.25.1932

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

PACKERS 0

A defensive gem by both squads yielded these combined totals: 18 yards passing, 13 first downs, and 26 punts. Neither team came close to a touchdown as “big, towering linemen smashed down nearly everything thrown at them.”¹ Bronco Nagurski and Clark Hinkle also had their first clash, with both players dazed after the collision.

In the second half, both teams hoped that their punting would set up the winning points. In the final minutes, a field goal try by the Bears from the 23 was foiled by a bad snap!

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

13,000

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/32, Bystrom, p. 11

10.2.1932

NEW YORK

GIANTS 0

PACKERS 13

After three games against big-city teams, the Packers were 2-0-1. Early in the first quarter, Jug Earp recovered a fumble that led to a 60-yard touchdown drive. Green Bay overpowered the Giants by running the ball to take a 7-0 lead.

The Giants never got closer than Green Bay’s 30-yard line. In the fourth quarter, the Packers put it away with “as pretty a play as has been seen (here) in a long time.”¹ Herber’s 40-yard bomb to a leaping Lavvie Dilweg put the ball on New York’s two-yard line! Five plays later, Hank Bruder took it in.

New York 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 7 0 0 6 13

5,500

“An excellent show was presented between halves by several military units. The Fond du Lac Fife and Drum Corp, the Beaver Dam Legion Band, (the) Green Bay Legion Band and local boy scouts took part in the ceremony.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/32, p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/32, p. 14

10.9.1932

PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS 10
PACKERS 15

In what the Press-Gazette called "one of the greatest football games seen here in your day or mine,"¹ the Packers prevailed over the strong Spartans in the wind and rain. Many Packer-backers rejoiced as this victory was a final rebuttal to the Spartan fans who claimed they would have beaten Green Bay in 1931 had they been given a chance.

Al Rose of the Packers blocked Dutch Clark's punt and fell on it in the end zone to start the scoring. After Portsmouth took the lead 10-7, they gambled to protect it. Early in the fourth quarter, with the ball on their 1-yard line, the Spartans took a safety rather than running three plays and possibly punting from their end zone. After the safety's punt, the Packers took over on their 41. On fourth down from the 22, rookie Clark Hinkle went over left guard for the eventual winner. An interception by Johnny Blood sealed the deal.

Portsmouth 0 0 10 0 10
Green Bay 7 0 0 8 15
5,500

*"The Wisconsin Rapids High School Band braved the elements and put on an interesting parade and concert between halves."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/32, Bystrom, p. 11

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/32, p. 12

10.16.1932

PACKERS 2
CHICAGO
BEARS 0

There were very few scoring opportunities in this game. Both teams got inside the other's 20-yard line just once. In the second quarter, end Tom Nash of the Packers blocked Dick Nesbitt's punt out of the end zone for a safety. The Bears suffered their fourth straight shutout!

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 2 0 0 2
17,500

*"There were several thousand Wisconsin fans in the stands, many driving down while others poured in on special trains and buses. Several Green Bay fans were on the North Shore electric train, which jumped the rails near North Chicago Sunday afternoon. No one was hurt, however."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/32, p. 12

10.23.1932

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 0

PACKERS 13

The Packers defeated quarterback Benny Friedman and the Dodgers. The scoring began early with a first-quarter pick-six by Green Bay's Al Rose. Rose dashed 22 yards to the end zone!

While the Dodgers ran the ball effectively, they only completed four of 17 passes for 50 yards. Whenever they threatened, Green Bay's defense stiffened. Late in the game, Dick Stahlman blocked a Dodger punt, and Tom Nash recovered it on the 22. A great catch by Johnny Blood brought the ball to the 1-yard line. Arnie Herber went over right guard to finish off Brooklyn.

Brooklyn 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 6 0 0 7 13
5,000

10.30.1932

STATE ISLAND

STAPLETONS 0

PACKERS 26

It was Curly Lambeau Day at City Stadium and also the annual Homecoming for many former players. The guests were entertained by the current squad, who dominated the boys from Staten Island, New York.

The Packers outgained the Stapletons 282-61, and their opponent managed to get beyond their own 30-yard line just twice! Green Bay was led on both sides of the ball by their young quarterback, Arnie Herber. Herber had an incredible game. He threw for 117 yards and two touchdowns. Both of his touchdown passes went to halfback Roger Grove. The first, after a poor punt, went for 35 yards.

On defense, Herber also grabbed two interceptions! His 85-yard pick-six gave the Pack a 13-0 lead. Later in the third quarter, Herber's second interception led to his second touchdown pass to Grove. This 31-yard touchdown strike made it 20-0 Packers. The great football coach and innovator, Art Shaughnessy, said of Herber: "Herber's touchdown passes can be as demoralizing as a Ruthian home run."²

Staten Island 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 6 14 6 26
Attendance: NA

GB finished the season with seven straight road games.

1 The History of the Green Bay Packers, Names, Vol. 1, p. 106

2 The Green Bay Packers, Johnson, p. 143

11.6.1932

PACKERS 19

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 9

Green Bay moved to 7-0-1 with this win. They did it behind two first-half touchdown passes from Arnie Herber to Johnny Blood. The first was a spectacular 57-yard bomb. After the second touchdown by Blood, the Cards cut the lead to 13-7. Rookie Tim Moynihan blocked a punt by Clark Hinkle and returned it 18 yards for a touchdown.

Green Bay's passing attack looked in sync all game. In the fourth quarter, another great catch by Blood highlighted a 72-yard drive. Rookie Clarke Hinkle scored to seal the deal.

Green Bay 7 6 0 6 19

Chicago 0 7 2 0 9

11,000

11.13.1932

PACKERS 21

BOSTON

BRAVES 0

In this game, all of the points came in the first half. Arnie Herber took care of business for Green Bay with three quick touchdown passes.

A poor punt by the Braves gave Green Bay great field position, and it set up Herber's first touchdown pass to Roger Grove. The second touchdown, a 30-yard pass to Lewellen, completed a 78-yard drive. Johnny Blood's interception set Herber's third touchdown to Johnny Blood!

The Braves threatened periodically, but they were never inside Green Bay's 20-yard line. One Boston fan, on his way out of the park, mentioned to the Green Bay Press-Gazette that he was impressed by the Packers. "That Green Bay team had a heart. They could have made it 60 if they wanted to. Never in my life have I seen such a football team. It is the perfect eleven."¹

Green Bay 7 14 0 0 21

Boston 0 0 0 0 0

16,500

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/32, Calhoun, p. 12

11.20.1932

PACKERS 0

NEW YORK

GIANTS 6

A three-game road trip to New York City began with Green Bay's first loss of the season. The Giants delivered the first blemish in the rain and on a muddy field. They scored the game's only points when Green Bay's Roger Grove fumbled a punt in the second quarter. The Giants recovered at midfield, and Jack McBride threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to end Ray Flaherty.

After watching the Packers and Giants play, one writer said this about pro football: "It had everything. For thrills, expert performance, and plain old-fashioned fight, it made your average college game seem like a church box lunch festival on a rainy Monday night."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

New York 0 6 0 0 6

17,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, UPI, 11/21/32, McLemore, p. 13

11.24.1932

PACKERS 7

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 0

Seventeen thousand fans welcomed the Packers to Ebbets Field on Thanksgiving Day! The game's only points came in the second quarter when quarterback/punter Arnie Herber played it smart. Rather than punting from a slippery spot on the field, Herber took the snap, dropped further back, and heaved the football 60 yards to the end zone! Brooklyn took over on its 20!

Running back Ollie Sansen fumbled, and Rudy Comstock recovered for Green Bay. Arnie Herber's touchdown pass to Hank Bruder followed. The lone touchdown stood up thanks, in part, to four interceptions! The Packers did not, however, escape unharmed. Six players were injured: Tom Nash, Nate Barragar, Verne Lewellen, Mike Michalske, Harry O'Boyle, and Hurdis McCrary.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7

Brooklyn 0 0 0 0 0

17,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, UPI, 11/21/32, McLemore, p. 13

11.27.1932

PACKERS 21

STATEN ISLAND

STAPLETONS 3

Green Bay played three days later, making it three games in eight days! A 3-0 advantage for Staten Island vanished in the second half. After a 15-yard punt return by Arnie Herber, Green Bay went 40 yards in eight plays to take a 7-3 lead. They scored when Clarke Hinkle dove over two opponents to get into the end zone!

In the fourth quarter, two thefts by the Packers put the game away. Both were returned for scores. Big Wuert Engelmann's 55-yard touchdown rumble came first. Johnny Blood's pick-six, with one minute left, caused a near riot when he interacted with the crowd in the end zone. Several Stapleton fans jumped over the barrier and surrounded Johnny, "as if a scalping party was to be staged. A second or two later, the officials caught up with the parade and reinforced by a detail of blue coats; the field was cleared."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 14 21

Staten Island 0 3 0 0 3

3,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/32, Calhoun, p. 9

12.4.1932

PACKERS 0

PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS 19

A stunning loss ended Green Bay's quest for a fourth consecutive NFL title.* In the game of the year, Portsmouth dominated without substituting. They clearly held the upper hand, and "it seemed as if the Bay's front wall was on its heels, while the Spartan forwards were on their toes."¹ Green Bay's passing game struggled to handle the pressure from Portsmouth. In 16 attempts, they threw more interceptions (2) than completions (1).

Quarterback Glenn Presnell of the Spartans and tailback Dutch Clark both ran for first-half touchdowns. After a punt-heavy third quarter, Presnell and Clark connected for a 28-yard touchdown pass that wrapped it up.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Portsmouth 7 6 0 6 19

10,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/32, Calhoun, p. 11

* Since ties were not counted in a team's record at the time, the Bears (6-1-6) and the Portsmouth Spartans (6-1-4) had a better winning percentage than Green Bay (10-3-1).

12.11.1932

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

BEARS 9

Snow and wind kept the points off the scoreboard until the fourth quarter. Former Packer Tiny Engebretsen booted a 24-yard field goal for Chicago. Bronco Nagurski's 56-yard touchdown run clinched a tie between the Bears and Portsmouth for the NFL title.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Chicago 0 0 0 9 9

10,000

Clarke Hinkle: After the season, Johnny Blood arranged a postseason excursion for the Packers in Hawaii. "We went over on a boat – it took us 5 ½ days – and played three games against Hawaiian teams. We stayed there 22 days. On the boat coming back from the islands one night, we couldn't find Johnny Blood. So, Milt Gantenbein and I walked out on the main deck and went back toward the stern. The sea was a little rough, and that ship was pitching. Johnny Blood was outside the safety railing on the extreme stern end of the ship. He was hanging on to a flagpole. There he was, in the middle of that pitch-black night, with the ship pitching, and he was swinging around that flagpole."¹

1 The Game That Was, Cope, p. 100

1932

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
* Chi. Bears	6	1	6
* Portsmouth	6	1	4
Green Bay	10	3	1
Boston Braves	4	4	2
New York	4	6	2
Brooklyn	3	9	0
Chi. Cardinals	2	6	2
Staten Island	2	7	3

* Chicago won a playoff game for the 1932 championship.

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Blood
Rushing	Lewellen
Scoring	Blood/Bruder

ALL-PRO

Barragar Center

Dilweg	End
Herber	Quarterback
Hinkle	Back
Hubbard	Tackle
Nash	End
Zeller	Guard



1933
Record: 5-7-1, 3rd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Willard Bent, the fan who fell out of the stands in 1931, was awarded \$4,989.00. Since the Packers' insurance company went bankrupt, the team paid the claim, which added to their debt. President Lee Joannes loaned the club \$6,000 to pay the claim, and on August 15, 1933, the Packers were placed in financial receivership by the courts.
- The league made several rule changes to open up the passing game.
 1. Quarterbacks could throw the football from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage. Previously, they had to be five yards back.
 2. Goalposts were moved to the goal line to encourage more field goals.
 3. Hash marks were placed on the field. It moved the ball away from the sidelines giving offenses more room to work.
- To avoid a repeat of the 1932 championship debate, the teams were divided into two divisions—the Eastern and Western. Division winners would play for the championship.
- This was the Packers' first losing season. They struggled against the better teams, and they lost three in a row for the first time.
- Statistically, the defense was slightly better than the offense.

9.17.1933
BOSTON

REDSKINS 7
PACKERS 7

These two evenly-matched teams played a quiet first half. In the third quarter, the Packers broke the ice the second time they had the ball. Arnie Herber's quick pass to Al Rose finished a six-play drive. Early in the fourth quarter, Herber was intercepted by Marger

Apsit. The Redskins tied it on a 33-yard touchdown pass.

The touchdown that tied the score was one of only two passes the Redskins completed all game. Green Bay, on the other hand, passed the ball well (256), but couldn't run it (27).

Boston 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
5,000

Total Yards: GB 283 BOS 152

9.24.1933

CHICAGO

BEARS 14
PACKERS 7

For the first 55 minutes, the Packers outplayed the Bears. It was a brutal battle, especially between Clark Hinkle and Bronco Nagurski. In the first half, Hinkle became "the only man ever to knock Bronco Nagurski out of a game."¹ It happened on a punt return, and Nagurski suffered a broken nose and several other injuries courtesy of Hinkle. Nagurski was carried from the field.

With Green Bay in front 7-0 with five minutes left in the game, the Bears blocked a field goal by Hank Bruder. The block energized Chicago, and their great end Bill Hewitt took over. The Bears ran an end-around play with Hewitt stopping to find Luke Johnsos wide open for a 46-yard touchdown pass. On Green Bay's next series, they went three-and-out and were forced to punt. Hewitt blocked Arnie Herber's punt on the five-yard line and ran it into the end zone for the win.

Chicago 0 0 0 14 14
Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
12,000

*"What do you mean Depression? one woman asked her husband as she saw all the fans crowding around the gates before game time. Her husband admitted there seemed to be enough money in the world for thousands of tickets."*²

¹ What a Game They Played, Whittingham, p. 91

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/33, p. 12

10.1.1933

NEW YORK

GIANTS **10**
PACKERS **7**

Playing games in Milwaukee* began at Borchert Field. However, field conditions at the ballpark were so poor that "Lambeau swore he would never return."¹ It was the only game the Packers ever played at Borchert, and it was a lackluster debut that did not impress the Milwaukee crowd.

Green Bay completed just six of 19 passes, and they fumbled the ball seven times, losing three. Ken Strong's field goal started the scoring for New York. Mel Hein of the Giants followed with an interception which led to their touchdown. The touchdown came on their only pass completion of the game! The Packers scored late in the game on Bob Monnett's 30-yard pass to Johnny Blood.

New York **3 7 0 0 10**
Green Bay **0 0 0 7 7**
12,467

¹ Lambeau: The Man Behind the Mystique, Zimmerman, p. 109

* This was the first of 169 games played in Milwaukee from 1933-1994. GB's record was 105-61-3.

10.8.1933

PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS **0**
PACKERS **17**

The winless Packers shut out the undefeated Spartans. A rainstorm made the conditions deplorable, with mud inches deep. An outstanding defensive effort led by Cal Hubbard "with his great bulk"¹ helped keep the Spartans in check. Green Bay scored early in the game after a bad punt. They capitalized with Hank Bruder's touchdown run that finished the short drive. A pick-six by Buckets Goldenberg put it away in the fourth quarter.

Portsmouth **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **7 0 3 7 17**
5,200

*"Al Rose got a laugh out of the crowd when he slid through a puddle of water at midfield late in the game. 'Use the breaststroke' one fan called."*²

*"We were very well satisfied with the fine sportsmanship of the crowd and the officiating. I have no alibi. My team was beaten by a great Packer club."*³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/33, Bystrom, p. 11

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/33, p. 12

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/33, p. 12

10.15.1933

PITTSBURGH

PIRATES 0
PACKERS 47

The Packers trounced the Pirates in one of the most lopsided affairs in Green Bay history! Everything worked for the Packers! Though the ground game led the way (255 yards), the passing game was impressive, with 10 of 16 passes being completed for a total of 107 yards. The Pirates were outgained 368-102.

Most of the scoring was done by two rookies who scored two touchdowns—Bob Monnett and Charles “Buckets” Goldenberg. Monnett ran for two touchdowns while carrying the ball 15 times for 93 yards. Buckets returned an interception 67 yards for six and ran for a touchdown as well. The game was no contest as the Pirates were headed for a last-place finish in the Eastern Division.

Pittsburgh 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 20 13 7 47
4,000

“Two little boys were standing near the hamburger tent when the Pittsburgh team filed back on the field for the second half. ‘Why don’t youse Pirates fight?’ one of them asked. Several of the players grinned, but no one answered the query.”¹

“Off and on during the fray it drizzled, but to the fans, it was just another one of those things and didn’t ‘dampen’ their ardor!”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/33, p. 10

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/33, p. 10

10.22.1933

PACKERS 7
CHICAGO
BEARS 10

If fans were impressed with the five-minute comeback the Packers pulled off in September, the one from this game should have stunned them; this one took only four!

Similar to the game in Green Bay, the Packers held the edge most of the game. They started the scoring in the second quarter with a 43-yard touchdown from quarterback Arnie Herber to Johnny Blood. Blood got behind defensive back Gene Ronzani and jumped to pull it in. That was it for the scoring until the fourth quarter.

Bill Hewitt of the Bears was again a force on both sides of the ball the entire game. As the clock wound down, the Bears pulled even on a halfback option play. The great Red Grange took the lateral and lofted a pass into the arms of Luke Johnsos for a 22-yard touchdown.

After the Packers were forced to punt, Chicago again drove into Green Bay territory on a 23-yard dash by rookie Jack Manders. The Minnesota rookie then kicked a 30-yard field goal to win it.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Chicago 0 0 0 10 10
19,000

Arnie Herber injured his foot in the 4th quarter.

10.29.1933

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 9
PACKERS 35

The game was closer than the score indicated. Green Bay put up 14 points in the first quarter, but they didn't score again until the fourth quarter. In between, it stayed close.

The Packers played without their starting quarterback Arnie Herber who injured his foot against the Bears. In a 14-7 first half, a touchdown run by Buckets Goldenberg and a pick-six by Wuert Engelmann provided Green Bay's points. The Packers' started strong and thwarted the Eagles' offense at every turn with seven interceptions!

The second half started with a safety for Philly when a bad snap trapped Clark Hinkle in the end zone. In the third quarter, Cal Hubbard put on quite a show for the Packers when it took three Eagles to bring him down after an interception. It stayed 14-9 until Green Bay exploded for 21 in the fourth quarter. Johnny Blood caught Bob Monnett's second touchdown pass, and Buckets Goldenberg scored two more touchdowns. His third touchdown came late when he returned a Bob Monnett kick blocked by Lavvie Dilweg for a touchdown!

Philadelphia 0 7 2 0 9
Green Bay 14 0 0 21 35
3,007

Total Yards: GB 242 PHI 220

"Green Bay's high school band played during the intermission and made a formidable appearance in a march across the gridiron."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/33, p. 14

11.5.1933

PACKERS 14

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 6

The Packers began their six-game road trip with two wins. But, according to the headline in the Press-Gazette, this first win was more than just a football game! "Packers Win Fight, Football Game, 14-6."¹

A chippy and scoreless first half was followed by hostilities and a near-riot in the second. An official ruled that a Chicago punt had been touched by Green Bay and then recovered by the Cardinals at the 1-yard line. Cal Hubbard disputed the call vigorously and lost control. He grabbed an official, and both benches emptied. "Fans joined the crowd, punching, shoving, and trying to swing. No one was hit. The crowd was too dense."²

Later in the third quarter, the Cardinals turned Clark Hinkle's short punt into a touchdown, but they missed the extra point. Hinkle bounced back to put the game on ice in the fourth quarter with an interception that he also took into the end zone seven plays later with a 2-yard touchdown run!

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

Chicago 0 0 6 0 6

5,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/33, p. 14

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/33, Bystrom p. 14

11.12.1933

PACKERS 0

PORTSMOUTH

SPARTANS 7

On a beautiful, sunny day, the Spartans delivered payback with this shutout. Their defensive line set the tone for the game with constant pressure in Green Bay's backfield.

In a scoreless contest in the second half, punting and field position became paramount. In one exchange of punts, Portsmouth got the ball on Green Bay's 30-yard line. Ernie Caddel scored over left tackle six plays later.

With under two minutes left in the game, Green Bay threatened and marched to Portsmouth's 12-yard line. On first down, Bob Monnett threw a pass into the end zone, which fell incomplete. According to the rules at the time, the ball was given to the opponent after an incomplete pass in the end zone. Game over.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Portsmouth 0 0 7 0 7
7,500

11.19.1933

PACKERS 7

BOSTON

REDSKINS 20

Boston moved the ball easily against Green Bay's defense, and fullback Jim Musick of the Redskins scored the first and last touchdowns of the game. After his first touchdown, a pick-six by Ernie Pinckert pushed the Redskins lead to 13-0.

The Packers rallied when Bob Monnett returned the ensuing kickoff 75 yards to set up Clarke Hinkle's one-yard scoring plunge a few plays later. Musick squashed Green Bay's comeback hopes with a fourth-quarter touchdown drive. He led the march with 40 yards rushing, and he threw one aerial for 24 yards. Curly Lambeau was certainly impressed. "We lost here Sunday to the hardest running backfield I have ever seen in professional football."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
Boston 0 6 7 7 20
16,399

¹ packershistory.net /1933 (News & Notes)

11.26.1933

PACKERS 6

NEW YORK

GIANTS 17

For the first time in their history, Green Bay lost three straight games. It didn't help that the night before this game, Johnny Blood and his roommate partied well into the evening with two nurses. Blood recalled in warm-ups the next day, "the first ball I kicked, I fell flat on my ass. Lambeau sent me back to the hotel. Well, the team played New York without me and lost."¹

Thirty-seven thousand fans saw the Giants take a 7-0 lead on Dale Burnett's 85-yard pick-six of quarterback Arnie Herber. In the second half, a bad punt by Clarke Hinkle gave the Giants the ball on Green Bay's 36. New York capitalized when Clark Hinkle batted into the air a Harry Newman pass (intended for Dale Burnett), which fell into the arms of Red Badgro for a touchdown. A field goal extended New York's lead, and Green Bay didn't score until the last two minutes.

Lambeau's comments about the game? "Most of the boys have played their hearts out for us, but it takes eleven men on the field fighting all the time and not nine or ten."²

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6
New York 7 0 10 0 17
17,000

Blood was suspended for two weeks by Lambeau.

¹ The Game That Was, Cope, p. 67

² packershistory.net/1933 (News & Notes)

12.3.1933

PACKERS 10

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 0

It was all Hank Bruder! Near the end of the first half, Bruder's interception set up Clarke Hinkle's 32-yard field goal.

In the fourth quarter, Arnie Herber's 40-yard pass to Milt Gantenbein set up Bruder's two-yard touchdown run that clinched it. In between, Philadelphia fans got a good look at Green Bay's legendary passing game. Arnie Herber entertained the crowd with 32 passes, 9 completions, and 184 yards overall. The ground game was also impressive, with Clark Hinkle pounding Philly for 116 yards and a touchdown.

Green Bay 0 3 0 7 10
Philadelphia 0 0 0 0 0
8,303

On Tuesday after the game, Lambeau reported on two positive developments in 1933. "Our ability to go through the year without a financial loss... and the attitude of the fans. Instead of a chorus of howls for losing games, we have been greeted with a spirit of cheerfulness and optimism."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/33, p. 11

12.10.1933

PACKERS 6

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

Due to injuries suffered in a car accident, quarterback Arnie Herber did not play. The Bears threatened once in the second quarter, and they cashed in. Gene Ronzani caught a touchdown pass from Keith Molesworth for a 7-0 lead. The Packers persevered with some of the "greatest bits of open field running ever seen on a football field"¹ by Clark Hinkle

and Bob Monnett. In the fourth quarter, an 88-yard punt return by Bob Monnett zig-zagged its way to the end zone. It put Green Bay on the board, but former Packer, Joe Zeller, blocked the decisive extra point.

The Packers finished the season with a losing record for the first time.

Green Bay **0 0 0 6 6**
Chicago **0 7 0 0 7**
7,000

*"The suit of clothing offered by M.E. Davis to a Packer player was won by Lon Evans, a guard. Mr. Davis had offered one suit for every Packer touchdown, the winner or winners to be made by drawing."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/33, Bystrom, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/33, p. 15

1933

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago Bears	10	2	0
Portsmouth	6	5	0
Green Bay	5	7	1
Cincinnati	3	6	1
Chicago Cardinals	1	9	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Rushing	Monnett
Receiving	Grove
Scoring	Goldenberg

ALL-PRO

Dilweg	End
Hinkle	Back
Hubbard	Tackle



1934

Record: 7-6-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Before the season, the Packers sold Johnny Blood to Pittsburgh. Cal Hubbard retired to coach, but he returned in 1935-36 to play for the Packers, Pirates, and Giants!
- Green Bay won more than it lost, but it was eliminated from the division race in early November.
- The Packers led the league in passing, but defensively they couldn't stop the pass!
- Milwaukee games were moved to State Fair Park in West Allis, a suburb of Milwaukee.
- On October 17th, George Halas agreed to play an exhibition game in Milwaukee to help the Packers retire a portion of their debt. Ten thousand fans attended!
- **Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer Fan Hall of Fame** *
Happy Birthday! Vivian and her twin brother, Stewart, share a birthday, January 9, 1934, with the great BART STARR. Like many fans, Bart Starr is Vivian's favorite Green Bay Packer. She admires Starr's character and what a great player he was. She has communicated with Bart over the years, and Stewart was also an excellent high school quarterback at Cedarburg High School in Cedarburg, Wisconsin!

* Interview: 11/16/17

9.16.1934

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 6

PACKERS 19

In the opener, Green Bay had no trouble moving the ball on the ground or through the air. They outgained the Eagles 308-172, with Bob Monnett leading the way for Green Bay. He ran for two touchdowns in the first half, and on his second touchdown, he skirted several tackles on a 28-yard dash over right tackle. He also added a field goal and one extra point.

The first 30 minutes belonged to Green Bay, but in the second half, the Eagles held their own. They could not make a comeback, however, and their only points came on an 81-yard run by Tom "Swede" Hanson.

Philadelphia 0 0 6 0 6
Green Bay 3 13 3 0 19
5,000

“The Keshena Indian School Band provided entertainment between halves.”¹

Bears Tickets! Bears Tickets! “Although it is expected that a rush will develop within the next 48 hours, those who intend to witness the contest still have time to get good seats if they buy their tickets at once. Interest in the game is running high throughout the city and Wisconsin, and it is thought by game time Sunday another jammed house will see a continuation of the Packer-Bear rivalry that dates back into the dusty past.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/34, p. 12

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/34, p. 11

9.23.1934

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

PACKERS 10

After a hard-fought, 3-3 first half, Bronco Nagurski was unstoppable in the final 30 minutes. Nagurski began the second half with a touchdown pass to Bill Hewitt. After a Buckets Goldenberg touchdown tied the score for Green Bay at 10, Nagurski took over. He ran for two fourth-quarter touchdowns to end all doubt. Nagurski’s second touchdown run was on a reverse. He galloped 34 yards right down Green Bay’s sideline to hammer home the victory.

Chicago 3 0 7 14 24

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

12,582 *Largest home crowd ever!*

“Many fans came in the morning bringing their lunch to eat while waiting for the game to begin.”¹

Jim Joannes, grandson of Lee Joannes (GB President 1930-47): “When he was President, my grandmother was the secretary-treasurer. The hat used to be passed to take in money. The big game of the year was always the Bear game, where they collected about \$5,000. That was the big game. The small games were a lot less. You can see that everything was done on a shoestring during those days.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/34, p. 14

2 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 28

9.30.1934

NEW YORK

GIANTS **6**

PACKERS **20**

This was a solid road win for the Packers. Their powerful offensive line opened holes everywhere all game. They controlled the line of scrimmage, and the Packer backfield of Clark Hinkle, Roger Grove, and "Buckets" Goldenberg put up 166 yards!

The Packers "outsmarted and outplayed the Giants at nearly every stage of the game."¹ Most of the contest was played in New York territory even though Green Bay completed just one pass all game for 3 yards. Two field goals by Bob Monnett got the scoring started. Roger Grove cut back against traffic and went 22-yards for a touchdown.

Other than a late touchdown for New York that Buckets Goldenberg matched, the Giants threatened only one additional time. Green Bay's defense did its job holding the Giants to 26 yards on the ground.

New York **0 0 0 6 6**

Green Bay **0 3 10 7 20**

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

11,000

*"The Milwaukee Drum Corps put on a snappy exhibition between halves."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/34, Bystrom, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/34, p. 14

10.7.1934

DETROIT

LIONS **3**

PACKERS **0**

The new Detroit Lions dominated this game despite scoring only three points. The Packers were outgained 172-123, and they turned the ball over four times.

In the second quarter, the Lions capitalized on a fumble. A 54-yard field goal by Glenn Presnell broke the ice. According to the Press-Gazette, it was "probably the longest kick for a score in the record of (the) National professional football league competition."¹

The Packers never got closer than Detroit's 36-yard line. That occurred in the first quarter, and when the drive stalled, Bob Monnett missed a field goal. As they tried to rally in the fourth quarter, they fumbled once and threw an interception.

Detroit **0 3 0 0 3**
Green Bay **0 0 0 0 0**
7,500

*"The Green Bay-Fort Howard Kickers won from Appleton, 2-0, in a soccer game played between halves."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/34, p. 11

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/34, p. 12

10.14.1934
CINCINNATI

REDS **0**
PACKERS **41**

Three touchdown passes by Arnie Herber, coupled with a fantastic afternoon by Hank Bruder, took care of the Cincinnati. Herber threw three touchdown passes to Bruder, Roger Grove, and Al Rose. Early in the second quarter, a 73-yard drive was capped off by Bruder's touchdown catch. Bruder then scored on the ground for a 14-0 Green Bay lead at halftime.

In the second half, Bruder's 55-yard pick-six made it 34-0, and he kicked four extra points as well! The Packers never looked back during this easy win, and they downed the winless Reds on their first visit to Wisconsin.

Cincinnati **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **7 7 6 21 41**
3,000

Total Yards: GB 313 GB 152

*"The Fond du Lac Eagles Drum & Bugle Corp Eagles entertained between halves with an excellent drill."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/34, p. 11

10.21.1934
CHICAGO

CARDINALS **0**
PACKERS **15**

The Packers rode the strong arm of Arnie Herber to victory in a physical and brutal contest that forced six players, three on each squad, to leave injured.

Herber struck early with a 69-yard touchdown bomb to Clarke Hinkle, giving the Packers a first-quarter lead. Herber's accuracy kept Chicago off-balance as he completed six of his

eight passes for 161 yards and two touchdowns.

The defense held the Cardinals to 102 total yards and forced three turnovers. In the fourth quarter, Herber closed it out with a 74-yard drive. He covered the ground with three passes. He finished it off with a 10-yard toss to Roger Grove.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 0 0 8 15
4,000

10.28.1934

PACKERS **14**

CHICAGO

BEARS **27**

“Special train excursions out of Green Bay plus the continuance of good weather probably will result in a large number of Packer fans following the team on its most crucial road appearance. After meeting the Bears at Wrigley Field Sunday, the Packers will head into Eastern territory for the decisive lap of the 1934 season.”¹

In a tight first half, the teams traded touchdowns, and Chicago enjoyed a 10-7 lead at halftime. The Bears ran roughshod over the Packers for 339 yards. Green Bay ran for 53.

Chicago’s rookie halfback Beattie Feathers accounted for nearly half of the rushing yards (150), and he opened the scoring with a 17-yard touchdown catch. He also scored the game’s final points with a 46-yard run behind the blocking of big Bronco Nagurski. The Bears outgained Green Bay 420-182. After the game, Lambeau said the Bears “had the greatest professional football team he had ever seen.”²

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
Chicago 7 3 7 10 27
11,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/34, p. 11

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/34, p. 13

11.4.1934

PACKERS **10**

BOSTON

REDSKINS **0**

The rain and mud made it a miserable day for the Redskins. Clarke Hinkle wasn’t bothered at all, even when his 42-yard field goal had to be kicked out of the mud! Even some Redskin fans applauded. In the second half, a Boston punt that “nearly went nearly straight

in the air”¹ set up the Packers on the Redskins’ 11-yard line. Quarterback Arnie Herber capitalized with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Lavvie Dilweg for a 10-0 lead.

Though they were bigger and more aggressive than the Packers, the Redskins never got untracked offensively. Green Bay had no trouble with Boston’s passing game and running back Cliff Battles couldn’t do it alone.

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10
Boston 0 0 0 0 0
23,722

11.11.1934

PACKERS 3

NEW YORK

GIANTS 17

The Packers slipped to 5-4. New York quarterback Harry Newman did it all. He carried the ball 38 times, and after a 3-3 first half, he scored both Giant touchdowns. Seven plays into the second half, Newman ran for a 12-yard score. A short time later, Clark Hinkle fumbled on Green Bay’s 15-yard line. It took five plays, but Newman finally took it in from the 1-yard line. His performance made him “the talk of the Gotham football colony as the Packer train headed homeward on the 7:40 New York Central train.”¹

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
New York 0 0 14 0 14
22,000

¹ packershistory.net/1934

11.18.1934

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 9

PACKERS 0

A steady rain the day before and the morning of the game made it a mud pit at State Fair Park. After a few minutes, mud made it hard to read the numbers and distinguish between the teams.

The conditions had a big impact on performance. The Press-Gazette called it a “listless affair” after both offenses proved to be literally stuck in the mud. After neither team scored in the first half, Homer Griffith’s 58-yard punt return gave the Cardinals a lead in the third quarter. Chicago intercepted three Arnie Herber passes to keep the Packers in check, and a field goal in the fourth quarter put the game beyond reach.

Chicago 0 0 6 3 9
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
3,000

Total Yards: GB 86 CHI 50

11.25.1934

PACKERS **3**

DETROIT

LIONS **0**

After playing in the mud for two of the last three weeks, a dry field was wonderful... but it didn't help the offense. "It was an ideal day for football, with just enough snap in the air to keep everyone on tiptoes,"¹ the Press-Gazette reported.

The Packers bounced back from a flat performance against the Cardinals with a win over the undefeated Lions! It was quite an accomplishment, given how Detroit started the season with seven straight shutouts. Their stunning loss to Green Bay began a three-game slide that opened the door for the Bears to take the division title.

Green Bay played with a renewed spirit and enthusiasm. Finally, after an interception in the fourth quarter, Clarke Hinkle booted a 47-yard field goal for the only points.

For the few remaining skeptics who still doubted the future of pro football, Detroit writer W. W. Edgar had this to say, "...But in losing, Lions fans proved that there is a spirit in pro football far beyond what many had believed there could be. More than 12,000 spectators who were limp at the finish of the losing battle with the Packers will attest to that."²

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3
Detroit 0 0 0 0 0
12,000

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/26/34, Calhoun, p. 12

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/34, p. 12

11.29.1934

PACKERS **0**

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **6**

On another muddy field, the Packers were shut out on Thanksgiving. Green Bay completed only three passes all game as the mud toyed with the timing of their passes. The Packers passed the football for just 16 yards, outgaining the Cardinals 16-9. Green Bay generated

121 total yards, and Chicago produced only 108.

Chicago's Homer Griffith again shocked the Packers with a long run. This time he took the opening kickoff 97-yards to the end zone. It was the game's only points. For the next 59 minutes in the mud, the "Cardinals seemed to turn into super-demons on the defense whenever a Bay touchdown threat loomed."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Chicago 6 0 0 0 6

1,738

GB shutout for the 3rd time.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/34, Calhoun, p. 13

12.2.1934

PACKERS 21

ST. LOUIS

GUNNERS 14

The third game in an eight-day period, this game against the St. Louis Gunners brought the season to a close. The Gunners, the newest franchise in the league, played the Packers even statistically, but it wasn't enough.

An Arnie Herber touchdown pass to Joe Laws got the scoring started. Bob Monnett and Roger Grove also hooked up for the Packers before halftime for a 14-0 lead. After the Gunners scored on their first series of the second half, Clark Hinkle scored the eventual winner for Green Bay. The Gunners scored a second touchdown on the ground later in the second half, but they had trouble holding on to the football with seven turnovers overall.

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21

St. Louis 0 0 7 7 14

6,300

1934

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	13	0	0
Detroit	10	3	0
Green Bay	7	6	0
Chi. Cardinals	5	6	0
St. Louis	1	2	0
Cincinnati	0	8	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Rushing	Hinkle
Receiving	Hinkle
Scoring	Monnett

ALL-PRO

Barragar	Center
Hinkle	Back
Michalske	Guard



1935

Record: 8-4-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Financially, the team's debt had passed \$10,000. Creditors reduced claims against the team to \$8,000. The franchise was then reorganized as The Green Bay Packers, Inc.
- A second stock sale raised \$12,100 at \$25 per share.
- Lambeau changed the team's colors to Green and Gold.
- The Packers played one less game in 1935, but they won one more.
- Don Hutson of Alabama arrived. Hutson had signed a contract with Brooklyn, but he was awarded to the Packers because the league received Green Bay's contract in the mail first! Hutson made the forward pass the most exciting play in pro football.
- In 1935, ties weren't counted in the standings. Detroit won the division at 7-3-2. The Packers finished 8-4-0, and they beat the Lions twice in three tries.

9.15.1935

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 7

PACKERS 6

The Cardinals outgained and outplayed the Packers on the ground and in the air. They held Green Bay to seven first downs and 104 total yards.

The Cardinals scored in the first quarter on a short pass to Bill Smith. The Packers came back on a two-yard touchdown pass from Bob Monnett to Swede Johnston. Monnett missed the extra point by inches. Green Bay's offense did little after halftime, and it sorely missed key veterans who were unable to play: Clarke Hinkle, Roger Grove, and Hank Bruder (who played a few minutes). Injured quarterback Arnie Herber, who was "scarcely able to stand,"¹ didn't play until the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

Chicago **7 0 0 0 7**
Green Bay **0 6 0 0 6**
10,000

*"At a Lions Club Meeting on Tuesday following the game, Curly Lambeau said that the spirit manifest by the general public for the success of the team could not be duplicated in a college town."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/35, Walter, p. 11

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/35, p. 12

9.22.1935

CHICAGO

BEARS **0**
PACKERS **7**

Before the game, a local fan, Emmett Platten, bought radio time to comment about the Packers. His thoughts about rookie Don Hutson were heard in the locker room. "What's Lambeau thinking of to sign a little guy like that? What's he thinking of starting him today? Those Bears will kill him. Let's get some size in there."¹ Little did Platten know, Hutson was about to do something amazing.

The new kid stunned the Bears as Curly Lambeau unveiled his secret weapon. Don Hutson, who had seen "limited action"² in the opener against the Cardinals, changed the NFL forever. On the first play from scrimmage, he and Arnie Herber hooked up for an 83-yard touchdown! It was a tremendous first-down pass that Herber unloaded from his four-yard line. Hutson caught it as he crossed midfield, and he went all the way!

Every fan was shocked and amazed by the long pass and the quick scoring strike. Never had the Packers started a game with such an awe-inspiring play. Beattie Feathers, Chicago's speedy defensive back, described it this way: "I saw Herber throw this pass downfield, and I saw this lanky guy loping down toward me. I knew the ball was going way over my head, and I was sure it was way out of Hutson's reach. But all of a sudden, he turned on his speed, ran right by me, took the pass in perfect stride, and went on for a touchdown."³ This was the only score of the game as the Bears were stopped inside Green Bay's 20-yard line three times. The Packers also missed two field goals.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
13,600

1 Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Kuechle, p. 5

2 Packers vs. Bear, Swain, p. 67

3 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 22

9.29.1935

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7
PACKERS 16

The Packers welcomed the defending champion Giants to City Stadium. New York opened the scoring before halftime when quarterback Ed Danowski's pass to Ike Frankian was lateraled to Dale Burnett, who took it home for six.

Green Bay's defense brought the Packers back with 12 points in the second half. Hank Bruder picked off Danowski and went for 65 yards for a touchdown. When the extra point was blocked, it was 7-6 Giants.

In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's long drive paid dividends as Bob Monnett's field goal gave them a lead 9-7. After they took the lead, Danowski threw two interceptions. The second pick belonged to big Cal Hubbard, who batted the pass into the air and caught it. He lumbered 8 yards for a touchdown, his second as a Green Bay Packer. On defense, Hubbard—former and future New York Giant—led the Packers with 11 tackles!

New York 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 0 6 10 16
10,000

*"Sunday will be High School Day at City Stadium when hundreds of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan high school and junior high students will take advantage of a special Packer ticket offer of .50 cents each to witness the Green Bay-Pittsburgh football game. A special grandstand section will be set aside for students, who are expected to be present in considerable numbers."*¹

1 packershistory.net/1935Packers

10.6.1935

PITTSBURGH

PIRATES 0
PACKERS 27

The game against Pittsburgh turned out to be an easy one. The Packers exploded for three touchdowns in the second quarter to settle matters. George Sauer and Joe Laws ran for

touchdowns, and Arnie Herber's 50-yard touchdown bomb to Don Hutson was the highlight.

In the fourth quarter, a 42-yard pass from Herber to Hutson put the Packers deep in Pittsburgh's territory. Three plays later, a one-yard toss to the sensational rookie finished the scoring. Green Bay outgained Pittsburgh by 243 yards!

Pittsburgh 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 20 0 7 27
5,000

10.13.1935
CHICAGO

CARDINALS 3
PACKERS 0

This was a tough contest with eight Packers seriously injured. Johnny Blood sustained a concussion which led to him being taken by ambulance to a hospital.

The Bears did a good job of being physical and defending against the passing game. Four signal-callers, Monnett, Sauer, Blood, and Herber threw six interceptions. The Packers completed just 10 of 25 passes for 85 yards. Further, they failed to convert several scoring opportunities deep in Chicago territory. The game was decided in the second quarter by a 12-yard drop kick by Chicago's Paul Pardonner.

According to Dr. W. W. Kelly, the team's medical advisor: "During the game, Blood sustained a concussion of the brain as well as an injury to the neck, apparently as the result of a collision with another player. He became unconscious and was taken to County Emergency Hospital, the nearest such institution to the field. Two hours after the game, John regained consciousness. It was deemed advisable to remove him to St. Mary's hospital, which was done about four hours after the game."¹

Chicago 0 3 0 0 3
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
13,000
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/35, Walter, p. 13

10.20.1935

DETROIT

LIONS 9

PACKERS 13

This is the first of three games in four weeks against the Lions. Though the game was a close match statistically, the Packers outplayed Detroit and came away with the victory.

With the Lions leading 3-0 after 30 minutes, the second half brought the excitement. Green Bay's star was tackle Ade Schwammel. In the third quarter, Schwammel blocked a punt that was picked up by Don Hutson and returned 25 yards for a touchdown! Schwammel also booted two long field goals from the 39 and 41-yard lines. When Detroit narrowed the lead to 10-7 on Ernie Caddel's touchdown, Schwammel's second kick extended the three-point lead.

Detroit 3 0 0 6 9

Green Bay 0 0 10 3 13

9,500

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

"Green Bay was well represented in the grandstands again, although not quite as well as at the Cardinal game. Milwaukee fans are very partisan and do all their cheering for the Packers. Johnny Blood drew a good hand from the crowd. Although he was not in uniform, he was on the Packer bench."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1935Packers

10.27.1935

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

After the Bears were stunned in September by Don Hutson's touchdown, they were determined not to let it happen again. But this time, the Packers "rocketed from hopeless defeat to an amazing victory"¹ in a fantastic comeback.

A fierce first-half battle ended with the Bears trailing 3-0. They charged back in the second half behind a pair of big plays. After Bernie Masterson intercepted quarterback Arnie Herber, Gene Ronzani caught a 44-yard touchdown pass from Masterson. Ronzani made a tough catch for a 25-yard touchdown and the lead. In the fourth quarter, a 55-yard touchdown run by Johnny Sisk made it 14-3. Fans of both teams began to hit the exits early.

With three minutes left, the storybook comeback began. Herber threw a 25-yard pass to Hutson, who took it another 44 for a touchdown! On Chicago's first play after the touchdown, quarterback Bernie Masterson fumbled when he was hit by Buckets Goldenberg. Ernie Smith of the Packers recovered it on Chicago's 14-yard line. With 10 seconds left in the game, Herber threw four yards to Hutson for the win!

Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17
Chicago 0 0 7 7 14
29,836

Yards Passing: GB 180 CHI 44

*"I was eleven years old living in Shawano, Wisconsin, and I listened to the game on the radio. Many people had left Wrigley Field to go to the railroad station to catch the milk train back to Green Bay. They didn't even know until they got back that the Packers had won the game."*²

*"Close to 3,000 football fans turned out at the railroad station here Monday morning at 1:00a.m. It was the kind of tribute Green Bay used to give its championship clubs."*³

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/35, Walter, p. 13
- 2 Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D'Amato & Christl, p. 144
- 3 Packershistory.net/1935Packers

11.10.1935

DETROIT

LIONS 7
PACKERS 31

Detroit's coach Potsy Clark noticed a big improvement in the Packers since their last game three weeks ago. How could he not? The Packers overpowered the Lions with 369 yards compared to only 169 two weeks prior in Milwaukee. The Lions committed four turnovers in this game, and they trailed 10-7 at halftime.

Green Bay's lead exploded behind three Arnie Herber touchdown passes (70, 26, 44 yards) that went to Johnny Blood (2) and Don Hutson. That was all the scoring as the Lions did little. After the game, Potsy Clark also complained about a soft, sandy field. He warned the Packers about payback next week in Detroit for game number three. "They are going to be in for a trimming at Detroit next week. I mean that, too."¹

Detroit 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 3 7 7 14 31
12,000

The Lions gained only 166 yards.

- 1 packershistory.net/1935Packers

11.17.1935

PACKERS 10

DETROIT

LIONS 20

Detroit coach Potsy Clark was right as the Lions were keyed up for this rematch. The Packers hoped to sweep all three of their games against Detroit in 1935, and they led 10-6 after three quarters despite a first-half injury to Clarke Hinkle.

In the fourth quarter, a short punt by Green Bay gave the Lions the ball on Green Bay's 40-yard line. Running backs "Dutch" Clark and Bill Shepard took it from there and drove Detroit downfield. Shepard scored on a short run for a 13-10 lead. A 47-yard punt return by "Dutch" Clark started the Lions on Green Bay's 23. Seven plays later, Bill Shepherd dove over the goal line and the Lions prevailed.

Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10

Detroit 0 6 0 14 20

12,500

An early estimation about the publicity value that the City of Green Bay receives from the Packers: "If the city of Green Bay had to pay for the free publicity accorded the community by the Packers professional football team, the bill at the end of the season would be \$248,154.20."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/35, p. 9

11.24.1935

PACKERS 34

PITTSBURGH

PIRATES 14

Green Bay never trailed in this road win. It gave them a one-game lead in the Western Division with two games to go. On the Packers' first possession, George Sauer scored on a three-yard run. In the second quarter, Sauer picked off a pass by Johnny Gildea and took it 76 yards to the house. The teams traded touchdowns in the second quarter, with Johnny Blood catching a 45-yard touchdown pass from Bob Monnett.

In the second half, Pittsburgh cut it to 20-14 before the Packers put it away. An interception by Nate Barragar led to Clark Hinkle's touchdown run. On Pittsburgh's first play after the Hinkle touchdown, Johnny Blood intercepted a pass and went 10 yards for six more! To win the division, Green Bay needed to win its final two games.

Green Bay 6 14 0 14 34

Pittsburgh 0 7 7 0 14

12,902

11.28.1935

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 9

The Cardinals continued to be successful against the Packers. They beat them for the third time, and the loss ended any realistic hopes of a Green Bay championship.

On a cold and snowy day, the Packers grabbed a 7-0 lead on a spectacular 60-yard run by Bob Monnett, but without the services of Arnie Herber, Don Hutson, and George Sauer, the offense stalled. The Cardinals scored on a field goal and a fumble recovery to take a 9-7 lead. The lead held up when Ade Schwammel missed a 14-yard field goal with 55 seconds left. The call on the kick was questionable as it took place at dusk, and many fans couldn't even see the football. The missed field goal and the loss remain "one of the toughest, bitterest breaks of all time."¹

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7

Chicago 3 6 0 0 9

7,500

Green Bay committed four turnovers.

*Jim Joannes: "I am sure when my grandfather was running the team in the early thirties, they probably took in \$15,000 a year. You didn't need a bank account because, at the end of the game, you'd pay the ballplayers their \$30 or \$40 for playing. The players all worked a full-time job, and then they came to practice after work."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/35, Walter, p. 15

² For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 29

12.8.1935

PACKERS 13

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 6

A miserable, rainy day was a fitting conclusion to a season that came up short for the Packers. Green Bay won the finale behind Clarke Hinkle's triumphant return to Pennsylvania! It began with his 37-yard field goal in the second quarter. The Eagles hit back with a touchdown pass by southpaw quarterback Ed Matesic for a 6-3 lead at half. Hinkle's 47-yard touchdown run in the third quarter put the Packers back on top. Ade Schwammel's field goal finished the scoring. All in all, Green Bay's defense stymied the Lions.

The Packers, who finished 8-4-0, finished second in the division behind the Lions, who were 7-3-2. The Packers won two of the three games the teams played, but the Lions had

two ties. In 1935, ties were not counted in the final standings, so percentage-wise, 7-3 is better than 8-4.

Green Bay 0 3 7 3 13
Detroit 0 6 0 0 6
4,000

1935

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	7	3	2
Green Bay	8	4	0
Chi. Bears	6	4	0
Chi. Cardinals	5	6	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Blood
Rushing	Monnett
Scoring	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Barragar	Center
Evans	Guard
Herber	Quarterback
Hinkle	Back
Hutson	Receiver
Michalske	Guard
Sauer	Back
Schwammel	Tackle



1936
Record: 10-1-1, NFL Champions
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The first NFL Draft was held in February. The draft evened the playing field among teams in the signing of college talent.
- Green Bay's first draft choice was Russ Letlow, a guard from San Francisco.

- Lambeau hired former Packer Red Smith as an assistant coach.
- The Packers had the NFL's best offense. They completed more passes for more yards and touchdowns than any other team. They outscored opponents by 130 points!
- Arnie Herber to Don Hutson became the game's most lethal passing combination. Clark Hinkle also led an outstanding ground game.
- After an early season loss to the Bears, Green Bay won nine straight and the divisional title. In their first NFL Championship Game, they beat the Boston Redskins for their fourth NFL title!
- After the season, the Packers went to the West Coast for a series of exhibition games to cash in on their fame.

9.13.1936

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 7
PACKERS 10

The first half belonged to the Cardinals, while the Packers prevailed in the second. Green Bay's offense went nowhere in the first 30 minutes, and the Cardinals capitalized on a fumble. Bob Monnett fumbled quarterback Arnie Herber's lateral, and it was recovered by Bill Smith at the Packer 38-yard line. On third down, Phil Sarboe got loose and uncorked a 38-yard touchdown pass to Charlie McBride to take a 7-0 lead.

Green Bay knotted it in the third quarter. A poor punt gave by the Bears gave Green Bay the ball on Chicago's 27. A few plays later, George Sauer took it in from the 1-yard line for a 7-7 game. A late fourth-quarter march resulted in the winning kick from Ernie Smith from the 23! The win snapped Chicago's five-game winning streak against the Packers.

Chicago 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 0 7 3 10
8,900

"There was so much courage splashed around at City Stadium even the spectators felt tough, and several were escorted to the outside lanes for overindulgence in grandstand arguments."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/36, Walter, p. 13

9.20.1936

CHICAGO

BEARS 30
PACKERS 3

A record crowd of 14,312 saw the Bears hand Green Bay its first and only loss of the season. The blowout began in the second quarter with the score tied 3-3, and it was their worst loss at City Stadium to that date.

After the Packers missed a 48-yard field goal attempt, the Bears scored on a triple pass play, with Gene Ronzani scoring to put Chicago in front 10-3. Three other Bears scored touchdowns (Bill Hewitt, Carl Brumbaugh, Bill Karr), and the Bears shut down Green Bay in the second half. The Packers cooperated throwing four interceptions.

After the loss, Johnny Blood came out of an alleged retirement to sign another contract with the Packers.

Chicago 3 7 6 14 30
Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
14,312

“When a Green Bay touchdown was called back because of a penalty, Emmet Patten, a Green Bay radio personality, charged onto the field to protest the call and... when Ted Rosequist of the Bears attempted to restrain him he popped Rosequist flush on the jaw.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette,, 9/21/36, p. 4

10.4.1936

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 0
PACKERS 24

After a quiet first quarter, Bob Monnett’s 25-yard punt return set up Green Bay’s first touchdown. Big gains by Hank Bruder and Bob Monnett keyed Green Bay’s first touchdown. It came on a Swede Johnston 1-yard run.

With Chicago driving on their next series, Clarke Hinkle picked off Phil Sarboe on the Packer 33-yard line. Six plays later, Hinkle went right over center for a 2-yard score and 14-0 Green Bay lead. The Packers had little trouble defensively. They intercepted five passes to keep the Cardinals out of the end zone. Early in the fourth quarter, a 41-yard touchdown run by halfback Joe Laws erased any doubt.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 14 3 7 24
11,000, State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Chicago threw 31 passes and completed 10.

10.11.1936

BOSTON

REDSKINS **2**
PACKERS **31**

The Redskins threw 38 passes, and the Packers aired it out 22 times. Boston completed just 15 and had three intercepted. The Packers completed only nine, but they didn't throw a pick.

Arnie Herber's 38-yard touchdown bomb to Don Hutson in the first quarter was all Green Bay needed. The great Johnny Blood added some insurance with a 38-yard touchdown pass from Bob Monnett. The Packers' ground game impressed with 180 yards. Boston's only points came on a safety when the Packers snapped the ball out of their end zone.

Boston **0 0 2 0 2**
Green Bay **10 7 7 7 31**
6,100

10.18.1936

DETROIT

LIONS **18**
PACKERS **20**

A record-breaking crowd of 13,500 packed City Stadium. Green Bay had the early edge and a 10-0 lead at halftime after Arnie Herber and Milt Gantenbein hooked-up for a 22-yard touchdown.

Dutch Clark and Eddie Caddel brought the Lions back. Caddel scored on a 28-yard sprint off left tackle. Early in the fourth quarter, Detroit retook the lead 15-10 on a nine-yard pass from Clark to Caddel. Green Bay struck back with a play that Herber changed in the huddle. He and Johnny Blood connected for a 46-yard score to go back on top 17-15. The wild ride continued as Dutch Clark drop-kicked a 28-yard field goal for an 18-17 Lion lead. The Packers responded, with Herber and Hutson leading a long drive to Detroit's six. At the two-minute mark, Tiny Engebretsen's 18-yard field goal took down the defending champs, and "hysteria reigned over the stadium."¹ Don Hutson closed it out with an interception!

Detroit **0 0 9 9 18**
Green Bay **3 7 0 10 20**
13,500

"Program sellers, working up a little racket of their own when they saw there was going to be a shortage, were tripped by an announcement that fans should not pay more than the customary ten cents... 'Chisling the chislers', one fan remarked."

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/36, Walter, p. 15

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/36, Flatley, p. 13

10.25.1936

PITTSBURGH

PIRATES 10
PACKERS 42

The first-place Pirates of the Eastern Conference left Wisconsin with their tails between their legs. After they took a 3-0 lead, the Packers put them away!

The rest of the game was a blowout as the Packers grabbed three interceptions. The second quarter was especially devastating for the Pirates when Arnie Herber threw two touchdown passes to Don Hutson. Johnny Blood quickly followed with an interception that he returned 60 yards for a touchdown. At the half, the Packers led 28-3.

The Packers put the game away with two touchdowns in three minutes. Rookie halfback Paul Miller scored on a 4-yard run, and he caught a touchdown pass from Johnny Blood. Pittsburgh's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter.

Pittsburgh 3 0 0 7 10

Green Bay 7 21 14 0 42

10,000

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Sign spotted in the stands: "Make it 50, Packers!"

*"Hundreds of fans will take to the highways; hundreds more will invade Chicago on the Sunday Special of the Milwaukee Road or the Chicago North Western Special."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/1936, p. 13

11.1.1936

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 10

A record crowd of 31,346 at Wrigley saw the Packers return the favor of September 20th. They delivered an impressive upset of the undefeated Bears, and the win tied them atop the Western Division at 6-1-0.

After the Bears got out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, Arnie Herber and Don Hutson connected for a 9-yard touchdown. Clarke Hinkle followed with an amazing 59-yard touchdown run, and Green Bay led at intermission 14-10. Chicago's defensive tackle George Musso described Hinkle's run: "Hinkle once plunged into the line and ran past me only to meet Nagurski, our linebacker, head-on. Nagurski hit him so hard that Hinkle was knocked back. He went backpedaling past me into the Green Bay backfield, but somehow

he stayed on his feet and charged right back past me again. It was the only time I ever saw a back go by me three times on one play.”¹

In the final quarter, Chicago’s Bill Karr fumbled, and Milt Gantenbein took the ball back 38 yards to the 2-yard line of the Bears. George Sauer took it in standing up to seal the deal. NFL Commissioner Joe Carr was impressed, “Curly Lambeau has coached a number of great Packer elevens, but this year’s team as it played against the Bears, seems to me, the best of all.”²

Green Bay **0 14 0 7 21**
Chicago **10 0 0 0 10**
31,346

1 What a Game They Played, Whittingham, p. 143

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/36, Walter, p. 14

11.8.1936

PACKERS **7**
BOSTON
REDSKINS **3**

After getting slaughtered by Green Bay in October, the Redskins held the Packers to seven first downs and 18 yards rushing.

With seven minutes gone in the first quarter, the Redskins scored after a partially blocked punt gave them possession at midfield. Running back Cliff Battles ran for two first downs, and a Riley Smith field goal put them in front 3-0.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers also started a drive near midfield. Three passes later, Hutson caught a four-yard toss from Herber. He quickly reversed field, leaving defenders in his wake, to go 15 yards untouched into the end zone. The Packer defense protected the lead with two interceptions, including one by Johnny Blood.

Green Bay **0 0 7 0 7**
Boston **3 0 0 0 3**
11,220

11.15.1936

PACKERS **38**
BROOKLYN
DODGERS **7**

Twenty-two thousand fans in Ebbets Field watched as the Packers scored 38 unanswered points. Quarterbacks Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett each threw two touchdown passes.

Both of Herber's went to Don Hutson, and Monnett connected with Joe Laws and Wayland Becker.

The Packers led 17-0 at halftime and easily outgained Brooklyn 377-202. Though Lambeau's "bag of tricks was hardly opened"¹ an impressed New York writer had this to say about Green Bay: "No matter how good the Packers were, they couldn't surely measure up to the pre-depression standard (1929), was the general belief. But we were wrong. The mighty men of Green Bay came to Ebbets Field Sunday and smashed and passed a good Brooklyn Dodger club to a 38-7 defeat before an amazed gathering."²

Green Bay 3 14 21 0 38

Brooklyn 0 0 0 7 7

25,325

Total Yards: GB 377 BKLYN 202.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/36, Calhoun, p. 13

² New York Journal, 11/17/36, Farnsworth

11.22.1936

PACKERS 26

NEW YORK

GIANTS 14

The Packers ended their East Coast road trip with a sweep. In this tight battle, they held the advantage for most of the game, but the Giants rallied in the second half.

The only scoring in the first half came on Ernie Smith's field goal, which gave Green Bay a 3-0 lead. The Packers made it 10-0 in the third quarter when Clarke Hinkle finished an 80-yard drive with a 1-yard plunge. Next came a 46-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Arnie Herber to Herm Schneidman that made it 17-0.

Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, the Giants seized the momentum with two touchdowns. Their second touchdown came shortly after Tony Sarausky intercepted Arnie Herber. Leading 17-14, but with the pressure on, the Packers blocked a punt that they recovered in the New York end zone—a safety at the time. On the Giants' next series, Hank Bruder's interception led to George Sauer's 11-yard smash through the New York defense for another six.

Green Bay 3 0 14 9 26

New York 0 0 7 7 14

20,000

11.29.1936

PACKERS 26

DETROIT

LIONS 17

Green Bay's win, coupled with a Bears' loss, gave the Western Division title to the Packers! They would play the Boston Redskins for a third time in 1936 for the NFL championship.

Green Bay wasted little time jumping on Detroit. On the fifth play of the game, a classic, Arnie Herber threw a 58-yard bomb to Don Hutson to grab the lead. The Lions weren't rattled and kept the score close. It was a 14-14 game in the second quarter when Don Hutson recovered a blocked punt by Ernie Smith on the 40-yard line. He took off for the end zone and scored, giving Green Bay a 20-14 halftime lead. In a quiet second half, the Packers booted two more field goals, and their strong defense allowed just one field goal by the great Dutch Clark.

Green Bay 14 6 3 3 26
Detroit 7 7 3 0 17
22,000

Three-thousand fans "greeted the triumphant Packers on their return from their victorious invasion of the east. Each player as he stepped from the train was given a rousing welcome, and Ceasar returning from Gaul was never more sincerely acclaimed."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/36, p. 1

12.6.1936

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 0

With the division clinched, this was a meaningless game on the icy turf of Comiskey Park. Many of Green Bay's backups played. Traction was nearly impossible. Only five passes were completed in the game, and each team missed one field goal. The Cardinals outgained the Packers 188-124.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
4,800

"Because of popular demand by Green Bay Packer fans, Wadham's Oil Company will send Russ Winnie, Milwaukee Radio Announcer, to the Polo Grounds at New York for a direct broadcast of the game."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1936Packers, Dec 8

12.13.1936

1936 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS 21

BOSTON

REDSKINS 6

George Preston Marshall, Boston's owner, was angry at his fans for poor attendance during the season. In his final rejection of their dubious loyalty, Marshall requested that the championship game be moved from Boston to New York! The Packers did not object, and the game was played at the Polo Grounds.

The title game was the third meeting between the teams that season. Green Bay won the previous games, and Boston's top-notch defense looked forward to another crack at Green Bay. The field was in good shape, despite several days of rain.

It was going to be a very challenging day for Riley Smith of the Redskins. On Boston's first series, Smith fumbled and gave the ball to Green Bay at midfield. Three plays later, Green Bay's quarterback Arnie Herber found Don Hutson open as he streaked past Riley Smith for a 43-yard touchdown!

Early in the game, the Redskins lost the NFL's fourth-leading rusher, Cliff Battles, who left with a knee injury. But they were not deterred. Boston charged back with a 78-yard touchdown drive, but a missed extra point by Riley Smith gave the Packers a 7-6 lead at the break.

Green Bay grabbed the second-half kickoff and marched 74 yards to extend its lead to 14-6. The highlight of the drive was Johnny Blood's fantastic catch of Arnie Herber's pass that went for 52 yards and a first down on Boston's 3-yard line. With the Redskins focused on Hutson and Blood, end Milt Gantenbein was open over the middle for six!

Without Battles, the Redskins struggled. Green Bay didn't allow a first down in the second half, and 78 of Boston's 144 total yards came on their second-quarter touchdown drive. In the fourth quarter, the Packers put it away when Lon Evans blocked Smith's punt, and Hutson recovered on Boston's two-yard line. Two plays later, Bob Monnett scooted around right end, and it was 21-6. In the waning minutes, both teams had touchdowns called back.

The Packers had clinched their fourth NFL Championship. The New York Daily News was very impressed with the Packers and described them this way: "The Green Bay Packers, a burly band of bone busters from the tall timber of Northern Wisconsin, are the finest pro footballers in these United States, if not in the whole of God's footstool."¹ Packers fans agreed.

Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21

Boston 0 6 0 0 6

29,545

"The best story of the trip involved Lon Evans and his prize football. He lugged the championship oval all over New York getting autographs, and by barging into the National Broadcasting Company headquarters, he added such signatures as those of Pakyakarkas, Eddie Cantor, Kate Smith, and Walter Winchell. He collared one radio star coming out of the broadcasting room. "What program do you sing on?" demanded Lon. "Give me that football," replied the other, reaching for his fountain pen. And he signed: "J. Edgar Hoover."²

Don Hutson about the Packers: "Undoubtedly, the greatest offensive football machine in the history of the game."³

The Lions Club put on a grand Victory Banquet for 950 fans, "the biggest banquet crowd in the city's history."⁴

"There were no goalposts to carry off at the Victory banquet last night, but several guests removed handsome vases as souvenirs of the occasion. As the Lions club which sponsored the event will have to make good the losses, those who took the vases are requested to return them to the Columbus club."⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/36, Miley (NY Daily News), p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/36, Walter, p. 13

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/36, Flatley, p. 15

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/36, p. 16

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/36, p. 15

1936

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	1	1
Chi. Bears	9	3	0
Detroit	8	4	0
Chi. Cardinals	3	8	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Evans	Guard
Gantenbein	End
Herber	Quarterback
Hinkle	Running Back
Hutson	End

Schwammel Tackle
Smith Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Russ Letlow (1, G)
J. W. Wheeler (2, T)



1937
Record: 7-4-0, 2nd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- An additional 6,000 seats were added to City Stadium (capacity 18,000).
- The Packers lost the College All-Star Game in Chicago. Both Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett were injured.
- The Packers started 0-2 as Herber and Monnett did not play. Herber sat out two games with a shoulder injury. After the poor start, they won seven in a row! Green Bay remained in contention until they lost their final two games.
- Green Bay had the top offense in the league, but the defense was average. They had trouble defending the pass.
- On November 23, the Packers announced “a Thanksgiving gift to the people of Green Bay and Wisconsin—a bandshell for concerts, dramatic works, fights, and other entertainment. (It) will give Green Bay and the surrounding country a magnificent new facility for outdoor events.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/37, p. 13

9.12.1937

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 14
PACKERS 7

With quarterbacks Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett unable to play, the defending champions had trouble finding the end zone. They ran the ball for 246 yards, but turnovers ruled the day. Green Bay put up five interceptions, and the Cardinals scored their first touchdown after a pick thrown by Hank Bruder.

In a 7-7 game in the third quarter, Clarke Hinkle missed the snap from center, and Chicago's defensive end Bill Smith picked it up in stride and went 25 yards for a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, rookie Herb Banet of the Packers threw two interceptions, both when the team was deep into Chicago territory. The picks killed two promising drives for Green Bay, and the mistakes led to the Cardinals taking the opener.

Chicago **7 0 7 0 14**
Green Bay **0 7 0 0 7**
10,000

9.19.1937

CHICAGO

BEARS **14**
PACKERS **2**

Arnie Herber was still out injured. Bob Monnett played, but the Packers still had difficulty scoring. Fortunately for the Packers, the Bears struggled as well, leading to a scoreless first half.

On the opening drive of the third quarter, halfback Ray Nolting's touchdown run gave Chicago the lead. On their next series, the Bears struck again when a short pass from quarterback Bernie Masterson to "Automatic" Jack Manders went 40-yards for six.

Green Bay's only points came when Don Hutson blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Otherwise, the Packers couldn't run the ball, gaining only 38 yards on the ground, and they struggled when passing, throwing four interceptions. Despite being 0-2, Papa Bear thought the Packers would be in contention by season's end. "Don't think they won't be giving the Bears and Lions a real battle for that championship,"¹ he said.

Chicago **0 0 14 0 14**
Green Bay **0 0 2 0 2**
16,658

"Until the NFL passed a rule against it, it was popular in the late 1930s for players to stop the clock by faking injuries. Coach Curly Lambeau once was asked how the players knew which one of them should take a dive. His classic response: "I stand on the sideline with a player next to me. If he's a right end, the right end knows it's his turn to faint."²

Headline: "End of World at Hand, But Woman Wants Packer Seats."³

¹ packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Sept. 20)

² The National Forgotten League, Daly, p. 137

³ packershistory.net/1937Packers (News & Notes, Sept. 22)

10.3.1937

DETROIT

LIONS **6**
PACKERS **26**

The Packers broke into the win column with this pounding of the Lions. A blocked punt by George Svendsen of Green Bay led to a Clarke Hinkle touchdown run and a 6-0 lead. The Packers made it 12-0 in the second quarter on a touchdown pass by Joe Laws. The Lions scored on a Dutch Clark pass, and they trailed at half 12-6.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers put it out of reach behind Michigan State alum Bob Monnett. Singlehandedly, Monnett put the game in the win column for Green Bay, starting with a 77-yard touchdown pass to Milt Gantenbein! Monnett also scored on a nine-yard touchdown run for the game's final points. Don Hutson, in his second season, had this to say about the rivalry: "They all talk about this Bear rivalry up here, but I've always found the Detroit game harder."¹

Detroit **0 6 0 0 6**
Green Bay **6 6 0 14 26**
17,553

*"Lots of them (fans) who thought 'we can always get tickets' were turned away.....they'll learn."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1937Packers

² packershistory.net/1973Packers

10.10.1937

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **13**
PACKERS **34**

Three weeks after exacting a bit of revenge for past failures against the Cardinals, the Packers had a much easier time with Arnie Herber back in the saddle. They moved the ball easily and outgained the Cardinals 345-257.

The Packers led 24-7 at halftime. Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett each threw a touchdown pass while Clarke Hinkle kicked a field goal and scored on the ground. In the second half, Milwaukee native and rookie Eddie Jankowski gave friends and family a thrill with a 46-yard sprint for a touchdown! It was the highlight of the day for the hometown crowd, and it gave Green Bay an insurmountable 31-7 lead. Jankowski finished with 92 yards on 11 carries.

Chicago **0 7 0 6 13**
Green Bay **3 21 10 0 34**
16,181, State Fair Park, Milwaukee

10.17.1937

PACKERS 35

CLEVELAND

RAMS 10

Green Bay's potent and balanced offense was unstoppable. They demolished the Rams with 205 yards on the ground and 199 through the air!

A short, four-yard pass from Herber to Hutson opened the scoring. Hutson caught a second touchdown pass from Bob Monnett before halftime. In the second half, Herber and Hutson hooked up again from 36 yards out. Running backs Clarke Hinkle and Joe Laws also scored in the fourth quarter for the easy win. The Packers outgained the Rams 399-175.

Green Bay 0 14 7 14 35

Cleveland 0 3 0 7 10

12,100

*Clarke Hinkle: "We were kings in Green Bay. We traveled in the best of society. Whenever they had charity balls that people attended in evening gowns and all that, we were invited. There was a lot of money up there—a lot of money made in lumber and in the paper industry."*¹

¹ The Game that Was, Cope, p. 101

10.24.1937

CLEVELAND

RAMS 7

PACKERS 37

The Packers played a second game with the Rams in a seven day period, but the result wasn't much different. This time the scoring started right away with two Bob Monnett touchdown passes in the first 10 minutes. Clarke Hinkle and Herm Schneidman caught the aerals, and Hinkle also kicked five extra points.

The Rams kept it close until the second half when the Packers pulled away. They scored on the opening drive on Hank Bruder's touchdown run, and they began to pull away. Milt Gantenbein starred with a touchdown pass and an interception. The pick was returned for a touchdown after Gantenbein lateraled to guard Abe Schwammel!

The Packers topped 30+ points in three straight games. Behind the points in this game were 442 yards of offense. The defense also stood tall, holding the Rams to six first downs and 168 total yards.

Cleveland 0 7 0 0 7

Green Bay 14 0 7 14 35

8,600

10.31.1937

PACKERS 14

DETROIT

LIONS 13

After a scoreless 30 minutes, Detroit's Dutch Clark took over. In six minutes, he scored two touchdowns and made one of two extra-point attempts. Clark's second touchdown came after he intercepted Arnie Herber's pass for a 13-0 lead.

Green Bay took control near the end of the third quarter. Don Hutson blocked a punt that Buckets Goldenberg recovered! Two plays later, Eddie Jankowski's 34-yard touchdown run made it 13-7. Then, with three minutes left in the game, Clarke Hinkle capped off a 52-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown run. Ernie Smith delivered the critical extra point. In the final minute, Dutch Clark missed a 31-yard drop kick.

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

Detroit 0 0 13 0 13

21,311

11.7.1937

PACKERS 24

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

After the Packers defeated the Lions, many Green Bay fans made plans to travel to Wrigley for the rematch with the Bears. A round-trip train ticket costs \$3.95!

Green Bay delivered the knockout punch to the undefeated Bears in the second quarter. They took a 17-0 lead on a 78-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Arnie Herber to Don Hutson. Ernie Smith's field goal and Ed Jankowski's 27-yard pick-six pushed it to 17-0 at halftime.

The Bears regrouped and scored on back-to-back drives that produced two huge plays. A 54-yard pick-six by Jack Manders made it 17-7. On their next possession, a 64-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bernie Masterson to Ed "Eggs" Manske cut the lead to three. In the final minutes, a punt by the Bears went straight up in the air and was downed on Chicago's 23-yard line. Three plays later, Clarke Hinkle caught the winner from Bob Monnett. For the game, Hutson led with five catches for 140 yards and one touchdown.

Green Bay 0 17 0 7 24

Chicago 0 0 14 0 14

44,977

"Don Hutson provided the greatest thrill of the day with his catch of Arnold Herber's 78-yard forward pass gain. Of that play, an Iowan sitting next to Frank Jonet, Packer corporation

treasurer, said, "This is what I paid to see, and now I'm satisfied. The outcome doesn't interest me, but I have heard so much about the Herber-Hutson combination that I had to see it for myself. That pass alone was worth the price of admission for me."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1937Packers

11.14.1937

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **7**
PACKERS **37**

The Packers rang up 436 total yards, and Arnie Herber threw three touchdown passes! Before Herber got warmed up, Milwaukee native Eddie Jankowski caught a first-quarter touchdown pass from veteran back Bob Monnett. All of Green Bay's touchdowns were aerials. Don Hutson led the assault with two touchdown catches.

Philadelphia didn't score until the fourth quarter. After the game, Bert Bell, the Eagles owner and future NFL Commissioner, said the Packers were the top team they faced this season.

Philadelphia **0 0 0 7 7**
Green Bay **6 10 0 21 37**
23,340

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 436 PHI 197

11.21.1937

PACKERS **0**
NEW YORK
GIANTS **10**

On a soft and soggy field, New York's defense pulled off the upset and grounded Green Bay's passing game. The Packers completed just five passes in 20 attempts for 19 yards! They turned the ball over seven times, with five interceptions.

New York took the lead on a first-half field goal. The lone touchdown of the game came in the second half after the Giants recovered a fumble by George Sauer on Green Bay's 33-yard line. Four plays later, quarterback Ed Danowski and Jim Poole hooked up for the touchdown.

Green Bay's offense never got going. The Packers complained throughout the game about the rough, hands-on play of New York's secondary. The Press-Gazette noted, "The Giants were covering Hutson like a tent and sometimes even holding him to slow up his progress down the field. This happened so frequently that the Packers protested continually, but it

was of no avail.”¹ The loss snapped Green Bay’s seven-game winning streak and essentially ended their title hopes.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
New York 0 3 7 0 10
38,965

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/37, Calhoun, p. 13

11.28.1937

PACKERS 6
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS 14

An aerial duel between Arnie Herber and rookie *Slingin’* Sammy Baugh never materialized in this tight contest. It turned out to be Bob Monnett, not Arnie Herber, who threw Green Bay’s first-quarter touchdown pass to Don Hutson. The Redskins had little to show on the scoreboard after 30 minutes!

The Redskins found their stride after an exchange of interceptions. Baugh and running back Cliff Battles changed the game with a 70-yard drive to go in front 7-6. The highlight was a 53-yard pass play from Baugh to Chuck Malone. Baugh was also effective running the football. Midway through the final quarter, with the score still 7-6, Don Irwin of the Lions intercepted Arnie Herber on Green Bay’s 34. Four plays later, Baugh’s 11-yard pass to Chuck Malone won it.

Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6
Washington 0 0 7 7 14
30,000

*“All fans who appreciate the men’s work during the past season are urged to visit the Oakland Avenue station of the Milwaukee Road to extend them a welcome.”*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/37, p. 13

1937

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	9	1	1
Green Bay	7	4	0
Detroit	7	4	0
Chi. Cardinals	5	5	1
Cleveland	1	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Herber
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hinkle

ALL-PRO

Evans	Guard
Gantenbein	End
Hinkle	Running Back
Hutson	End
Letlow	Guard
Smith	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ed Jankowski (1, B)

Charles (Bud) Wilkinson (3, T)

Earl Svendsen (4, C)



1938

Record: 8-3-0, 1st Place

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- City Stadium's capacity was increased to 24,000.
- To back up veteran quarterback Arnie Herber, Green Bay selected quarterback Cecil Isbell of Purdue with their first draft pick. Isbell led the team in both passing and rushing yardage!
- Offensively, the Packers were again the most productive team in the league with 223 points. Defensively, they improved slightly and remained strong.
- The Packers lost the championship to the Giants in front of 48,120 fans at the Polo Grounds.

9.11.1938

CLEVELAND

RAMS 17

PACKERS 26

The radio reported that a shower was possible just before game time. Many fans stayed home to listen to the radio. What they missed was "an offensive exhibition and a crowd-pleaser from the start."¹

After they trailed 3-0, the Packers took over. Clarke Hinkle started it with a field goal, and quarterback Arnie Herber took it from there. He threw his first two touchdown passes of the season to Don Hutson in the second quarter. The touchdowns went for seven and 53 yards. In the second half, a fumble by Cleveland's Johnny Drake opened the door for another touchdown to Hutson from the 18-yard line. It extended Green Bay's to 26-10 lead in the fourth quarter.

Cleveland 3 7 0 7 17

Green Bay 3 17 0 6 26

8,247

*"Two examples of Packer drawing power are Stan Egdahl of Wausau and Dick Steinberg of Appleton. They represent thousands of fans who support the Packers from outside communities."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/38, Walter, p. 14

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/38, Flatley, p. 15

9.18.1938

CHICAGO

BEARS 2

PACKERS 0

*"No collection of football players is calculated to strike quite as much terror into the hearts of Packer friends as those big, tough Bears from Chicago."*¹

The rain never stopped, and it slowed down the offenses of both squads. The Bears generated just 75 total yards, and Green Bay managed a whopping 118. There were more than 45 scoreless minutes when a bad snap went over the head of quarterback Arnie Herber in the fourth quarter. It sailed into the end zone, and Tom Jones recovered it for Green Bay. The Bears were awarded a safety, and the two points held up when Clarke Hinkle missed a 37-yard field goal in the final minute.

Chicago 0 0 0 2 2

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

15,172

“More than 15,000 braved the inclement weather, and the surprising part of the crowd was the large number of women who failed to let the rain come between them and love of sports.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/38, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/38, Flatley, p. 15

9.25.1938

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 7
PACKERS 28

This is the first of back-to-back games against the Cardinals. Fans in Milwaukee saw a young rookie quarterback, Cecil Isbell, lead the way. The Packers “out-passed, outran, out-blocked, out-kicked, and entirely outplayed their rivals, giving one of the greatest demonstrations of offensive excellence in their history.”¹

Green Bay opened the scoring with a Bob Monnett pass to Milt Gantenbein for a 7-0 lead. Rookie Cecil Isbell led the next touchdown drive that Clarke Hinkle took home on a three-yard run. Isbell threw the first touchdown pass of his career, a 15-yarder to veteran back and fellow quarterback Arnie Herber!

The defense was dominant as they held Chicago to 17 yards rushing. The Packers also outgained them 285-189. After the game, the performance so disturbed Chicago coach Milan Creighton that he “warned his charges of possible drastic measures”² after this uninspiring effort.

Chicago 0 0 7 0 7

Green Bay 0 14 14 0 28

18,000

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/38, Walter, p. 13

2 When Football was Football, Ziembra, p. 197

9.28.1938

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 22
PACKERS 24

Three days later, in Buffalo, New York, the teams met again for a night game. The Cardinals played a more inspired game this time. They outgained Green Bay 302-219, but in the end, they still came up short on the scoreboard!

Rookie quarterback Cecil Isbell threw two touchdown passes. One went to Don Hutson

and a second to Clarke Hinkle. After Green Bay led 21-6 early in the second half, the Cardinals scored 16 unanswered points. Touchdowns by Jimmy Lawrence and Pete Tyler made the score 22-21 Chicago with three minutes left. The Cardinals gave it away with a fumble on their 37-yard line. Baby Ray recovered for Green Bay. Five plays later, with 20 seconds left, Paul "Tiny" Engebretsen kicked a 24-yard field goal for the win.

Chicago **0 6 7 9 22**

Green Bay **0 14 7 3 24**

10,678

Passing Yards: GB 107 CHI 202

10.9.1938

DETROIT

LIONS **17**

PACKERS **7**

A 3-0 first half didn't stop the Lions from putting together a convincing second half to pull away from Green Bay. Detroit stayed with a potent ground game and overpowered the Packers for 188 yards. Right after halftime, and leading 3-0, the Lions powered their way 60-yards on the ground for a 10-0 lead.

After the Packers cut the lead to 10-7 in the fourth quarter, they took a gamble. On a fourth-and-three from their 27-yard line, a Cecil Isbell pass was batted down, and Detroit scored two plays later to seal the deal.

Detroit **3 0 7 7 17**

Green Bay **0 0 0 7 7**

21,968

"All seats in the stadium were sold, and the S. R. O. sign was hung out early as the beautiful fall day attracted fans from all over the state."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/38, Walter, p. 13

10.16.1938

BROOKLYN

DODGERS **7**

PACKERS **35**

It only took Green Bay five plays to score! Quarterback Cecil Isbell threw the first touchdown pass of the game to Joe Laws. The Packers' ground game punished Brooklyn for 233 total yards, and Clarke Hinkle and Andy Uram scored on the ground for a 21-7 halftime lead. Brooklyn's points came on an Ace Parker touchdown pass.

Two more Green Bay touchdown passes in the second half wrapped it up. Cecil Isbell's second touchdown went to Don Hutson, and Bob Monnett connected with end Bernard Scherer. Brooklyn went quietly and was outgained 354-249.

Brooklyn 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 14 7 14 0 35
11,892

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Rushing: GB 233 BKLYN 55

Milwaukee Boys: "The day was Eddie Jankowski's. Between halves, he was presented with a new automobile by Milwaukee admirers." And "It was Bucket Goldenberg's birthday, and he was carried off the field at the end of the game."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/38, Flatley, p. 15

10.23.1938

PITTSBURGH

PIRATES 0
PACKERS 20

Another strong performance by the Packers put them in first place. They scored on the opening drive on a 38-yard run by quarterback Cecil Isbell. After the half, a pick-six by Joe Laws went for 38 yards. With under five minutes left, Green Bay's Bob Monnett threw a 19-yard touchdown strike to Carl Mulleneaux. Amazingly, before he caught the ball, Mulleneaux batted it into the air!

The Packers' defense was outstanding. They intercepted five passes, and veteran Joe Laws grabbed two of them when the Steelers drove deep into Packer territory.

Pittsburgh 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 0 6 7 20
12,142

Total Yards: GB 356 PGH 233

10.30.1938

PACKERS 28
CLEVELAND
RAMS 7

The Packers hit the road for four games to close out the season.

Their defense met the first challenge with a shutout. They did it with seven interceptions! On offense, Bob Monnett threw three touchdown passes, while Cecil Isbell threw one. Though Hutson was covered like a blanket, he snatched three passes for touchdowns of

53, 42, and 47 yards. Clarke Hinkle caught the other from the 14.

In front of the biggest football crowd in their history, the Rams didn't score until they trailed 21-0. They were outgained by Green Bay 315-216 and were held to 31 yards rushing.

Green Bay 7 14 7 0 28

Cleveland 0 7 0 0 7

18,843

The Packers wore new white jerseys instead of green.

11.6.1938

PACKERS 24

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

The teams scored 38 of the game's 41 points in the first half. Two fumbles by Chicago in the first three minutes led to touchdown catches by Clarke Hinkle and Don Hutson. A Packer fumble helped the Bears to trim the lead to 14-10, and the teams also traded touchdowns before halftime.

In the second half, the Packers skunked the defending champions, and Clarke Hinkle's third-quarter field goal finished the scoring. Nine Green Bay players were injured in "the roughest, toughest, most bitterly fought engagement in which the Packers have been involved this year."¹

Green Bay 14 7 3 0 24

Chicago 10 7 0 0 17

40,208

"My grandfather (Lee Joanness) used to lend a few hundred bucks to George Halas. Then, Halas would lend a few hundred dollars back to the Packers so that the team could keep going. George Halas was probably the kindest man my grandfather ever met as far as lending money and things like that. So, on the inside, George was the nice, kind guy... but on the outside, he was just mean as nails."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/38, Walter, p. 15

² For Packer Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 30

11.13.1938

PACKERS 28

DETROIT

LIONS 7

A fifth straight win paid back the Lions for one month ago. The Packers stayed on the ground for 219 yards, and Clarke Hinkle's two touchdown runs gave Green Bay a 14-0 lead. Green Bay used "coal truck blocking that cleared the home players from the paths of speeding, twisting Green Bay backs time after time."¹

Detroit got on the scoreboard in the third quarter, but two second-half touchdowns clinched the game and the division for Green Bay! The only bad news for the Packers were the injuries, especially to Don Hutson. Hutson hurt his knee, and the injury would affect Green Bay's title chances.

Green Bay **0 14 7 7 28**
Detroit **0 0 7 0 7**
45,139

"The little group of Green Bay enthusiasts in the stands cheered themselves dizzy, and the band responded, with each member taking out a tiny megaphone and singing the words to rapid march time.

*'On, you Green and Gold to glory,
Win this game, the same old story,
Fight, you Packers - fight,
And bring the bacon home to old Green Bay.'²*

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/38, Walter, p. 11

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/38, Walter, p. 21

11.20.1938

PACKERS **3**
NEW YORK
GIANTS **15**

In his entire career, this was the only game Don Hutson missed. It was the last game of the 1938 season, and the Packers needed a win to clinch the Western Division.

It was a scoreless first half between Green Bay's number one offense and New York's number one defense. The scoring started on the second-half kickoff when Clarke Hinkle couldn't handle the football and was tackled in the end zone by Ward Cuff. Later in the quarter, a short punt by New York's Ed Danowski was downed at the Giants' 24-yard line. The Packers capitalized only with a field goal to make it 3-2.

After Green Bay recovered a fumble, a second field goal attempt came up short. Tuffy Leemans of the Giants returned the short kick to New York's 26-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, Danowski handed off to Leemans, who went over left tackle for 76 yards and a 9-3 lead. New York's Mel Hein sealed the deal in the fourth quarter with a 50-yard pick-six.

Thanks to a Detroit loss the following week, the 8-3-0 Packers would meet the 8-2-1 Giants for the championship.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

New York 0 0 9 6 15

48,279

Total Yards: GB 312 NY 164

12.11.1938

1938 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS 17

NEW YORK

GIANTS 23

Green Bay returned to the Polo Grounds three weeks later for the first of five NFL Championship Games between the Packers and the Giants!

It was a brutal clash between NFL heavyweights. Several players were injured, including the league's MVP Mel Hein of the Giants and Don Hutson of the Packers. The New York Times reported that "the full sixty minutes was absolutely ferocious. Stray punches were tossed around all afternoon. This was the gridiron sport at its primitive best."¹

New York's defense wasted little time having an impact. They blocked two punts to go in front 9-0. The Packers came back with an interception and a 50-yard touchdown bomb from Arnie Herber to Carl Mulleneaux! A midfield fumble by Packer rookie Ed Jankowski led to Ed Danowski's first touchdown pass to extend New York's lead to 16-7. Green Bay hit right back with a Cecil Isbell to Wayland Becker completion that went 66-yards. From New York's 17-yard line, it took six plays, and Clarke Hinkle scored.

Trailing 16-14 at intermission, Curly Lambeau got lost on the way to the Green Bay locker room! He ended up outside the Polo Grounds and had difficulty getting back inside. "By the time he reached the locker room, the second half was about to begin."²

The Packers didn't seem to mind, and they took the lead on the opening drive of the half with a field goal. The Giants returned fire and stormed downfield on a legendary 61-yard drive. All-pro fullback Hank Soar gained 58 of the yards in eight dominating plays. Quarterback Ed Danowski threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Soar for a 23-17 lead. Later in the locker room, Soar explained his great effort on the winning play. "Clarke Hinkle grabbed me by one leg, but I pulled and pulled and jerked loose and went in."³

In a tense fourth quarter, Green Bay's comeback was stalled by two turnovers and two controversial calls. The first dispute concerned a completed pass that Lambeau argued was incomplete. The second surrounded a key completion to Green Bay's Milt Gantenbein at the New York 43-yard line. However, head linesman Larry Conover ruled that on Green Bay's pre-snap shift, Gantenbein had been covered up by the flanker. Conover nullified the catch.

In a desperate move, with four minutes left in the game, the Packers put Don Hutson and Arnie Herber back in the game, but to no avail. While they outgained the Giants 378-212 and threatened to score right down to the wire, New York won the championship. After the game, Lambeau blamed the loss on "incompetent officiating."⁴

Green Bay 0 14 3 0 17

New York 9 7 7 0 23

48,120

1 What a Game They Played, Whittingham, p. 182

2 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 144

3 Pigskin, Peterson, p. 102

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/12/38, p. 15

1938

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	9	1	1
Green Bay	8	3	0
Detroit	8	3	0
Chi. Bears	6	5	0
Cleveland	4	7	0
Chi. Cardinals	2	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Isbell
Scoring	Hinkle

ALL-PRO

Gantenbein	End
Hinkle	Running Back
Hutson	End
Isbell	Quarterback
Letlow	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Cecil Isbell (1, QB)

Andy Uram (6, RB)



1939

Record: 9-2-0, NFL Champions

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The selection of Larry Craig in the NFL Draft allowed Lambeau to move Don Hutson from the defensive line to the defensive backfield. The move extended Hutson's career.
- The Packers had one of the top offenses in the league. It was well balanced, with 14 rushing touchdowns and 13 passing.
- Don Hutson led the league in catches, receiving yards, and average yards per catch. His yards per catch (24.88) is still a Green Bay record.
- The Green Bay defense was good. In the last four games, when it mattered most, the unit gave up just 29 points.
- The Packers put together winning streaks of two, three, and four games to capture the Western Division for the second straight season.
- The Packers moved the NFL Championship game from Green Bay to a suburb of Milwaukee (West Allis). It was played at State Fair Park, which had more seats than City Stadium.

9.17.1939

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 10

PACKERS 14

This game was the tale of two halves—the first going to Green Bay, the second to Chicago. Arnie Herber's passing put Green Bay on top for good. He found Carl Mulleneaux from 26 yards away for a 7-0 lead. Two minutes later, after Andy Uram's interception, Herber threw a 43-yard bomb to Don Hutson that set up another score.

In the second half, two Packer fumbles almost sunk the ship. Quarterback Cecil Isbell fumbled as he was sacked, and the Cardinals cashed in four plays later. In the fourth quarter, Joe Laws fumbled, which led to a Chicago field goal. Fortunately, the comeback ended there.

Ernie Nevers, the great Chicago coach who spent part of his childhood in Wisconsin, took exception to Green Bay's win. After the game he was quoted as saying, "I still think

we have the better ball club.....outside of two long passes and a prayer, what did you (the Packers) have?"¹

Chicago **0 0 7 3 10**
Green Bay **0 14 0 0 14**
11,792

*"A set of pennants donated to the Packer corporation by the C. Reiss Coal Company decorated the walls of the stadium. Brightly colored, they carry the names of the National Professional Football League clubs. The new Lumberjack Swing Band made its initial appearance in colorful style, attired in bright uniforms and playing lovely music."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/39, Flatley, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/39, Flatley, p. 15

9.24.1939

CHICAGO

BEARS **16**
PACKERS **21**

Before the game, George Halas of the Bears stoked the rivalry with accusations of Packer fans spying on Chicago practices. He "went so far as to as to question some of the residents, all of whom claimed they were bird watchers."¹

A brutal rivalry game included a few altercations. The biggest took place between George Musso of the Bears and Russ Letlow of the Packers. They were both ejected. Bill Osmanski and Bernie Masterson of Chicago scored two quick touchdowns on the ground in the second quarter to put the Bears in front 13-0 at halftime. Green Bay's comeback began with the second-half kickoff. They marched 70-yards for a touchdown, and quarterback Cecil Isbell took it himself for the last 11 yards.

A bungled lateral from quarterback Bernie Masterson to running back Joe Maniaci was recovered by Green Bay's Bob Swisher on the Bears' 11-yard line. A few plays later, Clarke Hinkle's one-yard touchdown plunge made it 14-13 Green Bay. When the Bears fumbled a punt into their end zone, it was recovered by rookie Tom Greenfield to seal the deal!

Chicago **0 13 0 3 16**
Green Bay **0 0 21 0 21**
19,192

¹ Bears vs. Packers, Swain, p. 81

10.1.1939

CLEVELAND

RAMS **27**
PACKERS **24**

The 0-2 Rams shocked the Packers in Green Bay.

Touchdowns by Clarke Hinkle and Ed Jankowski helped Green Bay to a 17-7 lead in the second half. Quarterback Arnie Herber also “zig-zagged through the whole Ram team”¹ for a 14-yard touchdown run.

Trailing 24-14, they rallied in the fourth quarter. The defense held Green Bay scoreless, and quarterback Parker Hall went to work (13-20-192-1-0). Hall’s passing sliced up Green Bay’s secondary, and fullback Johnny Drake scored to trim it to 24-21.

Packer quarterback Cecil Isbell was intercepted by Parker Hall at midfield. Hall’s day ended perfectly seven plays later when rookie running back Gaylon Smith went five yards around the left end to put the Rams front. The Packers were “humbled”² by the Rams’ comeback.

Cleveland **0** **7** **7** **13** **27**

Green Bay **3** **7** **14** **0** **24**

9,888

Cleveland ran for just 53 yards.

¹ packershistory.net/1939Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/1939, Walter, p. 13

10.8.1939

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **20**
PACKERS **27**

Milwaukee’s largest crowd to date saw an offensive explosion of 738 yards—Packers 440, Bears 298. Green Bay took the lead the second time they had the ball. Don Hutson caught a 25-yard pass from Arnie Herber and sprinted 92 yards for a 7-0 lead. Clarke Hinkle made it 14-0 on a 1-yard run, and in the third quarter, Andy Uram swept around right end and sprinted 97 yards for a touchdown!

Trailing 21-0 in the fourth quarter, Chicago quarterback Jack Robbins threw two touchdown passes to Bill Smith. The second score came after a Packer fumble by quarterback Cecil Isbell. With only a seven-point lead, Don Hutson picked off a Robbins pass on Chicago’s 30. Three plays later, Hutson also ran it in from the 2-yard line. Despite a late interception and touchdown by the Cardinals, the Packers held on.

Chicago 0 0 0 20 20
Green Bay 7 7 7 6 27
18,965

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

To date, Uram's touchdown run was the longest in team history.

10.22.1939

DETROIT

LIONS 7
PACKERS 26

In a showdown with the first-place Lions, Detroit scored first. A 58-yard run up the middle of the Packer defense by fullback Bill Shepard gave Detroit a 7-0 lead. Green Bay came back with two touchdown passes from quarterback Arnie Herber to Andy Uram and Don Hutson. They led 17-7 at the break.

Amazingly, Hutson caught only two passes, and both went the distance. The first was a 60-yard touchdown strike from Herber in the second quarter. In the fourth quarter, the second came from quarterback Cecil Isbell who hit Hutson for a 51-yard score to end all doubt.

Green Bay outgained Detroit by more than 100 yards. The defense stole three passes – one by Hutson—and they “broke up passes, rushed passers, smeared line plays, stopped goal line advances, punted, passed, and ran the Lions to death.”¹

Detroit 7 0 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 17 0 9 26
22,558

GB moved into 1st place tie with Detroit.

“Football fans of Green Bay and vicinity who plan to attend the Sunday game at Milwaukee are urged to lose no time in getting their ticket reservations salted away for a sellout is anticipated.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/39, Walter, p. 15

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/39, Walter, p. 15

10.29.1939

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 14
PACKERS 24

In the rain, turnovers were the story. Six interceptions by Green Bay, three by rookie Charley Brock, and two fumbles were too much for the undefeated Redskins to overcome.

The Packers drove 68-yards for their first score which came on a 2-yard run by Clarke Hinkle. Brock's first pass was picked off, and Green Bay took advantage with Cecil Isbell's touchdown pass from Hank Bruder. The touchdown resulted in a 14-0 lead for the Packers. Before halftime, Andy Farkas kept it close with a touchdown run.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers closed the deal. Sammy Baugh, who threw five interceptions, threw number four to Joe Laws. After the pick, Laws topped off the touchdown drive with a 3-yard run for an insurmountable 24-7 lead.

Washington 0 7 0 7 14

Green Bay 7 10 0 7 24

24,308

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

*"Red hot Milwaukee fan for the Packers: Seymour C. Crinkler, who runs the men's shop in the Schroeder Hotel... handles a batch of tickets in his shop and never misses a chance to boost Green Bay stock to outsiders who are unfamiliar with the Packers."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/39, Flatley, p. 14

11.5.1939

PACKERS 27

CHICAGO

BEARS 30

Before this game, not to be outdone by George Halas (see 9/24), Curly Lambeau claimed that men in white coats were spying on Packer practices from the apartments across from Wrigley Field. Halas claimed they were biologists!

This back and forth battle had seven lead changes. Though the Packers threw the football all over Wrigley Field for 331 yards, the Bears shut down the run, keeping the Packers to a mere 54 yards. They also intercepted three passes to knock the Packers out of first place.

A 72-yard punt return by Joe Laws started the scoring. Two long touchdown passes from quarterback Cecil Isbell put Green Bay in front 20-17 at halftime. The Bears took back the lead in the third quarter, 23-20. It stayed a three-point game until the eight-minute mark of the fourth quarter. Arnie Herber threw a 20-yard scoring strike to Don Hutson, who "speared the ball over the goal line"¹ with eight minutes left for a 27-23 lead. Six plays later, though, rookie quarterback, Sid Luckman, had the Bears inside Green Bay's 5-yard line. From there, another rookie, Bill Osmanski, took it home.

Green Bay 13 7 0 7 27

Chicago 7 10 6 7 30

40, 537

GB passed for 311 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/39, Walter, p. 15

11.12.1939

PACKERS 23

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 16

The winless Eagles took an early lead, but Green Bay came back with the next 20 points to take control. Philadelphia did not go down without a fight, however, as rookie quarterback Davey O'Brien completed 19 passes for 189 yards. He also threw three interceptions.

After an Eagles field goal, Don Hutson caught fire. His two catches—plus an end-around play that went for 19 yards—put the Packers at Philly's 20-yard line. Arnie Herber hit Andy Uram for the touchdown. Green Bay led 13-3 at intermission after Charley Brock's 45-yard pick-six.

On the Packers' first drive of the second half, they ran the ball down Philadelphia's throat. Seven running plays covered 77 yards, and the touchdown came on Clarke Hinkle's 9-yard dash. Green Bay's winning ways were back on track!

Green Bay 7 6 7 3 23

Philadelphia 3 0 7 6 16

22,862

The Press-Gazette referred to the Packers as "Goliath" in this battle.

11.19.1939

PACKERS 28

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 0

Four minutes into the game, on Green Bay's first series, Arnie Herber found Don Hutson for a 69-yard touchdown for the lead. After catching Herber's short pass, the speedy Hutson broke free of two defenders and raced 43 yards for a touchdown. Brooklyn fans were amazed.

On their next possession, Brooklyn fullback Jack Manders fumbled, and Earl Svendsen recovered for the Packers and took it 37 yards to the end zone. Just before halftime, quarterback Cecil Isbell found rookie end Harry Jacunski to give Green Bay a 21-0 lead. In the third quarter, an interception by Joe Laws led to Green Bay's final points.

Though Dodger fans rooted "for the 'Brooklyns,' they remained to admire the apple knockers from Wisconsin (who) tossed the sphere through the ozone. The Packers did everything with the ball but deflate it."¹

Green Bay 14 7 7 0 28
Brooklyn 0 0 0 0 0
19,843

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/39, Davis, p. 11

11.26.1939

PACKERS 7
CLEVELAND
RAMS 6

The Packers looked listless in a scoreless first half. They were frustrated offensively, but they found the end zone just in time in the fourth quarter.

The Rams got on the board first after halftime. Quarterback Parker Hall and big Jim Benton hooked up for an 18-yard touchdown. The missed extra point by Vic Spadaccini proved to be the difference.

Green Bay's offense struggled all game. They got inside the Rams' 30-yard line four times but came away without points. With two minutes left in the game and trailing 6-0, quarterback Cecil Isbell drove the Packers from the 41 to Cleveland's 18. He found a wide open Joe Laws in the end zone, and Tiny Engebretsen added the crucial extra point for the win. In the final seconds, a field goal attempt by Cleveland from the 49-yard line was blocked, and the Packers clinched at least a tie for the division title!

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Cleveland 0 0 6 0 6
30,691

Largest crowd in Cleveland to date.

12.3.1939

PACKERS 12
DETROIT
LIONS 7

On a muddy field in the rain, Green Bay clinched its second straight Western Division title. They did it in front of the entire Chicago Bears coaching staff who had made the trip to Detroit to scout the Packers. A Green Bay loss would have forced a playoff game with the Bears.

A fumble by Detroit's halfback Dwight Stone led to a Green Bay field goal. The Packers returned the favor when Clarke Hinkle fumbled on the Green Bay 29-yard line. On Detroit's third play, Dwight Sloan went around right end for a 15-yard touchdown and redemption.

In the third quarter, Baby Ray of the Packers narrowed the lead to 7-5 when he blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. A short time later, after a quick-kick, Green Bay took over on Detroit's 46-yard line. On the ninth play of the drive, Hinkle ran through left guard for a 12-7 lead. That's all the Packers needed. They played tough and deliberate the rest of the way and, "the Lions never got beyond their own 35-yard line in the second half."¹

Green Bay	0	3	2	7	12
Detroit	0	7	0	0	7

30, 699

¹ The Scrapbook History of the Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, Vol. 1 p. 38

12.10.1939

1939 NFL Championship Game

NEW YORK

GIANTS	0
PACKERS	27

The game was moved from Green Bay to Milwaukee and dubbed the *Dairy Bowl*. Who moved it? Curly Lambeau and the Packers. Why? Because it made financial sense. There were 8,000 more seats in Milwaukee. The larger crowd, coupled with higher ticket prices, led to a financial windfall for everyone! The top ticket price was "\$4.40, an unprecedented high in professional football."¹ The tickets were gone in 48 hours!

A packed house of 32,279 rabid fans wanted revenge! They hadn't forgotten the bruising loss to the Giants in the previous year's championship game. They remembered the "bad" calls, and they were eager to see Green Bay's passing game carve up New York's #1 ranked defense. The Giants played without their Head Coach, Steve Owen, who's mother had passed away. His assistant, Bo Molenda, a former Packer, led the Giants.

Twenty-eight degrees and wind gusts of 35mph caused problems for the passing game. The wind also swayed the temporary wooden press box atop the grandstand, which frightened some reporters. The locker rooms were also bad.

The only points in the first half came near the end of the first quarter. On an 11-play drive, quarterback Arnie Herber completed passes to Larry Craig, Milt Gantenbein, and Don Hutson. On the touchdown, he fired a 6-yard pass between two defenders into the hands of Milt Gantenbein for a 7-0 lead. The Giants threatened before halftime after quarterback Ed Danowski, and Tuffy Leemans drove the Giants to the Green Bay 8-yard line. An interception by Charley Brock preserved the first-half shutout.

In the second half, Cecil Isbell and running back Clarke Hinkle led the Packers downfield for a 29-yard field goal by Tiny Engebretsen. Minutes later, an interception by Gantenbein gave the ball back to Green Bay. As he was hit, Isbell uncorked a pass to a wide-open Joe

Laws. Laws made a nice, over-the-shoulder catch for a touchdown. Both Herber and Isbell had thrown touchdown passes!

Green Bay's defense forced the Giants to play most of the game in their end of the field. They were held to 70 yards rushing and 98 passing yards. Six interceptions—two by Charley Brock—stopped them at every turn. Earl Svendsen's interception led to the final touchdown by Milwaukee native Ed Jankowski.

As the clock wound down, Packer fans came down from the grandstand to stand on the racetrack surrounding the field. After the game, the good-natured rooting got a bit out of hand. Insults were hurled at the Giants as they left the field, and it continued as their buses left the parking lot. New York linebacker Jim Lee Howell tried to lighten the mood. "Come on, smile. We're lucky we got out alive." Just then, a Packer fan threw a bottle at the bus, shattering a window.²

New York 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 0 10 10 27
32,279
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

*A humiliating defeat? Not so, said Tim Mara, Giants Owner, "If we had to lose, there's no team I would rather lose to."*³

*"The Packers, arriving on the Milwaukee Road Chippewa at 4:47 this afternoon, will be escorted through town in parade fashion."*⁴

*"This little old city (Green Bay) deserves an awful lot of credit for what the Packers have accomplished. Thousands of upturned faces waiting at the station for a team that played only a little more than 100 miles away represent a great community spirit. Green Bay is indeed writing for itself a glorious athletic history."*⁵

1 Green Bay Packers, Johnson, p. 85

2 goldenrankngs.com/nflchampionship1939

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/39, Flatley, p. 13

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/39, p. 13

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/39, Walter, p. 14

1939

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	9	2	0
Chi. Bears	8	3	0
Detroit	6	5	0
Cleveland	5	5	1
Chi. Cardinals	1	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Isbell
Scoring	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Craig	End
Goldenberg	Guard
Hinkle	Fullback
Hutson	End
Isbell	Quarterback
Letlow	Guard
Ray	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Larry Buhler (1, RB)
Charley Brock (3, C)
Larry Craig (6, E)

1940s





1940
Record: 6-4-2, 2nd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Curly Lambeau joined the Executive Board as a second vice-president.
- The last time the Packers won as few as six games was 1933.
- Both the offense and defense were strong. The season started very well (3-1), but the team fizzled in the second half (3-3-1). They finished second behind the Bears.
- Quarterback Cecil Isbell continued to add a running dimension to the position, and Don Hutson led the league in points scored, and touchdown catches.
- In November, the Packers became the first NFL team to fly to a game. However, after refueling in Cleveland, the fog in New York forced them to take the train the rest of the way. After the game, they flew from New York to Chicago without interruption.

9.15.1940

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES	20
PACKERS	27

In the first quarter, quarterback Cecil Isbell ran for a touchdown and threw two touchdown strikes to Carl Mulleneaux for a 21-0 lead. Clarke Hinkle booted two 45-yard field goals, and by the fourth quarter, the Packers led 27-6.

In the final 15 minutes, Philadelphia quarterback Davey O'Brien rallied his team with a long pass to rookie Don Looney to set up a touchdown. On the Packers' next series, a 31-yard pick-six by Looney cut the lead to 27-20. Philadelphia began their next possession with good field position, starting on their 40-yard line. Green Bay's defense didn't budge as Charley Brock deflected a pass that Don Hutson intercepted. It was Hutson's second pick of the day, and along with Hinkle's deep punt, it slammed the door closed on Philly.

Philadelphia	0	6	0	14	20
Green Bay	21	0	6	0	27

11,657

"Jimmy Kimberly, Neenah industrialist, and sportsman, was here to see the Packers in general

and three of his employers in a seasonal occupation. Hinkle, Hutson, and Isbell all worked for the Kimberly-Clark Company, and will be right back at the paper machines when the season is over.”¹

1 packershistory.net./1940Packers

9.22.1940

CHICAGO

BEARS **41**
PACKERS **10**

The Bears handed the Packers their worst defeat to date.

This was the opening game for the Bears and the second for the Packers. The scheduling difference allowed George Halas to scout the Packers vs. Eagles game the previous week. Papa Bear couldn't have imagined how helpful the scouting would be. The Bears intercepted seven passes, and two of the picks led directly to touchdowns.

After the Packers took a 3-0 lead, Chicago's rookie halfback George McAfee started his career by taking the ensuing kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown. McAfee also caught a 7-yard touchdown pass and ran for a 9-yard score. Veteran back Ray Nolting added a 97-yard kickoff return to finish off Green Bay. "The Packers literally fought their hearts out against the Bears. Some of them were so tired that they hardly could drag themselves from the field."¹

Chicago **7 7 14 13 41**
Green Bay **3 0 7 0 10**
22,557

Photo Caption: "En route to Packer stadium yesterday were these football fans from Ironwood, Michigan. An American Legion sponsored train on the North-Western Line brought the fans to the Bear-Packer game, accompanied by the crack Sons of Liberty Drum and Bugle Corps, which marched between halves."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/40, Walter, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/40, p. 16

9.29.1940

CHICAGO

CARDINALS **6**
PACKERS **31**

Six more interceptions by Green Bay's defense stopped the Cardinals at nearly every turn. On their opening possession, an interception by Clarke Hinkle led to quarterback Cecil Isbell's touchdown run and a 7-0 lead. Hinkle also kicked a field goal, and Isbell's 35-yard touchdown pass to Don Hutson extended the lead to 17-0.

In the third quarter, Isbell took off again for a 39-yard dash to the end zone to put the game out of reach 24-6. The only drawback for Green Bay was the year-ending knee injury to veteran halfback Joe Laws.

Chicago 0 6 0 0 6
Green Bay 17 0 14 0 31
20,234

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 317 CHI 211

Before the game, Buckets Goldenberg, whose hometown is Milwaukee, thanked the crowd, "after receiving an automobile from admiring friends."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/40, p. 15

10.13.1940
CLEVELAND

RAMS 14
PACKERS 31

Green Bay's "overhead touchdown offensive was clicking, and it provided a full measure of thrills for the crowd."¹ Both teams preferred the airways for yardage, and between them, they threw 79 passes for more than 600 yards.

Three touchdown passes by Cecil Isbell and one by Arnie Herber easily put this in the win column for the Packers. Carl Mulleneaux caught two of Isbell's touchdown bombs, and the Packers were never threatened.

Cleveland 0 7 0 7 14
Green Bay 3 14 7 7 31
16,299

"Two footballs (were) snagged by the fans after kicks into the stands. Seems that the balls run \$9.00 wholesale—\$14.00 retail—and the football corporation should not be chastised too severely for not condoning the thefts."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/40, Walter, p. 13
² packershistory.net/1940Packers (News & Notes, 10/14)

10.20.1940
DETROIT

LIONS 23
PACKERS 14

The Packers held on for the first 30 minutes before giving the game away. It was a bad day for passing, and Green Bay's "bread and butter" fell flat. Quarterbacks Arnie Herber

and Cecil Isbell threw for touchdowns, but they also threw six of the seven interceptions grabbed by the Lions.

After the Packers gave the ball away twice early, they finally scored on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Isbell to Carl Mulleneaux. Before halftime, the Lions tied it.

In the third quarter, a short pass from Herber to end Bob Adkins went for a 55-yard score to put Green Bay back on top 14-7. The Lions didn't wilt, and a 70-yard pass from "Whizzer" White to Chuck Hannemann set up a short run that tied it. A field goal by Hannemann followed, and in the fourth quarter, a pick-six by Alex Wojciechowicz proved too much for Green Bay.

Detroit	0	7	10	6	23
Green Bay	0	7	7	0	14

21,001

Photo Caption: "Mrs. Ada Wendt's interest in the Packers might not have been so unusual had she not been 69 years old, a radio bug who never ventured from the machine when the Packers were playing, and a collector of Green Bay football lore which she plastered faithfully into a large scrapbook. Consequently, it was a great pleasure the other day when Mrs. Wendt walked into the office, advanced to the sports desk, and announced that she was back for a visit with some more Packers. She was in town to see the Packers play the Detroit Lions, and was very disappointed because the final score gave greater emphasis to the Detroit offense than it did to the Packer defense."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/40, Walter, p. 13

10.27.1940
PITTSBURGH

STEELERS	3
PACKERS	24

The Packers won easily while they rested several starters for the following week's game against the Bears.

The Steelers were held to 95 total yards while Green Bay generated 296. The Packers picked off five passes, and Bob Adkins' 35-yard pick-six started the scoring. After a Pittsburgh field goal, Green Bay scored the next 17 points highlighted by rookie Hal Van Every's 19-yard touchdown to Don Hutson. The only setback for Green Bay was the injury to fullback Eddie Jankowski.

Pittsburgh	3	0	0	0	3
Green Bay	7	3	0	14	24

13,703
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

“The Packer corporation turned up with another splendid between-halves show Sunday. This time it was the Boy Scouts’ Drum and Bugle Corps from the Racine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. William L. Peterson is director of the unit, which was six times national junior champion in drum corps competition.”¹

1 packershistory.net/1940Packers

11.3.1940

PACKERS **7**
CHICAGO
BEARS **14**

A must-win for the Packers started fast with all of the points scored in the first half!

The Bears got it started with a 60-yard scoring drive that was led by their ground game. Green Bay tied it early in the second stanza when Arnie Herber “stuffed a touchdown pass down Don Hutson’s ever-receptive throat,”¹ from five yards out! Other than that, the Packers failed to score on several opportunities deep inside Chicago territory.

After Hutson’s catch, Chicago’s Scooter McLean returned the ensuing kickoff 56 yards. It set up Gary Famiglietti’s seven-yard touchdown run, which turned out to be the game winner. In the second half, the Packers managed just 139 yards. They turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Cecil Isbell threw three interceptions.

Green Bay **0 7 0 0 7**
Chicago **7 7 0 0 14**
45,434

Rushing Yards: GB 56 CHI 202

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 90

11.10.1940

PACKERS **28**
CHICAGO
CARDINALS **7**

After losing to the Bears, the Packers were eager to get back on the field. They beat the Cardinals in all phases of the game and got themselves back into the title chase as the Bears lost.

Clarke Hinkle’s three touchdowns showed the way, and in the process, he became Green Bay’s all-time leading scorer! “Clarke Hinkle was the Jim Taylor of his day, and also the Ray Nitschke,”¹ said author, Chuck Johnson, acknowledging Hinkle’s stellar play on both sides of the football.

In the first quarter, Hinkle caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Arnie Herber. He scored on a 1-yard run in the second quarter to put the Pack in front. The score would stay 14-7 until the fourth quarter. As the game wound down, Hinkle intercepted a pass on Chicago's 22. Three plays later, he scored from the nine to put away the home team.

Green Bay 7 7 0 14 28

Chicago 0 7 0 0 7

11,364

QB Cecil Isbell ran for 118 yards.

1 Greatest Packers of them All, Johnson, p. 27

11.17.1940

PACKERS 3

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7

Green Bay's Larry Buhler fumbled the opening kickoff on the 20-yard line, and the Giants capitalized with a touchdown. Quarterback Len Barnum and Leland Shaffer connected for a 7-0 lead with just 1:47 gone. That was all the Giants needed. They played conservatively the entire game throwing just six passes for 25 yards and limiting their interceptions to one.

In the fourth quarter, Green Bay threatened to score but dropped passes by Larry Craig, and Andy Uram forced the Packers to settle for a Clarke Hinkle field goal from the 31-yard line. On Green Bay's last possession of the game, quarterback Cecil Isbell was intercepted at midfield by Len Barnum. It was a fitting conclusion to a game controlled by New York's defense which held the Packers to 94 yards passing with two interceptions!

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3

New York 7 0 0 0 7

28,262

11.24.1940

PACKERS 50

DETROIT

LIONS 7

This was an overpowering performance by Green Bay. They took a 27-0 first-half lead into the locker room. By the time the Lions scored in the fourth quarter, the Packers led 43-0. Five different Packers scored their seven touchdowns. The defense was also impressive with five interceptions and Carl "Moose" Mulleneaux returned a fumble for six. Don Hutson and Clarke Hinkle also scored. The game was hardly a contest.

Green Bay 13 14 3 20 50
Detroit 0 0 0 7 7
26,019

12.1.1940

PACKERS 13

CLEVELAND

RAMS 13

Green Bay booted a field goal on its first possession, but Cleveland led 7-3 at halftime on the strength of a 5-yard touchdown run by fullback Johnny Drake. The Rams scored again in the third quarter but missed the extra point.

Green Bay rallied to tie it on a Don Hutson touchdown catch and a Clarke Hinkle field goal. In the final seconds, Hinkle tried for a third field goal from the 33, but it sailed wide right. A number of big calls went against Green Bay, and the Press-Gazette commented. "We haven't bellyached about officiating all year, so perhaps it's as well to let it go on the final game."¹

Green Bay 3 0 0 10 13
Cleveland 0 7 6 0 13
16,249

Total Yards: GB 335 CLE 214

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/40, Walter, p. 17

1940

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	8	3	0
Green Bay	6	4	1
Detroit	5	5	1
Cleveland	4	6	1
Chi. Cardinals	2	7	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Brock	Center
Hinkle	Fullback

Hutson	End
Isbell	Quarterback
Letlow	Guard
Mulleneaux	End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Larry Buhler (1, RB)

Charley Brock (3, C)

Larry Craig (6, E)



1941
Record: 10-1-0, 1st Place, Tied
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Before the season, Lambeau released Arnie Herber (QB), and stalwart end Milt Gantenbein retired.
- After starting 2-1, the Packers reeled off nine straight wins.
- Green Bay's offense and defense were top-notch. They finished second only to the Bears in points scored and yards allowed.
- Cecil Isbell threw at least one touchdown pass in every game. He was the league's top passer, and Don Hutson caught the most touchdown passes.
- This was one of the finest non-championship seasons in franchise history. They finished tied with the Bears for the Western Division title at 10-1. A third game to settle the tie in the postseason went easily to the Bears.

9.14.1941

DETROIT

LIONS **0**
PACKERS **23**

On the eighth play of the opener, running back Clarke Hinkle became the NFL's all-time leading rusher with 3,479 yards. It set a victorious tone for a team with its sights set on overtaking the defending champion Bears in 1941.

The Lions were held to just five first downs and 133 total yards. They also turned the ball over six times. Green Bay held a 9-0 lead until the fourth quarter, when Don Hutson caught

a touchdown pass from quarterback Cecil Isbell, and rookie Tony Canadeo scored on the ground.

Detroit 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 6 3 14 23
16,734

*"Green Bay may be smaller than the others, but it has the type of spirit that puts it in the major league class," said new Lions' owner Fred Mandel. That type of opinion helps dispel any fears about moving the Packers out of Green Bay—unless the fans do not consider it worth their while to keep them here."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/41, Flatley, p. 134

9.21.1941

CLEVELAND

RAMS 7
PACKERS 24

On a hot day, Green Bay's defense stepped up again. They allowed just six first downs and 179 total yards. The Packers took the lead on a short touchdown pass from Tony Canadeo to Joe Laws. The score stayed 7-0 until the fourth quarter when Green Bay blew it open. Cecil Isbell threw a touchdown pass to Clarke Hinkle, and Tony Canadeo scored from the 8-yard line for a 21-0 lead.

Green Bay dominated the game on the ground with 235 yards. The defense also harassed Cleveland quarterbacks into five costly interceptions.

Cleveland 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 7 0 0 17 24
18,463

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

*"When the Rams perspired, their lighter blue jerseys became almost as dark as the Packers' jerseys."*¹

*"The advance sale for the crucial contest with the 'Halasmen' has smashed all marks in Green Bay's 23 years of postgraduate footballing. This unusual situation has prompted the Packer management to make an appeal to its many fans outside Green Bay that they remain home Sunday if they have no tickets."*²

1 packershistory.net/1941Packers (Milwaukee Journal, Sept,22)

2 packershistory.net/1941Packers

9.28.1941

CHICAGO

BEARS 25
PACKERS 17

After Green Bay rookie Tony Canadeo came up “spitting teeth” on the opening kickoff, the defending champion Bears proceeded to pound the Packers in the trenches for 258 yards rushing.

Chicago grabbed a 15-0 lead on touchdowns by Ken Kavanaugh and Scooter McLean. The Packers got going in the second quarter on Cecil Isbell’s 45-yard touchdown pass to Don Hutson. Clarke Hinkle’s field goal before intermission cut the deficit to 15-10.

Green Bay went in front on a 60-yard march in the third quarter. The drive was topped off by Hinkle’s 1-yard plunge for a 17-15 lead. George McAfee returned the ensuing kickoff to midfield, and a few plays later, he took it the final 14 yards to put the Bears back in front. Chicago held the Packers to 255 total yards, and came up big late in the game. They recovered an Isbell fumble and a field goal made it an eight-point lead. When Green Bay threatened again, Isbell was intercepted on the Bears’ 5-yard line as time ran out.

Chicago 6 9 7 3 25
Green Bay 0 10 7 0 17
24,876

“For living the farthest from Green Bay, though, Walter Lazak of Cape Town, South Africa, must take first honors. Very British, Mr. Lazak is suffering his first exposure to the American brand of football, and he really likes it.”¹

¹ packershistory.net/1941Packers

10.5.1941

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 13
PACKERS 14

A beautiful day did not bring out the fans. Green Bay took a 7-0 lead, but the Cardinals pulled in front 13-7 before halftime. Touchdown bombs of 80 and 76 yards were thrown by two different Cardinal quarterbacks, Ray Mallouf and Johnny Clement.

Late in the game, after Clarke Hinkle’s punts had pinned the Cardinals deep in their own territory, the Packers took over at Chicago’s 41-yard line. With three minutes left, Isbell connected with Lou Brock for a touchdown, and Don Hutson’s extra point gave Green Bay a one-point lead. With under one minute left, Ernie Pannell blocked a 45-yard field goal attempt by the Cardinals to preserve the victory!

Chicago 6 7 0 0 13
Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14
10,000
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

*"The Green Bay Packers Lumberjack Band will play an outdoor concert at the Columbus Club at 8:00 p.m. Thursday. Best known for its appearance at Packer games, Sunday, the musicians played at Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Three Rivers. Large crowds were on hand for all. At Sheboygan, a police escort conveyed their bus through the city."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/41, p. 15

10.12.1941
BROOKLYN

DODGERS 7
PACKERS 30

The Packers dominated the Dodgers and outgained them 345-234. Green Bay led 23-0 in the third quarter before Brooklyn got on the scoreboard.

The highlight of the contest was Andy Uram's 90-yard punt return in the first quarter. The long return went right down the sideline. It brought everyone to their feet including, "Dan Topping, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who was perched on the roof of the stands with the motion picture camera operators."¹

Don Hutson and Cecil Isbell had fine afternoons, with Isbell completing 12 of 15 passes for 141 yards. Hutson caught eight of the aeriels for 126 yards and a touchdown. He also started the scoring in the second half with an 18-yard touchdown run. Green Bay won easily, and as Lambeau looked ahead, he said, "We are capable of winning every ball game on the rest of our schedule. It will require great effort and personal sacrifices. But there isn't the slightest doubt in my mind that we can do it."²

Brooklyn 0 0 7 0 7
Green Bay 13 3 7 7 30
15,621
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/41, Flatley, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/41, Flatley, p. 13

10.19.1941

PACKERS 17

CLEVELAND

RAMS 14

The Packers let the football slip through their hands with three fumbles in the first half. They also had a field goal blocked, and the Rams capitalized with an 80-yard touchdown drive. As was the rule then, Cleveland took over at their 20-yard line after blocking the field goal.

Green Bay shot back with a fantastic touchdown catch by Carl Mulleneux. Clarke Hinkle's touchdown run followed, which gave Green Bay a 14-7 lead after three quarters. With another long touchdown drive, the Rams pulled even with four minutes left in the game.

With time slipping away, Green Bay's last drive featured passes from Isbell that "rained all over the field, and a steady advanced was made."¹ At the 6-yard line, with Hinkle holding after he had missed two earlier kicks, Don Hutson nailed the first field goal of his career with just over a minute left for the win!

Green Bay 7 0 7 3 17

Cleveland 7 0 0 7 14

13,086

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/41, Flatley, p. 13

10.26.1941

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 7

The game was never in doubt as the Packers dominated. Quarterback Cecil Isbell threw three touchdown passes, with two going to Don Hutson. The Packers led 24-0 before the Lions scored in the fourth quarter on an 80-yard punt return. Green Bay battered Detroit for 440 total yards while the Lions managed 213.

Green Bay 7 10 0 7 24

Detroit 0 0 0 7 7

30,26

11.2.1941

PACKERS 16

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

“When we started to go through our calisthenics, several Bears walked over and started to push us around. When things got a little bit sticky, tackle Bill Lee drew a line on the grass with his shoe. ‘Step over this line, and I’ll beat your brains out,’ he yelled. The milling around didn’t stop until Lambeau and Halas came running out.”¹

Two thousand Green Bay fans took the train to Wrigley Field to see their boys face off against the undefeated Monsters of the Midway. In the early 1940s, the T-formation offense of the Bears was gaining in popularity. Chicago scored 138 more points than the league’s next best—the Packers.

Green Bay was not intimidated and, “at times, the Bears were made to appear downright foolish by a smarter and harder-fighting Green Bay team.”² Green Bay surprised the Bears with a seven-man defensive line. It frustrated their ground game significantly, and they were shut out for 45 minutes! They gained a total of 25 yards in the first half, and their explosive offense was held to 183 yards for the game!

While the defense controlled the Bears, the offense got rolling the first time it had the ball. The Bears cooperated with two pass interference calls. Quarterback Cecil Isbell and Clarke Hinkle starred on the drive, with Isbell scoring from the 1-yard line. That was all the scoring until the third quarter when the teams traded fumbles. Green Bay recovered Chicago’s fumble on their 36-yard line, and Isbell hooked up with end Lou Brock for a 38-yard touchdown and a 13-0 lead. Near the end of the quarter, Clarke Hinkle also kicked a 44-yard field goal that proved to be the difference.

After being shut out for 45 minutes, a quick drive bore fruit for the Bears when Norm Standlee scored from the 3-yard line. On Green Bay’s next series, things got interesting. With six minutes left, Cecil Isbell threw an interception that George McAfee returned 55 yards to the Green Bay 15. Ray Nolting’s run made it 16-14.

The Bears got the ball back with four minutes still on the clock. They threatened again with a first down on Green Bay’s 36-yard line. When Harry Jacunski sacked quarterback Sid Luckman, he fumbled. Pete Tinsley of the Packers grabbed it, and the Bears were 5-1!

Green Bay 6 0 10 0 16

Chicago 0 0 0 14 14

46,484

Total Yards: GB 274 CHI 156

Clarke Hinkle remembers: Bill Osmanski of the Bears “tore open my leg so bad that the shinbone was all exposed. Lambeau really chewed me out for calling a timeout so early. Well, I played the

*rest of that half. I played the whole second half, and I kicked the field goal that beat 'em.”*³

1 Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Letwin, p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/41, Pagel, p. 15

3 The Game That Was, Cope, p. 105

11.16.1941

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 9

PACKERS 17

To date, this was the latest home game ever played in Green Bay. It didn't slow down the Packers as Don Hutson scored two touchdowns, one through the air and one on the ground.

After a Cardinals' field goal, Hutson caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Cecil Isbell. Clarke Hinkle then nailed a 34-yard three-pointer for a 10-3 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, the Cards cut it to 10-9 with a touchdown pass and a missed extra point. Green Bay regained control of the game on the next drive with five straight running plays. Hutson scored on an end-around play that went for 11 yards! With his two extra points, Hutson scored 14 of Green Bay's 17 points.

Chicago 3 0 6 0 9

Green Bay 7 3 0 7 17

15,495

*Photo Caption: "Buckets Goldenberg, Don Hutson, Clarke Hinkle, and Lee McLaughlin joined the Red Cross during its annual drive for members.”*¹

1 packershistory.net/1941Packers

11.23.1941

PACKERS 54

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 7

The Steelers turned it over ten times—six fumbles and four interceptions. It helped the Packers to an easy win, but the help didn't start until Pittsburgh led 7-0. Overall, the Steelers completed just three passes for 56 yards.

Green Bay began an assault in the second quarter. Clarke Hinkle's two touchdown runs were wrapped around a short touchdown pass from quarterback Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson. After three quarters, the blowout had reached 33-7. The fourth quarter belonged

to the “inspired Green Bay crew”¹ and halfback Hal Van Every, who ran for two touchdowns, and grabbed an 86-yard pick-six to complete the scoring!

Green Bay 0 26 7 21 54
Pittsburgh 7 0 0 0 7
15,202

1 packershistory.net/1941

11.30.1941

PACKERS 22
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS 17

In a game the Packers had to win for any hope of a championship, it did not start very well. The Redskins put together three long drives in the first half, and they led 17-0 at half. Their second touchdown came on Sammy Baugh’s 41-yard touchdown bomb to running back Bob Seymour.

The tide turned Green Bay’s way when Washington quarterback Frank Filchock fumbled early in the second half. Green Bay stormed downfield, and Cecil Isbell tossed an eight-yard pass to Don Hutson to get on the board. Veteran linebacker George Svendsen then intercepted Baugh, and Green Bay was back in business at Washington’s 3-yard line. Isbell and Hutson connected again to cut it to 17-13.

After the start of the fourth quarter, Isbell tossed a 10-yard pass to Hutson. *The Alabama Antelope* “was hit, staggered, but resumed even keel”¹ to go another 30 yards for a touchdown before an amazed crowd! The three touchdowns to Don Hutson completed Green Bay’s biggest comeback win to date. It left many Redskins fans “babbling in hysteria when the final gun sounded.”² The win also secured a playoff game against the Bears for the Western Division title.

Green Bay 0 0 13 9 22
Washington 10 7 0 0 17
35,594

Hutson broke the NFL’s single-season scoring record with 95 points.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/41, Davis, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/41, Davis, p. 15

12.14.1941

1941 Western Division Playoff

PACKERS 14

CHICAGO

BEARS 33

Before 2010, this was the only postseason game between the Bears and the Packers.

The playoff game took place one week after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The Packers and Bears battled for the de facto NFL title* in front of 43,425 fans, with "about one-quarter of them cheering for the visitors."¹

On a windy, 19-degree day at Soldier Field, Chicago's Hugh Gallarneau fumbled the opening kickoff. Clarke Hinkle cashed in five plays later for a 7-0 Packer lead. Gallarneau made up for his mistake a few minutes later with an 82-yard punt return. When Lee McLaughlin blocked the extra point, it stayed 7-6 Packers.

Green Bay's advantage didn't last long as the Monsters of the Midway woke up. They scored 24 unanswered points in the second quarter. For the game, they ran over the Packers for 267 yards, and Green Bay turned the ball over four times. They held the Packers to 35 yards rushing and Don Hutson to one catch for 19 yards. Green Bay never had a chance.

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14
Chicago 6 24 0 3 33
43,425

** Fans thought this game would be a better match-up than what the Bears would face in the championship game. Only 13,341 fans showed up to see them beat the Giants 37-9.*

¹ New York Times, 1/22/11, Branch

1941

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	10	1	0
Green Bay	10	1	0
Detroit	4	6	1
Chi. Cardinals	3	7	1
Cleveland	2	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Rushing	Hinkle

Receiving	Hutson
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Van Every

ALL-PRO

Hinkle	Fullback
Hutson	End
Isbell	Quarterback
Ray	Tackle
Riddick	End
Svendsen	Center
Tinsley	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

George Paskvan (1, B)
 Ed Frutig (5, E)
 Herman Rohrig (6, B)
 Bill Kuusisto (8, G)
 Tony Canadeo (9, B)
 Del Lyman (14, T)
 Ernie Pannell (16, T)



1942
Record: 8-2-1, 2nd Place, Tied
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- For the third straight season, the Packers finished second to the Bears.
- Sixteen Packers, including Clarke Hinkle, were in the armed forces in 1942.
- Green Bay's passing game was unstoppable. Cecil Isbell became the first quarterback in NFL history to pass for more than 2,000 yards in a season. He also passed Arnie Herber for the most touchdown passes in Packers' history.
- Don Hutson set records in touchdown catches (17), receiving yards (1,211), and points (138).
- After the season, at age 27, quarterback Cecil Isbell surprisingly announced his retirement. He returned to his alma mater, Purdue University, as an assistant coach.

9.27.1942

CHICAGO

BEARS 44

PACKERS 28

After their playoff loss to the Bears in 1941, the Packers looked forward to the opener. It was, surprisingly, the highest-scoring rivalry game to date, and the Bears took the early lead on Ray Nolting's 39-yard sprint to the end zone. In the second quarter, the Packers surged into the lead with touchdowns by Lou Brock, Don Hutson, and Tony Canadeo.

After the break, the two-time defending champion Bears took control. Fullback Gary Famiglietti ran for three touchdowns in the final 30 minutes. For the game, he ran 20 times for 79 yards. At the end of the third quarter, Don Hutson's touchdown catch kept Green Bay in the lead 28-27. Chicago struck back hard with 17 points in the final six minutes. After a field goal started a comeback, a fumble by the Packers on their next possession was recovered by Nolting, who went 35 yards for a 38-27 lead. Minutes later, Famiglietti's third touchdown finished it.

Chicago 7 6 14 17 44

Green Bay 0 21 7 0 28

20,007

The Bears intercepted four passes.

"Seeing all those young men inducted into the service between halves—a mighty impressive ceremony."

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/28/42, p. 13

10.4.1942

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 13

Though the Cardinals outplayed the Packers on Sunday night, they couldn't chalk up the win. Ted Fritsch's first-quarter field goal gave Green Bay an early edge, but Chicago came back with a touchdown and two field goals to lead at halftime 13-3.

The Cardinals played solid defense against "the foremost passing specialists of pro football."¹ It remained 13-3 into the fourth quarter when two Chicago fumbles set up Packer touchdowns. Early in the fourth quarter Green Bay's offense found its stride with a Don Hutson touchdown catch that made it 13-10. A few minutes later, a punt pushed the Cardinals back to their 13-yard line. On third-and-two, Green Bay linebacker Charley Brock stole the ball from running back Bob Morrow. He went 20 yards untouched into the end zone for the win!

The Bears protested without success. However, the next day, a group of sports writers watched *motion pictures* of the game, which appeared to confirm that a whistle had blown the play dead before Brock's theft.

Green Bay 3 0 0 14 17
Chicago 7 6 0 0 13
24,897

1 When Football Was Football, Ziemba, p. 247

10.11.1942

DETROIT

LIONS 7
PACKERS 38

Detroit's new coach, John "Bull" Karcis, led the Lions to an early 7-3 lead before the Packers took over. Green Bay's offense overwhelmed the Lions with 305 passing yards. Quarterback Cecil Isbell threw three touchdown passes, two to Don Hutson, that opened up a 24-7 halftime lead. Detroit quarterbacks completed just seven of 26 passes, and three were intercepted.

Detroit 7 0 0 0 7
Green Bay 10 14 7 7 38
19,500
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

*"Between halves, the crowd was treated to a scrappy football game between a couple of grade school elevens."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Pagel, p. 11

10.18.1942

CLEVELAND

RAMS 28
PACKERS 45

With 73 points and 900 yards of offense between the two teams, this contest was non-stop action. In the first quarter, Don Hutson's touchdown catch helped Green Bay out to a 10-0 lead. By halftime, the Rams led 21-17 behind two long-distance touchdowns by wing-back Dante Magnani.

After halftime, the Packers kept the Rams' defense off balance. They moved the ball easily, both on the ground and in the air, and scored 28 unanswered points! Quarterback Cecil Isbell ran for one touchdown and threw to Hutson for another. Tony Canadeo "stood the

fans on their collective ears"¹ with a 50-yard touchdown run, and he also threw a touchdown pass to Joe Laws.

Cecil Isbell completed 23 of 33 passes for 277 yards. With two touchdown passes and a touchdown run, his performance was only topped by Hutson, who set a new NFL record with 13 catches for 209 yards!

Cleveland 0 21 0 7 28
Green Bay 10 7 14 14 45
12,847

*"Among the spectators were some 450 newsboys who deliver the Press-Gazette to homes in Green Bay, DePere, and the suburbs. On November 1st, newsboys from 66 communities in the 'state' circulation area will see the Chicago Cardinals play."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/42, Daley, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/42, Pagel, p. 13

10.25.1942

PACKERS 28
DETROIT
LIONS 7

Not much changed in two weeks. Detroit was still winless, and the Packers' winning streak now reached four games. Though the Lions outgained the Packers (280-166), they didn't score until the fourth quarter. They turned the ball over six times, and the Packers capitalized on two of the turnovers. In the final quarter, Andy Uram's 98-yard kickoff return sealed the deal.

Green Bay 7 7 7 7 28
Detroit 0 0 0 7 7
19,097

*"We wouldn't draw 10,000 if the Dodgers or Rams or even the Bears were playing here. Your Green Bay club really has drawing power."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/42, Daley, p. 16

11.1.1942

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 24
PACKERS 55

The Packers won their fifth straight game before hitting the road for four contests. The Cardinals led in this one in the second quarter, 17-7. The Packers caught fire behind

quarterback Cecil Isbell who was red-hot. Isbell became the first quarterback in team history to throw five touchdown passes in one game! Touchdowns went for 40, 73, 64, 65, and 36 yards. Don Hutson caught three of them, and Andy Uram two. Isbell completed ten passes for an astounding 333 yards!

Chicago **10** **7** **0** **7** **24**

Green Bay **7** **14** **13** **21** **55**

14,782

Total Yards: GB 529 CHIC 242

“Between halves, the crowd seemed to take great interest in an exhibition contest between two squads of grade schoolboys. Just for fun and not to prove anything, Annunciation and SS. Peter-Paul, co-champions of the parochial league, engaged in ten minutes of lively dueling. Annunciation won, 6-0.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/42, Pagel p. 13

11.8.1942

PACKERS **30**

CLEVELAND

RAMS **12**

Cecil Isbell and Don Hutson continued their hot streak with three more touchdowns. Two came in the first half for a 16-0 halftime lead. When the Rams cut it to 16-12 in the fourth quarter, the Packers responded with two touchdown passes to clinch it. Isbell’s fourth touchdown pass went to rookie fullback Chuck Sample. Tony Canadeo and Don Hutson hooked up for six more, and the Packers won easily.

Green Bay **6** **10** **0** **14** **30**

Cleveland **0** **0** **5** **7** **12**

16,473

Hutson became the first player in NFL history to score 100 points!

11.15.1942

PACKERS **7**

CHICAGO

BEARS **38**

This long-awaited game was a disaster for the Packers. They turned the ball over five times, and two of their turnovers led to touchdowns. The Bears won their 21st straight game behind an impressive defensive performance.

To start the scoring, the Bulldog Turner returned a fumble for a touchdown. A pick-six by defensive back Sid Luckman put the Bears up 14-0. Charlie O’Rourke also threw two

touchdown passes for Chicago.

The Packers went nowhere. They ran for 43 yards and gained 208 overall. The shutout was avoided when Don Hutson swung around the goalpost to deceive the defense to get open. "They obviously left their pride at home,"¹ observed the Press-Gazette. The poor performance ended their title hopes.

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Chicago 7 14 10 7 38
19,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/42, Page1 p. 12

11.22.1942

PACKERS 21
NEW YORK
GIANTS 21

The lead changed hands five times with 737 yards of offense. "Tuffy" Leemans put New York in front early, and a short toss from Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson tied it. The Giants retook the lead on a 60-yard bomb to Will Walls, but another Hutson touchdown tied it at the break.

In the third quarter, Leemans scored again on the ground, and Green Bay evened it up with four minutes left in the game. Ted Fritsch, who took the wrong subway to the Polo Grounds and arrived late, produced his "biggest rushing day as a pro, gaining 111 yards on nine carries and breaking a career-best 55-yard run to set up a (tying) touchdown in the final minutes."¹

Green Bay 0 14 0 7 21
New York 7 7 7 0 21
30,246

¹ The National Forgotten League, Daly, p. 187

11.29.1942

PACKERS 7
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES 0

On a flooded field, the Packers survived! They wisely went all-out in the first minutes of the game, and scored on a Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson touchdown pass. Each team punted nine times. With under two minutes remaining, the Eagles drove to Green Bay's 35-yard line. An interception by Lou Brock ended the threat and the game.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Philadelphia 0 0 0 0 0
13,700

Total Yards: GB 177 PHI 130

12.6.1942

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 21
PACKERS 24

On a frigid day, Curly Lambeau kept his players warm. Those who weren't playing stayed in the locker room, and Lambeau summoned them by phone when needed!

Quarterback Cecil Isbell ended the season with three more touchdown passes. He threw one in the first half, and along with a Don Hutson field goal, it gave Green Bay a 10-0 lead at the half. Two more Isbell touchdown passes stretched it to 24-7. Pittsburgh fought back with scores by Bill Dudley and Vern Martin, but their comeback fell short. Don Hutson's field goal turned out to be the difference, and a disappointing season came to an end with a win.

Pittsburgh 0 0 7 14 21
Green Bay 7 3 0 14 24
5,138

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Don Hutson's 138 points set a new NFL record that stood until 1960.

1942

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	11	0	0
Green Bay	8	2	1
Cleveland	5	6	0
Chi. Cardinals	3	8	0
Detroit	0	11	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Fritsch
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Goldenberg	Guard
------------	-------

Hinkle Fullback
Hutson End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Urban Odson (1, T)
Bruce Smith (13, RB)



1943
Record: 7-2-1, 2nd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The franchise celebrated its 25th season!
- Due to World War II, the schedule was reduced by one game. With many players serving, former players came out of retirement to hold the interest of fans.
- Though they began broadcasting Packer games in 1929, WTMJ Radio in Milwaukee signed a new contract with the team in 1942. The station now paid the Packers to broadcast games.
- Cecil Isbell retired to coach at his alma mater, Purdue. In 1943, Tony Canadeo and Irv Comp shared the quarterback position. Green Bay threw nearly 100 fewer passes than in 1942.
- Don Hutson also “retired.” He actually held out for more money, and when he returned, he was the NFL’s highest-paid player. He had another fantastic season leading the league in catches, receiving yards, and touchdowns receptions.
- The offense was stronger than the defense in 1943.

9.26.1943

CHICAGO

BEARS 21
PACKERS 21

With the Packers getting tired of playing second fiddle to the Bears for the previous three years, the start of this game was ominous for Green Bay. On Green Bay’s first possession, Tony Canadeo threw an interception. The Bears scored nine plays later. The back-and-forth battle started a bit later when the Bears fumbled, and Ted Fritsch’s touchdown run

tied it before halftime.

In a reversal of sorts, Green Bay's ground game fared better than Chicago's (224-146). With the score tied 7-7, another Chicago fumble led to quarterback Irv Comp's touchdown run and a 14-7 Packer lead. After the Bears tied it, Lou Brock of the Packers fumbled a punt on his 20-yard line. The Bears capitalized for a 21-14 lead.

With seven minutes left, the Packers salvaged a tie with a 26-yard touchdown from Canadeo to Don Hutson. Overall, this opener between rivals had very few shenanigans as "the teams seemed to be content to use all their energy to gain an advantage without worrying about any "inside" stuff. One roughing penalty was meted out."¹

Chicago 7 0 7 7 21
Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21
23,675

Tony Canadeo ran for 99 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/43, Yuenger, p. 13

10.3.1943

PACKERS 28
CHICAGO
CARDINALS 7

Though Curly Lambeau warned the Packers all week that the Cardinals wouldn't be pushovers, they were! Since the game started half an hour late, it took longer to find out.

Chicago turned the ball over ten times with eight interceptions. Two of the picks led to Packer touchdowns. Green Bay's rookie quarterback Irv Comp threw two touchdown passes to Joel Mason in the first quarter. The Cardinals scored their lone touchdown in the second quarter, and the Packers followed with Ted Fritsch's touchdown. Green Bay led at halftime 21-7. A third-quarter touchdown pass to Harry Jacunski wrapped up the scoring, and the Packers downed the Cardinals for the 12th straight time!

Green Bay 14 7 7 0 28
Chicago 0 7 0 0 7
15,563

"Accustomed to eating well before their games, the Packers had to take potluck like other customers on the trip. In pre-war years, they had steak before a game to provide necessary energy, but 'them days' is gone for the duration. The squad isn't squawking about the food. They still can wield the knives and forks with the best of them."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1943Packers

10.10.1943

DETROIT

LIONS **14**
PACKERS **35**

It was evident quickly that the Packers were the superior team, and the big crowd saw Green Bay easily put down Detroit. Green Bay's ground game ran "around, through, and over the Lions"¹ for 235 yards. Overall, they outgained Detroit 445-272.

Tony Canadeo starred for Green Bay with two first-half touchdown passes for a 21-7 lead. Green Bay's offensive line was impenetrable. For the game, Canadeo ran for 71 yards, and he threw his third touchdown pass to Andy Uram to put the game out of reach 35-7. The defense was outstanding with five interceptions, and they allowed just eight first downs. "It's no disgrace to lose to an outfit that's hitting like that,"² said Lions' coach Gus Dorais.

Detroit **0** **7** **0** **7** **14**
Green Bay **14** **7** **7** **7** **35**
21,396

*"It's stimulating how the younger generation takes to the Green Bay Packers. Sunday some 700 carrier boys were guests of the Press-Gazette... they knew very well that the game wouldn't start until two in the afternoon, but they began storming the gates before 10:30."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/43, Yuenger, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/43, Hickok, p. 17

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/43, Pagel p. 17

10.17.1943

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS **33**
PACKERS **7**

The Packers and their fans looked forward to this matchup against the defending NFL champs and quarterback Sammy Baugh. It shocked nearly everyone that the game was so one-sided. It was a surprise, too, that there were 11 turnovers, six by the Redskins and five by Green Bay.

Washington's first drive quickly picked up steam, and they scored easily. When Green Bay went three-and-out on their first series, the 'Skins scored again for a quick 13-0 lead. Four touchdown passes from quarterback Sammy Baugh showed Washington the way.

Defensively, the Redskins were impressive as well. They held the Packers to 59 yards rushing, and they intercepted five passes. They led 33-0 before a Tony Canadeo to Don Hutson touchdown pass spoiled the shutout. Detroit Coach Dutch Bergman was pleased,

but he also understood. "The Packers are a better ball club than they looked today, but we were set for them,"¹ he told the scribes.

Washington 13 7 6 7 33

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7

23,058

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

"Even late in the third quarter, with the Washington team 26 points ahead, the spectators had a big hand for the Green Bay representatives when they made a first down or seemed headed for a touchdown."²

"A lot of people lost their hats in the strong wind at State Fair Park, but the most spectacular play in that department was made by Harold Goodchild of Green Bay, who lost his on the racetrack (in front of) the grandstand. He chased it down the track and finally caught it as most of the 23,000 spectators cheered."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/43, Hickok p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/43, Hickok p. 13

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/43, Hickok p. 14

10.24.1943

PACKERS 27

DETROIT

LIONS 6

The Packers bounced back from their loss to the Redskins. To shake things up, Curly Lambeau decided to coach this game from the press box. It was equipped with a phone to communicate with his assistant coach, Red Smith, on the sidelines.

The Lions led 6-3 in the first quarter, but after that, it was all Green Bay! Rookie Irv Comp completed 14 of 18 passes, including seven of eight on Green Bay's first touchdown drive for a 10-7 lead. The touchdown went to Don Hutson. The Lions were shut out in the second half, but the Packers continued their roll with two short touchdown runs by Lou Brock.

Green Bay's passing defense stymied Detroit's offense. The Packers intercepted nine passes to set a new NFL record. Their only failure in the game was their inability to score every time they had the ball deep in Detroit territory. They outgained the Lions 446-162.

Green Bay 3 7 7 10 27

Detroit 6 0 0 0 6

21,396

10.31.1943

PACKERS 35

NEW YORK

GIANTS 21

*Lambeau laid down the ground rules in New York City. "It's all business this week, boys. You'll see plenty of New York in the Polo Grounds Sunday afternoon."*¹

This exciting battle between two of the league's finest drew over 45,000 fans to the Polo Grounds. It featured 67 passes and 700 yards of offense. Green Bay started the scoring with a surprise... Don Hutson's only touchdown pass of his career! They did it on a fake end-around play with Hutson pulling up for the pass. The play fooled the Giants, and it went for a 37-yard touchdown to Harry Jacunski. The Giants came back, and their outstanding rookie, Bill Paschal, scored the first of his three touchdowns for all of New York's points.

Tony Canadeo led the way for the Packers. In the second quarter, he caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Andy Uram. He also threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Hutson for a 21-7 lead at the break. New York came back with two more touchdown runs by Paschal. The first touchdown drive took just four plays. The second came after Harry Jacunski of the Packers vigorously protested a call and pushed an official. Paschal scored soon after.

With the game knotted 21-21, the Packers took control with two touchdowns in the final four minutes. Tony Canadeo, who ran for 122 yards and scored twice, connected again with Hutson for the game-winner. Don Hutson "had one his greatest days, breaking five of his own league records."² He caught eight passes for 103 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw a touchdown pass and kicked five extra points!

Green Bay 7 14 0 14 35

New York 7 0 7 7 21

46,208

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/43, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/43, O'Connor, p. 13

11.7.1943

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

*"The Lumberjack Band was at the Northwestern Road Station Saturday afternoon to give the Packers a hearty sendoff."*¹

A rain-drenched field in ankle-deep in mud couldn't stop Tony Canadeo! His 20-yard touchdown run gave Green Bay an early lead. Nor did it stop the 66-yard touchdown

sprint by Scooter McLean that tied the score before halftime.

In the midst of "his greatest season,"² Luckman singlehandedly won the game in the second half. After his 10-yard punt return into Packer territory, Luckman hit Harry Clark for a 38-yard touchdown bomb that proved to be the winner. In the fourth quarter, when darkness and the mud made players hard to recognize, Luckman sealed the deal with a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Chicago 0 7 7 7 21
43,425

Rushing Yards: GB 128 CHI 218

1 Green Bay-Press Gazette, 11/8/43, p. 14

2 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 108

11.14.1943

PACKERS 35
CHICAGO
CARDINALS 14

Several reporters commented about the improvements in the press box at State Fair Park! This time, they found that "only occasionally was there a slight sensation of swaying in the breeze."¹

Don Hutson, who had announced that he would retire after the season, gave a fantastic "farewell" performance to Packer fans with another three-touchdown game. In a rout of the Cardinals, both Irv Comp and Tony Canadeo threw touchdowns to Hutson in the first quarter. When the Bears tried to slow down Hutson, a pass interference penalty put the ball at the 1-yard line. Ted Fritsch took it in for a 21-0 halftime lead.

Green Bay played most of the final 30 minutes with its second string. Hutson left the game after his third touchdown, an 85-yard pick-six late in the third quarter. It was one of five interceptions that helped send the Cardinals to their 11th straight loss. For the game, Green Bay outgained the Cardinals 327-252.

Chicago 0 0 7 7 14
Green Bay 7 14 14 0 35
10,831

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

GB ran for just 38 yards.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15, Pagel, p. 11

11.21.1943

PACKERS 31

BROOKLYN

DODGERS 7

With a loss by the Bears and this win by the Packers, Green Bay's title chances were alive. A big crowd at Ebbets Field saw Green Bay easily defeat the Dodgers as the Don Hutson "farewell" tour continued. Hutson put on quite a performance to show he had quite a lot left. He scored two touchdowns, a field goal, and four extra points for 19 total points. He also broke his own NFL single-game record with eight catches for 237 yards!

The Dodgers were overwhelmed. They were outgained by nearly 200 yards (398-204), and the Packers picked off six passes. Brooklyn didn't score until a 44-yard touchdown run by Pug Manders in the fourth quarter.

"As always happens when the Wisconsin eleven is in the east, they are getting favorable notices in the New York papers. All the sportswriters went overboard on their display against Brooklyn last Sunday. Once again, they used the occasion to review for the metropolitans the record of Don Hutson. It will be remembered that Hutson got 19 points against the Dodgers."¹

Green Bay 14 3 7 7 31
Brooklyn 0 0 0 7 7
18,992

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/43, p. 13

12.5.1943

PACKERS 38

PHIL-PITT

STEAGLES 28

During the 1943 season, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles were so depleted by players entering military service that they were forced to combine into a single squad referred to as the Steagles. The combined squad held the advantage in the first quarter, but Green Bay controlled matters the rest of the way. By halftime, two touchdowns by Tony Canadeo had given the Packers a 17-14 lead.

Green Bay pulled away after Irv Comp scored on a 4-yard run in the third quarter. Comp also threw two more touchdown passes to Don Hutson in the fourth quarter to finish off the Steagles. The Green Bay defense shut down the airways with six interceptions.

Green Bay 14 3 7 14 38
Phil-Pitt 14 0 0 14 28
34,294

1943

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	8	1	1
Green Bay	7	2	1
Detroit	3	6	1
Chi. Cardinals	0	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Canadeo
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Comp

ALL-PRO

Adams	Tackle
Brock	Center
Canadeo	Halfback
Hutson	End
Ray	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Dick Wildung (1, T)
Irv Comp (2, B)
Roy McKay (3, B)



1944

Record: 8-2-0, NFL Champions

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The Packers opened the season at State Fair Park in Milwaukee and won their first six games.
- Don Hutson came back for another year. Hutson was the difference between the Packers and the rest of the league. Quarterback Irv Comp led the league in passing yards and passes attempted
- Tony Canadeo played only three games due to military service.

- Assistant Coach Red Smith left Green Bay for a coaching position with the New York Giants. Lambeau hired former Chicago Bear rival George Trafton as his new assistant.
- Green Bay won its sixth and final championship under Curly Lambeau. When Lambeau left Green Bay in 1950, he had won one more NFL championship than Chicago's George "Papa Bear" Halas.

9.17.1944

BROOKLYN

TIGERS **7**
PACKERS **14**

This is the first time the Packers opened the season in Milwaukee. It wasn't the cleanest opener as the whistles of the officials were busy all afternoon. They called a league record 31 penalties for 254 yards! Brooklyn committed 22 of the infractions for 170 yards.

The Packers took the lead in the first quarter on a 24-yard touchdown pass to Don Hutson. Brooklyn tied it on their first possession of the second half. On their second possession, the Packers went back in front when "Baby" Ray blocked a Brooklyn punt. Ray's block was recovered by Charley Brock on Brooklyn's 17-yard line. On the next play, halfback Lou Brock took it 17 yards around left end for the win.

Brooklyn **0** **0** **7** **0** **7**
Green Bay **7** **0** **7** **0** **14**

12,994

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

9.24.1944

CHICAGO

BEARS **28**
PACKERS **42**

The defending NFL Champs arrived in Green Bay, and fans were treated to an exciting game of nearly 700 yards of offense.

For the first 20 minutes, the Packers dominated, with quarterback Irv Comp showing the way. Comp threw two touchdown passes, and he ran for a touchdown as Green Bay got out to a 28-0 lead. Midway through the second quarter, quarterback Sid Luckman began to bring the Bears back. He threw three touchdown passes to narrow the score to 28-21.

The Bears tied it with six minutes left to silence the City Stadium crowd. The Packers rallied and sprung back to life just in time. Lou Brock took off around right end behind a slew of

blockers to go 42 yards to retake the lead. On Chicago's next drive, Ted Fritsch intercepted Sid Luckman, and the big fullback went 50 yards to put the Bears away!

Chicago **0** **7** **7** **14** **28**
Green Bay **14** **14** **0** **14** **42**
24,362

"Six-year-old Carol Collard—it was her birthday—who is growing up with the Packers, opened her third season as a drum majorette and delighted the crowd.

10.1.1944

DETROIT

LIONS **6**
PACKERS **27**

A light rain fell most of the day in Milwaukee as the Packers took on Detroit. The Lions started the scoring and held a 7-6 lead when a goal-line stand by the Packers helped turn the tide.

Green Bay scored the next 27 points, and the offense outgained the Lions easily 333-156. Lou Brock tossed two touchdowns for the Packers. The defense had no trouble with Detroit, allowing just nine first downs and 161 total yards.

Detroit **6** **0** **0** **0** **6**
Green Bay **0** **7** **13** **7** **27**
18,556

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

"(The) most disappointed fan was an unfortunate Green Bay man, unidentified, who started out in his car for Milwaukee Sunday morning to see the game. He got as far as Cedarburg, had a flat tire there, and couldn't find a garage open to have it fixed. He repaired the tire with borrowed equipment and got to West Allis just in time to turn around and start home." ¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/1944, Hickok, p. 12

10.8.1944

CARD-PITT

CARPETS **7**
PACKERS **34**

During World War II, some franchises combined to stay afloat. In 1944, the Chicago Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers were one such team. They would return as separate teams in 1945.

With Curly Lambeau still coaching from the press box, Irv Comp was the star of this blowout. He completed 12 of 23 passes, including two touchdown passes to Don Hutson. A 55-yarder started the scoring in the first quarter, and a 7-yard pass in the second made it 21-0. At one point, Comp completed nine straight passes for 151 yards. For the game, Comp and Hutson hooked up 11 times for 207 yards. The Packers easily outgained Carpets 388-192.

Card-Pitt 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 7 14 0 13 34
16,535

10.22.1944
 CLEVELAND

RAMS **21**
PACKERS **30**

With nearly 800 yards of offense between them, the undefeated Packers beat the undefeated Rams on a Sunday night. The winner took undisputed possession of first place in the Western Conference.

The first 30 minutes was a back-and-forth battle. Cleveland tailback Tom Colella scored on runs of 75 and 25 yards. The Packer backfield responded with touchdown runs by Ben Starret and Joe Laws. Irv Comp's touchdown pass to Lou Brock gave Green Bay a 21-14 lead at half.

In the third quarter, a beautiful 68-yard march led by Irv Comp found Lou Brock open for an 8-yard touchdown. Ted Fritsch then pretty much wrapped it up with a short touchdown run. Fritsch and Tony Canadeo led the ground game with 183 of Green Bay's 293 yards.

Cleveland 7 7 0 7 21
Green Bay 7 14 7 2 30
18,780

Total Yards: GB 456 CLEV 337

10.29.1944

PACKERS **14**
 DETROIT
LIONS **0**

A shutout by the first-place Packers made it their 19th win in their last 23 games against Detroit! Both Green Bay touchdowns came in the first half. Ted Fritsch scored at the end of a nine-play drive with a 1-yard plunge. It started on Detroit's 47-yard line after a quick

kick. In the second quarter, Irv Comp loosened up his throwing arm and crossed up the Lions with a 29-yard touchdown pass to veteran Joe Laws. The closest Detroit came to scoring came in the third quarter when they got as far as the Packer 13-yard line before being pushed back by the stingiest defense in the division!

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14
Detroit 0 0 0 0 0
30,844

The second half became a punting duel.

11.5.1944

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

The defending champion Chicago Bears rode both the arm and legs of quarterback Sid Luckman to upset undefeated Packers. It started with an early quarterback sneak by Luckman that made it 7-0. In the third quarter, a poor punt gave Chicago good field position. In three plays, they went 53 yards, and Luckman's 31-yard touchdown pass went to Ray *Scooter* McClean. Later in the quarter, Chicago capitalized on an interception with Luckman's second touchdown pass to big George Wilson.

The Bears' defense was dominant as the Packers managed just eight first downs and 146 total yards. The Bears also grabbed four interceptions and stopped Don Hutson's "consecutive game scoring record at 41...he had scored one or more points in every league tussle starting midway in the 1940 season."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 0 7 14 0 21
45,553

2,500 Packer fans traveled to Wrigley Field.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/1944, Yuenger, p. 13

11.12.1944

PACKERS 42

CLEVELAND

RAMS 7

The Rams turned the ball over nine times, and they were annihilated! While quarterback Irv Comp's early touchdown run provided the winning points, Don Hutson's two touchdown catches were the highlights. Comp threw both, with the first coming from 35 yards away. Along with Hutson, veteran running back Joe Laws scored twice.

Trying to keep pace with Green Bay, the Rams threw 31 passes. They completed 11, seven were intercepted, and three fell incomplete. Of Green Bay's seven interceptions, three led to scores.

This was another incredible game for Hutson. Of Green Bay's six completed passes, *The Alabama Antelope* caught five of them for 96 yards. Two of the catches went for touchdowns, and Hutson also kicked six extra points!

Green Bay	7	14	7	14	42
Cleveland	0	0	7	0	7

11.19.1944

PACKERS **0**

NEW YORK

GIANTS **24**

New York shut out Green Bay before 56,481 adoring fans. They did so despite completing only one pass in the second quarter. They opted to utilize the run game, and they pounded the Packers for 221 yards on the ground. They also capitalized on three of their five interceptions.

A pick-six by New York started the scoring in the first quarter. Their only pass completion came in the second quarter on a 36-yard touchdown pass to Frank Liebel from former Packer Arnie Herber. It put New York in front at halftime 14-0.

The second half didn't any get better for Green Bay. For the game, they completed just 14 of 34 passes for 152 yards. Despite the loss, the Packers clinched the Western Division because the Bears lost to the Lions!

After the game, accusations of the Giants spying on Green Bay practices was made by Lambeau. He claimed that former Packers Arnie Herber and Red Smith, who were now with the Giants, were involved. Though the accusations were never proven, the Giants did shut out the mighty Packers and intercepted five passes. After the game, when Don Hutson was asked about the possibility, he thought, "...it was possible. They were shifting to meet those new plays of ours... and we hadn't run them off against any other team in the league this year."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
New York	7	7	3	7	24

58,481

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/1944, Davis, p. 11

11.26.1944

PACKERS 35

CARD-PITT

CARPETS 20

Though they scored 35 points, the Packers were not as impressive as the score made it look. They beat the winless Carpets after a close first half.

An interception by Don Hutson set up the first of two touchdown runs by Paul Duhart that gave Green Bay a 14-13 lead at halftime. The Packers pulled away in the second half with two Irv Comp to Don Hutson touchdowns. The first was a 36-yard pitch to start the scoring. For the game, Hutson scored 17 of Green Bay's points. The defense held the Carpets to 19 yards rushing, and they picked off three passes.

Green Bay	7	7	7	14	35
Card-Pitt	7	6	0	7	20

7,158

12.17.1944

1944 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS 14

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7

A month after losing to the Giants in New York City, they met again for the championship, and Curly Lambeau boasted, "we will be seeking revenge."¹ Rather than practicing near New York City, a week before the game, Lambeau took his squad to Virginia to prepare for the rematch.

As the Giants proved in November, they had the best defense in the league. They also had Arnie Herber, the former great Packer quarterback. Unfortunately, their league-leading rusher, Bill Paschal, was hurt and played only a few plays.

All Green Bay needed was the "crushing ground attack led by Ted Fritsch."² "The Bull" did all the damage in the second quarter. His first touchdown, a one-yard plunge, came on a fourth down. The second, just before halftime, came after Don Hutson's great catch that put the ball at New York's 28-yard line. Two plays later, with the defense all over Hutson, Fritsch was caught a 28-yard touchdown pass from Irv Comp.

In the second half, an interception by Howie Livingston helped the Giants bounce back. After a long completion from Arnie Herber to Frank Liebel, fullback Ward Cuff scored on the first play of the fourth quarter to narrow the lead to 14-7.

But Herber struggled against his old team. He threw two of his four interceptions after they had cut into the lead in the fourth quarter. The Giants got beyond Green Bay's 35-yard line just once.

Three Packers played the entire 60 minutes—Don Hutson, Larry Craig, and Charley Brock—and the Packers won their sixth NFL championship. Veteran Joe Laws had an outstanding game with three interceptions, and he ran for 74 yards on offense. During the celebration, Hutson again announced that he would retire. "If I ever play on this field again, I'll jump off the Empire State Building—and I mean it."³ Hutson played in 1945!

Green Bay 0 14 0 0 14

New York 0 0 0 7 7

46,016

The Giants got beyond Green Bay's 35-yard line just once.

"World Champion Packers Return to Green Bay on the Milwaukee Road at 10:05 tonight."⁴

"The Packer Lumberjack Band will also be on hand to greet the champions. Red torchlights will be used to brighten the station platform."⁵

1 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 75

2 Wellington, DeVito, p. 105

3 The Green Bay Packers, Johnson, p. 87

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/1944, p. 1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/1944, p. 1

1944

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	8	2	0
Chi. Bears	6	3	1
Detroit	6	3	1
Cleveland	4	6	0
Carpets	0	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Comp
Rushing	Fritsch
Receiving	Hutson
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Fritsch, Comp

ALL-PRO

Brock	Center
Hutson	End
Ray	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS

- - -



1945

Record: 6-4-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- After winning his sixth championship in 1944, Curly Lambeau signed a contract extension through 1949.
- Attendance topped 20,000 for every home game except for the game against the Cardinals, which drew over 19,000.
- The defending champions scored the most points in the division, but their pass defense ranked at the bottom.
- With a 4-2 record in early November, the Packers were in contention. They finished 2-2 to dash their hopes.
- It would be the final season for three great Packers who played on the 1936, 1939, and 1944 championship teams—Don Hutson, Joe Laws, and Buckets Goldenberg. Goldenberg played for the Packers for 13 seasons, a franchise record at the time.

9.30.1945

CHICAGO

BEARS	21
PACKERS	31

The Packers proudly raised their 1944 championship pennant in front of the visiting Chicago Bears! Green Bay opened its title defense with a very physical game. Right at the start, Chicago's Lee Artoe landed a vicious uppercut to the jaw of Larry Craig. A scuffle ensued, and Artoe was ejected.

Don Hutson returned for another season! He caught three passes for 85 yards in the opener, and he also had an interception. Ted Fritsch started the scoring with a first-half touchdown. He also booted a 35-yard field goal.

Roy McKay's touchdown opened the second half, 17-0 Packers. The Bears suddenly roared back with three touchdown runs by veteran running back Gary Famiglietti. He pulled them to within three, 24-21. With three minutes left, "like a boxer about down for the count,"¹ Green Bay regrouped and marched 61-yards in four plays. Second-year back, Don Perkins scored the winner from the two. After the game, Luke Johnsos, (co-coach of the Bears)

said, "It was old man Hutson. Without him, they would be equal to us. I hope the fifth time he retires he means it."²

Chicago **0 0 7 14 21**
Green Bay **10 0 7 14 31**
24,525

*"Rumors that the Packer-Cleveland game at City Stadium on October 14 are sold out are untrue, Ticket Director Ralph C. Smith said today, adding a word of warning, however, that all \$3.60 tickets have been sold and that there is a brisk demand for other ducats. Approximately 10,000 remain to be sold. Tickets are also moving fast for the Packer-Detroit contest at State Fair Park in West Allis next Sunday."*³

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p.

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/45, Rummel, p. 13

3 packershistory.net

10.7.1945

DETROIT

LIONS **21**
PACKERS **57**

As of this publication, this is the most points the Packers have ever scored in a game! The Lions may have scored first, but six interceptions by the Packers took the game away. Green Bay scored 41 points in the second quarter on four touchdown passes from quarterback Roy McKay to Don Hutson. "Hutson and McKay set off a display of offensive football that was (the) greatest in the Packers' 27-year history."¹

Don Hutson scored 29 points in the second quarter alone! His 31 points for the game remains second most in NFL history. He scored on four touchdown passes of 59, 46 17, and six yards. Years later, Detroit's Hall of Fame center/linebacker Alex Wojciechowicz would say of Hutson: "if you didn't knock Hutson down, he'd score four or five touchdowns a game."²

Though the game was no contest, and they intercepted six passes, the Packers were outgained by Detroit 385-293! Even Lambeau acknowledged that the score was deceiving. "Although we won by a decisive score, we made a lot of mistakes we have to correct."³

Detroit **0 7 7 7 21**
Green Bay **0 41 9 7 57**
21,396

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/45, Yuenger, p. 13

2 The Game That Was, Cope, p. 182

3 packershistory.net/1945Packers

10.14.1945
CLEVELAND

RAMS **27**
PACKERS **14**

Fans were excited about this big matchup between teams tied for first place. The Rams scored the only points of a quiet first half on quarterback Bob Waterfield's touchdown pass to end Jim Benton. Still trailing 7-0 in the third quarter, the Packers capitalized on a Cleveland fumble to go in front 7-6. Green Bay made it 14-6 in the fourth quarter on Ted Fritch's 1-yard plunge.

After Fritsch's touchdown, however, the Packers fell apart. In a collapse that many newspapers described as one of the worst ever witnessed in Green Bay, the Rams put up 21 points in the final 15 minutes. Early in the quarter, a 72-yard drive paid dividends as Waterfield's second touchdown pass, this one Tom Colella, narrowed the lead to 14-13. When Roy McKay fumbled on Green Bay's next play from scrimmage, the Rams recovered on the 35. Dan Greenwood scored from the one for a 20-14 lead. Albie Reisz sealed the deal with a 55-yard interception that he brought back to the 5-yard line. Tom Colella scored, and the Packers dropped into second place.

Cleveland **6** **0** **0** **21** **27**
Green Bay **0** **0** **7** **7** **14**
24,607

From a Cleveland fan: "Everybody seemed to be rooting for Cleveland when we made our first touchdown, but the silence couldn't have been any deeper when we scored the second time."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1945Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 16)

10.21.1945
BOSTON

YANKS **14**
PACKERS **38**

Anticipating Don Hutson's final retirement, it was *Don Hutson Day* at State Fair Park in Milwaukee. Hutson's Hall of Fame career was celebrated, and he was given a new car!

He thanked the Milwaukee crowd by catching two touchdown passes. The first was a 75-yard bomb from Irv Comp that got the crowd on its feet. Roy McKay threw the second one to Hutson for a 21-7 lead. In between Hutson's touchdowns, McKay ran for a 24-yard touchdown, and the Packers led 21-14 at the half. Ted Frisch and Lou Brock provided all the points in the second half. They both scored on touchdown runs, and Fritsch added a field goal as the Packers won.

Boston 7 7 0 0 14
Green Bay 7 14 17 0 38
20,846

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

GB set an NFL record at the time with 17 penalties for 179 yards.

*Don Hutson: "I have been lucky all my life, but the luckiest day I ever had was the day I decided to play with the Packers and live in Wisconsin."*¹

*"The ticket sale for the argument with the Windy City Redbirds had been unusually brisk, and there is every indication that another record crowd will be on hand."*²

¹ The Game That was, Cope, p. 182

² packershistory.net/1945Packers

10.28.1945

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 14
PACKERS 33

Another blowout of the Cardinals. Don Hutson scored three touchdowns in the first half to quickly settle the issue. He caught two touchdown passes from Irv Comp, and he scored on the ground on an end-around play. Statistically, the game was amazingly even, but the scoreboard told another story.

Chicago 0 7 0 7 14
Green Bay 7 20 0 6 33
19,221

*"The Racine Drum and Bugle Corps performed for the spectators between halves, taking the place of the Packer Lumberjack Band on the field. The Lumberjacks entertained from the bandshell throughout the afternoon."*¹

¹ packershistory.net/1945Packers

11.4.1945

PACKERS 24
CHICAGO
BEARS 28

Ken Keuper of Green Bay settled the score with Lee Artoe, who had punched Larry Craig in the previous game. Keuper sent Artoe to the hospital with a broken jaw!

Green Bay got rolling behind the spectacular play of quarterback Irv Comp. A 67-yard touchdown pass from Comp to Clyde Goodnight made it 7-0. Comp then turned around on defense and came through with a 54-yard pick-six that made it 14-0 after 15 minutes.

Thirty-one points were scored in the second quarter! Two touchdown runs by Henry Margarita and Sid Luckman's 15-yard touchdown toss Ken Kavanaugh cut Green Bay's lead to 24-21. After intermission, the Bears stormed out of the locker room with a powerful, 71-yard touchdown drive that beat up Green Bay's defense. That was all the Bears needed as Green Bay did little offensively. For the game, the Packers ran for only 29 yards, and were outgained 396-180.

Green Bay	14	10	0	0	24
Chicago	0	21	7	0	28

45,527

According to the Bears' Ken Kavanaugh, a fan approached him and said, "Artoe got what he deserved. I was having none of that, so I whirled around and grabbed him by the neck. I took him and thrust him into a small phone booth. Then I lifted him to the top of the booth and started punching him. But I guess that gives you a pretty good idea of just how intense those Green Bay-Chicago games really were."¹

¹ Bear Memories, Gorr, p. 24

11.11.1945

PACKERS	7
CLEVELAND	
RAMS	20

This was the first time since 1937 that the Packers lost two in a row. It was no surprise, though, as they threw the football to the Rams seven times!

The first quarter featured all the scoring. Cleveland halfback Fred Gehrke ran for touchdowns of 72 and 42 yards, with the second score set up by Bob Waterfield's interception. Green Bay came right back on their next drive with a 75-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Irv Comp to Clyde Goodnight! Quarterback Bob Waterfield, however, topped that with an 84-yard scoring strike to Jim Benton. Benton was double-covered by Don Hutson and Joe Laws, but he still made a spectacular catch. It was 20-7 Cleveland after 15 minutes.

For the rest of the game, the Packers had several scoring chances inside Cleveland's 20-yard line. Turnovers gave them away. After the game, reports surfaced that a scuffle broke out in the Packers' locker room.

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Cleveland	20	0	0	0	20

28,686

Sections of the bleachers collapsed in the 1st quarter—32 people were hurt.

"We can never outdraw some of the other cities in the league, but we recognize the problem and plan to increase the capacity of City Stadium. We have long been considered as the league's best

*drawing card on the road, and the records prove it."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/45, p. 21

11.18.1945

PACKERS 28

BOSTON

YANKS 0

After two straight losses, this one was never in doubt. In a complete mismatch, the Packers held the Yanks to 48 total yards—12 yards rushing and 36 passing. The Packers scored behind two Lou Brock touchdown runs and an Irv Comp touchdown pass to Don Hutson.

Green Bay 7 14 0 7 28

Boston 0 0 0 0 0

31,923

11.25.1945

PACKERS 23

NEW YORK

GIANTS 14

New York fans went wild as the Giants struck first on a 26-yard touchdown pass! Green Bay bounced back with 23 points led by veteran center/defensive back Charley Brock of Green Bay owned this game! In the third quarter, with the score tied 7-7, Brock stole the ball from Ward Cuff deep in Giants' territory. Two plays later, Ted Fritsch scored his second touchdown of the game for a 13-7 lead.

Minutes later, an interception by Roy McKay helped set up a Don Hutson field goal. Brock struck again with a pick-six to put the game out of reach!

Green Bay 0 7 16 0 23

New York 7 0 0 7 14

52,681

12.2.1945

PACKERS 3

DETROIT

LIONS 14

In this battle for second place, Green Bay turned the ball over five times, and the Lions won. They did it by holding Don Hutson to just three total points in his final game.

The field goal came in the second quarter and made it 3-0 Green Bay. After stopping the Packers early in the second half, Detroit scored twice in the third quarter. They picked apart Green Bay's secondary for 249 passing yards. Their second touchdown, a 25-yard pass from Chuck Fenenbock to Andy Farkas, clinched it and locked up second place for Detroit.

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Detroit 0 0 14 0 14
23,468

1945

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Cleveland	9	1	0
Detroit	7	3	0
Green Bay	6	4	0
Chi. Bears	3	7	0
Chi. Cardinals	1	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Comp
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Fritsch
Field Goals	Fritsch
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Brock/Hutson

ALL-PRO

Brock	Center
Fritsch	Fullback
Hutson	End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS

Walt Schlinkman (1, B)
 Clyde Goodnight (2, E)
 Don Wells (6, T)
 Nolan Luhn (25, E)



1946
Record: 6-5-0, 3rd Place, Tied
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- From 1946-49, the Packers held training camp and some practices at the Rockwood Lodge, 15 miles north of Green Bay.
- The All-America Football Conference (AAFC) started in 1946 with eight teams. The new league increased competition for players and boosted salaries in the NFL.
- Lambeau fired team doctor Dr. W. W. Kelly, a member of the Executive Committee.
- With Don Hutson on the sidelines coaching, the offense wasn't nearly as threatening. The passing game was the NFL's weakest (four touchdown passes), while the running game was more potent as Ted Fritsch led the league in touchdowns with nine.
- For the first time in their history, the Packers gave up more points than they scored.

9.29.1946

CHICAGO

BEARS 30
PACKERS 7

The headline, "Bears Outslug Packers, 30 Punches to 7"¹ accurately described how Chicago beat up Green Bay. The Packers were pushed around and outgained 432-114.

Sid Luckman's two second-quarter touchdown passes gave Chicago a comfortable 17-0 lead. The lead was never threatened, and the Bears scored twice on the ground in the second half. The Packers played poorly. They "bumped into each other in the backfield, pawed instead of tackled, and completely forgot whatever blocking lessons they had ever learned."¹ The intense, physical nature of the rivalry injured several players including, Carl Mulleneaux of the Packers. On a punt return, Mulleneaux was knocked out on a brutal hit to the face by 240-pound John Schiechl. Mulleneaux had to be carried from the field.

Roy McKay scored Green Bay's only touchdown.

Chicago 3 14 7 6 30
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
25,049

First Downs: GB 5 CHI 18

"A wild story came in that Mulleneaux had died of injuries suffered in Sunday's game. Mulleneaux was immediately reached in Green Bay. 'Dead? I'm only in a hospital, and glad of it. I don't want to be near Lambeau for a week.'"²

1 packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

2 packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

10.6.1946

LOS ANGELES

RAMS **21**
PACKERS **17**

This game held the crowd's attention for the full 60 minutes. There was a lot of scoring, some exciting action, and a controversy at the finish. For the first time since 1937, the Packers started 0-2.

The teams traded touchdowns early. The Rams scored first after a fumble by Irv Comp on the Packers' 21-yard line. Green Bay responded with a 32-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Herm Rohrig to end Nolan Luhn.

Leading 10-7 after the first half, an 85-yard pick-six by Rams' rookie Tom Harmon stunned the Packers and the crowd. Ted Fritsch reclaimed the lead, 17-14, with an 11-yard run around right end. It stayed that way until the final three minutes.

With time running out, the Rams drove 80 yards for the winner. In a very controversial decision at the end of the drive, a timeout was called by a referee with six seconds left because he claimed the Packers were slow to "disentangle themselves from the heap."¹ The call gave the Rams another play, which was all they needed. With Curly Lambeau irate along the sideline, Mike Holovak ran it in from the 1-yard line.

Los Angeles 7 0 7 7 21

Green Bay 0 10 7 0 17

27,049

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

"The fans were treated to another chuckle when an enthusiastic spectator caught the ball after Waterfield's conversion following the Rams contested touchdown in the waning seconds and refused to give it up to the stadium police. It took the referee and four cops to pry him loose of the ball."³

1 packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/46, p. 13

10.13.1946

PACKERS 19

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 7

The losing streak ends! Ted "The Bull" Fritsch scored all of Green Bay's points (except the safety) with two touchdowns, two extra points, and a field goal!

Philadelphia went in front 7-0 on big Steve Van Buren's touchdown run, but the Eagles didn't score after the first quarter, partly because they turned the ball over six times. With 19 seconds left in the first half, Green Bay tied it on rookie Bob Forte's 12-yard touchdown pass to Ted Fritsch. On defense in the third quarter, Ted Fritsch's tackle of Van Buren jarred the ball loose. Fritsch recovered, and two plays later, he scored from the 10!

Green Bay 0 7 7 5 19

Philadelphia 7 0 0 0 7

36,127

10.20.1946

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 7

PACKERS 17

The Packers ran the ball 63 times for 288 yards! They threatened often but had difficulty getting into the end zone. Trailing 7-3 with 10 minutes left in the game, Irv Comp's touchdown pass to Nolan Luhn made it 10-7 Packers. When a fourth-down gamble by the Steelers backfired on their own 39-yard line, Green Bay took over. Walt Schlinkman scored in six plays for the game's final points.

The Packers won their 200th game, making their all-time NFL record 200-81-21!

Pittsburgh 0 7 0 0 7

Green Bay 0 0 0 14 17

22,588

10.27.1946

LIONS 7

PACKERS 10

*"Gus Dorais, coach of the Detroit Lions, will be honored by a group of old friends from his native Chippewa Falls, Wis., in a pregame ceremony at State Fair Park Sunday."*¹

In a slow first half, a fumble by Tony Canadeo was returned 36 yards for a touchdown by

Dave Ryan. The Lions kept a 7-3 lead into the third quarter when Charley Brock practiced more thievery. Brock stole the ball from rookie fullback Camp Wilson on Detroit's 22. A few plays later, Walt Schlinkman scored for the win!

Detroit 0 7 0 0 7

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

23,564

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 158 DET 158

1 packershistory.net/1946Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 26)

11.3.1946

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 10

Five of Green Bay's next six games were on the road, and it began with a showdown against the first-place Bears.

It was a defensive standoff in the first half. In the third quarter, the game turned quickly on a fumble by Ted Fritsch. It was grabbed by Chicago's Ed Sprinkle, who rumbled 30 yards to the end zone. A field goal soon followed to put the Bears in charge 10-0.

In the final quarter, with only a few minutes left, Ted Fritsch pounded his way over several Bears to get to midfield. He took it home with a minute left in the game to redeem himself. But it was too late for an offense that was handcuffed all game and held to eight first downs and 125 total yards.

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7

Chicago 0 0 10 0 10

46,321

Total Yards: GB 125 CHI 159

Before the game: "Coach George Halas reports the Bears devoted an hour of their drill in Wrigley field yesterday to reviewing defenses for Don Hutson. The Bears usually carry about 12 defenses in their repertoire, but—with special Hutson variations—the number always was raised to 28 when the Packers' pass-catching end came to town. Hutson will be here again Sunday afternoon. The Packers insist Don will act solely as a bench assistant to Coach Curly Lambeau. However, Halas seems suspicious that, with the Western Division lead at stake, Don will assist Curly with a brief pass-catching appearance."¹

1 Packershistory.net/1946Packers (Chicago Tribune)

11.10.1946

PACKERS 19

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 7

On a wet field, the Packers never trailed. Ted Fritsch took over in the first half with 11 of Green Bay's 17 points. He booted a 25-yard field goal, ran for a touchdown, and kicked two extra points.

Quarterback Paul Christman got the Cardinals onto the scoreboard in the third quarter. On the fourth play of the drive, a 27-yard touchdown pass went to Frank Seno. But the Cardinals also turned it over ten times—five interceptions and five fumbles. Herm Rohrig grabbed three, and the run defense held Chicago's ground game at 16 yards!

Green Bay 3 14 0 2 19
Chicago 0 0 7 0 7
30,681

*"Train Note: Ted Fritsch enjoying himself a little on the return trip. The burly fullback, one of the team's top comedians, was having quite a time collecting tickets with a porter's hat, brakeman's lantern, and curve-stemmed pipe he had pilfered along the line."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/46, Rempel, p. 17

11.17.1946

PACKERS 9

DETROIT

LIONS 0

Both offenses came up empty in the first 30 minutes. Green Bay struggled with penalties—80 yards worth. Fullback Ted "The Bull" Fritsch dominated the second half and scored all nine Green Bay points. First came his field goal, and in the fourth quarter, he scored on the ground from the 1-yard line! The Packers held the Lions to 81 total yards while they generated 292. The Milwaukee Journal summed up the game with, "It was Green Bay's game by a wide margin in everything except the score."¹

Green Bay 0 0 3 6 9
Detroit 0 0 0 0 0
22,950

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (Milwaukee Journal, Nov. 17)

11.24.1946

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 24
PACKERS 6

The gloomy, rainy day was fitting as the Packers were eliminated from title contention, and they lost to the Cardinals for the first time since 1937. In a tight, 6-3 game, the Cardinals erupted for three fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away. The touchdowns were scored on the ground by Paul Christman, Marshall Goldberg, and Elmer Angsman.

Chicago's defense had no trouble with Green Bay's offense. The Packers generated 168 total yards with only 24 yards passing. They threw five interceptions and were outgained 349-155.

Chicago 0 3 0 21 24
Green Bay 3 0 3 0 6
16,150

At halftime, members of the 1919 Packers were introduced! The Press-Gazette's All-Time Packer team was also announced. The team was selected by fan voting. The team: Lavvie Dilweg, Cub Buck, Buckets Goldenberg, Charley Brock, Mike Michalske, Don Hutson, Johnny Blood, Arnie Herber, Clarke Hinkle, Verne Lewellen, and Cal Hubbard. The team "ran" two plays for fans and photographers!

12.1.1946

PACKERS 20
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS 7

The Packers ran the ball 64 times (still a franchise record) and dominated the game with 301 yards rushing! Ted Fritsch provided all the scoring with three touchdown runs and two extra points. Washington turned the ball over eight times, and they did not score until late in the third quarter.

Green Bay 0 7 6 7 20
Washington 0 0 7 0 7
33,691

Total Yards: GB 316 WASH 187

12.8.1946

PACKERS 17

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 38

This battle for second place changed hands five times before Los Angeles took control in the fourth quarter. After an early touchdown run by Green Bay's Ted Fritsch, quarterback Bob Waterfield of the Rams took the spotlight. He completed 10 of 17 passes for 174 yards. He threw three touchdown passes, kicked one field goal, and converted five extra points. His touchdowns went to Jack Wilson and Red Hickey (2). On defense, Waterfield also intercepted a pass!

Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17

Los Angeles 7 7 7 17 38

46,838

1946

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Bears	8	2	1
Los Angeles	6	4	1
Green Bay	6	5	0
Chi. Cardinals	6	5	0
Detroit	1	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Comp
Receiving	Goodnight
Rushing	Canadeo
Field Goals	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Rohrig

ALL-PRO

Brock	Center
Fritsch	Fullback
Luhn	End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS



1947
Record: 6-5-1, 3rd Place
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Lee Joannes, Packer President since 1930, stepped down. Emil Fischer replaced him.
- Lambeau fired George W. Calhoun, the co-founder of the franchise. Calhoun had served as the team's public relations director, record keeper, and all-around Packer-backer since 1919. George Strickler, formerly of the Chicago Tribune, replaced him.
- Disappointment was building after third-place finishes in 1945 and 1946. Though 1947 was slightly better, it would be the last season above .500 until 1959.
- Lambeau changed his offense from the single-wing to the "T" formation. The Packers scored 126 more points than in 1946, but they still struggled to replace Cecil Isbell and Don Hutson. The defense gave up the fewest points in the league and intercepted 30 passes.
- Three straight losses in November left them 4-4-1 and out of contention; a third-place finish again. Rumors swirled about Curly Lambeau leaving Green Bay for the West Coast.

Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

One of this HOF member's first memories about becoming a Packers fan was in 1947. Vivian remembers being huddled around the radio listening intently to a game with her twin brother, Stewart. After one game, Vivian knew she was hooked. Now she's in the Packer FAN Hall of Fame!

* Interview: 5/12/16

9.28.1947

CHICAGO

BEARS	20
PACKERS	29

It was game #55 between the rivals... or #56 if you count the 1941 playoff game! Either way, it was a very encouraging and exciting upset of the defending champions!

The Packers were led by a fantastic performance by new quarterback "Indian Jack" Jacobs, who they acquired from the Rams. On the first play of the second quarter and trailing

7-3, the Packers took the lead on the first touchdown pass by Jacobs to Nolan Luhn. A bit later in the quarter, his second touchdown pass went to Bruce Smith for a 17-6 lead. Sid Luckman's touchdown pass cut it to 17-13 before the half.

In the second half, the Packers added a safety and a field goal by Ward Cuff. For the Bears, Sid Luckman threw his second touchdown pass to Jim Keane to bring Chicago to within two (22-20). With two minutes left, it took only three plays before Jacobs took it in himself to seal the deal. Not a bad day for the Green Bay newcomer, who also intercepted two passes on defense!

Chicago	6	7	0	7	20
Green Bay	3	14	2	10	29

25,461

10.5.1947
LOS ANGELES

RAMS	14
PACKERS	17

Two potent offenses went nowhere in the first 30 minutes. The second half had all the scoring, and it started with Bruce Smith's touchdown run and Ed Neal's blocked punt recovery in the end zone for a 14-0 Packer lead. Ted Fritsch's toe made it 17-0 to start the final quarter.

With 10 minutes left, the Rams rallied and completed two touchdown drives. The first went 75 yards, and the second went for 52. Then, with 1:45 left, and leading 17-14, Packer quarterback Jack Jacobs fumbled the ball away on his own 30-yard line. Fortunately, the defense rose to the occasion and didn't yield a single yard. Bob Waterfield then missed a 37-yard field goal!

Los Angeles	0	0	0	14	14
Green Bay	0	0	14	3	17

31,613
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

"Meanwhile, George Strickler, Packer publicity director and assistant to Lambeau, said that the Packers' office is being besieged for tickets for Sunday's game. None has been available for the last two weeks. The seating capacity of City Stadium is 24,800, and more than 25,000 tickets already have been sold."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1946Packers (Chicago Tribune)

10.12.1947

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 14

PACKERS 10

"We'll need a little luck against the Cards,"¹ Curly Lambeau warned. He knew they weren't the Cardinals of old, and they proved him right with 217 rushing yards from the impressive backfield of Charlie Trippi, Elmer Angsman, and Pat Harder.

A record crowd of 25,502 witnessed a close first half. Ted Fritsch's 51-yard field goal and Elmer Angsman's two-yard touchdown run were the only points. The Cardinals added a touchdown right away in the third quarter as backup halfback "Red" Cochran finished a scoring drive from the one-yard line. The Packers snapped right back with another touchdown. For the rest of the game, Green Bay threatened deep inside Chicago's territory, but they came away empty-handed.

Chicago 0 7 7 0 14

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

25,502

¹ When Football Was Football, Ziemba, p. 325

10.19.1947

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 27

PACKERS 10

Green Bay took a 10-0 lead on a Ted Fritsch touchdown and a Ward Cuff field goal. The Redskins narrowed it to 10-7 on quarterback Sammy Baugh's six-yard touchdown pass to John Lookabaugh.

By the fourth quarter, the Redskins had tied it. In a 10-10 game, the Packers put up 17 points in the fourth quarter! Tony Canadeo threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Nolan Luhn, and Ted Fritsch added a 49-yard field goal. When Bob Forte's pick-six went for a 68-yard touchdown, the Redskins never recovered.

Green Bay did a good job containing Baugh (19-39-242-1-2). "We played stupid ball today. In fact, it was the stupidest game we've played all season,"¹ said Redskins owner George Preston Marshall.

Washington 0 7 3 0 10

Green Bay 10 0 0 17 27

28,572

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

“Would-be gate-crashers were more ingenious than ever. One brash fellow insisted he was scouting for the Bears but hastily gave up the dodge. Another did even better. He said his missing tickets were gobbled up by his pet pup. Strickler (Green Bay’s Publicity Chief) told him to bring in the dog to be x-rayed to establish his ticket numbers.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/47, Rempel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/47, Rempel, p. 18

10.26.1947

DETROIT

LIONS 17

PACKERS 34

The Packers moved to 4-1 by pummeling Detroit for a franchise record of 366 yards rushing on 50 carries! Green Bay pulled away behind rookie fullback Ed Cody. He led the way with 111 yards and two touchdown runs. Quarterback Jack Jacobs threw a touchdown pass to Clyde Goodnight. Ted Fritsch also scored on the ground. Green Bay led 24-3 in the second half before the Lions scored a touchdown.

Detroit 0 3 7 7 17

Green Bay 7 7 13 7 34

25,179

Halftime “entertainment, which each week features a different organization, was provided by the Escanaba, Michigan, American Legion All-Girl Drum and Bugle Corps, twice champion at Upper Michigan contests.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/47 Rempel, p. 14

11.2.1947

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 18

PACKERS 17

This loss dropped the Packers into a second-place tie with the Bears.

Green Bay again got out to an early 10-0 lead. A 69-yard pass from quarterback Jack Jacobs to Clyde Goodnight started the scoring. But the Packers struggled all game with Pittsburgh’s defense, and they made it into Steeler territory just four times.

With only a missed extra point separating them, the Packers led at halftime 10-9. But, a 55-yard pick-six by Tony Compagno gave the Steelers a 16-10 lead. In the fourth quarter, Pittsburgh sacked quarterback Jack Jacobs in the end zone for a safety and an 18-10 lead. The safety made all the difference, and the loss knocked the Packers out of first-place. The win was Pittsburgh’s first over Green Bay.

Pittsburgh 3 6 7 2 18
Green Bay 10 0 0 7 17
30,073
State Fair Park, Milwaukee

11.9.1947

PACKERS 17
CHICAGO
BEARS 20

During the game, Green Bay's phone line between the press box and the sideline failed. Lambeau questioned if the failure was really an accident, and he protested that the Bears continued to use their phone while Green Bay's was down.

The Packers got out to a very familiar 10-0 lead, with Ted Fritsch scoring the first touchdown. They had trouble building on it, even though the Bears turned the ball over nine times. The Bears scored twice before halftime. The first was an 81-yard pass from quarterback Sid Luckman to Ken Kavanaugh. After a Packer fumble, the Bears scored again for a 14-10 lead at the break.

The teams traded touchdowns in the second half, and when the Bears missed their extra point, it opened the door for a possible tie at 20-17. On the Packers' last drive, it took just six plays to get the Bears' 20-yard line. But with 12 seconds left, Ward Cuff's field goal attempt was blocked by Noah Mullins.

Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17
Chicago 0 14 6 0 20
46,112

*Ward Cuff told a story of how difficult it was to get Lambeau to pay the players. It got to a point where, "I went up to his office and said, 'Ok, Curly, pay up, or else you go out the window.'"*¹

¹ Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 54

11.16.1947

PACKERS 20
CHICAGO
CARDINALS 21

After a Paul Christman touchdown pass gave the Cardinals a 7-0 lead, the Packers scored the next 20 points. Ted Fritsch and Bob Forte scored touchdowns, while Ward Cuff and Fritsch booted field goals.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers "went flat, and the Cardinals just suddenly caught fire."¹

The Packers could not stop the Cardinals' ground game. Pat Harder and Elmer Angsman led both drives, and the Cards took back the lead 21-20. With 30 seconds left in the game from the 23-yard line, Ward Cuff missed the game-winner.

Green Bay 3 10 7 0 20
Chicago 7 0 0 14 21
40,086

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette/1947Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

11.23.1947

PACKERS 24
NEW YORK
GIANTS 24

A small crowd turned out to watch the winless Giants outplay the Packers. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's quarterback Jack Jacobs threw two touchdown passes to wrap up a fine three-touchdown performance.

In a nine-turnover game (GB 4, NY 5), the Packers scored first after a New York fumble. After the Giants tied it, Jack Jacobs threw an interception that sparked the Giants to another touchdown. New York had the edge at halftime 17-10.

In the third quarter, New York put to good use another interception as quarterback Paul Governali threw his second touchdown pass of the game. Green Bay struck back with an 80-yard drive and Jack Jacob's second touchdown pass. This one went to Jim Gillette, and it brought the Packers back to within seven. Jacobs kept his hot hand into the fourth quarter and connected with Nolan Luhn for the tying touchdown. In the final seconds, a 52-yard field goal attempt by Ted Fritsch fell short.

Green Bay 7 3 7 7 24
New York 14 3 7 0 24
27,939

11.30.1947

PACKERS 30
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 10

Having gone over one month without a win, the Packers finally took charge of this game in the second half. Trailing 3-2, Green Bay fell behind 10-2 in the third quarter when quarterback Bob Waterfield and Ray Hamilton hooked up for a touchdown.

Green Bay took charge behind a Ted Fritsch touchdown after a 73-yard drive. Tony Canadeo and Clyde Goodnight also scored touchdowns, while Fritsch cashed in at the end of another long drive. Green Bay's defense did its job. They picked off four passes and held Bob Waterfield to 90 yards passing.

Green Bay 2 0 14 14 30
Los Angeles 0 3 7 0 10
31,040

*NFL owners were concerned about profits dropping with competition with the rival All-America Football Conference. "It's easy to understand why crowds of 20,000 to 25,000 aren't big enough."*¹

¹ packershistory.net/1947Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

12.7.1947

PACKERS 35
DETROIT
LIONS 14

The Packers blowout the 3-7 Lions. Three touchdown passes by Jack Jacobs stole the show. Two of the touchdowns went to Clyde Goodnight. The defense came up big with five interceptions. Detroit didn't score until they were down 35-0 in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay 7 7 14 7 35
Detroit 0 0 0 14 14
14,055

*"The Philadelphia-Green Bay game next Sunday is a natural, so why not move it to Franklin Field (Philadelphia) or Municipal Stadium (Cleveland) where up to 100,000 can be seated... the present playing location is shabby Shibe Park where the limit is around 37,000."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/47, Daley, p. 17

12.14.1947

PACKERS 14
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES 28

The game was not moved to a bigger stadium which was fortunate since only 24,216 fans showed up! The Eagles intercepted six passes and never trailed. Three touchdown runs by Steve Van Buren put the game away. Van Buren finished the season with 1,008 yards, a new league record. Green Bay's points came on two touchdown passes by Jack Jacobs.

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14
Philadelphia 7 7 14 0 28
24,216

1947

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi. Cardinals	9	3	0
Chi. Bears	8	4	0
Green Bay	6	5	1
Los Angeles	6	5	0
Detroit	3	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Jacobs
Receiving	Luhn
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Forte

ALL-PRO

Canadeo	Fullback
Craig	Defensive End
Schlinkman	Fullback
Wildung	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Buddy Burris (5, G)
Bob Skoglund (13, E)



1948
Record: 3-9-0, 5th Place, Last
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- Green Bay opened on the road for the first time since 1924.
- Only six players remained from the 1944 championship team.
- New “working groups” appointed by the Executive Committee became more involved in daily operations. They clashed often with Lambeau. “At more than one executive committee meeting, he (Lambeau) was cuttingly referred to by men who were once his close friends as “that gentleman in the gray suit across the table.”¹

- Green Bay scored the fewest points in the league with 154.
- For the first time since 1934, Green Bay finished with a losing record.

¹ Packers of the Past, Milwaukee Journal, Kuechle, p. 47

9.17.1948

PACKERS **31**
 BOSTON
YANKS **0**

A Friday night opener on the road was an easy win for the Packers, but with 193 yards in penalties, it wasn't very pretty!

Green Bay's defense was dominant. It allowed just 16 yards rushing! The Redskins crossed midfield once, and they had a touchdown called back because of a penalty.

Green Bay had its way in the trenches. They pounded the ball for 274 yards rushing. Five different players scored—Ted Fritsch, Bob Forte, Nolan Luhn, Ralph Earhart, and Tony Canadeo. A field goal by Ted Fritsch got the scoring started, and the touchdowns came on both the ground and through the air. The Packers, however, were far from a well-oiled machine and they failed to capitalize on several scoring opportunities.

Green Bay **10 7 7 7 31**
Boston **0 0 0 0 0**
15,443

Total Yards: GB 361 BOS 126

9.26.1948

CHICAGO
BEARS **45**
PACKERS **7**

In a crushing loss to their chief rival, The Milwaukee Journal called it, "the worst thing that has happened to Green Bay since Prohibition."¹ Indeed.

The Packers were never in the game, and they didn't score until the fourth quarter. Three quarterbacks for the Bears—Sid Luckman, Bobby Layne, and Johnny Lujack—handled Green Bay easily. Lujack scored the first touchdown with a short scamper in the first quarter. A pick-six by Noah Mullins followed, and the Bears were on their way to a 31-0 first-half lead.

Luckman and Layne each threw touchdowns in the second half, while the ground attack remained unstoppable. The Bears rumbled for 240 yards on 54 carries. Defensively, they stole four passes, three by Lujack, and they held Green Bay to 183 yards overall.

Chicago	14	17	7	7	45
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7

25,546

Total Yards: CHI 317 GB 183

1 packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

10.3.1948

DETROIT

LIONS **21**

PACKERS **33**

With a very bumpy 1-1 start, Packers fans weren't sure if this year's squad was "one of Lambeau's greatest teams, as had been rumored, or whether it's showing against the Bears was the limit of its effectiveness."¹ While it took a little time to get rolling, the Packers woke up after the Lions went in front 7-0.

Green Bay took control with three touchdowns and a field goal in the second and third quarters. Quarterback Jack Jacobs hooked up with Clyde Goodnight for a 23-yard touchdown pass. Fullback Walt Schlinkman's 1-yard touchdown run gave Green Bay the lead before halftime.

The Packers stretched the lead to 23-7 before Detroit rallied. Halfback Joe Margucci starred for the Lions. He scored one touchdown and set up another with a lateral. The Lions closed the gap to five points before Tony Canadeo scored in the final minute.

Detroit	7	0	0	14	21
Green Bay	0	13	10	10	33

24,206

Total Yards: GB 426 DET 225

*One fan remembers Tony Canadeo: "Believe it or not, Tony Canadeo got my first two tickets for me. We found out where he lived in Green Bay and just dropped in on him. He and his wife Ruth accepted us for who we were, and it just started a friendship."*²

1 packershistory.net/1948Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 2)

2 Stadium Stories, D'Amato, p. 11

10.10.1948

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 17

PACKERS 7

"The Dream Backfield" for the Cardinals had a field day with the Packers. Elmer Angsman led the way with a 72-yard touchdown run and 146 yards rushing. Charley Trippi returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown, and he ran for 60 yards.

Leading 14-0 at halftime, the Cardinals had their way with the Packers the entire game. They gained more yards (376-231) and intercepted four passes. Pat Harder's field goal sealed the deal in the fourth quarter, and the Packers scored in the final minute.

After the loss, Lambeau was livid. "Salary adjustments will be made until we begin to play the brand of ball we're capable of. There was a decided lack of spirit."¹ He docked each player ½ of his weekly salary, which upset everyone.

Chicago 7 7 0 3 17

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7

34,369

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

10.17.1948

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 0

PACKERS 16

"The veteran, Green Bay coach, said he would wait until after next Sunday's game (Rams) to determine what players will receive the money which was withheld from this week's paychecks."¹

The Packers scored twice in the first half to take control. A 64-yard touchdown pass from Jack Jacobs to Ralph Earhart had the crowd on its feet. Minutes later, in the second quarter, an interception by Ted Cook put the Packers right back on track for the end zone. Walt Schlinkman ran it in from three yards out for a 13-0 lead. L.A. quarterback Bob Waterfield threw seven interceptions, and they turned it over nine times.

After the win, the players hoped Lambeau would return the salaries he withheld the previous week. He chose not to do so. Morale plummeted, and the Packers didn't win another game.

Los Angeles 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 6 7 3 0 16

25,119

Total Yards: GB 289 LA 335

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/48, p. 37

10.24.1948

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 23

PACKERS 7

The game began with a brilliant 96-yard kickoff return by Redskins rookie Don Standifer. Green Bay moved ahead 7-6 on a Jack Jacobs touchdown pass later in the first quarter. For the remainder of the contest, the Packers threatened but couldn't score. Their drives to Washington's 15, 5, 33, 9, and 3-yard lines were turned away either on downs or by turnovers. The team surely noticed that there 21,000 fewer fans at this game in Milwaukee than two weeks prior.

Washington 6 7 0 10 23

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7

13,433

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

10.31.1948

PACKERS 20

DETROIT

LIONS 24

The winless Lions took down the 3-3 Packers. Green Bay enjoyed an expected first-half lead on touchdown runs by Ted Fritsch and Tony Canadeo. Those touchdowns were wrapped around Bob Mann's touchdown catch for the Lions. After halftime, the Lions bounced back with 17 straight points to take control. Any hope of a Green Bay comeback was squashed when they fumbled twice in the final 10 minutes.

This was only the sixth win for Detroit over Green Bay (6-25) since 1934. That prompted the Milwaukee Journal to state, "so things have clearly reached a new low along the Fox."¹

Green Bay 7 7 0 6 20

Detroit 0 7 10 7 24

16,174

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

11.7.1948

PACKERS 7

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 38

To salvage the season, the Packers hoped for a strong finish on the road. It never materialized in Pittsburgh as nothing worked for Green Bay all game. Before the final 15

minutes, the closest the Packers came to scoring was the Steelers' 25-yard line. They finally scored a "consolation touchdown after the hand on the big clock had started its last trip around the dial."¹

Dissatisfaction with the team's performance and the coach continued to grow. A "Get Lambeau group consists of many citizens, including some former players. The poor showing of the team this year has given them a more effective weapon. However, a check of Packer Corporation directors indicates Lambeau's position is as strong as ever."²

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Pittsburgh 7 17 7 7 38
26,058

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers

² packershistory.net/1948 (News & Notes)

11.14.1948

PACKERS 6
CHICAGO
BEARS 7

This was a well-played game by the Packers, even though they came up short. It was a defensive struggle throughout, with 20 punts, 10 per team. Neither squad sustained many long drives, and the ball changed hands 29 times!

Green Bay played well against the first-place Bears. Chicago's rookie quarterback, Bobby Layne, broke the ice in the third quarter with a 34-yard touchdown pass to halfback George McAfee. The Packers rallied in the final five minutes with an 80-yard drive and a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jack Jacobs to Nolan Luhn. The extra point attempt sailed wide right. "The Packers are probably the worst team in the league the week before against Pittsburgh if our scout reports were right, and they were probably the best team in the league Sunday—even though we won,"¹ said Papa Bear Halas.

Green Bay 0 0 0 6 6
Chicago 0 0 7 0 7
48,113

The Packers "returned late last night after the great battle with the Bears in Chicago. It was something to behold and hear: More than 4,000 men, women, and children jammed in and around the station as the train pulled in through a dazzling lane of red lights... traffic completely blocked at least eight blocks in all directions... fire engines, siren screaming and spotlights flashing... factory whistles tooting as they haven't tooted in five or six years, except for VJ Day. The players, especially the newcomers getting their real Packer spirit baptism, were all but speechless."²

¹ packershistory.net/1948Packers (News & Notes, Milwaukee Journal)

² packershistory.net/1948Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

11.21.1948

NEW YORK

GIANTS 49

PACKERS 3

This was Green Bay's third straight loss in Milwaukee. Ted Fritsch's 24-yard field goal started the scoring, but after that, it was all Giants. They scored the next 49 points behind a stubborn defense that picked off nine passes. Quarterback Charlie Conerly also played a great game. Conerly threw for 334 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for a touchdown in the second half. Overall, Green Bay was outgained 445-232.

To date, the defeat was the worst in franchise history. Lambeau was embarrassed, and he commented, "the exhibition this afternoon was as sad a thing as I have ever seen."¹

New York 0 21 14 14 49

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

12,639

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

¹ packershistory.net/1948 (Milwaukee Journal)

11.28.1948

PACKERS 10

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 24

The Rams rolled over the Packers. Quarterback Bob Waterfield had a much better day than several weeks ago, and he threw for 206 yards and one touchdown. He also kicked one field goal and three extra points. L. A.'s defense held the Packers to eight first downs and 215 total yards, while their offense generated 490 yards.

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10

Los Angeles 7 7 7 3 24

23,874

12.5.1948

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 42

After a 7-7 first quarter, the Cardinals ran off the next 35 points. The three-headed monster in Chicago's backfield—Elmer Angsman, Charlie Trippi, and Pat Harder—put up 283 yards rushing.

Finishing 3-9 was the worst season in franchise history so far. The last time the Packers won as few as three games was 1921, when they played just six games. The Cardinals headed for a final game against the Bears for the conference title. The Cardinals won.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Chicago 7 7 7 21 42
26,072

1948

FINAL STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chi, Cardinals	11	1	0
Chi. Bears	10	2	0
Los Angeles	6	5	1
Green Bay	3	9	0
Detroit	2	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

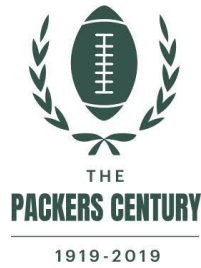
Passing	Jacobs
Receiving	Goodnight
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Cook

ALL-PRO

Tony Canadeo	Fullback
Dick Wildung	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jug Girard (1, B)
 Ed Smith (2, B)
 Jay Rhodemyre (7, C)
 Perry Moss (14, B)
 Stan Heath (25, B)



1949
Record: 2-10-0, 5th Place, Last
Coach: Curly Lambeau

- The team hit rock bottom. They scored the fewest points in the league (114) and gave up the most (329).
- Financial problems developed due to escalating salaries and poor play. By mid-November, the team had a deficit of \$90,000. A special event was planned for Thanksgiving Day, November 24th. This “\$50,000 Drive to Save The Packers” centered around an intrasquad game between players on the current team. At halftime, an alumni game honored the 1919 team. It was a resounding success raising \$50,000!
- A stock sale was approved for March 1950.
- After being shut out in the opener, Lambeau turned the coaching over to his assistants Charley Brock, Bob Snyder, and Tom Stidham. Lambeau would focus solely on rebuilding the franchise.
- Lambeau’s decision surprised the Executive Committee. The team continued to lose, and it opened the door to more board involvement in daily operations.
- A growing number of fans and the executive board thought Lambeau was distracted and enjoying his West Coast, Hollywood lifestyle too much.
- Tony Canadeo became the first Green Bay Packer, and the third player all-time, to run for over 1,000 yards in a season.

9.25.1949

CHICAGO

BEARS **17**
PACKERS **0**

Ouch! The Packers did not complete a pass the entire game, and the Bears won easily. Though Green Bay played with spirit and enthusiasm, it didn’t produce any points.

After a scoreless first 30 minutes, Chicago quarterback Johnny Lujack took over. After some physical extra-curriculars after the whistle, Lujack converted a field goal. In the fourth quarter, he threw touchdown passes to Ken Kavanaugh and J. R. Boone. Kavanaugh’s catch was spectacular, and Boone’s 37-yard touchdown came after a Green Bay fumble.

Four days later, Curly announced that he was turning the team over to his assistant coaches Charley Brock, Bob Snyder, and Tom Stidham. Curly felt this would give him the time he needed to rebuild the team. "My aim is to have a solid, spirited organization from the waterboy on up and to build the Packers into a championship club again."¹

Chicago 0 0 3 14 17
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
25,571

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/49, p. 13

10.2.1949
LOS ANGELES

RAMS 48
PACKERS 7

Curly Lambeau sat in the press box with Don Hutson and watched the game. There weren't a lot of plays to cheer. In the first quarter, the Rams scored on a pick-six by Frank Hubbell, and they never looked back. They ran for 247 yards, and they outgained Green Bay 425-285. The Packers didn't score their first points until after the Rams had scored 48.

The Manitowoc Herald-Times had this to say: "If Lambeau and others responsible can't see the moss on some of those ancient performers they've got hanging around the Packer club—well, the fans can, and they're the guys who pay the freight. Perhaps the Packer organization is not financially able to enter into the spirited bidding for the services of top college stars on the pro grid mart. If that is the case, someone had better find a solution to that vital problem, or Wisconsin is going to lose one of its most valuable assets, the Green Bay Packers."¹

Los Angeles 10 7 14 17 48
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
24,308

*"The Packers lost 15, yes—that's right—15 balls to light-fingered spectators. The result was a loss of approximately \$300 to the corporation. Footballs are \$18.75 each."*²

¹ packershistory.com/1949Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 5)

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/49, Rempel, p. 20

10.7.1949
PACKERS 19
NEW YORK

BULLDOGS 0

On a Friday night game in the Polo Grounds, Green Bay shut out the only team in the

league that won fewer games than they did. Quarterback Jug Girard led the offense, and Nolan Luhn and Tony Canadeo scored the touchdowns. Ted Fritsch kicked two field goals, and the Packers outgained New York 385-178.

Green Bay 0 9 3 7 19
New York 0 0 0 0 0
5,009

“The back judge marked the forward point of progress and waited for the pile of players to untangle. Three Bulldogs got up, then Tony Canadeo leaped to his feet. ‘You still in the league?’ cracked the official. ‘Aren’t you a little old to be running around out here?’ Canadeo bristled. A crimson flush swept over his face from his stubbled chin to his gray hair line. ‘Maybe,’ he snapped, ‘but I can still run a helluva lot better than you can see!’”¹

¹ packershistory.com/1949Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 14)

10.16.1949

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 39
PACKERS 17

The defending division champs were outgained but not outscored. They grabbed the lead just two minutes into the contest with the first of two interceptions that were returned for touchdowns. By halftime, they led comfortably 23-10.

The Cardinals’ strong running game of Charley Trippi, Pat Harder, and Elmer Angsman led a third-quarter touchdown drive that made the score 30-10. Their second pick-six gave them an insurmountable 37-10 lead. For the game, the Cardinals gained 213 of their 244 total yards on the ground. “We didn’t have too good of a team. Indian Jack Jacobs was our quarterback and Jug Girard. We’d get in trouble, and coach would say, ‘Ok, Stan (Heath) get in there.’ And he’d expect (rookie) Stan to pull us out of the fire.”¹

Chicago 17 6 14 2 39
Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17
18,464

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

¹ Dan Orlich: The last survivor of the Lambeau Era, Christl (packers.com)

10.23.1949

PACKERS 7
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 35

The Rams led 28-0 before Ted Fritch scored Green Bay’s only touchdown and kicked the

extra point. L.A. scored quickly in the first quarter with a Bob Waterfield touchdown pass and a 62-yard punt return by Tommy Kalmanir. In the second half, all three L.A. touchdowns came after Green Bay fumbles.

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
Los Angeles 14 0 14 7 35
37,546

*Green Bay's practice schedule, according to former Packer, Dan Orlich, looked like this: "Monday off. We did nothing but wind sprints Tuesday to get rid of all the booze, the hangovers. Then, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, we'd have a hell of a practice. Saturday, we were in sweatsuits."*¹

¹ Dan Orlich: The last survivor of the Lambeau Era, Christl (packers.com)

10.30.1949

DETROIT

LIONS 14
PACKERS 16

After last year's 3-9 finish, fans were rightfully anxious. After the team's 1-4 start, only 11,000 attended this game. The game was a slugfest with nearly 200 yards in penalties. Green Bay snapped its two-game losing streak, and they left the Lions alone in last place. After trailing at halftime, the Packers rallied with Tony Canadeo's touchdown run for a 9-7 lead. In the fourth quarter, "Jug" Girard's touchdown pass to Ted Cook sealed the deal.

Years later, teammate Bob Forte had this to say about the "Gray Ghost of Gonzaga," Tony Canadeo: "For a while, he was almost our whole offense. In 1949, we didn't have much of a team, but Tony gained more than 1,000 yards (5.1 yards per carry)."¹

Detroit 7 0 0 7 14
Green Bay 3 0 6 7 16
10,855

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Richard "Ike" Eisenhower, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

*Ike loved to watch Earl "Jug" Girard play football. Ike especially enjoyed when Jug, who played several positions for the Packers, was quarterback. "Jug used to jump in the air and throw his passes. I'll never forget him."*¹

¹ Greatest Packers of All-Time, Johnson, p. 85

11.6.1949

PACKERS 3
CHICAGO
BEARS 24

In a fairly even game, statistically, the Bears pulled away in the second half. Rookie George

Blanda's field goal opened the scoring, and it was followed by the first of two touchdown runs by Julie Rykovich.

It remained 10-3 into the fourth quarter when quarterback Johnny Lujack led the Bears on two long, 80-yard touchdown drives. On the first, Lujack scored on a 20-yard run. Rykovich's second touchdown run came a few minutes later.

For the game, the Packers were inside the red zone four times, and they came away with just three points.

Green Bay	0	0	3	0	3
Chicago	3	7	0	14	24

47,218

"Green Bay Packer football fans again demonstrated early this morning personal support for their football team, win or lose. A crowd estimated at 500 Packer fans was waiting at the Milwaukee Road Station at 12:40 a.m. today to welcome the Packers on their return from Chicago."¹ The Lumberjack Band and the cheering for Tony Canadeo were the highlights!

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/49, Yuenger, p. 17

11.13.1949

NEW YORK

GIANTS 30

PACKERS 10

Four Charley Conerly touchdown passes led New York to another easy win over Green Bay. Three of his four touchdowns went to halfback Gene "Choo-Choo" Roberts. Conerly threw for 342 yards! Green Bay's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on a 57-yard punt return by Ralph Earhart.

New York	10	0	14	6	30
Green Bay	0	3	0	7	10

20,151

Total Yards: GB 288 NY 456

"A hundred of this little city's businessmen banded together today with the slogan, 'Save the Packers.' They pledged \$50,000 as a backlog against the possible loss of \$90,000 this season."¹

"An intra-squad Thanksgiving Day football game, matching two Green Bay Packer teams, was arranged Monday by businessmen frankly worried about the club's financial condition. The group set out immediately to sell tickets, with a monetary goal of \$50,000."²

1 packershistory.net/1949Packers

2 packershistory.net/1949Packers

11.20.1949

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 30

PACKERS 7

Only 5,000 fans in Milwaukee came to witness this blowout. Surprisingly, though, it was close for three quarters. With the Steelers leading 14-7 in the fourth quarter, Carl Samuelson blocked a Packers punt by Jug Girard. It went out of the end zone for a safety. Pittsburgh cashed in with two more touchdowns and won easily.

Pittsburgh 0 7 7 16 30

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7

5,483

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Yards: GB 285 PGH 454

"A crowd of 20,000 is expected to pay \$50,000 to view the Green Bay Packers in an intra-squad game in City Stadium Thursday afternoon. Businessmen reported Wednesday night \$39,000 had already been collected, and no trouble was expected in meeting the \$50,000 quota. The Thanksgiving Day game was initiated to safeguard the Packers' reserve funds in a losing season. A big program of festivities is planned, including several thousand prizes for fans. Famous old Packer passing combinations will suit up and take part in the halftime ceremonies. Gov. Oscar Rennebohm will fly here to take part in the show."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1949Packers

11.27.1948

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 41

With new teams joining the league in 1950, this was the last Packer-Cardinal game until 1955. Chicago exploded for a 34-0 lead before the Packers snapped back with 21 points before halftime. Jug Girard tossed two touchdown passes, and Tony Canadeo scored on the ground to bring Green Bay back. Running back Elmer Angsman of the Cardinals scored the only points of the second half.

Green Bay 0 21 0 0 21

Chicago 27 7 0 7 41

16,787

12.4.1949

PACKERS **0**
WASHINGTON
REDSKINS **30**

Green Bay turned the ball over four times and managed just 10 first downs. In a positive comment about their performance, the Press-Gazette observed, "the Packers never gave up. In the last two minutes of the game, they traveled 69 yards in a brilliant attempt to score."¹

Green Bay **0 0 0 0 0**
Washington **0 13 17 0 30**
23,200

*Dan Orlich: "The Astor. That used to be the hangout. There was a nice room in the back. That's where all the guys and gals went. Everybody kind of soothed their wounds and drank a lot of beer. It was just a fun place to gather after the game, evenings and when practice was over."*²

1 packershistory.net/1949Packers

2 Dan Orlich: The last survivor of the Lambeau Era, Christl

12.11.1949

PACKERS **7**
DETROIT
LIONS **21**

The Lions struck first with a 64-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Frank Tripucka to Bob Mann. Green Bay tied it in the second quarter when Dan Orlich blocked a punt that Glenn Johnson fell on in the end zone. Frank Tripucka hooked up again with Mann and Paul Dudey ran for 67-yard touchdown that ended all doubt and Green Bay's 2-10 season.

Green Bay **0 7 0 0 7**
Detroit **7 0 0 14 21**
12,576

Curly Lambeau resigned in February 1950. For 31 years, he steered the Packers through the ups and downs of the young National Football League. His enormous success set the bar sky-high for those who followed. When Curly left Green Bay, the Packers had won six NFL championships, one more at the time than George "Papa Bear" Halas. Today, the Packers have won the most NFL titles (13), the city is known as "Titletown," and Lambeau Field is hallowed ground. Quite a legacy.

1949

WESTERN DIVISION

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Los Angeles	8	2	2
Chi. Bears	9	3	0
Chi. Cardinals	6	5	1
Detroit	4	8	0
Green Bay	2	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Girard
Receiving	Cook
Rushing	Canadeo
Scoring	Fritsch
Interceptions	Cook

ALL-PRO

Tony Canadeo	Fullback
Dick Wildung	Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Stan Heath (1, B)

Louis Ferry (2, T)

Bob Summerhays (4, B)

Dan Orlich (8, E)

1950s





1950
Record: 3-19-0, 5th Place, Last
Coach: Gene Ronzani

- On January 24th, the team's training facility—the Rockwood Lodge—burned down. The team's insurance company paid the Packers \$75,000 to help cover the loss.
- On February 1st, Curly Lambeau resigned after 31 years. He was replaced six days later by Gene Ronzani, an assistant coach with the Bears and a former Marquette star.
- To stabilize finances, the franchise's third stock sale began on April 12th. "Back the drive with \$25!" raised \$104,137.50.
- Three teams from the rival All American Football Conference were absorbed into the NFL—Cleveland, Baltimore, and San Francisco.
- Ronzani had experience with the T-Formation offense. He also hired Jack Vanisi as the team's chief talent scout.
- Bob Mann became the team's first African-American player.
- New green and gold uniforms made their debut.
- Green Bay's defense gave up 33 points a game. The offense committed the most turnovers in team history (57).

9.17.1950

DETROIT

LIONS **45**

PACKERS **7**

This is Green Bay's first game without Curly Lambeau. Gene Ronzani, the new coach, debuted with 25 players who were not on the roster in 1949.

Green Bay took an early 7-0 lead. The Lions answered with a resounding 45 points. Quarterback Bobby Layne threw for 232 yards and a touchdown. Green Bay turned it over eight times, including a 56-yard pick-six by Clarence Self that gave Detroit a 22-7 lead.

Green Bay's rookie quarterback Tobin Rote hurt his shoulder in the first half. He was replaced by Tom O'Malley, who promptly threw six interceptions.

Detroit	9	13	16	7	45
Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7

22,096

9.24.1950

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 21

PACKERS 35

After their opening loss, the Packers played with a sense of urgency in a bruising battle. Twenty-one penalties were called for over 200 yards!

Six minutes into the game, quarterback Sammy Baugh of the Redskins struck first with a touchdown pass. A Washington turnover allowed the Packers to tie it on a Paul Christman touchdown pass to Ted Cook. An 85-yard punt return by Billy Grimes made it 14-7 at half.

Big plays—a blocked punt by Ed Neal and a fumble recovery by Abner Wimberly—changed the game in the second half. Green Bay capitalized on both. In the second half, their three touchdowns came from the 1, 2, and 3-yard lines.

Washington	7	0	7	7	21
Green Bay	0	14	14	7	35

14,109

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Before the Packers arrived in Milwaukee, they “were roundly trounced by the Detroit Lions in their league opener at Green Bay, 45-7. But that will make no difference. They will be welcomed like champions. They will be serenaded at the Schroeder Hotel Saturday morning at 10 o'clock by the Miller Brewery Band, driven through downtown Milwaukee in convertibles, and then taken to the stadium site for practice. A loudspeaker will be set up at the practice field to help acquaint fans with the players. A similar public workout in Green Bay several weeks ago drew 7,500 fans.”¹

¹ packershistory.net/1950Packers

10.1.1950

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

PACKERS 31

The Bears won the statistical battle with more yards, more first downs, and more completed passes. They led 7-3 at halftime, but they also had a turnover problem. Chicago

turned the ball over five times in the second half. Green Bay picked off four Johnny Lujack passes to take the game away. Two of the thefts were returned for touchdowns by cornerbacks Wally Dryer and Rebel Steiner. After halftime, a 68-yard punt return by Billy Grimes provided the winning points. In the fourth quarter, the teams traded touchdowns, and the Packers protected the lead for the upset.

Chicago **0 7 7 7 21**
Green Bay **3 0 21 7 31**
24,893

*"The man who has never missed a Packer home game, John W. Johnson of Bessemer, Michigan, kept his record intact Sunday."*¹

10.8.1950
NEW YORK

YANKS **44**
PACKERS **31**

The Packers fell back to .500 when their second-half comeback fell short. The surprising Yanks took the lead in the second quarter and never faltered. Near the end of the first half, a poor punt gave them great field position. After they converted to take a 10-3 lead, a few plays later, they picked off Tobin Rote and capitalized for a 17-3 halftime lead.

In a 41-point third quarter, each team scored three times. The Yanks never lost the lead, but Green Bay got to within six points twice. On both occasions, running back George Taliaferro of the Yanks responded. He scored two touchdowns on a 37-yard pass from quarterback George Ratterman and a 24-yard touchdown run that put it out of reach.

Both teams generated 811 total yards. After the game, Ronzanni commented, "I think our little lambs, our little acorns, are getting a few roots. They're getting a feel of some of these big teams with great personnel."¹

New York **3 14 20 7 44**
Green Bay **3 0 21 7 31**
23,871

GB ran for 312 yards.

*"Supplementing the customary halftime performance of the Lumberjack Band and its majorettes was the appearance of 'Miss Wisconsin Potatoe for 1950.' She is Miss Agnes Ourada of Antigo. A highlight of the between halves entertainment was the performance of the West High School Band."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/50, Rummel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/50, Rummel, p. 17

10.15.1950

PACKERS 14

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

The 14-point favorite Bears wanted to deliver some payback for two weeks ago. In a tough battle of rivals, the Packers grabbed a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. The Bears responded with a vengeance and ripped off four straight touchdown runs. The Packers didn't score again until the fourth quarter when they trailed 28-7.

Quarterback Johnny Lujack scored three of Chicago's touchdowns, and he also kicked the four extra points. The Packers struggled sustaining drives all game, and they punted 11 times. They also turned the ball over three times.

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14

Chicago 0 7 14 7 28

51,065

Three Green Bay fans "paraded the length of the east sidelines bearing a huge red banner upon which was printed Beat The Bears! They were waylaid, however, by Business Manager Rudy Custer of the Bears who "urged" them to leave the field. They disappeared, so Custer thought. Moments later, the persistent fellows appeared on the west sidelines, again sporting the banner. This time they went they distance unmolested."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/50, Rimmel, p. 19

10.19.1950

PACKERS 17

NEW YORK

YANKS 35

In a quick rematch at Yankee Stadium on a Thursday night, "the Packers were hardly out of the dressing room"¹ when they found themselves in a 14-0 hole. Tobin Rote's fumble inside the five-yard line led to the 14-0 start. Green Bay rebounded with 10 points in the second quarter, but the Yanks hit again before halftime.

In the third quarter, the Packers cut the lead to 11 when Rote and Al Baldwin connected on an 85-yard touchdown. The Yanks ended any further comeback noise by Green Bay with a pick-six by linebacker Duke Iverson.

Green Bay 0 10 7 0 17

New York 14 7 7 7 35

13,661

Bert Bell, NFL Commissioner: "Green Bay belongs in any big-time pro football setup, and I, for one, will do everything in my power to keep it there. There isn't the slightest doubt in my mind that the

*Packers will come back strong."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1950Packers

² packershistory.net/1950Packers

11.5.1950

PACKERS 21

BALTIMORE

COLTS 41

After a 16-day break from the gridiron, the Packers met a new team from the former All-America Football Conference (AAFC). Though Green Bay was favored, the Colts piled up 506 yards of offense in a surreal performance.

Green Bay led 7-0 in the second quarter before fullback Jim Spavital of the Colts scored twice. He nearly matched his 46-yard touchdown run in the second quarter with a 45-yard touchdown catch from quarterback Y. A. Tittle.

In the fourth quarter, Spavital sprinted 96 yards from scrimmage for another six. With the Packers holding a 21-20 lead, the Colts intercepted three passes and returned each one for a touchdown. This was Baltimore's only win in its first year in the NFL.

Green Bay 7 7 7 0 21

Baltimore 0 14 0 27 41

12,971

*At Austin Straubel Field, "there were more than 1,000 fans there to welcome the team despite the 41-21 loss at Baltimore. Most of the players felt a bit sheepish as they stepped off the plane and waited for their luggage. Head Coach Gene Ronzani said 'You can't beat these fans anywhere.'"*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/50, p. 17

11.12.1950

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 45

PACKERS 14

A complete blowout, with the Packers trailing 24-0 at halftime. They turned the ball over nine times, including four interceptions thrown by Tobin Rote. Green Bay didn't score until they trailed 45-0.

Los Angeles 3 21 14 7 45

Green Bay 0 0 0 14 14

20,456

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

11.19.1950

PACKERS 21

DETROIT

LIONS 24

A steady rain was a big factor as both squads coughed up the ball 11 times (GB 5, DET 6). Overall, it was an even game with Detroit's rookie Doak Walker being the difference.

Walker scored all of Detroit's points. In the second quarter, he caught a 33-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bobby Layne. He also booted a 35-yard field goal. Walker caught another touchdown from Layne in the third quarter, and with under two minutes left in the game, he clinched it with a third touchdown catch. The winner was thrown with Walker, "all alone in the end zone."¹ He also kicked the extra points.

Green Bay 0 14 0 7 21

Detroit 0 10 7 7 24

17,752

Each team intercepted four passes.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/50, Daley, p. 19

11.26.1950

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 21

PACKERS 25

Another team from the former All-American Football Conference (AAFC) visited Green Bay. They were greeted, said the Press-Gazette, with "the worst winter game weather conditions in the history of Packer competition anywhere."¹

The Packers went ahead in the wind and snow with touchdowns by Tony Canadeo and Billy Grimes for a 13-7 edge at halftime. However, the Niners came back after intermission and capitalized on two Green Bay fumbles for a 21-13 lead.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers got a huge break when Frankie Albert's punt "went straight up in the air and blew out of bounds on the 14-yard line."² In four plays, Green Bay cut the lead to two, but they missed the extra point. Breezy Reid won it with three minutes left when he took a pass from quarterback Paul Christman and went 44 yards for the win!

San Francisco 7 0 14 0 21

Green Bay 7 6 0 12 25

13,196

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/50, Daley, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/50, Daley, p. 19

12.3.1950

PACKERS 14

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 51

The Rams blew out the Packers with 550 yards of total offense, including 31 first downs. Green Bay scored first, but not again until it was far too late in the fourth quarter. The Packers punted 11 times and generated just 13 first downs.

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

Los Angeles 0 16 21 14 51

39,323

12.10.1950

PACKERS 14

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 30

The Packers scored first on a beautiful 96-yard touchdown pass from Tobin Rote to Billy Grimes. The 49ers scored the next 24 points. The Niners ran for 223 yards while Green Bay managed only 31. But all 31 yards belonged to Tony Candeo, who passed Clarke Hinkle as Green Bay's all-time leading rusher.

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14

San Francisco 10 14 0 6 30

20,797

1950

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Los Angeles	9	3	0
Chicago Bears	9	3	0
Chicago Cardinals	6	5	1
New York	7	5	0
Detroit	6	6	0
Green Bay	3	9	0
San Francisco	3	9	0
Baltimore	1	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Baldwin
Rushing	Grimes
Scoring	Grimes
Interceptions	Steiner

ALL-PRO

Grimes	Halfback
Neal	Defensive Tackle
Tonnemaker	Center/Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Clayton Tonnemaker (1, C)

Tobin Rote (2, QB)

Larry Coutre (4, RB)

Jack Cloud (6, RB)



1951

Record: 3-9-0, 5th Place

Coach: Gene Ronzani

- Coach Ronzani angered many fans when he moved training camp to Minnesota.
- Veteran fullback Ted Fritsch was released, and several players began serving in Korea.
- The Packers unveiled an offense with a backfield of just one running back and the quarterback. They also ran it with both backs flanked out beyond the tackles.
- Green Bay passed more than any team. Their 2,846 passing yards stood as a Packers record into the 1970s.
- Quarterback Tobin Rote led the team in both passing and rushing. Halfback Billy Grimes also starred on the offense. The defense showed slight improvement, but they lost their last seven games.

9.30.1951

CHICAGO

BEARS 31
PACKERS 20

Coach Gene Ronzani faced his former team in the opener. Over 200 yards in penalties made this a physical grudge match. The Bears jumped in front 17-0 before Bob Mann's second-quarter touchdown catch got the Packers on the board. Green Bay's new one-back offense started slowly and looked more cohesive in the second half.

In the final 30 minutes, Chicago scored first, but the Packers kept coming back. They had trouble running the ball, however. While the Bears ran for 163 yards, Green Bay generated just 64. Green Bay threw the ball 38 times for 238 yards compared to 174 passing yards for the Bears. In the second half, the teams traded touchdowns. Fullback Jack Cloud scored a second touchdown for Green Bay, but it was not enough.

This loss irked fans who didn't like Gene Ronzani because of his previous connection to the Bears. Defensive end Dan Orlich didn't like him. As he tells it, "I didn't think a lot of him. He would get up and talk. He'd look at the floor, at the ceiling, at the windows. He wouldn't look at you. I think he was very self-conscious."¹

Chicago 10 7 7 7 31
Green Bay 0 6 7 7 20
24,666

"In my rookie season, we were getting ready to go up there, and Halas tells us that in Green Bay, you keep your helmet on while on the bench. We played at old Green Bay East High School, and the Bears' bench was very close to the stands. People will throw beer cans at you."²

¹ Dan Orlich: The last survivor of the Lambeau Era, Christl

² Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 146

10.7.1951

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 33
PACKERS 35

Only 8,000 fans showed up on this rainy afternoon to watch one of the most exciting games ever played in Milwaukee. The Packers took a 21-0 lead behind touchdown catches by Billy Grimes, Bob Mann, and Ray Pelfrey. A second-quarter touchdown run by quarterback Tobin Rote put the score at 28-0.

Green Bay's new offense was clicking, and it produced 393 yards. But the Steelers recovered from the onslaught and ran off 23 unanswered points. By halftime, it was 28-23 Packers.

In the first minute of the second half, a pick-six by Jim Finks gave Pittsburgh the lead 30-28. In the fourth quarter, after a Steeler field goal, the Packers countered with Rote's touchdown pass to Bob Mann. But the touchdown was called back because of a penalty on the Packers. On their second try from the 16-yard line, Rote and Mann connected to win it!

Pittsburgh 0 23 10 0 33
Green Bay 21 7 0 7 35
8,324

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 393 PGH 283

10.14.1951

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 24
PACKERS 37

The points started early as Green Bay's Bob Mann and Pete Pihos of the Eagles caught first-quarter touchdowns. It would be the first of three for Bob Mann!

A 7-7 game blew up in the second half. Green Bay's quarterback Bob Thomason threw three touchdown passes, and Tobin Rote added another. Green Bay took control with 27 unanswered points. With an 88-yard pick-six by Bob Summerhays of the Packers, they led 37-10. The Eagles scored twice in the fourth quarter while Bob Mann scored his third touchdown. They struggled with just 66 yards against a stout Green Bay defense, and they turned it over five times.

Philadelphia 0 7 3 14 24
Green Bay 7 0 10 20 37
18,489

"I've never seen such spirit as the fans give this team," said an Eagles' equipment man. ¹

"St. Mary, defending champion and present leader of the Parochial Football League defeated St. Joseph 6-0 in an abbreviated game played between halves. Peter Cegelski scored St. Mary's touchdown on a short plunge."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/51, Rempel, p. 26

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/51, Rempel, p. 26

10.21.1951
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **28**
PACKERS **0**

A much bigger crowd than two weeks prior, but the all-night rain kept many fans at home. Packer fans came to see not just their team but also the stars from the West Coast. Quarterbacks Bob Waterfield and Norm Van Brocklin excited the crowd along with Wisconsin's own Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch!

On a muddy field, the Packers missed two early chances to take the lead. After a scoreless 30 minutes, the game quickly turned into a rout. The Rams had no difficulty moving the ball. They ran for 323 yards and generated 502 overall. A 79-yard touchdown run by "Deacon" Dan Towler started scoring for the Rams. Both Waterfield and Van Brocklin threw touchdowns, and their 21-point fourth-quarter barrage ended it. Near the end of the game, an angry Ronzani and the Green Bay bench was penalized 15 yards for excessive protesting.

Los Angeles **0** **0** **7** **21** **28**

Green Bay **0** **0** **0** **0** **0**

21,393

State Fair Park, Milwaukee

GB – Rote + Thomason = 22-50-243-0-1.

"Over 500 employees and distributors of the Miller Brewing Company, together with the Miller Band, were guests of the firm at the game. The band and its drum majorettes also contributed to the festivities with a between halves performance."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/51, Rempel, p. 18

10.28.1951

PACKERS **29**
NEW YORK
YANKS **27**

"It was all New York for the first three periods."¹ Quarterback Bob Celeri threw two touchdown bombs of 52 and 75 yards for a 21-6 lead at intermission. Green Bay's only points came on Bob Mann's touchdown catch.

The Packers roared back for the biggest fourth-quarter comeback in team history prior to 2018. They rode the arm of quarterback Bob Thomason, who had replaced Tobin Rote late in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, Thomason threw three touchdown passes in five minutes! Ray Pelfrey caught the first to complete an 80-yard drive. Jug Girard's 75-

yard touchdown catch came next, and a 15-yard pass to Tony Canadeo put Green Bay on top 26-21.

After a short punt by the Packers, the Yanks scored again. Bob Celeri's third touchdown pass reclaimed the lead 27-26. On the game's final drive, the Packers moved quickly from their 47, and with 11 seconds on the clock, Fred Cone won it with a 16-yard field goal!

Green Bay 0 6 0 23 29
New York 14 7 0 6 27
7,351

This was Green Bay's last win of the season.

1 Associated Press, 10/29/51, p. 19

11.4.1951

DETROIT

LIONS 24
PACKERS 17

On a windy, 17-degree day, passing still ruled the gridiron. The Packers threw 44 times for nearly 300 yards and one touchdown. Detroit launched 15 aerials for 162 yards and three scores.

The game started slowly with field goals by Fred Cone and Doak Walker. After a 3-3 first half, Bobby Layne and big Leon Hart connected for two touchdowns. The first came after the Lions stole the football from Tony Canadeo. The second came after another Green Bay fumble. The late comeback by Green Bay fell short when Lane threw his second touchdown to Hart and a 47-yard bomb to Walker to put it beyond reach. Ronzani summed it up with, "You can't make mistakes and not feel the blow."¹

Detroit 0 3 7 14 24
Green Bay 3 0 0 14 27
18,800

"West High School's colorful band, under the direction of Lester Slornicka, entertained between halves, presenting a variety of formations. Nearly 1,000 northeastern Wisconsin carrier boys 675 of the Press-Gazette's and 300 from the Appleton Post-Crescent, were guests of the two newspapers at the game."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/51, Rimmel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/51, Rimmel, p. 17

11.11.1951

PACKERS 7
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS 28

This was a vicious battle with two ejections and 19 penalties. Infractions totaled 186 yards, with the Steelers cited for 126.

Pittsburgh ran the ball 51 times for 176 yards and three touchdowns. The winning margin came when they capitalized on an interception for a 14-0 lead. The Packers were outgained 324-218. Their only points came with two minutes left on a Tobin Rote pass to Bob Mann.

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Pittsburgh 14 7 0 7 28
20,080

Seventeen Packers were injured in this game.

11.18.1951

PACKERS 13
CHICAGO
BEARS 24

Green Bay's offense featured both running backs spread out as receivers. Quarterback Tobin Rote led the Packers on the ground (150 yards) and with his passing (88 yards).

Green Bay surprised everyone in the first half. Don Moselle ran for six, and Tobin Rote's touchdown pass to Tony Canadeo gave them a 13-10 lead. But in the second half, they were unable to capitalize on several opportunities.

The Bears began their comeback starting on the opening drive of the half. Tobin Rote fumbled on Chicago's 11-yard line after being hit by George Connor. Chicago recovered, and quarterback Johnny Lujack led them 89 yards for the go-ahead score. With the score at 17-13, the Bears' defense stiffened, and the Packers were stopped twice inside the 10-yard line without points. "What they didn't do with a couple of touchdowns in their grasp will undoubtedly be talked about on cold winter evenings in Green Bay."¹

Green Bay 0 13 0 0 13
Chicago 3 7 7 7 24
36,771

Penalty Yards: GB 130 CHI 108

¹ packershistory.net/1950Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

11.22.1951

PACKERS 35

DETROIT

LIONS 52

This was the first of what became the traditional Thanksgiving Day game between the Lions and the Packers. This holiday classic continued through 1963. For the first one, 24 million viewers watched, and the 12 touchdowns provided riveting entertainment. The 52 points by the Lions were the most Green Bay had given up to date.

The Packers led early, 21-10, before the stronger Lions got in gear. They dominated the rest of the way as Bobby Layne caught fire and threw four touchdown passes. Two punts were also returned for touchdowns, and a kickoff was returned for six more.

The 87 total points came with 946 yards of offense. Green Bay's bright spot? Quarterback Tobin Rote had quite a performance: 131 yards rushing, 200 yards passing, and three touchdowns!

Green Bay 14 7 7 7 35
Detroit 10 21 21 0 52
32,247

"A great story was when Bobby Layne and the Lions were in town," said Chuck Layne, former Packers director of public relations. 'Bobby was drinking martinis, and after about the third pail, his teammates had to carry Bobby home.' With that, Wally (the owner) went and called his bookie and loaded up on the Packers. The next day, of course, Bobby Layne threw for about five (touchdowns) and murdered the Packers. Wally's only comment after losing his shirt was, 'I don't mind losing the bet, but the son of a bitch never paid his bill.'"¹

Tony Canadeo & Ed Neal: "Coming back to the huddle, big Packer offensive tackle Ed Neal told Tony Canadeo, 'Run it up my butt.' Neal was sure he could move Detroit's big defensive tackle Les Bingamen out of the way. On the play, Canadeo got hammered. After two unsuccessful tries, Neal insisted on one more try. After getting beaten up by Bingamen twice, Canadeo told Neal, 'You come back here now, and I'll go up there, and you can run it up my butt.'"²

¹ Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 21

² What a Game They Played, Whittingham, p. 217

12.2.1951

NEW YORK

YANKS 31

PACKERS 28

The Packers retired Don Hutson's #14. Arnie Herber and Johnny Blood were among several former stars that returned to congratulate the great Hutson. Along with Herber,

Hutson changed pro football from primarily a running game to one where the forward pass played a more prominent role.

After touchdowns by Tony Canadeo and Ray Pelfrey, Tobin Rote's 55-yard touchdown run made it 21-7 Packers. The team collapsed in the fourth quarter against the winless Yanks (0-7-2). Quarterback Bob "Celery Head" Celeri brought the Yanks back with three touchdowns in six plays. Two came just 15 seconds apart! Celeri threw touchdown passes of 53, 31, and 41 yards. The Packers turned the ball over seven times, and the big-play offense of the Yanks dampened the festivities.

New York 0 7 3 21 31
Green Bay 7 0 14 7 28
14,297

12.9.1951

PACKERS 19
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 31

Here was an exciting game that had six lead changes. Two touchdown passes by Tobin Rote and two field goals by Fred Cone had Green Bay in the lead 19-17 going into the fourth quarter. San Francisco turned it around with quarterback Frankie Albert directing two quick scoring drives to win it.

Green Bay ran for just 42 yards, and they were outgained overall by more than 200 yards (448-223). Tobin Rote also threw three interceptions.

Green Bay 3 10 6 0 19
San Francisco 3 7 7 14 31
15,121

Former Packer Dan Orlich, on the train ride West: "We'd make another stop in Wyoming and practice. All the people on the train would watch us. Then we'd stop in the middle of Nevada and work out for 45 minutes. It seemed like we'd stop in the middle of the damn desert. People would get out and watch us. They didn't care if we were a little late."¹

¹ Dan Orlich: Last survivor of the Lambeau Era, Christl

12.16.1951

PACKERS 14
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 42

The quarterbacks for both teams, Tobin Rote and Bob Waterfield, each fired two

touchdown passes in the first half. The Rams took complete control in the second half as Waterfield threw three more touchdowns. Green Bay outgained L.A. 424-407, but they turned the ball over five times. The Packers finished 3-9 for the second straight season.

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14
Los Angeles 14 0 14 14 42
23,698

1951

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Los Angeles	8	4	0
Detroit	7	4	1
San Francisco	7	4	1
Chicago	7	5	0
Green Bay	3	9	0
New York	1	9	2

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Mann
Rushing	Rote
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Girard

ALL-PRO

Rhodemyre Center

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Bob Gain (1, T)
 Fred Cone (3, FB, K)
 Ray Pelfrey (17, RB)



1952
Record: 6-6-0, 4th Place
Coach: Gene Ronzani

- A great draft helped immediately. Rookies Babe Parilli (QB) and Billy Howton (E) led the team in passing and receiving.
- Howton led the NFL in receiving yards (1,231), and he broke Don Hutson's team record

set in 1942. He caught 53 passes, many from his old college quarterback Tobin Rote.

- While the defense improved, the Packers were the most penalized team in the league.
- A four-game winning streak was their longest since 1944. With a 6-3 record, the Packers lost their final three games. The 6-6 finish was their best since 1947.
- Three games were played at Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee.
- This was Tony Canadeo's final season. His #3 was retired on Tony Canadeo Day!

9.28.1952

CHICAGO

BEARS	24
PACKERS	14

The season opener was another chippy game between rivals; 21 flags flew for a total of 186 penalty yards. Green Bay took a 7-3 lead late in the first half. John Martinkovic blocked a Chicago quick-kick to set up quarterback Tobin Rote, who scored a few plays later.

In the second half, the Bears took control when signal-caller Bob Williams and fullback "Kayo" Dottley connected for a 10-7 lead. Then, on consecutive plays, Chicago's Ed Sprinkle sacked Rote on third down and blocked the ensuing field goal attempt. The block gave the Bears great field position, and they scored minutes later to lead 17-7.

After Dottley's 45-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter made it 24-7, Rote and Billy Howton connected to wrap up the scoring. George Halas was now 3-0 against his former pupil and assistant coach, Gene Ronzani. The Bears also outgained the Packers 392-239.

Chicago	3	0	7	14	24
Green Bay	0	7	0	7	14
24,656					

10.5.1952

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS	20
PACKERS	35

Only 9,000 fans came out in Milwaukee to see Green Bay's first game during the regular season against their former coach Curly Lambeau. The team expected close to 20,000.

Curly Lambeau and his Redskins came to Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee and felt the sting of two exuberant Green Bay rookies. Quarterback Babe Parilli and end Billy Howton

struck gold early with an 89-yard touchdown pass. The Packers never trailed in the game, and Parilli threw another touchdown pass to fellow quarterback Tobin Rote late in the contest.

In between the sensational passing, the Packers ran for 178 yards. A trio of running backs scored for Green Bay: Breezy Reid, Tony Canadeo, and Fred Cone. After the contest, Curly Lambeau graciously acknowledged Green Bay's win. "The Packer team outplayed us and out-gamed us all the way. We were just outfought today—I have no alibis."¹

Washington 7 0 7 6 20

Green Bay 7 14 7 7 35

9,657

Marquette Stadium, Milwaukee

"Milwaukee's notoriously fickle fans were behind the Packers all the way. They gave them a round of applause as they left the field at intermission, and in the late stages wherever the Packers lost possession."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/52, Rempel, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/52, Rempel, p. 16

10.12.1952

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 30

PACKERS 28

"After 45 minutes of the finest football ever played by a Green Bay team in Milwaukee,"¹ the Packers let a 28-6 lead slip away at Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee. Before slipping, Tobin Rote led Green Bay with two touchdown passes; one each to Bob Mann and Billy Howton.

In the fourth quarter, everything went right for the Rams, and they stunned the Packers with 24 unanswered points. "Deacon" Dan Towler's 1-yard plunge started the run. A third field goal by Bob Waterfield and a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown sliced the Green Bay lead to 28-23. With four minutes left, L.A. took over on their 8-yard line. Waterfield's strong arm took them downfield in seven impressive plays. Towler's second touchdown run finished off the Packers.

Longtime Green Bay player and coach Dave Hanner called this defeat one of the biggest disappointments of his long career.

Los Angeles 0 6 0 24 30

Green Bay 7 7 14 0 28

21,693

Marquette Stadium, Milwaukee

Jim Becker, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

After Jim and Pat Becker had their first of 11 children, Pat's mom was going to babysit so Pat could go to this Packer game with Jim. Pat's dad, however, convinced his daughter Pat to stay home with her mom and the baby while he went to the game with Jim!

*"Fans in the bleachers at the south end were highly vocal, particularly before halftime. 'We want a touchdown!' 'We want a touchdown!' a la high school."*²

* Interview: 2/28/17

¹ packershistory.net/1952Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/52, Rimmel, p. 18

10.18.1952

PACKERS 24

DALLAS

TEXANS 14

This was the Packers' first regular-season win in Dallas, Texas. Tobin Rote threw two touchdown passes, and Babe Parilli threw one to help the Packers to victory. A fumble by Dallas at midfield led to a 7-0 Green Bay lead on Tobin Rote's touchdown pass to Bob Mann. Before halftime, the Texans scored twice to go in front 14-7.

In the final 30 minutes, Green Bay's defense stiffened. Big John Martinkovic "swiped the ball from (quarterback) Bob Celeri on the statue of liberty play."¹ Rote then found Howton for a 22-yard score to tie the game. In the fourth quarter, the game-winner came after Bobby Dillon's interception. The theft led to Parilli's 10-yard touchdown pass to Billy Howton to finish off Dallas.

Green Bay 7 0 10 7 24

Dallas 0 14 0 0 14

14,000

Several hundred fans were at Austin Straubel Field Sunday afternoon to congratulate the Packers!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/52, Daley, p. 2

10.26.1952

DETROIT

LIONS 52

PACKERS 17

The Packers hoped to snap a five-game losing streak to the Lions. Unfortunately, they went down in flames. The Packers outgained Lions 423-384, but they didn't come close to outscoring them. They fell behind 14-0, and it did not get better. They trailed 28-10 at halftime and 42-17 after 45 minutes.

Quarterbacks Tobin Rote and Babe Parilli threw for 380 yards and two touchdowns. But Green Bay committed nine turnovers, including five interceptions. Former Packer Jug Girard haunted his old team by catching two touchdown passes from Bobby Layne.

Detroit **14 14 14 10 52**
Green Bay **7 3 7 0 17**
24,656

“The Green Bay’s Women’s Quarterback Club is having another ‘first.’ The club announced plans to have its own cheering section at the Packer-Bear game on November 9th. Members of the club and their guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in this group to provide (a) concentrated effort in support of the team.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/52, p. 15

11.2.1952

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **10**
PACKERS **12**

“We expected this to be the toughest game on our schedule, and it was,”¹ said Philadelphia coach Jim Trimble. In a defensive battle at Marquette Stadium in Milwaukee, the Packers won despite six turnovers, including interceptions thrown by Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote.

A fumble by Green Bay’s Fred Cone led to an early 3-0 Philadelphia lead. The Packers went in front 6-3 on a 21-yard touchdown toss pass from Parilli to Floyd “Breezy” Reid. It stayed 6-3 until the fourth quarter when Tobin Rote threw an interception to Russ Craft, who returned it 30 yards for a touchdown and a 10-6 Eagles lead.

With all 10 Philadelphia points coming after Green Bay turnovers, the Eagles held on until late. When they were forced to punt from their 10-yard line, it was blocked by Deral Teteak. Defensive end John Martinkovic recovered for Green Bay and went five yards for the win!

Philadelphia **3 0 0 7 10**
Green Bay **6 0 0 6 12**
10,149

Marquette Stadium, Milwaukee

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/52, Rummel, p. 20

11.9.1952

PACKERS 41

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

The game was Tony Canadeo's last at Wrigley Field as a member of the Packers. It was also Green Bay's first win at Wrigley Field since 1941!

The Packers had very little trouble with Chicago as Canadeo pitched-in with 61 yards on 11 attempts. Quarterbacks Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote both threw for touchdowns. Parilli's 19-yard toss to Billy Howton struck the first blow. After a Chicago kickoff return tied it, Fred Cone scored the next 17 with two touchdowns, a field goal, and two extra points.

After a second kickoff return for a touchdown by Chicago, the Packers didn't let the Bears "inside the Bay 45 until the last seven minutes of the game."¹ Leading 24-17, another 17-point outburst by the Packers ended any doubt. Parilli's second touchdown to Bob Mann made it 41-14! The defense allowed two late touchdowns, but they had no trouble with Chicago, allowing just 164 total yards.

Green Bay 7 10 7 17 41

Chicago 7 0 7 14 28

41,751

Total Yards: GB 390 CHI 164

*"In addition to that post-game snake dance down the field, a number of jubilant Green Bay partisans cut a sprightly rug below the stands—to the accompaniment of a four-piece band."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/52, Daley, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/52, Rummel, p. 22

11.16.1952

PACKERS 17

NEW YORK

GIANTS 3

A dominant performance by the 4-3 Packers upset the favored Giants. The first-place Giants scored their only points in the first quarter and took a 3-0 lead. In the second quarter, a New York fumble was recovered near midfield by Clarence Self of the Packers. Green Bay took full advantage of the miscue, and with less than a minute left in the half, quarterback Babe Parilli took it in from the 1-yard line.

On the first possession of the second half, with Green Bay leading 7-3, New York quarterback Charlie Conerly fumbled. Hal Faverty of the Packers recovered, and Babe Parilli connected with Bob Mann to stretch the lead to 14-3. Though the Packers were outgained 226-121, they countered with fumble recoveries and three interceptions.

Green Bay 0 7 7 3 17
New York 0 3 0 0 3
26,723

“Nearly 1,000 fans braved a cold, late-night rain to greet the Packers in November 1952 upon their return home from New York after a victory that knocked the Giants out of a first-place tie in the NFL’s American Conference.”¹

1 Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 150

11.24.1952

DALLAS

TEXANS 14
PACKERS 42

Before their last home game of the season got underway, the Packers honored Tony Canadeo for 11 fantastic seasons in green and gold. The “Gray Ghost of Gonzaga” returned the fans’ boisterous cheers by opening and closing the game with touchdowns!

Despite turning the ball over seven times, the Packers never trailed. Quarterbacks Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote each threw two touchdowns passes, and the offense put up 340 yards. The Texans were held to 45 yards on the ground and 187 overall.

“We made a lot of mistakes, but the kids fought back and overcame them,”¹ said a happy Coach Ronzani. The Packers had now won four games in a row for the first time since 1944. They also moved into a first-place tie with the Lions, 49ers, and Rams!

Dallas 7 0 7 0 14
Green Bay 7 14 14 7 42
16,340

“Green Bay’s Junior Packers, who play in the Santa Claus Bowl in Lakeland, Fla., in December, were introduced along with coaches Ted Fritsch and Charley Tollefson, between halves.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/52, Rempel, p. 17

11.27.1952

PACKERS 24
DETROIT
LIONS 48

Green Bay’s winning streak and its share of first-place crash-landed in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day. The defeat was the first of three straight to end the season.

After a 3-3 first quarter, it was all Detroit. Quarterback Bobby Layne threw three

touchdown passes, and Pat Harder scored three times to account for nearly all of their points. The Packers turned the ball over eight times, and three of the drops led directly to Detroit touchdowns.

Green Bay 3 14 7 0 24
Detroit 3 21 7 17 48
39,101

12.7.1952

PACKERS 27
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 45

In an unusual arrangement, both teams wore yellow jerseys with different colored numbers. The Packers took an early 14-10 lead behind touchdown runs by Breezy Reid and Tobin Rote. The edge vanished quickly and permanently when the Rams erupted for the 35 points. Quarterback Bob Waterfield got it rolling before the halftime with a touchdown run for a 17-14 lead.

They pulled away in the second half behind four touchdowns, starting with an 80-yard pick-six by rookie Dick "Night Train" Lane that put the Packers back on their heels. Another interception by L.A.'s Jack Dwyer set up Dan Towler's touchdown run and a 31-14 lead. Bob Waterfield's touchdown pass and Andy Robustelli's fumble recovery touchdown return added to the score for the Rams. Two straight losses dropped the Packers from title contention.

Green Bay 0 14 0 13 27
Los Angeles 7 10 21 7 45
49,822

Interceptions: GB 1 LA 5

12.14.1952

PACKERS 14
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 24

San Francisco never trailed in the game and their quarterback, Frankie Albert, led three scoring drives in the final game of his seven-year career. Billy Howton scored both of Green Bay's touchdowns. He caught one from both of his quarterbacks, Tobin Rote and Babe Parilli. The pass from Parilli went for a 90-yard touchdown.

Three consecutive losses ended a once-promising season for Green Bay. In their final three games, they turned the ball over 18 times, and were outscored 117-65.

Green Bay **0 7 7 0 14**
San Francisco **7 7 7 3 24**
17,579

“After his playing career, Tony Canadeo continued his association with the team as a broadcaster and member of the organization's executive committee. He played a small part in helping Jack Vainisi reassure Vince Lombardi in 1959 that the transition from New York City to Green Bay would be comfortable for his family. ‘The Gray Ghost of Gonzaga,’ was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1974.”¹

1 packershistory.net/1952Packers (Packerville.com/blogspot)

1952

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	9	3	0
Los Angeles	9	3	0
San Francisco	7	5	0
Green Bay	6	6	0
Chicago	5	7	0
Dallas	1	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Rote
Scoring	Howton
Interceptions	Loomis

ALL-PRO

Howton End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Babe Parilli (1, QB)
 Billy Howton (2, E)
 Bobby Dillon (3, CB)
 Dave Hanner (5, DT)
 Tom Johnson (6, T)
 Bill Reichardt (7, FB)
 Deral Teteak (9, G)



1953
Record: 2-9-1 6th Place, Last
Coach: Gene Ronzani

- Tempered optimism prevailed after a 6-6 finish in 1952. Ronzani agreed to a new three-year contract, and many fans looked forward to an improved defense and fewer turnovers.
- After four losses in the preseason and three straight when it counted, the Executive Committee began looking at the decisions Ronzani made more closely. Members began talking directly to players about the team’s performance and the coaches.
- This was just the third season in franchise history with two or fewer wins. The others are 1948, 1958.
- The defense gave up the second-most points in the league, and Babe Parilli and Tobin Rote combined to throw the most interceptions of any team in the league (34). The offense struggled after Billy Howton was injured early in the season. They scored 95 fewer points than in 1952.
- After a Thanksgiving Day loss to Detroit, Ronzani was fired and replaced by his assistants Hugh Devore, Scooter McLean, and Chuck Drulis.

9.27.1953
 CLEVELAND

BROWNS 27
PACKERS 0

New Milwaukee County Stadium welcomed the Packers and their fans for the first time. Green Bay played games there through the 1994 season.

The Packers were shut out in the opener. Otto Graham ran for two touchdowns, and he passed for 292 yards. The Browns shut down Green Bay’s passing game (eight completions), and the Packers turned the ball over four times. A poor showing for Green Bay. Right after the lopsided loss, rumors began swirling about Ronzani’s future.

Cleveland 7 10 10 0 27
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
22,604
Milwaukee County Stadium

10.4.1953

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

PACKERS 13

There were nine turnovers and 15 penalties in this sloppy rivalry game. Tobin Rote's touchdown pass to Bob Mann and Gib Dawson's 60-yard punt return put Green Bay in front 13-3. Packer fan Tom Pigeon recalls, "When Gib Dawson ran back the punt for a touchdown, it was called back on a penalty. Then he returned it again on the next play for a 60-yard touchdown."¹

The Bears put together a long drive before halftime to cut the lead to 13-10. In the fourth quarter, a Green Bay fumble deep inside Bears territory ended one threat. George Figner then intercepted Tobin Rote a short time later. Quarterback George Blanda capitalized with a touchdown to Jim Dooley with 3:35 left for the win.

According to former Packer Bob Forte, during this period of time, "Every Tuesday in Green Bay after practice, the whole team would have lunch with the Executive Committee at the YMCA. The committee members would question the coaches carefully. When lunch was over, each of the thirteen men on the committee would corner two, or three or four of the players and try to find out what was wrong with the coaches, the other players, and the team."²

Chicago 3 7 0 7 17

Green Bay 6 7 0 0 13

24,835

It's not unusual for a child to be lost at City Stadium, but when 24 fans are, that's news. Milwaukee's Ray Stanley, member of a 25-fan party, grew concerned when his companions failed to appear. So early in the first quarter, Tom White, assistant to P.A. announcer Jim Coffeen, announced for the benefit of Mr. Stanley's friends that: "Ray is in Section J. He's not lost—you are!"³

1 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 29

2 The Green Bay Packers, Johnson, p. 100

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/53, Rempel, p. 19

10.11.1953

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 38

PACKERS 20

This action-packed thriller produced a third straight Green Bay loss. And, for the first time in their history, the Packers started a season 0-3. The losses were at the hands of three

future Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Otto Graham (Browns), George Blanda (Bears), and Norm Van Brocklin (Rams).

After Green Bay took a 3-0 lead, the Rams led the rest of the way. L.A. quarterback Norm Van Brocklin picked apart Green Bay's defense. He threw 23 times for 250 yards, and his passing set up two rushing touchdowns by Brady Myers and one each by Tank Younger and Rudy Bukich. Crazy Legs Hirsch caught eight passes for 168 yards, and "The Dutchman" also threw a 59-yard touchdown pass to Skeets Quinlan.

For Green Bay, Fred Cone provided all the offense with one touchdown run, two field goals, and two extra points.

Los Angeles 7 14 10 7 38

Green Bay 3 7 3 7 20

23,352

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB was outgained 412-278.

"Sgt. William Geyer, Green Bay soldier who was a prisoner of war in Korea for 33 years, was featured in a pre-game ceremony. Geyer stood at attention on the field as the Packer Lumberjack Band played "Stars and Stripes Forever."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/53, Rimmel, p. 18

10.18.1953

BALTIMORE

COLTS 14

PACKERS 37

The Packers literally ran all over Baltimore for 303 of their 370 total yards. They beat them "virtually without the aid of the forward pass, their favorite weapon for years and years."¹ The offense was led by rookie running backs Al Carmichael and Howie Ferguson, who produced 126 of the 303 yards.

The Packers started the scoring after an interception and a recovered fumble. Both turnovers led to touchdowns. By the third quarter, Green Bay led 27-0. The Colts finally got on the scoreboard in the third and fourth quarters with two touchdown passes by quarterback Fred Enke.

Baltimore 0 0 7 7 14

Green Bay 0 13 14 10 37

18,713

An unhappy Packer fan "leaped from the stands, traversed the cinder track surrounding the field in a twinkling, and struck Haines (the referee) with his jacket. At this point, he was gang-tackled by six city gendarmes, who unceremoniously rushed him from the premises."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/53, Daley, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/53, Rimmel, p. 8

10.24.1953

PACKERS 14

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 31

“The local fans gave the Packers a parade before the team left for the nationally televised Saturday night game in Pittsburgh. The players were impressed with the support, but it didn’t help them much on the field.”¹

In the first half, the Steelers took a 17-0 lead, and the Packers managed just one first down. Green Bay fell behind 31-0 before recovering a fumble on the Steelers’ one-yard line and scoring. Quarterback Babe Parilli took it in, and after getting the ball back, Rote led a quick drive that culminated with a touchdown to Fred Cone.

After the game, Ronzani explained that six or seven players had become ill with the flu and couldn’t play. Green Bay’s offense produced only 125 yards.

Green Bay	0	0	7	7	14
Pittsburgh	7	10	14	0	31

22,918

¹ History of the Green Bay Packers, Vol. 4, Names, p. 99

10.31.1953

PACKERS 35

BALTIMORE

COLTS 24

An emotional win for the Packers and the players carried Coach Ronzani off the field! In the first half, both Tobin Rote and Babe Parilli hooked up with Billy Howton to give Green Bay a 21-14 halftime lead. In the second half, Rote and halfback J. R. Boone connected for a touchdown. Breezy Reid scooted around right end for a 41-yard sprint to make it 35-17. In the final 30 minutes, the Colts were held to a field goal and a late touchdown.

The Packers outgained the Colts 404-268, and they picked up 25 first downs compared to 11 for Baltimore. When the team returned to Green Bay, “a five-player committee gave Coach Gene Ronzani a vote of confidence.”¹ The committee consisted of Bob Forte, Clayton Tonnemaker, Dick Wildung, Tobin Rote, and Gus Cifelli.

Green Bay	7	14	7	7	35
Baltimore	7	7	3	7	24

33,797

11.8.1953

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

Between the two teams, 80 passes were thrown—35 by Green Bay, 45 by Chicago—for 471 passing yards.

In the first six minutes, a pick-six by the Packers' Bobby Dillion and a 41-yard touchdown run by Fred Cone put the visitors in front 14-0. The Bears rallied behind Don Kindt's pick-six of Babe Parilli. Before the half, quarterback George Blanda's touchdown pass to Jim Dooley tied it at 14.

After a scoreless third quarter, Blanda's second touchdown pass put the Bears on top 21-14. As time ran down, Green Bay put together a drive. Tobin Rote steered the ship for the first 49 yards. Babe Parilli finished it off with a 23-yard tying touchdown pass to Billy Howton with under two minutes left!

Green Bay 14 0 0 7 21

Chicago 7 7 0 7 21

39,889

"About 1,000 fans greeted the Packers at the North-Western Depot last night at 11:10 p.m. when they arrived from the Bears game in Chicago. The Packer Lumberjack Band added pep with a few selections."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/53, p. 20

11.15.1953

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 7

The last home game of the season ended in a tough loss to the defending champs. The Lions went out in front in the second quarter on an 83-yard bomb from quarterback Bobby Layne to Doak Walker. In the fourth quarter, big Leon Hart deflected a pass from Layne for six more.

In between, the Packers were inside Detroit's 30-yard line six times, with drives ending on the 4, 6, 7, 12, 15, and 26-yard lines. Two interceptions and a fumble stopped three of the drives, and two others ended on fourth down. They had little trouble moving the ball (394 yards), but they didn't convert until it was too late. They also had a touchdown called back due to an offside penalty.

Detroit 0 7 0 7 14
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
20,834

“The appearance of the Iron Mountain (Michigan) High School Band, which performed before the game and between halves, was well received.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/53, Rimmel, p. 20

11.22.1953
SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **37**
PACKERS **7**

The Packers fell behind 20-0 in the first half before scoring their only points. They turned the ball over six times, and San Francisco capitalized on each miscue. Quarterback Y. A. Tittle threw a touchdown pass to end Billy Wilson, and he ran for two touchdowns in the second half. Joe Perry led the Niners with 153 yards rushing and a touchdown.

For the game, the Packers gave up 389 yards while the offense produced 244. Quarterback Babe Parilli scored Green Bay’s only touchdown.

San Francisco 13 7 10 7 37
Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
16,378
Milwaukee County Stadium

11.26.1953

PACKERS **15**
DETROIT
LIONS **34**

On Thanksgiving, the Packers led the first-place Lions 15-7 at halftime. Quarterback Babe Parilli led the charge with a touchdown pass and a 2-yard touchdown run!

But the Lions roared out of the locker room and scored 27 unanswered points to completely knock out the Packers. The turnaround was quick. A Packer fumble by Al Carmichael on a lateral from Parilli gave Detroit the ball on the Packers’ 3-yard line. Moments later, quarterback Bobby Layne and end Cloyce Box connected for a 97-yard scoring strike that started the rout.

“This was a perfect game for millions of the nation’s fans who saw the game on television. The ball changed hands 12 times on intercepted passes or fumble recoveries; the tackling and blocking were vicious; tempers were short, and some of the individual performances

were record-breaking.”¹ Unfortunately, most of this came at the expense of the Packers. After the poor performance that included six turnovers, Coach Ronzani resigned the next day after almost four seasons.

Green Bay 15 0 0 0 15
Detroit 7 0 14 13 34
52,607

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/53, Daley, p. 49

12.7.1953

PACKERS 14
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 48

Coach Ronzani was replaced by his three assistant coaches Hugh Devore, Ray “Scooter” McLean, and Chuck Drulis. After a few days, Drulis stepped away.

The 49ers scored the first time they had the ball and were never threatened. Quarterback Y. A. Tittle led San Francisco with 197 yards passing and two touchdowns. The Packers threw five interceptions, and they didn’t score until the score was 21-0.

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
San Francisco 14 7 17 10 48
33,887

12.14.1953

PACKERS 17
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 33

The Packers suffered another loss on national television. On a hot day in Southern California, the Rams jumped out to a 26-0 first-quarter lead with quarterback Norm Van Brocklin. “The Dutchman” threw two touchdown passes in the first quarter and 195 yards for the game. The Rams outgained the Packers 463-239.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Green Bay trailed by 19. Their only points came on a fumble returned for a touchdown and an 80-yard touchdown from Tobin Rote to Billy Howton. For the game, the Packers completed just five passes while throwing four interceptions.

Green Bay 7 7 0 3 17
Los Angeles 26 0 7 0 33

Interceptions: GB 4 LA 5

1953

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	10	2	0
San Francisco	9	3	0
Los Angeles	8	3	1
Chicago Bears	3	8	1
Baltimore	3	9	0
Green Bay	2	9	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Reid
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon Defensive Back

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Al Carmichael (1, HB)

Bill Forester (3, LB)

Roger Zatkoff (5, T)

Jim Ringo (7, C)



1954

Record: 4-8-0, 5th Place

Coach: Lisle Blackburn

- Lisle Blackburn of Marquette University succeeded Gene Ronzani as coach of the Packers. Blackburn was a disciplinarian who had a list of 20 rules for training camp.
- Early in the year, initial discussions began about a new stadium.
- Former Packer Verne Lewellen was named the team's general manager.
- They began the season with three losses and then lost their final four.

- Tobin Rote broke the NFL record at the time with 382 pass attempts. Billy Howton was his top target. Max McGee led with nine touchdowns.

9.26.1954

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 21

PACKERS 20

In the first half, the Packers struck twice from long distance. "Breezy" Reid's 69-yard touchdown run and Tobin Rote's 44-yard touchdown pass to Billy Howton gave the Pack the lead at halftime, 17-14.

Despite turning the ball over four times, the Packers held on to the lead until the fourth quarter. After they built a 17-14 lead, Fred Cone drilled home a second field goal to make it 20-14. It stayed that way until Finks led the game-winning drive, and Ray Matthews caught the touchdown from 37-yards out for the win. Steelers quarterback Jim Finks completed 27 of 40 passes for 327 yards and three touchdowns.

"One of the happiest eyewitnesses was Gene Ronzani, former Packer head coach who sat on the Steelers bench in the role of key assistant to head man Walt Kiesling."¹

Pittsburgh 7 7 0 7 21

Green Bay 7 10 3 0 20

20,675

GB was outgained 455-262

¹ packershistory.net/1954Packers

10.3.1954

CHICAGO

BEARS 10

PACKERS 3

A rain-drenched field played havoc with the football and led to 10 turnovers. Furthermore, George Halas wasn't pleased with the condition of the field, and he scolded the Packers for it after the game.

In the tightest of battles, Green Bay held a 3-0 lead in the fourth quarter when Tobin Rote fumbled, and the Bears recovered. Quarterback George Blanda went to work, and three plays later, he found Billy Stone in the back end zone for the winner. Blanda also kicked a field goal a short time later.

Chicago 0 0 0 10 10
Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3
24,414

“The Green Bay Community Chest’s 1954 campaign was officially inaugurated with a gridiron kickoff between halves. Cast in an unfamiliar role was Packer great Tony Canadeo, who put his toe to the ball held by Mayor Dominic Olejniczak to launch the drive.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/1954, Rimmel, p. 18

10.10.1954
 SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **23**
PACKERS **17**

This time in Milwaukee, another wet field slowed down Green Bay’s start, and they trailed 10-0 at halftime. They rallied with two touchdown passes from quarterback Tobin Rote in the third quarter to pull in front 17-10. Rote’s first score went to Veryl Switzer, and Max McGee caught the second after Joe Perry’s fumble.

San Francisco responded by putting quarterback Y. A Tittle in the game for the first time with a cast on his non-throwing hand. Tittle sparked the Niners with two impressive touchdown drives. Joe Perry scored on an eight-yard run, but the extra point was missed.

With seven minutes left and trailing 17-16, Tittle uncorked a 66-yard completion to Hugh McElhenny to set up San Francisco on Green Bay’s 17. Tittle scored on the ground, and the 49ers held off the Packers in the fourth quarter for the win.

San Francisco 10 0 0 13 23
Green Bay 0 0 17 0 17
15,571

Milwaukee County Stadium

“When I was going to college, I worked for the Green Bay Board of Education Maintenance Department. One of the jobs we had each summer was to shore up the Old City Stadium so it would pass building inspection in the fall. I had fun hoisting 16-foot 6x6’s into position to prop up the old wooden City Stadium. We used to say it at the time that Green Bay East High School had the largest high school stadium in the country.”¹

1 For Packer Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 84

10.17.1954
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **17**
PACKERS **35**

After spending the week practicing in Wisconsin, the Rams were upset in an exciting contest. The two teams combined to put up over 900 yards of offense, and they threw 58 passes for 593 of those yards.

Quarterback Tobin Rote had the best game of his career to date with three touchdown passes and a touchdown run. Rote generated 361 yards of Green Bay's 461 (286 passing, 75 rushing). His rushing touchdown gave the Packers a 21-10 lead early in the final quarter.

After the Rams struck back with a 71-yard touchdown bomb from Norm Van Brocklin to Bob Boyd, Rote connected with Billy Howton. The Packers pulled away with two more touchdowns late in the game. Coach Liz Blackbourn enjoyed his first win. "This was our best game. Our boys did it playing good football."¹

Los Angeles 0 7 3 7 17

Green Bay 0 7 7 21 35

17,455

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB's first win over the Rams since 1948.

¹ packershistory.net/1954 Packers

10.24.1954

PACKERS **7**

BALTIMORE

COLTS **6**

Though the teams had identical 1-3 records, the Packers were favored on the road.

Two field goals by Gary Kerkorian of the Colts made it 6-0 in the second half. Green Bay got on the board in the third quarter with a drive that stayed mostly on the ground. After they passed on a field goal on fourth down to try for a touchdown, Rote's pass fell incomplete. Baltimore took over on their 7-yard line and fumbled the ball right back to the Packers on the next play! Breezy Reid scored for Green Bay, and Fred Cone's extra point was the difference.

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7

Baltimore 3 0 3 0 6

25,119

Billy Howton caught 11 passes for 147 yards.

“A crowd estimated of more than 3,000 gave the Packers a rousing reception at Austin Straubel Field.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/54, Rempel, p. 19

10.30.1954

PACKERS 37

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 14

The 11-point underdog Packers climbed back to 3-3 with this blowout of the Eagles, and they shined brightly on the road on national television!

Four turnovers haunted the Eagles, and Bobby Dillon’s 59-yard pick-six started the touchdown parade for the Packers. Quarterback Tobin Rote fueled the upset with three touchdown passes to Max McGee. The first followed an interception by Val Joe Walker. Rote also scored on a quarterback sneak to finish the scoring late.

Former Packers quarterback Bobby Thomason and running back Dom Moselle scored both of Philadelphia’s touchdowns. Despite their loss, they outgained the Packers 203-155.

Green Bay	10	7	13	7	37
Philadelphia	0	7	0	7	14
	25,378				

A crowd estimated by traffic officers at upwards to 10,000 persons jammed Austin-Straubel Air Field to greet the chartered plane carrying the Packers. It was believed to be the largest crowd ever to greet the Packers. ‘If we win another game like that one, probably all Wisconsin will be here,’ Coach Lisle Blackbourn told the crowd.”²

1 packershistory.net/1954 Packers

11.7.1954

PACKERS 23

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

After George Blanda and the Bears grabbed a 14-0 lead, the Packers scored 23 unanswered points. Rookie Max McGee caught two touchdown passes from Tobin Rote, and Veryl Switzer’s spectacular 93-yard punt return for a touchdown set a Packers’ record.

A 23-14 Packers lead slipped away in the final minutes. With four minutes left, Switzer

fumbled a punt that Wayne Hansen of the Bears returned 35 yards for a touchdown. When the Packers missed a field goal, George Blanda took over. Blanda went 5-for-5 on an 80-yard drive, with the winner coming on a 7-yard toss to Jack Hoffman with 2:05 left. The game ended when Tobin Rote, who had broken his nose earlier in the game, was sacked on the Bears' 16-yard line.

Green Bay 0 13 3 7 23
Chicago 7 7 0 14 28
47,038

11.13.1954
BALTIMORE

COLTS 13
PACKERS 24

A Saturday night game, broadcast on national television did not look very promising early. Baltimore (1-6) scored the first 13 points before Green Bay came back with the next 24. Tobin Rote's three 1-yard touchdown runs in the second, third, and fourth quarters showed the way.

Fullback Howie Ferguson bulled his way through the Baltimore defense all game to help set up Rote's three scores. Ferguson ran for 112 yards and caught five passes for another 44 yards. The defense picked off three passes, and shut out the Colts in the second half.

Baltimore 10 3 0 0 13
Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24
19,786
Milwaukee County Stadium

"Two enthusiastic young fans attempted to carry Billy Howton off the field after the game. Bill graciously permitted them to tote him a few steps, then completed the journey to the dressing room under his own power."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/54, Rempel, p. 27

11.21.1954
DETROIT

LIONS 21
PACKERS 17

In back-to-back games against the defending champs, Green Bay stayed close but could not pull off the upset. In both, Detroit quarterback Bobby Lane threw two touchdown passes, with each game decided by four points.

In the first meeting, cornerback Jim David of the Lions grabbed two interceptions and recovered a fumble. His first interception came in Green Bay territory to set up Bobby Layne's quarterback sneak for a 7-7 tie. Layne's first touchdown pass went to former Packer Jug Girard and gave the Lions the lead. At halftime, they led 14-10.

The Lions took the second-half kickoff and marched 66 yards for Layne's second touchdown pass. Now trailing 21-10, the Packers rallied with a 92-yard drive that brought the lead back within a touchdown, 21-17. Green Bay held the upper hand for the rest of the game, but they could not score. Max McGee's dropped pass in the end zone and Howie Ferguson's fumble kept it close.

Green Bay 0 14 7 0 17

Detroit 7 3 7 0 21

20,767

Tobin Rote becomes GB's all-time leader in passing yards.

For the annual Homecoming, the fans and the Lumberjack Band welcomed back over 50 former players from 1919-1953. The Packerettes, a corp of 30 drum majorettes, formed a giant letter "P" in their honor as the band, under the baton of Wilner Burke, struck up the Packer song."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/54, Daley, p. 36

11.25.1954

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 28

The Packers were 16-point underdogs for this Thanksgiving Day rematch. Two more touchdown passes from Bobby Layne paced the Lions.

In a 14-14 first half, a big play by each team was successful. A 48-yard touchdown run by Breezy Reid of the Packers started the scoring. A 30-yard pick-six by Jack Christiansen of the Lions made it 14-14 before halftime.

In an explosive third quarter, Detroit held Green Bay to an early field goal. The Lions struck back three plays later on a Layne to Lew Carpenter touchdown pass and 21-17 edge. A 61-yard punt return by Jack Christiansen extended their lead to 28-17. As the third quarter ended, Tobin Rote and Max McGee hooked up for an 82-yard touchdown. In the final 15 minutes, Green Bay came up empty on three drives, and the defending champions prevailed.

Green Bay 7 7 10 0 24

Detroit 0 14 14 0 28

55,532

Thirty-million fans watched this game on Thanksgiving.

*The Men's Quarterback Club "will meet Tuesday night, starting at 7:45 p.m. Head coach Liz Blackburn will be present along with the player of the week."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/54, p. 35

12.5.1954

PACKERS 0

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 35

The Packers couldn't run the ball (55 yards), and they also couldn't stop the 49ers. They were outgained 459-271, and they got inside San Francisco's 30 just once.

The 49ers took a quick lead on the second play of the game with quarterback Y. A. Tittle's 69-yard scoring strike to end Bill Jessup. First quarter drives also produced an 8-yard bootleg around left end for a touchdown by Tittle, as well as a Joe Perry touchdown. run.

For the game, the Niners racked up 449 yards of offense by riding the arm and legs of Yelberton Abraham Tittle (15-18-243-2-0). His touchdowns went to veteran San Francisco ends Bill Jessup and Gordie Soltau.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	21	7	0	7	35

33,175

12.12.1954

PACKERS 27

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 35

In the 90-degree heat, the Packers hoped to finish the season with a win. They almost pulled it off. In the first half, Tobin Rote threw two touchdown passes, and he also scored on a quarterback sneak. "Deacon" Dan Towler of the Rams also chalked up three first-half touchdowns to give L.A. a 21-20 lead at the break.

In the second half, L.A. quarterback Norm Van Brocklin made the difference. "The Dutchman" tossed two touchdown passes. The first came off a faked punt. Van Brocklin threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Andy Robustelli for a 28-20 lead. He threw another to end Tom Fears to finish off Green Bay.

Green Bay	7	13	0	7	27
Los Angeles	14	7	7	7	35

38,839

1954

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	9	2	1
Chicago	8	4	0
San Francisco	7	4	1
Los Angeles	6	5	1
Green Bay	4	8	0
N. Y. Yanks	3	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Reid
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Martinkovic	Defensive End
Tonnemaker	Linebacker
Walker	Defensive Back
Zatkoff	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Veryl Switzer (1, HB)
Max McGee (5, WR)



1955

Record: 6-6-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Lisle Blackbourn

- The team made \$69,594 in 1954, the most in its history.
- Hash marks were put on the field for the first time.
- Green Bay started the season 3-1. Optimism grew as they stayed in contention until November.
- Tobin Rote's 17 touchdowns tied for the NFL lead. Howie Ferguson finished second in

rushing with 859 yards. Billy Howton led the team in receiving for the fourth straight season.

- Green Bay gave up the most rushing yards in the league.

9.25.1955

DETROIT

LIONS **17**
PACKERS **20**

The Packers upset the defending NFL Champions with an exciting comeback. Green Bay trailed the entire game until the end. This fantastic win for the Packers snapped an 11-game losing streak to the Lions.

In the first half, Green Bay produced two field goals and trailed 7-6. Just before the half, quarterback Tobin Rote was hit in the backfield, and the ball popped loose. Gil Mains of the Lions fell on it in the end zone, Detroit 14-6.

The Packers trailed, 17-13, with 1:45 left in the game when they got the big break they needed. The great Doak Walker of the Lions missed a 16-yard field goal. Green Bay took over on the 20, and Tobin Rote completed five of six passes to put them on Detroit's 18-yard line with 20 seconds left. Rote's next pass was a bullet to Gary Knafelc, who picked it out of the air and beat four Lions to the end zone to complete the upset.

In their exuberance, fans stormed the field. With a few seconds remaining, the police cleared the field for the extra point and remained for the ensuing kickoff. On the kickoff, former Packer Jug Girard couldn't break off a long return. Game Over.

Detroit **7 7 3 0 17**
Green Bay **0 6 7 7 20**
22,217

*Watson Spaelstra, veteran Detroit sportswriter, called the on-field celebration near the end of the game, "The greatest thing I've ever seen. The fans in most cities are blasé, but they certainly aren't blasé here."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/55, Rimmel, p. 19

10.2.1955

CHICAGO

BEARS **3**
PACKERS **24**

A fine effort by the defense held the Bears to 217 total yards. Chicago never put together

back-to-back first downs, and their only points came on a 47-yard field goal by George Blanda. The Bears also turned the ball over six times!

Green Bay quarterback Tobin Rote took advantage of two Chicago turnovers with touchdown passes to Billy Howton and Gary Knafelc. In one of the best days of his career, Rote also ran for a touchdown. Fullback Howie Ferguson led the Packer ground game as he bulled his way over the Bears for 153 yards. Green Bay ran for 223 of their 411 yards!

For the first time since 1947, the Packers were 2-0!

Chicago 0 0 3 0 3
Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24
24,662

“Two Green Bay parochial league entries, St. Mary of the Angels and St. Patrick, played to a 7-7 tie in an abbreviated game staged between halves.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/55, Rimmel, p. 20

10.8.1955

BALTIMORE

COLTS **24**
PACKERS **20**

A big Milwaukee crowd came out to welcome home rookie running back Alan Ameche of the Colts in a nationally televised game. Ameche grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Fans were treated to a riveting 35-point first half. Between touchdowns by Billy Howton and Howie Ferguson of the Packers, Baltimore scored three times. Ameche scored on the ground, and quarterback George Shaw threw two touchdowns for a 21-14 lead at half.

Field goals reigned in the final 30 minutes. Fred Cone kicked two for Green Bay, and though it wasn't enough, the crowd appreciated how hard the Packers played. Baltimore coach Weeb Ewbank also felt the Packers represented themselves well. “They hit harder than anybody we've played. Our scouting reports were right; the Packers are a real good football team.”¹

Baltimore 21 0 0 3 24
Green Bay 7 7 3 3 20
40,199

Milwaukee County Stadium

Richard “Ike” Eisenhauer, Member, Packers FAN Hall of Fame*

“Ike” went on a blind date to this game with Alice, the woman who would become his wife! Though they already knew of each other in high school, a friend set up the date. They sat in the last row of County Stadium to watch Green Bay lose a tough one to the Colts. The Packers lost, but Ike found his sweetheart for the rest of his life.

* Interview: 2/27/16

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/55, Rimmel, p. 19

10.16.1955
LOS ANGELES

RAMS 28
PACKERS 30

The rain-soaked fans who remained until the very end were rewarded. Green Bay got out to a 17-7 first-half lead, and they stretched to 24-7 with the opening drive of the second half. Quarterback Tobin Rote threw three touchdown passes (two in the first half) to Veryl Switzer, Gary Knafelc, and Billy Howton. He also tossed five interceptions.

Receiver Ron Waller started the comeback for the undefeated Rams. He caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Billy Wade. Waller also ran for a five-yard touchdown. A pick-six by Jim Cason of L.A. put them in front, 28-27, with under four minutes left.

On Green Bay's next series, Cason made his third pick of the game with just 2:13 left. When the defense stopped the Rams, Norm Van Brocklin's punt was returned 40 yards to the 30-yard line by Al Carmichael. Tobin Rote ran it down to the 19. Fred Cone stepped back and won it with his third field goal with 24 seconds left! At 3-1, the Packers moved into a first-place tie with the Rams and Colts.

Los Angeles 7 0 7 14 28
Green Bay 10 7 7 6 30
26,960
Milwaukee County Stadium

10.23.1955

PACKERS 10
CLEVELAND
BROWNS 41

The Packers were blown out, and they struggled throughout the contest generating an offense. In total yards, they were outgained by the Browns 454-161.

Green Bay took an early 10-7 lead with a field goal by Fred Cone and a spectacular 100-yard kickoff return by Al Carmichael. After Carmichael's kickoff return made it 10-7 Packers, the defending champions beat up the Packers and scored the next 34 points. They overpowered Green Bay and allowed just 42 passing yards.

Coach Blackbourn was upset. He summed it up with, "Everybody played a bad game with the exception of Martinkovic, and we can be thankful he made as many tackles as he did."¹

Green Bay 3 7 0 0 10
Cleveland 0 14 7 20 41
51,482

*Fifty U.S. citizens of Ukrainian descent caused quite a disturbance outside a Cleveland hotel. "The Packers are easily the first in pro grid history to witness an anti-Communist demonstration less than two hours before kickoff."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/55, Daley, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/55, Daley, p. 17

10.29.1955

PACKERS 10

BALTIMORE

COLTS 14

The Packers could not stop Baltimore's fullback, Alan Ameche. The Colts completed just five passes all game as they rode "The Horse" for 117 of their 202 yards on the ground. An interception by Don Shula led to Baltimore's only touchdown in the first half.

Green Bay took the lead after halftime on Tobin Rote's passing and his one-yard touchdown run. Later in the third quarter, L. G. Dupre's 23-yard run put the Colts back in front 14-10. The Packers had two more chances in the final minutes. On their second drive, they failed to score from inside the eight-yard line on four tries.

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

Baltimore 7 0 7 0 14

34,411

*"The Green Bay Packers offer conclusive proof that pro football isn't for huge metropolitan centers only. These small-town representatives are up +35,000 in home attendance for four games over last year and very likely will wind up with an all-time record."*¹

1 packershistory.net/1955Packers

11.6.1955

PACKERS 31

CHICAGO

BEARS 52

Of the 200 games between them, this game has the most points scored. The Bears also tied the record in this game for the most points ever scored against the Packers to date. Everything went so well for Chicago that they never punted!

Trailing 21-3 in the second quarter, Veryl Switzer of the Packers fielded the kickoff and was hit so hard by linebacker George Connor of the Bears, "many in the hushed Wrigley field crowd thought Veryl Switzer might have been dead."¹ Fortunately, that was not the case. After a second-quarter field goal, the Packers didn't score again until it was 45-3. The Bears trampled all over Green Bay for 399 yards rushing and 497 total yards.

Green Bay 0 3 0 28 31

Chicago 14 14 10 14 52

48,890

Turnovers: GB 4 CHI 5

“Even a heart attack didn’t keep Alec Lewis, veteran Superintendent of Service at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago, from seeing his beloved Packers play Sunday. Lewis, who hasn’t missed a Green Bay game in Chicago in 25 years, also was on hand to greet them when they arrived at the hotel.”²

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 168

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/55, Rimmel, p. 20

11.13.1955

CARDINALS 14

PACKERS 31

These two rivals hadn’t played since 1949 when the Cardinals won both games. Green Bay had better luck after the long layoff as it snapped its three-game losing streak with a convincing victory.

In the first half, they built a 24-0 lead behind two Tobin Rote touchdown passes. The scores went to Gary Knafelc and Billy Howton. Rote also scored on the ground with a one-yard touchdown run. While Green Bay’s offense was clicking, the defense forced six turnovers—four were interceptions.

The Packers cruised to victory with Rote’s third touchdown pass to AL Carmichael. They led 31-0 before Chicago scored in the fourth quarter. After back-to-back games against the Bears and Cardinals, Blackburn said, "I'd say the Bears right now are a truly great team. I honestly thought before today's game that we could beat the Cardinals. Sometimes you have that feeling, and I felt that way."¹

Chicago 0 0 0 14 14

Green Bay 7 17 7 0 31

20,104

1 packershistory.net/1955Packers (News & Notes, Nov. 15)

11.20.1955

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 21

PACKERS 27

After 30 minutes, Y. A. Tittle’s 33-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Hardy gave the 49ers a 14-13 edge. Green Bay’s points came on two Fred Cone field goals and Tobin Rote’s pass

to Billy Howton, who lateraled to halfback Joe Johnson who scored.

In the second half, Green Bay “put on their greatest come-from-behind show”¹ of the season. After Tittle’s second touchdown pass to Carroll Hardy in the third quarter stretched the lead to 21-13, the final 15 minutes belonged to Green Bay. Tobin Rote and Howie Ferguson showed the way on a 91-yard drive that cashed in with Rote’s 39-yard touchdown toss to Gary Knafelc. After a Niners fumble by Joe Perry, Rote took a lateral from Breezy Reid and hustled 49 yards to the San Francisco 6-yard line. On the next play with 4:39 left, Ferguson scored, and the Packers stayed one game behind first-place Chicago.

San Francisco 7 7 7 0 21

Green Bay 0 13 0 14 27

32,897

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 452 SF 411

Though the Packers played just 90 miles south in Milwaukee, “nearly 1,000 persons waited out the Packers at the North-Western Depot Sunday. The train was one hour late in arriving.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/55, Daley, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/55, p. 21

11.24.1955

PACKERS 10

DETROIT

LIONS 24

Two fumbles by the Lions in the first quarter were costly. The Packers cashed in with a Fred Cone field goal and a 90-yard drive with quarterback Tobin Rote and Gary Knafelc hooking up for a 10-0 lead. In the second quarter, Green Bay center Jim Ringo was taken off the field on a stretcher with a back injury. Rookie linebacker Tom Bettis replaced him. Bettis had no experience playing center, which caused problems for the offense.

Trailing 10-0, the Lions roared and put up the next 24 points. They tied it before halftime on Bobby Layne’s touchdown pass to Lew Carpenter and Doak Walker’s 25-yard field goal. In the fourth quarter, former Packer Lew Carpenter went 49 yards off right tackle, and the Lions led 17-10. They clinched it when defensive end, Sonny Gandee, picked up a lateral (after a bad snap) by the Packers on a field goal attempt and returned it 46 yards for a touchdown. Game over.

Green Bay 10 0 0 0 10

Detroit 0 10 0 14 24

51,685

Turnovers: GB 7 DET 6

12.4.1955

PACKERS 28

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 7

Since 1950, this was Green Bay's first win on the West Coast in ten tries! It didn't look that way early when Y. A. Tittle capitalized on a fumble with a touchdown pass to flanker Billy Wilson.

In the second quarter, the Packers hit back with all 28 points. An interception by Roger Zatkoff led to a 67-yard march and Tobin Rote's one-yard touchdown run. A blocked punt by former Niner Pat O'Donahue was picked up by big Len Szafaryn, who rumbled 28 yards for six more. Breezy Reid closed out the scoring with two touchdowns. The first, at the end of the half, was a short touchdown run. In the third quarter, he caught a 60-yard touchdown pass from Rote! While the Niners won the statistical battle, the Packers defense kept Tittle contained (104 yards passing), and they intercepted four passes.

Green Bay 0 21 7 0 28

San Francisco 7 0 0 0 7

32,897

12.11.1955

PACKERS 17

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 31

Ninety-thousand fans came to the Los Angeles Coliseum to watch the Rams dominate the Packers. L.A. scored on their third play from scrimmage and never stopped.

A 55-yard touchdown run was the first of three scores by Ron Waller that paced the Rams. For Green Bay, Tobin Rote threw two touchdown passes to Gary Knafelc, but it was not nearly enough. The second score came after the Packers had already fallen behind 31-10.

The victory clinched the Western Conference for Los Angeles. Green Bay finished 6-6, a two-game improvement over 1954. But after a 3-1 start, they sputtered to a 3-5 finish.

Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17

Los Angeles 7 7 14 3 31

90,535

"They'll remember this one for the attendance—90,535 fans—the largest crowd (to date) ever to watch the Packers play a National Football League game."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/12/55, Daley, p. 25

1955

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Los Angeles	8	3	1
Chicago	8	4	0
Green Bay	6	6	0
Baltimore	5	6	1
San Francisco	4	8	0
Detroit	3	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Ferguson
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Ferguson	Fullback
Howton	End
Rote	Quarterback
Zatkoff	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tom Bettis (1, LB)

Jim Temp (2, DE)

Hank Bullough (5, G)

Norm Amundsen (6, G)

Nate Borden (25, E)



1956

Record: 4-8-0, 5th Place, Last (Tied)

Coach: Lisle Blackbourn

- This was the Packers' last season at City Stadium, their home since 1925. A referendum for a new stadium was approved on April 3, 1956.
- During the season, tension increased between Coach Blackbourn and the Executive Committee.

- The CBS Television Network signed a three-year contract to televise all Packer home games, including Milwaukee games.
- Tobin Rote led the league in passing yards and passing touchdowns. He was also Green Bay's leading rusher for the third time in seven seasons. Billy Howton led the NFL in receiving yards and touchdown catches.
- The defense gave up the most points in the league (342). As the team's performance slipped further, ticket sales dropped.

9.30.1956

DETROIT

LIONS **20**
PACKERS **16**

The Packers fell flat in the opener. The Lions controlled Green Bay, giving up just 10 first downs and 160 total yards. They took control early with a 10-0 lead, and they led 10-9 into the fourth quarter.

In the final 15 minutes, a costly penalty by Green Bay kept a 97-yard drive alive for Detroit. Bobby Layne finished the drive with a field goal for a 13-9 lead. On their next possession, Detroit kept rolling, with Layne scoring from the 1-yard line to make it 20-9. After the Packers retaliated with a Tobin Rote to Billy Howton touchdown, hopes rose for an upset, but it did not materialize.

Detroit **3 7 0 10 20**
Green Bay **0 3 6 7 16**
24,668

"More than 600 Press-Gazette carriers were guests of the newspaper at the game. They included newsboys from the Greater Green Bay area and from 71 smaller communities scattered over an 11 county area throughout northeastern Wisconsin."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/56, Rimmel, p. 19

10.7.1956

CHICAGO

BEARS **37**
PACKERS **21**

John "Paddy" Driscoll temporarily replaced George Halas as the coach of the Chicago Bears. Al Carmichael greeted him with a 106-yard kickoff return, a Green Bay record that tied the score at seven. Carmichael's record stood until 2011.

The Bears controlled the game by “scoring twenty-seven points the first five times they had the ball.”¹ Trailing 27-14 in the fourth quarter, the Packers fought back. Quarterback Tobin Rote and Billy Howton connected for their second touchdown to pull within six. But the last rivalry game at City Stadium went to the Bears as George Blanda’s third field goal and Ed Brown’s second touchdown pass were enough.

Chicago **10 10 7 10 37**
Green Bay **7 7 0 7 21**
24,668

“When the Packers played at City Stadium from 1925-1956, players used to take children in through the back gate so they could watch the game for free.”²

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 172

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/13, p. A3

10.14.1956
BALTIMORE

COLTS **33**
PACKERS **38**

A 31-point second quarter fueled the excitement of the fans. Quarterback Tobin Rote did it all for Green Bay. He ran for two touchdowns in the first half and threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Gary Knafelc. The first touchdown came when the Lions failed to cover the opening kickoff! The Packers recovered, and Rote took it in three plays later.

Rookie Lenny Moore starred for the Colts with two touchdown runs and a touchdown pass to second-year halfback L. G. Dupre. All three scores came in the first half. In the final 30 minutes, Green Bay’s defense didn’t give up an offensive touchdown. Baltimore scored on a 90-yard punt return and a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. The Packers kept pace with another Rote to Knafelc touchdown to retake the lead 31-26. The winner was Bobby Dillon’s 42-yard pick-six!

Baltimore **6 14 6 7 33**
Green Bay **7 17 14 9 38**
24,214

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 1 BAL 4

“School was virtually out Sunday in the village of Token Creek, Wis., which has a population of 90. Thirty-seven of them chartered a bus to Milwaukee and were on hand to watch the wild proceedings at County Stadium.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/56, Rummel, p. 20

10.21.1956
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **17**
PACKERS **42**

Another exciting win in Milwaukee with lots of offense! The Rams scored first, but two touchdown tosses from Tobin Rote to Billy Howton and rookie Jack Losch helped the Packers to a 21-10 halftime lead.

The game belonged to Billy Howton, who broke Don Hutson's team record with 257 receiving yards in a game! Hutson set the record in 1943 with 237. Howton caught seven passes, two for touchdowns, for a potent offense that produced 498 yards!

A happy coach Blackbourn praised the Rote-Howton passing combination after the game. What "Rote and Howton did together was one of the greatest things I've ever seen," said Blackbourn. "It was a real fine team deal too, but individually, that was something to see."¹ L.A. generated 385 yards, but two turnovers inside Green Bay's 15 killed any comeback.

Los Angeles **7** **3** **7** **0** **17**

Green Bay **7** **14** **7** **14** **42**

24,200

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 498 LA 385

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/56, Rempel, p. 21

10.28.1956

PACKERS **21**

BALTIMORE

COLTS **28**

In his first pro start for Baltimore, quarterback Johnny Unitas threw two touchdown passes as the Colts downed Green Bay.

The Packers couldn't hold on to the football (six fumbles), and their ground game produced a mere 20 yards. Quarterback Tobin Rote, though, had another three-touchdown day, and he opened the scoring with a 66-yard bomb to Billy Howton. Unitas came right back with his two touchdowns, and Lenny Moore sprinted 72-yards from scrimmage for 21-7 lead at halftime.

Green Bay caught-up in the second half. Tobin Rote scored on a five-yard run, and Bobby Dillon's interception of Unitas led to Rote's second touchdown toss to Howton. Lenny Moore had the last word when he took a pitch-out from Unitas and bolted around right end for 79 yards and the winning points.

After the game, Blackburn was concerned about the health and condition of his squad. "I've got 33 men, and 15 of them are injured. They took a real physical going over. I hope we can get most of them ready in time for the Browns. We'll need them all."¹

Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21
Baltimore 0 21 0 7 28
40,086

¹ packershistory.net/1956Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 31)

11.4.1956

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 24
PACKERS 7

Green Bay dropped to 2-4 after this loss. Twenty-eight thousand fans, the largest home crowd of the season, watched them drop a game to their former quarterback, Babe Parilli.

The Browns controlled the game by running the ball 54 times for 222 yards. They threw just four passes all game, completing two, with one interception. The Packers tossed 29 and completed 14, but they couldn't find the end zone until the fourth quarter.

The scoring began when a future great coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Chuck Noll, recovered a fumble and took it 39 yards to the end zone. Just before intermission, Parilli completed one of his passes to Ray Renfro for a 14-0 Cleveland lead. Trailing 17-0 in the fourth quarter, Green Bay scored on a Tobin Rote to Billy Howton touchdown pass.

Cleveland 7 7 0 10 24
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
28,590

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 295 CLEV 279

"St. Aloysius, defending West Allis parochial school champions, defeated St. Matthias, also of West Allis, in an abbreviated grade school game between halves."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/56, Rummel, p. 22

11.11.1956

PACKERS 14
CHICAGO
BEARS 38

Six turnovers by the Packers and a very potent Chicago offense (492 total yards) made it no contest. Even without him on the sidelines, "Old Halas U. wasted no time in taking

command of the situation.”¹

Chicago led 21-0 lead in the second quarter. Quarterback George Blanda threw three touchdowns in the game, with two coming in the first half. His first-half touchdown passes went for 23 and 69 yards. With a 52-yard pick-six by J. C. Caroline, the Bears led at half.

Blanda’s third touchdown pass was a 70-yard bomb to Harlon Hill. For Green Bay, Tobin Rote threw touchdowns to Gary Knafelc and Billy Howton, but the Bears were never threatened. Coach Blackbourn had high praise for his team’s chief rival. “The Bears are a real great ball club—maybe the greatest offensive team of all-time,”²

Green Bay	0	7	7	0	14
Chicago	7	21	7	3	38
49,172					

Chicago’s defensive back, Ken Gorgal, was involved in early union activities and was waived by the Bears. When the Packers claimed him, he refused to sign before they played Chicago. “I have too many good friends on the Bears. I didn’t want to get up to Green Bay and get pumped (for information) from the coaches.”³ Gorgal signed with the Packers after the Chicago game and played the last five games. He never played in the NFL again.

1 packershistory.net/1956Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/12/56, Rimmel, p. 24

3 Packers vs. Bears. Swain, p. 312

11.18.1956

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers	17
PACKERS	16

After 32 years, this was the final game for Green Bay at the original City Stadium. It was also George Calhoun Day to honor one of the franchise’s founders. Unfortunately, in front of “17,000 frozen and disgusted customers,”¹ the Packers lost.

Bart Starr started his first game at quarterback, and on his second series, he drove the Packers 73 yards to the end zone. A field goal made it 9-0 Green Bay. Just before halftime, Y. A. Tittle’s 1-yard run cut the lead to 9-7. After the break, an 86-yard run from scrimmage by Hugh McElhenny put the 49ers in front 14-9. A field goal pushed it further, 17-9.

Tobin Rote, who had replaced Starr, scored on the ground to cut it to 17-16. But in the final six minutes, the Packers self-destructed with fumbles by Rote, Al Carmichael, and Howie Ferguson.

San Francisco	0	7	7	3	17
Green Bay	6	3	0	7	16
17,986					

*Tobin Rote: "I stayed there (Green Bay) longer than anywhere else, but the people were real warm, and they lived and breathed football all year long. I think Green Bay fans are the best-educated professional football fans in the country. If they knew you put out all you had, that's all they asked of you."*²

1 packershistory.net/1956Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

2 Greatest Packers of them All, Johnson, p. 50

11.22.1956

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 20

For this Thanksgiving Day, the Packers waited until nearly the last minute to make their comeback. After the defense put on a solid performance for the first three quarters, the 2-6 Packers scored three times in the final 15 minutes to stun the 7-1 Lions.

Trailing 13-3 in the fourth quarter, Tobin Rote caught fire. He "got hotter than a pistol, completing 11 passes for 166 yards."¹ Rote scored the first touchdown himself on a two-yard run. After Bobby Layne hit back with a 56-yard touchdown strike to Dave Middleton, Rote countered with two touchdown drives of 86 and 82 yards! Touchdown passes went to Fred Cone and Billy Howton, with Howton's coming with less than two minutes left.

The loss hurt Detroit's hopes for another title.

Green Bay 3 0 0 21 24

Detroit 7 0 6 7 20

54,087

1 packershistory.net/1956Packers (News & Notes)

12.2.1956

PACKERS 24

CHICAGO

CARDINALS 21

The Packers dashed the championship hopes of the Cardinals thanks to another classic Tobin Rote performance. In an exciting comeback, Rote topped off three drives with three touchdown runs to put away Chicago.

Green Bay outdid the Cards on the ground 194-80 and outgained them 551-209. After a first half where the Packers scored three points, Rote took care of business. Green Bay's ground game controlled the contest with Fred Cone's 92 yards on 12 carries and Rote's 63 yards. Rote's three touchdowns all came from the 1-yard line!

Trailing 21-17 late in the game, a fine catch by Gary Knafelc put Green Bay on Chicago's 2-yard line. "One play and you blow the game," said Detroit coach Ray Richards about Gary Knafelc's catch. Rote's third touchdown sealed the deal.

Green Bay 0 3 14 7 24
Chicago 7 7 0 7 21
22,620

12.8.1956

PACKERS 20
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 38

A 102-foot telegram to the Packers bearing nearly 4,000 signatures read: "Although the home season is over and we won't see most of you again until next year, be assured the fans are still behind their team. We hope this message will give strong evidence of our confidence in each of you. Let's make this win Number 5, good luck."¹

The 49ers turned the tables on the Packers and came from behind, scoring 21-points in the final quarter. It was set up by pounding the Packers for 246 yards on the ground.

After Tobin Rote's second-quarter touchdown made it 14-10 Green Bay, it was all San Francisco. The 49ers had little trouble with Green Bay's defense, which allowed 427 total yards. Y. A. Tittle threw touchdown passes to Clyde Connor and Bill Wilson. The ground game was led by halfback Hugh McElhenny with 132 yards.

With the Niners leading 24-14 after Wilson's touchdown, a pick-six by safety Dicky Moegle went for a 31-yard touchdown. Trailing 31-14, the Packers would go on to lose. The loss would guarantee that they would not finish above .500.

Green Bay 7 7 0 6 20
San Francisco 10 7 0 21 38
32,436

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/56, p. 17

12.16.1956

PACKERS 21
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 49

The Rams ran for 314 yards and passed for another 297 in the blowout. Norm Van Brocklin cut up Green Bay's secondary, completing 17 of 22 passes for 289 yards. The Rams gained 611 yards, which is still the most ever given up by the Packers as of this publication.

After Tobin Rote opened the scoring with a touchdown run, L.A. scored the next 35 points! It started with a Joe Marconi touchdown run. A 95-yard pick-six by safety Will Sherman followed. At the end of the first quarter the Rams led 14-7. L.A. never looked back as they ran 20 more plays than Green Bay. The loss ended a very disappointing season for the Packers who "took two steps backward from the year before."¹

Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21
Los Angeles 14 21 14 0 49
45,209

*Reflecting on the Rams and the Packers: "A team may even seem to take on the personality of its city. To watch their team play, Green Bay Packers fans in the 1950s proudly endured asphalt-cracking cold, frigid temperatures that would keep Rams fans home. But because the players had also endured that cold, the shared suffering gave Packers fans the sense that they too were in games with the players, struggling with them."*²

¹ History of the Green Bay Packers, Vol 4, Names, p. 186

² Hollywood's Team, Hock, p. 51

1956

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	9	2	1
Detroit	9	3	0
San Francisco	5	6	1
Baltimore	5	7	0
Green Bay	4	8	0
Los Angeles	4	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rote
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	Rote
Scoring	Cone, Howton
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Howton	End
Rote	Quarterback
Zatkoff	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Forrest Gregg (2, T)
 Bob Skoronski (5, T)
 Hank Gremminger (7, E)
 Bart Starr (17, QB)



1957
Record: 3-9-0, 6th Place, Last
Coach: Lisle Blackbourn

- With the Bonus Pick in the '57 draft, Green Bay selected Paul Hornung of Notre Dame.
- Before the season, popular quarterback Tobin Rote was traded to Detroit. Rookie Bart Starr and veteran Babe Parilli, who was reacquired from Cleveland, would handle the play-calling duties.
- New City Stadium opened on Green Bay's west side. It was the first stadium built exclusively for football. Cost: \$960,000.
- Weekend celebrations were held at both the new stadium and the original City Stadium. Vice-President Nixon, actor James Arness, and Marilyn Van Derbur, Miss America, were special guests. A win over the Chicago Bears made for a perfect weekend.
- After the win against Chicago, the Packers lost three in a row. There would be two, three-game losing streaks.
- The offense and defense were both ranked at the bottom of the league.
- In January of 1958, Blackbourn was fired.

9.29.1957
CHICAGO

BEARS **17**
PACKERS **21**

"From Hagemeister Park to this magnificent stadium is a giant step that could only be accomplished by people who have tremendous faith in their city and in their football."¹

Bert Bell, NFL Commissioner

The Packers in "one of their guttiest performances in history,"¹ christened their new home with a dramatic 21-17 victory over the Bears. Bart Starr started the game at quarterback, but Babe Parilli replaced him.

Parilli came through big-time for Green Bay in his return! He threw for 197 yards, and each time the Bears scored, the Packers kept pace. During a pretty rough contest, Howie

Ferguson of the Packers was knocked out of the game, and two players were ejected for fighting.

In a 14-14 first half, quarterback Ed Brown of the Bears ran for one touchdown and threw an 11-yard strike to Harlon Hill. The Packers countered with a 37-yard touchdown from Parilli to Billy Howton as well as a short touchdown run by Fred Cone.

The second half was comparatively quiet. The only points in the third quarter were George Blanda's field goal that broke the tie. With 8:21 left, Parilli connected with Gary Knaltec on a six-yard touchdown to retake the lead, 21-17. Bobby Dillon's second interception of the game and a fumble recovery by Larry Lauer protected the lead.

Chicago	7	7	3	0	17
Green Bay	0	14	0	7	21
32,132					

1 Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 11

10.6.1957

DETROIT

LIONS **24**

PACKERS **14**

The excitement and optimism of the previous week slowly faded when the Lions came to the new City Stadium. Detroit dominated with the first 24 points, and they did most of their damage on the ground.

Detroit scored the first time it had the ball when quarterback Tobin Rote, acquired from the Packers, scored on a rollout from the two-yard line. A pick-six by Jack Christiansen and a field goal by Bobby Layne gave Detroit the advantage 17-0 at intermission. Fullback John Henry Johnson's 109 yards rushing led the Lions' strong ground attack of 249 total yards.

Green Bay didn't score until Bart Starr engineered two late touchdown drives. That cut the advantage to 10, but it was not enough. The Packers didn't help themselves by throwing five interceptions and generating only 217 yards of offense.

Detroit	14	3	0	7	24
Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14
32,120					

"Football is in Green Bay to stay; this proves it to me,"¹ said Lions GM W. Nicholas Kerbawy.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/57, Rummel, p. 19

10.13.1957
BALTIMORE

COLTS **45**
PACKERS **17**

Bart Starr's five-yard touchdown pass to Gary Knafelc in the second quarter gave Green Bay a 10-7 edge at halftime. The lead vanished quickly in the second half as the undefeated Colts shredded Green Bay's defense for 38 unanswered points.

The Colts ran the ball for 243 yards. Johnny Unitas threw two touchdown passes to tight end Jim Mutscheller, but for the game, he completed only seven passes for 130 yards. Lenny Moore led the ground game with 81 rushing yards, and Alan "The Horse" Ameche scored three touchdowns on three one-yard plunges.

Bart Starr threw two touchdown passes as well as three interceptions. Green Bay turned the ball over seven times, with five coming in the second half. For the game, the Packers managed only 47 yards on the ground and 192 yards overall. Baltimore coach Weeb Ewbank had this to say about the blowout: "The turning point of this game was when they blew the whistle for the start of the second half."¹

Baltimore **7** **0** **17** **21** **45**
Green Bay **3** **7** **0** **7** **17**
26,322
Milwaukee County Stadium

*"Seven members of the world champion Braves came as guests of the Packers and were introduced between halves by General Manager Verne Lewellen."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/57, Rempel, p. 21
² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/57, Rempel, p. 23

10.20.1957
SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **24**
PACKERS **14**

San Francisco led 3-0 before quarterback Babe Parilli put Green Bay in front 7-3 with a 1-yard run. An interception by the 49ers led to Tittle's first touchdown pass five plays later for a 10-7 halftime lead.

The second half belonged to Y. A. Tittle. On the first drive after halftime, the Niners extended the lead to 17-7. After a scoreless third quarter for the Packers, a second interception thrown by Parilli led to Tittle's 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Trailing 24-7, rookie Paul Hornung showed his nose for the end zone with a 9-yard touchdown run. Though they intercepted four and contained the 49ers' potent ground

game (78 yards), they couldn't stop Y. A.

San Francisco 3 7 7 7 24

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

18,919

Total Yards: GB 298 SF 246

10.27.1957

PACKERS 24

BALTIMORE

COLTS 21

After getting smacked hard by the Colts two weeks prior in Milwaukee, the Packers wanted some revenge. Though they trailed most of this game, Baltimore's 14-0 lead evaporated in an explosive fourth quarter.

In the first half, the Colts took the lead on a 52-yard touchdown pass from Johnny Unitas to Raymond Berry. They stretched it to 14-0 before the half on Alan Ameche's 1-yard touchdown run.

After a quiet third quarter, Bart Starr and rookie Paul Hornung took over. Two touchdown runs by Hornung tied the score at 14. After a field goal by the Packers made it 17-14 with 2:20 left, the Colts struck back with under a minute to play. A 6-yard touchdown pass from Unitas to Lenny Moore seemingly put matters to rest 21-17.

However, "the Kentucky Babe came off the bench"¹ and threw a 50-yard bullet to Billy Howton. Howton took it another 25 yards for the win with 29 seconds remaining! After the game, the Packers celebrated and gave the game ball to Coach Blackbourn.

Green Bay 0 0 0 24 24

Baltimore 7 7 0 7 21

48,510

¹ packershistory.net/1957Packers (Milwaukee Sentinel)

11.3.1957

NEW YORK

GIANTS 31

PACKERS 17

Green Bay outgained the defending champions by more than 100 yards, but they did not outscore them. In the first half, the Giants controlled all the action. They struck first on defense with a blocked punt that linebacker Sam Huff recovered in the end zone. The Packers responded with a 7-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Billy Howton. The

rest of the half belonged to New York. Frank Gifford scored on a three-yard run, and quarterback Charlie Conerly threw for one touchdown. At the break, the score was 24-10.

Green Bay's only points in the second half came on a 40-yard run by newly acquired Don McIlhenny. In the fourth quarter, a key defensive stand by the Giants, and Emlen Tunnell's 52-yard pick-six, wrapped it up.

New York 7 17 0 7 31
Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17
32,070

Total Yards: GB 410 NY 278

*"The Packerettes, 40 majorettes strong, repeated their recent Milwaukee performance between halves. Yesterday's performance was supported as always by the Packer Lumberjack Band."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/57, Rimmel, p. 23

11.10.1957

PACKERS 14
CHICAGO
BEARS 21

In an outstanding first half, the teams traded touchdowns. Rick Casares of the Bears scored first on a 16-yard run right up the middle. Quarterback Bart Starr fought back with touchdown passes to Billy Howton and Don McIlhenny. Before halftime, Chicago quarterback Zeke Bratkowski tied it with a 35-yard touchdown pass to speedy Harlon Hill.

In the third quarter, a controversial call reversed what looked like a sure Bart Starr touchdown to Joe Johnson. Green Bay's bench exploded when officials overturned the touchdown. "The lost touchdown was a brutally frustrating thing for the Packers who were having enough trouble scoring against the Bears, without having the officials to combat, too."¹

With the score tied in the fourth quarter, Paul Hornung was stopped on a fourth-down try at Chicago's 41-yard line. With three minutes left, the Bears capitalized, and Rick Casares scored again to put it away with 45 seconds left.

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14
Chicago 7 7 0 7 21
47,183

Turnovers: GB 1 CHI 4

*The Packers "were not without support, visual as well as vocal. A big sign Go! Go! Packers! was set up at the south end of Wrigley Field between halves."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/57, Daley, p. 21

11.17.1957
LOS ANGELES

RAMS 31
PACKERS 27

Bart Starr put the Packers in front 10-0 in the second quarter with a touchdown pass to Don McIlhenny. They stretched it to 24-3 on Al Carmichael's touchdown run and Bill Forester's interception that was lateraled to Bobby Dillon, who took it 55 yards to the house!

Bart Starr was injured on a botched handoff in the second quarter that resulted in a fumble. The Rams capitalized with a field goal, and Babe Parilli replaced Starr. In the second half, L.A. put together four scoring drives. They pounded the ball on the ground for 271 yards for the game, and rookie Jon Arnett and veteran Tank Younger ran for touchdowns. Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin also threw two touchdown passes.

Arnett's 68-yard dash to the end zone tied it in the fourth quarter. After the Packers went back in front 27-24 on Fred Cone's field goal with six minutes left, rookie flanker Lamar Lundy caught Van Brocklin's 34-yard touchdown pass to win it.

Los Angeles 0 3 14 14 31
Green Bay 10 14 0 3 27
19,540

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 307 LA 521

"Henry Aaron and his hard-hitting Milwaukee Braves colleague Eddie Matthews were guests on the Packers bench."¹

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 11/18/57, Rempel, p. 18

11.24.1957

PACKERS 27
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS 10

At Forbes Field, seven turnovers by Pittsburgh set the stage for Green Bay's final win of the season. The Packers capitalized on four of the gifts.

In the second quarter, they scored three touchdowns, and the Steelers never recovered. Both teams struggled to pass the ball all game. They threw a combined 70 passes and completed just 24. The performance didn't please Steeler fans, who booed their team when they left the field at halftime and when they returned from the locker room.

Twice during the contest, angry fans confronted Packers personnel on the sidelines. Both times, they were escorted out by the police. But the second enthusiastic fan, who had jumped on the back of Don McIlhenny, was put to the ground by McIlhenny "with a well-placed right hand."¹

Green Bay 0 21 0 6 27
Pittsburgh 0 3 7 0 9
29,701

Yards Rushing: GB 151 PITT 59

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/57, Rempel, p. 26

11.28.1957

PACKERS 6
DETROIT
LIONS 18

A loss on Thanksgiving was the first of three straight to end the season. The poor finish left little doubt about the fate of Coach Blackbourn. In four years, his record was 17-31-0.

Though Bart Starr played reasonably well (21-38-247-0-1), he did not throw a touchdown pass. Green Bay's offense generated just two field goals all game, even though they ran 43 more plays than Detroit (96-53). The game's only touchdown came on the first play from scrimmage in the second half. John Henry Johnson rumbled 62-yards downfield to put the Lions in front for good. During the game, quarterback Bobby Layne of the Lions injured his shoulder. The injury prevented him from completing the season.

His backup, former Packer Tobin Rote, would lead the Lions to the 1957 NFL championship.

Green Bay 3 3 0 0 6
Detroit 3 0 12 3 18
54,301

12.8.1957

PACKERS 17
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 42

"In their annual and usually ill-fated December,"¹ the Packers trailed the Rams 14-3 at halftime and never got closer. Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin threw five touchdown passes, and the Rams won, going away. L.A. touchdowns were scored by Elroy Hirsch (2), Joe Marconi (2), Leon Clark, and Lamar Lundy.

L.A. tore apart the Packers for 599 net yards, with a near perfect split between rushing (297) and passing (302). This remains the second most yards ever given up by a Packer defense, second only to the 611 they gave up to the Rams the previous December!

Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17
Los Angeles 7 7 14 14 42
70,572

First Downs: GB 18 LA 27

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/57, Daley, p. 23

12.15.1957

PACKERS **20**
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers **27**

In a game of nine turnovers, the Packers led 20-10 at intermission. They scored on a 72-yard march that Bart Starr finished off himself with a 1-yard plunge for six. A bit later, Starr also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to halfback Joe Johnson.

In the second half, with a possible playoff berth on the line, the 49ers replaced rookie quarterback John Brodie with a limping Y. A. Tittle. Playing through pain, Tittle made the difference. He completed 10 of 14 passes as he and running back Joe Perry led the 49ers' comeback. Perry scored both second-half touchdowns as he ran for 130 total yards. Coach Blackburn decried the win. "Sure, the 49ers are a good club. But five guys from our starting team were out of the lineup because of injuries."¹

Green Bay 0 20 0 0 20
San Francisco 10 0 10 7 27
59,100

Turnovers: GB 5 SF 4

1 packershistory.net/1957 Packers

1957

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	8	4	0
San Francisco	8	4	0
Baltimore	7	5	0
Los Angeles	6	6	0
Chicago	5	7	0
Green Bay	3	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Howton
Rushing	McIlhenny
Scoring	Cone
Interceptions	Dillon/Symank

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Howton	End
Ringo	Center

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Bonus Choice: Paul Hornung (1, HB)
Ron Kramer (1, E)
Dalton Truax (3, T)
Carl Vereen (4, T)
John Symank (23, DB)



1958

Record: 1-10-1, 6th Place, Last
Coach: Ray (Scooter) McLean

- Lisle Blackburn was fired in January. Ray "Scooter" McClean, an assistant coach, replaced him.
- Dominic Olejniczak became the Packers' seventh President. He served for 24 years.
- The team began holding training camp at St. Norbert's College in DePere, Wisconsin.

- This was the worst season in Green Bay’s history. They scored the fewest points in the NFL and gave up the most.
- The team did have talent. Seventeen players became champions in 1961. Eight have been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- “Scooter” McClean resigned after the season. He was too lenient and did not hold players accountable.

9.28.1958

CHICAGO

BEARS **34**
PACKERS **20**

With former coach Curly Lambeau watching from the press box, “Papa Bear” Halas returned to the sidelines for the Bears after a two-year retirement!

Green Bay got out to a quick 7-0 lead on Bobby Dillon’s pick-six. With the Packers leading 10-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Bears woke up. From that point forward, it was all Chicago. Halfback Willie Galimore and quarterback Ed Brown dominated the action. Galimore scored his second and third touchdowns, and Brown scored on the ground and threw touchdowns to Galimore and Harlon Hill.

Paul Hornung was nearly the entire offense for Green Bay. He scored one touchdown, kicked two field goals, and added two extra points.

Chicago **7 14 7 6 34**
Green Bay **10 3 0 7 20**
32,150

Total Yards: GB 262 CHI 311

“Seymour’s Norm Buckman saw only the opening kickoff. He left in haste after field announcer Claire Stone intoned, ‘Norm Buckman, you are asked to go home immediately—your house is on fire.’”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/58, Rummel, p. 21

10.5.1958

DETROIT

LIONS **13**
PACKERS **13**

Since the Packers had beaten the Lions only twice in the previous 16 tries, this was a moral victory. Tobin Rote, now with Detroit, got things going with a 65-yard touchdown to Jim Doran for a 6-3 lead. In the second quarter, Bart Starr and Max McGee hooked up for a

40-yard strike to retake the lead, 10-6. Paul Hornung's second field goal made it 13-6.

In the third quarter, Starr threw an interception, which led to Detroit's tying touchdown. After two games, according to the Milwaukee Journal, "so far, at least, this is 1957 all over again."¹ By season's end, the fans could only wish.

Detroit	0	6	7	0	13
Green Bay	3	10	0	0	13

32,053

*"Soon after the final gun sounded, rumors flew about Green Bay that the Lions' free-wheeling, future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Bobby Layne had been seen imbibing in the lobby of the Northland (Hotel) on Sunday morning before the game. True or not, Layne didn't start, missed an extra point, and was traded to Pittsburgh the next day."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1958Packers (Milwaukee Journal)

² Packers Heritage Trail, Christl, p. 42

10.12.1958

BALTIMORE

COLTS	24
PACKERS	17

Green Bay jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Bart Starr (26-46-320-1-4) started the scoring with a 55-yard touchdown bomb to Hugh McIlhenny. On their next series, he scored on a short touchdown run. Paul Hornung's field goal pushed it to 17-0!

After 17 unanswered points, the Packers' offense went cold as Bart Starr's interceptions slowed down Green Bay. Baltimore quarterback Johnny Unitas rallied the Colts with a 1-yard touchdown run before halftime. In the second half, he uncorked a 55-yard touchdown bomb to tight end Jim Mutscheller. Steve Myhra's field goal tied it at 17. With less than three minutes to go, Bart Starr's fourth interception was returned 52 yards by safety Andy Nelson. Game over.

Baltimore	0	7	7	10	24
Green Bay	14	3	0	0	17

24,553
Milwaukee County Stadium

10.19.1958

PACKERS 21

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 37

Each team put up over 400 yards of offense, but the Redskins shut out the Packers until the fourth quarter. Trailing 34-0, the Packers got on the scoreboard after Babe Parilli replaced an injured Bart Starr. Parilli threw two touchdown passes, and Paul Hornung scored on the ground.

Green Bay 0 0 0 21 21

Washington 10 10 14 3 37

25,228

Turnovers: GB 5 WASH 2

"As the plane dipped its wings in the direction of Green Bay, everyone felt tense, waiting for the reception. Some 150 fans quietly watched in the dimly lighted surroundings as their Sunday heroes climbed out. There was no applauding, no booing. These are proud fans with a chip on their shoulder, waiting for the day their Packers will return to winning ways. Next Sunday is a perfect time for redemption with a home game against the Eagles."¹

1 packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes)

10.28.1958

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 35

PACKERS 38

Ten touchdowns were scored, five by each team. But it was Paul Hornung's first-quarter field goal that made all the difference!

The Eagles outgained the Packers, and Norm Van Brocklin threw for 293 yards and three touchdowns. Packers' quarterback Babe Parilli tossed four touchdowns. Max McGee caught two while Al Carmichael and Jim Taylor had one each.

The Packers led 38-14 in the fourth quarter when Van Brocklin began the long-awaited comeback with three touchdowns, two by air from "The Flying Dutchman." After the Eagles drove 68 yards in 12 plays for a score, Van Brocklin took control. He threw two touchdown passes that bought the Eagles to within three. With under one minute left, Hornung's field goal held up when Ray Nitschke recovered the onside kick!

Philadelphia 0 14 0 21 35

Green Bay 3 14 21 0 38

31,043

Turnovers: GB 1 PHI 4

11.2.1958

PACKERS 0

BALTIMORE

COLTS 56

The Packers suffered their largest margin of defeat in their history. They trailed 28-0 at halftime and managed just eight first downs all game (Baltimore had 30). Green Bay threw five interceptions. After the game, Coach McLean had this to say. "We've got to cut out some bad roots. They're getting to be a problem because they're starting to affect the rest of the team. We know who some of them are and we're going to do something about it."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Baltimore 7 21 14 14 56
51,333

1 packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes)

11.9.1958

PACKERS 10

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

A 56-yard field goal by Paul Hornung and a 64-yard touchdown run by Rick Casares were the long-distance strikes as the Bears swept the season series. The loss put the Packers in last place.

Green Bay's offense struggled again with only 145 yards. Rick Casares alone led Chicago with 113 yards rushing and 50 more receiving. In the third quarter, when Bart Starr fumbled after a hit from linebacker Bill George, Bill Bishop recovered for the Bears in the end zone for six. The Bears led 21-3 and were never threatened.

Green Bay 3 0 0 7 10
Chicago 0 7 14 3 24
48,424

11.16.1958

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 20

PACKERS 7

Unfortunately, the last home game of the season featured the usually explosive offense of the L.A. Rams. They generated 484 yards in this contest, 200 more than Green Bay. The Packers led briefly, 7-3, before the Rams took over. L.A. quarterback Billy Wade threw 42

times for 372 yards and one touchdown. Four picks of Babe Parilli doomed Green Bay's offense.

Los Angeles 10 0 3 7 20
Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
28,051

11.23.1958

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 33
PACKERS 12

The assault on Green Bay's defense continued with 539 yards by the 49ers. While it was still a tight 12-12 battle in the fourth quarter, San Francisco scored the next 21 points. Quarterback Y. A. Tittle capitalized on two Green Bay fumbles with two short drives, and two touchdown passes to Billy Wilson and R. C. Owens. In between, Hugh McElhenny ran for six more.

San Francisco 6 3 3 21 33
Green Bay 9 0 3 0 12
19,786

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 207 SF 539

11.27.1958

PACKERS 14
DETROIT
LIONS 24

The defending champions had a disappointing record of 3-5-1, but they still gobbled up Green Bay on Thanksgiving. Bart Starr played the entire game, and he had the Packers on Detroit's heels most of the contest.

Trailing 17-14 late in the game, Max McGee surprised everyone (including his coaches) with a fake punt from Green Bay's 24-yard line. McGee came up short of the first down, and the Lions scored the clincher six plays later.

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14
Detroit 10 0 7 7 24
50,971

Former Green Bay quarterback Paul Christman said: "When someone gets drafted by the Packers or traded to them, he usually says, 'Green Bay, I don't want to go there.' Then he goes there and finds it's quite a place. The people treat you real fine. They really make things nice for you."

*Christman, who now telecasts with the Cardinals, was asked if he thought that close contact with the fans in a town like Green Bay was good for the players. "Sure, it is," he said. "Green Bay is a good place for a pro football player."*¹

1 packershistory.net/1958Packers (News & Notes, 11/30, Milwaukee Journal)

12.7.1958

PACKERS 21
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 48

It was 34-0 before the Packers took notice. Y. A. Tittle had another good game against Green Bay, tossing two more touchdown passes. The Niners generated 468 total yards, and the Packers turned it over six times.

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21
San Francisco 27 7 14 0 48
50,793

*"Two local merchants Monday launched a petition campaign seeking the return of Earl (Curly) Lambeau as coach. The plan is the brainchild of H. H. Eaton, who operates a food market, and Harry Norton, a restaurant owner. Eaton said he and Norton were long-time Packer fans who are 'fed up with the way things have been going.'"*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/58, p. 21

12.14.1958

PACKERS 20
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 34

With a touchdown pass to Max McGee, quarterback Joe Francis had the Packers in front 14-7 in the second quarter. The rest of the way, however, they produced just two field goals by Paul Hornung.

In a 24-point explosion in the second quarter, L.A.'s Billy Wade, who threw for 243 yards overall, threw two touchdown passes. For Green Bay, rookie Jim Taylor had another good game (99 yards), but it wasn't nearly enough.

On December 17, 1958, head coach Scooter McClean resigned. Defensive tackle Dave Hanner had this to say: "Some of the players just let the coaches down, that's all—some of the ones who were supposed to carry the load. A lot of us feel real bad about Scooter."¹

Green Bay 7 7 3 3 20
Los Angeles 0 24 3 7 34
54,634

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/58, p. 37

1958

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Baltimore	9	3	0
Chicago	8	4	0
Los Angeles	8	4	0
San Francisco	6	6	0
Detroit	4	7	1
Green Bay	1	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Parilli
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Hornung
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Dillon

ALL-PRO

Dillon	Defensive Back
Ringo	Center

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Dan Currie (1, C)
Jim Taylor (2, FB)
Ray Nitschke (3b, LB)
Jerry Kramer (4, G)
Joe Francis (5, QB)



1959

Record: 7-5-0, 3rd Place, Tied

Coach: Vince Lombardi

- On February 2nd, Vince Lombardi was named the new head coach and general manager of the Packers. Lombardi had been an assistant coach for the New York Giants.
- To change the losing attitude throughout the organization, Lombardi preached, "We are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it because perfection is unattainable. But we are going to relentlessly chase it because, in the process, we will catch excellence."¹

- The final 10 days of training camp were closed. Players brought their families, and the team continued to work to get ready for the opener.
- Sixteen veterans from the 1958 team were gone. Picked to finish last again, the Packers opened the season with three straight wins. The *power sweep* by Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor became a staple of the offense. Even though opponents knew the sweep was coming, they had trouble stopping it. Receiver Boyd Dowler was also named the NFL's Rookie of the Year.
- The defense improved significantly, allowing 136 fewer points and 1,000 fewer yards than the previous season. Lombardi also purchased the contract of defensive back Emlen Tunnell from the Giants.
- This was Green Bay's first winning season since 1947.

1 That First Season, Eisenberg, p. 76

9.27.1959

CHICAGO

BEARS	6
PACKERS	9

A new era of Packer football began with quite a game! In the wind and rain, new coach

Vince Lombardi welcomed George "Papa Bear" Halas to Lambeau Field. It was a low-scoring game on a soggy field, and both squads stayed with their ground games. Combined, they ran the ball 78 times compared to 37 passes.

Green Bay's starting quarterback Lamar McHan completed only three passes. The defense, however, was impressive. The Bears produced only 171 yards of offense, and running backs Rick Casares and Willie Galimore were held to 57.

By the fourth quarter, two field goals by John Aveni had put the Bears in front 6-0. With just over eight minutes left, Richie Pettibone's fumbled punt gave Green Bay the ball on Chicago's 29. Six plays later, the Packers scored on Jim Taylor's power sweep around left end for a 7-6 lead. They held on tight, and with 47 seconds left, Dave "Hawg" Hanner took down quarterback Ed Brown in the end zone for a safety and the win! The exuberant Packers carried Lombardi off the field!

Chicago	0	3	0	3	6
Green Bay	0	0	0	9	9

32,150

“That was a tremendous victory for the Packers over the Bears last Sunday. It is difficult to think of anything in the long history of the Bays that caused as much excitement or gave the state’s pro football fans a bigger lift.”¹

1 packershistory.net/1959Packers (News & Notes, 9/29)

10.4.1959

DETROIT

LIONS	10
PACKERS	28

It was two in a row for Green Bay as quarterback Lamar McHan threw four touchdown passes! Gary Knafelc and Don McIlhenny caught the first two for a 14-0 first-quarter lead. After the Lions narrowed it to 14-10 in the third quarter, the Packers pulled away. McHan and Max McGee hooked up twice to finish off Detroit.

The Lion turned the ball over five times, and two of the turnovers led to McHan’s touchdown passes. Green Bay’s defense stood tall, and they sacked quarterbacks Tobin Rote and Earl Morrall seven times. “They were tough all right,”¹ said Rote, the former Packer quarterback. Roe had his nose broken in the third quarter!

Detroit	0	7	3	0	10
Green Bay	14	0	0	14	28

32,150

Mary Durocher, Lombardi’s administrative assistant: “I still remember my first day on the job. Coach Lombardi came in and asked me to type up his itinerary. I can’t remember how many copies he asked for, but he gave me the list of names he wanted the schedule to be given to, and his mother and father were on the list. I laughed and said something like, ‘Oh, sure,’ because I thought he was kidding. He said, ‘No, it’s true. My parents are elderly, and I like them to know where I am all the time.’ I thought that was really nice.”²

1 packershistory.net/1959Packers (News & Notes)

2 For Packers Fans ONLY! Wolfe, p. 24

10.11.1959

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers	20
PACKERS	21

With a third straight win in front of another sellout, the Packers were the talk of the league and the only remaining undefeated team! In this battle, Green Bay ran the ball 55 times for 284 yards. They struck first, however, on a 30-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Lamar McHan to Max McGee. A touchdown run by Paul Hornung in the second quarter made the score 14-6 at halftime.

San Francisco roared back. An interception by Dave Baker deep in Green Bay territory set up their first points. Quarterback Y. A. Tittle threw a 13-yard pass to Billy Wilson, who made a leaping catch in the end zone. After Paul Hornung missed a field goal, Tittle came right back with a 75-yard bomb to R. C. Owens to take the lead 20-14.

Early in the fourth quarter, a Niners fumble was recovered by Dave Hanner. The Packers marched into San Francisco territory, where McHan found Gary Knafelc for a 21-yard touchdown pass. Hornung's extra point gave the packers the lead, 21-20. The Niners had one opportunity with 1:06 left, but Tommy Davis missed a 37-yard field goal.

After three straight wins, there was already high praise waiting for Lombardi. "In one of the most fantastic coaching jobs of all time, Vince Lombardi has transformed a miserable loser into an unbeaten contender."¹

San Francisco	3	3	14	9	20
Green Bay	7	7	0	7	21
32,150					

"A full staff at the Packers' Stadium ticket office has been busy from morning to night. Everybody wants in. They'll be coming from all sections of the state"² for the Ram's game.

¹ packershistory.net/1959Packers

² packershistory.net/1959Packers

10.18.1959

LOS ANGELES

RAMS	45
PACKERS	6

Green Bay's offense went nowhere, and its top-ranked defense was torn apart for 456 total yards. Two Paul Hornung field goals kept the score close for Green Bay in a 14-6 first half.

The second half was a disaster as the Rams put up 31 unanswered points. Billy Wade threw three touchdown passes, and the ground game, led by Ollie Matson, produced 258 yards.

While the Rams thought this was their best performance of the year, the Packers blamed themselves for squandering opportunities with dropped passes and penalties. Lombardi didn't dwell on the loss, preferring to look forward. There's "no reason why they shouldn't bounce back," he said. But his words concluded with a warning, "and they damn well better."¹

Los Angeles	11	3	7	24	45
Green Bay	0	6	0	0	6
36,174					

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 4 LA 0

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/59, Rummel, p, 17

10.25.1959

PACKERS 21

BALTIMORE

COLTS 38

Lew Carpenter's 55-yard touchdown dash lit up the scoreboard in the second quarter against the defending NFL Champions. The touchdown momentarily silenced the Baltimore crowd, but the Colts scored before halftime on Alan Ameche's touchdown run.

On the second-half kickoff, the Packers recovered their own fumble thanks to Ray Nitschke. Three plays later, quarterback Lamar McHan capitalized with an 81-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee. McGee caught the ball at midfield and blew past the defense to tie the game at 14.

In the next five minutes, the Colts pounded the Packers for 21 points. Alan Ameche's touchdown run began the slugging, and Bill Pellington's 30-yard pick-six stretched the advantage to 28-14. On Green Bay's next series, McHan threw his third pick of the game, and Unitas (19-29-206-3-0) quickly turned it into a touchdown pass to Raymond Berry. Berry caught ten passes for 117 yards, and at the time, Johnny Unitas called this, "The best game of my career."¹

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21

Baltimore 0 14 21 3 38

57,557

Turnovers: GB 6 BAL 2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/59, Daley, p. 16

11.1.1959

PACKERS 3

NEW YORK

GIANTS 20

Vince Lombardi brought the Packers to his home—New York City. The game was played at Yankee Stadium, the site of many of the coach's greatest moments as an assistant coach, including last year's overtime win in the 1958 Championship Game!

The Giants were a formidable foe. They handled the Packers easily, despite not having an injured Frank Gifford available. "We were just overpowered on offense,"¹ Lombardi concluded as Green Bay was held to their lowest rushing output of the season and 161

total yards.

When quarterback Lamar McHan was ineffective due to a bad shoulder, Lombardi turned to second-year quarterback Joe Francis and not Bart Starr to jump-start the offense. Francis' energy briefly got the Packers moving, and Paul Hornung's field goal put them on the scoreboard. But that was it.

Green Bay completed just seven passes all game and gained only 42 yards in the entire second half. All of New York's points were scored by Alex Webster and Pat Summerall. Ironically, on Webster's first touchdown run, New York quarterback Charlie Conerly "knelt in the Giant huddle and called for a left sweep, still using Lombardi's terminology."²

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

68,837

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/59, Daley, p. 17

2 That First Season, Eisenberg, p. 204

11.8.1959

PACKERS	17
CHICAGO	
BEARS	28

Green Bay's opportunity to sweep the season series from the Bears for the first time since 1935 vanished quickly. It disappeared so fast that many Packer fans wondered if 1959, even with a new coach, would be just another losing season.

This game stalled early for Green Bay. Two fumbles by Paul Hornung in the first quarter helped Chicago to a 14-0 lead. Green Bay countered with Jimmy Taylor's touchdown run, but just before halftime, quarterback Lamar McHan was injured and was replaced by Bart Starr.

The Packers trailed 21-10 in the third quarter, and their passing game never got going. The Bears turned them away with two goal-line stands, and Max McGee dropped a big pass on the Bears' 1-yard line. The Packers didn't score in the second half until there were 27 seconds left. A 61-yard punt return for six by rookie Billy Butler didn't soften the blow of this decisive win for the Bears.

Green Bay	0	10	0	7	17
Chicago	14	7	7	0	28

46,205

"For the first time in five years, the Lumberjack Band went to Chicago!"¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/59, Rempel, p. 17

11.15.1959
BALTIMORE

COLTS **28**
PACKERS **24**

The teams met again three weeks later on a cold day in Milwaukee, and they produced 964 yards of offense! Bart Starr started his first game at quarterback for the Packers, but Baltimore's quarterback Johnny Unitas put on quite a show.

After Green Bay took a 3-0 lead on a Paul Hornung field goal, Bart Starr was intercepted by Dick Szymanski. Halfback Lenny Moore of the Colts then cashed in with a 26-yard touchdown run. Unitas then took charge of the game with two of his three touchdown passes. The first completed an 11-play drive, and the second stretched their lead to 21-3 at the half. Both touchdowns went to Raymond Berry.

In the third quarter, Starr led the Packers back on their first series, and Jimmy Taylor scored on a 2-yard run. Two minutes later, Henry Jordan recovered Alan Ameche's fumble on Baltimore's 34-yard line. Starr and Taylor connected for a 20-yard touchdown to trim the deficit to 21-17.

In the fourth quarter, Green Bay threatened again after Hornung's 62-yard burst off-tackle put them on the 10-yard line. However, the Colts' defense stiffened, and Hornung's field goal try went wide. After this defensive stand, the Colts drove downfield, and Unitas threw his third touchdown pass of the game to Jim Mutscheller. Taylor ran for his third touchdown of the game with three minutes remaining, but it was not enough.

Baltimore **7** **14** **0** **7** **28**
Green Bay **3** **0** **14** **7** **24**
25,521
Milwaukee County Stadium

11.22.1959
WASHINGTON

REDSKINS **0**
PACKERS **21**

The Packers snapped their losing streak, and Bart Starr won his first game! Green Bay's defense also celebrated its first shutout since 1949.

An impressive performance by Bart Starr led Green Bay to victory. He threw two touchdown passes in the second quarter to Gary Knafelc and Max McGee. After the break, Paul Hornung's 5-yard touchdown run finished the scoring.

Washington's backup quarterback Ralph Guglielmi had trouble getting them into the end zone. Four times they threatened inside the 20-yard line, but Green Bay's defense stepped

up each time. For the game, the defense recorded three sacks, grabbed two interceptions, and allowed just 69 yards rushing!

With a smile on his face after snapping the four-game losing streak, Lombardi summed it up with, "I think we played a better ball game against Baltimore last week and against the Bears the week before—we just made too many mistakes against them. We didn't make as many today."¹

Washington	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	14	7	0	21

31,853

Early in his tenure as coach, Lombardi asked Green Bay's "Golden Girl" Mary Jane Van Duyse to come up with a new cheer for the team. 'Go Pack Go!' began, and it's still cheered at Lambeau Field today and at many road games!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/5, Rimmel, p. 19

11.26.1959

PACKERS	24
DETROIT	
LIONS	17

In a holiday tradition that he eventually left behind, Lombardi won his first Thanksgiving game in Detroit. With all the points scored in the first half, Green Bay started out by fumbling the kickoff, and the Lions took an early 3-0 lead.

The Packers came back with two touchdowns from Paul Hornung. On the kickoff following Hornung's first touchdown, Terry Barr fumbled after a hit from Ray Nitschke, and Hornung ran it in a few plays later for the 14-0 lead. Another fumble led to Hornung's second field goal. After just 15 minutes, it was Paul Hornung and Green Bay leading 17-3. In the second quarter, Jimmy Taylor's touchdown run made it 24-3.

The Packers thought it was over and got lazy. The Lions struck back twice before halftime to trail by just a touchdown. Lombardi went ballistic about the letdown at halftime. In the second half, he had to be pleased that while the offense labored for 30 minutes, the defense stood strong and protected the seven-point lead!

Green Bay	17	7	0	0	24
Detroit	3	14	0	0	17

49,221

The Packers could now “run over you, bloody your nose, and beat you. They weren’t losers anymore. Back in Green Bay, several thousand got in their cars and drove to Austin Straubel Field to greet the team plane, adjusting holiday plans to show support.”¹

1 That First Season, Eisenberg, p. 24

12.6.1959

PACKERS	38
LOS ANGELES	
RAMS	20

The Packers hadn’t won in Los Angeles since 1947. They went in front fairly quickly behind a maturing Bart Starr and an explosive Paul Hornung. Hornung threw two touchdown passes, and Green Bay led 28-7 after the first half. The touchdowns, both to Boyd Dowler, came on halfback option plays, a staple of Lombardi’s new offense. “Hornung is working the option like Frank Gifford,”¹ Lombardi said with a smile.

The Rams cooperated with five turnovers, including an early interception by Emlen Tunnell that led to Green Bay’s first points. After the Packers built their 28-7 lead, L.A. got back in the game with two quick touchdowns.

With the lead narrowed to 28-20, Starr’s poise and leadership shined. He controlled the ball with great play-calling, which thwarted L.A.’s comeback. A short touchdown pass to Don McIlhenny and Paul Hornung’s 32-yard field goal ended the scoring.

Green Bay	14	14	0	10	34
Los Angeles	7	0	13	0	20

61,044

“Many Green Bay and area people stopped at the (Packers) dressing room door. They all appeared so happy that the Packers were winning again. Like finding a long-lost friend—Mr. Win!”²

1 packershistory.net/1959Packers (News & Notes)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/59, Daley, p. 24

12.13.1959

PACKERS 36

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

14

For the first time since 1950, when the Packers began finishing their seasons on the West Coast, Green Bay won both of its last two games against the Rams and 49ers!

After falling behind 14-0 on two touchdown runs by San Francisco, quarterback Bart Starr and halfback Paul Hornung led Green Bay's comeback. In the second quarter, Hornung scored on the ground, and Starr connected with Gary Knafelc for a 14-14 halftime.

The offense went into high gear after intermission. The defense started the scoring when Bill Forester trapped Y. A. Tittle in the end zone for a safety. The offense put up points on Hornung's touchdown run and Starr's touchdown to Boyd Dowler. Hornung finished the blowout with his third touchdown run. Starr's excellent game (20-25-249-2-0) completed Green Bay's best season since 1945!

After the game, ecstatic defensive back Hank Gremminger asked, "Why do we have to quit playing now?"¹

Green Bay 0 14 16 6 36
San Francisco 14 0 0 0 14
55,997

*"Suddenly, out of the night, a huge silver and blue plane came into view from the west, and a thunderous, ear-splitting ovation went up from 7,500 throats with a single voice."*²

¹ That First season, Eisenberg, p. 256

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/59, Rimmel, p. 25

1959

WESTERN CONERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Baltimore	9	3	0
Chicago	8	4	0
Green Bay	7	5	0
San Francisco	7	5	0
Detroit	3	8	1
Los Angeles	2	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Hornung
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Four tied w/2

ALL-PRO

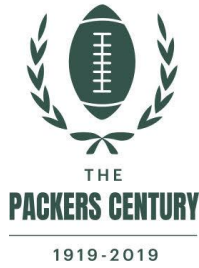
Dillon	Defensive Back
Forester	Linebacker
Gregg	Tackle
Hornung	Halfback
Ringo	Center

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Boyd Dowler (3, E)
Dick Teteak (15, G)
Bill Butler (19, HB)
Tim Brown (27, HB)

1960s





1960

Record: 8-4-0, 1st Place

Coach: Vince Lombardi

- In January 1960, Pete Rozelle, general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, was named NFL Commissioner.
- Regarding Rozelle, former Packers President Bob Harlan said this: “The longer I’ve been here, the more I appreciate the system the NFL has. That’s what saved Green Bay. The fact that Pete Rozelle convinced the other owners in the early 1960s to share revenue is enormous. If we didn’t have television revenue, we wouldn’t have been in this business very long.”¹
- The new American Football League (AFL) began play with 14 teams.
- Beginning in 1960, every Packers home game was sold out.
- Andrew Turnbull, former Packers President, and prime mover behind getting the community to initially support the Packers, died on October 17.
- The team continued to improve with the league’s #1 offense and the second-best defense.
- Paul Hornung broke Don Hutson’s single-season scoring record with 176 points. Jimmy Taylor broke Tony Canadeo’s rushing record with 1,101 yards.
- On November 27, Green Bay’s chief scout, Jack Vainisi, died suddenly of a heart attack. Vainisi drafted most of the players that became champions under Lombardi, including Hornung, Nitschke, and Starr.
- Fans were beside themselves as the Packers closed in on its first championship game since 1944.

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 117

9.25.1960

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

PACKERS 14

Bart Starr started at quarterback, but the loss had some fans already very worried! In the first quarter, the Packers missed three scoring opportunities deep in Chicago territory. The drives ended on an interception, a blocked field goal, and a missed field goal. Green Bay led 7-0 a halftime behind a touchdown run by Jim Taylor.

In the first 30 minutes, the closest the Bears came to scoring was Green Bay's 40-yard line! Overall, Hornung and Taylor pounded Chicago for 137 yards rushing. Hornung caught three passes for 14 more, and his third-quarter touchdown made it 14-0. Early in the fourth quarter, the Bears tied the score on touchdown runs by Willie Galimore and, after Jim Taylor's fumble, Rick Casares.

Chicago's strong defense kept Green Bay's passing attack in check. Starr threw just eight passes for 68 yards, and he was intercepted twice. With 35 seconds left in a 14-14 game, Starr's pass was batted into the air and intercepted by Earl Legget on Green Bay's 32-yard line. The defense held, but John Aveni's 16-yard field goal won it. "We didn't play with any type of abandon on offense. We were just very careful,"¹ Lombardi said after reviewing the game film.

Chicago 0 0 0 17 17

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14

32,150

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/60, Daley, p. 19

10.2.1960

DETROIT

LIONS 9

PACKERS 28

The defense kept the Lions out of the end zone all game! The Packers held Detroit to 69 yards rushing, and they gave up just three field goals, all in the first half.

Though Lombardi started Lamar McHan at quarterback to jump-start the passing game, Green Bay ran the ball 52 times for 255 yards! Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung accounted for 224 of the yards. McHan faired poorly, completing only seven of 17 passes for 109 yards and two interceptions.

In the first half, after two field goals by the Lions, an interception by John Symank set up Green Bay's points. Tom Moore's five-yard touchdown run made it 7-6, but a third field

goal by Jim Martin gave the Lions the lead 9-7 at the break.

In the second half, the skill and power of Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor led the comeback with three touchdowns. Taylor hit hard with 102 yards in the second half, and he scored one touchdown. Hornung scored twice in the fourth quarter and kicked four extra points. The Packers won going way!

Detroit **3 6 0 0 9**
Green Bay **0 7 7 14 28**
32,150

Turnovers: GB 3 DET 1

*"Fred Dandoy, veteran gateman, missed his first Packers home game in 40 years Sunday. Fred, who once passed the hat during the Packers early sandlot days, was injured in a fall from a porch roof at his home st 132 S. Roosevelt Street."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/60, Rimmel, p. 17

10.9.1960

BALTIMORE

COLTS **21**
PACKERS **35**

"This game reawakened a championship spirit that had been dulled by years of losing,"¹ the Press-Gazette reported. The Packers handed the two-time defending champion Colts their first loss. Green Bay's defense spearheaded this decisive win, and it moved the Packers into a four-way tie for first place.

Lamar McHan started at quarterback, and after a scoreless first quarter, both squads got on the scoreboard with 12-yard touchdown runs by Jimmy Taylor and Alan Ameche. In the second half, Taylor scored twice more for a 21-7 lead.

Two touchdown runs by Alex Hawkins of the Colts kept it exciting, but their six turnovers proved too costly. The Packers scored after two of their four interceptions of Johnny Unitas and after two fumbles. Green Bay's Hank Gremminger had two picks, and the 11 men who started on defense played the entire game for Green Bay! After they clinched the win, "The Packers Lumberjack Band opened with, 'There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight.'"² Indeed!

Baltimore **0 7 0 14 21**
Green Bay **0 7 7 21 35**
32,150

Total Yards: GB 217 BAL 409

*The fans gave the Packers several standing ovations "each time with a rising crescendo."*³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/60, Daley, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/60, Daley, p. 18

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/60, Rimmel, p. 17

10.23.1960

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 14

PACKERS 41

To date, this was the second-largest crowd to see the Packers play in Milwaukee. After a bye week, this impressive win kept Green Bay tied atop the division. They racked up 455 yards of offense compared to 179 for San Francisco. In the first half, San Francisco did not complete a single pass, and Green Bay set the pace with two early touchdown drives. Quarterback Lamar McHan had a productive day with one touchdown and 183 yards.

Paul Hornung scored 23 points! He did it with two touchdown runs, two field goals, and five extra points. Jim Taylor led the ground game, though, with 98 yards.

Green Bay's defense contained the 49ers and quarterback Y. A. Tittle. Tittle threw for only 108 yards and two touchdowns. The first came with the Niners already trailing 27-0. "They just beat the hell of out us in every department,"¹ said 49ers Coach Red Hickey.

San Francisco 0 0 7 7 14

Green Bay 14 10 3 14 41

39,914

Milwaukee County Stadium

Hank Aaron and Eddie Matthews, stars of the Milwaukee Braves, sat on the Green Bay bench.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/60, Rimmel, p. 15

10.30.1960

PACKERS 19

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 13

The Packers took over sole possession of first place with this thrilling win on the road. Quarterbacks Bart Starr and Bobby Layne didn't start the game, but they took charge of the outcome! Layne replaced Rudy Bukich, and Starr saved the Packers in the second half.

Paul Hornung's four field goals gave Green Bay a 12-0 lead. Layne got Pittsburgh's offense moving in the second quarter with a no-huddle offense. The change energized the Steelers, and Layne threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to Tom Tracy. Late in a scoreless third quarter, Bart Starr came off the bench for the Packers.

Layne put Pittsburgh in front 13-12 with a 48-yard touchdown pass to Buddy Dial. It stayed a 1-point game until the Packers took over after recovering a Pittsburgh fumble with five minutes left. Starr marched Green Bay 65 yards in 11 plays, and Jim Taylor scored

the winner with 1:01 left. After the game, Lombardi addressed the quarterback situation with, "I don't know who I'll start at quarterback. That will be decided later in the week."¹

Green Bay 9 3 0 7 19
Pittsburgh 0 7 0 6 13
30,155

Starr: 11-18-150-0-0

Layne: 12-20-209-2-0

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/60, Daley p. 19

11.6.1960

PACKERS 24
BALTIMORE
COLTS 38

Bart Starr was the understood starter from this game forward. Here, Starr battled from behind, as the 4-2 Colts were eager to take on the 4-1 Packers.

Johnny Unitas lit up the first quarter with three touchdown passes. He picked on Green Bay's two rookie defensive backs Willie Wood and Dick Pesonen. Raymond Berry caught two of Unitas' touchdowns for a 21-0 lead. Green Bay rallied to tie the game 24-24 with two touchdowns by Paul Hornung and one by Jim Taylor. Hornung's 21-yard field goal in the fourth quarter tied it at 24.

With five minutes to play, Unitas threw a third touchdown to Berry to retake the lead. They clinched it when they intercepted Bart Starr for the fourth time, which led to a 13-yard touchdown run by Alex Hawkins. Even in the loss, Lombardi was pleased overall with the performance. He chalked up the loss to "four basic plays because of inexperienced personnel."¹

Green Bay 0 7 7 10 24
Baltimore 14 7 3 14 38
57,808

Total Yards: GB 426 BAL 404

"The Packers returned to a wonderful welcome at Austin Straubel Field Sunday night. A crowd estimated at 2,000 cheered the players and coaches as they stepped off the plane."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/60, Daley,p. 24

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/60, Daley,p. 24

11.20.1960

DALLAS

COWBOYS 7
PACKERS 41

This was the first meeting between Vince Lombardi and Tom Landry during the regular season. Lombardi was in his second season in Green Bay, and Landry was in his first with the expansion franchise in Dallas, the Cowboys. The game began one of the great coaching rivalries in NFL history. Lombardi and Landry had worked together as assistant coaches for the New York Giants. They were among the brightest assistant coaches in pro football at the time—Lombardi the offensive genius and Landry the defensive mastermind. Both became head coaches, with Lombardi leaving New York one year before Landry left for Dallas.

Lombardi's offense bested Landry's defense in the first meeting. The Packers' backfield of Jimmy Taylor and Paul Hornung dominated. They scored all of Green Bay's points other than Ray Nitschke's pick-six in the second quarter. Taylor's three touchdowns gave Green Bay the lead, and the versatile Hornung scored 17 more!

Defensively, Nitschke "tackled with crowd-pleasing abandon"¹ and set an aggressive tone. He also recovered a fumble and grabbed an interception to set up Taylor's last touchdown. The Cowboys cooperated with five turnovers.

Dallas 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 7 20 7 7 41
32,294

Turnovers: GB 2 DAL 5

Over 50 former players returned to cheer on the reborn Packers! "They were introduced to the crowd by Jug Earp, President of the Packer Alumni Association."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/60, Daley, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/60, Rudolf, p. 20

11.20.1960

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 33
PACKERS 31

The Packers suffered a gut-wrenching loss. They led the game early, fell behind, and then retook the lead before finally losing the game.

Paul Hornung's field goal and touchdown run gave the Packers an early lead, but with five turnovers, they were unable to protect it. The Rams capitalized on all five, and by the third quarter, they led 30-10.

In the third quarter, the Packers came to life! In a span of nine minutes stretching into the fourth quarter, they scored three touchdowns. Tom Moore scored on a 60-yard burst off left end. After Hornung tossed an 18-yard touchdown to Boyd Dowler, Starr drove the Packers right back into L.A. territory. Hornung finished the drive with a 2-yard run, and he kicked the extra point for a 31-30 lead!

With 3:44 left, Hornung, who scored 19 points, fumbled on the Rams' 42-yard line. With 22 seconds left, Danny Villaneuva kicked his fourth field goal for the win.

Los Angeles 7 13 10 3 33
Green Bay 10 0 7 14 31
35,763
Milwaukee County Stadium

"A grade school football game between halves was greeted with zest by the Packer-Ram audience, most of the 35,000+ remaining in their seats to delight in a 13-0 St. Augustine victory over St. Aloysius."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/60, Rempel, p. 21

11.24.1960

PACKERS 10
DETROIT
LIONS 23

On national television, the Packers were roasted on Thanksgiving. This poor all-around effort jeopardized Green Bay's title chances.

To open the scoring, Detroit blocked a punt into the end zone for a safety. With touchdown runs by quarterback Jim Ninowski and Ken Webb, the Lions led comfortably 16-0 at halftime. For Green Bay, quarterback Bart Starr had a rough first half with just three yards passing.

Paul Hornung's touchdown run and field goal narrowed the lead in the third quarter. Green Bay's momentum though, was stopped cold when Willie Wood fumbled a punt. The Lions recovered on Green Bay's 13-yard line. Two plays later, Jim Ninowski threw to Jim Gibbons in the end zone to seal the deal.

After the game, an assistant coach for the Lions reportedly said, "The Packers have such tremendous balance that they'd be a shoo-in for the championship if they didn't have a quarterback problem."¹

Green Bay 0 0 10 0 10
Detroit 9 7 7 0 23
51,123

Total Yards: GB 291 DET 181

Mary Durocher, Lombardi's administrative assistant: "One of the things he insisted on was Thanksgiving dinner at the Elks Club. He considered the Packers his family, and he wanted us all together at Thanksgiving. One year, he had two of my sons, one in each arm, and he walked over to Bart Starr and said, 'These are Mary's boys!' It was just like they were his own family."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/60, Rimmel, p. 18

2 For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 25

12.4.1960

PACKERS 41

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

The Packers dedicated this game to Jack Vainisi, their chief talent scout, who drafted many of the players. Vainisi died of a sudden heart attack on November 27. Before the game, Lombardi spoke to the team. "You have three good reasons for winning today. For Jack, for the tradition of this great game, and for the title. Now let's go and get it!"¹ The inspired Packers were not to be denied.

A scoreless first quarter yielded to a busy second. After a Paul Hornung field goal, Willie Davis broke through to block a punt. Davis also recovered the football in the end zone for a 10-0 lead. Chicago made it 10-7 before Hornung opened the spigot with another field goal, followed by a 17-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr. A touchdown run by Jim Taylor made it 27-6.

Hornung scored again on a 10-yard run, and a 46-yard touchdown pass from Starr to Max McGee topped it all off. Hornung scored 23 points—two touchdowns, two field goals, five extra points—and he broke Don Hutson's NFL single-season scoring record of 138 points! Hornung, drafted by Jack Vainisi, had little to say about the record. "You don't think that much about records. Somebody will come along and break this one."²

Green Bay 0 13 14 14 41

Chicago 0 6 7 0 13

46,406

Total Yards: GB 443 CHI 321

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 200

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/60, Rimmel, p. 25

12.10.1960

PACKERS 13

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 0

In muddy and rainy Kezar Stadium, Paul Hornung scored all 13 points for Green Bay. He kicked a second-quarter field goal and scored the game's only touchdown in the fourth quarter. He followed the touchdown with another field goal. While Jim Taylor led the blocking for Hornung, he also pounded San Francisco himself for 161 yards rushing. Taylor set a new single-season rushing record for the Packers with 1,059 yards that broke Tony Canadeo's record set in 1949.

Green Bay dominated in yards gained 292-81, and the win moved them into sole possession of first place in the Western Conference. Lombardi could hardly contain himself. "First place!" he said as he beamed, "And now it's all wrapped up in one weekend... weeks of preparation."¹ A win next week over the Rams would clinch the conference title!

Green Bay 0 3 0 10 13

San Francisco 0 0 0 0 0

53,612

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/12/1960, Daley, p. 23

12.17.1960

PACKERS 35

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 21

The Green Bay Packers clinched their first conference championship since 1944, and they did it against the 4-6-1 Rams.

L.A. took a 7-0 lead on a Billy Wade touchdown pass. Green Bay answered with the next 28 points. Bart Starr, who threw for 201 yards, tossed touchdowns of 57 and 91 yards. Hornung's fine performance included another touchdown pass to Max McGee and a touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Hornung set a new NFL record with 176 points! Wade and the Rams scored twice in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

Green Bay ended the season with three wins on the road. Bart Starr came into his own in these games with a stat line of 31-49-469-4-1. The Packers were headed to the 1960 championship game, but not before they carried their coach off the field!

Green Bay 7 21 0 7 35

Los Angeles 7 0 0 14 21

53,445

“Contact with the chartered plane carrying the team will be kept all the way from Denver so that the fans will know within five minutes when the plane will land.”¹

“Local police think they found a Ram fan in the heart of Packerland at halftime. An officer was sent to a local tavern to pick up a ‘drunk who’s becoming disorderly.’ With the Pack running wild and ahead 28-7 at the time, the desk sergeant sent the officer off with ‘What the heck, the guy must be a Ram fan. Ram fans can’t drown their sorrows in our town.’”²

In bitter cold (12 degrees), “Eleven thousand fans showed up at Austin Straubel field to welcome the heroes home. Lombardi told them: “It’s a very, very happy day for me, the coaches, and the players—and even more particularly for you, the fine people of Green Bay, who were so deserving of a championship. I just hope we can bring you a world championship next week.”³

“As each (player) walked across the stage, Egan presented him with a wallet containing \$50.00, which he described ‘as just a very small token of esteem in which all of the Packers are held by the people of Green Bay and the State of Wisconsin.’”⁴

1 Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/18/1960, Yuenger, p. 4

2 Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/18/1960, p. 3

3 Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/19/1960, Rimmel, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/1960, Rimmel, p. 1

12.26.1960

1960 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS	13
PHILADELPHIA	
EAGLES	17

Bart Starr: “Two years before, we’d won only one game all year, and now here we were, and I think the general attitude was: jeepers, are we really here?”¹

The Packers hadn’t played in an NFL Championship Game since 1944. For the Eagles, it was 1949. Green Bay made it to the game with a second-year head coach, while the veteran coach of the Eagles, Buck Shaw, was coaching his last NFL game.

The Packers outplayed the Eagles. Green Bay’s offense “belted the Eagles all over the place”² with 401 total yards. But they did not put up enough points when they had seven chances inside Philadelphia’s 26-yard line.

The first play from scrimmage by the Eagles couldn’t have been worse. Green Bay defensive end Bill Quinlan grabbed quarterback Norm Van Brocklin’s deflected lateral at Philadelphia’s 14-yard line. When the Packers were stopped at the 5-yard line, they tried to keep the drive going on fourth down rather than kick the field goal. They were stopped.

On Philadelphia’s next series, rookie Ted Dean fumbled the ball back to Green Bay at the Eagles’ 22. Green Bay was forced to settle for a Paul Hornung field goal and a 3-0 lead. In the second quarter, after another drive stalled, Hornung booted a 23-yard field goal.

Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin of the Eagles began to heat up in the second quarter. "The Dutchman" connected with speedy flanker Tommy McDonald twice for long gains. The second completion came on a quick crossing route that McDonald took the distance for a 35-yard touchdown. On Philadelphia's next series, they were stopped at Green Bay's eight-yard line. A field goal made it 10-6 Eagles at the half.

On Philadelphia's first series of the third quarter, safety John Symank intercepted quarterback Norm Van Brocklin. Green Bay couldn't move the ball, but they gambled on a fourth down from their 20-yard line. Max McGee faked a punt and took off on a 35-yard sprint to Philadelphia's 45-yard line. Seven plays later, Starr and McGee hooked up to give Green Bay a 13-10 lead early in the fourth quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Ted Dean shocked Green Bay. He ran untouched for 55 yards before Willie Wood pushed him out of bounds at Green Bay's 40-yard line. With great field position, the Eagles scored on Ted Dean's five-yard touchdown run with ten minutes left. The Eagles led 17-13.

In the fourth quarter, Paul Hornung, who had injured his neck in the third quarter, did not return. Green Bay had three fourth-quarter possessions. They fumbled on the first series and punted on the second. The last drive began on their 35-yard line with 1:05 left. Starr directed the Packers to Philadelphia's 22. With ten seconds left and no timeouts, Jim Taylor caught a pass from Starr and broke two tackles heading toward the end zone. He was stopped at the 8-yard line by Chuck Bednarik and company as time ran out.

The defeat was the first and only championship game loss of the Lombardi Era. Lombardi took responsibility for it and reflected on the points he left on the field. "I learned my lesson today. When you get down there, come out with something. I lost the game, not my players. That was my fault."³

Green Bay	3	3	0	7	13
Philadelphia	0	10	0	7	17
67,325					

1 Bart Starr: A Perspective on Victory, Wiebusch, p. 76

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/60, Daley, p. 1

3 goldenrankings.com/nflchampionshipgame1960

1960

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	8	4	0
Detroit	7	5	0
San Francisco	7	5	0
Baltimore	6	6	0
Chicago	5	6	1
Los Angeles	4	7	1
Dallas	0	11	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Whittenton

ALL-PRO

Forester	Linebacker
Gregg	Tackle
Hornung	Halfback
Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Kramer	Guard
Ringo	Center
Taylor	Fullback
Whittenton	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tom Moore (1, HB)

Bob Jeter (2, CB)

Dale Hackbart (19, CB)



1961
Record: 11-3-0, NFL Champions
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- After two seasons, Lombardi signed a new five-year contract in August.
- Lombardi puts the “G” on the team’s helmet.
- The NFL began a 14 game schedule and signed a new TV contract with the CBS Television Network. Each team received \$644,000.
- Green Bay’s offense was number one. Bart Starr threw for 2,418 yards, a new Packers record. Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor, and Tom Moore led the NFL in rushing, first downs, and touchdowns. Hornung was the NFL MVP.
- Only the Giants gave up fewer points than the Packers. Green Bay also intercepted 29!
- During the season, Paul Hornung, Ray Nitschke, and Boyd Dowler fulfilled their military obligations.

9.17.1961

DETROIT

LIONS **17**

PACKERS **13**

A record crowd in Milwaukee saw Jimmy Taylor and Paul Hornung score all of Green Bay’s points. The fans also saw two golden opportunities slip through the Packers’ hands on Detroit’s goal line. Lombardi would later point to those failures with, “You don’t get down there that often—if you don’t score, you don’t win.”¹

Jimmy Taylor’s touchdown came on Green Bay’s opening drive. Nick Pietrosante of the Lions matched it, and he put Detroit in front before halftime on a 15-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Earl Morrall. Paul Hornung’s second field goal made it 14-13 in the fourth quarter.

A 44-yard field goal by Jim Martin restored the Lions’ four-point lead. As Green Bay’s final drive moved deep into Detroit territory, Bart Starr’s pass bounced out of Gary Knafelc’s hands and was intercepted by Dick “Night Train” Lane at Detroit’s 7-yard line. Game over.

Detroit 7 7 0 3 17

Green Bay 7 3 0 3 13

44,307

Milwaukee County Stadium

On the sellout crowd: "One member of the (ticket office) staff, Irene Silewski, reported: "When I would tell them we had a few upper box seats and standing room left, they would say 'Standing room? Where can we sit with that?'"²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/67, Rimmel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/61, Rimmel, p. 18

9.24.1961

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 10

PACKERS 30

Quarterback Bart Starr demonstrated that he was "reaching a peak as a top-flight pro quarterback."¹ He led an 81-yard march the second time the Packers had the ball, and he scored on a 1-yard plunge for a 7-0 lead. After the Lions tied it, Willie Wood's 39-yard punt return gave the Packers the lead for good 14-7.

The defense protected the lead with three interceptions. Ray Nitschke's pick set up one of Hornung's three field goals. A fourth-quarter interception by linebacker Bill Forester led to Starr's beautiful 23-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee that finished the scoring. Starr played a fine game, and the offense kept San Francisco off-balance as Taylor and Hornung ran 30 times for 114 yards. Tight end Ron Kramer led all receivers with five catches for 61 yards while still blocking with his usual "crunching abandon"²

Lombardi didn't see the game as a blowout. "Up to the last touchdown, it was anybody's ballgame. They're capable of getting that the big one at any time, you know. We made some key interceptions, of course."³

San Francisco 7 3 0 0 10

Green Bay 7 13 3 7 30

38,669

Bart Starr: 11-16-161-1-1

1 packershistory.net/1961 Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/61, Rimmel, p. 13

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/61, Rimmel, p. 14

10.1.1961

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

PACKERS 24

The Packers had no problem shutting out the Bears for the first time since 1935. They defeated their archrival by running the ball as Chicago's defense contained the passing game. The Packers ran for 198 yards, with Jim Taylor smashing his way for 130 and a touchdown. His 53-yard rumble from scrimmage set up Paul Hornung's second-quarter field goal and a 10-0 lead.

Interceptions fueled the blowout. The four passes were stolen by John Symank, Dan Currie (2), and Hank Gremminger. The first interception by Symank led to Starr's touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler. Currie's enabled Starr to put the game out of reach with a touchdown to Ron Kramer. With the win, Green Bay made it a four-way tie for first place with the Lions, Colts, and 49ers.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 3 7 7 24
38,669

10.8.1961

BALTIMORE

COLTS 7

PACKERS 45

There was a lot of offense from the Packers in his game as Paul Hornung scored 33 points! His prolific performance began two minutes into the game with a 54-yard touchdown run. After the Colts tied it on Lenny Moore's score, they were skunked the rest of the way.

Baltimore turned the ball over eight times with quarterback Johnny Unitas leading the way with five interceptions. Hornung scored four touchdowns, kicked one field goal, and booted six extra points! Of his touchdowns, three came on the ground and one on a short pass from Bart Starr. "Rapidly becoming the most exciting player in the NFL,"¹ Hornung broke Don Hutson's team record of 31 points in a single game set against Detroit in 1945.

On top of his touchdowns, Hornung ran for 111 yards on ten carries and caught three passes for 28 yards. After the game, responding to reporters, Lombardi, of course, downplayed the individual performance. "It was a great team effort—on the part of both groups, the offense, and the defense. I don't see how you can single out any one player."²

Baltimore 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 7 10 14 14 45

38,669

“Wherever the Packers went, Hornung was the player fans wanted to see. When the team got off the bus, children and adults too would ask, ‘Where’s Hornung?’ ‘Has Hornung gone past yet?’ ‘Is Hornung still on the bus?’”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/61, Daley, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/1961, Rimmel, p. 13

3 Greatest Packers of All-Time, Johnson, p. 73

10.15.1961

PACKERS 49

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 17

Green Bay celebrated its first win over the Cleveland Browns since they joined the NFL in 1950. They finally flipped the script and pounded the Browns into submission. It was also Vince Lombardi’s first time coaching against the legendary Paul Brown.

The Packers exploded for 40 points for the second straight game. They scored easily the first three times they had the ball, and they led at halftime. Jimmy Taylor’s two first-quarter touchdowns enforced Green Bay’s domination early. Paul Hornung also scored, and Cleveland’s only points in the first half came on Lou Groza’s field goal.

The second-half scoring started with Taylor’s 45-yard dash from scrimmage for the end zone. He would finish his day with touchdown number four in the fourth quarter for a 35-10 lead. Quarterback Bart Starr played an outstanding game (15-17-272-2-0), and the Packers outgained the Browns 487-290. The defense also stepped up big-time, holding Jim Brown to 72 yards rushing.

“The Sunday before Paul Hornung had had his big day, but this time it was Jimmy Taylor’s turn. And I don’t ever recall two more dynamic performances back to back.”¹

Green Bay 14 7 7 21 49

Cleveland 0 3 7 7 17

38,669

“An estimated 1,000 fans were on hand at Austin Straubel Field to meet the Packers when they returned from their first road game of the year at Cleveland Sunday.”²

1 Bart Starr: A Perspective On Victory, Wiebusch, p. 81

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/1961, p. 19

10.22.1961

PACKERS 33

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 7

This was Green Bay's first game against the NFL's newest franchise—the Minnesota Vikings. The teams started the border rivalry playing on back-to-back Sundays!!

Green Bay was a heavy favorite with an offense in high gear and a very opportunistic defense. On the first play from scrimmage, Bart Starr and Boyd Dowler connected for a 78-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead. Halfback Tom Moore, who did a stand-up job filling in for Paul Hornung after he injured his left leg, ran all around the Vikings for 159 yards. He also completed a halfback option pass for 20 yards.

Rookie quarterback Fran Tarkenton had a frustrating debut against Green Bay. He threw three interceptions, including a pick-six to linebacker Dan Currie that finished the scoring. The Vikings committed seven turnovers, and the Packers pounded them for 467 yards. Hornung, who continued to kick after his injury, scored 15 points with four field goals and three extra points.

Green Bay 10 3 3 17 33

Minnesota 0 7 0 0 7

42,007

"This was Green Bay territory before Minnesota became a solid entrant in the league."¹

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler p. xi

10.29.1961

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 28

In the rematch, the Packers picked up right where they left off the previous Sunday and scored the first two times they had the ball! A 1-yard run by Paul Hornung and a touchdown pass on the halfback option from Hornung to tight end Ron Kramer gave them a 14-0 lead. In the second quarter, Bart Starr and fullback Jim Taylor hooked up for an eight-yard touchdown and a 21-7 halftime lead.

Starr enjoyed an outstanding game (18-24-311-2-0), and he led four scoring drives of 67, 70, 69, and 33 yards. His leading receivers, Max McGee and Boyd Dowler, combined for 223 yards and one touchdown. The ground game was led by Hornung's 70 yards.

In a costly game physically, the Packers lost Jerry Kramer to a ligament strain on the game's first play. Paul Hornung left the game with a pinched nerve in his shoulder, and Ron Kramer sprained an ankle. The Packers gave the ball away three times, but Minnesota didn't capitalize. The Packers outgained the Vikings 467-263, and coach Norm Van Brocklin, never shy to criticize, called the contest "the worst officiated game I've seen in 13 years."¹ In their previous six games, the Packers outscored opponents 194-51!

Minnesota 0 7 3 0 10
Green Bay 14 7 0 7 28
44,116
Milwaukee County Stadium

Hornung, Nitschke, and Dowler would soon report for their military obligations.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/61, Rimmel, p. 13

11.5.1961

PACKERS 21
BALTIMORE
COLTS 45

After the Packers beat up the Colts in October, Johnny Unitas and company got their revenge. Though touchdowns by Bart Starr and Paul Hornung kept it close early, Lenny Moore's touchdown for Baltimore opened the floodgates.

Unitas heated up in the second quarter and began his assault on Green Bay's secondary (22-35-218-4-1). He threw early touchdowns to Alex Hawkins and Lenny Moore, while Jimmy Orr caught two in the second half to stretch the lead to 38-14. Fullback Joe Perry also scored twice on the ground and ran for 105 yards.

The Colts kept the Packers out of the end zone in the second half. Green Bay's only points came on a pick-six by Jesse Whittenton. Baltimore's defense held Bart Starr to 64 yards passing and the Packers to 225 total yards. The Colts ran 78 plays to Green Bay's 41.

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21
Baltimore 7 14 10 14 45
57,641

Total Yards: GB 225 BALT 407

On his second TD to Orr, Unitas waved off the field goal team and threw the TD pass!

11.12.1961

PACKERS 31

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

The Packers shut out the Bears for the first time since 1935, which was also the last time Green Bay swept the season series.

Chicago took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter on Billy Wade's 47-yard scoring strike to rookie tight end Mike Ditka. The stunning play woke up Green Bay's defense, and the Bears didn't score again until it was 31-7 in the third quarter.

Three touchdown passes from Bart Starr led the way to 31 unanswered points. Starr threw touchdowns to Ron Kramer and Paul Hornung. The "Golden Boy" also scored on the ground and booted a 51-yard field goal to push the lead to 31-7. Hornung not only scored 19 points, but his field goal was the second-longest in team history at the time.

A furious comeback attempt by the Bears turned a likely blowout into a contest. Wade and Ditka connected twice more for touchdowns, and Rick Casares of the Bears ran for a 9-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 31-28 with 2:51 left. The Bears got the ball back with 59 seconds left, but the Green Bay's defense held!

Green Bay 7 21 3 9 31

Chicago 7 0 7 14 28

49,711

*At Wrigley Field, "there were signs exhorting the Packers to peak effort, including one (that) paraded up and down the field between halves by a pair of La Crosse fanatics."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/1961, Rimmel, p. 16

11.19.1961

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 17

PACKERS 35

For many former players and families, a convincing win by the Packers made for a great Homecoming weekend!

Green Bay's offense moved the ball easily against L.A. even though Paul Hornung did not play due to military obligations. Bart Starr and Jim Taylor showed the way, and the Packers won easily.

The Rams scored first, however, after Lyndon Crow's interception of Bart Starr. Jon Arnett's 14-yard touchdown run for a 7-0 lead followed. After this out-of-character turnover, the Packers unloaded. Jimmy Taylor's touchdown run tied the score. During an eight-minute stretch of the second quarter, Starr threw touchdowns to Max McGee and Boyd Dowler. The team and the crowd were on fire, and the Rams were burned badly.

In a quiet second half, the teams traded fourth-quarter touchdowns. Frank Ryan's 17-yard pass to Ollie Matson made the score 28-17. But on Green Bay's next series, the Packers finished it in six plays with Jim Taylor's second touchdown run.

Los Angeles 7 3 0 7 17
Green Bay 0 28 0 7 35
38,669

Before the game, "Miss Diane Anderson of Eau Claire, 1961 'Miss Wisconsin,' was presented with a Packer football autographed by all the players and coaches."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/61, Rimmel, p. 20

11.23.1961

PACKERS 17

DETROIT

LIONS 9

In a Thanksgiving Day mudbath, the Lions started off the holiday gift-giving season! Quarterback Jim Ninowski and backup Earl Morrall threw four interceptions, which gave the game away.

But Detroit scored first with two field goals by Jim Martin on "Jim Martin Day" in Detroit! Before halftime, quarterback Bart Starr marched the Packers 80 yards for a touchdown. On the drive's sixth play, Jim Taylor scored on the ground, 7-6 Packers.

After halftime, Martin kicked his third field goal. The game broke Green Bay's way late in the third quarter when number one draft choice Herb Adderley intercepted Jim Ninowski. A 40-yard drive ensued that Taylor made whole with his second 1-yard touchdown run. "On both (drives), I came right off of Fuzzy, and both of them were good holes,"¹ said a smiling Taylor. Late in the game, Packers' safety Willie Wood intercepted Earl Morrall, and Paul Hornung made it count with a 9-yard field goal.

Green Bay 0 7 0 10 17
Detroit 3 3 3 0 9
55,662

Turnovers: GB 2 DET 5

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/61, p. 13

12.3.1961

NEW YORK

GIANTS 17
PACKERS 20

The Packers won their second straight Western Conference crown, and they did it in “one of the most exciting and unpredictable games in the history of pro football,”¹

Vince Lombardi defeated his former team for the first time. It was a brutal battle in the trenches, with Green Bay holding the edge. The Packers pounded the ball on the ground for 270 yards. Fullback Jim Taylor set a franchise record at the time with 189 yards, and he scored both touchdowns that followed New York fumbles.

Though they were outgained, the Giants led 17-13 early in the fourth quarter. Packers defensive back Jesse Whittenton made the play of the game when he stole the ball from New York fullback Alex Webster. Green Bay took over on New York’s 30-yard line, and moments later, Taylor “shot like a cannon between Skoronski and Thurston”² for the win.

Green Bay’s defense was spectacular. They held quarterback Y. A. Tittle and New York to 262 total yards. The Giants had the ball for only 43 plays while the Packers pounded away with 63. The win was very special for Lombardi, who was carried off the field by his jubilant players!

New York 7 10 0 0 17

Green Bay 13 0 0 7 20

47,012

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 404 NY 262

“Although the dressing room may have been more quiet than expected, the fans (who) crammed the corridors outside Milwaukee County Stadium jumped with zest. Several thousand delirious Packer supporters were still hanging around the premises when the Packers finally left by bus for downtown Milwaukee.”³

“Green Bay has been proclaimed Titledown, U.S.A. More than 100 businessmen in Green Bay agreed to the idea with sharp applause and the singing of Titledown, U.S.A. to the tune of Mr. Touchdown at a breakfast to promote Title Week at the Beaumont Hotel this morning.”⁴

On Tuesday, December 5, after clinching in Milwaukee, “An aldermanic suggestion that the Packers play all their homes game in Green Bay”⁵ was presented to the City Council and passed along to the Packers.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/61, Daley, p. 8

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/61, Daley, p. 11

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/61, Wagner, p. 8

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/61, p. 47

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/61, Bartelt, p. 47

12.10.1961

PACKERS **21**

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **22**

Quarterback John Brodie threw for 328 yards and two touchdowns to lead the upset. Their second touchdown came after an interception, and Brodie found R. C. Owens for a 14-0 lead.

But the Packers bounced back behind two touchdown catches by Max McGee. The first came on a halfback option pass from Tom Moore. Before McGee's second touchdown, defensive end Charlie Krueger of the Niners sacked Bart Starr in the end zone for a safety. Trailing 16-7, McGee's second touchdown from Starr cut the Niners' lead to 16-14.

The fourth quarter was suspenseful. Jim Taylor, who ran for 122 yards, bulled into the end zone from the 4-yard line for a 21-19 Green Bay lead. With 2:12 left, Abe Woodson brought the kickoff back to Green Bay's 45-yard line. Brodie and company took it down to the 14, where a Tommy Davis put it away with 11 seconds left.

Green Bay **0 7 7 7 21**

San Francisco **0 14 2 6 22**

55,722

"Army Pvts. Paul Hornung, Ray Nitschke, and Boyd Dowler left immediately after the game for their bases."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/1961, Daley, p. 13

12.17.1961

PACKERS **24**

LOS ANGELES

RAMS **17**

In Paul Hornung's absence, "the sweet sophomore"¹ Tom Moore filled in nicely. He ran for a two-yard touchdown and then caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to put Green Bay in control 14-3 after 30 minutes.

In the second half, fullback Dick Bass struck twice for the Rams. First, his 55-yard touchdown run made the score 14-10. He then returned a punt 90 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. The Packers, trailing 17-14, tied the score on a field goal by Ben Agajanian.

In the final minutes, Willie Wood intercepted a future teammate, Zeke Bratkowski, to set up Green Bay's game-winning drive. Bart Starr directed the offense to 66 yards in seven

plays, with Elijah Pitts streaking around left end for a 17-yard touchdown! "That was it – the defense did the rest, halting the Rams twice in the final 2:53."²

Green Bay **7 7 0 10 24**
Los Angeles **0 3 7 7 17**
49,169

*"As the Packer plane circles the city before landing, residents will be asked to switch their porch lights on and off in welcome. After the twinkling of the lights, the fireworks will light the sky."*³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/61, Daley, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/61, Daley, p. 17

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, p. 17

12.31.1961

1961 NFL Championship Game

NEW YORK

GIANTS **0**
PACKERS **37**

Willie Davis put it best when he said, "It was big Ol' New York against Lil' Ol' Green Bay."¹ It was also the first NFL Championship Game ever played in Green Bay, and Titledown U.S.A. was ready. The city was decked out with party decorations and signs for it was also New Year's Eve! Festivities went on all day and night.

The title game pitted Green Bay's top offense against the top defense of the New York *Football* Giants. The Packers were led by Bart Starr, and their offense "functioned like a well-oiled machine, leading the league with 391 points, 23 more than the Giants. In points allowed, it was the opposite with the Giants edging the Packers 220-223."²

Seventeen-degree temperatures greeted both teams. With 10mph winds, it felt more like six degrees. To keep warm, "a 72-foot dugout type structure was built behind each bench. Gas heaters emitted infrared rays that were reflected from the structure to the bench."³

The Packers were at full strength with Ray Nitschke and Boyd Dowler *on leave* from the service. To allow Paul Hornung to play, Lombardi called his friend President Kennedy and asked him to help rearrange Hornung's leave so he too could play. Kennedy obliged, and explained his reasoning. "Paul Hornung isn't going to win the war on Sunday, but the football fans of this country deserve the two best teams on the field that day."⁴ Lombardi rejoiced, and the decision had a huge impact on the game.

After a scoreless first quarter, Green Bay scored 24 unanswered points in the deepening cold. On the first play of the new quarter, Hornung's touchdown run off right tackle broke the ice. Three plays later, Ray Nitschke's interception led to Bart Starr's touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler and a 14-0 advantage. On New York's next series, Hank Gremminger's

interception set up Bart Starr's touchdown pass to Ron Kramer for a 21-0 lead. Paul Hornung finished off the half with a field goal, and the Giants headed to the locker room shell-shocked and frozen.

During the second-quarter explosion by Green Bay, the Giants replaced quarterback Y. A. Tittle with veteran Charlie Conerly. The change gave the Giants a short burst of positive energy, but it faded quickly. After halftime, Coach Allie Sherman stayed with Conerly, but he ultimately turned back to Tittle. Nothing worked.

In the fourth quarter, Hornung's second field goal made it 37-0. When it was over, "The Golden Boy" had scored 19 points with one touchdown run, three field goals, and four extra points. The Giants were shaking their heads, given how fortunate it was for the Packers that Hornung played. He keyed Green Bay's powerful ground game that ran over the Giants for 181 yards!

Green Bay's defense dominated, allowing only 31 yards rushing and six first downs. New York generated 130 total yards, and Tittle was intercepted four times. The Giants were never in the game, and they waved the white flag in the cold weather. After the impressive victory, Vince Lombardi boasted that his 1961 Packers were the best team in NFL history!

New York	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	24	10	3	37

39,029

Richard "Ike" Eisenhower, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

Going to this championship game on a chartered bus between Milwaukee and Green Bay was an adventure. The trip was nearly derailed by snow and ice. The windshield wiper on the bus froze. Undeterred, Ike and his friends rigged a coat hanger to the windshield wiper so that the driver could manually clear the windows as he drove. To do so, he had to reach his arm outside the window to move the wiper! When they got to the game after the Packers had begun their second-quarter assault, they felt lucky to have arrived at all!

"Rabid Packer fans who took the goalposts from City Stadium following the Packer victory Sunday used a cutting torch to divide the metal pipe—souvenirs of the first world championship game to be played in Green Bay."⁵

"As fans milled on the playing field, the Packer band paraded, sirens wailed, fireworks exploded, auto horns blared, and fans thumped one another's clothing padded backs. Briefly, the band played Auld Lang Syne, and the crowd hesitated, paused for a few moments, and joined in the song."⁶

"Downtown Green Bay was a sea of turmoil, cars bumper to bumper, horns blaring, highlights flickering, and people milling about. Most of the Titledown U.S.A. banners were missing. Youths climbed the Walnut Street Bridge to haul one down."⁷

Paul Hornung: "It would have been a lot worse if Lombardi hadn't called off the dogs. Hell, I wanted to match the 73-0 whipping that the Bears had put on the Redskins in the 1940 title game."⁸

* Interview 2/27/16

1 Lombardi, Wiebusch, p. 118

2 Golden Ranking.com/NFL ChampionshipGame1961

3 Press-Gazette, 1/1/62, p. 2

4 Green Bay Packers: Trials, Triumphs, and Tradition, Povletich, p. 125

5 Press-Gazette, 1/2/62, p. 1

6 Milwaukee Sentinel, Kenny, p. 1

7 Press-Gazette, 1/1/62, p. 2

8 The Packers Experience, Freedman, p. 94

1961

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	11	3	0
Detroit	8	5	1
Baltimore	8	6	0
Chicago	8	6	0
San Francisco	7	6	1
Los Angeles	4	10	0
Minnesota	3	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Four tied w/5

ALL-PRO

Currie	Linebacker
Forester	Linebacker
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Hornung	Halfback
Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Kramer	Guard
Ringo	Center
Starr	Quarterback
Taylor	Fullback
Thurston	Guard
Whittenton	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Herb Adderley (1, DB)

Ron Kostelnik (2, DT)

Elijah Pitts (13, HB)

Nelson Toburen (14, LB)



1962
Record: 13-1-0, NFL Champions
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- Though it's impossible to fairly compare teams/players from different eras, many believe this is the Packers' finest team ever!
- The defending champs began with ten straight wins to tie a team record set in 1929.
- Their only loss was to Detroit on Thanksgiving. They finished with four straight wins, including the championship game.
- The Packers had the league's best offense. They scored the most points and gave up the fewest (415-148).
- They shut out three teams. Two were by the score of 49-0!
- Jim Taylor led the league in rushing with 1,474 yards. The team's 36 rushing touchdowns is still an NFL record.

9.16.1962

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **7**
PACKERS **34**

The defending champions easily brushed aside the young Vikings. Minnesota helped Green Bay with seven turnovers, including five interceptions, two each by Willie Wood and Herb Adderley.

Halfback Paul Hornung picked up right where he left off in 1961. He scored the first 20 points in this game on his way to an incredible output of 28 points—three touchdown runs, two field goals, and four extra points. Hornung and Jim Taylor ran for 67 and 75 yards, respectively, and they accounted for 132 of the Green Bay's 185 on the ground.

The defense held Minnesota to 177 total yards, and they contained quarterback Fran Tarkenton (21 yards on three carries). Tarkenton was sacked five times and, according to coach Norm Van Brocklin, he "got the hell knocked out of him"¹

Minnesota 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 14 3 10 7 34
38,669

Other than Hornung, Ron Kramer scored the only other points.

1 Green Bay Press Gazette, 9/17/62, Rempel, p. 17

9.23.1962

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 0
PACKERS 17

In Green Bay's first game against the Cardinals since 1956, the Packers pitched a shutout, allowing just 16 yards rushing and 131 yards overall.

In the first half, the Packers struggled to move the ball. They drove into St. Louis territory four times, but shockingly, Bart Starr threw two interceptions and lost a fumble. They came away with just three points.

Green Bay made a statement when they opened the second half with an 80-yard touchdown drive. Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor pounded the Cardinals most of the way. Hornung scored from the three-yard line. Starr found little resistance in the fourth quarter as he closed out the scoring with a 19-yard touchdown to Max McGee.

St. Louis 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 3 7 7 17
44,885

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 4 StL 5

"Two fans, streaking past the dumbfounded gendarmes, dashed out onto the field with 1:21 remaining in the game to shake hands with Willie Davis and Dan Currie. Then, as quickly as they had come, the interlopers wheeled back up into the stands without a hand being laid on them."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/62, Rempel, p. 14

9.30.1962

CHICAGO

BEARS 0
PACKERS 49

The margin of victory in this game remains the largest in the rivalry's history. Green Bay produced seven touchdowns and 409 yards, while the defense squashed the Bears and allowed just 176 yards!

After a scoreless quarter, Jim Taylor, who ran for 126 yards in the game, scored the first of three rushing touchdowns. Quarterback Bart Starr also had a good first half with a touchdown pass to Ron Kramer and a 5-yard touchdown run. For the game, Starr threw just 12 passes, and the Packers ran the ball 42 times for 244 yards and five touchdowns!

Green Bay's defense was at the top of its game. Chicago quarterbacks Billy Wade and Rudy Bukich were sacked five times and intercepted five times. They never stood a chance, and they were without the services of halfback Willie Galimore and linebacker Bill George. George Halas of the Bears made no excuses. "It was a combination of a bad game on our part and an excellent game on theirs."¹ Lombardi was always uncomfortable about how badly the Packers beat the Bears in this game. Later he remarked, "I felt badly about it, but there was nothing we could do about it."²

Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	14	21	14	49

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/62, Rimmel , p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/62, Rimmel, p. 17

10.7.1962

DETROIT

LIONS **7**

PACKERS **9**

In a battle of two undefeated teams, the packed house at City Stadium watched intently. In the rain, three Paul Hornung field goals proved just enough in a classic battle.

On Green Bay's first possession, the "Golden Boy" booted a 13-yard field goal to get started. In the second quarter, the Lions went in front after a Bart Starr fumble. Halfback Danny Lewis scored the game's only touchdown on a 6-yard run for a 7-3 lead.

The Packers kept the pressure on with their powerful backfield of Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung. The two combined for 132 yards rushing. They ran behind their excellent offensive line that slugged it out with Detroit's great front four led by Alex Karras and Roger Brown. With 1:53 left in the game and the Lions leading 7-6, Detroit faced a third-and-eight at midfield. Quarterback Milt Plum dropped back to pass and looked for receiver Terry Barr. However, Barr fell, and Herb Adderley caught the pass and returned it 40 yards to the 18. Three plays later, Hornung drilled his third field goal for the win.

After the game, coach George Wilson of the Lions took full responsibility for the questionable third-down call. "I called that. I don't want Plum to be blamed for it."¹

Detroit	0	7	0	0	7
Green Bay	3	0	3	3	9

38,669

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/62, Rimmel, p. 15

10.14.1962

PACKERS 48

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 21

Beginning with this blowout, the Packers outscored their next five opponents, 183-47!

Quarterback Bart Starr directed this beatdown of the 0-4 Vikings, and he completed his first ten passes. For the game, he connected on 20 of 28 for 297 yards and three touchdowns. The Packers won easily, generating 522 total yards!

Paul Hornung scored Green Bay's first touchdown before he left the game with a bruised knee. Jerry Kramer took over kicking responsibilities, and he performed well with two field goals and five extra points. Green Bay scored the first 27 points and led 27-0 before Minnesota scored on the first of two Fran Tarkenton touchdown passes.

Jimmy Taylor owned the ground between the tackles with 164 yards on 17 carries. He enjoyed running "over (the) Vikings or stinging them with head-on crashes."¹ Max McGee led receivers with ten catches for 159 yards and two touchdowns. The only downside for Green Bay was the knee injury to Paul Hornung, who would carry the football just once over the next six games.

Green Bay 10 17 7 14 48

Minnesota 0 7 0 14 21

41,475

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/62, Daley, p. 22

10.21.1962

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 13

PACKERS 31

San Francisco produced two field goals and an 86-yard punt return for a touchdown. Quarterback John Brodie threw just six passes for 41 yards, including three critical picks.

Late in the second quarter, Willie Wood's interception of Brodie sparked a confrontation. After tackling Wood, several San Francisco players kicked him. The Packers "hit" back by not only standing up for Wood, but they went on to score 10 points before halftime to take a 10-6 lead. Tom Moore and Jimmy Taylor punished the Niners with an unstoppable ground game that put up 244 yards! Taylor ran for 160 and two touchdowns, while Moore managed another 84, including a 14-yard touchdown.

The 49ers took the lead back 13-10 on an 85-yard punt return for a touchdown by Abe Woodson. Two long drives by the Packers later in the third quarter reclaimed the lead. Taylor scored both touchdowns on runs of 16 and 25 yards. A 9-yard touchdown pass to Ron Kramer ended the slaughter. After the game, San Francisco coach Red Hickey summed it up. "They didn't do anything we didn't expect. They just knock you down and run over you."¹

San Francisco 3 3 7 0 13
Green Bay 0 10 14 7 31
46,010
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ The First America's Team: 1962 Green Bay Packers, Berghaus, p. 75

10.28.1962

PACKERS 17
BALTIMORE
COLTS 6

For the first time under Lombardi, the Packers defeated the Colts in Baltimore. The win gave Green Bay a two-game edge over Detroit in Western Conference.

It was a nasty battle of 10 penalties for 163 yards. The Packers' defense contained quarterback Johnny Unitas (18-30-161-0-1) and held the Colts to two field goals. Misplayed handoffs by Unitas/Lenny Moore killed two promising drives in Packer territory.

The Packers led 10-3 at halftime on Jerry Kramer's field goal and a Bart Starr to Ron Kramer touchdown. Leading 10-6 with six minutes left, an interception by Ray Nitschke eventually led to Jim Taylor's 37-yard touchdown run that put it away. The victory was the third time in the 1962-63 season that the defense held an opponent without a touchdown!

Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17
Baltimore 0 3 3 0 6
57,966

Jim Taylor bowed to the crowd as he left the field!

"About 500 fans were on hand at Austin Straubel Field Sunday evening to greet the Packers."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/62, p. 14

11.4.1962

PACKERS 38

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

Eight straight! The Packers, who never made a habit of winning at Wrigley Field, “were ready, willing, and anxious for combat.”¹ Though the Bears stayed close, seven turnovers—four fumbles and three interceptions—were too much to overcome.

In the first half, the Packers took the lead on Jim Taylor’s first touchdown run and a field goal after Ray Nitschke’s interception. Leading 10-7 in the third quarter, a Green Bay punt bounced off the back of Chicago’s Roosevelt Taylor, and it was recovered by Jim Ringo. It led to a field goal by Jerry Kramer. Taylor scored twice more in the second half to finish his four touchdown assault on the bruins. The Packers smothered the Bears with 215 yards rushing.

The Packers managed 71 total plays compared to 53 for the Bears. When Green Bay didn’t have the ball, their defense stopped Chicago cold. They gave up just 65 yards rushing and 212 overall.

Green Bay 7 3 7 21 38

Chicago 0 7 0 0 7

48,753

GB swept the season series and outscored the Bears 87-7.

“Hawg Hanner buttons are now on sale in stores in Green Bay and throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. Proceeds from the sale will be used to present a gift to the veteran Packer player.”² Hanner was a rookie for the Packers in 1952.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/62, Daley, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/62, Daley, p. 17

11.11.1961

PACKERS 49

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 0

Many Packer fans saw an opportunity for some payback. Philadelphia defeated Green Bay in the 1960 NFL Championship Game, Vince Lombardi’s only postseason loss.

It certainly had the look and feel of retribution as the Packers generated a franchise record of 628 total yards, a record that still stands as of this publication. Seven Green Bay touchdown drives fueled the slaughter. The drives measured 86, 88, 85, 76, 71, 66, and 65 yards. Jim Taylor scored four touchdowns again, Tom Moore scored two, and Boyd Dowler caught a 25-yard touchdown from Moore. The offense generated 37 first downs, and Bart

Starr's outstanding play (15-20-274-0-1) secured a measure of revenge.

Defensively, the Packers held Philly to 54 total yards and three first downs! Quarterback Sonny Jurgenson completed only four passes for just 35 yards and one interception. After the game, 14-year veteran Chuck Bednarik of the Eagles had this to say about the Packers, "This is one of the greatest teams in the history of the league. They're superb. They block and tackle like a machine, and they never let up."¹

Green Bay	7	28	14	0	49
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0

60,671

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/62, Bernstein, p. 13

11.18.1962
BALTIMORE

COLTS	13
PACKERS	17

It was *Hawg Hanner Day* and *Homecoming* for this enthusiastic City Stadium crowd. Curly Lambeau was also on hand to wave to the fans!

The fun began with Herb Adderley's 103-yard kickoff return in the first quarter. Green Bay led 7-3, though by halftime, a Unitas touchdown pass to Jimmy Orr tied it 10-10. Fortunately for Green Bay, they stopped the Colts twice deep inside their territory in the first half. They forced a fumble at the 2-yard line, and Bill Forester sacked Unitas on fourth down at the Packers' 1-yard line.

A field goal gave the Colts a 13-10 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Thanks to Willie Wood's punt return, the Packers took advantage of great field position at Baltimore's 32. Three plays later, Tom Moore's 23-yard burst off right tackle made it 17-13 Packers. In the final quarter, the Colts were stopped inside Green Bay's 10-yard line twice!

Baltimore	3	7	3	0	13
Green Bay	10	0	0	7	17

38,669

Tragically, in the fourth quarter, Packer linebacker Nick Toburen broke his neck, tackling Johnny Unitas.

The Packers helped the city's semi-pro hockey team. "Bobcat ticket books purchased during the special two-day ticket drive will be autographed by members of the World Champion Packers."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/62, p. 1

11.22.1962

PACKERS 14

DETROIT

LIONS 26

The Lions upset the undefeated Packers on national television as two of the league's top defenses battled it out. Happy Thanksgiving. Quarterback Milt Plum and split end Gail Cogdill hooked up twice in the first half to put the home team in front 14-0. The Lions protected the lead by hitting, chasing, and sacking quarterback Bart Starr. Starr was sacked 10 times for a loss of 93 yards.

Green Bay turned the ball over five times, including a second-quarter fumble by Starr that defensive end Sam Williams took six yards into the end zone. In the same quarter, Starr was sacked in the end zone for a safety. In the third quarter, a 47-yard field goal gave Detroit a 26-0 lead. For the game, the Packers generated only 122 yards, and their points came too late.

After the loss, Lombardi said, "Take nothing away from the Lions. They did a terrific job today. From now on, we'll be a lot better ball club for it. I think we're all a little relieved."¹

While there were a lot of hard feelings between the Packers and the Lions back in the day, time has healed most of the wounds. That's the case for Detroit's Hall of Fame linebacker Joe Schmidt, who explains it this way: "After all these years, those Green Bay guys, I have a lot of admiration for them. Vince (Lombardi) was always very, very kind to me, so as a result, I have a little soft spot in my heart for those guys."²

Green Bay 0 0 0 14 14

Detroit 7 16 3 0 26

57,578

"Nearly 1,000 fans were at Austin Straubel Field Thursday evening to cheer the Packers when they returned from their loss at Detroit. A large sign read: 'We still love you, Packers, 1962-63 Champions. Titletown USA.' The Packers went directly to the Elks Club where they met their families for a Thanksgiving Dinner."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/62, Rempel, p. 13

² The First America's Team, Berghaus, p. 113

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/62, p. 13

12.2.1962

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 10

PACKERS 41

The long-awaited return of Paul Hornung put the offense back on track. In the first

quarter, a 30-yard bomb from quarterback Bart Starr to Hornung got the scoring started. After a field goal by Danny Villaneuva, the Packers scored the next 27 points. Starr had a fantastic afternoon with 260 yards passing and two touchdowns. Jim Taylor's two touchdown runs kept him in the top spot among the league's scoring leaders.

The Packers put the game out of reach before the half with Starr's second touchdown pass. He went to Ron Kramer for a 24-3 lead. Defensively, the Packers played very well. The Rams were held to 237 total yards, and big Roman Gabriel was sacked seven times!

Los Angeles 3 0 0 7 10
Green Bay 10 14 3 14 41
46,833
Milwaukee County Stadium

"One hero-worshipping Milwaukee teenager was being threatened with incarceration by a park policeman after he leaped into the Packers' path as they filed from the field into the first base dugout. He saucily shot back, 'Throw me in. I don't care—I shook Taylor's hand!'"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/62, Rempel, p. 16

12.9.1962

PACKERS 31
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 21

The Packers, who tailed 21-10 at halftime, played like a rejuvenated champion in the second half. The win assured them of at least a tie for another Western Division title.

In the first half, touchdown passes from quarterback John Brodie to Monty Stickles, and Clyde Connor put San Francisco in front early. They held the lead into the fourth quarter.

A Jerry Kramer field goal and Tom Moore's touchdown run kept Green Bay within striking distance. In the second half, the defense rallied and shut down the 49ers man-in-motion offense that had given them trouble earlier in the season. They held firm against the run (36 total yards) as well. The Packers came from behind with Tom Moore's second touchdown run and Jimmy Taylor's touchdown. Leading 24-21 late in the fourth quarter, Bart Starr topped it off with an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ron Kramer.

Green Bay 3 7 7 14 31
San Francisco 7 14 0 0 21
53,769

"As the game ended, a group of fans carried a banner reading 'Go Packers' on the field."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/62, Daley, p. 18

12.16.1962

PACKERS 20

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 17

The Packers never trailed, and they outgained L.A. 427-303. Ron Kramer, Jim Taylor, and Paul Hornung scored touchdowns. Green Bay scored on the opening drive with a 45-yard halfback option pass from Tom Moore to Ron Kramer. Jim Taylor's touchdown run made it 13-3, and it set a new NFL record for rushing touchdowns in a season (19).

In the second half, after Merlin Olsen's pick-six, Bart Starr and Hornung connected on an 83-yard touchdown to lead 20-10 lead. L.A. struck back with a 69-yard drive and a 15-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale. That made the score 20-17 with 7:01 left, but the Packers held on preventing the Rams from scoring again.

The Packers found out that they clinched the conference title during a timeout in the second quarter. After the game, Green Bay founder and former coach Curly Lambeau said he was pleased with the win. "Well, that's great. Three championships in a row. I want to go down to the dressing room."¹

Green Bay 7 6 0 7 20

Los Angeles 3 7 0 7 17

60,353

Thirteen straight wins at home set a new GB record.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/62, Daley, p. 17

12.30.1962

1962 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS 16

NEW YORK

GIANTS 7

The Giants repeated as champions of the East Division. Since their collapse in the previous year's title game in Green Bay, they were eager for another shot at the Packers. The Giants relished a meeting in big Yankee Stadium in front of "65,000 wind-whipped New Yorkers chanting *Beat Green Bay! Beat Green Bay!*"¹ They expected the small-town Packers to be intimidated.

The weather conditions for the title were more like Green Bay than New York City. It was "eighteen degrees and falling combined with winds of around 40 miles an hour that made it feel well below 10."² Some Packers who played in both the 1962 championship against the Giants and the infamous 1967 Ice Bowl would go on to claim that the Giants game

was even more brutal than the more infamous Ice Bowl.

The conditions called for caution. The only offensive touchdown of the game came after Phil King of the Giants fumbled from a hit by linebacker Dan Currie. It shook the ball loose at New York's 30-yard line, and Ray Nitschke recovered. Fullback Jim Taylor scored two plays later. Taylor's performance in this game was one for the ages. He and linebacker Sam Huff staged a bruising battle on the frozen turf of Yankee Stadium. Taylor ran the ball a record 31 times! He was hit viciously after the whistle on many plays. When he went out of bounds, he was also hit. Despite the Giants being all over him, Taylor ran for grueling 85 yards.

New York's offense and Y. A. Tittle were shut out again by the Packers (see 1961 title game). With the crowd cheering for action, Erich Barnes blocked a Green Bay punt, and it was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown by Jim Collier. It cut Green Bay's lead to 10-7.

On the next series, Green Bay went three-and-out, and momentum seemed to be shifting to New York. But when Max McGee's punt was fumbled by Sam Horner and recovered by Ray Nitschke, the air suddenly went out of the Giants' balloon. Jerry Kramer's second field goal followed, and Green Bay led 13-7. In the fourth quarter, Kramer kicked his third field goal to finish the scoring.

The Giants outgained the Packers 291-244, but their three turnovers were costly. The MVP of the game, middle linebacker Ray Nitschke, had a hand in all three. He recovered both fumbles, and he deflected the pass that was intercepted by Dan Currie. For the second straight title game, Green Bay had its way with the Giants' offense.

"In 1962, the Packers scored the most points in the league, and they gave up the least. They lost only one game. This just may have been the greatest team of the Lombardi Dynasty!"³

Green Bay	3	7	3	3	16
New York	0	0	7	0	7

64,892

Sign in Stands: "N.Y. can have Tittle. G.B. has Title!"⁴

"Though the plane arrived two hours late at 11:00 p.m. on a Sunday night, between 8,000-14,000 fans showed up in below zero temperatures to greet their heroes."⁵

At the airport, "a 12-year old boy, who got within touching distance of the headmaster Lombardi as the Packer coach threaded his way through Austin Straubel Field's terminal lobby Sunday night, told him, 'You're not only great, Vince, you're the king!'"⁶

Bart Starr: "After the game, some New York sportswriters suggested that the results might have been different had the game been played in better conditions. I agree. We would have beaten them by more than nine points."⁷

- 1 Packer Dynasty, Bengston, p. 60
- 2 Giants Among Men, Palladino, p. 252
- 3 Giants Cheeseheads, Rice, p. 28
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p. 1
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p. 1
- 6 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/62, p.12
- 7 Bart Star: My Life in Football

1962

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	1	0
Detroit	11	3	0
Chicago	9	5	0
Baltimore	7	7	0
San Francisco	6	8	0
Minnesota	2	11	0
Los Angeles	1	12	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	McGee
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Taylor
Interceptions	Wood

ALL-PRO

Adderley	Cornerback
Currie	Linebacker
Davis	Defensive End
Forester	Linebacker
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Kramer	Guard
Nitschke	Linebacker
Ringo	Center
Starr	Quarterback
Taylor	Fullback
Thurston	Guard
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

- Earl Gros (1, FB)
- Ernest Green (14, HB)



1963
Record: 11-2-1, 2nd Place
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- The Pro Football Hall of Fame inducted its first class. Included were Curly Lambeau, Johnny Blood, Cal Hubbard, and Don Hutson.
- On April 17th, Paul Hornung and Alex Karras of Detroit were suspended for one year by the NFL for gambling. Tom Moore and Elijah Pitts stepped in for Hornung, and with Jimmy Taylor, they topped the league in rushing touchdowns.
- In late October, after Bart Starr broke his hand, the Packers signed veteran quarterback Zeke Bratkowski.
- The two-time defending champion Packers lost both games to the Chicago Bears in 1963, which cost them a third straight NFL title.
- The Packers ranked second to the Giants on offense and second to the Bears on defense.
- This was the last year of the annual trip to Detroit for Thanksgiving.

9.15.1963

CHICAGO

BEARS **10**
PACKERS **3**

After being hammered twice by the Packers in 1962, George Halas planned long and hard to defeat Green Bay in 1963. He and his coaches studied game film furiously during the offseason and prepared for the opener for months. They were successful quickly, and the largest crowd in Green Bay's history to date had to witness the upset.

In a game that Halas described as "the greatest team effort in the history of the Chicago Bears,"¹ the NFL's top defense clamped down on the Packers. They allowed only 150 total yards, nine first downs, and they intercepted quarterback Bart Starr four times.

The scoring began with field goals in the first quarter. After a quiet second quarter, the action picked up after halftime. In the third quarter, a Bart Starr pass to Boyd Dowler bounced off the receiver's hands into the arms of safety Rosey Taylor for an interception.

Quarterback Billy Wade marched the Bears 68 yards in 10 plays for the game's only touchdown. Veteran Joe Marconi took it into the end zone from the 1-yard line.

In a game where Green Bay generated only 150 yards and turned the ball over five times, Bart Starr promised a rebound. "We'll give you a better performance next week,"² said the grim-faced quarterback.

Chicago 3 0 7 0 10
Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
42,327

Paul Mazzoleni: "My father wasn't a personal friend of Vince Lombardi, but he certainly had a friendly relationship with him. My dad always had lots of Packer paraphernalia around the house. He would get those official 'Duke' NFL footballs. In those days, they didn't have the three-sided white footballs for autographs; they just had the regular footballs that were signed by these championship teams. We didn't know any better, so my two older brothers and I would play with those footballs out on the road. I found one a few years ago, and you can see that there were signatures on them, but you can't make any of them out."³

1 Packers vs. Bears, p. 218

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/63, Rimmel, p. 13

3 For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 32

9.22.1963

DETROIT

LIONS 10
PACKERS 31

The Packers had no problem keeping the Lions out of the end zone until the fourth quarter. On offense, the Packers ran it 43 times for 204 yards and three touchdowns!

In the first half, Jim Taylor's touchdown run and Jerry Kramer's field goal made it 10-0. They picked up more steam after halftime when Willie Wood's interception set up Tom Moore's first touchdown run. Moore's second touchdown run in the fourth quarter went for 77 yards and put the game in the win column for Green Bay.

Detroit's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on Milt Plum's touchdown pass to Tom Hall. Then, with eight minutes left, Bart Starr wrapped it up with a 39-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee.

Detroit 0 0 3 7 10
Green Bay 3 7 7 14 31
49,912

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 316 DET 147

9.29.1963

BALTIMORE

COLTS **20**
PACKERS **31**

The game started slowly, with the only points in the first half being scored by Baltimore. The score came in the second quarter on Jerry Hill's touchdown run.

The second half started with a Baltimore fumble. In the first of five lead changes, quarterback Bart Starr capitalized on the turnover with a touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler. Later in the third quarter, a 3-yard run by Tom Moore put Green Bay up 14-7. Baltimore tied it when cornerback Bobby Boyd actually stole the ball from fullback Earl Gros. Boyd took it back 34 yards to the end zone. A field goal gave the Colts a 17-14 edge after three quarters.

In the final 15 minutes, the Packers rallied. On their first play of the fourth quarter, they fumbled the handoff on a power sweep. Fortunately, Bart Starr picked up the loose football and spotted Dowler downfield for a 35-yard touchdown! It gave the Packers a 21-17 lead that they wouldn't relinquish. After trading field goals, Earl Gros redeemed himself for Bobby Boyd's theft. Gros scored on a 6-yard run into the same northwest corner of the end zone where Boyd had scored.

Baltimore turned the ball over seven times, including two interceptions thrown by Johnny Unitas. After the game, Lombardi commented, "Ten fumbles. We recovered five of theirs, and they recovered three of ours. Holy good gravy!"²

Baltimore **0 7 10 3 20**
Green Bay **0 0 14 17 31**
42,327

*"The Green Bay team is so different. We were able to become friends with a lot of the fans. A lot of people who go to games you also see around town and get to know them. It's a great relationship. There's no question in my mind that the Packers have got more (football) fans in the world than anyone else."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/63, Rempel, p. 15

² For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 163

10.6.1963

LOS ANGELES

RAMS **10**
PACKERS **42**

With temperatures in the 80s, Herb Adderley returned the opening kickoff 98 yards to ignite Green Bay. Nine plays later, the Rams tied it. But for the rest of the game, L.A.

scored just three more points, and they were blanked in the second half. Green Bay's strong defense recorded six sacks. Defensive end Willie Davis delivered the key stop when he sacked big quarterback Roman Gabriel in the end zone for a safety. It gave the Packers a 9-7 lead.

Offensively, Green Bay did damage all over the field. Jimmy Taylor led the backfield with 90 yards rushing, and he also caught the first of three Bart Starr touchdown passes. Starr threw for 183 yards, and he connected with Max McGee and Ron Kramer in the third quarter to put the game out of reach. After the easy victory, Lombardi revealed, "I was giving some of the coaches hell on the sidelines. I said we weren't making any yards running. And here we gained 214 yards rushing."¹

Los Angeles 7 3 0 0 10
Green Bay 9 6 20 7 42
42,327

"East High's colorful band drew a rousing response with spectacular and melodious pre-game and halftime performances. A humorous skit in which a pint-sized Packer, bearing Ray Nitschke's number 66, vainly pursued a much bigger 'Ram' around the perimeter of the band as the climax to an imaginative NFL Merry-Go-Round routine."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/63, Rimmel, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/63, Rimmel, p. 15

10.13.1963

PACKERS 37
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 28

The game was an aerial bombardment by both teams! Bart Starr threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, while Fran Tarkenton aired it out for 282 and one score. They both threw one interception.

Starr's touchdowns to Max McGee and Elijah Pitts opened a 24-7 halftime lead. The Vikings rallied in the second half after linebacker Roy Winston picked up a Green Bay fumble and returned it for a touchdown. Tarkenton also directed two fourth-quarter touchdown drives that cut the difference to two 30-28.

Unlike the game the previous Sunday, Herb Adderley waited until the end of the game to shine. With 1:48 left, he blocked a Vikings field goal that would have given them the lead. The Packers' Hank Gremminger scooped up the football in stride and went 80 yards to unofficially end the comeback. Bart Star called this "the finest single play I've ever seen."¹

Green Bay 17 7 3 10 37
Minnesota 7 0 7 14 28
42,567

*"An impartial outsider might have wondered which was the home team when pre-game introductions were made. The Packers drew a bigger cheer from the record audience than did the Vikings."*²

1 Bart Starr: A Perspective on Victory, Wiebusch, p. 98

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/63, Rempel, p. 22

10.20.1963

PACKERS 30

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 7

Despite the easy victory, the Packers lost Tom Moore and Bart Starr to injuries. Overall, they smacked down the Cardinals by scoring the first four times they had the ball. Jimmy Taylor and Tom Moore ran for touchdowns, and Jerry Kramer booted two field goals for a 20-0 lead at half. In the first half, the Cards ran just 16 plays.

In the third quarter, Bart Starr was roughed up and injured when he was tackled out of bounds by cornerback Jimmy Hill. Hill was ejected, and Starr was lost for four weeks with an injured throwing hand. Backup quarterback John Roach came in.

The Packers had no trouble finishing off St. Louis. They held them to 40 yards rushing, and they intercepted four Charley Johnson passes. Green Bay led the entire game, and they ran the ball 56 times for 225 yards and three touchdowns. Taylor's second touchdown completed the scoring in a "bruising fourth quarter in full view of NFL Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, and the league's supervisor of officials, Joe Kuharich."¹

Green Bay 10 10 3 7 30

St Louis 0 0 7 0 7

32,224

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/63, Daley, p.13

10.27.1963

PACKERS 34

BALTIMORE

COLTS 20

Though some thought the Packers were justifiably the underdog, Green Bay enjoyed a very productive first half. Jimmy Taylor's touchdown run broke a 3-3 tie, and with quarterback Bart Starr out injured, the running game ruled the day with 179 yards.

Trailing 3-0 in the second quarter, the Packers scored 20 unanswered points stretching into the second half. Jim Taylor scored on a 1-yard run, and backup quarterback John Roach threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to rookie tight end Marv Fleming. It was 20-3

with Jerry Kramer's 37-yard field goal to start the second-half scoring.

Despite six turnovers, quarterback Johnny Unitas and kicker Jim Martin brought Baltimore back. A touchdown pass to Lenny Moore, and a 58-yard strike to John Mackey, who made a spectacular catch, tied it 20-20.

In the fourth quarter, the Packers asserted themselves. Henry Jordan's blocked field goal led to the winning points. On the ensuing drive by the Packers, a pass interference penalty by Lenny Lyles covering Max McGee put them in scoring position. A 34-yard touchdown run by Elijah Pitts proved to be the winner, and a second touchdown run by Jim Taylor a few minutes later clinched it! "This was one of my real proud games," Lombardi said. "We had to suck in our belly to stay in there."¹

Green Bay	0	17	3	14	34
Baltimore	3	0	7	10	20

60,065

*Letter to the Editor: "One of the happiest days of my life was spent at the beautiful, new Packer stadium on October 6th at the Ram-Packer game. I am 72 years old and have been confined to a wheelchair for the past 25 years. It was 25 years ago that I attended my last Packer game. Now, my activities are quite limited. Seeing a Packer game has been uppermost in my mind these years, and my wish to see a game was fulfilled. Thank you all again, Mrs. Joe Pribyl"*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/63, Rempel, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/63, p. 4

11.3.1963

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS	14
PACKERS	33

The 7-1 Packers put away the pesky Steelers once they got to the second half. They ran the ball for 258 yards and three touchdowns while Jerry Kramer kicked four field goals. The Steelers opened the scoring with Gary Ballman's shocking, 93-yard return of the opening kickoff. Ballman brought it all the way back to the Packers' 2-yard line, where Don Hoak scored on the next play. That would be it for the visitors until the fourth quarter.

With Bart Starr's hand broken, back up quarterback John Roach kept the game on the ground. In 52 handoffs, Jimmy Taylor lowered his head 30 times and rolled over the Steelers for 141 yards. Tom Moore added 88 more, and he scored a touchdown. In the second half, two touchdown runs by Elijah Pitts put the game beyond reach.

Pittsburgh	7	0	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	6	14	10	33

49,293

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 2 PITT 5

11.10.1963
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **7**
PACKERS **28**

In a close first half, Minnesota grabbed an early 7-0 lead, and they outgained the Packers, 209 yards to only 60. They scored on quarterback Fran Tarkenton's 18-yard touchdown pass to Paul Flatley. That would be all for the Vikings as the defense clamped down on "Scramblin Fran" and held him to minus 1-yard rushing. Tarkenton was sacked three times, and the Vikings were outgained 374-292.

The Packers were a different team in the second half. Quarterback John Roach who threw one touchdown early, connected for two more after halftime. Halfback Tom Moore also proved to be a one-man wrecking crew. He caught two touchdown passes, one from Roach and another from recently signed Zeke Bratkowski. Moore also ran for 82 yards and caught two passes for another 60. His halfback option pass went for 49 yards to set up a touchdown.

One observation by Lombardi after the game was, "They played us for the run all day."¹ Green Bay responded with 247 passing yards, with Boyd Dowler leading all receivers with eight catches for 134 yards and a touchdown.

Minnesota **7 0 0 0 7**
Green Bay **0 7 7 14 28**
42,327

Fifty-five former Packers returned for Homecoming festivities, including Curly Lambeau, Don Hutson, and Arnie Herber.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/63, Rummel, p. 15

11.17.1963

PACKERS **7**
CHICAGO
BEARS **26**

"I've covered football and watched it as a fan for roughly 48 years. I have never been in a ballpark, and this includes the Bears' Super Bowl year, where the feeling of the tension before the game was as stiff and also suffocating."¹ Chet Coppack

This highly anticipated rematch went Chicago's way. Without Bart Starr and Paul Hornung, the Packers had trouble moving the ball. Scoring against the league's top defense was nearly impossible.

Green Bay gave the ball away seven times. Quarterbacks John Roach and Zeke Bratkowski threw 11 completions and five interceptions. Green Bay generated only 232 total yards, while the Bears running game tore up the Packers for 248 yards. Willie Galimore, Joe Marconi, and Rick Casares did most of the damage. The Bears never trailed in this rivalry game, but with four minutes left, the Packers spoiled the shutout with Tom Moore's touchdown run.

The Bears swept both games in 1963, and "Papa Bear" called this particular win "the biggest victory for us since the 1946 championship game."² The Packers now had their work cut out for them if they were going to win a third straight championship.

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Chicago 13 0 3 10 26
49,166

1 For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 217

2 Sports Illustrated, 11/25/63, Maule, p. 31

11.24.1963

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 10
PACKERS 28

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated two days before this game on a Friday afternoon. The NFL, in a controversial decision, decided to play but not televise all the scheduled games that Sunday. Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, decided to go forward with the games after consulting with numerous people, including White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, a college friend of Rozelle's. Salinger conveyed that the President would not have wanted the games to stopped to mourn him. The games went on, but they weren't televised.

The atmosphere on that Sunday was different. The crowds were subdued. Quarterback Bart Starr returned to the Packers lineup after missing four games, and Green Bay started quickly with four first-half touchdowns. Boyd Dowler and Ron Kramer caught the touchdowns, while Jimmy Taylor and Elijah Pitts ran for scores that put the Packers in command 28-3 at the break.

The Packers punished the Niners for 246 yards rushing. The defense held San Francisco to 235 total yards, including 80 yards passing. The Niners made it to the end zone with seconds left.

San Francisco 0 3 0 7 10
Green Bay 7 21 0 0 28
45,905
Milwaukee County Stadium

11.28.1963

PACKERS 13

DETROIT

LIONS 13

"It wasn't turkey, and it wasn't hash... it was a darned shame"¹ was the way Art Daley put it in the Green Bay Press-Gazette. In the first 30 minutes, the defenses forced 11 punts!

In a 6-6 first half, the Lions kicked just two field goals while Green Bay scored on a three-yard run by Elijah Pitts. The extra point was blocked. It was still 6-6 with nine minutes left in the contest. The Packers had trouble running the football (31 yards), and as a result, quarterback Bart Starr threw 35 passes (18-35-286-1-0). His touchdown pass to Ron Kramer went for seven yards, and it put Green Bay in front 13-6. On the Lions' next series, they went 78 yards in 20 plays. Nick Pietrosante took it in from the 1-yard line with 16 seconds left to tie it.

After the game, the Packers learned they had lost Ray Nitschke for the rest of the season with a broken arm. They also learned from Lombardi that this would be Green Bay's last game in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day.

Green Bay 0 6 0 7 13

Detroit 0 6 0 7 13

54,016

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/63, Daley, p. 13

12.7.1963

PACKERS 31

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 14

On an 85-degree day in Southern California, the Packers scored first on a Bart Starr to Max McGee touchdown pass. By halftime, the Rams had gone in front 14-10 on touchdown runs by Dick Bass and quarterback Roman Gabriel.

Green Bay's second-half comeback was led by the defense that shut out the Rams in the second half. For the game, they intercepted three Roman Gabriel passes and held L.A. to 170 total yards. The Packers went in front 17-14 on a 40-yard touchdown run by Jim Taylor. Bart Starr continued his fine game (14-26-20-3-0) with his second and third touchdown passes to Max McGee. The three touchdown passes were from 25, 16, and 13 yards. McGee led all receivers with seven catches for 105 yards.

With the Packers still trailing the Bears by one-half game, Lombardi commented, "The only big game (left) for us is the one the Bears lose."¹

Green Bay 7 3 14 7 31
Los Angeles 0 14 0 0 14
52,357

Dan Karasch, Packers Fan: "As a boy growing up in a small town in central Wisconsin, the most memorable and influential pastimes took place on Sundays. At the end of Sunday Mass, the priest would always say a prayer for the Packers. In addition, he would make sure we were always were out in time for the Packers game. I remember my mom would spend the afternoon preparing Sunday dinner while my dad, my brother, and my sisters would watch the Packers game."*

* Interview: 12/5/2018

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/63, Hall, p. 37

12.14.1963

PACKERS 21
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 17

San Francisco (2-11) held its own early, but the Packers' offense could not be stopped. They outgained the Niners 429-271, holding them to 90 yards passing. Quarterback Bart Starr led the way for Green Bay with 306 yards passing and two touchdowns. After trading touchdown runs by Tom Moore and J. D. Smith, Bart Starr threw a 53-yard touchdown bomb to Boyd Dowler. The Niners matched it on J. D. Smith's 52-yard sprint to the end zone for six.

In a 14-14 game in the third quarter, Starr found Dowler again for another long 50-yard strike that provided the winning points. Green Bay's defense kept the 49ers out of the end zone, but since the Bears did not lose another game, the Packers finished in second place.

Green Bay 7 7 7 0 21
San Francisco 0 14 0 3 17
31,031

Dan Karasch, Packers Fan: "Our church began to have a father-son dinner in the winter or spring each year. The church basement would be packed with all my friends and kids from town and their fathers. We would all get dressed up, as this was a most special evening. I was spellbound as a member of the Green Bay Packers would be the guest speaker. He would talk to us about being a Packer player, but most importantly, about life and being a good person. After the evening's events, we were able to go up and get autographs. I still have autographs from Bob Skoronski, Fred 'Fuzzy' Thurston, and Henry Jordan. I treasure these memories and my memorabilia."*

* Interview: 12/5/2018

1.5.1964

1963 NFL Playoff Bowl

PACKERS 40

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 23

This was a postseason game for third place between the second-place finishers in each conference. The game was played in the Orange Bowl in Miami. Coach Lombardi did not like playing in a consolation game. He felt it was a game for losers and called it "hinkydinky."¹

While fans hoped for a battle of fullbacks Jim Brown and Jim Taylor, both men played sparingly. Halfback Tom Moore scored two touchdowns for the Packers in a game that had more of a preseason feel to it than the postseason. Moore's first was a 99-yard connection with Bart Starr! The Packers controlled matters early with leads of 14-0 and 21-3. They also outgained Cleveland, 490-418.

Green Bay 14 14 7 5 40

Cleveland 0 10 7 13 23

54,921

¹ Lombardi, Wells, p. 99

1963

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	11	1	2
Green Bay	11	2	1
Baltimore	8	6	0
Detroit	5	8	1
Minnesota	5	8	1
Los Angeles	5	9	0
San Francisco	2	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Kramer
Interceptions	Adderley, Wood

ALL-PRO

Herb Adderley	Cornerback
Dan Currie	Linebacker
Willie Davis	Defensive End

Bill Forester	Linebacker
Forrest Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Henry Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Jerry Kramer	Guard
Tom Moore	Fullback
Ray Nitschke	Linebacker
Jim Ringo	Center
Jim Taylor	Fullback
Fuzzy Thurston	Guard
Willie Wood	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Dave Robinson (1, LB)

Tom Brown (14, CB)

Lionel Aldridge (4a, G)

Marv Fleming (11, E)



1964

Record: 8-5-1, 2nd Place, Tied

Coach: Vince Lombardi

- The Packers went 3-4 in their first seven games.
- After losing to the Rams in late October, Lombardi had a closed-door meeting with the team. The Packers went 5-2 the rest of the way.
- Hornung returned from his suspension, but he had difficulty in the kicking game. He missed 26 of 38 field goal attempts.
- On offense, Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, and Tom Moore were the league's best backfield. The defense allowed the fewest yards, and it was the most stingy against the pass.
- "The Green Bay Packers were a better team than their 8-5-1 record indicated, and their fling with mediocrity would be brief."¹

¹ packershistory.net/1964Packers

9.13.1964

CHICAGO

BEARS **12**
PACKERS **23**

The Packers crowd warmly welcomed back Paul Hornung from his one-year suspension. The versatile Hornung played well with three field goals and 77 yards rushing. "Winning was the most important thing," Hornung stressed, "but naturally, I wanted to have a good day coming back."¹

Green Bay led from start to finish. In the first half, touchdown passes from quarterback Bart Starr went to Max McGee and Tom Moore. It set them on their way to avenge the two 1963 losses to the Bears. Hornung followed the touchdowns with three field goals.

Hornung's first field goal came just before halftime. The Packers had been awarded a free-kick after Elijah Pitts made a fair catch of a punt on Chicago's 48-yard line (the rule at the time). Hornung nailed an uncontested 52-yard boot, which not only gave them a 17-3 halftime lead, but it tied a Green Bay field goal record for distance.

The Bears were fired up after the break. In the third quarter, they added a field goal and a Rudy Bukich touchdown pass to Mike Ditka that cut the lead to 17-12. Green Bay's defense regrouped and turned back Chicago the rest of the way. Two more field goals by Hornung provided added insurance.

Chicago **0 3 9 0 12**

Green Bay **7 10 3 3 23**

42,327

Total Yards: GB 294 CHI 129

"The team would go up to Green Bay and stay in the Northland Hotel. Fans would do their best to see that the visiting Bears got as little sleep as possible. Doug Buffone of the Bears: 'It was nothing at 3 o'clock in the morning to hear someone playing 'Bear Down Chicago Bears' with a trombone. Or someone pulls the fire alarm at 4 o'clock and players in their shorts started running out the door, then stood there in front of a bunch of Packers' fans wearing antlers on their heads.'"²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/64, Rempel, p. 13

² Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. p. 306

9.20.1964

BALTIMORE

COLTS **21**
PACKERS **20**

An action-packed first half led to Baltimore's first win in Green Bay. It was dominated by running backs Paul Hornung and Lenny Moore. They both scored two touchdowns, and

The difference in the game was Hornung's missed extra point after his second score. Before halftime, quarterback Johnny Unitas extended Baltimore's lead to 21-13 with a 40-yard touchdown to tight end John Mackey.

In the third quarter, Jim Taylor's 23-yard touchdown run cut the lead to one 21-20, but it wasn't enough. Two interceptions thrown by Bart Starr pretty much decided matters in the fourth quarter. The first pick stopped a drive at Baltimore's 6-yard line. The second, by linebacker Don Shinnick, came with just 1:35 left.

After the game, Lombardi was philosophical. "You win some, and you lose some. We've won our share of games like this. It all evens up."¹

Baltimore	7	14	0	0	21
Green Bay	7	6	7	0	20

42,327

*P. A. Announcement: "Doctor from Marinette, the glasses you lost last week are at the lost and found window."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/64, Rimmel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/64, Daley, p. 15

9.28.1964

PACKERS	14
DETROIT	
LIONS	10

In a Monday night matchup in Detroit, Bart Starr had a huge first half—throwing for 255 yards. Both Starr and Paul Hornung ran for touchdowns which gave Green Bay a 14-3 halftime lead.

Early in the second half, Starr injured his shoulder and left the game. The defense rose to the occasion and held the Lions scoreless in the second half. Hank Gremminger had a clutch game for the Packers, thwarting two Detroit scoring opportunities with an interception and a fumble recovery.

With four minutes left in the game, the Lions went 80 yards, and quarterback Earl Morrall connected with Pat Studstill for a 15-yard touchdown. Trailing 14-10, Detroit got the ball back near midfield with just under two minutes remaining. After another Morrall to Studstill completion, cornerback Herb Adderley jarred the ball loose. Gremminger recovered the ball to put an end to the comeback!

Green Bay	0	14	0	0	14
Detroit	0	3	0	7	10

59,203

10.4.1964

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

24

PACKERS

23

Minnesota's first win over Green Bay came by way of a blocked extra-point!

The teams traded touchdowns in the first half, with Bill Brown scoring twice for Minnesota while Boyd Dowler and Paul Hornung did the damage for Green Bay. After a 50-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler, Hornung's extra-point was blocked by Minnesota's Rip Hawkins. Before the half, Hornung scored on a 1-yard run, but Bill Brown's touchdowns still had the Vikings in front 14-13.

In the third quarter, Starr's second touchdown pass to Dowler put the Packers up 20-14. Quarterback Fran Tarkenton struck back with a short touchdown pass to Tom Hall to retake the lead 21-20. With under five minutes left in the game, Hornung's 20-yard field goal made it 23-21.

On their final drive of the game, the Vikings faced a fourth-and-22 on their own 35-yard line. An electrifying scramble by quarterback Fran Tarkenton "eluded Hall of Fame defensive end, Willie Davis, more than once"¹ and completed a 44-yard pass to Gordy Smith. Smith was not the intended receiver, and two plays later, Fred Cox's boot won it with 18 seconds left. "He's just a tough little guy to catch, that's all. He threw the ball when an ordinary quarterback wouldn't,"² said Lombardi.

Minnesota 0 14 7 3 24

Green Bay 0 13 7 3 23

42,327

"The Beaver Dam High School Band, a competent and colorful ensemble, also entertained between halves."³

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 138

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/64, Rummel, p. 13

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/64, Rummel, p. 1

10.11.1964

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

14

PACKERS

24

A fourth-quarter comeback by the Packers in Milwaukee rescued this game from the loss column! In a very even game, statistically, Jimmy Taylor tipped the scales in Green Bay's favor. After he sat out the previous week's game against Minnesota with a shoulder injury, Taylor bounced back for 133 yards and two touchdowns. San Francisco took an early 7-0

lead, but a 1-yard touchdown run by Taylor tied it.

In the second half, the Packers fell behind 14-10 on quarterback John Brodie's touchdown run. Green Bay regained control in the fourth quarter when Taylor smashed his way through the right side of the line for a 27-yard touchdown. A bit later, with the Packers in front 17-14, a 42-yard punt return by Willie Wood gave Green Bay great field position. Bart Starr took full advantage and hooked up again with Boyd Dowler for the clincher.

San Francisco 0 7 7 0 14

Green Bay 0 7 3 14 24

47,380

Milwaukee County Stadium

Bob Matthews attended three Packers practices in 1964. He met Vince Lombardi. "My last day there, Tom Fears took me into Vince Lombardi's office to introduce me. I was petrified. When we walked into Lombardi's office, he was sitting behind his desk, and Fears introduced me. Lombardi stood up, shook hands with me, and with that trademark grin that he had, he said, 'Dennis, it's nice having you up here. I hope you enjoyed the experience. When you play football, remember two things—work hard and have fun because it's very short.' I told him how being there was the thrill of my life. It was probably only 20 seconds out of Vince Lombardi's day, but that's something that has stuck with me throughout my life."¹

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 20

10.18.1964

PACKERS 21

BALTIMORE

COLTS 24

Bart Starr (18-33-286-1-0) outplayed Johnny Unitas (14-27-157-0-0) in a gut-wrenching loss for the Packers in Baltimore. The game came down to the wire after five lead changes, and Paul Hornung's five missed field goals.

Touchdowns in the first half by Jim Taylor and Max McGee gave Green Bay a 14-7 lead at the break. A Lou Michaels field goal made it 14-10, and Lenny Moore's 21-yard touchdown run gave the Colts the lead after 45 minutes.

In the fourth quarter, a 65-yard punt return for a touchdown by Elijah Pitts gave the Packers a 21-17 lead. It stayed a four-point game until Hornung's fifth field goal attempt was blocked by Billy Ray Smith. It was returned by Jerry Logan to Green Bay's 34-yard line. Four plays later, with a minute left in the game, Unitas handed off to Lenny Moore, who took it in from the five for the win. "Missing the field goals beat us," Lombardi said of Hornung's five unsuccessful attempts, "but I am proud of the way we kept fighting back."¹

Green Bay 0 14 0 7 21

Baltimore 7 0 10 7 24

60,213

Total Yards: GB 401 BAL 258

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/64, Daley p. 13

10.25.1964

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 27

PACKERS 17

The Rams prevailed despite five turnovers! They came from behind to win after trailing 17-0 early. Jim Taylor's touchdown run and Willie Wood's 42-yard pick-six helped the Packers to the lead. After that, the Rams hit back with the next 27 points.

The assault began with a 52-yard touchdown run by Les Josephson. Quarterback Roman Gabriel followed with a 55-yard touchdown rocket to Bucky Pope. The Milwaukee crowd was stunned at halftime. The onslaught continued in the third quarter when Paul Hornung's field goal was blocked. It was returned 94 yards for six by defensive back Bobby Smith. The Rams had the lead for good 21-17.

In the second half, L.A.'s "Fearsome Foursome"—Lamar Lundy, Merlin Olsen, Deacon Jones, and Rosey Grier—racked up five sacks and held Green Bay's passing game to 60 yards. Bruce Gossett's two field goals in the fourth quarter sealed the deal for L.A.

Los Angeles 0 14 7 6 27

Green Bay 7 10 0 0 17

47,617

Milwaukee County Stadium

*"The Milwaukee East Division Drill Team, a highly precise unit, presented 'Age of Jazz' routine between halves, accompanied by Wilner Burke's Packer Band."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette 10/26/64, Rempel, p. 16

11.1.1964

PACKERS 42

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 13

Green Bay's collapse against the Rams the week prior left Lombardi fuming. In front of a record crowd at Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis, the Packers responded with a strong effort on both sides of the ball.

In the rain, Bart Starr threw for 186 yards and four touchdowns! Three of the touchdowns came in the first half, and Green Bay led at the break 28-10. Max McGee caught the first

touchdown, and Jim Taylor caught the two before intermission. Taylor also scored a rushing touchdown for the game's final points. He ran for 108 of Green Bay's 186 yards.

The Packers kept Fran Tarkenton in check. They limited his scrambling mobility and held him to a single yard rushing! His only touchdown pass came early in the game on a 66-yard missile to Bill Brown. It tied the score at seven. After that, it was all Green Bay, and the Vikings were held to 167 total yards.

Green Bay 7 21 0 14 42
Minnesota 7 3 3 0 13
44,278

*"Father Fleming, pastor of St. Olaf's Catholic Church in Minneapolis, drew a hearty chuckle at the 10 o'clock Mass Sunday morning when he closed his sermon by announcing: It was suggested that I put a tag on the bulletin today saying that any visitors from Green Bay may receive communion even if they are going out to the stadium to root for the Packers—it isn't a mortal sin."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette 11/2/64, Rempel, p. 17

11.8.1964

DETROIT

LIONS 7
PACKERS 30

The Lions were corraled nicely by the Packers and held to 50 yards rushing. Overall, Detroit was outgained by 193 yards. Lions quarterback Milt Plum was sacked eight times for a loss of 55 yards. They did not score until it was 30-0 Packers.

Jimmy Taylor ran for 145 yards on 19 carries. In the first quarter, Taylor scored twice on a 1-yard run and an 84-yard sprint. At the time, the 84-yard touchdown run was the second-longest in franchise history. It was all the Packers needed, but Paul Hornung delivered nine points with field goals from 19, 34, and 40 yards away.

In the third quarter, the Packers put the game away on an unusual play. After a 55-yard completion from Starr to Ron Kramer, Kramer fumbled. It was recovered by Max McGee, who took it the remaining 27 yards for a touchdown!

Detroit 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 14 6 7 3 30
42,327

*Headline: "57 Ex-Packers Honored in Annual Alumni Festivities"*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette 11/9/64, p. 13

11.15.1964

PACKERS 14

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 24

Paul Hornung missed three field goals and had another one blocked, and the 49ers won behind rookie quarterback George Mira (10-17-82-0-0). The Packers scored on their opening drive but then lost Bart Starr for the rest of the game. He was sacked and knocked out of the game by big defensive tackle Roland Lakes in the second quarter.

After the 49ers took a 10-7 lead on Kermit Alexander's 70-yard punt return, Max McGee caught his second touchdown of the game. He connected with backup quarterback Zeke Bratkowski for a 14-10 lead at the break.

The 49ers took the lead for good when Jimmy Johnson intercepted Bratkowski. The pick led to Mike Lind's touchdown run, the first of two third-quarter touchdowns that completed the upset. For the game, the Packers didn't capitalize on four turnovers, and they were shut out after halftime.

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14

San Francisco 0 10 14 0 24

38,483

11.22.1964

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 21

PACKERS 28

The Browns led 14-7 at halftime on touchdowns by Paul Warfield and Jim Brown. But they turned the ball over four turnovers in the second half, which spelled their doom.

With the Packers trailing 14-7 and out of contention for the division, they gambled on fourth-and-inches on their 44-yard line. Starr hit Max McGee with a short pass that McGee took 55 yards to the Browns' 1-yard line. Jimmy Taylor scored to tie the game at 14. "Yes, he called it,"¹ Lombardi said of Starr and the surprise call.

In the third quarter, Bart Starr capitalized on Dan Currie's interception of Cleveland quarterback Frank Ryan. From the Browns' 4-yard line, Starr faked a handoff to Taylor and ran it in himself for a 21-14 lead. A short time later, Taylor scored his second touchdown of the game. After the game, Blanton Collier, Cleveland's coach, thought the Packers had played "near-perfect football."²

Cleveland 14 0 0 7 21

Green Bay 7 0 14 7 28

48,065

Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/23/64, Rempel, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/23/64, Rempel, p. 19

11.29.1964

PACKERS 45

DALLAS

COWBOYS 21

The blowout of the Cowboys (4-6-1) was quick and painless. The Packers took a 17-0 lead, and after the Lions cut it to 17-14, they blew it wide open.

Bart Starr threw touchdown passes to Boyd Dowler, Jim Taylor, and Tom Moore and destroyed Dallas. Green Bay's defense played a big role in the win with the two longest touchdowns of the game. Defensive tackle Henry Jordan returned a fumble 60 yards for a touchdown and Lionel Aldridge, a defensive end, went 29 yards with another for six more! Dallas turned the ball over four more times, and Green Bay's defense allowed only 132 total yards and eight first downs.

Green Bay 7 10 14 14 45

Dallas 0 14 0 7 21

44,975

Dan Reeves on Tom Landry: "Every time he played the Green Bay Packers, it was a big game. He always wanted to beat the Packers, and he always pointed to the Packers as the team we needed to be one day."¹

1 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 16

12.5.1964

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

Paul Hornung scored 11 of Green Bay's 17 points, and his second-quarter touchdown put them in front to stay. His backfield mate, Jim Taylor, also scored on a short run. Taylor's 89 yards rushing made him the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in five straight seasons!

Both of Green Bay's touchdowns were set up by punt returns by Willie Wood. Wood also intercepted a pass that set up Hornung's field goal. Wood was given the game ball! Bart Starr played conservatively, going 9 for 13 for 75 yards. The ground game beat up the

Bears for 170 yards as Taylor (89) and Hornung (41) led the way. Green Bay's defense gave up only 197 yards.

Green Bay 0 7 7 3 17

Chicago 0 3 0 0 3

43,636

Turnovers: GB 2 CHI 5

A brave Packer Fan: "Waving a Green Bay pennant, he paraded unwaveringly up and down the aisle in the third base boxes despite an unremitting barrage of snowballs from Bear partisans."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette 12/6/64, Rimmel, p. 29

12.13.1964

PACKERS 24

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 24

A disappointing season came to an end with a tie. The Rams led nearly the entire contest. Green Bay's only points in the first half came on Tom Moore's touchdown run. The Packers came back with a Paul Hornung field goal, a Starr to Dowler touchdown, a short touchdown run by Jim Taylor to tie it in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay 0 7 3 14 24

Los Angeles 14 7 0 3 24

40,735

1.3.1964

1964 NFL Playoff Bowl

PACKERS 17

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 24

This was Green Bay's second year in the consolation game for third place. Billy Gambrell of St. Louis caught six passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns. Jim Taylor scored both of Green Bay's touchdowns, but the Packers were held to 131 total yards. The Cardinals managed 365 yards, with quarterback Charley Johnson's passing for 243 of them.

Green Bay 3 0 0 14 17

St. Louis 0 7 10 7 24

56,218

1964

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Baltimore	12	2	0
Green Bay	8	5	1
Minnesota	8	5	1
Detroit	7	5	2
Los Angeles	5	7	2
Chicago	5	9	0
San Francisco	4	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Hornung
Interceptions	Adderley

ALL-PRO

Herb Adderley	Cornerback
Willie Davis	Defensive End
Forrest Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Henry Jordan	Defensive Tackle
Ray Nitschke	Linebacker
Bart Starr	Quarterback
Jim Taylor	Fullback
Fuzzy Thurston	Guard
Willie Wood	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tommy Crutcher (3c, LB)
Bob Long (4a, CB)
Steve Wright (5b, T)
Ken Bowman (8, C)
Bill Curry (20, C)



1965
Record: 10-3-0, NFL Champions
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- Curly Lambeau died on June 1. City Stadium was renamed in his honor.
- After missing the championship game for two years, a return to the top was the goal.
- The Packers had the league's number one defense. They gave up the fewest points and touchdowns while intercepting the most passes.
- Baltimore and Green Bay finished tied at 10-3-1 in the Western Conference. Though the Packers beat the Colts twice during the regular season, a playoff game determined the conference champion.
- Green Bay won the championship against the defending champion Cleveland Browns at Lambeau Field.

Jim Becker, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

In July, Jim and four of his children—Tom, Rob, Paul, & Kathy—went to a Packer practice during training camp. Between the morning and afternoon sessions, they watched a commercial being filmed featuring Lombardi and Herb Adderley. As Jim and the kids watched excitedly, Lombardi spotted a few bicycles on the ground near the set. He snapped to no one in particular, “get those bikes out of here!” Tom and Rob Becker, who didn’t own the bikes, jumped at Lombardi’s command and moved the bikes out of the way!

* Interview: 2/13/17

9.19.1965

PACKERS 41
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS 9

Prior to this game, the last time the Packers opened the season on the road was 1948 against the Boston Yanks!

On a scorching, late summer day with temperatures near 90, Green Bay took a 7-6 lead on Herb Adderley's pick-six in the first quarter. Regarding the heat, Adderley explained, “It was like this every day in training camp. Coach Lombardi worked us hard in it, and it made us a little mad, but you saw how it paid off today.”¹ After the Steelers went in front 9-7, the Packers poured it on with 34 straight points.

Quarterback Bart Starr and Marv Fleming warmed up the airways with a 31-yard touchdown. Two Don Chandler field goals—one coming after a second Adderley interception—made the score 20-9 after three quarters. In a 21-point fourth quarter, Paul Hornung caught a short touchdown pass from Starr. An interception by Ray Nitschke led to the first of two touchdown runs by Elijah Pitts. The second came after a Steeler fumble.

Green Bay 0 7 13 21 41
Pittsburgh 0 9 0 0 9
38,383

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/65, p. 13

9.26.1965

BALTIMORE

COLTS 17

PACKERS 20

With Jim Taylor already out with an ankle injury, the Packers were hit hard in the second half with injuries to Bart Starr (foot) and Paul Hornung (shoulder). They still managed to come back and defeat the Colts as the defense contained quarterback Johnny Unitas (14-32-210-1-2).

The turnover-prone Colts stayed true to form with six turnovers. Two of the miscues resulted in 14 points for Green Bay. In a 3-3 game, Herb Adderley's pick-six in the second quarter made it 10-3. Baltimore tied it before halftime, but a fourth-quarter field goal by Don Chandler made it 13-10.

The Colts rallied after a Tom Moore fumble gave them the ball at Green Bay's 24-yard line. A Unitas to Raymond Berry touchdown put the Colts up 17-13. With 2:48 remaining in the game, Willie Wood recovered a fumble by Lenny Moore. Backup quarterback Zeke Bratkowski found Max McGee for a 37-yard touchdown for a three-point Green Bay lead! With 56 seconds left, Herb Adderley sealed the deal when he recovered Tom Matte's fumble. Lombardi's perspective? "We were in no great shakes offensively, but we didn't fall over and play dead."¹

Baltimore 3 7 0 7 17
Green Bay 0 10 0 10 20
48,130

Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/65, Rimmel, p. 18

10.3.1965

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

PACKERS 23

Green Bay took control quickly. A fumble by Chicago quarterback Billy Wade was recovered by the Packers, who drove 88 yards for the first points. Billy Wade then proceeded to throw an interception that linebacker Lee Roy Caffey returned for a 42-yard touchdown. With a 14-0 lead, a 48-yard strike from Bart Starr to Bob Long made it 20-0.

But the Bears woke up in the second half when Halas went to backup quarterback Rudy Bukich. Along with the elusive rookie halfback Gale Sayers, they stunned the Packers with an eye-opening performance. In the third quarter, Sayers, "The Kansas Comet," scored his first touchdown when he finished an 80-yard drive with a 6-yard touchdown run. His second touchdown came with six minutes left in the game. He took a short pass from Bukich and electrified the crowd with a 65-yard sprint to the end zone.

Though the Bears fell short, the morning Press-Gazette praised Sayers. "Sayers put on one of the finest performances ever seen by a rookie here."² His skills were on full display with 80 yards rushing, 104 more receiving, and one touchdown. A star was born, but the Packers prevailed. Years later, Dick Butkus acknowledged, "only perfection would have beaten the Packers"³ in this game.

Chicago 0 0 7 7 14

Green Bay 14 6 3 0 23

50,852

"The 140-piece (Green Bay) West High School Wildcat Marching Band, a shining example of masterful maneuvers and musicianship, did not let superstition affect its performance. Making its 13th appearance at a Packer game, Director L. A. Skornicka's well-schooled unit made a resounding hit with the capacity house, which enthusiastically applauded the blue and gold Wildcats' intricate efforts."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/65, Daley, p. 16

2 Butkus: Flesh and Blood, p. 148

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/65, Rempel, p. 20

10.10.1964

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 10

PACKERS 27

The only blemish on this game was when Bart Starr was intercepted for the first time in 294 attempts! Other than that, the game belonged to the Packers and Don Chandler. The

newly acquired kicker from the New York Giants set up Green Bay's first points with a fake punt that he called himself. Chandler took off for a 27-yard run that was followed a few minutes later by Bart Starr's touchdown pass to Bob Long. Chandler also kicked two field goals and three extra points. With five minutes left, Chandler set a Packers' record with a punt that flew 90 yards!

The Packers' offense was in high gear, and Starr threw two touchdown passes. The ground game pounded the Niners for 186 yards, with Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung combining for 116. A goal-line-stand by the defense in the fourth quarter clinched it for the 4-0 Packers.

San Francisco 0 7 3 0 10
Green Bay 7 6 7 7 27
50,852

*Lombardi: "We appreciate the great support we got from the fans. It had a great deal to do with our performance."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/65, Daley, 17

10.17.1965

PACKERS 31
DETROIT
LIONS 21

Detroit took control of the first half with two Milt Plum touchdown passes. One went to former Packer tight end Ron Kramer, and the second, a 55-yard bomb, to Terry Barr.

Trailing 21-3 at halftime, Packers' end Bob Long recalls that Lombardi's remarks in the tiny locker room of Tiger Stadium were brief. He told the team, "Gentleman, that was the worst exhibition of football I've ever seen. Wait until I get a hold of you on Monday. Then he turned and walked out."¹ The Packers charged out of the locker room and ripped the game away from Detroit with a 21-point third quarter.

The defense shut out Detroit in the second half. Bart Starr threw three long touchdown passes of 62, 31, and 77 yards to Long, Tom Moore, and Carroll Dale to take the lead. In the fourth quarter, Starr's 4-yard touchdown run completed the thrilling comeback.

Green Bay 3 0 21 7 31
Detroit 14 7 0 0 21
56,712

Bart Starr: 15-23-301-3-1

*"Willie Wood, Packer player (was) named chairman of the first statewide campaign of the Association for Retarded Children."*²

1 Stadium Stories, D'Amato, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/65, p. 6

10.24.1965

DALLAS

COWBOYS 3

PACKERS 13

The game was a “throwback to grandpa’s day,”¹ as defense and field goals provided the action. The Packers generated only 63 yards the entire game, and Bart Starr completed just four passes for minus (-10) yards. Dallas turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Craig Morton was sacked nine times!

In the second quarter, Don Chandler’s 44-yard field goal put the first points on the board. Danny Villanueva’s kick made it 3-3 after halftime. When Chandler’s punt was fumbled by Mel Renfro, Junior Coffey recovered it for Green Bay on the Dallas 22. The Cowboys held, and Chandler made the score 6-3.

A few minutes later, Cowboys’ halfback Don Perkins was hit hard by Henry Jordan and Ron Kostelnick. The ball came out, and Willie Davis recovered on the Dallas 7-yard line. On the next play, Jim Taylor scored on a power sweep.

Dallas 0 0 3 0 3

Green Bay 0 3 10 0 13

48,311

Milwaukee County Stadium

The teams totaled minus 11 yards passing.

In Green Bay, “the bank president is likely to get a frantic call on Sunday morning from a guy who neglected to get his Packer tickets out of his safe deposit box.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/65, Daley, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/65, Larson, p. 5

10.31.1965

PACKERS 10

CHICAGO

BEARS 31

The first loss of the season started out promising, as the Packers scored on their opening possession. That touchdown, along with a second-quarter field goal, were the only points the Packers managed to produce. Two interceptions of Bart Starr by Doug Atkins and Bennie McRae helped the Bears to a 17-10 lead at intermission.

In the second half, the Packers never got beyond their 35-yard line! The final dagger came on a spectacular 62-yard punt return by Gale Sayers. Sayers broke four tackles before being taken down on Green Bay’s 15. A touchdown run by Jon Arnett came a few plays later, and it slammed the door shut on Green Bay. For good measure, the Bears added

another touchdown run by Ronnie Bull. The Bears ran the ball so well (212 yards), they ended up throwing only 11 passes.

After the game, Lombardi was impressed. "This is a far better club than the one that won the championship in 1963—all the way around."¹

Green Bay 7 3 0 0 10
Chicago 0 17 7 7 31
45,644

*"St. Norbert's College football coach Howie (Chick) Kolstad and Green Bay Packer all-pro linebacker Ray Nitschke will be the featured speakers at the first annual city-wide high school football banquet."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/65, Rempel, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/65, p. 47

11.7.1965

DETROIT

LIONS 12
PACKERS 7

Green Bay's offense sputtered all game and produced just 68 total yards. The game was eerily reminiscent of the 1962 Thanksgiving Day loss in Detroit. Bart Starr was sacked eight times, and he completed just nine passes for 109 yards.

In the second quarter, Jim Taylor scored Green Bay's lone touchdown for a 7-0 lead. Joe Don Looney tied it for the Lions on their next series. In the second half, the Packers had trouble moving the ball, and they did not get beyond midfield. It stayed 7-7 until late in the game when Paul Hornung's halfback option pass was intercepted on Green Bay's 21-yard line. With 4:51 left, Wayne Walker made it 10-7 Lions. Twenty-eight seconds later, Roger Brown sacked Starr in the end zone for a safety.

The Lions ran 59 plays compared to Green Bay's 38. The loss split the season series, and it also knocked the Packers out of first place.

Detroit 0 7 0 5 12
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
57,578

11.14.1965
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **3**
PACKERS **6**

Throughout the game, neither team was able to sustain a drive! There were ten sacks, five turnovers, and 319 total yards. Offensively, passing the ball was a challenge for both teams. The Packers threw for 75 net yards, while the Lions managed 26.

In the first quarter, Green Bay's Don Chandler traded three-pointers with L.A. kicker Bruce Gossett. The Rams took a 3-0 lead after a fumble by Green Bay halfback Tom Moore. Gossett converted from the 35-yard line. Later in the quarter, Chandler matched it from the 22.

The winning kick came with 37 seconds left in the game. Defensive tackle Ron Kostelnik of the Packers hit quarterback Bill Munson who fumbled. It was recovered by defensive end Lionel Aldridge on the Rams' 20-yard line. Six plays later, on fourth down from the one-inch line, Chandler delivered the 7-yard winner!

Los Angeles **3 0 0 0 3**

Green Bay **3 0 0 3 6**

48,485

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB remained one game behind Baltimore.

11.21.1965

PACKERS **38**

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **13**

Six turnovers by Minnesota were the difference. In the first half, Green Bay took a 7-6 lead on a Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler touchdown pass. After halftime, quarterback Fran Tarkenton put Minnesota in front 13-10 with a 27-yard touchdown pass to Paul Flatley.

The fourth quarter belonged to the Packers' defense, and the Green Bay Press-Gazette captured it in one sentence: "Ray Nitschke's recovery of Bill Brown's fumble set up a Packer touchdown, Doug Hart scored another on a 20-yard run with another Brown fumble, Herb Adderley intercepted a pass, and Lionel Aldridge fell on a Viking fumble that led to the game's final score."¹

Bart Starr threw three touchdown passes to Carroll Dale, Boyd Dowler, and Bob Long. Dowler and Long scored in the fourth quarter to lock up the win. Jim Taylor balanced the attack with 111 yards on the ground as the Packers crushed the Vikings.

Green Bay 7 3 0 28 38
Minnesota 3 3 7 0 13
47,426

*"After the game, the Packers were amused to discover one of the cheering faithful alongside, wearing a green and gold tassled cap and waving a Packer pennant, sported a painted 'I'd rather fight than switch' shiner around her left eye."*²

1 packershistory.net/1965Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/65, Rempel, p. 20

11.28.1965

PACKERS 10

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 21

Two weeks later, the Rams, who had lost eight in a row, pulled off the shocking upset. After Don Chandler's field goal broke the ice, L.A. scored the next 18 points. A Ben Wilson touchdown run, three Bruce Gossett field goals, and a safety by "Deacon" Jones added to L.A.'s point total.

Defensively, they shut down the Packers' ground game (22 yards), and both quarterbacks, Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski, had trouble getting the offense moving. Their only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on an 80-yard connection from Bratkowski and Elijah Pitts. Together, the stat line for Starr and Bratkowski was 19-35-250-1-1. The loss put Green Bay 1.5 games behind Baltimore.

Green Bay 3 0 0 7 10
Los Angeles 7 6 0 8 21
39,733

The 1965 draft was held before this game.

12.5.1965

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 19

PACKERS 24

In a "screamer right down to the end,"¹ the Packers were outgained but not outscored. In the first minute of the game, Bart Starr and Boyd Dowler connected for a 7-0 lead. Later in the first quarter, Starr injured a finger on his throwing hand and backup Zeke Bratkowski stepped in.

The Vikings scored the next 16 points. Halfback Tommy Mason scored on the ground, and Fred Cox kicked three field goals. In the final seconds of the first half, in a surprising

move, Cox tried a fourth field goal from 59 yards away. With the wind at his back and 19 seconds left, the kick fell short. Perched near the goal line, Willie Wood returned the kick 71 yards to the Viking 21-yard line! Elijah Pitts scored from the 3-yard line to cut the score to 16-14.

A third-quarter touchdown pass from Bratkowski to tight end Bill Anderson put the Packers back on top, 21-19. Early in the fourth quarter, Don Chandler's 25-yard field goal attempt was partially blocked before hitting the crossbar and going over! Those three points were critical as the Vikings were within field goal range as time ran out.

Minnesota 7 9 3 0 19

Green Bay 7 7 7 3 24

50,852

Total Yards: GB 266 MINN 336

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/65, Daley, p. 15

12.12.1965

PACKERS 42

BALTIMORE

COLTS 27

In a thick fog, the Packers flattened the Colts in Baltimore. Behind the blowout was the spectacular play of Paul Hornung, who scored five touchdowns to break the team record. Three came on short touchdown runs, and two on Bart Starr touchdown passes of 50 and 65 yards!

Baltimore quarterback Gary Cuozzo, who filled in for an injured Johnny Unitas, kept the Colts close, but Green Bay's offense, aka Paul Hornung, proved too much. In the first half, he ran for a 2-yard touchdown, and he caught a 50-yard touchdown pass from Starr.

With a 14-13 lead late in the second quarter, Green Bay scored the next 21 points. An interception by Dave Robinson was returned 87 yards to set up Starr's 10-yard touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler. Two touchdown runs by Hornung followed in the third quarter. The second touchdown extended the lead to 35-13, and it came after an interception by safety Tom Brown.

Quarterback Gary Cuozzo directed two touchdown drives that kept the Colts within striking distance 35-27. "The Packers then settled it quickly with Starr and Hornung working a 65-yard touchdown bomb."¹ This was Green Bay's most productive game of the season—42 points, 366 yards. With one game remaining, the win moved the Packers one-half game ahead of the Colts in the Western Conference.

Green Bay 14 7 14 7 42

Baltimore 3 10 0 14 27

60,238

Total Yards: GB 366 BALT 264

“Dave Robinson, who seemed more eager to talk about Hornung than himself, said ‘Before the game, I heard the fans saying, ‘Want to bet, Paul?’ and things like that. People haven’t forgotten, and they can be cruel. I’m just overjoyed to see Paul have a good day. He’s a fine athlete.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/65, Rummel, p. 20

12.19.1965

PACKERS 24

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 24

A win would have clinched the division, but the Packers faltered with a tie against the 49ers (6-6-1). The deadlock forced a playoff game between Green Bay and Baltimore for the conference title.

In a quiet first half, Tommy Davis’ field goal started the scoring for San Francisco. Two minutes later, Green Bay struck back with a 43-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler. At halftime, the score stood 7-3.

After the break, Herb Adderley’s pick-six extended Green Bay’s lead to 14-3. The interception woke up 49ers quarterback John Brodie, who led an 82-yard drive and threw a touchdown to halfback John David Crow.

In the fourth quarter, when safety Doug Hart fell in the end zone, Brodie and Dave Parks connected for a 17-14 lead with 11 minutes remaining. Green Bay scored the next ten points to seemingly take control. Jim Taylor’s touchdown run and Don Chandler’s field goal made the score 24-17 Packers with two minutes left.

With the season on the line, it was up to the defense, but they could not stop Brodie. The 49ers went 56 yards in four plays, and with seven seconds left, Brodie’s 27-yard pass to Vern Burke tied the score and the Western Conference.

Green Bay 0 7 7 10 24

San Francisco 0 3 7 14 24

45, 710

The Packers were welcomed back in Green Bay “by 500 of the weary but boisterous faithful... just after 2:30 this morning.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/65, Rummel, p. 35

12.26.1965

1965 Western Conference Playoff

BALTIMORE

COLTS **10**

PACKERS **13** (OT)

Even though Green Bay had beaten Baltimore twice during the regular season, they needed an extra 13 minutes of overtime to win the Western Conference playoff game. It was a tense and thrilling battle that left the crowd “limp and delirious.”¹ Fortunately, for the Packers, it was worth it.

The game was a battle of backup quarterbacks. Johnny Unitas and backup quarterback Gary Cuozzo were already injured, and versatile halfback Tom Matte led the Colts. Matte carried “a list of plays on a wristband for easy reference.”² For Green Bay, Bart Starr was injured on the first play from scrimmage. His pass to tight end Bill Anderson was fumbled and picked up by Colts linebacker Don Shinnick. Shinnick returned it for a touchdown, and Starr injured his ribs as he was blocked trying to tackle Shinnick. Zeke Bratkowski replaced Starr.

After Shinnick’s touchdown, a field goal by Lou Michaels gave Baltimore a 10-0 lead. With Starr out injured and the offense doing little, the Packers season looked to be slipping away. But after halftime, Zeke Bratkowski heated up, and a poor snap on a Colts punt gave him an opportunity. With the Packers taking over at Baltimore’s 35-yard line, Carroll Dale’s diving, over-the-shoulder catch of a Bratkowski pass went for 34 yards. The final yard was Hornung’s, and it cut the lead to 10-7.

It stayed 10-7 until Bratkowski put together a 14-play drive late in the game. With 1:58 left, Don Chandler’s kick came from the 22. He kicked it high and above the uprights. It was good, but since it drifted right above the goalpost, it remains controversial. Overtime.

The Colts had the first opportunity to win the game, but kicker Lou Michaels missed a 48-yard field goal partially due to another bad snap. The Packers turned it around and capitalized with a 62-yard drive in ten plays that put the ball at Baltimore’s 25. Don Chandler then delivered the winner and the conference title!

The next day, while praising his conference champs, a relieved Vince Lombardi said, “this may not be the best team I’ve ever had, but it has a great deal of character... which I think is most important.”³

Baltimore **7** **3** **0** **0** **0** **10**

Green Bay **0** **0** **7** **3** **3** **13**

50,484

The field goal controversy pushed the NFL to extend the goals posts in 1966.

“Green Bay football fans, veterans now at this business of celebrating championships, hollered, whistled, ate, and drank after Sunday’s playoff game. But they seemed to be saving the big outburst for what, they assume, will be a league championship party next Sunday night.”⁴

Green Bay’s mayor encouraged residents to, “display flags and decorate display areas with a ‘Packer-Backer’ theme. We want the Packers to know we are bursting with pride over the fact that the greatest football team in the United States is a component of the greatest All-American city, Green Bay.”⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, Daley, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/65, Beard, p. 19

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/65, Daley, p. 13

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, p. 1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/65, p. 1

1.2.1966

1965 NFL Championship Game

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 12

PACKERS 23

Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer Fan Hall of Fame *

It was 1965, and Vivian and her girlfriend went to this title game by themselves. They drove to Green Bay in her friend’s new yellow convertible! The snow and cold didn’t bother these two Packer fans. “Handling the cold was different then. You bundled up so much more, and you wanted to stay close together so that you would stay warm.”

This was the last NFL Championship Game that determined pro football’s top prize. Beginning in 1966, the Super Bowl determined pro football’s champion.

Through the years, the NFL Championship Game and “Mother Nature” have had some fierce battles. Of the 33 championship games played between 1933-1965, the weather was a significant factor in 13! This last game had a little bit of everything weather-wise: snow, rain, sleet, mud, and ice! Before the game, four inches of snow had to be cleared from the field. Volunteers shoveled the snow off the seats in the stands. The conditions slowed everything to a crawl, including the bus carrying the Cleveland Browns. What was usually a 30-minute ride to Lambeau Field took 90 minutes!

Cleveland was the defending NFL Champion. In 1964, they won the title with a 27-0 win over the great Johnny Unitas and the favored Colts. Led by their great fullback Jim Brown, they also featured an impressive passing game with quarterback Frank Ryan and top-ranked receivers Gary Collins and Paul Warfield. But they were up against a Green Bay team that had an “overpowering offense coupled with a stingy defense.”¹

Both teams started quickly. The Packers scored on their opening drive when Carroll Dale

adjusted to an underthrown pass from Bart Starr for a 47-yard touchdown. On their first drive, the Browns countered with a Frank Ryan to Gary Collins touchdown in the corner of the end zone. But a bad snap foiled the extra point, and it was 7-6 Green Bay. For the rest of the half, veteran kickers Lou Groza and Don Chandler traded field goals for a 13-12 Green Bay lead at the half.

The Packers' first drive of the second half was one for the ages. They overpowered the Browns with 11 plays that covered 90 yards. The powerful backfield of Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor led the way, and only two passes were thrown. They plowed over the Browns, and Hornung's 13-yard touchdown run around left end in the mud gave Green Bay a 20-12 lead. For the game, Hornung and Taylor ran for 201 yards!

Green Bay's defense, which was tops in the league in points allowed, came up big. In the second half, the Browns were held to just 26 total yards. The great Jim Brown managed only 50 yards rushing. In the third quarter, Ray Nitschke made the game's best defensive play when he tipped the ball out of Jim Brown's hands in the end zone. The drive ended for Cleveland when Henry Jordan blocked Lou Groza's field goal attempt. "That's the best defensive club we've faced in the last couple of years,"² quarterback Frank Ryan conceded.

The Packers were back on top!

Cleveland	9	3	0	0	12
Green Bay	7	6	7	3	23

50,777

"I'll keep my ticket stub for this game the rest of my life."³

"After the Packers had grabbed the early lead, most of the beer vendors chose to use the cases as stools, watched the game, and sold the sudsy refreshment only when somebody asked."

Cheering fans "tore down the four-inch pipes that make up the goalposts. A short time later, the posts were displayed in downtown Green Bay as fans celebrated into the wee hours of the morning."⁵

* Interview 11/16/2016

1 Greatest Moments in Green Bay Packer Football History, Korth, p. 71

2 Greatest Moments in Green Bay Packer Football History, Korth, p. 72

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, Devenport, p. 6

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, Devenport, p. 6

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/66, p.1

1965

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	3	1
Baltimore	10	3	1
Chicago	9	5	0
San Francisco	7	6	1
Minnesota	7	7	0
Detroit	6	7	1
Los Angeles	4	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Chandler
Interceptions	Adderley, Wood w/6

ALL-PRO

Adderley	Cornerback
Davis	Defensive End
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Nitschke	Linebacker
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tommy Crutcher (3c, LB)
Bob Long (4a, CB)
Steve Wright (5b, T)
Ken Bowman (8, C)
Bill Curry (20, C)



1966
Record: 12-2-0, NFL Champions
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- The “Gold Dust Twins,” Donny Anderson and Jim Grabowski, signed with the Packers. To keep them out of the rival American Football League (AFL), the Packers spent one million dollars to sign these two college stars. They drafted Anderson as a “junior eligible” in 1965.
- The war between the NFL and the AFL ended on June 6, 1966. The phased-in merger would begin at the end of the 1966 season with the first NFL-AFL World Championship Game. It was renamed the Super Bowl beginning with Super Bowl III.
- The Packers opened the season against the two teams it defeated in the previous year’s postseason—Baltimore and Cleveland.
- The Packers were denied a perfect season by two losses by a total of four points. This team ranks with the 1929 and 1962 teams as one of the greatest in team history.
- Bart Starr led the NFL in passing. In 251 attempts, he threw 14 touchdowns with just three interceptions. He was the NFL MVP.
- The defense gave up only 163 points (11.6 per game), 49 fewer than any other team in the league. The unit intimidated quarterbacks with 28 interceptions and 48 sacks.

9.10.1966
BALTIMORE

COLTS **3**
PACKERS **24**

On a Saturday night, the defending champion Packers were underdogs in a nationally televised opener against the Colts! The defending champs took it personally and clearly “demonstrated that they fully intend to keep their championship despite the boasts of the Colts who virtually predicted they’d win this key NFL opener.”¹

The defense shut down Baltimore quarterback Johnny Unitas and the passing game. Unitas threw for just 106 yards, and he was intercepted three times. In the second quarter, with Baltimore leading 3-0, Unitas threw consecutive interceptions that were returned for touchdowns! Lee Roy Caffey made the first, and, four plays later, Bob Jeter picked off the

second. They were returned 52 and 46 yards, respectively, and the Colts never recovered.

The only touchdown in the second half came on a 79-yard drive by Green Bay. Bart Starr (14-19-138-0-1) ran it in from the eight-yard line.

Baltimore 0 3 0 0 3
Green Bay 0 14 10 0 24
48,650

Milwaukee County Stadium

“Johnny Unitas received a beautifully-embroidered crying towel from a Packer fan Saturday afternoon. It read, ‘This is a crying towel for the Colts, 1966.’ The reference, of course, was to the Colts’ reaction to ‘that’ field goal in the playoff.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/66, Daley, p. 27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/66, Daley, p. 27

9.18.1966

PACKERS 21
CLEVELAND
BROWNS 20

The Packers went to Cleveland for a rematch of the 1965 championship game. The Browns were fired up for the rematch, and so were the 83,943 fans! But Bart Starr tempered their enthusiasm with another fine game (20-30-238-2-0).

Cleveland went in front early on quarterback Frank Ryan’s 11-yard touchdown pass to Gary Collins. A fumble by Jim Taylor led to another Ryan to Collins score for a 14-0 advantage. The only points for Green Bay before halftime came on a classic fourth-and-one call. Quarterback Starr faked a handoff to Jim Taylor and connected with Paul Hornung on a 44-yard strike to cut it to 14-7.

In the third quarter, Cleveland cashed in on Bart Starr’s fumble with Lou Groza’s field goal that hit the crossbar before going over. Down 17-7, Green Bay took control with two touchdowns by Jimmy Taylor. The first was a 1-yard plunge to make it 17-14. His second came on a 9-yard pass from Starr. A determined Taylor broke two tackles and gave Green Bay its first lead 21-20 with 2:45 left. On Cleveland’s final drive, the defense delivered two sacks to end it.

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21
Cleveland 7 10 0 3 20
83,943

GB sacked Frank Ryan four times.

Looking Back: Nine months ago, the Packers beat the Browns for the NFL title with a dominating ground game. This time, it was Green Bay’s passing game (including Hornung and Taylor) that took down Cleveland.

9.25.1966

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 13

PACKERS 24

Despite six turnovers, the Packers built a 17-0 lead, gave back 13 points before a spectacular play sealed the deal in their favor. Though Bart Starr was sacked four times by “The Fearsome Foursome” of the Rams, he still managed to throw for 262 yards and two touchdowns. Paul Hornung gave Green Bay the lead with two touchdowns—a short pass from Starr and his run behind right tackle Forrest Gregg.

Fumbles by Bart Starr and Elijah Pitts led to two L.A. field goals and a 17-6 score at the break. In the second half, the Rams tightened the screws with a 54-yard touchdown drive. Dick Bass scored on an 8-yard run that made it 17-13. As the tension mounted, the Packers found some breathing room when Bart Starr and Elijah Pitts made amends with an 80-yard touchdown.

Green Bay’s defense held the upper hand, and the Rams were outgained 327-173. Quarterback Roman Gabriel was sacked eight times, and Henry Jordan had a hand in five of them. On L.A.’s last two drives, they got as far as Green Bay’s 35 and 43-yard lines, but no further. Game over.

Los Angeles 0 6 7 0 13

Green Bay 7 10 0 7 24

50,861

GB’s five turnovers were all fumbles.

10.2.1966

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 23

“I think everybody plays their best game when they come here,”¹ Vince Lombardi stated. The Packers certainly got the best from the Lions on this day. Green Bay generated just 10 first downs and 66 yards rushing. Bart Starr was also sacked five times.

But the Packers scored on their first series when Starr hit tight end, Marv Fleming for a 53-yard touchdown. Starr and Carroll Dale kept it going in the second quarter with a 78-yard touchdown. Before halftime, the Lions got on the scoreboard with an 80-yard drive that Tom Nowatzke took home on a 1-yard plunge.

Detroit cut the deficit to 20-14 early in the fourth quarter on Amos March's touchdown run. But five turnovers, two interceptions, and three fumbles proved too much overcome. Three of the turnovers led to field goals by Don Chandler, which made all the difference.

Detroit 0 7 0 7 14
Green Bay 10 7 3 3 23
50,861

The Lions were penalized nine times for 123 yards.

"The Marinette High School Band entertained with distinction between halves."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/66, Rimmel, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/66, Rimmel, p. 17

10.9.1966

PACKERS 20
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 21

In Kezar Stadium next to Golden Gate Park, Bart Starr threw for nearly 300 yards as well as two touchdown passes. But the winless 49ers pulled off the upset behind backup quarterback George Mira. It was Mira's mobility that kept Green Bay's defense off-balance, and he threw two touchdown passes to John David Crow for the upset.

The Packers led in the game just once after Don Chandler's field goal. With San Francisco leading 14-13 early in the fourth quarter, Mira and Crow connected for a second touchdown. In four plays, the Packers matched it on a 38-yard touchdown from Bart Starr to Carroll Dale.

In the fourth quarter, linebacker Dave Robinson came up big for Green Bay with an interception that he returned to San Francisco's 9-yard line! The Packers were stopped, however, on an offensive pass interference penalty against Boyd Dowler. Two plays later, Don Chandler missed a 26-yard field goal with seven minutes left. The Niners brought in veteran quarterback John Brodie. He took them on a time-consuming drive that ate up all but 30 seconds of the final seven minutes.

Green Bay 3 0 10 7 20
San Francisco 0 7 7 7 21
39,290

10.16.1966

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

After the scoreless first half, the turning point came on the first drive of the second. Paul Hornung finished a 65-yard drive with a 1-yard plunge. On the touchdown, Hornung suffered a neck injury on a hit by linebacker Doug Buffone that hastened the end of the Golden Boy's career.

Hornung, Elijah Pitts, and Jim Taylor accounted for 117 of Green Bay's 180 total yards. Dick Butkus acknowledged years later, "most of the time we knew exactly what play they were going to run. But it didn't matter because they always executed their plays with precision."¹

The strong Green Bay defense held the Bears to 42 yards rushing and 94 yards overall! Gale Sayers gained just 29 yards, and quarterback Rudy Bukich was intercepted three times. Willie Wood's 20-yard pick-six in the fourth quarter sealed the deal. Asked about the shutout, Lombardi commented, "I'm not interested in shutouts. Neither is the defense," he said, adding a smile. "We're interested in one-point victories."²

Green Bay 0 0 10 7 17

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0

48,573

¹ Flesh & Blood, Butkus, p. 175

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/66, Rempel, p. 13

10.23.1966

ATLANTA

FALCONS 3

PACKERS 56

Milwaukee fans witnessed the largest margin of victory in Packers' history! They also saw the second-most points the Packers have ever scored in a game. Unfortunately, the victims were the first-year Atlanta Falcons, who were battered from start to finish.

Touchdowns by Jim Taylor, Donny Anderson, and Carroll Dale gave Green Bay a 28-0 lead at halftime. The second half opened and closed with a pair of interceptions that Herb Adderley and Doug Hart returned for touchdowns! In between, Max McGee scored on a pass from quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, and Donny Anderson's 77-yard punt return for six was the first of his young career.

The Packers outgained the Falcons 357-216, and five of Green Bay's touchdowns came on

plays of 24 yards or more. No contest.

Atlanta 0 0 3 0 3
Green Bay 7 21 7 21 56
48,673
Milwaukee County Stadium

10.30.1966

PACKERS 31
DETROIT
LIONS 7

The Packers enjoyed a solid first half and were never threatened. "The Lions didn't get at Starr all afternoon," and he played very well (11-13-154-1-0). He was backed up by three touchdowns by halfback Elijah Pitts and one by Jim Taylor.

Leading 10-7 just before halftime, Starr began extending the lead with a 24-yard touchdown pass to Pitts. In the final 30 minutes, the Packers pulled away as both Pitts and Taylor scored on the ground. The Lions turned the ball over five times, and the Packers capitalized on three of them for 24 points. Quarterback Karl Sweetan threw 45 passes for 271 yards. He also threw three interceptions and was sacked four times.

Green Bay 0 17 7 7 31
Detroit 0 7 0 0 7
56,954

GB was 7-1.

*"The Packers were supported by 80 Green Bayites who came over on the Kellogg Travel Bureau Charter. The fans gave the Packers a sendoff when they left the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel for Tiger Stadium Sunday morning."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/66, Daley, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/66, Daley, p. 13

11.6.1966

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20
PACKERS 17

Fran Tarkenton led the Vikings to the upset. Tarkenton's elusiveness and creativity kept alive plays and frustrated Green Bay's defense.

In the first half, both teams scored on 80-yard drives and touchdown runs by their fullbacks, Jim Taylor and Bill Brown. Kickers Don Chandler and Fred Cox also traded field

goals, with Cox's kick coming after a fumble by Elijah Pitts.

After halftime, Bart Starr led a 15 play, 86-yard drive that Pitts finished from the two-yard line for a 17-10 lead. But the fourth quarter was all Minnesota's. Fred Cox's field goal narrowed it to 17-13. After a three-and-out for the Packers, Minnesota got the ball on their 27-yard line with six minutes left. Tarkenton took the Vikings 73 yards for Bill Brown's second touchdown run and that clinched it. "They possessed the ball on us,"¹ explained Lombardi. The Vikings, who ran 72 plays compared to Green Bay's 53, ran it 46 times!

Minnesota 0 10 0 10 20
Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17
50,861

*"The Packer Alumni Association Meeting, scheduled tonight at No. 2 fire station, has been postponed until next Monday, Chief Zuidmulder said today."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/ Daley, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/66, p. 22

11.20.1966

CHICAGO

BEARS 6
PACKERS 13

Eighteen penalties for 178 yards were called in this slugfest. Bart Starr pulled a hamstring muscle on the second play of the game and he was replaced by Zeke Bratkowski. Bratkowski produced 190 yards passing and two touchdowns, both to Carroll Dale.

In the second quarter, after being hit by Lionel Aldridge, Ronnie Bull fumbled, and it was recovered by linebacker Lee Roy Caffey. Green Bay quickly capitalized with Zeke Bratkowski's 6-yard scoring toss to Carroll Dale for a 7-0 lead. It stayed 7-0 until Richie Petitbon's interception in the fourth quarter. The Bears cashed in with a 2-yard touchdown run by Gale Sayers. Lee Roy Caffey stepped up and blocked the extra point to keep it 7-6. "There was nobody there to hit me,"¹ Caffey said later. On Green Bay's next series, they marched 63 yards, and Bratkowski fired to Dale again for a 33-yard touchdown to beat the Bears!

Chicago 0 0 0 6 6
Green Bay 0 7 0 6 13
50,861

*"Donnie Anderson, Green Bay Packers rookie, will be the principal speaker at the Algoma Chamber of Commerce membership dinner this evening."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/66, Rimmel, p. 35

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/66, p. 17

11.27.1966

PACKERS 28

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 16

This time around, the Packers went after Fran Tarkenton more aggressively and sacked him four times. In another great game by Bart Starr (20-31-149-2-0), two second-quarter touchdown passes gave Green Bay a 21-3 first-half lead. The second touchdown came after Willie Davis stripped Tarkenton of the football!

After intermission, the Vikings rallied, starting with two field goals by Fred Cox. With nine minutes left in the game, Tarkenton's 38-yard bomb to Dave Osborn trimmed the lead to 21-16. It didn't stop there, and with three minutes left, the Vikings were "52 yards and two minutes away from a possible victory."¹ But an interception by Herb Adderley paved the way for rookie Jim Grabowski's 36-yard touchdown run that clinched it. It was a very satisfying win for veteran defensive end Willie Davis who said, "These games get to be a challenge to everything you stand for as a man, as a team, everything."²

Green Bay 7 14 0 7 28

Minnesota 3 0 6 7 16

47,426

When they arrived home at Austin Straubel Field, the Packers "were greeted by a cluster of fans sporting a huge green and gold banner which proclaimed, 'The Pack-a-Longs Back the Pack.'"³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/66, Daley, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/66, Rummel, p. 15

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/66, Rummel, p. 17

12.4.1966

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 7

PACKERS 20

The combatants faced a nasty day of freezing rain, 20-degree temperatures, and 12 mph winds. The conditions didn't deter Bart Starr, who faced a third-and-one on the third play of the game. In classic fashion, Starr faked a handoff to Elijah Pitts and threw a short pass to Carroll Dale, who took it 83 yards to the end zone.

It stayed 7-0 into the fourth quarter. The 49ers piled on the yardage, but they had trouble finding the end zone. Early in the quarter, Starr capped-off a 16-play, 83-yard drive with a quarterback sneak for a 13-0 lead. Four plays later, 49ers quarterback, John Brodie, unloaded a 65-yard bomb to end Dave Parks that cut the lead to 13-7.

Green Bay wrapped it up on a two-yard scamper by Elijah Pitts with 2:55 left. After another

strong game (13-24-236-1-0), the crowd gave Bart Starr a “giant ovation”¹ when he left the game. The win assured Green Bay of at least a tie for the conference title.

San Francisco 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 7 0 0 13 20
48,725

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 1 SF 4

“District punt, pass and kick winners from throughout Wisconsin competed for state honors before the game and between halves.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/66, Daley, p. 20

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/66, Rempel, p. 22

12.10.1966

PACKERS 14
BALTIMORE
COLTS 10

With rain falling the entire game, Johnny Unitas had a tough day. He completed just 11 passes, threw three interceptions, and he fumbled late in the game.

Halfback Elijah Pitts scored both Green Bay touchdowns. His first came on a 42-yard pass from Bart Starr. Baltimore came back to tie it, and they pulled in front 10-7 on a Lou Michaels field goal before halftime.

Bart Starr injured his ribs and sat out the second half. Zeke Bratkowski came in and, after a scoreless third quarter, he led a 63-yard touchdown drive. Pitts scored on the ground from the 2-yard line. With the Colts trailing 14-10 with 4:57 left, Unitas’ right arm drove them downfield quickly. On first down from Green Bay’s 15-yard line, Unitas tried to escape the rush and ran up the middle. He met Willie Davis, who tackled him and stripped him of the ball at the 10-yard line. The football took one bounce into the arms of Dave Robinson, and it punched Green Bay’s ticket to the championship game in Dallas. “I guess that might have been the biggest tackle I ever made,”¹ Davis said later.

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14
Baltimore 0 10 0 0 10
60,238

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/66, Rempel, p. 17

12.18.1966

PACKERS 27

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 23

The Packers rested a number of players in the heat. Though they didn't know it at the time, this was the last game that Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor would play together for the Packers.

Green Bay jumped on the lead on Bob Jeter's 75-yard pick-six. Quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, subbing for an injured Bart Starr, threw for 245 yards and one touchdown. Carroll Dale led the receivers with three catches for 121 yards and a touchdown!

In the fourth quarter, with the Packers leading 27-9, the Rams scored twice in the final three minutes. They capitalized on two turnovers to make the score respectable. L.A.'s second touchdown came with 24 seconds left, and the Packers ran out the clock.

Green Bay 7 10 0 10 27

Los Angeles 3 6 0 14 23

72,416

At 2:05 in the morning, in 15-degree temperatures, "3,000 benumbed but highly vocal fans"1 cheered at Austin Straubel Field to welcome home the Western Conference Champions.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/66, Rempel, p. 1

1.1.1967

1966 NFL Championship Game

PACKERS 34

DALLAS

COWBOYS 27

Vince Lombardi and Tom Landry, former coaching colleagues with the New York Giants, met for the first time in the postseason. A lot was at stake for both coaches, as the winner would play in what would become known as the first Super Bowl!

For Lombardi, a loss to Landry "would be painful. Lombardi had set himself apart in the years since (New York), but people were starting to write about Landry as the mind of a new age."¹ Dallas was making its first trip to the postseason, and they had the top offense in the NFL. Their defense was also very strong. For the Packers, with Bart Starr calling signals, their offense was formidable but not as explosive as Dallas. On the defensive side, Green Bay gave up the fewest points in the league.

The teams wasted no time scoring 28 points in the first quarter. In one of Bart Starr's

greatest games, he looked like a general at the peak of his powers. He directed the Packers' precision-like offense up and down the Cotton Bowl for 304 yards and four touchdowns!

The game's opening drive featured halfback Elijah Pitts. On the first play from scrimmage, Pitts ran off right tackle for 32 yards. A few plays later, he caught a pass out of the backfield and headed to the end zone. He scored after bouncing off cornerback Warren Livingston for a 7-0 Green Bay lead. On the ensuing kickoff, Mel Renfro of Dallas fumbled after being hit by Gale Gillingham. Jim Grabowski recovered the football and went untouched into the end zone. In five minutes, the Packers led 14-0!

The Cowboys turned the tables before the quarter was out. Don Merideth orchestrated two long touchdown drives behind a powerful running attack that gashed Green Bay all afternoon (187 yards). Dan Reeves finished the first drive with a 3-yard touchdown run, and Don Perkins notched the tying touchdown with a 23-yard burst off right tackle. Bart Starr threw a beautiful 51-yard scoring strike to Carroll Dale that gave the Packers the halftime edge 21-17.

The second half began with a costly fumble by Green Bay after they had worked their way to Dallas' 21-yard line. Elijah Pitts was stripped of the football, and the Cowboys field goal made it 21-20. On the fifth play of Green Bay's next series, Starr connected with Boyd Dowler on a crossing pattern for a touchdown. Dowler held on to the football despite a vicious, defenseless hit in the end zone by Mike Gaechter. It turned Dowler upside down, and he landed on his head/neck and right shoulder. Packers 28-20.

Green Bay's defense began to clamp down. Early in the third quarter, Don Merideth struggled with two unsuccessful drives. Green Bay kept the heat on with a 28-yard touchdown pass from Starr to Max McGee with 5:20 left.

Trailing 34-20, Merideth pulled out all the stops with a 68-yard touchdown pass to Frank Clarke. Trailing now by just seven, Dallas stopped Green Bay on its next possession. Don Chandler's punt went off the side of his foot for only 16 yards. The Cowboys took over on Green Bay's 47 with 2:50 left.

After a Merideth to Frank Clarke completion, a pass interference penalty against Packers' safety Tom Brown in the end zone brought the ball to the 2-yard line. Dan Reeves ran for a yard. On second down, an illegal procedure penalty against left tackle Jim Boeke brought the football back to the 6-yard line. When they replayed the down, Merideth threw an incomplete pass. On third down, a clutch catch by tight end Pettis Norman put the ball back at the 2-yard line.

Facing fourth down, Merideth rolled to his right and was chased by linebacker Dave Robinson. Robinson blasted past the soft block of receiver Bob Hayes and Merideth, "at the last instant before Robinson battered him down,"² threw to the end zone. In the back of the end zone, safety Tom Brown made the pick to finish off the Cowboys!

Bart Starr's four touchdown passes and the team's great defense claimed Green Bay's second consecutive championship! But it was a short celebration as one challenge remained—the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game - OR - SUPER BOWL I!

Green Bay	14	7	7	6	34
Dallas	14	3	3	7	27

74,152

Fans numbering between 13,000-15,000 welcomed the team home. "The music and the general excitement of the scene, enhanced by leftover New Year's Eve hats, noisemakers and horns that had been hawked hours before by vendors in the airport parking lot, prompted Fuzzy Thurston to break into an impromptu dance up and down the ramp, much to delight of the fans lining the fence."³

Bart Starr: "I can't tell you what a thrill it is to see a group like that. It was so cold and so late. It just sent a tingle up my spine. It really did."⁴

1 When Pride Still Mattered, Maraniss, p. 390

2 The Packer Dynasty, Bengtson, p. 103

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/67, Wagner, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/67, Wagner, p. 1

1.15.1967

1966 NFL-AFL World Championship Game (Super Bowl I)

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS	10
PACKERS	35

After seven years of nasty words and competition, the National Football League and the American Football League agreed to merge. The war over players, fans, and franchises would finally end, and the first visible step of the phased-in merger would be a championship game between the two leagues after the 1966 season. In perhaps the most anticipated game in pro football history, the game was broadcast simultaneously on two of the three major television networks at the time—NBC and CBS.

The NFL champion Packers were 13-point favorites, and much was expected. They represented the more established league and the superior teams, allegedly, and a loss to the AFL champ in the first meeting would upset the balance of power early in the merger. Pressure mounted on Lombardi and the Packers. The coach received numerous telegrams urging on Green Bay and pleading for the Packers to "go out there and show those clowns who's boss."¹

To focus his team on the challenge at hand, Lombardi isolated the team for the first week on the West Coast, 90 miles north of Los Angeles, for their first week out west. "We hated it. It was horseshit,"² Paul Hornung was heard to say. But it worked!

In the most-watched sporting event in television history at the time—with 65 million viewers—both teams started cautiously. After Boyd Dowler re-injured his right shoulder on the second play of the game, Max McGee replaced him. On Green Bay's second series from the K.C. 37-yard line, Starr threw to McGee. The 12-year veteran reached back to make a spectacular one-handed catch that he took to the end zone for the first points in Super Bowl history!

The Chiefs weren't intimidated. They came right back after McGee's touchdown and drove deep into Green Bay territory. Running back Curtis McClinton scored on a 7-yard run to tie it. Kansas City's advantage in size and speed was evident. In the second quarter, the Packers showed their mettle with an impressive 73-yard march in 14 plays. "They were daring us to throw,"³ Lombardi said after the game. Starr converted four key third-down plays taking advantage of K.C.'s suspect secondary. Jim Taylor finished the drive, and he scored on a classic power sweep around left end for a 14-10 lead at the break.

In the locker room, Lombardi challenged his team. "Are you the world champion Green Bay Packers? Get on the field and give me your answer."⁴ Lombardi took the reigns off his top-ranked defense, and it paid immediate dividends. On Kansas City's first possession, Dave Robinson blitzed and, along with Henry Jordan, hit Lenny Dawson's right arm just as he released the pass. It floated in the air and it was intercepted by safety Willie Wood, who returned it to the 5-yard line. Elijah Pitts scored on the next play, and Green Bay had all the momentum it needed leading 21-10!

With a 21-10 lead, the NFL's number one defense comported itself very well. After Wood's interception, "the Chiefs had the ball six times, punted all six times, registered just five first downs, and gained merely 38 yards in 25 plays."⁵ In the entire second half, K.C. ran just four plays in Green Bay territory.

Several key third-down conversions by Starr led to Max McGee's second touchdown. For a game that he did not expect to play in, McGee caught seven passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns. The performance took on a life of its own, of course, after learning that McGee, on the morning of the big game, "didn't get back to his room until close to breakfast time!"⁶

In the fourth quarter, Elijah Pitts ran for a second touchdown, and Green Bay cruised to a 35-10 victory. After the game, Lombardi celebrated with "the game ball clutched to his breast like a No. 1 draft choice."⁷

Green Bay 7 7 13 7 35
Kansas City 0 10 0 0 10
63,036

"Somebody should hit me," a tense Tony Canadeo, a veteran of the Packers' 1944 championship victory over the New York Giants, confessed as the Packers began boarding their Coliseum-bound bus before Sunday's collision, "So I'd feel right."⁸

“Chuck Connor, the former major league baseball player who stars in the Rifleman TV show, rode the Packer bus with his son Mike to the Coliseum. ‘So many people write fan letters to me, so I wrote to Coach Lombardi.’”⁹

Lombardi (after the game): “I might say they gave me the game ball, which was very nice. An NFL ball. It catches a little bit better, and it kicks a little better than the AFL ball.”¹⁰

Doug Hart: “I think that might be the most revered win by everyone on those teams. We were representing the NFL, playing a new league that had been bad-mouthing us, and we thumped them.”¹¹

Due to fog in L.A., the Packers flight home was delayed a day. “Probably more disappointed than anybody was a small boy who carried a pencil and an autographed book. He felt better when his father assured him he’d bring him back for today’s homecoming.”¹²

When the Packers did arrive, the Green Bay East High School Band got the celebration started. “Nearly all the fans knew that players like Bart Starr, Jim Taylor, Willie Davis, Paul Hornung, Henry Jordan, and Forrest Gregg would not be aboard (off to Pro Bowl). But it made no difference. Many of the players and coaches who did come back expressed surprise at the size of the crowd.”¹³

“Jim Irwin, sports director for the ABC television affiliate in Green Bay, took the trophy with him from the Green Bay airport to the station to use it as a prop on the set that night. At the time, it was just another piece of hardware in the little city that by then was fond of calling itself ‘Tittletown U.S.A.’”¹⁴

“We’re getting 500 letters a day from fans all over the country, and we’re answering all of them,”¹⁵ said Packer publicity man Chuck Lane.

1 Magnificent Seven, Bud Lee, p. 111

2 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 82

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/67, Rempel, p. 15

4 Greatest Football Game of All-Time, Hersch, p. 20

5 The Ultimate Super Bowl Book, McGinn, p. 15

6 Sports Illustrated, 1/23/67, Tex Maule, p. 12

7 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman p. 82

8 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/67, Daley/Rempel, p. 16

9 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/67, Daley/Rempel, p. 16

10 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/67, p. 15

11 The 1996 Green Bay Packers, Bozeka/Zagorski, p. 176

12 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/67, Devenport, p. 1

13 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/67, Devenport, p. 1

14 The Ultimate Super Bowl Book, McGinn, p. 20

15 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/19/67, Daley, p. 39

1966

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	12	2	1
Baltimore	9	5	0
Los Angeles	8	6	0
San Francisco	6	6	2
Chicago	5	7	2
Detroit	4	9	1
Minnesota	4	9	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dale
Rushing	Taylor
Scoring	Chandler
Interceptions	Jeter, Robinson w/5

ALL-PRO

Adderley	Cornerback
Caffey	Linebacker
Davis	Defensive End
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Jordan	Defensive Tackle
J. Kramer	Guard
Nitschke	Linebacker
Starr	Quarterback
Taylor	Fullback
Thurston	Guard
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jim Grabowski (1a, FB)
Gale Gillingham (1b, G)



1967
Record: 9-4-1, NFL Champions
Coach: Vince Lombardi

- With the merger, teams were arranged into four divisions. Baltimore, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh joined the new American Football Conference (AFC). The merged leagues played separate regular-season schedules until 1970.
- The Packers were in the new Central Division along with Chicago, Detroit, and Minnesota. This was the first season of divisional playoffs.
- New Orleans began play in 1967 with Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung. Taylor was traded. Hornung was left unprotected in the expansion draft.
- The strength of this team was a defense that gave up the fewest yards in the NFL. The offense was more inconsistent due to injuries.
- A victory in the game known as the "Ice Bowl" made it three straight NFL championships for the Packers. This matched the team's three straight titles from 1929-1931. The Packers are the only franchise in the NFL to win three straight championships.
- A convincing win over the Oakland in Super Bowl II cemented the greatness of the Lombardi Packers. Vince Lombardi moved to a General Manager only position with the Packers in 1968.

9.17.1967
DETROIT

LIONS	17
PACKERS	17

The defending champions opened the season in uncharacteristic fashion. Bart Starr threw four interceptions in the first half that led to a 17-0 deficit. In a single game, Starr exceeded the number of interceptions he had thrown the entire previous season, having thrown only three in all of 1966.

Detroit's rookie, Lem Barney, snared Starr's third interception and took it back 23-yards for a 7-0 lead. Mel Farr, who ran for 95 yards, led the Lions' ground game that put up 192 yards. An early onside kick helped them to a field goal and a 17-0 lead at the break.

Green Bay surged back after halftime. They were led by the great play of both quarterback Bart Starr and halfback Elijah Pitts. In the second half, Starr threw for 202 yards and Pitts scored two touchdowns. His first visit to the end zone came after a 43-yard punt return by Donnie Anderson. The Packers were at Detroit's 8-yard line, and three plays later, Pitts took it home. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay's 77-yard drive was capped off by Pitts' second touchdown run. Before it was over, Starr threw a short pass from his end zone to Pitts, who took it all the way to Detroit's 13-yard line! The Lions stopped the touchdown, but Don Chandler's 28-yard boot with 1:43 left tied it at 17.

Detroit **10 7 0 0 17**
Green Bay **0 0 7 10 17**
50,861

*Before the game, "A large green pennant with gold trim and gold and white lettering spelling out 'Green Bay Packers, World Champions, 1966' was raised." At halftime, "Green Bay Mayor Don Tilleman helped open Wonderful Wisconsin Week by presenting the Packer Corporation with a huge trophy from the citizens of the city. The trophy was offered in appreciation of the heritage the Packers have given Wisconsin."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/67, Daley, p. 18

9.24.1967

CHICAGO

BEARS **10**
PACKERS **13**

To beat the Bears, the Packers had to overcome five interceptions thrown by Bart Starr and eight turnovers overall. A big part of why they succeeded was the first-half shutout delivered by the defense.

The Packers "throttled the enemy with dispatch"¹ and took a 10-0 lead behind fullback Jim Grabowski's touchdown run and Don Chandler's field goal. In a very animated second quarter, a pass interference penalty on the Bears so angered Coach Halas that he "picked up lineman Gerald Bergman's flag and refused to return it to the pleading official for several anxious moments."¹

The Bears came back in the second half with Matt Percival's field goal and a 13-yard touchdown run by Gale Sayers. In the final minutes, Starr marched the Packers into Bears' territory. He gave the ball to Jim Grabowski and Elijah Pitts six times on a seven-play drive before they were stopped at the 39-yard line. With 1:08 left, Chandler won it from the 46!

Chicago **0 0 3 7 10**
Green Bay **0 10 0 3 13**
50,861

GB outgained CHI 365-159, and Gayle Sayers was held to 63 yards.

“The West Allis Nathan Hale High School Band put on a dazzling pre-game and halftime show.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/67, Rimmel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/67, Wagner, p. 20

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/67, Wagner, p. 20

10.1.1967

ATLANTA

FALCONS 0

PACKERS 23

Green Bay’s defense gave up only 58 total yards! They delivered eight sacks along with two interceptions by Bob Jeter and Dave Robinson that led to touchdowns. For good measure, Willie Davis dumped Falcons quarterback Randy Johnson in the end zone for a safety!

Before the first half was over, however, quarterback Bart Starr was injured. He was walloped on a sack by safety Bob Riddle. Starr hurt his shoulder, and Zeke Bratkowski came in, and the offense didn’t miss a beat. Bratkowski threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns. His first touchdown pass came after Dave Robinson’s interception, and a 50-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale made it 14-0.

Midway through the fourth quarter, after Bob Jeter’s interception, fullback Ben Wilson scored for Green Bay. With the Falcons hoping to avoid the first shutout in franchise history, they tried a 47-yard field goal in the final seconds. It came up short.

Atlanta 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 7 9 0 7 23

49,467

Milwaukee County Stadium

“And the fans in Milwaukee County Stadium that booed Bart Starr, small group though it was, should have their tongues tied!”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/67, p. Wagner, p. 13

10.8.1967

PACKERS 27

DETROIT

LIONS 17

The Lions led 10-0 after two Zeke Bratkowski passes were deflected and intercepted. The Packers snapped out of it and reeled off the next 27 points before the Lions scored again in the final minutes.

In Starr's absence, Bratkowski performed well (12-19-154-2-2). Early in the game, his first touchdown pass to Donny Anderson and field goals by Don Chandler brought the Packers back. Green Bay's defense played at an exceptional level. They held the Lions to seven first downs, 63 yards rushing, and 122 yards overall. Quarterbacks Milt Plum and Karl Sweetan were sacked five times, and they threw three interceptions.

A 10-10 game came down to the fourth quarter. Don Chandler's second field goal gave the Packers a three-point lead. On Detroit's next series, Dave Robinson deflected Milt Plum's pass, and Ray Nitschke intercepted. Nitschke limped into the end zone after pulling a muscle for a 20-10 lead! Safety Tom Brown's 44-yard interception return set up Bratkowski's second touchdown pass, a 13-yard toss to Boyd Dowler to put it away.

Green Bay 0 7 3 17 27

Detroit 3 7 0 7 17

57,877

The was the 4th largest crowd in Detroit history.

About Fuzzy Thurston: "His statewide popularity was never more evident than when the voting for the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame was opened to the public in 2003. Fans got to select one player for induction, and Thurston was the people's choice. He edged more than a dozen prominent nominees including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Reggie White, and state basketball coaching legend Dick Bennett."¹

Fuzzy on Vince Lombardi: "One of his first personnel moves was one of his best—he brought me to Green Bay. One of his last actions before leaving the Packers had an equally profound effect on my life—he called me in and told me to retire."²

¹ Stadium Stories, D'Amato, p. 64

² The Packer Fanatic Handbook, Edelstein, p. 5

10.15.1967

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 7

The winless Vikings and their new coach, Bud Grant, upset the defending champions. Grant, a Wisconsin native, played a conservative game that kept Minnesota within striking distance. In the rain, the Vikings ran the ball 45 times for 158 yards. Quarterback Joe Kapp threw just 11 passes. He completed two for 25 yards along with two interceptions.

Zeke Bratkowski played for Bart Starr, and he teamed up with Carroll Dale on an 86-yard strike for a 7-0 lead. It was a shutout until the fourth quarter when Bratkowski threw two interceptions. The first was returned to Green Bay's 37-yard line, and fullback Bill Brown scored to tie the game with 11:02 left.

The Vikings took the lead with 2:04 remaining after Earsell Mackbee's interception on

Green Bay's 43. Quarterback Joe Kapp's two completed passes in this game couldn't have come at a better time. He connected with Dave Osborn twice to set up Fred Cox's winning kick from the 12. About the Minnesota strategy of deliberately not throwing the football, Bud Grant explained, "That was a great football team we were playing. We couldn't afford to take a chance and risk turning the ball over. I told Joe to be patient. I said we'd get an opportunity if we kept on sawing wood."¹

Minnesota 0 0 0 10 10
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
49,601
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Cold Wars, Michler, p. 27

10.22.1967

PACKERS 48
NEW YORK
GIANTS 21

Bart Starr returned! After three games without him, the offense welcomed back their leader. They broke through offensively with a blowout that got the offense rolling in three of the next four games (48, 31, 55).

With the Packers off to a 3-1-1 start, Lombardi said the recipe for their success had been their ground game. "When we run, everything goes well for us. If not, it's tough."¹ They had no problem running for 249 yards, which was certainly facilitated by Bart Starr's return. Starr threw for 172 yards and one touchdown. He also didn't turn the ball over, which was becoming more frequent before his injury.

The scoring started with a touchdown run by Elijah Pitts. New York struck back with two touchdown passes by quarterback Fran Tarkenton. The first went to "jet-like Homer Jones"¹ from the 22-yard line. Veteran Joe Morrison caught the go-ahead touchdown for a 14-10 lead.

The Packers came out of the locker room on fire. They scored 24 straight points with touchdowns by Elijah Pitts (2) and Jim Grabowski. Trailing 34-14, Tarkenton found Jones again before Green Bay hit back with their sensational rookie backfield. "The Gold Dust Twins," Donny Anderson and Jim Grabowski each scored a touchdown in the final minutes to nail down the "W." For the game, the Packers pounded the Giants for 249 yards rushing on 45 carries! After the win, Lombardi told the press, "It's hard to say if we have jelled (but) sometimes all it takes is a game like this."² Indeed.

Green Bay 7 3 10 28 48
New York 0 14 0 7 21
62,585

*On the New York Central's "Giants Special" in White Plains, Al Cohen's huge sign read: "God is Not Dead! He's coaching the great Green Bay Packers!"*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/67, Wagner, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/67, Rummel, p. 15

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/67, Wagner, p. 17

10.30.1967

PACKERS 31

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 23

In a nationally televised game on a rainy Monday night, the Cardinals beat up the Packers with 405 yards on offense. St. Louis ran the ball well, and second-year quarterback Jim Hart threw for 317 yards and two touchdowns.

The Cardinals overcame an early deficit with two touchdown passes from Jim Hart for 49 and 48 yards. Both of them went to rookie end Dave Williams in the second quarter. The Cardinals led at halftime 20-14.

Don Chandler's third-quarter field goal for Green Bay made it a three-point game. Jim Bakken of St. Louis matched it, but on the kickoff, rookie Travis "The Roadrunner," Williams reclaimed the lead for good, 24-23, with a 93-yard return! "The hole opened up almost as soon as I caught the ball. That was nice blocking, man,"¹ Williams said later. With two minutes left in the game, the Packers put it beyond reach with Bart Starr's touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler.

Green Bay 7 7 3 14 31

St. Louis 3 17 0 3 23

49,792

GB was outgained 405-246.

11.5.1967

PACKERS 10

BALTIMORE

COLTS 13

With three minutes left in the game and the Packers leading 3-0, quarterback Bart Starr appeared to have put it out of reach with a 31-yard touchdown pass to Donny Anderson. Quarterback Johnny Unitas, however, had other ideas for his undefeated Colts. Unitas marched Baltimore into the end zone in ten plays. On the drive, he connected on five of six passes. A missed extra point made it 10-6 Packers with 2:19 left in the game.

A successful onside kick by Lou Michaels was recovered by Rick Volk on Green Bay's 34-yard line. "Everybody knew it was coming... 60,000 people knew it. It just turned out fortunate for them and unfortunate for us,"¹ said Lombardi.

Driving for the lead, the Colts faced a fourth-and-six. In a play reminiscent of last December's game, Unitas scrambled up the middle and held on to the ball. He went seven yards for a first down. On the next play, he won the game with a 23-yard bullet to Willie Richardson in the end zone.

The Colts remained unbeaten and in control of the division. They sacked Starr six times, and Green Bay lost both Elijah Pitts and Jim Grabowski to injuries. While Donny Anderson and Ben Wilson played well—112 yards rushing, 78 receiving, and one touchdown—Lombardi signed more backfield help after this loss. Fullback Chuck Mercein, who had been let go by the New York Giants, was signed.

Green Bay 0 3 0 7 10
Baltimore 0 0 0 13 13
60,238

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/67, Wagner, p. 15

11.12.1967
CLEVELAND

BROWNS 7
PACKERS 55

The Milwaukee crowd enjoyed a high-scoring, easy win for Green Bay. Cleveland cooperated with seven turnovers, and the Packers cashed in with three touchdowns. The Browns were outgained 456-228.

The slaughter began with 28 unanswered points in the first quarter. They pushed it to 45-7 by halftime with an offense that was juiced-up by two first-half kickoff returns by Travis Williams. "The Roadrunner's" exciting touchdowns went for 87 and 85 yards! Fullback Ben Wilson rushed for 100 yards, and Donny Anderson ran for three touchdowns. Anderson also caught a 27-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr. The win put Green Bay at 6-2-1 in the Central Division of the Western Conference.

Cleveland 7 0 0 0 7
Green Bay 35 10 3 7 55
50,074
Milwaukee County Stadium

*The London Times: "The Packers are almost as renowned in London as they are here, you know."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/67, Wagner, p. 13

11.19.1967

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 0

PACKERS 13

Vince Lombardi debuted his “electric blanket,” a series of heating coils installed under the field that would keep it in good playing condition in the cold. After installation, “the turf was a constant 43 degrees on each side and 46 degrees in the middle.”¹

A first-quarter field goal by Don Chandler turned out to be enough. In the second quarter, defensive end Stan Hindman of the 49ers hit Bart Starr in the head. Starr had to leave the game and did not return. Zeke Bratkowski came in, and he directed the game’s only touchdown drive before halftime. Donny Anderson scored on a 1-yard plunge.

San Francisco quarterback John Brodie threw 49 passes, completed 20 for 170 yards with two interceptions. Bob Jeter and Willie Wood made the picks, and Wood’s theft came in the end zone with 17 seconds left. After the game, quarterback Bart Starr’s condition had improved, but he still had “difficulty remembering what much of what had transpired even before he was forced out.”²

San Francisco 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 3 7 3 0 13
50,861

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/67, Wagner, p. 31

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/67, Wagner, p. 21

11.26.1967

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

This game marks the last time Vince Lombardi and George Halas coached against one another. They both stepped away from the sidelines in 1968 and turned coaching responsibilities over to their loyal assistants.

The teams took turns scoring in this rivalry game, and the Packers scored first. An interception by Dave Robinson led to Bart Starr’s touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler. In the game, Dowler grabbed six passes for 105 yards.

Though Chicago quarterback Jack Concannon threw back-to-back interceptions late in the first quarter, the home crowd went wild when Gayle Sayers broke through the left side of the line and sprinted 44 yards to the end zone. The run tied the score, and overall,

Sayers ran for 117 yards.

Green Bay took the momentum back on the kickoff as Travis Williams returned it 69 yards. It set up Donny Anderson's touchdown run to put Green Bay back in the lead. Chicago's offense struggled to keep up. They turned the ball over three times, and twice, when they were inside Green Bay's 10-yard line, they were held to field goals. "That's when you show what kind of people you are,"¹ said middle linebacker Ray Nitschke. The win clinched the first-ever Central Division title. It was also their sixth divisional title in nine years!

Green Bay 7 7 3 0 17
Chicago 7 3 0 3 13
47,513

Approximately 2,500 "fans stood in 15-degree cold accompanied by piercing 15-mile per hour westerly winds for an hour waiting for their heroes. Three fire trucks representing the Green Bay, DePere, and Ashwaubenon departments joined in the serenade."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/67, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/67, p. 17

12.3.1967

PACKERS 30

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 27

Eight lead changes took this exciting game down to the wire!

The Packers took a 13-10 first-half lead on Bart Starr's 57-yard touchdown pass to Boyd Dowler and two field goals by Don Chandler. Dowler's catch was spectacular. In the second half, Starr struck gold with a 34-yard touchdown to Carroll Dale. "Ray Nitschke's interception led to another touchdown as the visitors surged ahead 27-17 in the third quarter."¹

But, the Vikings weren't going away. Quarterback Joe Kapp led a furious comeback. After a long kickoff return, Kapp threw a touchdown pass to Red Phillips. A fumble by Ben Wilson gave the ball back to Minnesota, and Fred Cox's field goal made it 27-27 with under five minutes to play.

A three-and-out worked out very well for Green Bay as a 59-yard punt by Donny Anderson pinned Minnesota back on its seven-yard line. With 1:47 left, Kapp fumbled, and Tom Brown recovered at Minnesota's 28! Don Chandler trotted out with eight seconds left and nailed his third field goal of the game for the win!

Green Bay 3 10 14 3 30
Minnesota 3 7 7 10 27
47,693

Both teams gained exactly 276 total yards, made 15 first downs, and turned the ball over three times!

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 28

12.9.1967

PACKERS 24

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 27

The young 9-2-1 Rams snapped Green Bay's four-game winning streak and kept their hopes alive for the first Coastal Division title. L.A.'s strong defensive effort and quarterback Roman Gabriel's three touchdown passes carried the day. They outgained Green Bay 324-218, but it wouldn't have been possible without the blocked punt!

The Packers led early on quarterback Bart Starr's 30-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale. Willie Wood's interception led to a field goal and a 10-7 lead at intermission.

The Rams owned the second half. They took the lead on Roman Gabriel's second touchdown pass to Jack Snow. Bruce Gossett's field goal made it 17-10, but Travis, "The Roadrunner," Williams tied it with a riveting 104-yard kickoff return. A second field goal by Bruce Gossett made it 20-17 Rams.

With under three minutes left, a fumble by running back Dick Bass of the Rams was recovered by Packers' defensive tackle Jim Weatherwax on the 43-yard line. Chuck Mercein took it home eight plays later for a 24-20 Green Bay lead with 2:19 left.

When the Packers got the ball back, the Rams forced a punt. Linebacker Tony Guillory blocked the kick, and the Rams took over on the 5-yard line. With 34 seconds left, quarterback Roman Gabriel found Bernie Casey to polish off the upset with his third touchdown pass.

Green Bay 7 3 7 7 24

Los Angeles 0 7 10 10 27

76,637

"It was the first time since they moved to Los Angeles in 1946 that they have had a sellout in advance of game day."¹

"The game was the first-ever game televised into the Yukon."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/67, p. 49

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11,67, Rummel, p. 21

12.17.1967

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 24

PACKERS 17

In the season finale, Green Bay rested starters, and the Steelers took the early lead and

never let go. They intercepted three passes and recorded four sacks.

They jumped in front on the third play from scrimmage on a pick-six of Bart Starr by defensive end Ben McGee. A 22-yard run by fullback Earl Gros, a former Packer, made it 14-3. Both Green Bay touchdowns were scored by Travis Williams. "The Roadrunner" caught a 29-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Don Horn in the first half, and his 25-yard run touchdown run in the fourth quarter finished the scoring.

The winning points for Pittsburgh came in the third quarter when Green Bay quarterback Zeke Bratkowski fumbled. It was recovered and returned 27 yards to the end zone by Pittsburgh defensive tackle Chuck Hinton.

Pittsburgh 7 7 10 0 24
Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17
50,861

In search of a bright spot in defeat, it was reported that the "electric blanket in Lambeau Field left the turf in fine condition and even helped produce a new crop of grass."¹

The city's Commerce Committee's "Go Pack Go!" Campaign was in evidence with two huge (helmet) signs."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/67, Wagner, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/67, Wagner, p. 17

12.23.1967

1967 Western Conference Playoff Game

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 7
PACKERS 28

In Green Bay's drive for a third straight NFL championship, "few would have been surprised if their quest ended at the hands of the Los Angeles Rams."¹ Many thought the young Rams would defeat Green Bay. The fact that they did not, made for a memorable game that was a testimony to the determination of dynasty-driven Lombardi Packers.

L.A. got off to a fast start when quarterback Roman Gabriel found the versatile Bernie Casey for a 29-yard touchdown. Trailing 7-0 right out of the gate, the Packers turned it around and dominated! From that point forward, Green Bay's defense didn't budge, and they got to Roman Gabriel for five sacks. Defensive tackle Henry Jordan delivered four of the sacks.

Quarterback Bart Starr was outstanding (17-23-222-1-1). Green Bay scored the next 28 points behind Starr's precision passing and a strong ground game (45-163-3). Williams scored twice out of the backfield, the first a 46-yard run off right tackle to tie the game.

The exciting run pumped up the Packers. Before the half was out, they went 55 yards in nine plays, with Starr and Carroll Dale connecting for a 17-yard score. Dale led all receivers with six catches for 109 yards.

Leading 14-7 in the third quarter, the Packers went 80 yards to stretch the lead. Fullback Chuck Mercein, making his first start for the Packers, scored on a 6-yard run. "The Roadrunner" finished the scoring in the fourth quarter with a 2-yard run.

Despite four turnovers by Green Bay, the Packers were dominant. The defense harassed big Roman Gabriel most of the game and took him down five times. The power of the defending champions was evident on both sides of the ball. The Rams generated just 217 yards, and they couldn't stop the Packers (374 yards).

The win gave Green Bay the chance to win three straight NFL championships when they played Dallas the following week. The last time that was done was in 1931, by the Curly Lambeau's Green Bay Packers. "A lot of people said the Packers were dead. But we still have a great nucleus,"² said a very proud Vince Lombardi.

Los Angeles	7	0	0	0	7
Green Bay	0	14	7	7	28

46,861
Milwaukee County Stadium

*Five-thousand fans greeted the Packers on their arrival "in 16-degree temperatures and frigid winds." Some of the players were amazed "at the fans' enthusiasm after so many years and so many triumphs."*³

1 Measure of Greatness, Gozka, 2004, p. 400

2 packershistory.net/1976Packers

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/67, Doyle/Walter, p. 1

12.31.1967

1967 NFL Championship Game (The Ice Bowl)

DALLAS

COWBOYS 17

PACKERS 21

For one of the greatest games in NFL history, fans paid \$10.00 a ticket, and some had to light "small fires around the stadium to keep warm."¹ It was New Year's Eve, and the game on the frozen tundra would never be forgotten.

The game was also a rematch of the 1966 title game that the Packers won, thanks to its great defense in the final moments. Now the Cowboys were determined to dethrone Green Bay and begin a dynasty of their own.

But at kickoff, it was 13 degrees below zero with winds of 15mph. The wind chill started at -23 degrees and dropped through the afternoon. In hindsight, the game should have been canceled as an older man died in the stands, band instruments froze, and officials could not use their whistles... let alone the playing conditions!

The electric coils that Lombardi had recently installed under the field "malfunctioned, leaving moisture on the turf which turned to ice about as quickly as you can say frozen tundra."² Lombardi fumed. The Cowboys were skeptical. But the game went on!

Green Bay scored on an opening 82-yard drive, with Boyd Dowler catching an eight-yard touchdown from Bart Starr. The Packers looked unstoppable on their next series as Starr found Dowler again for a 43-yard scoring strike to make it 14-0.

The final four minutes of the first half changed the game's direction. Two uncharacteristic fumbles by Green Bay allowed Dallas back into the game. Bart Starr's fumble on the Packers' 7-yard line was picked up and taken into the end zone by defensive end George Andrie. Two minutes before halftime, Willie Wood fumbled a punt on Green Bay's 17-yard line and the Cowboys ended the half trailing just 14-10.

During the second half, "the temperature dropped to minus 20, and the wind swirled, creating a minus 70 wind-chill factor."³ Dallas' opening drive went deep into Green Bay territory. When quarterback Don Meredith scrambled to escape pressure, he was stripped of the ball by linebacker Lee Roy Caffey at the Packers' 15. Herb Adderley recovered, but the Packers punted it back seven plays later. The score stayed 14-10 through the third quarter as the sun continued its cold descent.

The "Doomsday Defense" of the Cowboys continued to pressure Starr. They sacked him seven times in the game, with George Andrie and Jethro Pugh leading the way.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Dallas hit back hard and stunned the Packers. Landry called for one of Lombardi's favorites plays—the halfback option. Halfback Dan Reeves found receiver Lance Rentzel wide open for a 50-yard touchdown and a 17-14 lead.

Green Bay fans watched intently as the defenses dug in and held firm. Dallas punted twice, Green Bay once. Green Bay's Don Chandler also missed a 40-yard field goal with 10 minutes left. The Cowboys ate up the clock with a nine-play drive, but Green Bay forced a punt. Danny Villanueva punted to Willie Wood, and Green Bay took over at their 32-yard line with 4:54 remaining.

Confident, but not cocky, Starr and the Packers marched downfield. On the fifth and sixth play of the drive, two straight passes to Donny Anderson picked up a first down at Dallas' 39-yard line. A 19-yard pass to Chuck Mercein followed for a first down at the Dallas 11.

With 1:11 left, the play that put them at the doorstep arrived—"65-Give." It was designed to fake a run to the right, and influence Bob Lilly to follow pulling left guard Gale Gillingham. Lilly did exactly that, which opened a hole for Mercein, who went eight yards to the three-yard line.

Donny Anderson had three cracks at the end zone. On the first, he slipped but made it back to the line of scrimmage. On his second try, he was stopped, but many fans thought he had scored. Before third down, Starr called his final timeout to confer with Lombardi. The Packers faced a third-and-goal from the 1-yard line with 16 seconds left and no timeouts. Lombardi ok'd Starr's plan to call a "31-Wedge" running play. He also knew Starr was not going to hand off. Starr wanted to avoid slipping like Anderson.

"A thousand or so plays during the 1967 season had brought Lombardi and Landry to this decisive call, and it was fitting that after all their years together in New York and their years opposite one another in Green Bay and Dallas, the most famous drive in NFL history had come down to one single yard. Lombardi was the leading offensive mind of his era; Landry, the dominant defensive thinker."⁴

In the huddle, Starr didn't share that he was going to keep the football. He took the snap, and he followed Jerry Kramer and Kenny Bowman into pro football history!

Dallas 0 10 0 7 17
Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21
50,861

Starr was sacked eight times.

Jim Becker, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

Jim went to the Ice Bowl with a good friend. They had seats right along the goal line to the left of Bart Starr for the final play. Another friend sitting with Jim brought his girlfriend, not his wife, to the game! She wore high heels, nylons, and a mink coat! The couple stayed until the last two minutes and left before Starr's decisive play. After the game, Jim and his friend carried a bench to

midfield. With drinks in hand, they sat watched the goalposts come down. They took home for souvenirs pieces of a plywood Packer helmet that was mounted on the stands. Jim's is proudly framed and displayed.

*"From 1963-1971, Pat Pepler served as the team's scouting director and personnel director. During the Ice Bowl, Pepler asked Lombardi what play Bart Starr was going to run after the Packer quarterback had conferred with him on the sidelines. 'Normally, we all stayed away from Vince on the sidelines during a game. But after that last timeout, I walked up and asked him what Bart was going to run, and he said, 'Dammed if I know.'"*⁵

*"The Packers have now fractured the Fearsome Foursome and dumped the Doomsday Defense."*⁶

*"This Packer crowd was no mere bunch of thrill-seekers or sports fans. The coach has said there is love on his football team. There was love in the stands Sunday, too. And if that sounds cornball or sentimental to you, then I suggest that you don't understand the mystique that surrounds this team in this town."*⁷

* Interview 2/13/2017

1 Ice Bowl, Gruver, p. p. 22

2 Packers: Green, Gold & Glory, p. 119

3 The Packers Experience, Freedman, p. 123

4 The Ice Bowl, Gruver, p. 212

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/2/68, Wagner, p. 1

6 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/2/68, Rempel, p. 37

7 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/2/68, Wagner, p. 22

1.14.1968

AFL-NFL World Championship Game (Super Bowl II)

PACKERS 33

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 14

When Vince Lombardi left Lambeau Field after the Ice Bowl, he told his son, Vince Jr., that he had "just seen him coach his next to last football game."¹ After the emotion of winning a third straight NFL title, Lombardi and the Packers had two weeks to re-energize for the big, bad, Oakland Raiders of the former AFL.

In Miami, the pressure on the Packers was different. Many players had heard that Lombardi was going to retire after the game, but he had not said anything to them. If that was the case, there was no way they would allow it to end with a loss!

Similar to last year's game, Green Bay struck first. Two field goals by Don Chandler broke the ice. After Chandler's second field goal, the Raiders went three-and-out and gave the ball right back to Green Bay. On first down from his 38-yard line, Starr spotted Boyd Dowler being covered by linebacker Dan Connors. Starr-to-Dowler went for a 62-yard touchdown!

The Raiders came right back with a nine-play, 78-yard touchdown drive. Quarterback

Daryl Lamonica hit Bill Miller for a 23-yard score that cut the Packers' lead to 13-7. But unlike the previous year, when Kansas City kept the game close throughout the first half, the Raiders fumbled to set up Don Chandler's third field goal for a 16-7 lead at the break.

Near the end of halftime in the Green Bay locker room, Jerry Kramer and a few other veterans came together and "decided to play the last 30 minutes for the old man."² The Packers responded on the field almost immediately. After the defense forced the Raiders to punt on their first drive, the Packers went 82-yards for a touchdown. The drive was kept alive by a classic third-and-one call by Bart Starr. The play surprised the Raiders, and Starr threw to McGee for 35 yards. Donny Anderson scored seven plays later for a 23-7 lead.

In all, the Packers scored 17 unanswered points while the defense clamped down on Oakland and quarterback Darryl Lamonica (15-34-28-2-1). A fourth field goal by Chandler and Herb Adderley's pick-six made it 33-7 with 11 minutes were left. The Packers had completely "throttled the Oakland attack,"³ the AFL's best.

Green Bay	3	13	10	7	33
Oakland	0	7	0	7	14

75,546

Vivian Scherf-Laabs, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

Vivian's favorite moment was attending Super Bowl II... and it was her girlfriend's idea! Unexpectedly, her friend said, "Give me all the money you've got, we're going to the Super Bowl!" Vivian, who had been a Packers fan since 1947, liked the idea and gave her the money. Soon, it was off to Miami for Super Bowl II on Fun Jet, with game tickets costing \$12.00 each. Their departure from Milwaukee was delayed due to freezing rain. The wings were de-iced, and they left one hour late. Upon arrival in Miami, the fans were housed in the married hotel OR the single hotel! Vivian remembers this vividly as her luggage was sent to the wrong hotel. On the morning of the game, the hotel manager informed Vivian that the bus to take them to the Orange Bowl had been canceled. Vivian and her friend got a ride to and from the game from another fan they knew from Wisconsin. Whew. Oh yes, they loved the game!

*At St. Patrick's Church in Miami Beach Sunday morning, the priest at the 11 o'clock Mass brought down the house when he said in a heavy Irish brogue, "At 6:30 this morning, a lady asked me to pray for the Packers, and at this Mass, a gentleman asked me to pray for the Raiders. Just to avoid confusion, I think we'll pray for both of them... and more so for the referee."*⁴

*"A somewhat sophisticated but obviously happy crowd of about 3,000 jammed Austin Strabel Field Sunday night to greet the Green Bay Packers. There was no band. The crowd was calm. They waited patiently and were enthusiastic, but not loud. 'I guess we're getting used to this sort of thing.' somebody said."*⁵

*"The only Raider sign we saw anywhere had a big 'I am a Packer-Backer sticker on it.'"*⁶

*It started early in the morning as a band of Packer-Backers sat eating breakfast in the rooftop dining room in a Miami Beach hotel. One of them glanced out the window. He saw a blue, cloudless sky. He saw golden sunshine. 'Honestly,' he sighed, 'Didn't Vinnie do a great job with the weather?'"*⁷

* Interview: 11/16/17

1 The Ultimate Super Bowl Book, McGinn, p. 27

2 Magnificent Seven, Lea, p. 177

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/68, Rempel, p. 6

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/68, Wagner, p. 10

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/68, Devenport, p. 2

6 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/68, Wagner p. 10

7 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/68, Rempel, p. 17

1967

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	9	4	1
Chicago	7	6	1
Detroit	5	7	2
Minnesota	3	8	3

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler
Rushing	Grabowski
Scoring	Chandler
Interceptions	Jeter

ALL-PRO

Adderley	Cornerback
Davis	Defensive End
Gregg	Offensive Tackle
Jeter	Cornerback
Jordan	Defensive Tackle
J. Kramer	Guard
Nitschke	Linebacker
Robinson	Linebacker
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Bob Hyland (1a, C, G)

Don Horn (1b, QB)

Jim Flanigan (2b, LB)

Travis Williams (4a, RB)



1968
Record: 6-7-1, 3rd Place
Coach: Phil Bengtson

- On February 1st, Vince Lombardi announced his decision to step away from coaching and handle just the General Manager duties. To succeed him, he chose his defensive coordinator Phil Bengtson.
- In the franchise's 50th season, the Packers finished below .500 for the first time in a decade.
- The league recognized the NFL Players Association as the legal representative of the players. A brief work stoppage in the summer lasted just 12 days.
- Due to injuries, Bart Starr missed two games and parts of six others. The average age of Green Bay's starting lineup was 29.
- On defense, the Packers gave up the fewest points in the division (227). They lost five games by seven points or fewer. The kicking game suffered from Don Chandler's retirement.

9.15.1968

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 13

PACKERS 30

Green Bay's first regular-season game without Vince Lombardi pacing the sidelines went smoothly. A warm, 80-degree day greeted the defending champions, who were 17-point favorites in the opener.

Bart Starr had a fine game for his new coach. After an interception by Bob Jeter, Starr's first touchdown pass of the season went to Carroll Dale. Jim Grabowski's touchdown run made the score 14-3 in the second quarter. With the score 14-6, the Eagles tried an onside kick that was recovered by Green Bay! Starr connected with Boyd Dowler a few plays later for a 55-yard touchdown that made the score 21-6 at halftime.

Green Bay maintained its lead in the second half with three field goals by Jerry Kramer. Donny Anderson ran for 92 yards, which led a ground game that pummeled Philly for 185 yards. The defense intercepted one pass, held the Eagles to fewer than 100 yards rushing,

and gave up a lone touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Philadelphia 3 3 0 7 13
Green Bay 7 14 6 3 30
50,861

"Happiness is when someone calls you on Sunday morning and asks if you can use two Packer tickets."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/68, Larson, p. 11

9.22.1968

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 26

PACKERS 13

The Vikings shut out the defending champions in the first half and finished the upset in the second. Minnesota had no trouble scoring, with Bill Brown finishing off two scoring drives with touchdown runs. They also scored a safety when Jim Marshall sacked Bart Starr in the end zone for a 16-0 lead at halftime.

When Bart Starr's touchdown got Green Bay on the board 16-6, the Vikings took a gamble the next time they had the ball. Inexplicably, Coach Bud Grant decided to go for it on fourth-and-inches on Minnesota's 26-yard line. A quarterback sneak by Joe Kapp worked, but not without being contested by Green Bay. "He was stopped standing up, wasn't he?"¹ asked coach Phil Bengtson. Where the ball was spotted gave Minnesota a first down to keep their 74-yard drive going. Running back Clint Jones put it beyond reach, 23-6, with a 4-yard run. After the game, Ray Nitschke questioned the call, "We didn't think he (Kapp) made it. It seemed like he stood up before he moved. He never did move forward."¹

Minnesota 7 9 10 0 26
Green Bay 0 0 6 7 13
49,346

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/68, Wagner, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/68, p. 17

9.29.1968

DETROIT

LIONS 23

PACKERS 17

With three straight home games to open the season, Green Bay's 1-2 record officially got the post-Lombardi worrying underway. The Packers took an early lead behind by two

touchdown passes from Bart Starr to Carroll Dale. The first was a 63-yard strike from Bart Starr to Carroll Dale on the fifth play of the game to open a 7-0 lead. The Lions came right back after a Lem Barney interception with a touchdown. At halftime, the Packers led 10-7, and they had outgained the Lions 236-95.

Detroit turned the tables in the second half and outgained Green Bay 248-98. They tied it 10-10 with a field goal by Jerry DePoyster and a 65-yard drive that Mel Farr finished off with a 4-yard touchdown run. For the game, Farr ran for 92 yards and a touchdown while also catching two passes for another 28 yards.

Five minutes into the fourth quarter, Starr and Dale connected again to knot it at 17. The second touchdown to Dale topped off his outstanding day with 205 receiving yards, the third-highest in team history to date.

With an assist from "Dame Fortune,"¹ the Lions pulled it out. With under two minutes left, quarterback Bill Munson fumbled at Green Bay's 25-yard line. The Lions recovered it, and along with a penalty on the Packers, the ball was placed at Green Bay's 14. Munson then threw his second touchdown pass to the diminutive Billy Gambrell for the victory.

Following the game, reporters wanted to know: "Considering the two straight defeats and the 1-2 record, what's in store for the Packers? Bengtson had a quick answer to that one. Atlanta."²

Detroit **0 7 10 6 23**
Green Bay **10 0 0 7 17**
50,861

Starr was sacked four times, and he threw three interceptions.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/68, Christl, p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/68, Wagner, p. 21

10.6.1968

PACKERS **38**

ATLANTA

FALCONS **7**

The team hit the road, and the Falcons game couldn't have come at a better time. The Packers happily defeated their old critic, Norm Van Brocklin, who was making his coaching debut with Atlanta.

Bart Starr threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns. His first score went to Boyd Dowler from the 9-yard line. Along with Chuck Mercein's 21-yard field goal four seconds before halftime, Green Bay led 10-7.

The Packers scored the next 28 points, and Donny Anderson led their next touchdown

drive. He ran 39 yards, caught a key pass from Starr for 30 yards, and scored the touchdown with an 11-yard run. Leading 17-7, Green Bay scored again when Falcons' quarterback Randy Johnson fumbled on his own 2-yard line. Starr to Marv Fleming made it 24-7.

Ray Nitschke's interception set up Starr's third touchdown pass, this one to Claudis James. James also caught another touchdown on Donny Anderson's halfback-option-pass. These were the only two touchdowns of James' 15-game career. The Packers improved to 2-2, and the next day's headline read: "Pack Confidence Restored."¹

Green Bay	7	3	21	7	38
Atlanta	0	7	0	0	7
58,850					

Total Yards: GB 470 ATL 154

*"Wisconsin football fans have donated enough tickets for the October 13th Packers-Rams game so 35 wounded Vietnam Veterans may attend."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/68, Rempel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/68, p. 19

10.13.1968
LOS ANGELES

RAMS	16
PACKERS	14

The Packers came back to Wisconsin for this game in Milwaukee. Unfortunately, during warmups, Bart Starr pulled a muscle and did not play. A defensive battle ensued with quarterback Roman Gabriel completing just seven passes for L.A. Neither squad gained over 200 yards, and the Packers turned the ball over five times.

Donny Anderson's touchdown run gave Green Bay a 7-3 edge at halftime. On the Packers' first possession in the second half, Clarence Williams intercepted Zeke Bratkowski. Willie Ellison finished L.A.'s short drive with a touchdown run and a 10-7 edge. When Green Bay's Travis Williams fumbled later in the quarter, Rams' kicker Bruce Gossett made the Packers pay with a 26-yard three-pointer.

With five minutes left and trailing 13-7, Tom Brown's 52-yard punt return for a touchdown put the Packers back on top 14-13. Feeling confident of victory, the defense was defending the lead when a controversial pass interference penalty was called on Herb Adderley with two minutes left! "I didn't touch him,"¹ Adderley pleaded, but the official brought the football to Green Bay's 25. With 55 seconds left, Bruce Gossett hit a field goal from the 27-yard line for the win.

Later, a dejected Bart Starr was questioned about his pre-game injury. He said, "I'd rather

not talk about it, at all. I really don't know if it's serious or not."²

Los Angeles 0 3 10 3 16
Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
49,646
Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/68, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/68, p. 21

10.20.1968

PACKERS 14
DETROIT
LIONS 14

With Bart Starr still nursing a sore right bicep, Zeke Bratkowski led Green Bay again. In this Central Division battle, both teams had the "dropsies" with eight fumbles in all.

With the Packers going nowhere in the first 30 minutes, the Lions enjoyed a 14-0 advantage. Two touchdown passes from quarterback Bill Munson to Earl McCullouch did the trick. The Packers began a comeback in the second half on a punt by Donny Anderson that was fumbled by Detroit's Lem Barney. Frank Winkler recovered for Green Bay, and Zeke Bratkowski's 14-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale cut it 14-7.

In the fourth quarter, with eight minutes left, Bill Munson fumbled, and it was recovered by Willie Davis on Detroit's 40. The Packers marched to the 15, where Bratkowski took it down to the three before being belted hard. He was too shaken up to continue, and the Packers had to call upon an injured Bart Starr, who hadn't played. Starr came off the bench to valiantly throw one pass... a three-yard touchdown toss to Dowler to tie it at 14.

With two minutes left, cornerback Herb Adderley recovered a Mel Farr fumble, and Bratkowski came back into the game. But after a completion to Claudis James deep inside Lions territory, James fumbled, and the tie held.

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14
Detroit 14 0 0 0 14
57,302

This was Zeke Bratkowski's birthday.

10.28.1968

PACKERS 28

DALLAS

COWBOYS 17

"Whatever sort of wondrous tonic the Packers take before playing the Cowboys, it's worth any price."¹ Lifetime, the Packers are 5-0 against the Cowboys, including two crushing defeats in the postseason.

In 1968, that began to change. The Cowboys were 6-0 and the top-dog in the conference, while Green Bay was 2-4 and hadn't won in three weeks. Somehow they knocked the Cowboys out of the undefeated ranks and temporarily restored the season's luster and hope for the fans... even though quarterback Bart Starr was sacked five times.

Quarterbacks Bart Starr and Don Meredith traded touchdown passes in the first half. The Cowboys got out in front 10-0 before Starr got into a familiar rhythm. He shined brightly on national television, completing 17 of 25 passes for 260 yards and four touchdowns. Tight end Marv Fleming caught two, and Carroll Dale and Boyd Dowler grabbed one apiece. Three of Starr's touchdown passes came in the second half as Green Bay took control.

Merideth's game included two touchdown passes and three interceptions. When he was tackled by big defensive end Willie Davis, he broke his nose. Dave Robinson's interception led to Starr's second touchdown pass to Marv Fleming for a 21-10 lead. Starr followed an interception by Ray Nitschke in the fourth quarter with touchdown #4 to Boyd Dowler to smack down Dallas again!

Green Bay	0	7	14	7	28
Dallas	7	3	0	7	17
74,604					

*"The Green Bay Packers received a huge telegram from Milwaukee. A Western Union spokesman said slightly more than 7,100 signatures were on the telegram. The message, described by a CBS television commentator as 'two city blocks long,' took between 3.5 to 4 hours to send."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/68, Wagner, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/68, p. 21

11.3.1968

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

PACKERS 10

Besides the new coaches, Phil Bengtson and Jim Dooley, the news spread that the Bears

ran all over the Packers. Gale Sayers had a superb afternoon, rushing 24 times for a team-record 205 yards. Overall, the Bears chewed up 291 yards on the ground.

With a 3-0 halftime lead, Chicago went up 10-0 when rookie quarterback Virgil Carter scored from the 2-yard line. The Packers responded with a 50-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Carroll Dale to make it a three-point game. A 19-yard field goal by Chuck Mercein tied it at 10 in the fourth quarter.

It stayed 10-10 until Donnie Anderson's short punt was fielded with a fair catch by Cecil Turner on Green Bay's 43-yard line. Just as Green Bay and Pal Hornung did in 1964, the Bears invoked the "free kick" rule*. Mac Percival nailed the winner from 43 yards away.

Chicago	0	3	7	3	13
Green Bay	0	0	7	3	10

50,861

GB missed three field goals.

George Halas did not attend the annual game in Green Bay for the first time since 1945. His brother, Frank, did, and his resemblance to George caught the crowd's attention. "Frank Halas acknowledged the crowd's cheers."¹

** The NFL rule at the time permitted a free-kick, punt, or placement, without opposition, after one team makes a fair catch of a punt.*

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/68, Wagner, p. 22

11.10.1968

PACKERS 10

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 14

The Vikings swept the season series for the first time. Fullback Bill Brown of Minnesota gave them a 14-3 first-half lead with two short touchdown runs. On Brown's second touchdown, Minnesota's big defensive end, Carl Eller, blocked for the offense!

Eller also led his defensive line's aggressiveness that pounded both Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski. They were sacked five times, and the Vikings also forced four turnovers. Eller's hits knocked Starr out of the game, and Minnesota held on for the win.

The Packers had no trouble moving the ball. Five times they marched deep into Minnesota territory, but they made the end zone only once. Donny Anderson scored midway through the third quarter to cut their lead to 14-10.

In the fourth quarter, Starr was hammered by Carl Eller's sack and had to leave the game. The Packers fell apart, fumbling on both drives after his departure. Later, Starr told

reporters that he was “having trouble remembering much about the second half.”¹

Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10
Minnesota 7 7 0 0 14
47,644

Bob Lurtsema, former Viking: “I know people always say the Packers-Bears rivalry is the best in football. But I’d have to say the Packers-Vikings rivalry is even better. That border battle is the best. I was five years playing in New York, and we’d play the Redskins and Eagles, but that was nothing compared to when the Vikings and Packers played. The fans are so similar and so devoted to their teams, and they were always good games. And it’s still a great, great rivalry.”²

¹ Black & Blue, Berghaus, p. 229

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 15

11.17.1968
NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 7
PACKERS 29

The Saints (2-6) came to Wisconsin on a three-game losing streak, and a quick blowout stretched it to four. In the first quarter, the Packers turned two fumbles into 10 points. Ultimately, those points meant victory. The winner was scored when Packer safety Tom Brown picked up a fumble returned it 22 yards for a touchdown. Donny Anderson’s 1-yard touchdown run then wrapped up a 17-point first quarter! Before the half, a 47-yard touchdown pass from Bart Starr to Carroll Dale made it 23-7!

The second half was a forgone conclusion. The Packers finished the scoring after Dave Robinson deflected a pass that was intercepted by Tom Brown. Eleven plays later, Elijah Pitts scored. Overall, “it was just better execution,”¹ coach Bengtson said.

The Saints did very little offensively with 136 total yards. The Packers produced 289 yards, with Starr throwing for 208 and a touchdown. The only drawback was Starr’s rib injury in the second half that forced him to leave the game.

New Orleans 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 17 6 0 6 29
49,644

Milwaukee County Stadium

Ray Nitschke was ejected from a game for the first time after an altercation with veteran tight end Monte Stickles.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/68, Wagner, p. 16

11.24.1968

PACKERS 27

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 7

The Packers were still clawing and scratching their way in pursuit of a fourth straight NFL championship. They survived a challenging road game without quarterback Bart Starr, who sat out with bruised ribs suffered against the Saints.

With quarterback Bart Starr, Zeke Bratkowski started in his place. "Nine times in the past three championship seasons (Bratkowski) took over to steer the Packers to success in a game."¹ In this game, which he started, Bratkowski filled in more than adequately. He started fast with eight straight completions that led to two first-half touchdowns!

For Washington, quarterback Sonny Jurgensen connected with Pat Richter for a touchdown and a 14-7 halftime score. In the third quarter, a 47-yard pass from Bratkowski to Donny Anderson went for six. The veteran backup came into the NFL in 1954 right around "the same time Anderson was entering the fifth grade."²

Green Bay's defense never allowed the Redskins to go anywhere. They ran for just 33 yards and generated 167 total yards. With the win, the Packers crept to within a ½ game of first-place Minnesota.

Green Bay 7 7 10 3 27

Washington 0 7 0 0 7

50,621

Sacks: GB 3 WASH 0

¹ packershistory.net/1968Packers

² packershistory.net/1968Packers

12.1.1968

PACKERS 20

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 27

A win would have given Green Bay the lead in the division, but Bart Starr hurt his ribs again in the first half, and the Packers lost the lead in the fourth quarter. Zeke Bratkowski stepped in, but he couldn't perform his usual magic.

Two touchdowns by Jim Grabowski and two 47-yard field goals by Mike Mercer gave Green Bay a 20-7 lead late in the third quarter. Then, in a rally reminiscent of one in 1965 against Green Bay, John Brodie directed a stunning comeback that severely damaged Green Bay's postseason hopes.

In the fourth quarter, Bratkowski was intercepted by Kermit Alexander. Brodie took advantage with a 19-yard touchdown pass to halfback Bill Tucker. Minutes later, Brodie put San Francisco in front 21-20 on another pass to Tucker, this one for 59 yards. Two field goals by Tommy Davis provided some insurance.

The 49ers contained Green Bay's offense. They held the Packers to 217 total yards, including just 95 yards passing. Bratkowski was also sacked seven times for a loss of 51 yards. In the final minutes, he was knocked out the game and replaced by third-string quarterback Billy Stevens. About the loss, Coach Bengtson said, "We're still a ½ game behind the Vikings and Bears. So, I guess they'll have to lose their last two if we hope to win it"¹

Green Bay	7	3	10	0	20
San Francisco	0	7	0	20	27

47,218

Brodie threw for 301 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/68, Rimmel, p. 19

12.7.1968

BALTIMORE

COLTS	16
PACKERS	3

The Packers were outplayed by the Colts and the loss doomed their postseason hopes. Turnovers told the tale here as 13 of Baltimore's points followed Green Bay fumbles. It started early when Donny Anderson fumbled, and Earl Morrall cashed in with a touchdown pass to veteran wide receiver Willie Richardson. The teams traded field goals for the rest of a 10-3 first half.

In the last 30 minutes, the Packers had trouble holding on to the pigskin. Zeke Bratkowski and halfback Donny Anderson fumbled, which helped set up two more field goals by Lou Michaels. Green Bay's offense sputtered all game with four fumbles and only 163 total yards. The loss eliminated Green Bay from the postseason, and it ended their run of three straight NFL championships. After the game, a dejected Jerry Kramer sat at his locker. "What a heartache to end it like this. We knew it was the last game here for a lot of guys. I'm telling you it was really emotional."¹

Baltimore	7	3	6	0	16
Green Bay	3	0	0	0	3

50,861

"With only moments left in the game, Packer Band Director Wilner Burke called over his microphone. 'For four years, these wonderful Packers have given some great thrills. How about a standing ovation for them.' And the 50,861 Packer-Backers rose without hesitation and roared

their love for the team.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/68, Wagner, p. 33

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/68, Wagner, p. 33

12.15.1968

PACKERS 28

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

The Packers were out of the playoffs, and they took the Bears with them. They took a 7-3 lead when backup quarterback, and a former Chicago Bear, Zeke Bratkowski, connected with Boyd Dowler to make it 7-3.

After Bratkowski was injured and left the game, Don Horn came in and had his way with the Bears' weak secondary. In his only appearance of the season, Horn completed 10 of 16 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns. The touchdowns went to Jim Grabowski on a 65-yard pass play and Chuck Mercein on a 1-yard plunge. At halftime, Green Bay enjoyed a 21-10 lead.

They stretched it to 28-10 in the second half on Dowler's second touchdown catch, this one a 25-yarder. Chicago quarterback Jack Concannon then rallied his bruins for 17 straight points to cut the lead to 28-27 with 3:58 left. After the Packers were forced to punt, the Bears marched into Green Bay territory. With 1:07 left, Concannon's pass was picked off by Ray Nitschke!

Green Bay 7 14 7 0 28

Chicago 10 0 0 17 27

46,435

Horn: 10-16-187-2-0

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/68, Wagner, p. 21

1968

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	8	6	0
Chicago	7	7	0
Green Bay	6	7	1
Minnesota	4	8	2

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dowler

Rushing	Anderson
Scoring	Dale
Interceptions	Brown

ALL-PRO

Dale	Receiver
Gillingham	Guard
Jeter	Cornerback
J. Kramer	Guard
Robinson	Linebacker
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Fred Carr (1a, LB)

Bill Lueck (1b, G)



**THE
PACKERS CENTURY**

1919-2019

1969

Record: 8-6-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Phil Bengtson

- In stunning news on February 5th, Vince Lombardi was released from his contract to become part-owner, executive vice-president, and coach of the Washington Redskins. Coach Phil Bengtson took over general manager responsibilities.
- Fans rallied behind the slogan, "The Pack will be Back!" They won two more games in 1969 than they did in 1968.
- A strong start (5-2) and a strong finish (3-1) was torpedoed by a three-game losing streak in November. The defense was the strength of the team, especially the secondary. Kicking also continued to be a problem.
- Injuries took a toll. Bart Starr was injured on and off throughout the year. In 1969, backup Don Horn threw 20 more passes than Bart Starr.
- After the season, several veterans moved on: Jerry Kramer, Zeke Bratkowski, and Bob Skoronski retired; Ron Kostelnick and Tom Brown were traded for draft choices.

9.21.1969

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

PACKERS 17

The Packers celebrated their 50th year of operation on August 11, 1969. NFL Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, attended the season opener to see the Packers beat the Bears. Though the win would seem to be impressive in September, the victory lost much of its luster by the end of the season when the Bears finished with just one win.

The scoring got underway with a 31-yard Bart Starr to Travis Williams touchdown pass in the first quarter. It was still 7-0 in the fourth quarter when cornerback Doug Hart made his second interception of the game. Hart returned the theft 44 yards to Chicago's 1-yard line. Jim Grabowski scored on the next play. "It's a heckuva feeling beating those Bears and winning the opener,"¹ said the speedy "Roadrunner."

Chicago did little offensively. Gale Sayers ran for just 36 yards, and they only generated 204 yards overall. The Bears also turned the ball over twice. The Packers rallied around a strong ground game that produced 196 yards.

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 7 0 0 10 17

50,861

Turnovers: GB 0 CHI 2

"Picketing patrons won their point and assembled Sunday before a color tv set at Don Lambrecht's tavern to watch the Green Bay Packers. His customers had begun threatening a friendly boycott on 8/1 unless he replaced his black and white set with a color model. He yielded Thursday and ordered a color tv in time for Sunday's game."²

"Packer President Dominic Olejniczak expressed the team's appreciation for 50 years of support. On hand were Johnny Blood, Mike Michalske, Arnie Herber, Ted Fritsch, Clayton Tonnemaker, and three particular latter-day favorites Paul Hornung, Max McGee, and Fuzzy Thurston."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/69, p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/69, p. 15

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/69, p. 18

9.28.1969

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 7

PACKERS 14

The first half of this game against the 49ers was a "study in futility," but the second half turned "into a football game."¹ The points came very early and very late.

The scoreless game broke open in the first 36 seconds of the second half. Green Bay struck gold when rookie Dave Hampton took back the opening kickoff 87 yards to the end zone. Or did he? "Films confirm he threw down the football at the San Francisco two-yard line."² In 1969, replays were not part of the game. Even 49ers Coach Dick Nolan said, "Oh well, it probably didn't make any difference."³

The Niners matched it seconds later. Wideout Clifton McNeil beat cornerback Herb Adderley down the middle of the field and took John Brodie's pass 80 yards to the house to tie it. After a fumble and an interception foiled drives, the Packers finally produced the winner in the fourth quarter. Taking over at midfield, they gave it to Travis Williams six straight times. A two-yard swing pass from Starr to fullback Jim Grabowski made it 14-7 Green Bay.

In a dramatic bid to tie the game, the 49ers drove to Green Bay's 7-yard line. With 17 seconds left and a first down, Brodie rolled right, looking for a receiver. He spotted McNeil, but he didn't see Herb Adderley right behind him. Adderley redeemed himself and snared the pass in the end zone!

San Francisco 0 0 7 0 7

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

48,184

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 269 SF 376

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/69, Wagner, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/69, p. 17

10.5.1969

PACKERS 7

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 19

The rivals played this game in Memorial Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota. With two straight wins to start the season, the Vikings, the defending division champions, were a big test for Green Bay. The teams combined for only 403 yards of offense, and they dug in for a low-scoring affair.

Green Bay's offense never got untracked. Two early fumbles and an interception of Bart Starr cost them 13 points. They held the Vikings to four field goals by Fred Cox, but the first two came after Green Bay fumbles. In the second quarter, Bobby Bryant intercepted Bart Starr on Green Bay's 6-yard line. Dave Osborn scored for a 13-0 lead. On the touchdown, Forrest Gregg was ejected from the game after a skirmish with former Packer Dale Hackbart. Gregg insisted he "wanted to continue the discussion afterward in the parking lot."¹

Minnesota's fierce defense kept the Packers under control most of the game. Green Bay's offense generated only 173 total yards, and Starr was sacked eight times by "The Purple People Eaters." Green Bay spoiled the shutout with five seconds left on Starr's short pass to Dave Hampton.

Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7
Minnesota	6	7	3	3	19

60,740

1 Cold Wars, Mischler, p. XV

10.12.1969

PACKERS	28
DETROIT	
LIONS	17

Carroll Dale and Bart Starr controlled the game from start to finish. Dale caught seven passes for 167 yards and two touchdowns. Both touchdowns came against all-pro cornerback Lem Barney.

Travis Williams scored for a 7-0 Green Bay lead, Starr and Dale hooked up for a 40-yard strike and a 14-0 lead. Detroit sliced it to 14-10, but Starr found Dale again after halftime for a 21-10 Packer lead. "He ran some good routes, and Starr threw perfect passes,"¹ said a dejected Lem Barney after the game.

Mel Farr's second touchdown run kept Detroit close. They lost momentum, though, when starting quarterback Bill Munson fractured his right wrist in the third quarter. Green Bay added insurance when Starr and Dave connected on a 48-yard play to Detroit's 1-yard line. Hampton scored on the next play.

Green Bay	14	0	7	7	28
Detroit	0	10	7	0	17

58,384

Turnovers: GB 0 DET 4

*Lem Barney, Detroit Lions, Member, Pro Football Hall of Fame: After Lombardi left, they struggled. The power shifted to the Minnesota Vikings and Coach Bud Grant. Grant was the quiet Lombardi. I don't think he ever had a bad thing to say."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/69, Wagner, p. 21

2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 8

10.19.1969

PACKERS 21

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 34

The Rams raced to a first-half lead, and they were never in danger. Green Bay cooperated with three fumbles that L.A. turned into 13 points. Quarterback Roman Gabriel threw a 51-yard touchdown pass, and he ran for a touchdown. The Rams led 20-0 before Green Bay scored.

Bart Starr's touchdowns to Boyd Dowler and Elijah Pitts cut the deficit to 20-14. With six seconds left before halftime, the Rams elected to go for a touchdown rather than a field goal from the 11-yard line. Quarterback Roman Gabriel fired a momentum-changing touchdown pass to Wendell Tucker for a 27-14 lead.

The second half was comparatively quiet. Each team scored once, and the Packers could not get the big break. L.A.'s defense allowed just 38 yards rushing, and Bart Starr was treated pretty roughly by Deacon Jones and company. Backup quarterback Don Horn replaced Starr in the fourth quarter. "There are nine games left to go. We know what we have to do,"¹ Coach Bengston told reporters.

Green Bay 0 14 0 7 21

Los Angeles 7 20 7 0 34

78,947

Sacks: GB 3 LA 6

¹ Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/21/69, Rummel, p. 15

10.26.1969

ATLANTA

FALCONS 10

PACKERS 28

Donny Anderson returned to the starting lineup after an injury to Travis Williams. He had a career day with 114 yards on 18 carries, and his 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter opened the scoring.

Anderson led Green Bay's blistering ground attack that put up 241 yards and two touchdowns! Asked if Anderson would retain the starting spot, Coach Bengston was evasive, "Well, you've always got room for two good men."¹ Before halftime, rookie Dave Hampton also scored on the ground for a 14-3 Green Bay lead.

After the Falcons cut the lead to 14-10, Starr directed a clutch, 90-yard touchdown march

in the fourth quarter. On the 12th play of the drive, he found tight end Marv Fleming for a touchdown. The defense kept the lid on Atlanta with six sacks, and Herb Adderley's 80-yard pick-six wrapped up the scoring!

Atlanta **0 3 7 0 10**
Green Bay **7 7 0 14 28**
50,861

Total Yards: GB 337 ATL 219

*Larry Primeau, Packer fan: "My whole life, my allegiance has been with the Packers. I don't care how bad they play, and I don't care what goes on. The Packers are my life. I'll die a Green Bay Packer fan. It's just been in my blood since I was old enough to know."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/69, Wagner, p. 17

2 For Packer Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 50

11.2.1969

PACKERS **38**

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS **34**

In a game filled with seven lead changes and nine turnovers, Green Bay came from behind to defeat the winless Steelers.

With quarterback Bart Starr out with a sore arm, Travis Williams was the offensive star and ran all over the field for three touchdowns. His 83-yard punt return gave the Packers an early lead, and a 93-yard kickoff return in the third quarter tied the score, 24-24! The third touchdown for "The Roadrunner" came early in the fourth quarter, putting Green Bay back on top 31-24. For the game, Williams gained 314 total yards, which remains a Green Bay record.

In the third quarter, after backup Don Horn had thrown his third interception, Bart Starr came off the bench, sore arm and all. The Steelers took the lead 34-31 with 10 minutes left, but Green Bay wasn't done. Starr dropped back and heaved a dramatic, 43-yard touchdown to Carroll Dale for the win! After the game, Starr said, "I think the one I threw to Carroll Dale... I was afraid it wouldn't get it to him."¹

Green Bay **0 14 10 14 38**
Pittsburgh **10 7 7 10 34**
46,403

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/69, Rummel, p. 17

11.9.1969

PACKERS 6

BALTIMORE

COLTS 14

Bart Starr left the game with pain in his throwing arm after Green Bay's first series. In his absence, the Packers did little offensively after two first-half field goals by Mike Mercer. With Starr out, Johnny Unitas had the spotlight all to himself. He threw two touchdown passes, but he also threw three interceptions. The Packers capitalized with only three points.

Baltimore's first touchdown went 51 yards pass to Tom Mitchell, who scored when Ray Nitschke and Doug Hart collided in pursuit. In the second quarter, with the Packers trailing 7-6, the Colts blocked a field goal. They turned around and went 11 plays for a 14-6 lead when Unitas found Ray Perkins for a 3-yard score.

Don Horn, who again filled in for Bart Starr, was ineffective. Unitas fared much better, and as Willie Davis put it, "a guy like Unitas is a master at picking up certain things. I thought today he was very, very sharp in his play-calling."¹

Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6

Baltimore 7 7 0 0 14

60,238

"Editor: Just a quick note to say the Packers have fans in the South as well as in Wisconsin. I and many other Wisconsin soldiers at Fort Gordon, GA, enjoyed watching the Packers on television. Keep up the good work!"² Sp4 Larry B. Kohnen

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/69, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/69 p. 6

11.16.1969

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 9

PACKERS 7

The Packers held the first-place Vikings to three, short Fred Cox field goals. With their defense, that's all the Vikings needed! Green Bay's offense, with Bart Starr at the helm, managed just 225 total yards and no touchdowns. Kicker Mike Mercer missed from the 22, and had a 42-yarder blocked. Green Bay's only points came on Doug Hart's 85-yard pick-six that put them in front 7-3 at halftime.

Bart Starr, who was playing with his throwing arm at about 90%, struggled at times (12-21-151-0-2). In the closing minutes, on a series of quick, short passes, Starr drove the

Packers to Minnesota's 8-yard line. With 1:47 left on the clock, Starr looked for Dave Hampton out of the backfield, but the pass was picked off by cornerback Bobby Bryant to end the threat.

Minnesota 3 0 3 3 9

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7

48,321

Milwaukee County Stadium

11.23.1969

DETROIT

LIONS 16

PACKERS 10

For the first time since 1959, the Packers lost a third straight game. The defeat eliminated them from the postseason.

Late in the first quarter, Bart Starr was replaced after suffering a shoulder injury. His backup, Don Horn, threw for 243 yards and a touchdown. But, it was the five turnovers that sealed Green Bay's fate. A fumble by Elijah Pitts and an interception thrown by Horn were turned into 10 points by the Lions. Former Packer Errol Mann kicked three field goals for the Lions, who led 16-0 at the break.

Detroit's tough defense held Green Bay to 70 yards rushing. They sacked quarterbacks Starr and Horn five times. Green Bay's only touchdown came with 15 seconds left in the game. The score was their first visit to the end zone in nearly three games. After the loss, an exasperated Bengtson put it bluntly, "We can't score."¹

Detroit 3 13 0 0 16

Green Bay 0 0 0 10 10

50,861

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/69, Wagner, p. 23

11.30.1969

NEW YORK

GIANTS 10

PACKERS 20

Bart Starr was ruled out for the remainder of the season, and Don Horn had his best game to date. He threw two touchdown passes while quarterback Fran Tarkenton of the Giants had trouble with just 13 completions in 31 attempts.

Horn's first touchdown, a 39-yard strike to Donny Anderson, came in the first quarter. Later, he shared with reporters that Bart Starr had actually sent in that play! In the second quarter, a 57-yard punt return by Travis Williams set up a second touchdown from Horn to Carroll Dale. But with a minute left before halftime, Tarkenton made it 13-10 with a 35-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Thomas.

The second half was quiet, and a 27-yard touchdown run by Travis Williams sent the Giants home with a seventh straight loss.

New York 3 7 0 0 10

Green Bay 7 6 7 0 20

48,156

Milwaukee County Stadium

In a season celebrating 50 years of Green Bay Packer football, a sign was spotted along the sidelines that said, "We'll back the Pack 'til the Pack is back! For 100 Years of Glory!"¹

Not only were Bart Starr, Henry Jordan, and Mike Mercer ruled out with injuries, but "Sally Spiad, one of the Packerettes, twisted her knee while leading the Packer cheers and had to be helped from the field. Sally, who just turned 17-years old today, is from Algoma. She was treated by a physician at the stadium and told to give the knee a couple of weeks rest."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/69, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/69, p. 18

12.7.1969

PACKERS 7

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 20

In rainy, muddy Cleveland, the Century Division-leading Browns had little trouble with the Packers. The Browns were led by veteran halfback Leroy Kelley, who ran for 114 yards in Cleveland's 13-0 first half. Kelly, who the Packers found "an uncommonly elusive citizen on the soggy sod,"¹ ran for 151 overall. A pick-six by Cleveland safety Ernie Kellermann put it away 20-0. The Packers scored with 1:46 left when Horn lofted a pass to Dave Hampton for six.

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7

Cleveland 0 13 7 0 20

82,137

Total Yards: GB 218 CLEV 347

"A college scholarship fund has been established in the name of Green Bay Packers defensive captain Willie Davis, who plans to retire after this season."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/69, Rempel, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/69, p. 22

12.14.1969

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

The 1-12 Bears were in the final stages of the worst season in franchise history. They played the Packers to a standstill in the first half, but Green Bay erupted for 21 points in the third quarter to take control.

Three minutes in, Travis Williams broke through right tackle and sprinted 39-yards for a 7-0 lead. On their next possession, quarterback Don Horn and tight end Marv Fleming stretched it to 14-0. Willie Wood's interception followed, and Don Horn unloaded a 60-yard touchdown to the "The Roadrunner!"

The Bears weren't productive except for Gayle Sayers! "The Kansas Comet" ran for 90 of the team's 196 total yards. Quarterbacks Bobby Douglass and Virgil Carter passed for just 56 yards! After the game, Carter lashed out at management, and Halas got rid of him.

Green Bay 0 0 21 0 21

Chicago 0 0 3 0 3

45,216

12.21.1969

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 28

PACKERS 45

Don Horn's five touchdown passes tied a Green Bay record that was set by Cecil Isbell in 1942! Horn threw for 410 yards, a Green Bay record that stood until 1980. Touchdown passes went to Boyd Dowler (2), Carroll Dale (2), and Travis Williams. Green Bay ran 66 plays to 50 for St. Louis, and the Packers outgained the Cardinals, 530-239.

Green Bay's two-game improvement over 1968 left fans cautiously optimistic.

St. Louis 14 0 7 7 28

Green Bay 7 24 7 7 45

1969

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	12	2	0
Detroit	9	4	1
Green Bay	8	6	0
Chicago	1	13	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Horn
Receiving	Dale
Rushing	Williams
Scoring	Dale
Interceptions	Williams

ALL-PRO

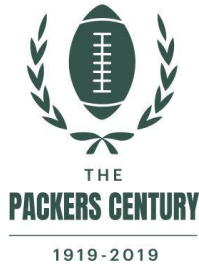
Adderley	Cornerback
Gillingham	Guard
Nitschke	Linebacker
Robinson	Linebacker
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Dave Hampton (9, RB)

1970s





1970
Record: 6-8-0, 4th Place, Last
Coach: Phil Bengtson

- Lambeau Field was expanded by 5,500 seats for a new capacity of 56,263.
- The phased-in merger between the AFL & NFL was completed. The new NFL grew from 16 teams in four divisions to 26 teams in six divisions. Conferences were named the National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC).
- Teams from the two leagues would now play each other during the regular-season.
- A labor dispute in July was settled by Commissioner Pete Rozelle. A new four-year labor agreement was signed.
- Green Bay's defense was weak, but the offense was even weaker. The Packers were one of three teams to score fewer than 200 points.
- After a battle with colon cancer, Vincent Thomas Lombardi died on September 3, 1970, at age 57. One week later, the Super Bowl Trophy was renamed in his honor.
- Players from the Lombardi years continued to move on. Willie Davis, Henry Jordan, and Boyd Dowler retired. Trades sent away Elijah Pitts, Lee Roy Caffey, Bob Hyland, Herb Adderley, and Marv Fleming.
- With the pressure building for a winner, Phil Bengtson resigned the day after the season with a three-year record of 20-21-1.

9.20.1970

DETROIT

LIONS **40**
PACKERS **0**

The Lions completely devoured the Packers, and Coach Phil Bengtson called it, "the worst game I've ever experienced."¹ Green Bay put together a game plan that produced a whopping 114 yards while the Lions had no trouble churning out 398.

From the start, the Lions ran the ball right down Green Bay's throat for 266 yards on

46 carries. Mel Farr and Bill Triplett did most of the damage with three touchdowns. Along with Errol Mann's four field goals, they provided the offense.

Bart Starr completed only seven passes for 35 yards. A pick-six by Detroit's Lem Barney made it 23-0. The Green Bay crowd was so disenchanted with Starr and the team that "it was the first time within memory that the green and gold had been booed in their own ballpark,"² reported veteran Packer reporter Lee Rummel. The last time Green Bay was shut out in its home opener was 1953.

Detroit **10 3 10 17 40**
Green Bay **0 0 0 0 0**
58,263

*Mike Lucci, Detroit Linebacker: "I remember in 1970, we had a really good team, and we blew the Packers out both times we played them, but it was always a good game. You respected who you were playing, and they respected who they were playing."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/70, Wagner, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/70, Rummel, p. 17

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 13

9.27.1970

ATLANTA

FALCONS **24**
PACKERS **27**

A come-from-behind win was Green Bay's fifth straight over the Falcons. The Packers put together a fine first half with two Donny Anderson touchdown runs and a Bart Starr touchdown pass. The touchdown pass went to Carroll Dale, and it started the scoring. In the first half, the Packers produced 254 yards!

Green Bay's 20-3 halftime lead almost evaporated. Atlanta came back strong and with energy behind quarterback Bob Berry. Relying on short passes to his running backs, Berry threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes, with the second putting Atlanta in the lead 24-20. Don Horn, who replaced an injured Starr in the third quarter, "proceeded to unfurl one of the most prodigious bombs in Packer history"¹ with an 89-yard connection with Carroll Dale. Dale's second touchdown put the Packers back on top for good with six minutes left.

Atlanta **0 3 7 14 24**
Green Bay **7 13 0 7 27**
56,263

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/70, Rummel, p. 17

10.4.1970

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 13

The Packers upset the defending champions despite a paltry offense that produced just 69 yards passing and nine first downs. The defense pointed the way for the Packers with six sacks and two interceptions.

"It's easy to be more aggressive when you don't have to think,"¹ was how Lionel Aldridge put it, trying to explain Coach Bengtson's simplified defensive plan. Aldridge had two sacks, and fellow defensive end Bob Brown added three more. The strong defensive effort shut out Minnesota for three quarters.

Offensively, the Packers led 6-3 on the strength of two field goals by Dale Livingston. Early in the fourth quarter, Dave Hampton's 101-yard kickoff return gave them some insurance. The speedy Hampton took it right up the middle and shook off one tackle before going all the way. The Vikings scored in the final minutes on an acrobatic catch by receiver Gene Washington in the corner of the end zone.

Minnesota 0 0 0 10 10

Green Bay 3 0 3 7 13

47,967

Milwaukee County Stadium

The Packers beat the Vikings for the first time in Wisconsin since 1965.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/70, Wagner, p. 19

10.12.1970

PACKERS 22

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 20

This was the third Monday Night Football game that was broadcast by the ABC Television Network. It featured announcers Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, and Don Merideth.

The Packers responded to the national attention with a victory over the winless Chargers. The game got off to a slow start with four field goals in a 6-6 first half. Two touchdown passes from Bart Starr in the third quarter gave Green Bay a 19-6 lead before Starr left the game with a sore shoulder.

When Don Horn replaced Starr, he committed two turnovers. In the fourth quarter, Horn threw an interception that led to a touchdown. Two minutes later, he fumbled at the

Packers' 10-yard line, which handed the lead to the Chargers 20-19.

With 5:25 left in the game, Willie Wood's second pick in front of the national audience gave Green Bay the ball on San Diego's 13-yard line. Bart Starr came back into the game for a few plays, and Dale Livingston kicked the winner. Green Bay's defense was active throughout the night with six sacks and four interceptions!

Green Bay 3 3 13 3 22

San Diego 0 6 0 14 20

53,064

Rushing Yards: GB 200 SD 217

President Nixon will fly to Green Bay this Saturday night to honor quarterback Bart Starr. The ceremony for the veteran Packer will take place at the Veterans Memorial Arena in Green Bay at 7:00 p.m.

10.18.1970

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 31

PACKERS 21

It was Bart Starr Day in Green Bay, but the Packers never led in the game. Starr threw for two touchdowns and 208 yards, but a pick-six by Clarence Williams in the fourth quarter ended all hope for a fourth straight win.

The Rams led 14-0 before Green Bay's offense got going. Bart Starr, who was honored the night before by adoring fans, directed an attack that outgained the Rams, 317-277. Starr's touchdown passes went to tight end John Hilton and Travis Williams. "The Roadrunner" also scored on the ground in the fourth quarter to tie the game.

In the final two minutes, the defense couldn't stop the Rams. David Ray's field goal and a 65-yard pick-six of Starr by defensive back Clarence Williams took the lead and the game back for the Rams.

Los Angeles 14 0 0 17 31

Green Bay 0 7 0 14 21

56,263

Fans love Bart Starr: "Western Union displayed the telegram with 40,000 names. A bag of letters was carried onto the field with 3,200 individual letters."¹

*"The Nathan Hale High School Band of West Allis provided the pre-game entertainment and also added musical backdrop at halftime. The band also formed the number 15 in honor of Starr."²
The previous evening, President Nixon attended an event in Starr's honor. He spoke to 6,000 Packer fans and said of Mr. Quarterback, "He's not only the number one pro quarterback, but he's a number one American."³*

*Bart Starr: "We've taken a great deal from you the fans... fame, and money... and I hope we've given something back."*⁴

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/70, Walter, p.15
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/70, Walter, p. 19
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/70, Doyle, p. 1
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/70, Doyle, p. 2

10.25.1970

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **17**
PACKERS **30**

The winless Eagles turned the ball over five times to go 0-6. After Philly took the early lead, safety Doug Hart's 76-yard pick-six gave Green Bay a 7-6 lead that it never relinquished. A second interception, this one by linebacker Freddie Carr, led to Donny Anderson's touchdown run.

With his team trailing 17-3 in the second quarter, quarterback Norm Snead kept it close with a 65-yard touchdown bomb to Ben Hawkins. Green Bay struck back with a Bart Starr touchdown pass to Rich McGeorge. The touchdown had been set up a few plays earlier when Bob Jeter blocked a punt. The Packers led at the break 24-10.

Starr had a fine afternoon, but kicker Dale Livingston didn't remember all of his. After the game, Livingston, who kicked three field goals, shared that he was knocked out after a kickoff in the third quarter. "I don't remember a thing that happened after that... Forrest tells me I kicked a dandy field goal in the fourth quarter, but I don't remember it."¹

Philadelphia 3 7 7 0 17
Green Bay 10 14 3 3 30
48,022
Milwaukee County Stadium

The Eagles outgained the Packers 311-241.

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/70, p. 18

11.1.1970

PACKERS **10**
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers **26**

After five of their first six games were played in Wisconsin like the old days, the Packers hit the road for six of their last eight games. In San Francisco, the Packers were so popular that Kezar Stadium was sold out for the first time since 1958. Over 8,000 fans had to be

turned away!

In the first half, the Niners had a tough time getting started. They put up just 63 total yards in the first half, and two fumbles led to a 10-7 Green Bay lead. It vanished quickly when the 49ers scored the next 19 straight points. Four Bruce Gossett field goals accounted for most of that scoring, but the 49ers' opening touchdown drive of the second half put them back in front to stay.

Bart Starr left the game in the second quarter with a sore arm, and he was replaced by Don Horn. Horn threw three interceptions and completed just seven of 23 passes for 134 yards and a touchdown. The Packers turned the ball over six times, and the loss hinted at severe problems the team had. Horn took full responsibility for the defeat. "I feel it was my fault we lost today. I let Coach Bengtson, Coach Schnellker, and Coach Wietecha down... and my teammates. That was the extent of it."¹

Green Bay	3	7	0	0	10
San Francisco	0	10	10	6	26

59,335

*"It was a bad Sunday. The Packers lost, it was cold, and church lasted 15 minutes longer than usual."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/70, Rempel, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/70, Larson, p. 14

11.9.1970

BALTIMORE

COLTS	13
PACKERS	10

The Packers met the Colts on Monday Night Football in Milwaukee. Bart Starr's sore arm kept him on the sidelines, and backup signal-caller Don Horn had a sub-par outing. He completed only 10 of 23 passes, and he threw four interceptions.

A field goal by Dale Livingston gave Green Bay a 3-0 lead. The rainy and soggy conditions slowed down both offenses, and the Packers didn't score again until the fourth quarter. Baltimore's lone touchdown drive came in the second quarter. Quarterback Johnny Unitas converted three crucial third downs on the march, and the touchdown came on a pitch-out to fullback Jerry Hill. San Francisco led halftime 7-3. Kicker Jerry O'Brien had scored eight of Baltimore's 13 points with two field goals and two extra points. Still trailing with under two minutes left, the Packers scored on a 1-yard plunge by Jim Grabowski. The game wasn't as close as the final score.

Baltimore	0	7	6	0	13
Green Bay	3	0	0	7	10

48,063

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB passed for 88 net yards.

11.15.1970

CHICAGO

BEARS 19

PACKERS 20

Bart Starr played the entire game, and he also was the hero at the end! Starr completed 23 of 35 passes for 220 yards, and he threw one interception.

Green Bay built a 10-0 lead in the first half. The resurgent Donny Anderson, who led the ground game, scored on a 17-yard run. Chicago tied it up in the third quarter with a 79-yard missile from quarterback Jack Concannon to wide receiver Dick Gordon.

With four field goals from Mac Percival, the Bears led 19-13 with 1:37 left in the game. Green Bay's final drive started 77 yards away. Starr covered the distance with five completions. With seven seconds left and the Packers on the 3-yard line, Starr dropped back and spotted an opening to his right. He ran untouched into the end zone! Explaining his heroics, Starr gave credit to his tight end. "John Hilton did such a great job of tying everybody up on the right side, it looked open, so I decided to run."¹ After the game, Bears' linebacker, Doug Buffone, had this to say about Starr. "Only one in three million quarterbacks could do what Starr did. He's a classic."²

Chicago 0 0 10 9 19

Green Bay 10 0 3 7 20

56,263

Chet Coppock: After a night out at a wrestling show in Chicago, a friend and I drove right up to Green Bay "to see if we could get into the Bear-Packer game. We arrived at the Northland Hotel around two in the morning, and remarkably, there was a room available. About 4:15 in the morning, the fire alarm went off. I remember that Abe Gibrone was a Bears line coach and later their head coach. He came walking out in the corridor, wearing just his underpants. It was like the arrival of a glacier. Abe had to be at least 325 pounds."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/70, Rimmel, p. 17

² Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 273

³ For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 223

11.22.1970

PACKERS 3

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

This was the first of five straight road games to end the season. The road trip got off to a bad start when the game was played in -35 degree wind chills! The Packers suffered through a tough, hard-fought battle, but they missed three field goals along the way. They also suffered the loss of quarterback Bart Starr in the second half with a twisted knee.

After a 3-3 first half, the Vikings threatened. A 37-yard pass from quarterback Gary Cuozzo to Gene Washington put the Vikings on Green Bay's 4-yard line. On fourth down, Clint Jones dove into the end zone for a 10-3 lead. With the Packers trying to tie it in the final two minutes, rookie running back Larry Krause, who had replaced Donny Anderson on the drive, fumbled on Minnesota's 17. It was recovered by Vikings' defensive end Jim Marshall, and it was over. In the locker room following the game, Coach Bengtson thought, "We played well enough to win."¹

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Minnesota 0 3 7 0 10
47,900

Total Yards: GB 282 MINN 202

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/70, Rempel, p. 13

11.26.1970

PACKERS 3

DALLAS

COWBOYS 16

On national television, Green Bay lost its first game *ever* to the Dallas Cowboys. The Packers had won six straight over Dallas since the franchise's beginning in 1960.

The Cowboys "Doomsday Defense" clamped down on Bart Starr and the Packers. They pushed the Packers around basically the whole game, allowing just 129 total yards. In a 3-3 game in the second half, Mike Clark kicked two more field goals for a 9-3 Dallas lead.

Late in the final quarter, Starr was intercepted by Charlie Waters. With 1:54 left, Green Bay was surprised when "speedball Bob Hayes swept the Pack's right flank on an end-around and sprinted into the end zone untouched"¹ to make it official. The Packers were 5-6.

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
Dallas 0 3 0 13 16

67,182

GB was outgained 352-129.

*Ed Smith, Former Packer: "I just love Green Bay, and I have an awful time keeping my wife home. She'd go to Green Bay for every game. Any town that backs a team the way they have supported the Packers has to be tremendous."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/70, Rummel, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/70, Rummel, p. 14

12.6.1970

PACKERS 20

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 12

Everyone was challenged with wind chills of -7 degrees. Before they were too frozen, Larry Krause put Green Bay in the lead immediately by returning the opening kickoff 100 yards for a 6-0 advantage (the snap on the extra point was dropped).

Late in the third quarter, rookie quarterback Terry Bradshaw replaced Terry Hanratty. Bradshaw helped the Steelers to a 9-6 lead with a 78-yard touchdown to fellow rookie Dave Smith. Bart Starr would not be outdone, and he responded quickly with two touchdown passes over the final 20 minutes. The first, to rookie Rich McGeorge, put Green Bay back in front 13-9. The second, a 68-yard score to tight end John Hilton, clinched it.

The 6-6 Packers gave the game ball to Coach Bengtson. "He stuck with us through two bad games, and we felt he deserved it."¹ said co-captain Gale Gillingham.

Green Bay 6 0 7 7 20

Pittsburgh 3 0 6 3 12

46,418

Turnovers: GB 4 PGH 6

*Rocky Bleier, former Pittsburgh Steeler and Appleton, Wisconsin native: "When you think about Wisconsin, you think about the mills. When you think about Pittsburgh, you think about the mills. Paper mills. Steel mills. It's a shot and a beer kind of place."*²

1 Green Bay-Press-Gazette, 12/7/70, Rummel, p. 17

2 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 160

12.13.1970

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 35

This was the last game the Bears played at Wrigley Field—known as Cubs Park in 1926

when the team first started to play games there. Due to the popularity of the NFL, the Bears had finally outgrown the stadium. So, beginning in 1971, the Bears moved back to Soldier Field, which hosted its first Packers-Bears game on December 19, 1970!

In the final game at Wrigley, the Bears' offense exploded and scored the most points it had all season. They jumped in front 14-0 and were never threatened. Quarterback Jack Concannon of the Bears had a great game with four touchdown passes, one touchdown run, and 338 yards passing.

Bart Starr, after being hit and sacked by Dick Butkus and Willie Holman, left the game in the first quarter. He returned in the first half, but he had to leave the game for good before halftime. Green Bay scored on touchdowns on Donny Anderson's run and John Hilton's touchdown catch from third-string quarterback Rick Norton. Starr and his replacements—Frank Patrick and Rick Norton—were sacked nine times, and the offense produced just 180 total yards.

Green Bay	3	0	0	14	17
Chicago	14	7	7	7	35

44,957

12.20.1970

PACKERS **0**

DETROIT

LIONS **20**

Never in Packers' history had they been shut out in the opening and closing games of the season. In 1970, the Lions did just that—60-0!

The second meeting between the two teams was a defensive battle as Detroit held Green Bay to 124 total yards. The Lions amassed only 162 yards. With the Lions leading 6-0, Barney returned a punt 65 yards to set up the game's first touchdown. He followed that with a 49-yard pick-six of Bart Starr for a 20-0 lead. Barney, who had returned one kickoff 74 yards, finished off the Packers in the fourth quarter. He totaled "223 return yards (on punts, kickoffs, and interceptions), or 99 more yards than the Packers mustered on offense."¹

Five turnovers by Green Bay and five sacks by Detroit clinched the Lions' first postseason berth since 1957! Despite a sore arm and an obvious difficulty throwing the ball, a classy Bart Starr refused "to take anything away from the Lions' performance."²

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	3	0	3	14	20

57,387

¹ Black & Blue, Berghaus, p. 232

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/70, Rimmel, p. 25

1970

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	12	2	0
Detroit	10	4	0
Green Bay	6	8	0
Chicago	6	8	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Starr
Receiving	Dale
Rushing	Anderson
Scoring	Livingston
Interceptions	Wood

ALL-PRO

Gillingham	Guard
Wood	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Mike McCoy (1a, DT)

Rich McGeorge (1b, TE)

Al Matthews (2, DB)

Jim Carter (3, LB)

Ken Ellis (4a, WR/CB)



1971

Record: 4-8-2, 4th Place, Last

Coach: Dan Devine

- In January, Dan Devine was named the seventh head coach in the team's history. He came from the University of Missouri.
- Two shoulder surgeries during the summer sidelined Bart Starr for ten games. Rookie Scott Hunter, also from the University of Alabama, started at quarterback.
- In the NFL Draft, the Packers traded up three spots and selected John Brockington of Ohio State. Along with Donny Anderson, the Packers had one of the best backfield tandems in the league.

- Coach Devine broke his leg in his first regular-season game coaching the Packers. Devine got caught in a play along the sidelines in a game against the New York Giants.
- The offense improved thanks to a potent ground game. Defensively, they finished in the lower half of the league because they could not stop the run.
- The team's four wins were the fewest since 1959.

9.19.1971

NEW YORK

GIANTS 42

PACKERS 40

With just over four minutes gone in the game, Green Bay's Kenny Ellis returned a missed field goal by Pete Gogolak for 100 yards! The Giants weren't phased, and they came back with the next 28 points, with quarterback Fran Tarkenton leading the charge.

Tarkenton threw two touchdown passes to Rich Huston in the second quarter. In a rare occurrence, the Giants scored back-to-back touchdowns in the second quarter when they recovered two Packer fumbles in the end zone! Dave Hampton's fumble gifted the first, and the second came on the ensuing kickoff when Dave Hampton and Larry Krause let the ball bounce between them, and the Giants recovered in the end zone again, for a 28-14 halftime lead.

Rookie quarterback Scott Hunter replaced Zeke Bratkowski at quarterback in the second half. He energized Green Bay's offense and tossed two touchdown passes. But Tarkenton wasn't done, and in the third quarter, he threw two touchdown passes as well. The second, which went to halfback Tucker Frederickson, capitalized on a Green Bay fumble, and it gave New York a 42-24 lead.

In the fourth quarter, after Doug Hart's interception, Green Bay coach Dan Devine got tangled up in a play along the sideline. Devine's leg was broken when he was hit by former Packer Bob Hyland. The Packers came back strong with a Donny Anderson touchdown run and Hunter's touchdown pass to Carroll Dale. With 4:20 left, they trailed 42-38.

When the Giants were forced to punt, a bad snap by Bob Hyland went over punter Tom Blanchard's head. Doug Hart tackled Blanchard in the end zone to give the Giants the advantage, 42-40. With the punt after the safety, the Packers drove to New York's 36. With under a minute left to play, tight end Rich McGeorge fell running a route, and linebacker and Jim Files was there for the interception. Game over.

From Coach Devine, who was hospitalized after the injury, "I've had people tell me before I was too close to the sidelines. I sent him (Hyland) a telegram telling him to forget about it... it's not his fault."¹

New York 0 28 14 0 42

Green Bay 7 7 10 16 40

56,263

Turnovers: GB 5 NY 1

"I'm surprised the Packer band wasn't penalized for having too many men on the field. It was still marching out of the end zone behind the Packers, who were kicking off to start the game."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/71, Rummel, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/2/71, Wagner, p. 17

9.26.1971

DENVER

BRONCOS 13

PACKERS 34

In this blowout, former Green Bay quarterback, Don Horn, threw six interceptions. The Packers capitalized on four of them for 20 points.

On the ground, Green Bay overpowered Denver behind Donny Anderson, Dave Hampton, and rookie John Brockington who ran for 219 yards and three touchdowns! Brockington's exciting 52-yard run helped give Green Bay a 20-3 halftime lead.

Green Bay quarterback Scott Hunter, who was knocked out of the game in the second quarter, returned after the half. Hunter led a scoring drive that he finished with a 4-yard bootleg. Green Bay's defense pressured their former quarterback Don Horn into six interceptions. "We know he likes the bomb... we knew if we put a good rush on him, he'd probably throw it up for grabs,"¹ said cornerback Ken Ellis. Indeed! Ellis grabbed three picks in the second half to preserve Green Bay's lead. One led to Dave Hampton's late touchdown run.

Denver 3 0 3 7 13

Green Bay 7 13 14 0 34

47,957

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 4 DEN 7

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/71, Rummel, p. 17

10.3.1971

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 17

PACKERS 20

A huge gamble by the visiting Bengals backfired! After the first 30 minutes, the home

team led 10-0. Donny Anderson's touchdown run and the first of two field goals by Lou Michaels put up the points. But Green Bay's lead vanished quickly in the second half. Lemar Parrish's 65-yard pick-six of Scott Hunter tied it at 10.

Another outstanding performance by Green Bay's backfield kept the Packers in control. John Brockington pounded his way for 120 of the team's 256 yards rushing, and Donny Anderson scored on the ground. The Packers reclaimed the lead in the fourth quarter when Scott Hunter and tight end Rich McGeorge hooked up for six. A second field goal by Lou Michaels made it 20-10.

After the Bengals narrowed the score to 20-17, Cincinnati Coach Paul Brown gambled. With two minutes left, and Bengals on Green Bay's 7-yard line, he played for the win instead of the tie. A quarterback sneak by rookie Kenny Anderson was stopped by Dave Robinson and Willie Wood. The Packers took over and ran out the clock. After the game, Brown explained his gamble, "You can slice it any way you want. It wasn't the first time I made a mistake, and it won't be the last."¹

Cincinnati 0 0 10 7 17

Green Bay 3 7 0 10 20

56,263

Total Yards: GB 318 CINN 178

"The Packers deserve commendation for restoring the pledge to pre-game ceremonies. Fans deserve praise too for their excellent recitation of the pledge."²

"Back in 1970-71, we went to a game and were in the northwest corner of the end zone. We took sleeping bags to the game to crawl into and keep warm. A guy told us we should take hot Southern Comfort to games. We each crawled into our sleeping bags, sipping on our hot drink during the game. By the time the game got over, we couldn't get out of our sleeping bags!"³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/71, Rimmel, p. 15

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/71, p. 1

³ For Packers' Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 58

10.10.1971

PACKERS 28

DETROIT

LIONS 31

Both teams were 2-1. Detroit jumped out to a 17-0 lead, and quarterback Greg Landry enjoyed a great afternoon with four touchdown passes. His offense tallied 545 yards! Landry's first two touchdowns went to Larry Walton. The second touchdown to Walton, in the third quarter, was a 60-yard bomb to put the Lions in command 31-14.

Green Bay eventually replaced quarterback Scott Hunter with Zeke Bratkowski. Bratkowski had returned to the active roster after coaching alongside Phil Bengtson for two years. Bratkowski got the Packers moving and cut the score to 31-21 with his touchdown run that capped a 68-yard drive. A fumble recovery by linebacker Fred Carr gave Bratkowski another chance. He obliged with a 5-yard toss to Rich McGeorge with 56 seconds left in the game to cut it to three. An onside kick was unsuccessful, and the Lions were 3-1.

Green Bay 0 7 14 7 28

Detroit 14 10 7 0 31

54,418

10.17.1971

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 24

PACKERS 13

The strong defense of the Vikings set up their offense. Minnesota's backup quarterback Gary Cuozzo threw three touchdown passes and each one came right after a Green Bay turnover—two fumbles and one interception.

After a 7-7 first half, Scott Hunter threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale. When Alan Page blocked the extra-point, the Packers led 13-7. Page then recovered a fumble by Donny Anderson on Green Bay's 8-yard line. "It's bad enough to fumble, but to fumble down there really hurts the team,"¹ said Anderson. On the next play, Cuozzo hit tight end, Stu Voight for a 14-13 lead. Early in the fourth quarter, Scott Hunter threw his third interception of the game (12-24-230-1-3). Bobby Bryant grabbed this one, and Gary Cuozzo made it count with a pass to wideout Bob Grimm to extend the lead to 21-13. A field goal by Fred Cox iced it.

Minnesota 7 0 7 10 24

Green Bay 0 7 6 0 13

56,263

"Even the Marines and their tremendous halftime show, one of the finest we've seen in Lambeau

*Field, couldn't save the Pack.*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/71, Rempel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/71, Wagner, p. 14

10.24.1971

PACKERS 13

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 30

In the L.A. Coliseum in front of 75,351 fans, the Packers lost their third straight game. The defeat put the postseason in serious jeopardy. Green Bay never led in the game, and they turned the ball over five times.

On the Packers' opening drive, an interception by safety Dave Elmendorf led to Roman Gabriel's first touchdown pass and a 7-0 lead. After two field goals by Lou Michaels made it 7-6, the Rams put up the next 23 points. Two field goals got it started, and L.A. led 13-6 at halftime. Quarterback Roman Gabriel threw three touchdown passes to Bob Klein, Jack Snow, and Lance Rentzel. L.A. also ran for 164 yards.

The Packers were held to 237 total yards. The Rams shut down the passing game with three interceptions, and they capitalized on two of the picks and a fumble for 17 points. But Coach Devine pointed to something else when he said, "We just got out-hit today."¹

Green Bay 0 6 0 7 13

Los Angeles 7 6 7 10 30

75,351

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/71, Rempel, p. 17

11.1.1971

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 14

The wind and rain made this a muddy night in Milwaukee. Unfortunately, it also gave the Monday Night Football audience a low-scoring, slow-moving game that ended in a tie.

Turnovers were big in this battle. Two minutes into the game, quarterback Scott Hunter's fumble was picked up and taken into the end zone by defensive tackle Bob Bell. Green Bay came right back with a 65-yard drive and a Dave Hampton touchdown run.

But with 58 seconds before half, Donny Anderson's punt pinned Detroit on the 3. The Lions fumbled and it was recovered by Dave Robinson on the two-yard line.

On the next play, Scott Hunter “leaped over the line from the two”¹ for a 14-7 Green Bay lead. Shockingly, with 17 seconds left in the half, the Lions tied it when the Packers were penalized twice, and Landry unloaded a 49-yard touchdown to Charlie Sanders.

In the awful conditions, the second half deteriorated quickly. Linebacker Fred Carr starred for the Packers when he forced a fumble and blocked a field goal. Green Bay passed the ball just five times all game, and rookie John Brockington carried the load for the offense with 116 yards rushing. After the game, linebacker Mike Lucci of the Lions said this about Green Bay’s rookie fullback. “I’ll tell you, the Packers didn’t waste their first choice.”²

Detroit 7 7 0 0 14

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14

47,961

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 218 DET 291

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/71, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/71, p. 16

11.7.1971

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

Green Bay enjoyed a victory at Soldier Field! It was the first time the Packers played there since 1926, and they held the Bears scoreless for 45 minutes! Quarterback Scott Hunter threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Carroll Dale to strike first, and rookie John Brockington scored on a 7-yard run. Brockington ran 30 times for 142 yards!

In the fourth quarter, with six minutes left, the Bears cut the deficit in half with a 30-yard touchdown pass to George Farmer from quarterback Bobby Douglass. Three minutes later, Dick Butkus recovered Dave Hampton’s fumble on Green Bay’s 11-yard line. A 1-yard run by Douglass tied it with 3:18 left. On the ensuing kickoff, Dave Hampton redeemed himself with a 61-yard return to Chicago’s 39. Brockington got the ball five straight times and took it down to the 16-yard line. A 22-yard field goal by Lou Michaels with 59 seconds left won it!

Green Bay 0 14 0 3 17

Chicago 0 0 0 14 14

55,049

“Eastern sports writers take great delight in poking fun at Green Bay because of its devotion to the Packers. They say such enthusiasm and support of the fans is small townish, provincial, and unnecessary because, really, that’s all we have except year-round cold weather. Much of this is sour grapes because all of the eastern teams have a long way to go to match the Packers’ 11 championships.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/71, Editorial, p. 4

11.14.1971

PACKERS 0

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 3

Green Bay's defense held the Vikings to five first downs and 87 total yards! On offense, the Packers ran all over Minnesota for 245 yards. Turnovers, however, undid an otherwise solid performance.

The Packers were unable to score when they were provided opportunities. They were inside Minnesota's 21-yard line five times (16, 21, 1 10 & 8), but came away with no points. It was a fourth-quarter interception of quarterback Scott Hunter by Minnesota's Charlie West that made the difference. West intercepted Hunter on the goal line and returned it to the 50-yard line! A 7-play drive set up Fred Cox's 25-yard field goal with 4:02 left.

The first-place Vikings escaped with the win. Years later, linebacker Dave Robinson recalled his frustration about this game. "We're down inside the 5-yard line, the score is 0-0, and he refused to kick the field goal. Every time we got down inside the 10-yard line, Dan Devine would not let John Brockington carry the ball. That game will haunt me for as long as I live."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

Minnesota 0 0 0 3 3

49,794

¹ Black & Blue, Berghaus, p. 235

11.22.1971

PACKERS 21

ATLANTA

FALCONS 28

On Monday Night Football, the Packers lost to Atlanta for the first time ever. Green Bay was simply out-muscled and out-hustled by the Falcons. Quarterback Scott Hunter led a sluggish Packer offense that produced just 143 total yards. For the game, Hunter threw only eight passes and completed three.

Trailing 6-0 in the second quarter, Green Bay's Bob Brown blocked a field goal attempt that was picked up and returned by Doug Hart 69 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Scott Hunter completed a 14-yard screen pass for a touchdown to Donny Anderson to give Green Bay a 14-12 lead at the half.

The Falcons took control of the game in the second half. Cannonball Butler returned the opening kickoff to Green Bay's 19-yard line. Four plays later, the Falcons went back on

top 19-14. Early in the fourth quarter, an interception by cornerback Ken Reaves set up another Atlanta score and a 26-14 lead. The Packers weren't finished, and they scored again after Ray Nitschke recovered a fumble. But a safety by Scott Hunter with 59 seconds ended all hope. "They outmanned us. Everything they wanted to do to us, they did. Football is a contact game, and the first thing you have to do is hit. If you don't hit, you don't qualify to play the game,"¹ said veteran Willie Wood.

Green Bay 0 14 0 7 21
Atlanta 6 6 7 9 28
58,850

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/71, Rummel, p. 13

11.28.1971
NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 29
PACKERS 21

After recuperating from shoulder surgery, Bart Starr saw his first action of the season. He was given a standing ovation by the Milwaukee crowd, but the story of this game, unfortunately, was turnovers. The Packers gave the ball away six times with four fumbles and two interceptions.

But Green Bay's second series gave fans early hope. Starr led a flawless 71-yard march that Donny Anderson finished with a three-yard run around left end. "We sure didn't do much after that, did we?"¹ said Starr. For the game, he finished 8-17-116-0-1.

In the first half, the Saints recovered two fumbles and cashed in on both for a 6-0 lead. Charlie Durkee booted three more field goals in the second half to keep the Saints chugging along offensively.

Early in the fourth quarter, a pick-six of Bart Starr by Hogo Hollas extended the lead to 19-7. The Packers countered with Dave Hampton's 90-yard kickoff return to cut it to 19-14. But with under two minutes left, cornerback Doug Wyatt locked it up for the Saints with a pick-six of Scott Hunter.

New Orleans 3 3 6 17 29
Green Bay 7 0 0 14 21
48,035

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 6 NO 0

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/71, Rummel, p. 17

12.5.1971

PACKERS 16

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 16

Only five field goals graced the scoreboard until the fourth quarter—three for St. Louis and two for Green Bay.

In the last two minutes of the game, with the Cardinals leading 9-6, the teams traded touchdowns. Dave Hampton's 2-yard touchdown completed a 74-yard drive for Green Bay and gave them a 13-9 lead. The Cardinals went back in front with a minute left on a 57-yard touchdown pass that bounced off the helmet of cornerback Kenny Ellis and into the arms of speedy Mel Gray for six. With no timeouts remaining, the Packers started on their 45-yard line. Quarterback Scott Hunter's pass to Carroll Dale put Green Bay at the 19-yard line. Rookie kicker Tim Webster kicked a third field goal for the tie.

Green Bay 0 3 3 10 16

St. Louis 0 9 0 7 16

50,443

"Popular Ray Scott is the main speaker at the annual Green Bay Traffic Club Bash at the Elks tonight. Tom Miller, Packer assistant to the general manager, and Tony Canadeo, Scott's old mike-side partner, are special guests."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/71, Wagner, p. 15

12.12.1971

CHICAGO

BEARS 10

PACKERS 31

Win number four came on Ray Nitschke Day at Lambeau Field. Emotional pre-game ceremonies were held, and Big Ray was brought to tears. To top it off, the Packers won for the first time in a month, and they swept the season series from the Bears!

This was the last game the great Ray Nitschke started in his career, and he played well. Nitschke wasn't the only one. Overall, the defense was successful, especially linebacker Fred Carr who made three huge plays that led to 17 points for Green Bay. For the game, they held the Bears to 61 yards on the ground and 247 yards overall.

To start the scoring, quarterback Scott Hunter and Carroll Dale connected for a 77-yard score. After a close 7-7 first half, Green Bay dominated. A key pick by Jim Carter—who famously said, "I am going to be the next middle linebacker for the Green Bay Packers"¹—started the second-half rally. Rookie John Brockington's 6-yard touchdown came soon

after for a 14-7 edge. Green Bay finished Chicago off with touchdown runs by Scott Hunter and Bart Starr. Starr's touchdown was the last of his illustrious career.

Chicago 7 0 3 0 10

Green Bay 7 0 14 10 31

Attendance: 56,263

Rookie John Brockington topped 1,000 yards rushing!

Four astronauts from NASA visited Lambeau Field to honor Ray Nitschke. One was a Bears fan (Gene Cernan) who went to the same high school as Nitschke. The other was Wisconsin native "Deke" Slayton, who rooted for the Packers. "The astronauts took part in the pre-game festivities on the field, and they returned to the field just before the end of the game so that they could make their way into the locker rooms."² The other astronauts were John Swigert and Ron Evans.

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 278

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/71, Walter, p. 1

12.19.1971

PACKERS 6

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 27

This was Bart Starr's last game as the quarterback of the Green Bay Packers. He started the game and went 13-22-126-0-0. Starr was not satisfied with his performance, "but I feel I've made some progress."¹

With the score 6-6 in the third quarter, the Dolphins took control with touchdown runs by Jim Kiick and Larry Czonka. They also scored on Curtis Johnson's 47-yard touchdown return of a blocked field goal. Two field goals is all Green Bay could muster.

The Packers finished the season 4-8-2. Even though it was their worst record since 1958, Dan Devine made this prediction: "With John Brockington getting 1,000 yards this year, and Scott Hunter developing—he seemed to settle down when Bart Starr came back—I think there are some people who are going to be surprised next year."²

Green Bay 3 0 3 0 6

Miami 3 3 14 7 27

76,812

Bart Starr 13-22-126-0-0

Bob Griese 13-21-122-0-0

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/71, Rempel, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/71, Rempel, p. 20

1971

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	11	3	0
Detroit	7	6	1
Chicago	6	8	0
Green Bay	4	8	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Hunter
Receiving	Dale
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Michaels
Interceptions	Ellis

ALL-PRO

Brockington	Running Back
Gillingham	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

John Brockington (1, RB)

Scott Hunter (6, QB)

Dave Davis (7a, WR)

Kevin Hunt (10, T)



**THE
PACKERS CENTURY**

1919-2019

1972

Record: 10-4-0 1st Place

Coach: Dan Devine

- The Packers made the postseason for the first time since 1967. They led the NFC Central from start to finish.
- The defense finished in the Top 5 and gave up the fewest points and the fewest yards.
- Offensively, the backfield of Brockington and newly acquired MacArthur Lane was big and powerful. Kicker Chester Marcol set a new Green Bay record with 33 field goals.
- After 1971, Dan Devine completely overhauled the roster with 21 new faces. A number

of veterans also retired: Bart Starr, Zeke Bratkowski, Elijah Pitts, Willie Wood, and Doug Hart. Others were traded: Donny Anderson, Lionel Aldridge, and Dave Hampton.

- Bart Starr joined the coaching staff as the quarterback coach.

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

In 1972, Steve Schumer, a 15-year old Packers fan in New Jersey, was desperate for more information about his favorite team. In the days before cable tv and the internet, Steve called the Packers and was put in contact with Shirley Leonard in the public relations office. Occasionally, Steve would call Shirley to get a “pulse” on the team, and Shirley put his name on a mailing list for a Packers newsletter. In 1984, after Steve bought his first VCR, and he began sending blank cassettes to Shirley, who would tape the Packers game that week and send the cassette back to Steve. This went on for about ten years, and a friendship developed. In 1985, Steve finally met Shirley when he made his first trip to Lambeau for a game with his brother, Arlen. On October 6, 1985, the Packers beat the Lions 43-10 and, Steve finally got to meet his dear friend Shirley Leonard.

* Interview: 11/14/16

9.17.1972

PACKERS 26

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 10

The season started on a warm and humid day in Cleveland. The Packers were led by tight end Rich McGeorge and rookie kicker Chester Marcol. They scored all of Green Bay's points with two touchdown catches, four field goals, and two extra points!

But McGeorge and Marcol did have some help. McGeorge's first touchdown came after the first interception of rookie Willie Buchanon's career. Green Bay's new backfield of John Brockington and McArthur Lane was impressive (145 yards), and they outgained the Browns overall, 290-188.

Cleveland's only touchdown came when defensive tackle Jerry Sherk blocked a field goal attempt by Marcol. It was returned for a touchdown by Clarence Scott. But the Browns gave the ball away four times, and an interception by linebacker Dave Robinson led to Marcol's fourth field goal which finished the scoring.

Green Bay 7 10 3 6 26
Cleveland 3 7 0 0 10
78,771

9.24.1972

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 20

PACKERS 14

A controversial call proved to be the difference. In the first quarter, MacArthur Lane misplayed a lateral from Scott Hunter inside Oakland's 5-yard line. The officials ruled Lane fumbled the lateral. The ball bounced into the end zone, where it was picked up and taken 104 yards by Jack Tatum for a 10-7 Oakland lead. The Packers disputed the call to no avail.

The call upset the Packers and the fans. Some reporters also questioned the call, and the Press-Gazette reported, "Six men in striped shirts hijacked a Packer victory in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon and gave it to the Oakland Raiders."¹

After the dispute, Brockington scored his second touchdown, and Green Bay led at halftime 14-10. Oakland scored the only points of the second half on George Blanda's field goal and a touchdown run by Charlie Smith. Green Bay was scoreless after halftime, and they were outgained overall, 313-207.

Oakland 10 0 10 0 20

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14

56,263

The United Way: "Another special guest at the meeting, along with the area civic, government and education leaders, was Green Bay Packer Chester Marcol, who kicked-off a mock football"² to begin the campaign.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/72, Wagner, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/72, p. 8

10.1.1972

DALLAS

COWBOYS 13

PACKERS 16

The Packers' injury-riddled offensive line held firm, and they defeated the defending Super Bowl Champions! Quarterback Scott Hunter had a rough outing, but Chester Marcol and John Brockington kept the offense moving, with Brockington scoring their only touchdown.

The Packers' defense set the pace. They intercepted Cowboy quarterback Craig Morton three times. Two of the three picks were courtesy of safety Al Matthews. His two thefts set up Chester Marcol field goals, including the winner early in the final quarter. The third interception by rookie Willie Buchanon came with a minute left, and it ended the comeback bid.

The Cowboys turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Craig Morton was sacked five times. After the win, Devine shared that “this was our most important win since I’ve been with the Packers.”¹ Years later, halfback Dan Reeves had this to say about playing the Packers. “I’m not sure we could have had that much success without having played the Packers and learned how they played the game the right way.”²

Dallas **3 3 7 0 13**

Green Bay **3 7 3 3 16**

47,103

Milwaukee County Stadium

Sacks: GB 4 DAL 1

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/72, Rummel, p. 15

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 61

10.8.1972

CHICAGO

BEARS **17**

PACKERS **20**

The Packers enjoyed a 17-3 halftime lead thanks to good fortune. Green Bay’s defensive end, Clarence “Big Cat” Williams recovered a fumble by Chicago’s Jim Harrison and returned it for a touchdown! Then, in the second quarter, a pass by quarterback Scott Hunter was deflected into the arms of Jon Staggers for a 48-yard touchdown. Rookie kicker Chester Marcol then closed the first half with a 26-yard field goal.

The Bears regained some control after the half with two touchdown drives. The first made it 17-10 on a nine-play, 53-yard drive capped off by Cyril Pinder’s 2-yard touchdown run. Late in the fourth quarter, the Packers’ short punt gave the Bears the ball on their 46-yard line. On the fifth play of the drive, southpaw quarterback Bobby Douglas rolled left and tied it on a two-yard scamper with 5:13 remaining.

The Packers rode Scott Hunter’s arm into Chicago territory. With 30 seconds left, Chester Marcol delivered the first of many clutch kicks against the Bears from the 37-yard line. Packer fans then held their collective breath when Mac Percival’s 51-yard boot came up short with five seconds left!

Chicago **0 3 7 7 17**

Green Bay **7 10 0 3 20**

56,263

10.16.1972

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 23

Monday Night Football showcased this early Central Division battle for first place. Both teams came in 3-1.

The Packers had trouble protecting the ball in the first half. Lem Barney intercepted quarterback Scott Hunter, and the Lions scored eight plays later. Detroit capitalized on a fumble by MacArthur Lane to extend the lead to 17-0. Before the half, Green Bay got on the board with an 81-yard drive and Scott Hunter's 1-yard touchdown run.

After the break, a field goal followed by Kenny Ellis' 80-yard punt return sliced the deficit to 20-17. Errol Mann's kick made it 23-17 Lions, but the Packers hit back hard with an 84-yard touchdown drive. Scott Hunter and rookie receiver Leland Glass hooked up for a 15-yard strike with 1:54 left.

Leading 24-23, Green Bay's sideline was ready to explode. "Particularly in the last two minutes, Coach Hanner was giving us instructions on remaining cool and not playing any differently than we had been,"¹ said safety Jim Hill. It worked, and the Packers were 4-1 for the first time since 1966!

Green Bay	0	7	10	7	24
Detroit	7	10	3	3	23
54,48					

"The Riverside Ballroom will be the scene Sunday, October 29th, for the Premontre Parents Club "Post Game" Party, following the Packers-Minnesota Vikings Game."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/72, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/72, p. 19

10.22.1972

ATLANTA

FALCONS 10

PACKERS 9

Despite the rain, the Packers got out to a 9-0 lead on three Chester Marcol field goals (44, 32, and 35 yards). Just before halftime, on an 86-yard touchdown march, a controversial pass interference penalty kept the drive going for the Falcons. The eventual touchdown trimmed the lead to 9-7.

In the third quarter, Atlanta took the lead after a Green Bay interception was called back on a penalty. The Falcons capitalized with Bill Bell's 24-yard field goal that made it 10-9

in the third quarter.

In a ball-control game, Atlanta ran almost 30 more plays than the Packers (71-44). Former Packer, Dave Hampton, carried 30 times for 93 yards! With 1:56 remaining, a 39-yard field goal try by Marcol was no good. "It was a great game. A real fine battle for men only,"¹ said Minnesota coach Norm Van Brocklin.

Atlanta 0 7 3 0 10

Green Bay 6 3 0 0 9

47,67

Milwaukee County Stadium

First Downs: GB 10 ATL 19

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/72, p. 18

10.29.1972

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 27

PACKERS 13

After only three points in the first half, the Vikings' offense came alive after halftime for a come-from-behind win. The loss made it two straight for Green Bay.

Green Bay jumped in front 10-0. Chester Marcol split the uprights from the 41, and quarterback Scott Hunter threw a touchdown pass to Carroll Dale. The Packers were then overwhelmed by the Vikings, who outscored them 27-3 over the next 45 minutes. Green Bay's offense was inconsistent, generating 232 yards and 12 first downs.

Minnesota's defense was especially dominant in the fourth quarter. They picked off three Scott Hunter passes and took two back for touchdowns. Quarterback Fran Tarkenton, who was 13 for 22 for 192 yards, commented after the game, "I don't know if I always have good games here. Some people tell me that. If I do, I sure hope it continues."¹

Minnesota 0 3 7 17 27

Green Bay 10 0 3 0 13

56,263

Bob Lurtsema, former Minnesota Defensive Tackle: "That's the great thing about Packer fans. Even when they weren't very good, the fans were always there. And the way the people embrace that team is nothing short of spectacular."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/72, p. 20

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 66

11.5.1972

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 24

PACKERS 34

A big win by the Packers kept them in the postseason hunt. Green Bay never trailed, and the defense shut down San Francisco's ground game allowing only 21 yards!

A long-distance strike by the Packers started the scoring. Quarterback Scott Hunter and running back John Brockington connected for a 48-yard touchdown bomb. Brockington also ran for a touchdown in each half, and he ran for 133 yards overall.

Trailing 24-10 in the second half, quarterback Steve Spurrier rallied the 49ers. On the second play of the fourth quarter, he threw a 62-yard touchdown pass to Gene Washington. After a Packers' field goal, the 49ers countered with a Spurrier to Washington touchdown pass with 4:18 left.

With the Packers leading 27-24, the Niners threatened on their final drive. But Ken Ellis spoiled Spurrier's comeback plans when he jumped in front of Gene Washington for 48-yard pick-six with 23 seconds left! "I was there, and I just took advantage of it," said Ellis. "If I hadn't taken it, Washington would have caught it. It was right on the money."¹

San Francisco 7 0 3 14 24

Green Bay 7 7 10 10 34

47,897

Milwaukee County Stadium

An advertisement for Vitamin C in the Green Bay Press-Gazette had the backing of Packers' Trainer Domenic Gentile. The caption read: "Packer Trainer Recommends New Way To Take Vitamin C."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/72, Rempel, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/72, p. 26

11.12.1972

PACKERS 23

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

Despite "some late heroics from homegrown Jerry Tagge, Willie Buchanon, and Dave Robinson," rookie kicker Chester Marcol finished the job again against the dreaded Bears. Marcol kicked three field goals, which again made the difference in the rivalry game!

In the first quarter, Green Bay took a 14-7 lead on touchdowns by John Brockington and Scott Hunter. By halftime, they led 17-7, though they didn't throw a pass in the first half!

After the break, the Bears moved the ball easily. After trading field goals, it was Marcol's second kick that made it 20-10 and proved to be the winner. The Bears responded with an 80-yard touchdown drive to stay within striking distance, 20-17, with six minutes left. Marcol's third three-pointer gave the Packers a six-point cushion.

Though the Bears couldn't rattle Marcol, Scott Hunter (0-3-0-0-2) was leveled by Dick Butkus in the second quarter and had to leave the game. Green Bay native Jerry Tagge replaced him. Tagge, who didn't turn the ball over (4-7-47-0-0), later commented, "There was nothing they threw at me that I wasn't prepared for."¹

Green Bay 14 3 3 3 23
Chicago 7 0 3 7 17
56,701

Total Yards: GB 163 CHI 296

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/72, Rimmel, p. 18

11.19.1972

PACKERS 23
HOUSTON
OILERS 10

The first-place Packers held on to this win in the Astrodome and moved to 7-3 in the Central Division.

In the second quarter, two touchdowns by the special teams unit paved the way to victory. An 85-yard punt return by Jon Staggers gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. After Houston tied it, the Packers tried a fake punt. Punter Ron Widby threw a 68-yard touchdown pass to receiver Dave Davis! Bill Peterson, Houston's coach, was stunned. "We gambled in putting on that 10-man rush to try and get a block. I would have bet you Devine wouldn't have thrown (the football). But he did."¹ With 4:35 remaining in the game, MacArthur Lane took off around right end and went 36 yards to put the game away!

Green Bay 0 14 0 9 23
Houston 0 7 0 3 10
41,472

Arriving back in Green Bay, a sign "SUPER BOWL '73" greeted the team. "This optimistic placard, one of many signs in evidence, inevitably caught the eye as an estimated 2,000 fans streamed onto the apron at Austin Straubel Field Sunday night. Also to be seen were a number of 'NO. 1' banners. In a moment of exuberance, Bay Port High School Band struck up 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' although the identity of the honoree, if indeed there was one, was not readily apparent."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/72, Rimmel, p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/72, p. 21

11.26.1972

PACKERS 16

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 21

Washington's defense focused on Green Bay's passing game, and they succeeded by holding the Packers to 67 yards through the air. The Redskins' stubborn defense held the Packers to two Chester Marcol field goals until the fourth quarter. Washington outgained Green Bay, 281-187.

Quarterback Billy Kilmer of the Redskins threw a touchdown pass in each half. Jerry Smith caught the first touchdown, and Washington led at halftime 14-6. The third quarter was a scoreless tug-of-war. Green Bay reached the end zone early in the fourth on MacArthur Lane's 6-yard run that made it 14-13. With 6:24 left, Kilmer's second touchdown pass went to Charley Taylor. Marcol's third boot wasn't enough, and afterward, Billy Kilmer predicted, "I think we're going to be facing them in the playoffs. There isn't a weak link in the lineup except maybe at quarterback."¹

Green Bay 3 3 0 10 16

Washington 0 14 0 7 21

53,039

*"500 Welcome Packers... upon their arrival at Austin Straubel Field on Sunday night."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/72, Wagner, p. 20

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/72, p. 19

12.3.1972

DETROIT

LIONS 7

PACKERS 33

A showdown of division leaders was a beat down as the Lions didn't score until the Packers had taken a 33-0 lead.

Green Bay ran the ball right down the throats of the Lions. They ran it 55 times for 233 yards and three touchdowns! John Brockington notched two touchdown runs, giving him eight for the season. Both of his touchdowns were set up by interceptions by Kenny Ellis. Ellis also recovered a fumble!

Green Bay's defense was dominant. The Lions ran for just 27 yards, and they turned the ball over six times. Linebacker Fred Carr stole the football from Altie Taylor in the second quarter on Detroit's 15-yard line. Three plays later, quarterback Scott Hunter made the theft count with a 9-yard touchdown run. Big defensive tackle Bob Brown explained the relatively easy win this way. "We shut off their running game early today, and then we had

a chance to come off the ball and tee off.”¹ The reliable toe of Chester Marcol also kicked in with four field goals.

Detroit	0	0	0	7	7
Green Bay	9	14	7	3	33

56,263

Thomas DePetro, Packers fan: “In 1972, my parents drove my older brother to Austin Straubel Field in Green Bay. I was eight years old. Upon leaving the gate, I saw this tall, strong shoulders looking silhouette walking toward us. He was walking with a shorter, very pretty lady. As he got closer, I saw his face. I couldn’t help myself and said out loud, “BART STARR!” He walked across the width of the hall to shake my hand. I told him how much I liked him. He thanked me for my compliment, spoke to us for a few minutes, and introduced his lovely wife, Cherry.*

>>>> Fast Forward to 1983. My college football coaches set it up with the Packers to visit and practice at Ray Nitschke Field. I can’t describe what it was like to be the linebacker on my team, to wear the same color uniform as the Packers, and to look up at the side of the Hutson Building and see the “G” helmet looming over us. Once we lifted and showered at Lambeau Field, we were told to stay in the locker room and wait for a talk. The locker room door opened, and in walks Coach Bart Starr. Get this, he thanked us for stopping and sharing our time with the Green Bay Packers, and they were honored to host such a great group of men. Then he walked with the equipment manager to each player, shook our hand, wished us luck on our game, and gave us a game day pair of Packers socks (I still have them!!). I reminded Coach Starr of our meeting in 1972, and he asked me how I still remembered that. I said, “Are you kidding... you’re Bart Starr!” My teammates cracked up. We won the next day.”

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/72, Rimmel, p. 19

12.10.1972

PACKERS	23
MINNESOTA	
VIKINGS	7

In wind chills of minus 19 degrees, Green Bay broke Minnesota’s four-year hold on the division and claimed a championship for the first time since 1967!

It did not look that way in the first half, as their offense was as cold as the weather. The Vikings scored the first time they had the ball, and they took that 7-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. When they returned to the field, they discovered a different Green Bay team, one that ran off 23 unanswered points!

Chester Marcol’s field goal broke the ice in the third quarter, and he kicked two more in the fourth. In between the field goals, the Packers scored two touchdowns. Linebacker Fred Carr intercepted Fran Tarkenton, and the Packers capitalized with Scott Hunter’s touchdown run for a 10-7 lead. Rookie Willie Buchanon picked off another Tarkenton pass, and the Packers turned it around, and MacArthur Lane scored from the three.

Lane and John Brockington proved hard to stop, and they pounded Minnesota for 213 yards on 44 carries! An interception by Ken Ellis led to Chester Marcol's third field goal. The pick completed an impressive afternoon for the defense, which sacked Tarkenton four times and held the Vikings to nine first downs and 144 total yards.

Green Bay 0 0 17 6 23

Minnesota 0 0 0 0 7

49,784

Total Plays: GB 59 MINN 42

12.17.1972

PACKERS 30

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 20

What a start! In the first quarter, Chester Marcol's blocked field goal attempt was picked up by holder Ron Widby. Widby lateraled to Ray Nitschke, who ran 34 yards to the Saints' 7-yard line! Scott Hunter scored a few plays later for a 7-0 lead.

The Packers never trailed. Bob Brown blocked a Saints field goal attempt, picked it up, and lateraled to Willie Buchanon. Buchanon raced 48 yards for a 17-0 lead! The only points in the first half for New Orleans came on a blocked punt that was recovered in the end zone by Richard Neal.

In the second half, the Saints rallied behind two Archie Manning touchdown passes. But Manning's touchdowns took a back seat to rookie Jerry Tagge's first NFL touchdown that gave the Packers a 24-7 lead. Chester Marcol kicked two more field goals in the fourth quarter to top-off the scoring. The Packers outgained the Saints, 244-152, and the Central Division Champs finished 10-4!

Green Bay 7 10 7 6 30

New Orleans 0 7 6 7 20

65,881

12.24.1972

1972 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 3

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 16

Billy Kilmer was right about a rematch. Unfortunately, the result was also the same. The Redskins used a five-man front to shut down Green Bay's running game. The Packers ran for just 78 yards, falling far short of the 120 they put up against Washington in November.

MacArthur Lane was held to 56 yards, and John Brockington added only nine.

After Chester Marcol's first-quarter field goal, it was all Washington. The game's only touchdown came in the second quarter on a 32-yard pass from Billy Kilmer to Roy Jefferson. Larry Brown's 101 yards rushing powered the ground game and kept Green Bay's defense guessing. Curt Knight also added three field goals, two in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Scott Hunter completed just 12 of 24 passes for 150 yards. He was intercepted once and did not throw a touchdown. Without a consistent passing game, the Packers couldn't force the Redskins out of their five-man front.

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Washington 0 10 0 6 16
53,140

1972

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	4	0
Detroit	8	5	1
Minnesota	7	7	0
Chicago	4	9	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Hunter
Receiving	Lane
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Ellis, Buchanon, Hill tied w/4

ALL-PRO

Ellis	Cornerback
Marcol	Kicker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Willie Buchanon (1a, CB)
Jerry Tagge (1b, QB)
Chester Marcol (2, K)
Dave Pureifory (6b, DT)
Leland Glass (8, WR)



1973

Record: 5-7-2, 3rd Place

Coach: Dan Devine

- After a division title in 1972, expectations were sky-high. Unfortunately, by any measure, the 1973 season was a step backward.
- Bart Starr did not return to the coaching staff in 1973.
- Ray Nitschke announced his retirement during the preseason. Carroll Dale was placed on waivers and claimed by the Vikings.
- The quarterback spot was shared by Scott Hunter, Jerry Tagge, and Jim Del Gaizo. Del Gazio was acquired from Miami.
- The offense ranked near the bottom of the league in points scored. In three straight losses to the Rams, Lions, and Bears, the Packers failed to produce 100 yards of offense, and they scored a combined total of 24 points.

9.17.1973

NEW YORK

JETS **7**
PACKERS **23**

The season opened on a Monday night in Milwaukee. The Packers got off to a great start, and they shut out the Jets until there were 33 seconds left!

After the Jets missed a field goal, Chester Marcol hit his first kick for the Packers. A fumble by Rich Caster led to Scott Hunter's lone touchdown pass of the game to Rich McGeorge. After Marcol's second field goal, safety Jim Hill picked up a John Riggins fumble. It was Hill's second fumble recovery of the game, and Marcol booted his third field goal for a 16-0 edge.

Early in the final quarter, a Ken Ellis interception stopped the Jets. The Packers took it home in nine plays, and John Brockington's 1-yard run made it 23-0. The Jets avoided the shutout with Al Woodall's touchdown pass with 33 seconds left.

Green Bay's defense kept the pressure on quarterback Namath all evening. He was sacked three times and intercepted once. He didn't throw a touchdown pass, and the Jets ran for

just 69 yards. After the game, Namath commented on the poor performance. "I've still got my health and my wits about me. It's not the end of the world."¹

New York 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 3 10 3 7 23
47,124

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 0 NY 3

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/73, p. 18

9.23.1973

DETROIT

LIONS 13

PACKERS 13

The Packers led most of the game, but they had to come from behind in the fourth quarter to salvage a tie. They enjoyed a 10-6 lead after 45 minutes, thanks to a McArthur Lane touchdown and a Chester Marcol field goal. In the fourth quarter, a 79-yard drive by the Lions was topped off by Altie Taylor's 3-yard touchdown run. It came with 4:22 left, and it put the Lions up for the first time, 13-10.

With 1:53 left, Dan Devine replaced quarterback Scott Hunter with Jim Del Gaizo. Del Gaizo would confess later, "the situation kind of frightened me."¹ But he stayed composed and completed three passes, including a crucial third-down completion to Jon Stagers that put Green Bay in field goal range. Chester Marcol tied it with 19 seconds left.

Detroit 0 3 0 10 13
Green Bay 0 10 0 3 13
55,495

"The scoreboard keeper did his best to help the Packers win. After Marcol's tying field goal, the big board read Packers 16 Lions 13. Then it was corrected to 13-13, then changed to 16-16, before finally settling for 13-13."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/73, Rempel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/73, Wagner, p. 18

9.30.1973

PACKERS 3

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 11

Jim Del Gaizo started at quarterback for Green Bay, but he completed just four passes for 36 yards. The stingy defense of the Vikings also held running backs John Brockington and

MacArthur Lane to 90 yards. Green Bay managed only 160 yards of offense, and they never got closer than Minnesota's 25-yard line.

A second-quarter field goal by Chester Marcol gave the Packers an early edge. Soon after, the game went south when McArthur Lane fumbled into his end zone. John Brockington recovered it for a safety.

Trailing 3-2, Minnesota's Fred Cox then provided all the offense with three field goals. The first came on the drive right after the safety. A Green Bay fumble set up the second, and a missed field goal led to Cox's third. The win put the Vikings at 3-0.

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Minnesota 0 5 3 3 11
48,176

10.7.1973

PACKERS 16
NEW YORK
GIANTS 14

The game was played at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Connecticut. Green Bay overcame touchdown passes by Norm Snead to Don Herrman and Bob Grim to defeat the Giants. The Giants cooperated with four turnovers and an anemic running attack that managed just 57 yards.

Turnovers by both teams led to a 7-7 first half. In the third quarter, the Packers got two field goals from Chester Marcol to take a 13-7 edge. Early in the fourth, quarterback Norm Snead threw his second touchdown pass to Bob Grim to retake the lead 14-13.

With 1:43 left on the Packers' final drive, quarterback Scott Hunter, who had replaced Jim Del Gazio, passed Green Bay into field goal range. Big catches on the drive were made by MacArthur Lane and Jon Staggers. With one second left, Chester Marcol nailed his third field goal to win it. Quarterback Scott Hunter regained his starting job after the comeback.

Green Bay 7 0 6 3 16
New York 7 0 0 7 14
70,050

10.14.1973

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 10

PACKERS 10

Physically and statistically, it was all Green Bay, but the scoreboard called it even.

In the first quarter, the Chiefs blocked a punt and struck first. An eight-play drive converted the turnover into a Lenny Dawson to Morris Stroud touchdown pass for a 7-0 lead. Green Bay came back with a field goal. In the second quarter, quarterback Scott Hunter hurt his chest and was replaced by Jim Del Gazio. Hunter did not return. A touchdown pass by Jim Del Gazio to Jon Staggers made the score a 10-7 Packers at halftime.

It stayed 10-7 until the fourth quarter when K.C.'s Jan Stenerud booted a 36-yard field goal to knot it at 10. Late in the game, with the Packers deep in Kansas City territory, Del Gazio was picked off by Bobby Bell. The Chiefs failed to capitalize.

Kansas City 7 0 0 3 10

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10

46,583

Milwaukee County Stadium

Chester Marcol had two field goal attempts blocked by Wilbur Young.

"The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Band was its usual stunning self at halftime..."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/73, Wagner, p. 18

10.21.1973

PACKERS 7

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 24

The 5-0 Rams completely shut down the Packers. Green Bay's total offense production included 35-yards rushing, five completed passes, and 63 total yards.

Quarterback John Hadl led the potent L.A. offense that outgained the Packers, 378-63. He threw one touchdown pass to Harold Jackson for a 10-0 halftime lead. On Green Bay's first drive of the second half, MacArthur Lane threw a touchdown pass to rookie Barty Smith. The halfback option pass went for a 23-yard touchdown and trimmed the lead to 10-7.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Rams took control. They marched 80 yards in 11 plays for a 1-yard touchdown by Larry Smith. The Rams not only held the Packers scoreless, but they wouldn't let them out of their end zone. L.A. defensive end Fred Dryer recorded two

safeties (a record for one game) by tackling both Packer quarterbacks in the end zone.

The Packers fell to 2-2-2. The news worsened after the loss. Promising young cornerback Willie Buchanon broke both bones in his left leg. The Press-Gazette's Cliff Christl commented, "An ignominious loss like the one the Green Bay Packers suffered Sunday can yield grave consequences."¹ It did. They dropped three straight and five of six.

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
Los Angeles 0 10 3 11 24
8,558

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/73, p. 16

10.28.1973

PACKERS 0
DETROIT
LIONS 34

In another dismal performance, the Packers were shut out by the Lions. They struggled offensively with just 63 total yards, exactly the same as the previous week. Three touchdowns on the ground gave the Lions a commanding lead. Steve Owens, Mel Farr, and Altie Taylor did the damage for a 24-0 lead in the third quarter.

In the second half, Scott Hunter replaced quarterback Jim Del Gazio (5-9-33-0-0). Hunter completed only one pass, which resulted in a loss of 4 yards, and he tossed one interception. The Lions continued to pour it on. In the fourth quarter, they took advantage of two turnovers—a fumbled punt by Kenny Ellis and an interception thrown by Hunter—for a total of 10 points. In the locker room following the game, a shocked Dan Devine said, "it was a very, very horrible, nightmarish type of game. I'm personally humiliated."¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Detroit 10 7 0 17 34
43,616

*"There have been times when the Packers have been awful. But even in those days, when Green Bay was considered a pro football wasteland, there was always something special about the place and the players and the fans."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/73, Rempel, p. 18

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. XXV

11.4.1973

CHICAGO

BEARS 31

PACKERS 17

In a preseason game between the rivals on August 4th, Gary Kosins of the Bears was ordered to take out Packers' kicker, Chester Marcol. Bears' coach Abe Gibron wanted to send a message about beating the Bears to the man he called "The Polish Prince." Kosins, whose real name was Kosinski, was unsuccessful.

Green Bay lost its third in a row. The offense again produced a paltry 98 yards, including all of 17 yards passing. The Packers actually led at halftime 17-10 before quarterback Bobby Douglass took over. Adding to his 1-yard quarterback sneak in the first quarter, Douglass smacked the Packers with three more touchdowns in the second half.

Douglas moved the Bears up and down Lambeau Field very easily (337 total yards). He scored on two short runs around right end, and he pulled off another quarterback sneak. For the game, Douglas ran for 100 yards and threw for 118!

Chicago's defense clamped down on Green Bay in the second half. They allowed just 7 total yards, and they sacked quarterback Scott Hunter four times. After the game, Dan Devine was asked about the booing. "I wouldn't have much to say about the boos today. We certainly haven't been giving them the kind of performance they expect to see."¹

Chicago 7 3 14 7 31

Green Bay 7 10 0 0 17

53,231

In their previous three games, the Packers were outgained, 1,044—224.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/73, p. 18

11.11.1973

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 21

PACKERS 25

In Jerry Tagge's first start at quarterback for Green Bay, Bart Starr's jersey was retired at halftime. The Packers celebrated with a win as the offense woke up, managing 305 yards! The ground game percolated for the bulk of it with 243 yards and two touchdowns.

The scoring opened with a 13-play, 74-yard drive that John Brockington took home for a 7-0 lead. A blocked punt by Dave Purifoy set up the first of four Chester Marcol field goals. After the Packers built a 22-7 halftime lead, the Cardinals' defense stiffened. Early in the fourth quarter, quarterback Jim Hart brought the Cardinals back with two touchdown

drives. On the first drive that went 96 yards, Hart passed for 82 yards. The second touchdown came with 8:47 left and made it a one-point game, 22-21. Green Bay used up most of the time remaining with a 10-play drive, and with 1:46 left, Chester Marcol kicked his fourth field goal to clinch it.

St. Louis 7 0 0 14 21
Green Bay 10 12 0 3 25
52,922

Near the end of the first quarter, a pheasant ran on the field “with a decidedly open field running style and was cheered on vociferously by the fans.” After the game, he was taken to a local wildlife sanctuary, but “it was unfortunate—one wag said—he was not run over by Packer Leland Glass before being captured. You know, Pheasant Under Glass!”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/73, p. 1

11.18.1973

PACKERS 24
NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS 33

“Second Half Sickness Strikes Again,”¹ was the spot-on headline that greeted fans on Monday morning. In 10 games of the 1973 season, the Packers have scored an average of 3.9 points after halftime. They were shut out four times.

The Packers dropped from postseason contention with this loss. They took the lead on their opening drive after the Patriots fumbled their first snap of the game. John Brockington and Perry Williams scored the touchdowns. Jerry Tagge, looking “more and more like the eventual successor to the retired Bart Starr,”² had a fine afternoon (17-23-267-0-1).

The Packers led at intermission 17-9. With a Ken Ellis’ pick-six in the third quarter, they seemed to have put the game away 24-9, but the offense stalled. Seven plays after the Ellis interception, New England’s deluge began. Plunkett threw touchdowns of 28 and 63 yards to put the Pats in front for the first time, 26-24. Early in the final quarter, a Green Bay fumble gave New England another opportunity. Three plays later, Plunkett won it with 1-yard dive into the end zone. For the game, he threw for 348 yards.

Green Bay 14 3 7 0 24
New England 0 9 10 14 33
60,525

Total Yards: GB 338 NE 456

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/73, Rummel, p. 23

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/73, Rummel, p. 2

11.26.1973

PACKERS **6**
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers **20**

Monday Night Football wasn't kind to the Packers. San Francisco came into the game on a four-game losing streak, but Green Bay never led in this game, and they kicked just two field goals.

The scoring started after an interception of Green Bay quarterback Jerry Tagge by linebacker Dave Wilcox. A game-clinching touchdown pass to Ted Kwalick from Steve Spurrier came in the fourth quarter. Along the way, the Packers gave up four sacks, and Wilcox picked off another pass.

The Packers couldn't stop the run (San Francisco gained 174 yards on the ground), and they never had the lead. The loss dropped their record to 3-6-2. The Niners were 4-7-0.

Green Bay **0 3 0 3 6**
San Francisco **0 10 0 10 20**
49,244

*The National Council on Driver Equilibrium: "Our studies show that Green Bay drivers use more bumper stickers than drivers in any other part of the country. We understand it has something to do with a football team in the city."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/73, Woessner, p. 2

12.2.1973

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS **10**
PACKERS **30**

The Packers took a 13-0 lead and held on tight. A pick-six of Archie Manning by Al Matthews and two Chester Marcol field goals gave Green Bay the lead. Archie Manning's touchdown pass to Jubilee Dunbar cut the Packer lead to 13-10 at half.

In the second half, Manning threw two more interceptions, including a second pick-six to linebacker Jim Carter. Manning acknowledged later that he "threw the game away with interceptions."¹ New Orleans was held scoreless in the second half while the Packers piled it on. A 41-yard touchdown run by quarterback Jerry Tagge and the pick-six by Jim Carter ended all doubt.

New Orleans **0 3 7 0 10**
Green Bay **3 10 7 10 30**

46,092

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/73, Karbon, p. 18

12.8.1973

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

PACKERS 7

Five turnovers were costly for the Packers. The give-a-ways started early with John Brockington's first-quarter fumble led to Minnesota's first touchdown. Three plays later, a pick-six by Bobby Bryant made it 14-0.

Though the Packers outgained the Vikings overall 300-221, they didn't make it to the end zone until they trailed 31-0 with two minutes left. "We had a good week of practice, and it was disappointing,"¹ said Dan Devine. The Packers were plagued by five turnovers, of which four were interceptions. Three of the picks were thrown by Jerry Tagge, and all three were stolen by Bobby Bryant.

Green Bay's only highlight was John Brockington's running. He carried 27 times for 124 yards. In doing so, he became the first player in NFL history to run for over 1,000 yards in his first three seasons!

Minnesota 14 14 3 0 31

Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7

53,830

First Downs: GB 10 MINN 10

"The snowball throwers in the stands were generally no more accurate than the Packer passers."²

Bob Lurtsema, Vikings' Defensive Tackle: "Lambeau Field is just the greatest. I was a rookie with the Giants, and I was introduced at Lambeau Field, and the history exploded in front of my eyes."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/73, Rempel, p. 45

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/73, Wagner, p. 45

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 77

12.16.1973

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 0

In the 109th game between them (if you count 1941's playoff game), the Packers were victorious to split the season series. Green Bay was led by a strong running game. John Brockington ran for 143 yards, and MacArthur Lane pounded away for 101 more. Jerry Tagge threw two touchdown passes, both to Jon Stagers, and the 5-7-2 Packers finished

ahead of the 3-11-0 Bears.

"What a better way to end a bitter season... beating the Bears. The rest of the winter will be just a few degrees warmer."¹

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21
Chicago 0 0 0 0 0
29,157

Total Yards: GB 370 CHI 193

There were 25,466 no-shows.

"The Packers won their last game of the season, and it came as the kind of joy you get from winning the last pot of the evening in a poker game in which you dropped 20 bucks."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/73, Wagner, p. 22

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/73, Larson, p. 11

1973

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	12	2	0
Detroit	6	7	1
Green Bay	5	7	0
Chicago	3	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Tagge
Receiving	Lane
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Ellis, Hill, Carter tied w/4

ALL-PRO

Brockington	Running Back
Ellis	Cornerback
Gillingham	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tom MacLeod, (3, LB)

Larry McCarren (12, C)



1974
Record: 6-8-0, 3rd Place
Coach: Dan Devine

- A labor dispute, two months before the start of the season, was called off by the players. A new collective bargaining agreement wasn't reached until 1977.
- The Packers acquired linebacker Ted Hendricks from the Colts to bolster an already solid defense. On offense, they were near the bottom of the league in most categories.
- In October, Dan Devine traded five draft picks to the Los Angeles Rams for John Hadl—two first-round picks, two seconds, and a third. In July, he had sent a fifth-round pick to Dallas for quarterback Jack Concannon. In 1973, Devine also traded two second-round picks to Miami for Jim Del Gazio.
- On December 16, Devine resigned to become head coach of Notre Dame. His four-year record with the Packers was 25-28-4 (.473). His difficulties with the executive committee and his struggles developing a quarterback were significant factors.
- Bart Starr was named the new coach on December 24, 1974.

9.15.1974

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 32

PACKERS 17

What a way to begin a season. Jerry Tagge's first pass was picked off by safety Jeff Wright, and a field goal by Fred Cox followed. Fullbacks John Brockington and Chuck Foreman scored touchdowns in a 10-10 first half. The Packers had kept the score close for 30 minutes, but the second half was a different story.

Chuck Foreman owned the third quarter, and when quarterback Jerry Tagge was picked off by cornerback Nate Wright, Foreman scored five plays later. At the end of the quarter, the powerful Foreman finished a 15-play drive with his third touchdown run of the game that made it 23-10.

With under five minutes to play, Green Bay rookie Steve Odom went around left end for 18 yards and a touchdown, making the score 26-17, cutting the deficit to nine. After stopping the Vikings and forcing a punt, the Packers tried a reverse, but Odom fumbled

the handoff from Jon Stagers. Amos Martin returned it 15 yards for six to end the comeback.

Minnesota 3 7 13 9 32
Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17
55,131

*"It looks like the Packers may make it possible for men to do a lot of outside chores on Sunday afternoons this fall."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/74, Larson, p. 3

9.22.1974

PACKERS 20
BALTIMORE
COLTS 13

There was no second-half letdown as the Packers built on a solid first half. After Baltimore took a 3-0 lead, safety Jim Hill of the Packers intercepted a pass that bounced into his arms after the receiver lost control from a hit delivered by Willie Buchanon. Hill returned it to the 1-yard line where MacArthur Lane scored. While the Colts held the Packers' strong ground game in check (84 yards), MacArthur Lane's first touchdown gave the Packers the lead for good. After trading field goals, they led 13-6 at the break.

In the third quarter, the Packers put together a 70-yard drive, and MacArthur Lane bulled his way through right guard for the final 13 yards and a 20-6 lead. With nine minutes remaining, Baltimore's quarterback Bert Jones made it interesting with a touchdown pass.

With 1:26 left and still trailing 20-13, the Colts had one more shot. After taking over at midfield, they drove to Green Bay's 14 for the game's final play. Bert Jones threw to the end zone, but he was intercepted by cornerback Charley Hall, who had just entered the game as a fifth defensive back!

Green Bay 3 10 7 0 20
Baltimore 3 3 0 7 13
35,873

Turnovers: GB 2 BAL 4

9.29.1974

DETROIT

LIONS 19
PACKERS 21

The Packers kept the Lions in the winless column thanks to their first two points of the

game! With Detroit leading 6-0 behind two Errol Mann field goals, Green Bay's new linebacker Ted Hendricks blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Those two points ultimately made the difference.

Green Bay moved the ball easily, averaging 5.1 yards per play, and quarterback Jerry Tagge threw for 200 yards and a touchdown. The offensive stars of the game, however, were the kickers! Both Chester Marcol of the Packers and Errol Mann of the Lions scored 13 points with four field goals and one extra point!

Midway through the third quarter, Green Bay moved ahead 18-16 on Tagge's touchdown pass to Barry Smith. Mann's fourth field goal took back the lead 19-18. With 5:50 left, a big defensive stop by the Packers forced a punt. With 1:05 left, Chester Marcol's fourth field goal put the two-point advantage back into play, but not before another try by Mann from the 47 that came up short!

Detroit 3 10 6 0 19

Green Bay 0 8 10 3 21

45,970

Milwaukee County Stadium

"Devine has his friends in Packerland. He also has his enemies. The latter has been more outspoken of late than the former."

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/74, Wagner p. 27

10.6.1974

BUFFALO

BILLS 27

PACKERS 7

In a battle that was halted 17 times by penalties, Buffalo quarterback Joe Ferguson kept the offense moving. He completed 13 of 16 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown. Seven of the completions went to Ahmad Rashad, including his first-quarter touchdown pass.

The Packers held O. J. Simpson to 62 yards and no touchdowns. But big fullback Jim Braxton of the Bills took over the rushing and touchdown duties. Braxton bounced off would-be tacklers repeatedly, and he scored on 1-yard runs in the second and third quarters. Those touchdowns followed interceptions by Tony Greene and Robert James of the Bills.

The Bills led 20-0 before Green Bay scored in the fourth quarter on a MacArthur Lane 3-yard run. It came too late as quarterback Jerry Tagge had a sub-par performance (17-31-141-0-2) for Green Bay.

Buffalo 7 6 7 7 27
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
51,919

*"Packer great, Tony Canadeo, received his Hall of Fame Ring during halftime ceremonies."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/74, p. 20

10.13.1974
LOS ANGELES

RAMS 6
PACKERS 17

A rainy day helped the Packers upset the favored Rams. Los Angeles produced only two field goals and 251 yards. The Rams also had trouble holding on to the football with five turnovers, and the Packers capitalized with 10 points.

Both of the Rams' quarterbacks struggled. John Hadl and James Harris each threw two interceptions, and West Coast writers continued questioning Hadl's arm strength. "It's a bunch of bull,"¹ Hadl said when asked about the speculation. Three picks by linebacker Ted Hendricks led the turnover parade.

On offense, Jerry Tagge completed two passes for a loss of 1 yard. He also threw an interception. In the second quarter, a 68-yard punt return by Jon Staggers gave Green Bay a 7-3 halftime lead. After a Hendricks interception in the fourth quarter, John Brockington's 5-yard touchdown run sealed the deal.

Los Angeles 0 3 0 3 6
Green Bay 0 7 3 7 17
45,938
Milwaukee County Stadium

*"Two banners were hanging from the outfield wall, which were later taken down at the direction of an usher. One read: 'Bart for Coach!' The other: 'A Fresh Start With Bart!'"*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/74, Christl, p. 26

10.21.1974

PACKERS 9
CHICAGO
BEARS 10

The Bears scored all the points they needed in the first quarter of this Monday night game. A field goal and a 57-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Gary Huff to Charlie Wade gave them the edge 10-0.

Green Bay had no offense to speak of in the first half. After the break, they put up only three field goals by Chester Marcol. An interception by Ted Hendricks set up Marcol's second kick, and "The Stork" also blocked a punt with 6:00 minutes left which led to another field goal.

Five times the Packers were inside the Bears' 5-yard line, but they came away empty-handed. Coach Devine, convinced the team was only a good quarterback away from contending, traded away the team's immediate future two days later. He shipped five draft choices to the L.A. Rams for 13-year veteran John Hadl. In exchange for a 34-year old quarterback, the Rams received Green Bay's first and second-round picks in 1975 and 1976, plus a third-round choice in 1975.

Green Bay	0	0	6	3	9
Chicago	10	0	0	0	10

50,623

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 291

10.27.1974

PACKERS	17
DETROIT	
LIONS	19

"I was more concerned about this (game) than any other,"¹ said a relieved Detroit coach Rick Forzano. The Lions earned a split in the season series and kept their postseason hopes alive with Errol Mann's 41-yard field goal with 14 seconds left.

Though the Packers gave a tremendous effort, quarterback Bill Munson of the Lions outplayed Green Bay's Jack Concannon by the slightest of margins. After Detroit opened a 9-0 lead, the Packers went 70 yards in 11 plays for John Brockington's touchdown run and a 9-7 edge at the half.

On Detroit's first drive of the second half, Munson fumbled, and the Packers converted with a Chester Marcol field goal for a 10-9 lead. After Munson responded with a touchdown pass to Larry Walton, Concannon ran for a touchdown, and the Packers held a 17-16 edge early in the final quarter. With two minutes left in the game, Ted Hendricks blocked Errol Mann's field goal try for his fifth block of the season. When the Packers failed to pick up a first down, Detroit got it back with 1:20 left. Given another shot to beat his former team, Mann converted from 41 yards out with 14 seconds left. "It's kind of hard to get two in a row,"¹ said Hendricks after the game.

Green Bay	0	7	3	7	17
Detroit	3	6	7	3	19

51,775

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/74, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/74, Christl, p. 18

11.3.1974

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 17
PACKERS 6

Two first-half field goals by Chester Marcol were all the Packers could produce. Quarterback Jack Concannon started at quarterback, but he completed only eight passes and threw two interceptions. His interceptions led to 10 points for the Redskins. In the fourth quarter, a pick-six by linebacker Harold McClinton put the game away.

Late in the game for Green Bay, newly acquired quarterback John Hadl replaced Concannon. He played well against a prevent defense, but on the game's final play, he was intercepted at the goal line by cornerback Pat Fischer. Though the Packers gained more yards, had one less turnover, and delivered two more sacks, the Redskins held on.

Washington 0 3 7 7 17
Green Bay 3 3 0 6 6
55,288

"There was a brief scrimmage in the stands near the Press Box when a feller unfurled a big banner saying something about a 'Fresh start with Bart' and was attacked by a rather determined middle-aged lady."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/74, Wagner, p. 21

11.10.1974

CHICAGO

BEARS 3
PACKERS 20

This was the only regular-season game between the Bears and Packers that was played in Milwaukee. In a steady, drenching rain, the baseball diamond became a mud pit. The game was "a woeful contest" between two teams "scrambling and sliding around muddy County Stadium like one of those electric football games gone haywire."¹

In the first quarter, a field goal gave the Bears the lead. The Packers scored the next 20 points, including Steve Odom's 95-yard punt return, the longest in Packers' history. It broke the record set on November 7, 1954, by Veryl Switzer also against the Bears! Odom's return made it a 10-3 game at halftime.

Overall, Green Bay recovered four fumbles, intercepted one pass, and sacked Gary Huff four times! In the fourth quarter, an interception by defensive tackle Mike McCoy led to John Brockington's touchdown run that clinched it.

Chicago 3 0 0 0 3
Green Bay 0 10 0 10 20
46,567
Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 292

11.17.1974

PACKERS **19**
 MINNESOTA
VIKINGS **7**

Green Bay evened the season series with the favored Vikings. The defense held Minnesota’s ground game to 74 yards, and Chester Marcol’s four field goals provided all the points they needed.

Though the outcome wasn’t settled until late in the contest, the Packers “inflicted a thorough beating.”¹ They easily outgained Minnesota, 393-284, and quarterback John Hadl led the yardage explosion with 199 yards passing on 10-19 and one touchdown.

Before the fourth quarter, it was all Chester Marcol. His four field goals of 28, 31, 19, and 18 yards made it 12-0. With five minutes left, quarterback Fran Tarkenton found Chuck Foreman for a 25-yard touchdown pass to make the score 12-7, pull them to within five points. Hadl, who played the entire game, came back for three plays and squelched any thoughts of a comeback. His short pass to MacArthur Lane went 68-yards to the end zone to ice it!

Green Bay 0 6 3 10 19
Minnesota 0 0 0 7 7
47, 924

Everett “Hub” Meeds was the Vikings’ first mascot, Regnar. He roamed the sidelines from 1970-1992. In fact, Regnar cheered for the green and gold. “I was a Packer fan for quite a few years and even for the first three or four years that the Vikings were around. The Packers were all we had in those days.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/74, Christl, p. 17

2 Cold Wars, Mishler p. xviii

11.24.1974

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS **0**
PACKERS **34**

The last home game of the season would be Dan Devine’s last win as coach! Three turnovers and four sacks sank the Chargers as the Packers capitalized for 17 points.

An interception by defensive end "Big Cat" Williams set up Green Bay's first touchdown. It wasn't much of a contest after Eric Torkelson scooped up a fumble on a kickoff by Don Woods in the second quarter. Torkelson went 29 yards for the end zone for what must have been a very satisfying touchdown. After all, Woods had been cut by the Packers in September instead of Torkelson! Green Bay led 13-0 at halftime.

With a ground game not as successful as last week, Green Bay relied on the pass. The Packers made several big plays in the second half to pull away. Ken Ellis' 38-yard pick-six started the action, and Hadl followed with a 24-yard touchdown to MacArthur Lane. In the final quarter, Jack Concannon's 68-yard touchdown bomb to Steve Odom wrapped up the scoring. After the easy win, Dan Devine said, "I'm happy we put on a good demonstration for the hometown fans."¹

San Diego 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 3 10 14 7 34
56,267

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/74, p. 24

12.1.1974

PACKERS 14
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES 36

With this loss to the Eagles, the Packers were officially eliminated from playoff contention. Though they outgained the Eagles, 302-214, they turned it over six times—five fumbles and one interception.

The Eagles, led by rookie quarterback Mike Boryla, earned a messy victory in the rain and mud of Veterans Stadium. The Packers fell behind early and never recovered. The Eagles turned four of Green Bay's fumbles into three touchdowns and a field goal.

The Packers scored just before halftime on John Brockington's touchdown run. The Packers struggled on the ground with only 81 yards rushing. They also struggled passing with quarterback John Hadl throwing completing only 16 passes. The loss was the first of three that closed out the season.

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14
Philadelphia 9 20 0 7 36
42,030

12.8.1974

PACKERS 6

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 7

The Packers fell to 6-7 as they failed to take full advantage of five trips inside San Francisco's 30-yard line. They cashed in with only two field goals by Chester Marcol. The 6-0 lead held up until the fourth quarter.

The decisive touchdown of the game came with 9:22 left. A 71-yard march by the 49ers was helped by a 34-yard pass interference penalty against Kenny Ellis. Despite the vigorous protest, 49er rookie running back Delvin Williams finished it with a short touchdown run.

Besides the critical pass interference call on Ellis, the Packers loudly complained about two other calls late in the game. The Niners outgained them 283-228, and John Hadl was ineffective (16-30-123-0-2). "Everybody, including me, made mistakes, and you can't do that,"¹ said the veteran Hadl.

Green Bay 3 0 3 0 6

San Francisco 0 0 0 7 7

47,475

Total Yards: GB 228 SF 283

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/74, Christl, p. 23

12.15.1974

PACKERS 3

ATLANTA

FALCONS 10

The Falcons finally snapped out of their eight-game losing streak, while Green Bay ended the season with three straight losses. A field goal was all the Packers could muster in coach Dan Devine's last game. Dave Hampton, former Packer, led Atlanta's offense with a 5-yard touchdown run and 94 yards rushing.

Quarterback John Hadl, who played in eight games for Green Bay, was a major disappointment. Devine had traded five draft choices for Hadl, which hurt the team's drafting for years. Two months after the trade, Devine departed.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Atlanta 7 3 0 0 10

Attendance: 10,020

Marcol's FG gave him the NFL's scoring title for 1974.

1974

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	10	4	0
Detroit	7	7	0
Green Bay	6	8	0
Chicago	4	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Hadl
Receiving	Brockington
Rushing	Brockington
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Hendricks

ALL-PRO

Gillingham	Guard
Hendricks	Linebacker
Marcol	Kicker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Barty Smith (1, RB)

Steve Odom (5, WR, KR)

Ken Payne (6b, WR)

Eric Torkelson (11, RB)

Dave Wannstedt (15, T)



1975

Record: 4-10-0, 4th Place, Last

Coach: Bart Starr

- On Christmas Eve 1974, Bart Starr was named coach and general manager of the Packers. He was honored to be selected and, "he asked fans for their prayers and patience."¹
- Linebacker Ted Hendricks left as a free agent. In a contract dispute, Ken Ellis walked out of training camp. He returned after being suspended. Willie Buchanon broke his leg in the second game.
- The season began with four straight losses; the Packers' worst start since 1922. Starr's

first coaching win came in mid-October against Dallas.

- The team struggled on both sides of the ball. In overall league rankings, the defense performed better than the offense.
- MacArthur Lane was traded, and John Brockington's production slipped dramatically. Quarterback John Hadl led the conference with 21 interceptions.

1 Green Bay Packers: Measure of Greatness, Goska, p. 194

9.21.1975

DETROIT

LIONS 30

PACKERS 16

Blocked punts and sacks dictated the direction of this game. The scoring started, however, with an interception by Detroit linebacker Paul Naumoff. The Lions converted the pick into three before their two blocked punts did serious damage. Cornerback Levi Johnson swatted down both, and he recovered the first in the end zone for a 10-0 lead. The Lions capitalized on the second block for a 17-0 halftime lead.

Green Bay quarterback John Hadl completed just 13 of 33 passes, and he was sacked six times. Trailing 17-3 in the third quarter, a touchdown run by John Brockington cut it to seven. After another blocked punt, Detroit stretched it back to two touchdowns, making the score 24-10. Brockington's fourth-quarter touchdown run wasn't enough. What did new Coach Bart Starr think of the game? "We made mistakes today that shouldn't be made by a high school team."¹

Detroit 10 7 7 6 30

Green Bay 0 3 7 6 16

50,781

Milwaukee County Stadium

Kicker Chester Marcol was lost for the season with a torn quadriceps muscle.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/75, Rimmel. p. 19

9.29.1975

PACKERS 13

DENVER

BRONCOS 23

In this Monday night matchup, the Packers played well, but they were shut out until the fourth quarter. A key factor in the loss was the play of quarterback John Hadl. The veteran

signal-caller threw two interceptions, and he was sacked four times.

A slow first half saw just two field goals by Jim Turner of the Broncos. In the third quarter, Hadl was intercepted by linebacker Jim O'Malley. Broncos' backup quarterback Steve Ramsey and rookie receiver Jack Dolbin connected for a 13-0 lead.

The Packers' offense came to life in the fourth quarter. Hadl threw his first touchdown pass of the season, and fullback John Brockington also scored on the ground. With 2:26 left, the Broncos led 16-13. When the Packers got the ball back, a Hadl pass to tight end Rich McGeorge was intercepted by linebacker Randy Gradishar. Gradishar took off on a 44-yard return to the end zone to put the game on ice. Though the Packers lost, the Monday Night Football crew of Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford, and Alex Karras "gave the Packers a fair shake."¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	13	13
Denver	0	6	7	10	23

52,491

Ken Payne (12-167) led all GB receivers.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/75, Gerds, p. 26

10.5.1975

MIAMI

DOLPHINS	31
PACKERS	7

The Packers were completely annihilated. "Miami was awesome, Green Bay was pathetic. Miami was consistent, Green Bay inconsistent. Miami was methodical, Green Bay disorderly."¹

The Dolphins were also unstoppable with 414 yards of offense. They ran the ball down the throats of Green Bay 58 times. Don Nottingham ran for three touchdowns, and Mercury Morris pitched in with 137 yards. Before the half, Bob Griese (7-13-133-1-0) threw a 58-yard touchdown strike to rookie Freddie Solomon to close out the first half, 21-0.

The Dolphins didn't turn the ball over, Griese wasn't sacked, and they ran for 281 yards. The Packers were held to 205 yards, and they didn't score until Miami was up 31-0. Starr summed it up with, "You have days that are overall off days, and I hope to goodness this is what this was."²

Miami	7	14	10	0	31
Green Bay	0	0	0	7	7

56,267

"This is a tribute to Packer fans. They didn't boo, as well they might have. They didn't cheer either."³

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/75, Christl, p. 17
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/75, Christl, p. 17
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/75, Wagner, p. 17

10.12.1975

PACKERS 19

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 20

The Packers scored the first 16 points on a 93-yard kickoff return, a fumble returned for a touchdown, and a safety. Other than a fourth-quarter field goal, the offense did not produce a point. The Packers were outgained, 392-161.

In the fourth quarter, things got a bit messy as the teams traded fumbles. A fumble by running back Terry Wells led to a New Orleans field goal that completed their comeback from a 16-0 deficit. With eight minutes left, and leading 17-16, the Saints fumbled, and defensive tackle Dave Pureifory recovered it on the New Orleans 36-yard line. Joe Danelo of the Packers kicked a 45-yard field goal to retake the lead 19-17.

The Saints took the kickoff, and Manning marched them into field goal position. As time expired, Rich Szaro's 20-yard kick won it. The Packers were 0-4.

Green Bay 14 2 0 3 19

New Orleans 0 7 7 6 20

51,371

The clock stopped late in the third quarter causing a bit more anxiety the rest of the way.

"A young boy standing outside the Packer bus before it departed: 'Hey Bart, you should come out of retirement man.'"¹

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/75, p. 18

10.19.1975

PACKERS 19

DALLAS

COWBOYS 17

While Bart Starr did not come out of retirement, he apparently could still handle Dallas. The Cowboys were 17-point favorites, but the loss was their first!

Trailing 3-0 at halftime, the reigning NFC champion Cowboys asserted control with two third-quarter touchdowns. Running backs Robert Newhouse and Doug Dennison scored the touchdowns, and along with Preston Pearson, the Cowboys ran the ball for 206 yards. Between those touchdowns, the Packers launched a 67-yard drive of their own. Rookie

Will Harrell exploded off right tackle for a 26-yard dash to the end zone and a 9-7 lead. Dennison put the Cowboys back on top later in the third quarter, 14-9.

Surprisingly, a fourth-quarter field goal by Dallas proved to be the turning point for the Packers. The kick followed a Packers fumble that the Cowboys recovered on Green Bay's 10. The defense rose up and held them to a field goal, keeping it to 17-9.

In the last 10 minutes, the Packers came back. A 73-yard kickoff return by Steve Odom set up Joe Danelo's 29-yard field goal. With a little over two minutes left, Golden Richards of the Cowboys was stripped of a punt by Larry McCarren. Safety Steve Luke recovered for Green Bay on the 31 of Dallas. Two plays later, quarterback John Hadl and tight end Rich McGeorge hooked up for a 26-yard touchdown with 1:52 left. On Dallas' final drive, quarterback Roger Staubach was sacked twice to preserve the win.

Green Bay 3 0 6 10 19

Dallas 0 0 14 3 17

64,189

Kenny Payne led GB receivers with seven catches for 91 yards.

Hundreds of fans greeted the Packers when they returned from Dallas. "That had to stir up some of our young people, who have heard about the Packer tradition and fan response but hadn't seen it yet."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/75, Christl, p. 21

10.26.1975

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 16

PACKERS 13

The Packers gave the Super Bowl Champions all they could handle. But the Steelers had a "secret" weapon in Green Bay native Rocky Bleier. The boy from Appleton, Wisconsin, had the best game of his career to beat the team he rooted for growing up. Bleier ran for 163 yards on 35 carries.

Though the Steelers had little trouble moving the ball, they twice had to settle for field goals rather than touchdowns. After Roy Gerela's first field goal, John Brockington's touchdown run put Green Bay in front 6-3. Mike Collier's 96-yard return grabbed the lead right back for Pittsburgh 10-6.

A second goal-line stand by the Packers gave way to another Gerela field goal. Green Bay responded with a 64-yard drive and a Hadl to Brockington touchdown pass that made it 13-13. In the last 15 minutes, Green Bay did little. As the end of regulation time approached, the Steelers marched from their 27-yard line to Green Bay's 11 in 10 plays. Roy Gerela sealed the deal with 1:04 left from the 29-yard line. Later, Rocky Bleier said,

"To get a hundred (yards) at home in front of my parents and all makes it doubly nice."¹

Pittsburgh 3 10 0 3 16

Green Bay 0 6 7 0 13

52,258

Milwaukee County Stadium

Pat Mason, Packer Guard: "I've heard and read about how great it was to be a Green Bay Packer. But I didn't know how it was until I got off that plane last week and saw 400 people at the airport. That's why I'm so proud to be part of this team."

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/75, Langenkamp, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/75, Christl, p. 18

11.2.1975

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 28

PACKERS 17

The Vikings were the defending NFC Champions, and they came into Green Bay undefeated (6-0). After a tight game for three quarters, they left without a blemish.

On the first play from scrimmage, John Brockington was injured and replaced by second-year man Barty Smith. Minnesota took control early behind their quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, who threw for 285 yards and three touchdowns. A touchdown to tight end Stu Voight started the scoring, and the Packers came right back on their next series with Barty Smith's first touchdown to tie it. Before halftime, Ed Marinaro's 2-yard run put Minnesota back in the lead 14-10.

In the third quarter, Green Bay went back on top 17-14 on quarterback John Hadl's 7-yard touchdown pass to Barty Smith. Then, in the fourth quarter, Hadl fell apart and threw three interceptions. Fran Tarkenton countered with two touchdown passes, the second score coming after Hadl's third interception. After the game, Starr didn't hesitate to praise the Vikings. "This was the finest Minnesota team I've ever seen."¹

Minnesota 7 7 0 14 28

Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17

55,378

Total Yards: GB 245 MINN 367

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/75, p. 18

11.9.1975

PACKERS 14

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

Both teams had new coaches—Bart Starr and Jack Pardee—and the Bears had a rookie running back by the name of Walter Payton! The Bears got out to an early 10-0 lead on a field goal and a fumble by Green Bay's Steve Odom that led to a touchdown. The Bears gave back the fumble, and the Packers converted it into a 42-yard touchdown pass from back up quarterback Don Milan to Steve Odom. With 51 seconds left in the half, Walter Payton's 5-yard touchdown run stretched the lead to 17-7.

The Packers gave it away in the fourth quarter. Chicago safety Craig Clemons enjoyed a 76-yard pick-six of quarterback Don Milan. The Bears also held the Packers 41 yards rushing. A meaningless touchdown by Green Bay came with 1:17 left. After the game, Bart Starr said, "I don't think you can afford to get discouraged."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

Chicago 10 7 10 0 27

48,738

Yards Rushing: GB 41 CHI 148

Three signs that indicate you might be addicted to the Packers.

1. You married a Bears fan and consider it a mixed marriage.
2. The Cheesehead gets in the way of your backswing, but you don't mind.
3. You've named your driveway Vince Lombardi Drive. ²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/75, p. 17

² The Packer Fan(atic) Handbook, Edelstein, p. 68

11.16.1975

PACKERS 10

DETROIT

LIONS 13

Fullback John Brockington who led the Green Bay running game with 72 yards, said it best afterward, "I'm getting tired of saying we played well but lost."¹

Only five minutes into the game, Detroit scored the only points of the first half on a 9-yard touchdown pass to Charlie Sanders. In the second half, a Joe Danelo field goal put Green Bay on the scoreboard. The Lions got the field goal back after an interception by Dick Jauron led to a field goal.

Early in the fourth quarter, an interception by Perry Smith of the Packers set up Will

Harrell's halfback-option pass to Steve Odom that tied the score. With over two minutes left, the Packers couldn't stop the Lions. They went 74 yards to set up Errol Mann's winning field goal with 13 seconds left.

Green Bay 0 0 3 7 10
Detroit 7 0 0 6 13
Attendance: 76,356

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/75, Christl, p. 17

11.23.1975
NEW YORK

GIANTS 14
PACKERS 40

Green Bay's 40 points were the most they had scored since 1971 when they lost to the Giants 42-40! In this winning effort in Milwaukee, Green Bay pounded out 508 yards of offense, and six different Packers scored points.

Halfback Will Harrell sparked the offense in the first half. He caught a 36-yard touchdown pass from John Hadl to start the scoring. He also threw a touchdown pass to Steve Odom in the second quarter to help the Packers take a commanding 24-0 halftime lead.

The Giants struck twice in the third quarter. Quarterback Craig Morton's touchdown pass to Walker Gillette and Doug Kotar's touchdown run made the score 24-14. Green Bay's defense stopped any further advances, and they finished the game with four forced fumbles, one interception, and four sacks.

The offense kept quarterback John Hadl upright, and he passed for 275 yards and two touchdowns (18-29-275-2-1). Halfback Eric Torkelson ran for 78 yards and one touchdown, and he drew praise from Bart Starr. "He epitomizes the type of player you have to have. He's ready to play when called upon."¹

New York 0 0 14 0 14
Green Bay 14 10 0 16 40
50,150
Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/75, p.26

11.30.1975

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

PACKERS 28

With both teams 2-8, this meeting was called many things—the Cellar Bowl, the Basement Bowl, and the Bottom Bowl. The names were justifiable as the snow, and below-zero wind chills made it an even worse day for football all around. Twenty-nine thousand fans stayed home, and the play on the field was marred by 10 turnovers

John Brockington was a bull. He blew through Chicago’s defense for 111 yards and three first-half touchdowns! The defense dominated with three interceptions, three fumble recoveries, and they sacked quarterback Bob Avellini of the Bears four times. Fumbles by Walter Payton and Bob Avellini led to Green Bay touchdowns. Green Bay outgained a bumbling Bears, 309-132, and Chicago didn’t score until the Packers were up 28-0. “The Packers, 3-8, shoved the Bears, 2-9, into the cellar of the Central Division.”¹

Chicago 0 0 7 0 7

Green Bay 7 21 0 0 28

46,821

QB Bob Avellini did not complete a pass until it was 21-0 Packers.

A ball boy at Packer Training Camp: “My first year was 1975, and I was 13 years old. I was not supposed to be a ball boy until I was 14. A guy named Paul Roach coached the running backs. Paul had been a head coach in Wyoming and had also been on the Raiders staff with John Madden. He saw me watching practice one day and called me out there and told me that he wanted me to be his ball boy. I started out with the running backs—every ball boy was assigned a group. We only got paid thirty bucks a week. If we had two years of experience, we got 35 dollars a week. We got three meals a day. We ate at the training table. We stayed in the dorm. A lot of us were playing high school football, and we able to work out. It was a good experience. The hours were long, and the work was hard.”²

¹ packershistory.net/1975

² For Packers Fan Only!, Wolfe, p. 43

12.7.1975

PACKERS 3

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 24

This was a first-half game that was controlled by the strong defense of the 10-1 Vikings. Similar to how Green Bay defeated Chicago last week, the Vikings smothered the Packers with three interceptions and three sacks. Green Bay only generated 122 total yards and six first downs.

The Vikings moved the ball easily—387 total yards. Quarterback Fran Tarkenton (23-36-235-3-0) was only sacked once, and he escaped pressure enough to throw three touchdown passes, two to John Gilliam. The second half was scoreless, and the Packers played so poorly, “the last thirty minutes was simply a matter of running out the clock.”¹

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3
Minnesota 14 10 0 0 24
46,147

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/75, Wagner, p. 17

12.14.1975

PACKERS 5
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 22

The Rams welcomed home their former quarterback John Hadl with six sacks. Green Bay’s Dave Pureifory returned the favor with five sacks of Rams’ backup quarterback Ron Jaworski, including a first-quarter safety!

After Joe Danelo’s field goal gave Green Bay a 5-0 lead, the rest of the game belonged to L.A. The Rams’ defense completely shut down Green Bay, allowing 53 yards on the ground and 170 overall. When quarterback John Hadl wasn’t flat on his back, he tossed two interceptions and completed only ten passes for 115 yards.

With the Packers out to a 5-0 lead, an interception by L.A. linebacker Isiah Robertson set up halfback Rob Scribner’s touchdown run for a 9-5 lead. Scribner led a deep backfield that produced 195 rushing yards. Three field goals and John Cappelletti’s fourth-quarter touchdown run and the Rams won going away.

Green Bay 2 3 0 0 5
Los Angeles 0 9 3 10 22
59,312

Sacks: GB 5 LA 6

“If you don’t know what to do with your Packer-Falcon tickets, a group of area Green Bay businessmen have an idea. Donate them to Tickets For Kids, which will distribute the tickets to charitable organizations, which in turn will give them to youths wishing for an opportunity to see a Packer game”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/75, p. 27

12.21.1975

ATLANTA

FALCONS 13

PACKERS 22

Despite the poor season, the headline in the Green Bay Press-Gazette on Monday said it all, "Packers Win and Fans Love 'Em."¹

After a Dave Hampton touchdown run made the score 6-3 Atlanta, the Packers pulled away, and the Falcons didn't score again until they trailed 22-7. Eric Torkelson and Barty Smith scored on the ground for Green Bay, and Joe Danelo kicked three field goals. After the game, happy Packer fans tore down the goalposts. Bart Starr on his first season coaching: "Our fans are sensational and without question the finest in the world."²

Atlanta 6 0 0 7 13

Green Bay 3 9 10 0 22

38,565

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Christl, 12/22/75, p. 24

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Christl, 12/22/75, p. 24

1975

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	12	2	0
Detroit	7	7	0
Green Bay	4	10	0
Chicago	4	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Hadl
Rushing	Brockington
Receiving	Payne
Scoring	Danelo
Interceptions	Smith

ALL-PRO

Carr Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Willard Harrell (3a, RB)

Steve Luke (4, CB)

Carlos Brown (12, QB)



1976
Record: 5-9-0, 4th Place, Last
Coach: Bart Starr

- There was not much improvement over 1975.
- Starr traded John Hadl, Ken Ellis, and two draft picks to Houston for quarterback Lynn Dickey. Dickey did not play well, throwing more picks (14) than touchdowns (7).
- Overall, the defense played better than the offense. After an 0-3 start, the Packers rallied to 3-3 before losing six of their last eight games.
- Dickey was lost for the season in November when he separated his shoulder against the Bears. He joined linebacker Jim Carter and running back Barty Smith on the disabled list.

9.12.1976
 SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **26**
PACKERS **14**

With all eyes on Jim Plunkett's first series as San Francisco's new quarterback, Johnny Gray's pick-six gave Green Bay a first-quarter lead. The score stayed 7-0 until Will Harrell's second-quarter fumble on a punt return set up Plunkett's first touchdown to Willie McGee. Before the half, Delvin Williams of the 49ers took a handoff and ran right through Green Bay's midsection for a 59-yard touchdown run and a 13-7 lead.

The Niners never let go of the lead. They pulled further ahead 19-7 with Plunkett's second touchdown pass to Willie McGee. With the Packers unable to stop the run (with San Francisco racking up 210 yards on the ground), the Niners ate up the clock. Another Packers' fumble led to a final score for San Francisco.

San Francisco **0 13 6 7 26**
Green Bay **7 0 0 7 14**
54,628

Three GB fumbles led to 20 SF points.

"With temperatures in the mid-80s and the sun beaming down from a cloudless sky, one enterprising young man covered all possibilities. Elegantly clad in dirty sneakers, ragged cut-off shorts, and a bare chest, he topped off his ensemble with a fur hat. 'Just in case the game goes

extra innings, and it gets cold, he replied with a deadpan face and a twinkle in his eye.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/76, Hierseman, p. 20

9.19.1976

PACKERS 0

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 29

The Packers hit the road for a game in 90-degree temperatures. They faced one of the favorites in the Eastern Division, and Green Bay wilted quickly. With five turnovers that led directly to 23 points for St. Louis, Bart Starr acknowledged that the team had “taken a step back offensively.”¹

For the first 45 minutes, it was all about kicker Jim Bakken. He kicked five field goals for the Cardinals for a 15-0 lead. Three of the field goals came after Green Bay turnovers. In the fourth quarter, the game broke open after fumbles by Lynn Dickey and Will Harrell. Touchdown runs by Terry Metcalf and Steve Jones put it away for St. Louis.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	6	6	3	14	29

48,842

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/76, Christl, p. 17

9.26.1976

PACKERS 7

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 28

Green Bay generated only 36 total yards in 60 minutes of football! The Bengals managed a few more, ending up with 286 yards. The Packers did get on the scoreboard first, however, when Dave Roller recovered a fumble on a Cincinnati punt attempt. After quarterback Lynn Dickey scored on a 7-yard run, the Bengals scored the next 28 points.

Four turnovers by Green Bay did the damage and led directly to 21 points for the Bengals. Cornerback Ken Riley and safety Tommy Casanova took back interceptions for touchdowns. In the third quarter, Lynn Dickey’s fumble was recovered by Cincinnati on Green Bay’s 6-yard line. Three plays later, quarterback Kenny Anderson hooked up with tight end Bob Trumpy for a 14-7 halftime lead. Rookie Archie Griffin ran for 78 yards, and the Bengals pounded it on the ground 48 times for 222 yards.

The Packers couldn’t run the ball (71 yards), and the passing game fared even worse (45 yards). They back-tracked 80 yards on six sacks for a total offensive output of just 36 yards.

"Imagine not even averaging a yard per play."¹ The Packers no longer had to imagine.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Cincinnati 0 14 7 7 28
44,103

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/76, Christl, p. 17

10.3.1976

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 24

The Packers' first win came by way of Steve Odom. He ran back the opening kickoff 88 yards to set up Barty Smith's touchdown run 47 seconds into the game. Green Bay had a 10-0 lead, but they fell behind when quarterback Greg Landry of the Lions tossed two touchdown passes to Dexter Bussey and Ray Jarvis before halftime.

With the Lions still leading 14-10 early in the fourth quarter, cornerback Willie Buchanon intercepted a Landry pass deep inside Lions' territory. A reverse to Odom went for 17 yards to put the Packers at the doorstep. Dickey's 2-yard pass to tight end Bert Askson took the lead back 17-14.

With eight minutes left, Odom finished his day with a big catch. On a halfback option pass from Will Harrell, Odom went for a 40-yard touchdown. "I took off and got behind him (Lem Barney), and when I saw Willard wind up. And when he winds up you've got to run because he can throw the ball."¹

The Lions did little in the second half, and overall, the Packers sacked Landry eight times. The next day, the Lions sacked their head coach, Rick Foranzo.

Detroit 0 14 0 0 14
Green Bay 10 0 0 14 24
54,758

"My most memorable Packer moments are going to the shareholders meeting. It's so neat to rub shoulders with these people, and you can do that there. They're real meetings too. They pick members of the Board of Directors, give a report of the previous year, President Bob Harlan does a presentation, and then they talk about the upcoming year. Then, in addition to all the reports, they have a question-and-answer session."¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 137

10.10.1976

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 20

PACKERS 27

Green Bay won two straight as Barty Smith, Steve Odom, and Will Harrell engineered an exciting fourth-quarter comeback against the new Seahawks.

After Barty Smith's first-quarter touchdown opened the scoring, the Packers were quiet the rest of the half. Seattle went in front before halftime 13-7 on two field goals and a blocked punt that was returned for a touchdown by Steve Raible.

In the third quarter, Lynn Dickey was intercepted, and the Packers fell behind 20-7. Green Bay rallied with Dickey's 66-yard touchdown pass to Steve Odom, who went over the middle and outran Seattle's defense. The Packers marched 71-yards and retook the lead 21-20 behind Barty Smith's second touchdown with 7:52 remaining.

A short punt by the Seahawks helped Green Bay extend the lead. On a fourth-and-one at Seattle's 20-yard line, the Packers first lined up for the field goal. But after a time out, the Packers went for a first down. Barty Smith converted, and Will Harrell scored four plays later. A missed extra-point by Chester Marcol kept the outcome in doubt for another 2:42!

Seattle 0 13 7 0 20

Green Bay 7 0 7 13 27

54,983

Milwaukee County Stadium

This was a record crowd at County Stadium.

10.17.1976

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 13

PACKERS 28

Both teams came in 2-3, but the Packers prevailed to get back to .500. After Philadelphia's early field goal, Green Bay led the rest of the way.

The Packers took the lead on Lynn Dickey's 44-yard touchdown bomb to Ken Payne, who ran a fly pattern. The second quarter belonged to Barty Smith, who ran for two scores during those 15 minutes, making the score 21-6 at intermission. After a quiet third quarter, the Packers clinched the win with a 69-yard bomb from Dickey to Will Harrell with just over five minutes left.

The defense held the Eagles to two field goals until a fourth-quarter touchdown. They

sacked quarterback Mike Boryla four times and gave up only 239 yards. Philadelphia coach Dick Vermeil was impressed with the defense. "I've felt the Packer defense has been playing well enough all season to win more games than they have. The entire front four is strong, and Buchanon is a helluva corner."¹

Philadelphia 3 3 0 7 13
Green Bay 7 14 0 7 28
55,115

*"The UW-GB Band turned in its now expected fine halftime show."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/76, Langenkamp. 20

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/76, Wagner, p. 20

10.24.1976

PACKERS 14

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 18

This was a bruising battle with 26 penalties for 270 yards and nine quarterback sacks. The Raiders did enough for an "inartistic 18-14 victory."¹

Facing a quality opponent, the surging Packers got out to a 7-0 lead on a 57-yard touchdown pass from Lynn Dickey to Ken Payne. Oakland retaliated quickly with three second-quarter touchdown passes by Ken Stabler. Touchdown passes went to Dave Caspar, Cliff Branch, and Fred Biletnikoff. All of the extra points were unsuccessful, and Oakland led at halftime 18-7.

Will Harrell's touchdown run with six minutes left in the game brought the Packers to within four, 18-14. With three minutes remaining, a defensive stop gave Green Bay a final opportunity. They took over on their 34 and marched to Oakland's 25! A pass intended for Rich McGeorge slipped out of Dickey's hand and was intercepted. Game over.

Having been in that situation as a quarterback, Bart Starr chose to accentuate the positive. "It's encouraging when you can play well against a team like this."²

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14
Oakland 0 18 0 0 18
52,232

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/76, Christl, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/76, Christl, p. 21

10.31.1976

PACKERS 6

DETROIT

LIONS 27

After four good games, the Packers were dominated. An early interception by Jim Hunter helped the Lions get out to a 10-0 lead. Detroit rolled with 409 total yards, and Greg Landry threw for 211 yards and two touchdowns.

The Packers' offense never got on track. They turned the ball over five times and generated only 163 yards. Chester Marcol's two field goals provided the offense as quarterback Lynn Dickey was intercepted twice and threw for only 93 yards. For Detroit, the win provided some payback for "the loss Green Bay hung on them a month ago, which cost Rick Forzano his job as head coach two days later."¹

Green Bay 0 3 3 0 6

Detroit 10 14 0 3 27

74,582

¹ packershistory.net/1976Packers

11.7.1976

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 27

PACKERS 32

Six lead changes stoked this battle and kept everyone's attention. The Packers jumped in front 6-0 on a short drive that Eric Torkelson finished with an eight-yard run off right tackle for six. Before halftime, the Saints took the lead with two field goals by Rick Szaro and a 45-yard pick-six by linebacker Jim Merlo. Trailing 13-6, Green Bay fought back with Dickey's touchdown pass to Rich McGeorge. The Saints cooperated with a fumble that set up Chester Marcol's kick four seconds before intermission, giving Green Bay a 16-13 lead.

The Packers struck again right at the start of the second half. It took only 22 seconds for them to hit back with a pick-six by Fred Carr that pushed the lead to 23-13. Quarterback Bobby Douglas rallied New Orleans with two touchdown drives late in the third quarter to retake the lead 27-23. With 4:47 left, Green Bay showed "it could come from behind and win."¹ Will Harrell's touchdown run and a safety ended their two-game slide.

New Orleans 0 13 14 0 27

Green Bay 6 10 7 9 32

52,936

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/76, Langenkamp, p. 18

11.14.1976

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

Eighteen penalties (12 on Chicago) interrupted this rivalry game, but two early fumbles by Lynn Dickey and Will Harrell had more of an impact. Chicago turned both fumbles into touchdowns as Walter Payton and Mike Adamle made it 14-0. The Bears ran for 202 yards for the game, and Walter Payton's 109 put him over 1,000 yards for the season.

Lynn Dickey and Chester Marcol rallied the Packers and cut the deficit to 14-13 in the third quarter. The Bears regrouped, and Roland Harper capped off a 66-yard drive with a 16-yard run for a 21-13 lead. Quarterback Lynn Dickey then suffered a season-ending separated shoulder when he was sacked by defensive tackle Jim Osborne. With eight minutes left, backup Carlos Brown came in, but the comeback stalled.

Following the game, Green Bay's Dave Roller had a few choice words for the Bears about their hits on Lynn Dickey.

Green Bay 0 10 3 0 13

Chicago 14 0 7 3 24

52,907

11.21.1976

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 17

PACKERS 10

With Lynn Dickey out for the season, hope faded quickly for Green Bay. Though they played a strong game against the Vikings, they fell short, and Minnesota clinched its fourth straight NFC Central Division title.

Quarterback Carlos Brown, making his first NFL start, started in place of an injured Lynn Dickey. The front four of the Vikings, The Purple People Eaters, didn't make it easy. They sacked Brown four times and intercepted three of his passes. He passed for 82 net yards.

Green Bay's defense held Chuck Foreman to 84 yards rushing, and they forced Tarkenton to throw 43 times. Receivers Ahmad Rashad and Sammy White caught just four passes and one touchdown. They sacked Tarkenton three times because "We're not going with the same pass rushes all the time,"¹ said defensive tackle, Mike McCoy.

Green Bay tied the score 10-10 on the opening drive of the second half. But early in the fourth quarter, Fran Tarkenton led an 88-yard march to the end zone. His 11-yard pass to

Ahmad Rashad was the winner.

Minnesota 3 7 0 7 17

Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10

53,104

Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/76, Christl, p. 6

11.28.1976

CHICAGO

BEARS 16

PACKERS 10

In the "second-coldest game in recent Packer history,"¹ the conditions froze the stadium's turnstiles and the instruments of the Green Bay West High School Band that had planned to entertain at halftime.

In temperatures reaching minus 14 degrees wind chill, the Bears carried the ball 53 times for 201 yards. Walter Payton ran for 110. Chicago owned the first half with a field goal on the game's opening drive and a fingertip touchdown catch by James Scott a short time later. Scott beat cornerback Willie Buchanon on the play. Though the Packers had several opportunities to score, their only offense came from Chester Marcol's field goal.

Green Bay tied things up after intermission. Early in the third quarter, a fumbled punt by the Bears was recovered by Steve Wagner deep inside Bears territory. Quarterback Carlos Brown capitalized with an 11-yard touchdown toss to Ken Payne. But the Packers' defense faltered after Payne's touchdown. Twice, the Bears drove into field goal position, and Bob Thomas nailed both kicks for the win.

Chicago 10 0 3 3 16

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

56,267

Bedtime Prayer!

Now I lay me down to bed,
A wedge of cheese upon my head.
Allegiance to the Packers I promise to keep,
And cheer them on while I'm asleep.

If I should die, don't let me wonder,
Just bury me 'neath the frozen tundra.
But, Lord, before you take my soul,
Let me see the Pack in one more Super Bowl.

Forgive me, Lord, for those that I have hated,
The Lions and Vikings, they're overrated.

The streets of heaven so I have been told,
Are paved for us in green and gold.

If I get to heaven, I'll have only one wish,
A big screen TV and a satellite dish.
I pray for this, Lord, for only one reason,
To cheer on my Pack to a winning season.

I'll close this prayer by thanking you, Lord,
For listening to me and the time you afford.
But one more thing, please remember the Bears,
Because that's a team that hasn't a prayer!

From Doris Curly, Whitefish Bay, WI

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/76, Langenkamp, p. 12

12.5.1976

PACKERS 9

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20

On a cold and snowy day at Metropolitan Stadium, Green Bay took an early 6-0 lead on quarterback Carlos Brown's touchdown pass to rookie receiver Ollie Smith. It held up until the third quarter when Fred Cox's second field goal tied it 6-6.

With the score tied, Green Bay's offense did little. For Minnesota, quarterback Fran Tarkenton led two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, and Chuck Foreman finished off both. His second 1-yard plunge came with 2:11 left and sealed the deal.

Minnesota's top-ranked defense held Green Bay to 59 yards rushing (218 for Minnesota) and eight first downs. The Packers were outgained 413-144. Their only points in the second half came on Chester Marcol's 24-yard field goal. In their last four games against Chicago and Minnesota, the Packers were 0-4. A critical yet honest appraisal of the team came the next day in the Press-Gazette. The Packers "just don't have the blockers or the runners to match most every other team in the league."¹

Green Bay 6 0 0 3 9
Minnesota 0 3 3 14 20
43,700

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/76, Christl, p. 21

12.12.1976

PACKERS 24

ATLANTA

FALCONS 20

In rainy Atlanta with 22,124 no-shows, the Packers ended the campaign by defeating the 4-9 Falcons. Green Bay came from behind in the fourth quarter on touchdown runs by John Brockington and Eric Torkelson. Cornerback Willie Buchanon's interception of quarterback, Scott Hunter, ended Atlanta's last drive.

The Packers finished 5-9, a one game improvement over 1975.

Green Bay 0 10 0 14 24

Atlanta 0 10 10 0 20

23,116

1976

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	11	2	1
Chicago	7	7	0
Detroit	6	8	0
Green Bay	5	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Receiving	Payne
Rushing	Harrell
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Gray

ALL-PRO

Carr Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Mark Koncar (1b, T)

Mike McCoy (3b, CB)



1977
Record: 4-10-0, 4th Place
Coach: Bart Starr

- Bart Starr's third season was a major disappointment. Fans became more restless for success, and they booed the team more frequently.
- Lynn Dickey returned from a separated shoulder. He played six games, but his season ended with a broken leg on the final play against the Rams. Dickey was replaced by rookie David Whitehurst. Starr was criticized for having Dickey in the game.
- The offense was pitiful. It ranked 27th out of 28 teams. The Packers threw more interceptions (21) than touchdowns (6). On defense, stopping the run was the team's biggest challenge.

9.18.1977

PACKERS 24

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 20

Green Bay owned the first half and New Orleans the second. The Packers struck on their first series with Barty Smith's 2-yard touchdown run on the drive's 12th play. In the second quarter, Will Harrell's 75-yard punt return for six and Kenny Payne's touchdown catch made it 21-0. The Packers led at halftime 24-0.

The Saints took the second-half kickoff and marched 60 yards for Chuck Muncie's first touchdown run. When quarterback Lynn Dickey was intercepted a short time later, Muncie's second touchdown trimmed the Packers' lead to 24-14. The Saints continued their assault with 24 seconds gone in the fourth quarter. Archie Manning launched a 59-yard touchdown pass to Henry Childs that cut the lead to 24-20.

The Packers slowed down and ultimately stopped the Saints the rest of the way. They kept the pressure on Archie Manning, and they finished the game with seven sacks and several hits. "We had to struggle and hang in there in the second half," commented Starr.

Green Bay 14 10 0 0 24

New Orleans 0 0 14 6 20

56,250

John Brockington was released after this game.

9.25.1977
HOUSTON

OILERS 16
PACKERS 10

Quarterback Lynn Dickey faced his former team and he graciously threw three interceptions. He had a poor game all-around (16-26-196-1-3), and his third pick threw the game away in the fourth quarter.

Before the interceptions, a blocked punt by Green Bay opened the door for Lynn Dickey's 40-yard touchdown connection with Steve Odom. Houston tied it with an 80-yard, 15-play drive, and the teams traded field goals before the 10-10 halftime.

It stayed tied until late in the game when the Packers drove to Houston's 9-yard line. A pass from Lynn Dickey to Barty Smith was deflected by defensive end Al Burton and intercepted by Willie Alexander. Alexander sprinted 95 yards down the sideline to the house for a 16-10 lead. "We just didn't go after him,"¹ Barty Smith said later. The shocked Packers were 1-1.

Houston 0 10 0 6 16
Green Bay 7 3 0 0 10
55,071

Dickey had a poor game 16-26-196-1-3.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/76 Christl, p. 19

10.2.1977

PACKERS 7
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 19

On the third play of the game, quarterback Lynn Dickey and Steve Odom connected for a 95-yard touchdown! The Packers were off and running, but unfortunately, they never scored again. They managed just one first down in the entire first half, and Lynn Dickey completed only eight passes all game.

The Vikings also scored the first time they had the ball. The points came thanks to a sensational leaping, one-handed catch by Chuck Foreman that kept the drive alive. Quarterback Fran Tarkenton took it from there with the 311th touchdown pass of his career to Sammy White that tied the score. Chuck Foreman scored on the ground early in the second quarter, and the Vikings had the edge at halftime 13-7.

Though the Packers sacked Tarkenton four times, defensive tackle Dave Roller said this of the scrambling signal-caller. "Everyone else sticks in the pocket. I don't think he knows

what a pocket is.”¹ Midway through the fourth quarter, the Vikings put it away with Tarkenton’s 64-yard drive that culminated in Sammy Johnson’s 2-yard touchdown run.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Minnesota 7 6 0 6 19
47,143

GB ran 18 plays in the first half.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/77, Christl, p. 19

10.9.1977

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 17
PACKERS 7

The Packers scored first again, but they were also shut out in the second half for the fourth straight game.

With 2:31 left in the first half, the Packers took a 7-0 lead on Lynn Dickey’s touchdown pass to Barty Smith. Smith made a fantastic catch in the back of the end zone for the score! A touchdown pass from Cincinnati quarterback Kenny Anderson to Issac Curtis tied it with 23 seconds left in the half.

The Bengals grabbed the second-half momentum on their opening drive. The Packers couldn’t stop their running game, especially when they ran right, and the Bengals marched 75 yards with halfback Tony Davis scoring on a 2-yard run. Green Bay’s offense did little the rest of the game, and Chris Bahr added a field goal with 1:09 left. After the game, Starr observed, “We didn’t run the ball last week, and we didn’t pass it this week. We’ve got to be more consistent.”¹

Cincinnati 0 7 7 3 17
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
53,653

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/77, Christl, p. 25

10.16.1977

PACKERS 6
DETROIT
LIONS 10

The Press-Gazette headline read, “Packers Worse Than Lions.”¹ Green Bay’s dismal offense produced just two Chester Marcol field goals. They turned the ball over six times, quarterback Lynn Dickey was sacked five times, and he threw four interceptions. Overall,

the Packers gained 149 yards.

Early in the game, defensive tackle Dave Pureifory recovered a fumble at Detroit's six-yard line. Four plays later, Chester Marcol made the score 3-0, and the Packers held a 6-3 lead into the fourth quarter. Early in the fourth, the Lions scored on a 10-play, 72-yard drive. Greg Landry threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to hit Ray Jarvis for a 10-6 lead. With 12 minutes left in the game, the Packer offense continued to sputter.

"It took the Packers just one half to score its first 24 points this season... and nine more halves to get the next 30."² The situation was bleak as Bart Starr faced the possibility of a third straight losing season.

Green Bay 3 0 3 0 6
Detroit 0 3 0 7 10
78,087

Marcol passed Clarke Hinkle on GB's all-time scoring list.

*"From my seats you can see the whole play forming—it's a great seat. It's like a family reunion in that section because I've had the seats since I was a kid. The difference now is, that in the beginning years, I was the kid and there were grandparents sitting around me. Now, I'm the grandparent, and those people's kids and grandkids are sitting all around me."*³

*"Somebody better do something before the Packers destroy the popularity of weekends."*⁴

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/77, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/77, Langenkamp, p. 21

3 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 143

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/77, Larson, p.6

10.23.1977

PACKERS 13

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 0

In the previous four games, the Packers had turned the ball over 12 times and given up seven sacks. In this Battle of the Bays, those tendencies continued with two more turnovers and three sacks.

Chester Marcol's two field goals gave Green Bay a 6-0 lead in the first half. In the third quarter, Green Bay's Jim Gueno blocked a punt that set up the winning touchdown drive. Green Bay took over on Tampa's 24, and with the help of three 5-yard penalties by the Bucs, they capitalized with Eric Torkelson's 5-yard touchdown run.

Tampa turned it over three times and lost for the 20th straight time. "In the aftermath of loss No. 20, spanning two seasons, the Bucs dressing room was a virtual tomb."¹

Green Bay 0 6 7 0 13

Tampa Bay 0 0 0 0 0

47,635

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/77, Edrington, p. 21

10.30.1977

CHICAGO

BEARS 26

PACKERS 0

"It's embarrassing. We weren't in the ball game,"¹ said a dejected Bart Starr after the blowout. The strong running game of the Bears controlled this meeting of the rivals. Walter Payton ran for 117 yards in the first quarter, and Chicago pounded Green Bay for 375 yards on the ground. Payton finished with 205 yards, which tied the club record set by Gale Sayers against the Packers in 1968.

Payton began his day with an 11-yard run that set up Chicago's first touchdown. He scored touchdowns in the first and fourth quarters, with the second coming after a Gary Fencik interception. Despite being taken out of the game with 11 minutes left, Payton alone surpassed Green Bay's entire offensive production 205-197. He was "an artist... a Picasso in pads."²

Chicago 13 3 0 10 26

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

56,002

Total Yards: GB 197 CHI 419

"Connie Lempke had finally had it. The Packers had lost another game, this time by a humiliating 26-0 defeat by their age-old rival, the Chicago Bears. And so she did what she felt she had to do. And so did some of her friends. Sunday night, five of them brought her, in her coffin, to the Downtowner Motel Bar. They hoisted a final drink to her, and in memorium, ordered one for the lady. The lady ever gracious opened the lid of the coffin and promptly downed her shot glass of brandy. It was, by the way, on the house."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/77,Christl, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/77, Langenkamp, p. 25

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/77, Aaron, p. 1

11.6.1977

PACKERS 10

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 20

The 1-6 Chiefs were playing their first game with their new coach, Tom Bettis. Bettis, a

K.C. assistant coach, knew a few things about both winning and losing from his playing days in Green Bay (1955-1961).

The Chiefs led 10-0 after 30 minutes. The Packers finally got on the board with Chester Marcol's field goal in the third quarter. Seven seconds into the fourth quarter, K.C. scored to push their advantage to 17-3. On the ensuing kickoff, Terdell Middleton took a handoff from Steve Odom and went 85 yards for Green Bay's only touchdown.

With nearly a full quarter to play, that was all the Packers could do offensively. They gave a good effort, but their talent came up short against the Chiefs. After the game, Chiefs coach Tom Bettis reflected on the win. "He (Starr) wished me good luck and said it was a great win for me. I appreciate that because I think a great deal of Bart as an individual and as a coach."¹

Green Bay **0 0 3 7 10**
Kansas City **10 0 0 10 20**
62,687

Total Yards: GB 199 KC 301

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/77, Fox, p. 23

11.13.1977
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **24**
PACKERS **6**

Green Bay's fourth loss in five games brought out "the worst booing the Packers ever received at a home game."¹ From start to finish, this game was all Rams. L.A. didn't waste any time, and they jumped out to a 17-0 lead. Their second touchdown, and the field goal that followed, came after Green Bay turnovers. After the miscues, the boo-birds let loose on the Packers.

Green Bay's only points came late in the third quarter. A 65-yard bomb from quarterback Lynn Dickey to Steve Odom made the score 17-6. The Rams got the touchdown back in the fourth quarter. On the last play of the game, Dickey broke his left leg. He was booed as he was taken off the field, and he was sidelined for the season. Asked why Dickey was playing so late in a lost game, Starr explained that he "didn't want to look like he was abandoning his quarterback in the face of crowd pressure. Dickey was moving the offense. And rookie David Whitehurst was cold and stiff standing on the sidelines the entire game."²

Los Angeles **0 17 0 7 24**
Green Bay **0 0 6 0 6**
52,948
Milwaukee County Stadium

“There was the elderly lady with determination etched on her face, announcing, ‘We’re not giving up on them yet.’ There was the guy with his (facial) features screwed up into a grimace, pleading, ‘Leeeme see somethin’. Anything!’”³

1 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 149

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/77, Christl, p. 19

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/77, Langenkamp, p. 19

11.20.1977

PACKERS 9

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 10

With quarterback Lynn Dickey done for the season, David Whitehurst started his first NFL game on Monday Night Football! It did not go as well as he had hoped (14-24-140-0-3). In a tight game with the 5-4 Redskins, a 7-yard touchdown pass from Joe Theismann to Mike Thomas in the fourth quarter was the winner. Prior to the touchdown, field goals ruled the night. Before the fourth quarter, Chester Marcol kicked two, and Washington’s Mark Moseley booted one.

Whitehurst’s first start was shaky. He threw three interceptions and was sacked six times, but he played a spirited game and brought the Packers to within striking distance in the final minute. Trailing by a single point with 23 seconds left and no timeouts, the comeback fell short with two incomplete passes, a sack, and an interception. “David did a super job. He was in complete control all of the time,”¹ said fullback Barty Smith.

Green Bay 0 3 3 3 9

Washington 0 3 0 7 10

51,498

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/77, Christl, p. 17

11.27.1977

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 13

PACKERS 6

An eight-inch November snowstorm had everyone slipping and sliding at Lambeau Field.

Green Bay got out to a 6-0 led on David Whitehurst’s first NFL touchdown, a three-yard run around left end. The Tarkenton-less Vikings rallied in the second quarter. They went in front 13-6 behind quarterback Bob Lee’s 40-yard touchdown pass to Sammy White and two field goals by Fred Cox.

Turnovers doomed the Packers late in the game. With five minutes left, and after driving

76 yards, Whitehurst threw an interception on Minnesota's 5-yard line. Moments later, a fumble by Chuck Foreman gave the ball back to Green Bay on Minnesota's 21. Three plays later on the 8-yard line, Barty Smith's first fumble of the season gave the football, and the game, back to the Vikings.

Minnesota 0 13 0 0 13

Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6

50,000

GB had 4 turnovers and 9 first downs.

12.4.1977

DETROIT

LIONS 9

PACKERS 10

The Packers snapped a five-game losing streak by taking the lead early and hanging on. They scored on the opening drive, which went 70-yards, and Will Harrell scored on a 2-yard run. The Packers made it 10-0 before halftime on a Chester Marcol field goal that went through after hitting the left upright.

With nine minutes left, the Lions' offense showed signs of life. After they blocked David Beverly's punt, they took over on Green Bay's 16-yard line. On the next play, Leonard Thompson of the Lions went 16 yards around right end for the touchdown. It was 10-7 Packers with 8:26 left.

When Green Bay was forced to punt again, rather than kicking from their end zone, David Beverly stepped out of bounds for a safety with 2:36 left. The free punt after the safety—plus a penalty on the Lions—put the ball 85 yards away from paydirt. With a "goal line defense in the middle of the field,"¹ the Packers prevailed.

Detroit 0 0 0 9 9

Green Bay 7 3 0 0 10

50,000

GB ran for a season-high 176 yards.

"How often do you see goal posts torn down after a team posts its third win in 12 games by one measly point? And how often do you see a defensive tackle (Dave Roller) carried off the field?"¹

"Growing up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, it was just natural to be a Packers fan. I didn't get to go to my first game until December of 1977. Ironically, it was against the Lions. It was a cold winter day, and it was just wonderful. One of my favorite players was a defensive lineman named Dave Roller. I have an autographed picture of him. After the game, we went down to the field, and it was pure mud. It was the last game of the season, so they let us run out there. It was quite an experience."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/77, Langenkamp, p. 24

² For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 97

12.11.1977

PACKERS 10

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

Quarterback Bob Avellini's first-quarter touchdown pass to James Scott put Chicago in front, 7-0. They would never relinquish the lead. The Bears tore up Green Bay's defense all afternoon with 234 yards on the ground. The Packers had difficulty containing Walter Payton, who ran for 163 yards. "For an 18 minute stretch, the Packers stopped Payton for 21 yards on seven carries. For the remaining 42 minutes, Payton ran for scores of 1 and 7 yards, garnering 142 yards."¹

After Avellini's early touchdown pass, Payton scored twice on the ground. The first came from the 1-yard line, and the second, he took in on a 7-yard run. Between the touchdowns by "Sweetness," Barty Smith scored Green Bay's only touchdown of the game which briefly cut the lead back to four points. Payton's second touchdown run restored Chicago's 11-point lead and clinched it.

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10

Chicago 7 7 0 7 21

33,557

This was Payton's 4th straight game of over 100 yards rushing against the Packers.

¹ Packers Vs. Bears, Swain, p. 302

12.18.1977

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 14

PACKERS 16

Another dreadful 4-10 season came to an end for Bart Starr and the Packers. Quarterback David Whitehurst had his best game to date (17-22-219-1-0), and two interceptions by Willie Buchanon led to 10 points for Green Bay. Buchanon's first theft set up Chester Marcol's field goal, and the second was a 29-yard pick-six that made the score 16-7 Green Bay.

The season couldn't end soon enough for both teams. The 49ers finished 5-9.

San Francisco 7 7 0 0 14

Green Bay 9 7 0 0 16

44,902

Milwaukee County Stadium

Turnovers: GB 0 SF 3

1977

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	9	5	0
Chicago	9	5	0
Detroit	6	8	0
Green Bay	4	10	0
Tampa Bay	2	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Receiving	B. Smith
Rushing	B. Smith
Scoring	Marcol
Interceptions	Luke, McCoy w/4

ALL-PRO

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Mike Butler (1a, DE)

Ezra Johnson (1b, DE)

Greg Koch (2, G-T)

Terdell Middleton (3c, RB)

David Whitehurst (8, QB)



1919-2019

1978

Record: 8-7-1, 2nd Place

Coach: Bart Starr

- The new 16-game regular-season schedule began.
- Rule changes outlawed contact with receivers beyond the first five yards of the line of scrimmage. Also, offensive lineman could open their hands to block as long as they remained inside the opponent's shoulder pads.
- In Bart Starr's first three seasons, the Packers were 13-29-0. A youth movement began, and after linebacker Fred Carr was released, only four starters remained from 1975.
- The Packers won eight games, the most since 1972, but Starr's relationship with the media became more contentious.

- David Whitehurst was the starting quarterback. A fast start (6-1), slowed to a 2-6-1 finish. They missed the postseason after losing two of their final three games.
- The Packers had trouble stopping the run. On offense, they were inconsistent and finished in the bottom third of the league. Great seasons by Willie Buchanon and Ezra Johnson on defense and James Lofton and Terdell Middleton on offense led the resurgence.

9.13.1978

PACKERS 13

DETROIT

LIONS 7

The Packers opened the season with a win on the road for the second straight year. Two first-quarter field goals by Chester Marcol and an early third-quarter touchdown run by Barty Smith gave Green Bay a 13-0 lead.

The Packers' defense held the upper hand all game. They sacked quarterback Greg Landry eight times for losses of 76 yards. On offense, Green Bay leaned on the ground game. They ran the ball 55 times for 181 yards. Terdell Middleton set the pace with 91 yards, while quarterback David Whitehurst put it up just nine times and completed just three for 39 yards. But without a turnover, their stingy defense "came through when it had to"¹, and the Packers spoiled the debut of Detroit's new coach Monte Clark.

Green Bay 6 0 7 0 13

Detroit 0 0 7 0 7

51,187

Total Yards: GB 212 DET 122

"It was only the first game of the season, but the Packers won, and several Green Bay fans showed their appreciation by showing up at Austin Straubel Field Sunday to welcome back their heroes."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/78, Christl, p. 22

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/78, p.8

9.10.1978

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 17

PACKERS 28

For the first time since 1969, the Packers were 2-0! Quarterback David Whitehurst threw four touchdown passes, and the ground game chewed up over 200 yards. Whitehurst and rookie James Lofton connected three times for scores, and tight end Ric McGeorge got in on the act with one touchdown catch.

Lofton's first touchdown, a 42-yard bomb from Whitehurst, came on the opening drive. His second, a 47-yarder, put the Packers back in the lead 14-10. Midway through the third quarter, his third touchdown provided the winning points. "He (Whitehurst) has guts. You look at David and how intense he is, and it kind of touches you,"¹ said a very complimentary Lofton.

Quarterback Archie Manning threw 53 passes for 303 yards, and his touchdown gave the Saints a brief lead in the second quarter. Lofton's second touchdown took care of that.

New Orleans 3 7 0 7 17
Green Bay 7 7 7 7 28
Milwaukee County Stadium
54,336

*"I have enjoyed Bob Woessner's articles in the past, and I am sure I will enjoy them in the future. However, his front page 'Pope vs. Pack: A Test of Faith' was irreverent."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/78, p. 6

9.17.1978

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 28

PACKERS 3

Facing stiff competition for the first time, the Packers kept the score close for the first 23 minutes. Oakland took control with a strong ground game (348 yards). Mark Van Eeghen ran for 151 yards. The pummeling was so severe, and Green Bay's defensive lineman spent so much time on their backs, that they had "a chance to read each of those airplane streamers circling the stadium at least a couple of times."¹

Oakland scored the game's first points after a David Whitehurst fumble. Quarterback Kenny Stabler threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to David Casper. Four minutes later, after a short punt by David Beverly, Terry Robiskie went 11 yards around left end three minutes before halftime. The Raiders led 14-3.

The Raiders' ground game mauled Green Bay in the second half. After Barty Smith's fumble on Oakland's 15-yard line, the Raiders marched 85 yards for Arthur Whittington's first touchdown. Whittington scored again with four minutes left in the game, and the Raiders won, going away.

Oakland 0 14 0 14 28
Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
55,903

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/78, Langenkamp, p. 21

9.24.1978

PACKERS 24

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 3

In the 102-degree heat, it was a big day for turnovers and quarterback sacks. The home team turned the ball over 11 times, with six fumbles and five interceptions. San Diego quarterbacks James Harris and Dan Fouts, who left injured, were sacked eight times.

In the second quarter, the Packers went in front on two punt attempts by San Diego. Punter Jeff West miss-played the snap on the first punt from midfield. It was recovered on San Diego's 13-yard line! On the next play, Terdell Middleton took it around right end for a 7-0 lead. Rookie Estus Hood blocked the second punt, and it was recovered and returned for a 15-yard touchdown by Walter Landers.

The star of the Packers' defense, though, was cornerback Willie Buchanon. The San Diego native had the game of a lifetime in front of the home crowd. He picked off four passes, and his 77-yard pick-six in the fourth quarter finished off the Chargers.

Green Bay 0 7 10 7 24

San Diego 0 0 3 0 3

42,755

QB David Whitehurst was sacked ten times.

10.1.1978

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 35

The season was just four weeks old, and the Packers completed a sweep of the Lions. Green Bay also took over sole possession of first place in the NFC Central.

Green Bay exploded for 482 yards of offense, including Terdell Middleton's 148 yards on the ground. The Packers led 21-0 at halftime on 1-yard touchdowns by Barty Smith and quarterback David Whitehurst. With 56 seconds left in the half, Whitehurst and Thompson connected for a 43-yard touchdown pass.

Early in the second half, the Lions capitalized on a fumble by Terdell Middleton and made it 21-7. Johnnie Gray's interception got the ball back for Green Bay, and Middleton's 76-yard dash to the end zone made up for his fumble. Whitehurst then threw a second touchdown pass to Thompson (14-18-230-2-2) that put away the Lions.

Detroit quarterback Gary Danielson threw two second-half touchdown passes, but it

wasn't enough. Immediately after the victory, the Packers turned their attention to the Chicago Bears game. As the Press-Gazette noted, the game finally "means something more than a tired old rivalry game between two teams going nowhere."¹

Detroit **0 0 7 7 14**

Green Bay **7 14 7 7 35**

54,601

Milwaukee County Stadium

Sacks: GB 6 DET 0

"Packermania, the most recent sports form of legal insanity to hit these parts, descended on County Stadium Sunday. There was the Dave Roller Fan Club, which turned the parking lot into a pulsating disco scene after the game. And there was Dave Roller, reveling in the middle of the chaotic scene and mingling with his troops as any good folk hero should."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/78, Langenkamp, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/78, Langenkamp, p. 1

10.8.1978

CHICAGO

BEARS **14**

PACKERS **24**

Before the game, Mike Young, a Packers fan in Crystal Lake, Illinois, tipped off reporter Cliff Christl about a quote from Walter Payton about this game: "After they (the Packers) lose on Sunday, they'll have to regroup and put things back together, and I don't think they can do that."¹ The comment became bulletin board material late Sunday morning in the Green Bay locker room!

"It was as emotional a win as I've ever been around,"² coach Bart Starr said, all smiles, as the Packers moved to 5-1! It also spoiled the debut of Chicago's new coach Neil Armstrong.

Safety Steve Luke of the Packers led the defense with a clutch performance. For the only points of the first half, Luke recovered Walter Payton's fumble, which led to Chester Marcol's 41-yard field goal. In the third quarter, an interception by Packers' defensive tackle Carl Barzillauskas led to Terdell Middleton's touchdown run. Steve Luke then slammed the coffin shut on the Bears with a 63-yard pick-six for a 17-0 lead.

In the fourth quarter, quarterback Bob Avellini of the Bears and wideout James Scott connected for two touchdowns. In between those scores, David Whitehurst hit back with a 58-yard touchdown bomb to James Lofton that restored the 17-point lead. The Bears scored again with 2:51 left, but that was it.

Chicago **0 0 0 14 14**

Green Bay **0 3 14 7 24**

56,267

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/78, Langenkamp, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/78, Christl/Langekamp, p. 16

10.15.1978

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 28

PACKERS 45

In an on-and-off drizzle in Milwaukee, the Packers clobbered the Seahawks. Steve Odom returned the opening kickoff 95 yards to start the scoring. In the first quarter, the Packers put up 28 points. Two turnovers by Seattle helped the Packers' 28-point, first-quarter outburst as James Lofton and Terdell Middleton (2) scored the touchdowns.

Seattle quarterback Jim Zorn got 14 back with two touchdown drives. On the first, Zorn scored on a 12-yard run. He later connected with his favorite target Steve Largent for a 48-yard touchdown. At halftime, the score was 31-14 Packers!

Seattle fumbled away the second-half kickoff. Middleton scored his third touchdown five plays later! Touchdown number four came with 4:35 left in the third quarter. For the game, Middleton ran for 121 yards on 23 carries. The Packers outgained the Seahawks, 483-369 and capitalized on seven turnovers. Jim Zorn was also sacked three times. The win moved the Packers three games ahead of Chicago, Detroit, and Minnesota.

Seattle 0 14 7 7 28

Green Bay 28 3 14 0 45

52,712

Milwaukee County Stadium

10.22.1978

PACKERS 7

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 21

The Vikings won their seventh straight over the Packers, and the rivalry turned nasty.

Fran Tarkenton led the 3-4 Vikings to an upset of the first-place Packers. He passed for 262 yards passing and three touchdowns. Chuck Foreman caught his first touchdown pass for an early lead, and Terdell Middleton tied it on a 3-yard run after a Tarkenton fumble. The scrambling signal-caller bounced back with an 81-yard touchdown drive and a touchdown to Ahmad Rashad with 21 seconds left in the half.

The Vikings sacked quarterback David Whitehurst five times. On one sack, he was hit so hard, his left shoulder popped out, and it had to be taped in place at halftime. Late in the first half, Green Bay defensive tackle Dave Roller and Fran Tarkenton exchanged words. It got heated, and Roller was ejected from the game for hitting Tarkenton out of bounds. "The Minnesota bench wanted to lynch Dave Roller for hitting Tarkenton late on the

Viking sidelines. Roller was penalized and booted out of the game because of his action against his former New York Giants teammate.”¹

In the fourth quarter, defensive end Carl Eller recovered a Whitehurst fumble. Tarkenton and Rashad hooked up again to put matters to rest.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Minnesota 0 14 0 7 21
47,411

Wives of 14 Packer players gathered to watch the game on television as part of an American Cancer Society fundraiser. “We try to help out a lot of charities,” said Mrs. (Barty) Smith.

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler, p. xv

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23, Mayer, p. 1

10.29.1978

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 7
PACKERS 9

Chester Marcol redeemed himself and won the game with a 48-yard field goal with 41 seconds left! The kick topped off a tight, defensive battle with the only points coming on touchdowns from each team’s star running back.

Terdell Middleton gave the Packers a 6-0 first-half lead. Marcol missed the extra point, which haunted the kicker and the Packers. After halftime, Tampa Bay scored after a 54-yard “Hail Mary thing”¹ by quarterback Doug Williams. It put the ball on Green Bay’s 1-yard line, and Ricky Bell’s touchdown made it 7-6 Bucs.

Both offenses were held relatively in check most of the game, with Green Bay outgaining Tampa, 249-171. Late in the game, with Tampa Bay still leading 7-6, Neil O’Donoghue missed a 35-yard field goal with 2:16 left. The Packers took over on the 20, and quarterback David Whitehurst drove them into field goal position with passes to James Lofton, Aundra Thompson, and Steve Odom. Chester Marcol’s kick from the 48-yard line won it with 41 seconds left!

Tampa Bay 0 0 7 0 7
Green Bay 6 0 0 3 9
55,108

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/78, Christl, p. 15

11.5.1978

PACKERS 3

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 10

Leading up to this game, tense relations between Bart Starr and some media members boiled over. Three reporters wrote about running back Duane Thomas allegedly working out for the Packers. Starr denied the workout occurred and refused to speak to three reporters after the disagreement.

While Green Bay rolled over the Eagles yardage-wise, 385-148, the Packers beat themselves. The offense struggled all afternoon with five turnovers. In the second quarter, a fumble by punter David Beverly was recovered by the Eagles at the 2-yard line. Two plays later, they led 7-3. After David Whitehurst was intercepted in the third quarter, Mike Meyer's field goal proved to be enough. Herman Edwards held off Green Bay's final charge with an interception on the 6-yard line with 1:16 left.

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

Philadelphia 0 7 3 0 10

64,215

Number of Plays: GB 69 PHIL 50

11.12.1978

DALLAS

COWBOYS 42

PACKERS 14

The Packers never stood a chance. They were pounded by Dallas for 537 yards of offense. Though Green Bay scored the first and last points in the game, in between, it was all Dallas.

The Cowboy ran 49 more plays than the Packers. They made 58 rushing attempts and gained a total of 313 yards! Tony Dorsett was the star of the ground game, with 149 yards and two touchdown runs. Quarterback Roger Staubach threw for 200 yards and two touchdowns. No contest.

Dallas 7 14 14 7 42

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14

55,256

Milwaukee County Stadium

11.19.1978

PACKERS 3

DENVER

BRONCOS 16

Chester Marcol's field goal started the scoring, but Denver did all the rest. The Broncos' balanced offense produced 215 yards on the ground and 174 through the air.

Marcol's field goal held the lead until the third quarter. Green Bay's solid first half slipped after halftime. Denver scored twice to take control. They drove 66 yards in 10 plays, and quarterback Craig Morton hit Haven Moses for a 14-yard touchdown. On their next possession, Rob Lytle's running led them to the end zone. They also sacked David Whitehurst for a safety.

A third straight loss put the Packers back into a tie for the division lead with Minnesota!

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

Denver 0 0 14 2 16

74,743

Yards Rushing: GB 84 DEN 215

11.26.1978

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 10 (OT)

With the rivals tied for first place, this was the biggest game in late November in years at Lambeau Field.

Halfback Terdell Middleton scored Green Bay's only touchdown after an interception by linebacker John Anderson. For the game, Middleton also ran for 110 yards and caught two passes. He became just the fourth player in team history to run for more than 1,000 yards in a season.

Fran Tarkenton of the Vikings, though, spoiled Middleton's day. While it took Tarkenton some time to get going (he threw four interceptions), he found his rhythm in the fourth quarter. A touchdown pass to Ahmad Rashad with 10 seconds left in the score tied matters at 10. In overtime, both clubs missed field goals, and the game ended 10-10.

A somber Packers locker room acknowledged that the Vikings now held the tie-breaker by virtue of their win in October. Tarkenton pointed out, "Our No. 1 objective today was not to lose. Our No. 2 objective was to win."¹

Minnesota 3 0 0 7 0 10
Green Bay 0 7 0 3 0 10
51,354

*Bart Starr: "I've never in all my life seen fans like we have here in Wisconsin. They're something else and, I think, it meant a lot to our team."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/78, Christl, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/78, Christl, p. 19

12.3.1978

PACKERS 17

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 7

All of the scoring occurred in the first half! Quarterback David Whitehurst's touchdown pass to James Lofton and Chester Marcol's field goal gave Green Bay a 10-0 lead. The injury-ravaged Buccaneers cut it to 10-7 in the second quarter, and Barty Smith's one-yard plunge before halftime restored Green Bay's ten-point lead.

The second half was scoreless, and the Packers won despite generating just 65 yards rushing, 11 first downs, and 173 total yards. The defense stepped up with a shutout performance in the second half. Bart Starr was pleased. "They were on the field a great deal of time. When we had to have the sacks and pressure in that critical last stand, we got it."¹ Win number eight was huge for Green Bay as the three other teams vying for the two wild card berths lost!

Green Bay 10 7 0 0 17
Tampa Bay 0 7 0 0 7
67,754

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/78, Christl, p. 19

12.10.1978

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

Starting the season 6-1 seemed like a long, long time ago. In nine-degree wind chills, Green Bay's offense froze alongside Lake Michigan. The Packers produced only 161 yards against the Bears (5-9), and they turned the ball over three times.

With under a minute left to play in a scoreless first half, Bears' safety Doug Plank stripped the football from Terdell Middleton. The Bears marched 83 yards, and 15 seconds before halftime, Walter Payton took it in from the one. In the third quarter, the Bears recovered

Johnnie Gray's fumbled punt when he was walloped by Steve Schubert. On the next play, they cashed in with a 35-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Mike Phipps to James Scott in the corner of the end zone.

With the loss, the Packers had to beat the Rams next week to make the postseason.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 0 7 7 0 14
34,306

12.17.1978

PACKERS 14
 LOS ANGELES
RAMS 31

On a rainy day in Southern California, the Packers needed to beat the Rams to make the postseason. They hung tough for 30 minutes and trailed only 7-0 at halftime.

After the break, the Packers went 72 yards in 10-plays for Terdell Middleton's 4-yard touchdown run. Early in the fourth quarter, Middleton took a screen pass from David Whitehurst for a 22-yard touchdown. However, between touchdowns, Middleton fumbled and the Rams took advantage with quarterback Pat Haden's touchdown to Willie Miller.

The explosive Rams also scored after a blocked punt and a pick-six. The loss completed Green Bay's collapse from a 6-1 start to an 8-7-1 finish, leaving them out of the postseason. In the locker room, a disappointed Starr said, "I thought we gave a good account of ourselves in a losing effort. I'm very disappointed but very proud."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14
Los Angeles 7 0 14 10 31
42,500

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/18/78, Christl, p. 21

1978

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	8	7	1
Green Bay	8	7	1
Detroit	7	9	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	5	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Whitehurst
Receiving	Lofton
Rushing	Middleton
Scoring	Middleton
Interceptions	Buchanon

ALL-PRO

Buchanon	Cornerback
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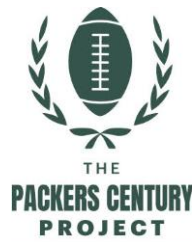
NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

James Lofton (1a, WR)

John Anderson (1b, LB)

Estus Hood (3, DB)

Mike Douglass (5a, LB)



1979

Record: 5-11-0, 4th Place

Coach: Bart Starr

- Fans, players, and coaches were optimistic after 1978, and continuous improvement was expected. But as another disappointing season unfolded, Bart Starr found himself on the hot seat. Starr had several public disagreements with players and members of the media.
- Green Bay had the worst run defense in the league. They gave up more than 150 yards rushing in 14 games.
- After the season, defensive coordinator Dave Hanner was fired. Hanner had been with the Packers as a player and coach since 1952.
- Injuries took their toll. Rookie Eddie Lee Ivery suffered a season-ending knee injury at Soldier Field in the opener. Injuries also ended the seasons of Barty Smith, Steve Atkins, and Mike Hunt. A number of other players missed significant playing time. Veteran tight end Rich McGeorge was also released.
- Lambeau Field hosted its first Monday Night Football game!

9.2.1979

PACKERS 3

CHICAGO

BEARS 6

A warm day welcomed everyone to newly renovated Soldier Field. The Bears celebrated by unleashing their defense on Green Bay's quarterback, David Whitehurst. They sacked Whitehurst six times, and he completed just 10 of 24 passes for 114 yards.

Chicago ran for 183 yards, and Walter Payton accounted for 125. Two field goals by Bob Thomas gave the Bears a 6-0 lead. In the third quarter, a Green Bay interception led to Chester Marcol's field goal that cut the lead to three. Later in the quarter, Chester's second field goal attempt was blocked by Virgil Livers.

It was not a good opener for Green Bay. The injury to number one draft choice Eddie Lee Ivery on his third carry of the game began the misery. The offense generated only 149 yards (Chicago ended up with 300). "There was no rhythm to the passing game. There was an epidemic of holding and illegal motion penalties. There was no continuity to the running game."¹

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Chicago 0 6 0 0 6

56,515

*"Allouez Supervisor Alvin Jenkel and the Green Bay Packers had something in common this week—they both lost in the name of football. The Packers lost to the Bears Sunday, while Jenkel lost to his colleagues on the board Tuesday night. Two proposals made by Jenkel were defeated. He first proposed that the board change its meeting from Monday to Tuesday during the months of September, October, and November—to avoid a conflict with Monday Night Football games on television. The motion was defeated 3-2. Jenkins then proposed that the meetings at least be started earlier—at 7 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. when the game begins. That motion was also defeated 3-2."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/79, Christl, p. 25

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/79, p. 4

9.9.1979

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 19

PACKERS 28

In the first half, it seemed like a rerun of the previous week. New Orleans took a 12-0 lead on two field goals and Archie Manning's 33-yard touchdown pass to Henry Childs. As the Packers left the field at halftime, the fans let them have it.

Green Bay charged out the locker room and scored 21 unanswered points. It began with an onside kick that was recovered by rookie Henry Monroe. From the Saints' 1-yard line, Barty Smith scored. Three minutes later, they were set up for another score by a 52-yard pass from quarterback David Whitehurst to James Lofton. On the next play, Whitehurst scooted around left end for six! Late in the third quarter, an interception by linebacker Mike Douglass led to another touchdown by rookie Steve Atkins.

The Packers led 21-12 with 15 minutes to go. The Saints regrouped for a 76-yard touchdown drive to make the score 21-19 with 10 minutes left. Fifty-eight seconds later, though, the Packers regained the nine-point lead. A 60-yard dash by Steve Atkins set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Eric Torkelson to wrap up the scoring with 8:57 left.

New Orleans 3 9 0 7 19

Green Bay 0 0 21 7 28

53,184

Milwaukee County Stadium

After the preseason was marred by more rowdy fan behavior, increased security was hired for home games. "We received many letters and phone calls from fans concerning the unsportsmanlike language and drinking. Some fans were saying they wouldn't attend the game anymore if it continued. People are getting fed up with the rowdiness. We feel people pay good money to be entertained, and we want to assure them that there will be some order."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12, Wheatley, p. 1

9.16.1979

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 21

PACKERS 10

Tampa Bay defeated Green Bay for the first time in their four-year history.

The scoring started with a 38-yard field goal by Chester Marcol. Leading 3-0, a fumble by Terdell Middleton was recovered by Tampa Bay. On the first play, Jerry Eckwood's 40-yard sprint to the end zone gave them a 7-3 halftime lead.

Tampa took control in the second half with two touchdowns by Ricky Bell. The first was an 11-yard pass from quarterback Doug Williams, and Bell scored untouched. After the Packers punted back, Bell scored again on a 19-yard run around right end for a 21-3 lead. Tampa's backfield of Ricky Bell and Jerry Eckwood ran through Green Bay's front seven for 235 yards and two touchdowns.

Tampa's defense was physical. They sacked David Whitehurst three times, and they forced three turnovers. Injuries continued to mount for Green Bay. Eleven players left this game injured or were visibly slowed from the battle. With eight minutes left in the game, a

Whitehurst to James Lofton touchdown pass finished the scoring.

Tampa Bay 0 7 14 0 21
Green Bay 3 0 0 7 10
55,498

It was Alumni Day at Lambeau Field. How many more years will the great Charles "Buckets" Goldenberg attend? "As long as I am able to walk, and we're able to breathe, we'll be here."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/79, Wheatley, p. 22

9.23.1979

PACKERS 21
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 27 (OT)

Quarterback Tommy Kramer of the Vikings and wide receiver Ahmad Rashad hooked up twice for touchdowns. The first started the scoring, and the second won the game in overtime.

For Green Bay, touchdowns by James Lofton and Barty Smith gave the Packers a 14-7 lead at halftime. In the second half, Minnesota tied it on a Robert Miller touchdown run, but the Packers took back the lead on a Terdell Middleton touchdown.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Barty Smith fumbled. The Vikings capitalized with a touchdown by Ricky Young for a 21-21 game. Green Bay's final series began on their 25 with 1:41 left. Rather than aggressively trying to move downfield for a winning field goal, the Packers called three straight running plays to run out the clock.

The Vikings won the overtime coin toss, and it took only three minutes to break the tie. Ahmad Rashad caught a 50-yard touchdown pass from Tommy Kramer for the winner. After the game, an angry James Lofton threw his helmet and had words with Starr. He publically questioned the conservative playing calling at the end of regulation time.

Green Bay 0 14 7 0 0 21
Minnesota 7 0 7 7 6 27
46,524

10.1.1979

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 14
PACKERS 27

Monday Night Football visited Lambeau Field for the first time! It was an exciting night as

the Packers defeated the defending AFC East champions. Green Bay was outgained, 401-317, but five interceptions fueled their upset.

A blitzing defense by the Packers surprised New England, and it rattled quarterback Steve Grogan. He threw three interceptions to defensive backs Johnnie Gray, Steve Luke, and Mike McCoy, which led to 21 points for Green Bay. Barty Smith, Terdell Middleton, and David Whitehurst scored the touchdowns.

Tight end Russ Francis caught two touchdowns from Grogan in the first half. The first came after an interception of David Whitehurst. The second brought New England to within six with 1:01 left in the half. On the Patriots' first drive of the second half, Mike McCoy intercepted Steve Grogan. Four plays later, Whitehurst's 4-yard run around right end made it 27-14. That was it for the scoring, and the win would prove to be the high point of the season for Green Bay.

New England 7 7 0 0 14

Green Bay 7 13 7 0 27

52,842

GB had 5 sacks.

Russ Francis, Patriot Tight End: "We were out there on the grass field before the game, and I made the comment that it was like going back 20 years in time. The whole town is behind the team and all that, and all the stuff about Lombardi. It was like playing against a legend. These are good people here in Green Bay. They didn't get us down, but they really got the Packers up."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/79, Walter, p. 23

10.7.1979

PACKERS 7

ATLANTA

FALCONS 25

After a big win over New England, the Packers fell flat and were hammered by the Falcons. Both teams came into the game with 2-3 records.

Atlanta jumped on top, and they had some help from the Packers. David Beverly's poor punt helped set up Steve Bartkowski's touchdown pass to Alfred Jenkins for a 7-0 lead. An interception by Roland Lawrence led to a Falcons field goal, and a safety by quarterback David Whitehurst gave them a 15-0 lead. The only points for the Packers came before halftime on a Whitehurst to Barty Smith touchdown pass.

Green Bay was shut out in the second half. The Atlanta defense overwhelmed the Packers, and, for the game, they sacked David Whitehurst eight times. The Packers turned it over three times, and Chester Marcol missed three field goals. "It wasn't Marcol's day, nor any of the other Packers'. One was as bad as the next."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Atlanta 10 5 3 7 25
56,184

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8, Christl, p. 17

10.14.1979

DETROIT

LIONS 16
PACKERS 24

Turnovers continued to hurt as the Lions got out to a 9-0 lead following a Green Bay fumble and a pick-six of David Whitehurst. After Starr lambasted the team for falling behind, the Packers snapped back. Quarterback David Whitehurst responded with a first-half touchdown run. He then threw touchdowns in the second half to Paul Coffman and Walt Landers. Back-up running back Nate Simpson also pitched in with 121 yards.

It was a mistake-filled game with 22 penalties totaling 154 yards. Regarding Starr's frustration boiling over about the teams' play, assistant coach Bill Curry said, "I have known Bart for 15 years. I have only seen him that mad three or four times."¹

Detroit 0 9 7 0 16
Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24
53,950
Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/79, p. 22

10.21.1979

PACKERS 3

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 21

Green Bay lost their third straight on the road. A month after their last encounter with Tampa Bay, the Packers still couldn't run the ball (only gaining 38 yards on the day). The entire offense rested on the right arm of quarterback David Whitehurst (22-35-261-0-3), who threw three interceptions.

Tampa fullback Ricky Bell set a franchise record with 167 yards on the ground, and he caught one touchdown pass. Quarterback Doug Williams threw two touchdown passes, and he also scored on the ground. His touchdown pass to Ricky Bell closed out a 14-0 first half.

Green Bay moved the ball easily, but once they got inside the 30-yard line, they managed

just three points. Late in the fourth quarter, Whitehurst threw an interception that the Bucs turned into a second Williams touchdown pass, this one to Jimmie Giles. The touchdown sealed the deal.

At the midway point of a season, the Packers were 3-5. "Simple facts tell the story. At home, the Packers are 3-1. On the road, they are 0-4."¹

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3
Tampa Bay 7 7 0 7 21
67,186

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/79, Walter, p. 19

10.28.1979

PACKERS 7
MIAMI
DOLPHINS 27

The Packers dropped back-to-back games in Florida.

After a scoreless first quarter, Miami's Duriel Harris caught a 37-yard touchdown pass from Bob Griese. The Dolphins dominated the Packers on the ground (195 yards) and through the air (304 yards). Wide receivers Duriel Harris and Nat Moore racked up 243 receiving yards, and Larry Csonka and Norm Bulaich scored on the ground.

Miami led 20-0 before Green Bay scored. Green Bay's only points came on quarterback David Whitehurst's 78-yard pass to tight end Paul Coffman. James Lofton deflected the pass before Coffman grabbed it with 10:48 to go in the third quarter. Miami fullback Norm Bulaich got the points back six minutes later.

Near the end of the game, quarterback Lynn Dickey saw his first action since November 1977. Speaking about the loss after the game, offensive tackle Greg Koch said, "We can't start pointing the finger at the coaching staff. It's time for a lot of soul-searching. Everybody has to ask themselves if they are making the commitment all week to win."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7
Miami 0 13 14 0 27
47,741

11.4.1979
NEW YORK

JETS **27**
PACKERS **22**

Green Bay lost its third straight. The Jets had the most potent ground game in the league, and they had no trouble running against Green Bay. They put up 246 yards on the ground, easily eclipsing Green Bay's 125.

New York quarterback Richard Todd also threw two touchdown passes. The first came after a James Lofton fumble. Todd and Jerome Barkum hooked up for a 14-9 lead. On the ensuing kickoff, Aundra Thompson's 100-yard return put the Packers back on top 15-14. With 1:22 left in the half, the Jets weren't done as Todd, and Bruce Harper connected for a 21-15 lead.

In the second half, Green Bay cut it to 24-22, but that was it. James Lofton, who caught six passes for 114 yards, heard the boos because of two big drops that forced the Packers to punt. After the game, when he was asked about the fans booing, Lofton replied angrily, "They can shove it as far as I'm concerned."¹

New York **0 21 3 3 27**
Green Bay **6 9 7 0 22**
54,201

A wedding! "We were going to the game anyway, so we thought we might as well have the wedding there," said the groom, James Leverty. The parking lot "wasn't their first choice; the 50-yard line was."² That wasn't possible, so this couple from New Richmond—the home of the great NFL Hall of Famer Johnny Blood McNally—tied the knot in the Lambeau Field Parking Lot!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/79, Walter, p. 25

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/79, Langenkamp, p. 3

11.11.1979
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **7**
PACKERS **19**

With Fran Tarkenton's retirement, the Vikings were no longer the automatic top-dog in the division. Green Bay took advantage and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Bart Starr enjoyed his first coaching win over the Vikings, and quarterback David Whitehurst showed the way with touchdown passes to Aundra Thompson and Terdell Middleton. The defense also chipped in just before halftime. Defensive end Mike Bulter picked up a fumble and rumbled 70 yards downfield for six more! "I didn't recuperate

until maybe five minutes into the third quarter,"¹ he said later.

Green Bay led 19-0 when Minnesota finally scored. The loss damaged the Vikings' hopes for a seventh straight division title.

Minnesota 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 7 6 0 6 19
52,706

*"Dave Roller had his first starting assignment for the Vikings Sunday. Following the Packers 19-7 victory, Roller dressed hurriedly and headed directly to the team bus, where a cluster of 50 or so familiar faces were waving banners and awaiting his arrival. They were the last survivors of the Dave Roller fan club, a group from Port Washington. Roller pumped hands, kissed cheeks, and cracked jokes for several minutes, all while wearing a grin from ear to ear."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/79, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/79, p. 17

11.18.1979

PACKERS 12

BUFFALO

BILLS 19

Six field goals kept the game close, and the Bills won it with a late touchdown. Buffalo led early 6-3 when Green Bay took the lead on a 34-yard touchdown from Lynn Dickey to James Lofton. A missed extra-point made it 9-6. A second field goal by kicker Tom Birney gave the Packers a 12-6 edge at half.

Leading 12-9 in the third quarter, Lynn Dickey threw over the middle to tight end Paul Coffman. After a nice catch, Coffman fumbled, and the Bills recovered on their 45-yard line. Nick Meyer kicked his fourth field to tie it at 12. In the fourth quarter, Buffalo marched 81 yards and scored. During the drive, an interception by cornerback Mike McCoy was overturned on a holding call. Running back Mike Collier's winning touchdown came with 3:04 left.

Green Bay 3 9 0 0 12
Buffalo 3 3 6 7 19
39,679

11.25.1979

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 21
PACKERS 10

A fumble by Green Bay halfback Eric Torkelson led to the first of three touchdown passes by Eagle quarterback Ron Jaworski. Wilbert Montgomery caught the first, an 11-yard pass for a 7-0 lead. Leading 7-3 at halftime, Philly scored on its first possession of the second half. A Jaworski pass to Harold Carmichael made it 14-3. In the fourth quarter, the Eagles pulled off a goal-line stand and marched 99 yards in six plays to clinch it with 7:22 left.

Lynn Dickey, who relieved David Whitehurst to start the second half, threw a touchdown to James Lofton with 51 seconds left. The touchdown pass was his first touchdown pass since 1977. After the game, with losses mounting, Starr chose not to answer questions from sports reporter Dave Begel of the Milwaukee Journal.

Philadelphia 7 0 7 7 21

Green Bay 3 0 0 7 10

50,023

“Cliff Van Beek attended the Packer game at Lambeau Field Sunday. So what, you say? The 76-year-old lifelong resident of Green Bay just may hold the record for attending the most Packer games here—over 500—since the team was formed. He saw the first game against Minneapolis in 1919, and he’s seen every home game since, except one. ‘The game I missed was in the 1920s when I had to take my two cousins to a convent in Milwaukee.’ Asked which Packer game was his favorite, Van Beek chose the 1967 title game against Dallas. He also expressed a preference for the first game Don Hutson played in 1935.”

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/79, Walter, p. 1

12.2.1979

PACKERS 21

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 38

Quarterback Lynn Dickey played the entire game (13-33-212-2-0) for Green Bay. He threw two touchdown passes in a 21-point second quarter. Walter Tullis and Aundra Thompson caught the two scores, and Green Bay led 21-7 at the break.

After halftime, the Packers collapsed. They didn’t score again, and the offense generated just 23 total yards. The defense couldn’t protect the lead as the Redskins went on a tear and scored 31 unanswered points. Quarterback Joe Theisman threw three touchdown passes in the second half.

Green Bay's second-half collapse was a low-point for Starr and the Packers. Sensing this, Washington's coach Jack Pardee said after the game, "This is the best Packer team I've seen in five years. Anyone who plays them is in for an intense 60 minutes."¹ Many fans felt very differently.

Green Bay 0 21 0 0 21
Washington 7 0 0 24 38
51,682

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/79, Levenson, p. 26

12.9.1979

CHICAGO

BEARS 15
PACKERS 14

The first-place Bears squeaked by the Packers. Had Green Bay not turned the ball over five times, the results might have been different. But since four of the miscues came in the fourth quarter, they gave the game away.

The Packers enjoyed a 7-6 lead at the half. Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman gave Green Bay the lead, while the Bears had scored on two Bob Thomas field goals. After a scoreless third quarter and 11 minutes to go in the game, Chicago linebacker Tom Hicks stepped in front of a Lynn Dickey pass and bolted 66 yards for the end zone. "I got hit as I threw, and the next thing I saw was the guy running down the field,"¹ Dickey said later.

The situation worsened for Green Bay when Mike McCoy fumbled away the ensuing kickoff. Bob Thomas booted his third field goal from the 44 for a 15-7 lead with 9:25 left. In the final minutes, the Packers put together an 84-yard drive and scored on Dickey's second touchdown pass to Coffman with 1:33 left. After a successful onside kick, Tom Birney of the Packers missed a 52-yard field goal with 32 seconds left.

Chicago 3 3 0 9 15
Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
54,207

Sacks: GB 1 CHI 4

12.15.1979

PACKERS 18
DETROIT
LIONS 13

The Packers avoided another four-win season by defeating the 2-13 Lions. Tom Birney's four field goals and Eric Torkelson's touchdown run led Green Bay. The Packers sacked Detroit's quarterbacks—Jeff Komlo and Scott Hunter—seven times.

Green Bay 6 3 9 0 18

Detroit 7 0 0 6 13

57,376

Press-Gazette Editorial: "A young Packer player speaking through the hurt and frustration of a losing season, has said he doesn't like fans voicing their displeasure with his team in this newspaper. He doesn't like outsiders tampering with the Packer family, he said. We don't think he understands the relationship between this town and our team. Fans who criticize do not tamper with the Packer family. The fan is part of that family. That closeness is an essential part of the Packer legacy."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/79, p. 4

1979

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T
Chicago	10	6	0
Tampa Bay	10	6	0
Minnesota	7	9	0
Green Bay	5	11	0
Detroit	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Whitehurst
Rushing	Middleton
Receiving	Coffman
Scoring	Birney
Interceptions	Gray

ALL-PRO

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Eddie Lee Ivery (1, RB)

Steve Atkins (2, RB)

Charles Johnson (3, DT)

Rich Wingo (7b, LB)

1980s





1980
Record: 5-10-1, 5th Place, Last
Coach: Bart Starr

- Green Bay's number one draft pick, defensive end Bruce Clark, decided to play in Canada.
- Defensive end Ezra Johnson was seen eating a hotdog on the bench during the last preseason game, which led to the resignation of defensive line coach Fred von Appen.
- John Meyer replaced Dave Hanner as defensive coordinator. Green Bay changed from a 4-3 to a 3-4 alignment with little improvement.
- Early in the season, rumors ran wild about the eventual demise of Starr's coaching career. At the end of the season, Starr was relieved of his General Manager responsibilities.
- The Packers scored the fewest points in the league. Eddie Ivey returned and led the team in rushing with 874 yards. He teamed with rookie Gerry Ellis to lead a resurgent ground game. Quarterback Lynn Dickey had a sub-par season with 15 touchdowns and 25 interceptions.

9.7.1980

CHICAGO

BEARS **6**
PACKERS **12 (OT)**

One of the most memorable openers in Packers' history featured one of the most miraculous finishes. Photos of the winning play appeared on Monday's front page of the Green Bay Press-Gazette!

Before the stunning finish, Green Bay's defense had been the story. Walter Payton was held to 65 yards rushing, and the game became a field goal contest between Chester Marcol and Bob Thomas. The shortest of the four field goals was 34 yards, and it came from Thomas with 11:35 left in the third quarter.

At the end of regulation, the score was 6-6. The Bears won the toss, but they went three-and-out. Green Bay took over at midfield. Quarterback Lynn Dickey, who did not have a good game, connected with James Lofton for a 32-yard gain. It set up Chester Marcol's 34-yard field goal attempt that hit Alan Page's helmet and bounced right back to Marcol.

Chester caught the football and ran around left end untouched into the end zone for the win! "It was clear sailing,"¹ said a delirious Marcol in the locker room."¹ The great broadcaster Lindsey Nelson was amazed as the play unfolded. His description was "Taken by Marcol. Chester Marcol! Chester Marcol takes it in!"²

Chicago 3 0 3 0 0 6
Green Bay 0 6 0 0 6 12
54,381

The Packers released Chester Marcol on October 8, 1980.

¹ packershistory.net/1980Packers

²youtube.com/watch?v=KA2fHoUkG2g&t=77s&fbclid=IwAR2DMOSSkbyZJ6o54qDabfPd7fiwLZtaWamJLXjQDMMRPEGNgKFI5WpBghQ

9.14.1980

DETROIT

LIONS 29
PACKERS 7

Detroit rookies Billy Sims and Eddie Murray starred in this easy win. Sims scored two touchdowns, while Eddie Murray kicked five field goals and two extra points for all of Detroit's points. The Lions' offense pushed around the Packer defense for 459 total yards.

In the second quarter, Green Bay led briefly, 7-6, on Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run. But their awful offensive performance produced just 59 yards rushing. Quarterback Lynn Dickey was intercepted twice and sacked three times. After two games, the Packers looked "inept, boring and punchless"¹ with one touchdown and two field goals.

Detroit 3 13 6 7 29
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
54,099

Milwaukee County Stadium

*"It used to be a sin to play football on Sunday. The way the Packers play, it still is."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/80, Christl, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/80, Larson, p. 17

9.21.1980

PACKERS 21
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 51

A 37-point second quarter by the Rams settled matters fairly quickly. Quarterback Vince Ferragamo and running back Elvis Peacock sparked this blowout. Ferragamo threw three

touchdown passes to three different receivers, and Peacock led the ground game and scored a touchdown.

The Packers trailed 51-7, thanks, in part, to five interceptions thrown by quarterbacks Lynn Dickey and Bill Toup which led to 34 points for the Rams. Dickey's two picks were taken all the way back from 99 and 83 yards away! L.A.'s defense overpowered Green Bay and allowed just 60 yards rushing. They also sacked Dickey seven times. After the loss, Lynn Dickey (13-25-176-1-3) questioned his own performance with, "I'm wondering if I'm the man for the job."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 14 21
Los Angeles 7 37 7 0 51
63,850

LA outgained GB 381-192

"Unless all Packer fans and reporters devote every waking moment to the support of the football team, this isn't going to get turned around. It's time that all of us, fans and reporters alike, take a hard look at ourselves. It's time for some soul-searching. Are we doing all we can?"²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/80, Christl, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/80, Walter, p. 17

9.28.1980

DALLAS

COWBOYS 28
PACKERS 7

The Cowboys had no trouble with Green Bay. They put up over 400 yards on offense, and Danny White directed four touchdown drives, three of which went for 70, 80, and 90 yards. White threw for 227 yards, and in the second half, his two touchdown passes broke the game wide open.

The Packers looked lost the entire contest. Lynn Dickey was 11 for 26 for 141 yards and one interception. He was sacked three times, and Green Bay committed nine penalties for 90 yards. The Packers were outgained 394-264, and their lone touchdown came on a Steve Atkins touchdown run. Despite the loss, several players saw progress. "I felt we came together today, despite the score,"¹ linebacker, Mike Douglass, said. The running game was indeed a bright spot, and the team played hard until the very end.

Dallas 7 7 7 7 28
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
54,776

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/80, Christl, p. 17

10.5.1980

CINCINNATI

BENGALS **9**
PACKERS **14**

Before the game, coach Bart Starr got a vote of confidence from the 45-member board. The Packers responded with a win that snapped their three-game losing streak.

At 1-3, both teams came into the game desperately looking for a win. Two former Lombardi Packers graced the opposing sidelines... coach Bart Starr and his former right tackle, coach Forrest Gregg of the Bengals. This was their first head-to-head meeting as coaches during the regular season.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey threw two first-half touchdown passes to put the Packers on top. James Lofton caught an early 15-yard touchdown from Dickey. In the second quarter, Dickey directed a 92-yard drive that culminated with a short pass to running back Steve Atkins for six more. Green Bay's defense allowed just three field goals, and they held the Bengals to 216 total yards. Quarterback Kenny Anderson was also sacked four times.

Cincinnati **6 0 0 3 9**

Green Bay **7 7 0 0 14**

55,006

Total Yards: GB 313 CIN 216

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Marching Band regaled the fans at halftime!

10.12.1980

PACKERS **14**

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS **14 (OT)**

An offensive explosion by the Packers netted no more than a tie. Green Bay put up 569 total yards, and most of it came from the arm of Lynn Dickey, who threw 51 passes for 418 yards and one touchdown. His 418 passing yards broke a team record set by Don Horn in 1969! He also broke Bart Starr's team record for pass completions with 35!

With the Packers in front 7-0, on Terdell Middleton's first-quarter touchdown run, Dickey threw a pick-six that tied the score. He redeemed himself on the next series with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Paul Coffman. Then, trailing 14-7 in the fourth quarter, Tampa tied it again on a five-yard touchdown run by quarterback Doug Williams.

Green Bay's new kicker, Tom Birney, who had replaced Chester Marcol earlier in the week, was called upon at the end of regulation time and in overtime to win it. He missed both!

After the game, reporters questioned Starr about his decision to release Marcol in light of Birney's misses, but "Starr was unwilling to second-guess himself."¹

Tampa Bay 0 7 0 7 0 14
Green Bay 7 7 0 0 0 14
64,854

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/80, Christl, p. 18

10.19.1980

PACKERS 21

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 26

The Packers did little in the first half, and Cleveland enjoyed a 10-0 halftime lead. They scored on Mike Pruitt's touchdown run and Don Cockroft's field goal.

In the third and fourth quarters, in a span of 12 minutes, quarterback Lynn Dickey directed three touchdown drives. Dickey and running back Gerry Ellis both scored on the ground in the third quarter. The Packers took the lead 21-13 on Dickey's 23-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton with seven minutes left.

Quarterback Brian Sipe and the Browns, however, stormed back. Sipe wrapped up a fantastic afternoon (24-39-391-2-0) with two touchdown drives. The first covered 69 yards in two plays with Ozzie Newsome's 19-yard touchdown catch. Trailing 21-20 with 1:53 left, the Browns got the ball back. With the clock down to 16 seconds left, Sipe dropped back and delivered a 46-yard touchdown pass to Dave Logan for the win. Logan beat rookie cornerback Mark Lee, who was choked-up to the point of tears after the game but said, "I know I can shake it off."¹

Green Bay 0 0 14 7 21
Cleveland 0 10 3 13 26
75,548

"A Pep Rally for the Packers will be held Saturday at the Lambeau Field parking lot. All Packer players and coaches will attend the rally. Prizes will be given away, and entertainment will be provided by the UW-Green Bay Pep Band and the Packer Sideliners. Admission to the Packer Hall of Fame will be half-price all day Saturday. Packer practice will be open to the public from 11:30 to Noon Saturday. The rally will start at noon."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/80, Christl, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/80, p. 21

10.26.1980

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **3**
PACKERS **16**

The last time the Packers beat the Vikings in Green Bay was in 1965! Green Bay's defense had a fine game. They held Minnesota's strong ground game to 85 yards and no touchdowns. After a scoreless first half, the Packers finally snapped their losing streak.

They began by trading field goals for a 3-3 start. In the fourth quarter, nine straight running plays put the Packers on Minnesota's 4-yard line. Lynn Dickey's one pass went for a touchdown to Bill Larson. On their next series, Dickey sealed the deal with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Paul Coffman with seven minutes left. On both drives, the running of Gerry Ellis and Eddie Lee Ivery kept the chains moving.

Green Bay's defense did a good job of containing the Vikings. Quarterback Tommy Kramer was too inconsistent (19-38-222-0-1), and they couldn't run the ball.

Minnesota **0 0 3 0 3**
Green Bay **0 0 3 13 16**
59,191

Turnovers: GB 5 MN 3

11.2.1980

PACKERS **20**
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS **22**

A bad snap by Buddy Aydelette went over the head of Packer punter David Beverly and out of the end zone. The safety came with just 1:48 gone, but it made all the difference.

When the Packers got the ball back, quarterback Lynn Dickey picked up where he left off the week prior against Minnesota with two first-half touchdown passes to Gerry Ellis. The first was set up by Wylie Turner's interception of Terry Bradshaw.

Another bad snap on a Green Bay punt gave Pittsburgh the ball on Green Bay's 24-yard line. Bradshaw threw a 7-yard touchdown to Lynn Swan, and the Steelers led 9-7. Dickey came right back with a 69-yard touchdown bomb to Gerry Ellis, "who outraced Jack Ham, Mike Wagner, and Ron Johnson" to the end zone for a 14-9 halftime lead!

In the second half, two field goals by Matt Bahr, and a touchdown catch by Wisconsin native Rocky Bleier, led Pittsburgh's comeback. Bleier's touchdown was a 4-yard toss from Bradshaw with five minutes left. With 46 seconds left, Dickey hit back with another

touchdown to Aundra Thompson, but the Packers remained a safety short.

Green Bay 7 7 0 6 20
Pittsburgh 2 7 6 7 22
52,165

GB Linebacker John Anderson broke his arm in the 3rd quarter.

*Rocky Bleier: "The biggest thing for Packer fans is their tailgating frenzy. The Pittsburgh fans are kind of the same way in their elaborate tailgates. I think Packer fans have first dibs on that. They have recognition for their bratwursts and their cookouts and being at Lambeau Field at a time when it may not have been happening at other venues."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/80, p. 29

2 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 159

11.9.1980

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 16
PACKERS 23

Green Bay's offense continued to click with 415 total yards! But it didn't start that way as the 49ers capitalized on Eddie Lee Ivery's fumble in the first quarter for a 7-0 advantage. Later, they made the score 13-0 before two field goals by Tom Birney, and Terdell Middleton's touchdown run tied it at 13.

The second half belonged to Green Bay as James Lofton continued his outstanding play. Lofton caught eight passes in the game for 146 yards. His catches set up Green Bay's first field goal, first touchdown, and the go-ahead score early in the fourth quarter! Due to injuries on the defense, he also played safety on five plays.

While Lofton and Lynn Dickey tore up the airways, the backfield of Gerry Ellis and Eddie Lee Ivery accounted for 174 yards and gained another 44 receiving. On defense, to cover for injuries, the Packers used alignments (5-1-1, 4-1-6, 3-4-4) that the 49ers didn't expect.

San Francisco 13 0 0 3 16
Green Bay 0 13 0 10 23
54,475

11.16.1980

PACKERS 21

NEW YORK

GIANTS 27

Second-year quarterback Phil Simms threw three touchdown passes to Earnest Gray, and the 2-8 New York Giants knocked off the faltering Packers (4-5-1).

On New York's first play from scrimmage, Simms connected with Earnest Gray on a 50-yard touchdown pass. A second touchdown to Gray completed an 80-yard march for a 14-7 lead. The Giants "went deep against (Estus) Hood, the Packers' most vulnerable cornerback" on their long touchdown passes to Gray for 50 and 20 yards. Green Bay's first-half points came after a Phil Simms fumble after a hit by Ezra Johnson. It led to Gerry Ellis' touchdown run.

A short punt by David Beverly set up Earnest Gray's third-quarter touchdown for a 21-7 lead. The Packers snapped back in five plays with a short touchdown pass to Gerry Ellis. The Giants kicked two field goals, which were enough to hold off the Packers, who scored again on Dickey's touchdown to James Lofton with eight minutes left.

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21

New York 7 7 7 6 27

72,368

Total Yards: GB 410 NY 406

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/80, Christl, p. 22

11.23.1980

PACKERS 25

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 13

The Packers win their first road game of the season. Eddie Lee Ivery and Gerry Ellis ran for 245 yards and two touchdowns to lead Green Bay. Lynn Dickey passed for over 200 yards and a touchdown as they dominated the Vikings and swept the season series for the first time since 1965!

The Packers never trailed in this game. They took the lead on their second possession with a Gerry Ellis touchdown run. After three field goals, one by the Packers, the winning points for Green Bay came by way of Lynn Dickey's arm. He completed a 66-yard drive with a 35-yard touchdown pass to Aundra Thompson for a 16-6 lead. Dickey spread the ball around as James Lofton (5-93-1) became just the third player in Packers' history to surpass 1,000 receiving yards in a season!

Green Bay's defense did its job. Besides two Rick Danmeier field goals, the Vikings produced one Ted Brown touchdown run in the third quarter. Quarterback Tommy Kramer was sacked four times, and Minnesota was outgained 443-276.

Green Bay 0 10 6 9 25

Minnesota 0 6 7 0 13

47,234

After the game, the Packers cut kicker Tom Birney and signed Jan Stenerud.

11.30.1980

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 20
PACKERS 17

The Packers let a huge opportunity get away. They missed a chance to get within one-half game of first place with this loss in the Battle of the Bays.

An early fumble by Gerry Ellis on Green Bay's 24-yard line led to a Doug Williams touchdown pass. In the first half, Green Bay's lone points came on a 40-yard field goal by Jan Stenerud, and the Bucs led at the break 10-3.

Tampa Bay held on to the 10-3 lead until late in the third quarter and early in the fourth. A big pass interference penalty against Tampa's Mike Washington on the 1-yard line put the Packers at the doorstep. Eddie Lee Ivery scored, and minutes later, Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman gave the Packers a 17-13 lead with 14:06 left. In the final minutes, Doug Williams marched the Bucs 80 yards in seven plays. A 1-yard touchdown run by Johnny Davis with 1:58 left held up when Jan Stenerud of the Packers missed a 45-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Tampa Bay 10 0 3 7 20

Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17

54,225

Milwaukee County Stadium

12.7.1980

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 61

It was payback time for the Bears after their stunning loss in overtime to Green Bay in September. They delivered serious revenge in the rain and beat up the Packers for 594 total yards, which is still the third-most given up in franchise history.

Quarterback Vince Evans had a fantastic game with three touchdown passes to three different receivers (18-22-316-316-3-0). Walter Payton ran for 130 yards and scored two touchdowns. Other touchdowns were scored by Roland Harper, Len Walterscheid, and Willie McClendon. Green Bay scored its only points on quarterback Lynn Dickey's pass to James Lofton.

After the defeat, an angry Starr exchanged words at midfield with Bears' coach Neil Armstrong about blitzing in the fourth quarter, throwing the long ball to run up the score, and putting Walter Payton back in the game late.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Chicago 0 28 13 20 61
57,176

12.14.1980
HOUSTON

OILERS 22
PACKERS 3

The Packers were never in this game, and their only points came on a Jan Stenerud field goal. Stenerud's kick was matched by former Packer Chester Marcol's boot, now a member of the Oilers.

The Oilers scored on their first possession and never looked back. They were led by their star fullback Earl Campbell, who beat up Green Bay. He ran the ball 36 times for 181 yards and he scored Houston's first two touchdowns as well.

Though Packer quarterback Lynn Dickey threw for 309 yards, he also threw three interceptions. Green Bay ran for only 54 yards and turned it over twice.

Houston 6 3 0 13 22
Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
53,201

*"More than 200 hundred students from six Wisconsin high schools entertained at halftime: Bay Port, Marinette, New London, Pulaski, and West De Pere."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/80, p. 6

12.21.1980

PACKERS 3
DETROIT

LIONS 24

A dismal finish. Detroit's defense allowed just three points, and they sacked Lynn Dickey and David Whitehurst four times. Quarterback Gary Danielson led the Lions' offense that had little trouble moving the ball. They outgained the Packers 357-190. After the loss, the Executive Committee of the Board began evaluating coach Bart Starr and the team because it "has experienced almost nothing but failure for six years."¹

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3
Detroit 0 10 0 14 24
75,111

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/80, Christl, p. 18

1980

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	9	7	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	5	10	1
Green Bay	5	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ivery
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Ellis
Interceptions	Gray

ALL-PRO

Lofton Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

George Cumby (1b, LB)

Mark Lee (2, CB)

Karl Swanke (6, T/C)

Buddy Aydelette (7, T)



**THE
PACKERS CENTURY**

1919-2019

1981

Record: 8-8-0, 3rd Place, Tie

Coach: Bart Starr

- The Packers selected quarterback Rich Campbell from the University of California with their first pick in the 1981 draft.
- The pressure continued to mount on Bart Starr to produce a winner. The coach was stripped of his general manager duties after the 1980 season.
- Another poor start (1-3) was followed by an amazing turnaround. They finished (6-2), one game shy of the postseason.
- On September 17, the Packers traded for wide receiver John Jefferson of San Diego. The teams traded first-round picks in 1982, and Green Bay gave up a second-round

choice in 1982 and their first-round pick in 1983.

- The acquisition of veteran kicker Jan Stenerud in late 1980 resolved the team's kicking problems, and his leadership inspired the team.
- The team improved slightly on both offense and defense.

9.6.1981

PACKERS 16
CHICAGO
BEARS 9

Before Eddie Lee Ivery's season ended with a knee injury at Soldier Field for the second time in three years, he and Gerry Ellis stepped all over the Bears for first-half touchdowns. Ivery ran for 72 yards, while Ellis put up 94 yards and scored on a 2-yard run after a fumble by Chicago's quarterback Vince Evans.

Green Bay's defense contained Walter Payton, who ran for 81 yards and scored Chicago's lone touchdown after a fumble by Gerry Ellis. With the Bears within striking distance, 13-6 in the fourth quarter, the teams traded field goals. With four minutes left in the game, the Packers did all they could to give the game away. Personal foul calls on Ezra Johnson and Mark Lee and a fumble signaled a major collapse. But with 23 seconds left and the Packers leading 16-9, Bears fullback Matt Suhey fumbled on Green Bay's one-foot line. Safety Johnnie Gray recovered the ball to end the comeback!

Though the Packers won in Chicago for the first time since 1973, Bart Starr had reservations. "I think both of us will look at it as a poorly played game. It was an emotional game, and everybody was giving a great effort. But there were fundamental mistakes made that you don't make in high school."¹

Chicago 0 0 6 3 9
Green Bay 7 6 0 3 16
62,411

Turnovers: GB 3 CH 4

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/8/81, Christl, p. 33

9.13.1981

ATLANTA

FALCONS 31

PACKERS 17

A shocking home opener. The Packers held the Falcons *scoreless* until the fourth quarter. They built their lead on two Lynn Dickey touchdown passes. One score was a tackle-eligible pass play to Karl Swanke, and the other went to Gerry Ellis for a 14-0 halftime lead.

With two minutes left in the third quarter, Jan Stenerud's 44-yard field goal made it 17-0. Then, inexplicably, the Packers fell apart in the fourth quarter. After the Falcons tied it 17-17, Lynn Dickey's first pass was a pick-six. The Falcons followed that with a 57-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown and a 53-yard punt return that set up another score. "We just collapsed. It looked like we ran out of gas. I don't know why."¹ said Starr.

Atlanta 0 0 0 0 31

Green Bay 7 7 3 0 17

55,382

Sacks: GB 3 ATL 5

Turnovers: GB 5 ATL 4

Editorial Page: "We have long thought that 45 minutes was time enough for a football game. Sunday proved our point."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/81, Christl, p. 19

9.20.1981

PACKERS 23

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 35

In a classic opening line on Monday after the game, Cliff Christl of Press-Gazette wrote, "The Green Bay Packers weren't trying to lose here Sunday. It just looked that way."¹

After the Packers got out to a 7-0 lead, the Rams scored 21 points following Green Bay turnovers. Joe Harris recovered a Steve Atkins fumble, and he returned it 21-yards for six. Thirty-three seconds later, the Packers fumbled again on a mishandled lateral from quarterback Lynn Dickey to Terdell Middleton. Wendell Tyler scored from the 2-yard line for a 14-7 L.A. lead.

The Packers got back the turnovers with an interception and a fumble recovery. Two of Jan Stenerud's three field goals followed the turnovers, and the Packers led 16-14. The Rams hit back hard when quarterback Jeff Rutledge replaced an injured Pat Haden and connected with Drew Hill for a 30-yard touchdown to retake the lead 21-16. Rutledge

directed two more scoring drives, with the second coming after Dickey was picked off.

Green Bay 0 10 6 7 23

Los Angeles 0 14 7 14 35

61,286

There were 25 penalties for 215 yards. GB 11-95, LA 14-120

9.27.1981

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 30

PACKERS 13

In his first introduction to the home crowd after being acquired from San Diego, "Jefferson charged out to midfield, giving it the victory sign and exchanged a leaping high five with Lofton. The crowd loved it!"¹

The Packers led 10-0 early on Lynn Dickey's touchdown to James Lofton and a Jan Stenerud field goal. After that, it was all Minnesota. Three field goals by Rick Danmeier backed up two touchdown passes by quarterback Tommy Kramer. The first touchdown gave the Vikings a 17-10 lead they never gave back. The second touchdown pass to Ahmad Rashad pretty much put the game away in the third quarter, 27-10.

Minnesota's offense generated over 400 yards. Their defense held the Packers to 71 yards rushing, and they sacked quarterbacks Lynn Dickey and David Whitehurst eight times. In his first game with the Packers, John Jefferson caught seven passes for 121 yards, and James Lofton caught eight more for 101 yards and a touchdown.

Minnesota 0 20 10 0 30

Green Bay 10 0 3 0 13

55,012

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/28/81, McGinn, p. 20

10.4.1981

PACKERS 27

NEW YORK

GIANTS 14

The Packers upset the Giants to stop a three-game losing streak. They did it by getting out to an early lead, and they reversed a recent trend with a good second half.

Lynn Dickey and Jan Stenerud led the way. Dickey and tight end Paul Coffman hooked up for a touchdown, and the Packers led at half 13-0. In the third quarter, an interception by

linebacker Mike Douglass led to Harlan Huckleby's touchdown run. Huckleby ran 30 times for 88 yards, and his touchdown run made it 20-0.

Green Bay's defense was solid, allowing just 41 yards rushing. When the Giants scored late in the third quarter to cut it to 20-7, Green Bay responded with a 19-play drive. John Jefferson (JJ) and Lynn Dickey finished it off with a 26-yard touchdown pass. It was JJ's first touchdown as a Packer. With eight minutes left in the game, the Giants scored again, but Green Bay prevailed.

Green Bay 3 10 7 7 27
New York 0 0 7 7 14
73,684

10.11.1981

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 21
PACKERS 10

The teams traded touchdowns in a 7-7 first half. Gerry Ellis scored for Green Bay and Jimmy Giles for the Bucs. Both touchdowns completed drives of 65 and 85 yards, respectively.

In the third quarter, Tampa took control. Quarterback Doug Williams capped an 85-yard drive with a 1-yard plunge for a 14-7 lead. Two minutes later, linebacker Cecil Johnson intercepted quarterback Lynn Dickey. He returned it to Green Bay's 1-yard line, and James Wilder scored on the next play, 21-7. The pick was Dickey's fourth (19-33-21-0-4).

After the game, criticism reigned down on Starr and the team. "How is it that a team so young and debilitated could beat an opponent in the seventh year of a rebuilding program so easily?" Starr took responsibility. Exchanges with the media were increasingly more testy.

Tampa Bay 0 7 14 0 21
Green Bay 7 0 0 3 10
55,264

Rushing Yards: GB 95 TB 171

10.18.1981

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 13
PACKERS 3

Green Bay managed just one first-half field goal against the up-and-coming 49ers. The

game's only touchdown came in the third quarter when quarterback Joe Montana marched the 49ers 46 yards in 10 plays. Johnny Davis went over from one yard out.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey of the Packers left the game with a neck injury early in the second half after being sacked by Dwaine Board. Dickey and backup quarterback David Whitehurst were sacked four times. The Packers managed just 13 first downs, 78 yards rushing, and were outgained 337-241.

After the game, former Packer Ricky Patton, now with San Francisco, opened up to reporters about the Packers. "You can't blame Coach Starr for everything. You got guys who don't even like each other on the team. Nothing is done together."¹

San Francisco 0 3 7 3 13
Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Milwaukee County Stadium
50,171

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/19/81, Wheatley, p. 17

10.25.1981

PACKERS 27
DETROIT
LIONS 31

Quarterback Eric Hipple of the Lions opened and closed the game with touchdown runs. Along the way, he passed for 271 yards and a touchdown.

Detroit led 17-10 at intermission, with 10 points coming after Packer turnovers. The Lions also sent quarterback Lynn Dickey to the bench when he was speared in the back by defensive tackle William Gay (Gay was fined \$2,000). David Whitehurst replaced Dickey, and the Packers rallied.

Whitehurst (20-36-243-1-1) threw a 46-yard touchdown to Gerry Ellis in the third quarter to trim the deficit to 24-20. For the go-ahead-touchdown, the Packers drove 69 yards, and Whitehurst found Ellis again to take the lead 27-24 with 7:34 to go. With plenty of time, Hipple led a 76-yard march in 12 plays to win it. He took it in himself from the 5-yard line for the win.

Green Bay 7 3 10 7 27
Detroit 7 10 7 7 31
76,063

GB passed for 340 yards.

11.1.1981

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 24

PACKERS 34

“This week, an appeal is being made to the fans to throw their wholehearted support behind the team for Sunday’s game against Seattle.”¹

The 2-6 Packers vs. the 2-6 Seahawks! The identical records were confirmed by the tight battle. The lead went back and forth seven times! In the first half, quarterback David Whitehurst alone threw a pick-six, ran for a touchdown, and threw for two more touchdowns! At halftime, the score was 21-21.

Green Bay took the lead for good late in the third quarter when Whitehurst uncorked a 38-yard touchdown strike to James Lofton. Now up 28-24, two field goals by Jan Stenerud and Rich Wingo’s interception put it away.

Seattle 7 14 3 0 24

Green Bay 7 14 7 6 34

54,099

Total Yards: GB 377 SEA 221

“Wingo was clutching the ball to his chest in front of the Packer bench, accepting congratulations for his interception, which ended any chance of the Seahawks tying the game. But, after listening to the rhythmic chant of “Wingo! Wingo!” the third-year linebacker decided to donate his souvenir to Section 18. Good decision. It served as a symbolic gesture. The crowd got a game ball it deserved.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/81, Christl p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/81, Walter, p. 17

11.8.1981

NEW YORK

GIANTS 24

PACKERS 26

With a two-touchdown lead after 15 minutes, Green Bay held on for the win thanks to a Jan Stenerud field goal. Along the way, they also received a lot of help from the Giants, who turned the ball over seven times, including four interceptions.

The Packers took control early with two big plays. A 41-yard pick-six by Estus Hood and a 94-yard punt return by Mark Lee gave the home team the lead 14-0. Hood intercepted a second pass in the first quarter, but as the Packers’ offense began to struggle, Jan Stenerud’s four field goals kept the points coming.

For the Giants, quarterback Scott Brunner heated up. He threw two second-quarter touchdown passes and another in the fourth quarter that cut the Green Bay lead to 23-21. With six minutes left, Joe Danelo's field goal gave New York the edge. But the great Stenerud won it with his fourth field goal of the game with under three minutes remaining.

New York 0 14 0 10 24

Green Bay 20 3 0 3 26

54,138

Milwaukee County Stadium

*David Whitehurst, on being cheered after receiving boos during the previous two games at County Stadium: 'I have to say it did make a difference. It's human nature.'*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/9/81, p. 20

11.15.1981

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

PACKERS 21

The 4-6 Packers revived their postseason hopes with three straight wins at home. The victories were all against teams they were expected to handle, starting with the 3-7 Bears.

In the rivalry game, quarterback David Whitehurst threw three first-half touchdown passes! His first was a 1-yard toss to Harlan Huckleby. With the Packers trailing 10-7 midway through the second quarter, an interception by safety Mark Murphy set up Whitehurst's second touchdown; a 39-yard bomb to Huckleby to put Green Bay in front 14-10. Late in the half, Whitehurst took the Packers on a 63-yard drive in 12 plays before a short touchdown toss to Terdell Middleton made for a 21-10 advantage.

In the second half, the Bears trimmed the lead to 21-17. With eight minutes left and the tension building, a pass from quarterback Vince Evans to Ken Margerum bounced off Margerum's chest and into the arms of cornerback Mark Lee! The Bears never threatened again. On Whitehurst's three-touchdown day (11-31-140-3-1), Starr was honest. "It was gritty... but David can play better than that."¹ The defense sacked Vince Evans three times and forced three turnovers. Starr added, "I thought our defense was superb."²

Chicago 10 0 0 7 17

Green Bay 7 14 0 0 21

55,338

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/81, p. 23

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11.19/81, p. 23

11.22.1981

PACKERS **3**
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS **37**

Backup quarterback David Whitehurst suffered a groin injury in the first quarter and was replaced by rookie Rich Campbell. Campbell was making his first appearance for the Packers. He threw four interceptions (15-30-168-0-4), and the Bucs took advantage with 17 points. The blowout began with an 81-yard pick-six by safety Cedric Brown.

Green Bay avoided the shutout with Jan Stenerud's 53-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, the longest in franchise history at the time. The Packers fell to 5-7, and the poor showing ended the winning streak and brought this observation. "The case against the Green Bay Packers, charged with impersonating a professional football team, appears to be open and shut."¹

Green Bay **0** **0** **0** **3** **3**
Tampa Bay **3** **24** **0** **10** **37**
63,251

GB was outgained 348-282.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/81, Walter, p. 23

11.29.1981

PACKERS **35**
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS **23**

A nice win for Green Bay in Minneapolis. After missing three games, quarterback Lynn Dickey returned to throw three touchdown passes, and Green Bay defeated "the team that has won 11 of the last 13 division championships."¹ Halfback Harlan Huckleby also starred for the Packers with two touchdown runs and a touchdown catch from Dickey.

Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer threw two first-quarter touchdowns for an early lead. The Packers came back with Huckleby's first touchdown run. Before halftime and trailing 14-7, Estus Hood intercepted Kramer. Dickey capitalized with a 30-yard touchdown pass to John Jefferson just before halftime!

Kramer threw another interception in the third quarter that led to Dickey's second touchdown pass. Dickey to Harlan Huckleby from nine yards out made the score 21-14 Packers. After Minnesota narrowed it 21-20, Huckleby scored again on the ground. Dickey found James Lofton for his third touchdown pass of the day! The win put the Packers one game behind Tampa Bay for the division lead.

Green Bay 0 14 14 7 35
Minnesota 14 0 6 3 23
46,025

The teams committed nine turnovers!

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/81, Christl, p. 18

12.6.1981

DETROIT

LIONS 17

PACKERS 31

In the last home game of the year, the Packers bounced back after falling behind 10-0. Quarterback Lynn Dickey's strong performance (20-31-279-2-0) directed the come-from-behind win. Receivers John Jefferson, James Lofton, and Paul Coffman all had fine games. They caught 17 passes for 270 yards and two touchdowns!

Harlan Huckleby's touchdown started the scoring for Green Bay. He also scored the game's final touchdown. Dickey directed four touchdown drives overall, and his two other touchdowns went to Paul Coffman and James Lofton.

In the second half, Detroit got to within four, 21-17, on a short touchdown run by Billy Simms. On Green Bay's next drive, they put it away with Huckleby's second touchdown. The victory brought the Packers back to .500, one game behind Tampa Bay and Minnesota.

Detroit 3 7 7 0 17
Green Bay 0 14 7 10 31
54,481

The fun after the game was "as emotional a postgame celebration as Lambeau Field has seen in years. Suddenly, after the players gathered around and Starr gave them instructions, they scattered to the elevated first row of seats in all parts of the stadium and began pumping hands with the paying customers."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/81, McGinn, p. 1

12.13.1981

PACKERS 35

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 7

The Packers kept their playoff hopes alive with this easy win in New Orleans. Lynn Dickey had a remarkable game, one of the best of his career. He was white-hot from the start

with only two incomplete passes (19-21-218-5-0)!

Dickey threw five touchdown passes to tie Don Horn's club record set in 1969. The touchdowns went to John Jefferson (2), Gerry Ellis, James Lofton, and Paul Coffman. The defense intercepted four passes, and the Saints turned it over six times. "When the defense turns it over that many times and with that kind of field position, you've got to get some points on the board," Dickey explained later. The Packers won for the sixth time in their previous seven games.

Green Bay 14 7 7 7 35
New Orleans 0 0 7 0 7
45,518

An estimated 5,000 fans showed up at Austin Straubel Field to welcome home the team. "It was believed to be the largest reception for the Packers since their glory years of the 1960s."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/81, McGinn, p. 1

12.20.1981

PACKERS 3
NEW YORK
JETS 28

Green Bay needed to win this game to have any chance of making the postseason. They laid a colossal egg. Were they overconfident after trashing the Saints? Did they take the Jets too lightly? The loss ranks with the most disappointing in franchise history.

The defense of the Jets (9-5-1) dominated the game. They sacked quarterback Lynn Dickey nine times and held the Packers to 84 yards. Quarterback Richard Todd completed his best season to date for the Jets by throwing for two touchdowns and 247 yards. The win clinched an AFC wild card berth for the Jets. Green Bay's loss also helped the New York Giants clinch their first postseason berth since 1963.

After the loss, coach Bart Starr fended off questions about the team choking. "Getting this close will help the team next year."¹ he said.

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
New York 7 14 0 7 28
56,340

¹ packershistory.net/1981Packers

1981

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Tampa Bay	9	7	0
Detroit	8	8	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Minnesota	7	9	0
Chicago	6	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ellis
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Stenerud
Interceptions	Lee, Harvey tied w/6

ALL-PRO

Lofton	Wide Receiver
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NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Rich Campbell (1, QB)
Ray Stachowicz (3, P)
Rich Turner (4b, DT)
Byron Braggs (5, DT)



1919-2019

1982

Record: 5-3-1, 3rd Place

Coach: Bart Starr

- On December 21, 1981, "The board of directors of the Green Bay Packers today gave full authority to its seven-man executive committee to decide the fate of head coach Bart Starr."¹ Starr was given a two-year extension.
- Former Packer Bob Schnelker was the new offensive coordinator. Zeke Bratkowski left for the same position in Baltimore.
- Robert Parins succeeded Dominic Olejniczak as the team's 8th president.
- After the second week of the season, the NFL Players Association called a 57-day strike. When play resumed, the season was shortened to nine games with expanded playoffs.

- Due to the strike, the Bears and Packers did not play for the first time since 1922.
- The Packers were 2-0 before the strike. During the strike, they held informal workouts at St. Norbert College. They finished 5-3 to qualify for the postseason for the first time since 1972.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/81, p. 1

9.12.1982

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 35

PACKERS 23

The Packers staged the biggest comeback in their history in the 1982 opener in Milwaukee! Down 23-0 at halftime, they exploded in the second half for 35 points while the Rams never scored again!

In the first half, a Gerry Ellis fumble set up L.A.'s first touchdown. A fumble by quarterback Lynn Dickey led to a Rams field goal for a 10-0 start. The passing of quarterback Bert Jones set up both touchdowns, with the second going to veteran tight end Mike Barber. Mike Lansford kicked three field goals, and the Packers trailed 23-0.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey led the comeback. He threw three touchdown passes; two to Paul Coffman and one to James Lofton. In between the aerals, halfback Eddie Lee Ivery scored on the ground. With L.A.'s lead cut to 23-21 early in the fourth quarter, the go-ahead score came after the touchdown to Lofton catch when the Rams fumbled the kickoff. Guy Prather recovered for Green Bay on the L.A. 10-yard line! On the next play, Dickey and Coffman hooked up for a second touchdown, and the Packers incredibly took the lead 28-23 with 11:12 left.

Later in the fourth quarter, an interception by Packer linebacker George Cumby paved the way for Eddie Lee Ivery. With 3:06 left in the game, Ivery's 27-yard run right up the middle of the L.A. defense sealed the deal. After the game, coach Bart Starr, who had seen a few comebacks in his day, said, "This is the greatest comeback I've ever witnessed." High praise.

Los Angeles 10 13 0 0 23

Green Bay 0 0 14 21 35

53,694

Milwaukee County Stadium

9.20.1982

PACKERS 27

NEW YORK

GIANTS 19

Green Bay staged another comeback on Monday Night Football. The game would also be the last one played until mid-November due to the strike by the players. Before the game, the players met at midfield to shake hands.

Green Bay's comeback started late in the third quarter after two power outages darkened the Meadowlands for 26 minutes. Touchdown runs by Joe Morris and Cliff Chatman of the Giants staked New York to a 19-7 lead. The comeback got started on an end-around play to James Lofton. Following a key block thrown by quarterback Lynn Dickey, Lofton sprinted untouched for 83 yards into the end zone. At the time, it was the third-longest touchdown run in Green Bay history!

Early in the fourth quarter, Eddie Lee Ivery scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 11-yard dash. With Green Bay's defense holding New York scoreless, two field goals by Jan Stenerud provided insurance for the win.

Regarding the strike? Lynn Dickey looked at the bright side. "If there's going to be a strike, I'd rather be 2-0 rather than 0-2."¹

Green Bay 0 7 7 13 27

New York 9 3 7 0 19

68,405

¹ packershistory.net/1982Packers

57 Day Players Strike = 9 game season

11.21.1982

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 7

PACKERS 26

The Packers stayed undefeated. They outgained the Vikings 359-184, and "they seemed unfazed by their eight-week layoff."¹ In the second quarter, after two field goals by Jan Stenerud, the Vikings scored to go in front 7-6. The Packers came back with a 76-yard touchdown drive. A 5-yard toss from quarterback Lynn Dickey to Eddie Lee Ivery gave them the halftime edge 13-7.

On the second half kickoff, Green Bay's safety Maurice Harvey stole the football from Sam Harrell of Vikings and ran 25 yards for six! Eddie Lee Ivery's second touchdown of the game finished the scoring. After all the points had been scored, Dickey was sacked by Mark Mullaney and had to leave the game with a bruised hip. It was one of eight Minnesota sacks, and David Whitehurst finished the game.

Minnesota 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 13 13 0 26
44,681

Milwaukee County Stadium

This game had 4,799 no-shows, the third fewest in the league.

"Funny, we can say we didn't miss football on TV all those weeks. Life was not total agony. But, with winter about to get down to some serious business, Sunday afternoons suddenly look a bit more bearable for some of us."²

** Packer Fan Pat Kinney's first game: "It was a big win over the Vikings at County Stadium in Milwaukee. James Lofton and John Jefferson ran around the stadium before game time high-fiving fans! I still have the Packers cap I bought that day, still in perfect condition!"*

* Facebook Story

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/82, Christl, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/82, Gerds, p. 11

11.28.1982

PACKERS 13
NEW YORK
JETS 15

The Jets' defense contained Green Bay's offense. The Packers could not run the ball (52 yards), but Lynn Dickey and Phillip Epps connected for two touchdowns for a 13-6 halftime lead. Epps' second touchdown was set up by a Mike Douglass interception of Jets quarterback Richard Todd.

Shortly after halftime, the Jets drove 61-yards and scored on Mike Augustyniak's 4-yard run to slice the Packer lead to 13-12. A 29-yard punt by Green Bay's Ray Stachowicz gave the Jets another opportunity. They marched 48 yards to Green Bay's 9-yard line, where Pat Leahy kicked a field goal for the lead.

Late in the game, the Packers took a turnover by the Jets and drove to New York's 32. With just under five minutes to play, Jan Steneud missed a 50-yard field goal. "If I had my young leg of 10 years ago, I might have been wide, but it would have gotten there"¹ was Stenerud's lament.

After the game, Bart Starr protested the vicious forearm to the helmet on John Jefferson

by linebacker Stan Blinka. The Jets were penalized 15 yards for a personal foul, but Blinka was not ejected. About the loss, Starr said, "you need a better performance against the Jets because they are level above some of the teams we've beaten in the past."²

Green Bay 6 7 0 0 13

New York 6 0 9 0 15

53,872

GB was outgained 355-263

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/82, Christl, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/82, p. 19

12.5.1982

BUFFALO

BILLS 21

PACKERS 33

Both Green Bay and Buffalo were 3-1, and the Packers prevailed in a rainstorm. The mud was four inches deep on the field, and both coaches were upset about the playing conditions.

Buffalo took a 7-6 lead, and the Packers responded with the next 23 points! They went in front when a Gerry Ellis fumble rolled into the end zone and was recovered by rookie Del Rodgers! Lynn Dickey had another fine game, and Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run gave them a two-touchdown lead early in the second half. Despite never playing in "worse conditions,"¹ during his 16-year career, Jan Stenerud kicked four field goals! Three of them came after Buffalo turnovers. After his third field goal, the Packers led 30-7. The Bills made it respectable with two late touchdowns.

Buffalo 0 7 0 14 21

Green Bay 6 7 7 13 33

46,655

Milwaukee County Stadium

Lynn Dickey: 14-23-195-1-1

1 packershistory.net/1982

12.12.1982

DETROIT

LIONS 30

PACKERS 10

The Lions won in Green Bay for the first time since 1975. The Packers were knocked out

of first place as quarterbacks Lynn Dickey and David Whitehurst threw five interceptions and were sacked nine times.

In the first half, Detroit capitalized on Lynn Dickey's three interceptions for 17 points. It didn't get any better in the second half as Alvin Hall of the Lions returned the second-half kickoff 96 yards for a 30-0 Detroit lead. Green Bay's points came on Jan Stenerud's field goal and a Garry Ellis touchdown run. In the next day's newspaper, "20 reasons why the Pack lost."¹ reviewed the blowout in detail.

Detroit	17	6	7	0	30
Green Bay	0	0	3	7	10

51,875

GB completed only 19 of 52 passes.

*Doug English, Detroit Lions: "There's something very interesting about the way of life up there. I guess they're shaped by bitter cold and long winters, but families all hung together. If mom and dad went to the bar, they take their kids with them. And at the game, fans weren't calling you names. They were backing their team, and that's exactly what they should do. I have an undying respect for the people, and the team, and the fans."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/82, p. 23

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 73

12.19.1982

PACKERS	20
BALTIMORE	
COLTS	20 (OT)

The Packers were "riding high"* before they stumbled in Baltimore. Green Bay Packers FAN Hall of Fame member Steve Schumer drove to the game from New Jersey. He recalled thinking before the game, "The Packers finally have a good team. We're having a winning season, which was unheard of, and I'm going to really, really enjoy this game."*

On a snowy day against the 0-6 Colts, it looked promising early for Green Bay. They took the lead 10-3 on a Jan Stenerud field goal and a touchdown pass from quarterback Lynn Dickey to tight end John Thompson. After trading field goals early in the second half, a Baltimore fumble was recovered by Mike Douglass. The Packers capitalized with Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run to lead 20-6 in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, they couldn't hold the lead. A short punt from the end zone by Ray Stachowicz and a late-hit penalty against Green Bay put the Colts on Green Bay's 19. In three plays, it was 20-13. When Baltimore got the ball back, and they went 55 yards in 12 plays to tie it.

In the overtime, Lynn Dickey threw an interception, and Green Bay blocked a Baltimore field goal try. With 1:56 left, Jan Stenerud's 47-yard try went wide right.

Green Bay 0 10 3 7 0 20
Baltimore 3 0 3 14 0 20
25,920

Sacks: GB 3 BAL 4

* Interview: November 2016

12.26.1982

PACKERS 38

ATLANTA

FALCONS 7

The Packers needed to win one of their last two games to make the playoffs. They got down to business fast and trounced the Falcons to make the postseason for the first time since 1972!

The Packers generated 411 yards of offense, the most all season. Eddie Lee Ivery's two touchdowns in the first half gave Green Bay a 14-0 lead. Though Atlanta did cut the lead to 14-7, Green Bay hit back right with Lynn Dickey's 80-yard touchdown strike to James Lofton. In the second half, the first time they had the ball, Dickey and Lofton connected again for a 57-yard touchdown that settled matters. Dickey threw for 248 yards.

The defense held Atlanta's powerful ground game to 58 yards, and they sacked quarterback Steve Bartkowski four times. Atlanta coach Leeman Bennett was impressed. "Green Bay was the best team we have played with the possible exception of the Raiders."¹ The Packers made it back to the postseason and finished 5-3-1 in the strike-shortened season.

Green Bay 7 14 7 10 38
Atlanta 0 7 0 0 7
50,245

Penalties: GB 6-45 ATL 16-153

*"The Packers have sold approximately 25,000-30,000 playoff tickets to season ticket holders so far, a team spokesman said today... (any) remaining tickets will probably go on sale Monday."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/82, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/82, p. 19

1.2.1983

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 27

In the first quarter, both teams scored on their first series. Quarterback Gary Danielson of

Detroit threw two touchdown passes in the first quarter that gave them a 14-7 edge. Quarterback Lynn Dickey also found James Lofton for a touchdown in the first quarter. But overall, Dickey had a bad first half with four interceptions. Rookie Bobbie Watkins picked off three, which led to only six points.

After the Packers scored late in the third quarter to take a 24-20 lead, a controversial ruling on a fumble right in front of the Packers bench went Detroit's way. Seven plays later, quarterback Eric Hipple, who had just come into the game with 10:34 left, led the Lions back into the lead with five minutes left. The Packers didn't have an answer.

The Lions finished 4-5-0, and made the postseason for the first time since 1970. The Packers, despite the loss, made the playoffs for the first time since 1972.

Green Bay 7 7 10 0 24
Detroit 14 3 3 7 27
64,377

*In a front-page photo, "Tim Clark shows the six tickets he bought for the Packers' playoff game. Clark showed up at the Packer Ticket Office at 5am today."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/83, p. 1

1.8.1983

1982 NFC Playoff - 1st Round

ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS 16
PACKERS 41

This was the first postseason game at Lambeau Field since the Ice Bowl in 1967. It was fitting that the Packers faced the Cardinals, an old rival, and one of only four franchises remaining from the 1920s.

The Cardinals got on the scoreboard first with Neil O'Donoghue's field goal. After the first quarter, the Packers scored the next 28 points to take control. Lynn Dickey had an outstanding game throwing for 286 yards and four touchdowns. John Jefferson caught two of the touchdown passes, the first a 60-yard bomb in the first quarter to put the Packers ahead to stay. Eddie Lee Ivery ran for two scores, both after turnovers, for a 28-9 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Packers poured it on. They scored 13 more on a touchdown and two field goals for a 41-9 lead. Neil Lomax's touchdown pass (32-51-385-2-2) to Mike Schumann finished the scoring with eight minutes left.

The Packers' ground game produced 108 yards. The passing game went off without a

hitch as John Jefferson led receivers with six catches for 148 yards and two touchdowns. After the game, the team gave the game ball to Bart Starr, who praised the Packers' effort and play as the best game "in his eight years as head coach."¹

St Louis **3 6 0 7 16**
Green Bay **7 21 10 3 41**
54,282

*"Things (got) a little chaotic up in Section 21, what with a guy shedding everything from the waist up and offering his body as a snowball target. He revels in the attention doing a scarecrow-type dance as white missiles rain on him from above."*²

The costliest casualty of the post-game madness was a \$7,000 set of Lambeau Field goal posts torn down and carted off by jubilant fans. "We've had this happen before, but this is the first time they got the whole post. Usually, they leave the bottom part"³ said Lambeau Field groundskeeper Earl Du Chateau.

*"The Green Bay Packers did not sell out Saturday's playoff game with the Cardinals. It was the first non-sellout in Green Bay since a game against the Washington Redskins in 1959."*⁴

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, Christl, p. 31
- 2 Green Bay Press Gazette, 1/9/83, Langenkamp, p. 2
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, Chatman, p. 1
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/83, p .31

1.16.1983

1982 NFC Playoff - 2nd Round

PACKERS **26**

DALLAS

COWBOYS **37**

The Packers and Cowboys hadn't met in the postseason since the Ice Bowl. This time they met in Dallas, and the teams put up 841 yards of offense in a game of exciting plays and a back-and-forth fourth quarter.

But the Packers took some time to get going offensively. After two first-quarter field goals by Dallas, quarterback Lynn Dickey got the Packers on the scoreboard with a 20-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton. But with the Packers in front 7-6, the last three minutes of the first half were a disaster for Green Bay. The Cowboys went on a 13-play, 80-yard touchdown drive. Then, with 1:18 left, a 39-yard pick-six by cornerback Dennis Thurman stretched it 20-7.

Early in the second half, the Packers began moving the ball more consistently with quick passing plays. Two drives stalled deep inside Dallas territory, but two field goals by Jan Stenerud brought it 20-13. After Stenerud's second kick, the Cowboys' Tony Hill returned the kickoff to Green Bay's 9-yard line. When the defense held, it was 23-13.

A 27 point fourth quarter made it interesting. For Green Bay, a reverse from Eddie Lee Ivery to James Lofton went for a 71-yard touchdown! With their lead cut to 23-19, Dallas quarterback Danny White hit back with an 80-yard scoring drive. With seven minutes remaining and trailing 30-19, cornerback Mark Lee's pick-six brought the Packers back to within four, 30-26. The Cowboys then won it with a 74-yard march and Robert Newhouse's touchdown run with 4:24 left.

Green Bay punished the Cowboys in the second half with 363 yards of offense. They could not, however, make up for the five turnovers or the four sacks of quarterback Lynn Dickey.

Green Bay 0 7 6 13 26
Dallas 6 14 3 14 37
63,972

Yards Gained: GB 466 DAL 375

*Super Bowl Kringle! In 1982, the Packers were playing the Cowboys. My friends and I held a playoff party in a friend's basement. A Kringle (Danish pastry) was purchased and brought along for a pre-game treat. During the exciting game, the Kringle wasn't opened, so it was put in the freezer after the Packers lost. As we were wallowing in our misery, my brother-in-law declared to everyone in the room that if the Packers ever won a Super Bowl, we would eat that Kringle. Everyone agreed and drank a toast. The Packers wouldn't make it to the Super Bowl until January of 1997!! When we arrived for the Super Bowl Party, my brother-in-law had the Kringle all cut up, ready for a Packer victory! When the Packers defeated the Patriots 35-21 to win Super Bowl XXXI, we all drank a toast and finished off the Kringle piece by piece. Mine found its way into the trash can, but others were trying to wipe out their mouths with towels and killing the taste with Whiskey. Victory never tasted so sweet! **

* Fan Story: Mike Becker

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/83, McGinn, p. 1

1982

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Washington	8	1	0
Dallas	6	3	0
Green Bay	5	3	1
Minnesota	5	4	0
Atlanta	5	4	0
St. Louis	5	4	0
Tampa Bay	5	4	0
Detroit	4	5	0
New Orleans	4	5	0
New York	4	5	0
San Francisco	3	6	0
Chicago	3	6	0
Philadelphia	3	6	0
Los Angeles	2	7	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Receiving	Lofton
Rushing	Ivery
Scoring	Stenerud
Interceptions	Anderson

ALL-PRO

Cumby	Linebacker
Douglass	Linebacker
Lofton	Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ron Hallstrom (1, G)
Del Rodgers (3, RB)
Robert Brown (4, LB)
Eddie Garcia (10, K)
Phillip Epps (12, WR)



1983

Record: 8-8-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Bart Starr

- Bart Starr's contract was extended to January 31, 1985, but he would be fired the day the 1983 season ended.
- After seven years and four sacks, defensive end Mike Butler left to play in the United States Football League.
- Green Bay had a potent offense, but their defense ranked 26th out of 28 teams. They gave up the most points in the conference (439), and they gave up the most yards in the league (6,403).
- On Monday Night Football on October 17, Lynn Dickey threw for just under 400 yards to lead the Packers over Washington 48-47. It was the highest-scoring game on Monday Night Football until 2018.
- Lynn Dickey's 4,458 passing yards were the most in franchise history to date. His 32 touchdown passes smashed Cecil Isbell's club record of 24 set in 1941.

- Ray Nitsche's #66 jersey was retired in a win over the Bears in early December. Two weeks later, with the postseason at stake, they lost in Chicago.
- This was the first of three consecutive 8-8 seasons.

9.4.1983

PACKERS 41
HOUSTON
OILERS 38 (OT)

Both offenses were ready for this opener, and they put up 987 total yards between them. Lynn Dickey put on an incredible performance against his former team. And, for the second time in his career, he threw five touchdown passes in a game!

Four of Dickey's touchdowns came in the first half that set a torrid 28-10 pace by halftime. Dickey threw touchdowns to John Jefferson (2), Paul Coffman, Gerry Ellis, and James Lofton, and he completed 27 of 31 passes for 333 yards! Along with Jan Stenerud's two field goals, it was just enough.

Fullback Earl Campbell got the Oilers rolling in the second half. The big fullback ran for three touchdowns and 123 yards. His third touchdown run tied it at 31 all.

Near the end of regulation time, Dickey's headaches got so bad he had to leave the game. He did not play in the overtime. He was replaced by David Whitehurst, whose passing helped the Packers move into field goal range. Stenerud then won it from 42 yards away. After an exhausting opener, Bart Starr thought Dickey's performance was "a remarkable feat."¹

Green Bay 7 21 3 7 3 41
Houston 10 0 7 21 0 38
44,073

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/6/83, Christl, p. 35

9.11.1983

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 25
PACKERS 21

This was a tough loss in the home opener. The Packers got off to a good start in the first half with two Lynn Dickey touchdown passes. Dickey and James Lofton connected for two touchdowns of 71 and 73 yards, and Green Bay led at halftime 14-13. For Pittsburgh, fullback Franco Harris and quarterback Cliff Stoudt scored on the ground, and a blocked extra point by Gary Lewis of Green Bay was the first-half difference.

On their first possession of the second half, the Steelers took the lead with a field goal. In the fourth quarter, they pushed it to 23-14 with a 12-play, 91-yard scoring drive. Lynn Dickey came back to Lofton for a third time with 4:30 remaining to cut the score to 23-21. Lofton's fine game included five catches for 169 yards and three touchdowns!

With two minutes left, the Packers got the ball back, but Dickey was tackled in the end by Bob Kohrs. Game over.

Pittsburgh 7 6 3 9 25

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21

55,154

Total Yards: GB 363 PGH 471

*"A longstanding tradition at Green Bay Packer games was the object of careful scrutiny Sunday at Lambeau Field. Tailgate parties, as much a part of Packer games to some fans as the power sweep or forward pass, were under the watchful eye of city and Packer officials. By the time he finished his observations, he (Ald. Eddie Bodart) was not convinced of a pressing need to curtail tailgating. `People just come out to have fun. That's part of the football game.'"*¹

*"Hutson Road from Lambeau Street to Hinkle Street will close Tuesday through Thursday for road repairs."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/83, Hildebrand, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/83, p. 7

9.18.1983

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 24

PACKERS 27

Jan Stenerud opened and closed the game with a field goal. The closer proved to be the winner from the 36-yard line as time expired!

Green Bay scored on its first three possessions of the game to take a 17-3 lead. An Eddie Lee Ivery touchdown run and Lynn Dickey's 23-yard touchdown pass to John Jefferson led the charge.

In the second half, the Rams struck on their first possession. They went 80 yards in three plays, and Vince Ferragamo threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Otis Grant. Moments later, after Tim Lewis fumbled the kickoff, Eric Dickerson took it in to tie the score at 17.

Lynn Dickey was intercepted deep in Packer territory, and the Rams capitalized to go in front 24-17. Mark Lee returned the favor for Green Bay with an interception, and with 11 minutes left, Eddie Lee Ivery's second touchdown made it 24-24! When it began to look like overtime, rookie Eric Dickerson fumbled on L.A.'s 16-yard line. Nose tackle Byron

Braggs recovered, and two plays later, with one second left, Jan Stenerud kicked the winner.

Los Angeles 0 3 21 0 24

Green Bay 10 7 0 10 27

54,037

Milwaukee County Stadium

9.26.1983

PACKERS 3

NEW YORK

GIANTS 27

"Pack wasn't ready for prime time,"¹ read Tuesday's headline. The team was embarrassed on national television with four turnovers, and quarterback Lynn Dickey was sacked four times. Though Dickey threw for 283 yards, the Packers managed just one field goal. They led 3-0 in the early going before the Giants took control. They went in front on a Rob Carpenter touchdown run. Carpenter and Butch Woolfolk led a potent ground game that pounded the Packers 45 times for 208 yards.

Leading 10-3 at halftime, the Giants extended the lead when Terry Jackson picked up Eddie Lee Ivery's fumble and went 35 yards to the end zone. A fumbled snap a minute later led to a Giant field goal and a 20-3 lead. Quarterback Scott Brunner's 27-yard touchdown pass to Earnest Gray in the third quarter finished the scoring.

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

New York 0 10 17 0 27

75,308

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/83, McGinn, p. 23

10.2.1983

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14

PACKERS 55

The 49 points scored the Packers scored in the first half of this game is still a Green Bay record. They dumped the Buccaneers easily, and the blowout started in the first five minutes with a 90-yard punt return for a touchdown by Phil Epps! Lynn Dickey threw three touchdown passes, and Jessie Clark led a ground game that added a touchdown and 164 yards. Overall, the offense hit the Bucs with 519 yards!

Tampa Bay trailed 21-0 before Hugh Green's pick-six got them on the scoreboard in the

second quarter. Tampa had trouble running the ball (20 yards), and they turned it over three times. Soon after Hugh Green's interceptions, two Green Bay linebackers got in on the act. A fumble was returned for a touchdown by Mike Douglass, and John Anderson's 27-yard pick-six made it 42-7! In all, seven different Packers scored touchdowns.

Tampa Bay 0 7 0 7 14
Green Bay 14 35 0 6 55
54,272

10.9.1983

PACKERS 14
DETROIT
LIONS 38

This was not a good game for the Packers. They didn't score in the first half, and they trailed 24-0 at the break. For the Lions, rookie fullback James Jones had quite a game. He scored three touchdowns, with two coming in the first half. Quarterback Eric Hipple also threw one of his two touchdown passes before the break to Leonard Thompson.

The Packers got on the scoreboard in the third quarter after a Detroit fumble. Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run finally broke the ice. But, with a porous defense, the Packers couldn't stop Lions. Detroit had no trouble scoring twice more for 31-7 lead.

In the blowout, former Packer Max McGee injected some levity. When guard Tim Huffman of the Packers accidentally knocked over Lynn Dickey on a play, McGee was asked if Huffman should get credit for a sack. He replied, "Might as well. He hasn't done anything else today."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14
Detroit 10 14 7 7 38
67,738

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/83, Gerds, p. 19

10.17.1983

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 47
PACKERS 48

From 1983-2018, this was the highest-scoring game in Monday Night Football history!

After a poor performance on national television just three weeks earlier, the Packers were ready for the bright lights. They were a completely different team in this game, with 473

total yards. Their performance, and the game itself, was one of the most exciting and memorable in Packer history.

Lynn Dickey threw for 387 yards and three touchdowns. "As long as he's given time, he's going to throw strikes,"¹ said tight end, Paul Coffman. Washington's quarterback Joe Theismann also had a great game with 398 yards passing and two touchdowns. The lead changed hands, including ties, 12 times!

It started with a bang for the Packers when linebacker Mike Douglass recovered a fumble and returned it 22 yards for a 7-0 lead 67 seconds into the game! Green Bay led the game (or it was tied) until Mark Moseley's field goal with 10 seconds left in the third quarter. It gave the Redskins their first lead, 33-31.

In a non-stop fourth quarter, 31 points were scored. After Moseley's field goal, the Packers moved into scoring position in three plays. Tight end Gary Lewis scored on a reverse from the 2-yard line for a 38-33 Green Bay lead. Washington hit right back with a 70-yard drive that John Riggins capped off with a 1-yard plunge for a 40-38 lead.

The Packers and running back Mike Meade took back the lead 45-40 when Meade caught Dickey's pass and went 31 yards and "leapfrogged free safety Mark Murphy"² (the same Mark Murphy who would go on to become president and C.E.O. for the Green Bay Packers!) into the end zone. Quarterback Joe Theismann didn't miss a beat on Washington's next drive. He found Joe Washington again and gave the Redskins a 47-45 lead with 2:50 left.

Green Bay landed the final blow! On third down, Dickey and Gerry Ellis connected on a 56-yard pass play for a first down at the Redskins 8-yard line. Four plays later, Jan Stenerud split the uprights from the 20 with 54 seconds left. Washington had one more shot, but Moseley's try for a fifth field goal from the 39 went wide right as time expired!

"We got pride. We got desire. We got heart. We proved what caliber of team we got,"³ said a happy and relieved defensive end Ezra Johnson said later.

Washington 10 10 13 14 47

Green Bay 10 14 7 17 48

55,255

Combined Totals: 1,025 total yards - 771 yards passing - 56 first downs

Tickets? "I tried to get tickets all week and couldn't. I decided to go to the game and park in the parking lot to see if I could pick up tickets there. I put a sign around my neck that said: 'I Need 2 Tickets.' We couldn't have been there 25 minutes when this guy came up and said, 'I got two of them for sale.' I'm figuring the guy's going to scalp me since it was a Monday Night Football Game, and the Redskins were the World Champs! Just give me face value—\$13 bucks. Forty-yard line sitting right next to Bart Starr's secretary. A great night!"⁴

Bart Starr: "I wanted them to stay out there and salute the crowd. The crowd was really turned on, and it was a brief way to say thank you."⁵

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/83, Christl, p. 24
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/83, p. 24
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/83, p. 25
- 4 For Packer Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 141
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/83, p. 23

10.23.1983

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20
PACKERS 17 (OT)

Shortly after quarterback Lynn Dickey threw his first interception, the Vikings grabbed a 7-0 lead. They held a 10-3 lead in the second half when a Ted Brown touchdown run seemed to put the game out of reach 17-3.

On Green Bay's next series, they marched 70 yards in nine plays that made it 17-10. The touchdown came on the first play of the fourth quarter when Dickey found John Jefferson in the corner of the end zone. With 1:48 left, Dickey marched Green Bay 80 yards. With two seconds left in regulation, Starr found fullback Mike Meade for the tying touchdown.

The Packers had the first opportunity in overtime, but their offense had cooled off and went three-and-out. The Vikings took over near midfield after a short 34-yard punt by Bucky Scribner. With 9:55 left in the overtime, Benny Ricardo delivered the three-point winner from the 32-yard line.

Minnesota 7 3 7 0 3 20
Green Bay 0 3 0 14 0 17
55,236

10.30.1983

PACKERS 14
 CINCINNATI
BENGALS 34

Former teammates Bart Starr and Forrest Gregg faced each other for the first time as head coaches. The Packers led very briefly, 7-6, but it was the Bengals' game as they broke loose with next 21 points.

Big Pete Johnson led the Bengals with two first-half touchdown runs and 112 yards rushing overall. Quarterback Kurt Schonert threw for 224 yards and fired touchdown passes to Chris Collingsworth and Pete Kreider. Schonert also scored one in himself.

The Packers didn't score again until the game was well out of reach. Green Bay was

outgained 464-283. They turned the ball over three times, and quarterback Lynn Dickey was decked four times.

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14
Cincinnati 6 21 0 7 34
53,349

*Trisha Denuucci, Packers fan: "I dress up even if I'm watching the game at home. I'll paint my face, everything. I paint my face when I go to the bar to watch the game. My whole family does. I love the Packers. My bridesmaids' dresses are green and gold. My wedding band is actually going to be green and gold. I also have a Packer tattoo."*¹

¹ For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 84

11.6.1983
CLEVELAND

BROWNS 21
PACKERS 35

The Packers never trailed, and their balanced attack took care of the Browns. They led 14-7 in the first half after capitalizing on two Cleveland miscues.

An interception by Mike Douglass led to the first of four Lynn Dickey touchdown passes. In the second quarter, a penalty on the Browns for too many men on the field opened the door for Dickey's touchdown pass to tight end Paul Coffman. Before halftime, Dickey and tight end Gary Lewis also connected for a 10-yard score and a 21-7 lead.

To back up Dickey's four touchdown passes, running backs Gerry Ellis and Jessie Clark led a ground game that put up 154 yards. Ellis scored twice in the second half to hold off Cleveland. With 1:25 left, Brian Sipe's touchdown pass cut the score 28-21. Gerry Ellis sealed the deal 25-yard run around left end for a touchdown with 56 seconds on the clock. "We control our own destiny. We beat Minnesota next week, and we're right where we want to be,"¹ said Coffman after the game.

Cleveland 7 0 0 14 21
Green Bay 7 14 7 7 35
54,089
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/83, Christl, p. 1

11.13.1983

PACKERS 29

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 21

On Green Bay's first visit to the Metrodome, it's a showdown of division leaders. Jan Stenerud's 46-yard field goal got Green Bay going, and at the end of the first quarter, fullback Mike Meade scored the first rushing touchdown of his career for a 10-0 lead. After Ezra Johnson recovered a Vikings fumble, quarterback Lynn Dickey and wideout John Jefferson hooked up for a 5-yard touchdown to push the lead to 17-0. With 2:58 left in the half, Vikings quarterback Steve Dils was tackled in the end zone for a safety by defensive tackle Greg Boyd. It was one of six sacks by the Packers, and it was 19-0 at halftime.

The Vikings woke up in the second half as Ricky Young's two touchdown runs in the third quarter slowed down Green Bay and trimmed the lead to 22-14. They made it 22-21 in the fourth quarter, with an 83-yard drive and a Tony Galbreath touchdown run. Green Bay took over with 8:28 left, and they ran the ball on nine of their 11 plays. On the 12th play from the Vikings' 19-yard line with 2:12 left, Dickey found James Lofton in the end zone, giving the Packers the win and putting them into a first-place tie in the standings!

Green Bay 10 9 3 7 29

Minnesota 0 0 14 7 21

60,113

Total Yards: GB 343 MINN 419

11.20.1983

DETROIT

LIONS 23

PACKERS 20 (OT)

There were nine turnovers in this pivotal game, and five belonged to the Lions. Detroit mishandled snaps on two punts that Lynn Dickey turned into touchdown passes to John Jefferson and Paul Coffman. The Packers led 20-3 at halftime, but in the second half, they returned the turnovers and gave the game away.

Lynn Dickey suffered a mild concussion near the end of the first half that kept him on the bench for the remainder of the game. Detroit's defense had much less trouble with back up quarterback David Whitehurst. Whitehurst fumbled on the first snap of the second half, and Detroit quarterback Hipple capitalized with a touchdown to make it 20-10.

Late in the third quarter, Eddie Murray's field goal cut the lead to seven. With seven minutes left in the fourth quarter, a short punt by Bucky Scribner was returned to Green

Bay's 24-yard line. Three plays later, Hipple connected with Freddie Scott to make it 20-20 and force the overtime. In the extra session, Bobby Watkins picked off David Whitehurst, and veteran Eddie Murray nailed a 37-yarder for the win.

The next day, a still dejected coach Starr, said, "It was a game we never should have lost. We let it get away from us, and I'm embarrassed to have the film go out and have other people see it."¹

Detroit 3 0 10 7 3 23
Green Bay 7 13 0 0 0 20
50,050

Milwaukee County Stadium

Lynn Dickey sets a new GB record with 26 TD passes in a season.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/83, Christl, p. 1

11.27.1983

PACKERS 41
ATLANTA
FALCONS 47 (OT)

Five hundred yards of offense wasn't enough for Green Bay. For the second game in a row, an interception doomed Green Bay in overtime.

Green Bay took the early lead behind quarterback Lynn Dickey. Dickey threw two touchdown passes and scored on a 1-yard touchdown run for a 21-0 start. Atlanta's furious comeback was led by quarterback Mike Moroski (22-35-303-2-1), and they cut the lead to three by halftime.

In the second half, Dickey steadied the ship momentarily with a touchdown pass to Paul Coffman. But after two Atlanta field goals, fullback William Andrews scored his third touchdown for a 34-31 lead with 9:18 left. Jan Stenerud's second field goal tied it, but a pick-six by cornerback Kenny Johnson made the score 41-34 with 1:57 left. Green Bay then went 85 yards quickly, and Gerry Ellis' touchdown run with three seconds left sent it to overtime!

In the extra session, Dickey threw his third pick when his pass was tipped by linebacker Buddy Curry. Kenny Johnson caught it, and went 31 yards for the win. "This was worse than last week,"¹ was all Jan Steneud would say.

Green Bay 14 10 7 10 0 41
Atlanta 0 21 3 17 6 47
35,688

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/83, p. 25

12.4.1983

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

PACKERS 31

Since they did not play in 1982 because of the player's strike, the ancient rivals finally renewed acquaintances. The last time they played was in 1981 when the Packers swept the series.

Gerry Ellis paced Green Bay with 141 yards rushing, and he set up their first touchdown with a 71-yard sprint from scrimmage! His 12-yard touchdown run in the second quarter gave the Packers a 21-14 halftime lead.

With 5:30 remaining in the game and the Packers leading 28-14, an interception by Leslie Frazier of the Bears led to a touchdown. When the Packers punted, a 59-yard return by Dennis McKinnon tied the score at 28 with 1:50 left! A stunned Packer crowd watched as Dickey, who threw for 345 yards, pulled the game out with a 67-yard pass to James Lofton to put the Packers at Chicago's six. Three plays later, Jan Stenerud won it.

After the game, Bart Starr apologized to the team for not overruling the third-and-one halfback option pass by Gerry Ellis that was intercepted by Leslie Frazier. The call was made by offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker.

Chicago 7 7 0 14 28

Green Bay 14 7 0 10 31

51,147

The defense held Walter Payton to 59 yards rushing.

During a pre-game ceremony, Ray Nitschke had his #66 retired. Nitschke was only the third Green Bay player to be so honored following Don Hutson, Tony Canadeo, and Bart Starr.

"It was a typical crowd for a Chicago game at the end of the season. There were certainly some people who got out of line."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/83, Hildebrand, p. 1

12.12.1983

PACKERS 12

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 9 (OT)

A win in the season's fifth overtime game, coupled with Detroit's loss to Cincinnati, kept the Packers in the playoff hunt at 8-7. Jan Stenerud scored all of Green Bay's points on this Monday night with four field goals. In doing so, he became the NFL's all-time leader in field goals moving past George Blanda.

With seven minutes left in the game, Tampa Bay scored the game's only touchdown. They missed the extra point, which opened the door for Stenerud's third field goal and a 9-9 game with 28 seconds left. In overtime, the Packers won the toss and went 65 yards in 11 plays, with Stenerud nailing his kick from the 23-yard line!

Green Bay 3 0 3 3 3 12

Tampa Bay 0 3 0 6 0 9

50,763

Total Yards: GB 363 TB 239

Lynn Dickey became the 4th quarterback in NFL history to throw for more than 4,000 yards.

12.18.1983

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

The Packers suffered a devastating loss that brought to an end both their playoff hopes and Coach Bart Starr's time as coach.

In frigid temperatures in the Windy City (-28 wind chill), Green Bay turned the ball over seven times to help the Bears to 14 points. They started the scoring with quarterback Jim McMahon's touchdown pass to Willie Gault. Quarterback Lynn Dickey responded with a scoring drive that he finished with a touchdown run. He also threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton for a 14-7 halftime lead.

Late in the third quarter, the Bears recovered a fumbled punt by Phillip Epps. McMahon took advantage with a touchdown pass to Dennis McKinnon to even it at 14. With 4:34 left in the game, Chicago made it 20-14 on a 6-yard quarterback-draw by Jim McMahon. The Packers took back the lead with an inspired drive and Lynn Dickey's second touchdown pass. Paul Coffman caught this one with 3:08 left.

When the Packers' defense couldn't stop the Bears, and Starr chose not to use his remaining time outs, the Bears milked the clock. They ran 10 plays for 58 yards, and Bob Thomas' winning kick came with 10 seconds left.

Cliff Christl of the Press-Gazette put it this way: "The Packers' defense has been the worst in the league. And, once again, it failed to come through when it mattered most."¹ After nine years, Bart Starr was fired the next day. His reaction? "I'm sorry I couldn't deliver more."²

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21

Chicago 7 0 7 9 23

35,807

*A House Divided? "Even households were divided. One caller praised Starr and questioned the qualifications of Robert Parins as President of the Packers organization. A short time later, this caller's son was on the air to say Parins' decision was right and just."*³

Letter to the Editor: "In my opinion, he has done more for the integrity of football, more for our own particular NFL franchise, more for our community, and more for humankind than anyone in our local history. As a role model, he has touched young lives and turned them in a positive direction. In whichever area he chooses to pursue, it can be assumed that he will continue to make his corner of the world better than he found it." Judy Scherer, Green Bay

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/83, Christl, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/83, Gerds, p. 25

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/83, Gerds, p. 25

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/83, p. 12

1983

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	9	7	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Chicago	8	8	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Tampa Bay	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ellis
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Stenerud
Interceptions	Lewis, Anderson (tie)

ALL-PRO

Douglass	Linebacker
Lofton	Wide Receiver
McCarren	Center

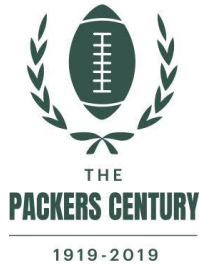
NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tim Lewis (1, CB)

Dave Drechsler (2, G)

Jessie Clark (7, RB)

Bucky Scribner (11, P)



1984
Record: 8-8-0, 2nd Place
Coach: Forrest Gregg

- Cincinnati Bengals head coach Forrest Gregg was named the ninth head coach in Green Bay's history on December 26, 1983.
- The 1984 Packers started slowly. Despite winning the opener against the Cardinals, they lost the next seven.
- Dick Modzelewski took over the defense, and they allowed 130 fewer points than in 1983. The pass defense finished in the top ten in interceptions, fewest yards allowed, and fewest touchdowns.
- Jan Stenerud was traded to Minnesota. Green Bay lost running back Eddie Lee Ivey for the first six games due to a knee injury.
- During the season, Gregg made several changes to the offensive line. In the first eight weeks, the Packers allowed 31 quarterback sacks. They cut it to 11 in the second half.

9.2.1984
ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS	23
PACKERS	24

A first game win for Forrest Gregg!

Quarterback Neil Lomax's touchdown pass to Pat Tilly gave St. Louis an early edge. After an interception by Packers' rookie Tom Flynn, the Packers tied it on Jessie Clark's touchdown run. The Packers went in front 14-7 before the half on quarterback Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman.

Green Bay also struck gold on the opening drive of the second half. With just 2:15 gone, a quarterback sneak by Dickey made it 21-7. At this point, the St. Louis defense stiffened, and they began to take control of the game. They allowed just one Eddie Garcia field goal the rest of the way, while Otis Anderson and Roy Green scored touchdowns to trim the deficit to 24-20.

A 48-yard field goal by Neil O'Donoghue cut the Packers' lead to one. Then with 2:15 left, and the game on the line, O'Donoghue missed a potential winner from the 45-yard line.

St. Louis 7 0 6 10 23
Green Bay 0 14 10 0 24
53,738

Total Yards: GB 266 STL 417

9.9.1983

PACKERS 7
LOS ANGELES
RAIDERS 28

The Packers took on the defending Super Bowl Champions in 80+ degree heat in Los Angeles. With less than two minutes gone in the game, quarterback Lynn Dickey bruised his back after being sacked by Lyle Alzado and Mike Davis. Dickey left the game and did not return. Rookie quarterback Randy Wright took over. His touchdown pass to Ed West provided Green Bay's only points in the second quarter, and Rich Campbell replaced him for the last 10 minutes of the game.

After a 7-7 game at the half, quarterback Jim Plunkett had no trouble moving the Raiders. A long kickoff return set up their first touchdown, and an interception by Vann McElroy led to Marcus Allen's touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Dickey's early injury shelved Green Bay's offense which gained only 209 total yards.

After Forrest Gregg watched the game on film, the Press-Gazette reported, "Forrest Gregg's temper was near its hottest of the season."¹ After two games??

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Los Angeles 7 0 7 14 28
46,269

Sacks: GB 5 LA 4

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/84, p. 2

9.16.1984

CHICAGO

BEARS 9
PACKERS 7

Two Hall of Fame players were bitter rivals as coaches. Forrest Gregg and Mike Ditka met as coaches for the first time during the regular season. They had already gotten into a shouting match in a preseason game in Milwaukee along the sideline that both teams shared at old County Stadium.

Not surprisingly, there were a few skirmishes. The major confrontation took place over Charles Martin's hard hit on quarterback Jim McMahon (not *the* hit). It sent the quarterback to the bench, and he was replaced by Bob Avellini.

After an injury in the previous game, Lynn Dickey bounced back to start this game. He threw for just 142 yards and one interception. The story of the game came down to three field goals by Chicago's Bob Thomas versus one touchdown run by Jessie Clark. Clark's touchdown dash in the second quarter came after a botched punt by the Bears.

Bob Thomas' third field goal came with 11 minutes left in the game. Eddie Garcia of the Packers missed his field goal try with four minutes left. After the victory, Bears' defensive tackle Dan Hampton said, "Anytime we win here in Green Bay, it's like winning the Super Bowl to an extent."¹

Chicago 3 3 0 3 9
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
55,942

Plays: GB 45-154 CHI 72-345

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/84, McGinn, p. 22

9.23.1984

PACKERS 6
DALLAS
COWBOYS 20

Green Bay's offense was shut out. The Packers' only points came in the second quarter on a pick-six by defensive end Robert Brown. They were completely stymied by Dallas' defense which sacked quarterback Lynn Dickey five times and picked off two of his passes.

Through three games, Green Bay's defense looked improved while the offense with Lynn Dickey's injuries appeared to have regressed. Linebacker George Cumby looked at it this way, "They (the offense) took care of us all last year. We know we can't get on the offense now."¹ Trailing in the fourth quarter, 20-6, the Packers threatened and marched inside the Cowboys' 25-yard line twice. But an interception in the end zone by Everson Walls ended the first threat, and a missed field goal sunk the second.

After the game, Dickey revealed to reporters that his injury in September against the Raiders was more serious than first reported. He "fractured three transverse processes in his lower back"¹ and his recovery was said to be week to week.

Green Bay 0 0 6 0 6
Dallas 7 6 0 7 20
64,222

Packer trainer Dominic Gentile spoke “at a community breakfast that was part of Ashwabenon’s Alcohol and Drug Awareness week activities. Gentile told about 100 persons that only changes in basic attitudes will lead to progress against drug and alcohol abuse.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/84, McGinn, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/84, Hildebrand, p. 1

9.30.1984

PACKERS 27
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS 30 (OT)

This was an exciting game of offensive football with eight lead changes and nine turnovers. The Packers jumped on three turnovers by Tampa Bay for 17 points, but it wasn’t enough.

In the first 30 minutes, the Bucs ran 18 more plays than the Packers, and they enjoyed a 17-13 lead at the break. Green Bay’s passing game came alive in the second half. In the third quarter, Lynn Dickey found Paul Coffman in the end zone for a 20-17 lead.

With under seven minutes to go in the game, Tampa Bay took the lead back 27-20 on a field goal and a pick-six by David Logan. With no timeouts remaining, the Packers marched 75 yards to tie things up. They scored when Dickey’s completion to James Lofton was lateraled to Gerry Ellis. Ellis took it the final 14 yards with eight seconds left. But in the overtime, a third field goal by the Bucs’ Obed Ariri won it.

Green Bay 10 3 7 7 0 27
Tampa 7 10 0 10 3 30
47,487

Total Yards: GB 383 TB 406

10.7.1984

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 34
PACKERS 28

San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts threw 50 passes, including three touchdowns, without an interception. Lynn Dickey threw 40 passes for three touchdowns and three interceptions. Two of the interceptions were critical. The first gave the Chargers an early second half lead 21-14, while the second snuffed out Green Bay’s comeback bid with 1:28 left in the game.

The Chargers rolled up 459 yards of offense. Green Bay suffered its fifth straight loss, though Forrest Gregg thought the team was “over the hump. We’ll play good football

from now on in.”¹

San Diego 7 7 10 10 34
Green Bay 7 7 7 7 28
54,045

“No attempts were made Sunday to enter the Packer game at Lambeau Field with any of the 23 tickets reported stolen last week from an Allouez tavern, police said today. The Packer organization did not report finding any of the tickets that were stolen from Fuzzy Shenanigan’s, a tavern owned by ex-Packer Fuzzy Thurston. Thurston was given new tickets for Sunday’s game”²

Members of the Super Bowl I Team were welcomed back. “Sunday’s gathering presented them a chance to get together once again. But it also presented them with something else—a rare opportunity to give something back. They had a chance to regroup and raise money for worthy causes at the same time. They seemed to relish both.”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, McGinn, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, p. 4

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/84, Langenkamp p. 5

10.15.1984

PACKERS 14
DENVER
BRONCOS 17

It was Monday Night Football in a Rocky Mountain Blizzard! The elements took their toll immediately with fumbles by both Gerry Ellis and Jessie Clark. Both were returned for touchdowns, and by halftime, Denver led comfortably 17-0. Along the way, the Packers cooperated as Lynn Dickey threw an interception to end the first half, and he also fumbled away a snap at the start of the second.

Late in the third quarter, safety Mark Murphy of the Packers intercepted a John Elway pass on Denver’s 22-yard line. Gerry Ellis scored four plays later. In the fourth quarter, with seven minutes left, Lynn Dickey uncorked a 54-yard bomb to James Lofton which put the score at 17-14. Lofton caught 11 passes in the game for 206 yards! But that’s where the comeback ended. Though the Packers outgained the Broncos 423-193, they never recovered from their two early fumbles.

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14
Denver 14 3 0 0 17
62,546

Turnovers: GB 5 DEN 1

10.21.1984

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 30

PACKERS 24

Quarterback Lynn Dickey threw three touchdown passes and three interceptions in this disappointing loss. It took just 19 seconds for him to give Green Bay the lead, however, with a 79-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton. On Seattle's ensuing drive, quarterback Dave Krieg, a Wisconsin native, tied the score with a touchdown pass to Steve Largent. Dickey came right back to Lofton again for a 14-7 lead with just 7:34 gone in the first quarter! Field goals took over, but a touchdown by the Seahawks before halftime gave them a 20-17 edge.

Seattle put together a decisive drive to start the second half. Krieg found Daryl Turner for a 25-yard touchdown pass to extend the lead to 10. The Packers got back to within three on Gerry Ellis' touchdown run. But Norm Johnson's third field goal in the fourth quarter pushed Seattle's lead to six. Dickey then threw his third pick of the game with 24 seconds left to end it.

After the game, Gregg was blunt. "That was the worst game we played all year. You can talk about valiant effort and everything else, and you can accept that if you want. But I don't accept it. Winning is the bottom line, and we didn't win."¹ Seattle handed Green Bay their seventh straight loss, which tied a franchise record.

Seattle 7 13 7 3 30

Green Bay 17 0 7 0 24

52,286

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/84, p. 1

10.28.1984

DETROIT

LIONS 9

PACKERS 41

"Many fans are arguing today whether the win was a result of a great game by the Packers or a terrible game by the Lions."¹ Green Bay's offense smacked around the Lions to end the losing streak. There were 20 penalties in this divisional grudge match and a few minor flare-ups. The Lions never stood a chance.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey threw four touchdown passes without an interception, and Eddie Lee Ivey returned from his injury to run for 116 yards on nine carries! Green Bay

outgained Detroit 439-308. Three Eddie Murray field goals were all Detroit could muster. Green Bay's defense gave up just 65 yards rushing, and safety Tom Flynn intercepted three passes. Paul Coffman, who caught two touchdown passes, felt very confident after the win. "I think it's realistic that we can win our last seven games,"² he said.

Detroit **3 6 0 0 9**
Green Bay **14 14 10 3 41**
54,289

Penalties: GB 8-90 DET 12-83

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/84, p. 6
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/84, p. 1

11.4.1984

PACKERS **23**
NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS **13**

Two more touchdown catches for Paul Coffman kept the offense rolling. Along with Al Del Greco's three field goals, it was all the Packers needed for a second straight win. "We're on a roll, and we think we can beat anybody,"¹ said linebacker John Anderson.

The Packers took control for good in the third quarter on Coffman's second touchdown catch. On the play, Coffman carried linebacker Glenn Redd on his back into the end zone! The Packers ran for over 200 yards for the first time this season as Gerry Ellis (86) and Eddie Lee Ivery (78) led the way. The defense kept the Saints out of the end zone after the first quarter. Tom Flynn starred again with an interception, and he recovered a fumble that led to Green Bay's first touchdown.

Green Bay **0 10 10 3 23**
New Orleans **7 3 0 3 13**
57,426

Penalties: GB 12 NO 6

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/84, McGinn, p. 21

11.11.1984

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **17**
PACKERS **45**

The last place Vikings were clobbered. The Packers took a first half lead with touchdown catches by Paul Coffman and rookie tight end Ed West. Though the Packers led at intermission, 17-10, Forrest Gregg loudly lectured the team in the locker room for uninspired play.

In the second half, after Minnesota tied it, the Packers scored the next 28 points. Lynn Dickey had a great day with four touchdown passes. In the third quarter, Dickey and fullback Jessie Clark connected twice to provide breathing room with a 31-17 lead.

Early in the fourth, Dickey and Lofton put it away with a 63-yard touchdown pass that slammed the door shut. Gerry Ellis, who ran for 110 yards on only nine carries, closed out the scoring with a short touchdown run. The Packers outgained the Vikings 513-272.

Minnesota 0 10 7 0 17
Green Bay 7 10 14 14 45
52,931
Milwaukee County Stadium

11.18.1984
LOS ANGELES

RAMS 6
PACKERS 31

This win made it two in a row in Milwaukee. The Rams' offense consisted of two field goals that followed two interceptions by safety Johnnie Johnson. From there, in the second quarter, the Packers dominated.

Linebacker John Anderson explained how. "We nullified (Eric Dickerson) and forced them to pass. Then we were in the driver's seat."¹ Indeed. Quarterbacks Jack Kemp and Steve Dils combined for just 140 yards passing, no touchdowns, and three interceptions.

The Packers pulled in front 14-6 on two touchdown runs by Eddie Lee Ivery. For the game, Ivery ran for 77 yards and had 22 yards receiving. James Lofton kept drives moving with several key catches. He caught six passes for 129 yards. On defense, cornerback Tim Lewis ended all doubt about the outcome by setting a new team record with a 99-yard interception return for a touchdown!

Los Angeles 3 3 0 0 6
Green Bay 0 14 10 7 31
52,031
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/84, McGinn, p. 22

11.22.1984

PACKERS 28

DETROIT

LIONS 31

Green Bay's four-game winning streak ended on their first trip to Detroit on Thanksgiving since 1963! The Packers got out to 14-0 lead on a 40-yard burst around left end by Gerry Ellis. Lynn Dickey's touchdown pass to Paul Coffman followed. Detroit's offense was revved up in the second quarter as quarterback Gary Danielson threw two of his three touchdown passes to tight end David Lewis. By halftime, Green Bay was up, 21-17.

In the third quarter, the Lions capitalized on Bobby Watkins' interception to take a 24-21 lead. Quarterback Gary Danielson's third touchdown pass provided the winning margin. The loss realistically eliminated the Packers from the postseason. Choosing not to mince any words after this loss on national television, Forrest Gregg started his press conference with, "That was probably the worst 60 minutes of defensive football that I've ever seen a defensive team play. That was just horrible."¹

Green Bay 14 7 0 7 28

Detroit 0 17 7 7 31

63,698

Total Yards: GB 306 DET 539

"The Green Bay Packer organization has announced plans to build private box seats which can be rented to the public at a yearly cost of \$8,000-\$12,000 yearly. All the planned boxes were sold in only six hours after the announcement."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/84, McGinn, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/84, p. 4

12.2.1984

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14

PACKERS 27

After being virtually eliminated from the postseason last week by the Lions, the Packers bounced back at muddy Lambeau Field. In this Battle of the Bays, the Buccaneers enjoyed a 14-0 lead into the third quarter when the Packers took the game away.

Eddie Lee Ivery's first touchdown came on Green Bay's next series. It was a draw-play from the 4-yard line, and it got Green Bay rolling offensively. Quarterback Lynn Dickey pulled them even 14-14 with a quarterback sneak from the 1-yard line. On their next series, the Packers took over on their 40-yard line and scored quickly. After they misplayed the extra point, they held the Bucs to a three-and-out. The Packers took the punt and responded

with a 57-yard march and Eddie Lee Ivery's second touchdown with four minutes left!

Tampa Bay	0	7	7	0	14
Green Bay	0	0	7	20	27

46,800

*"The Wave reached Lambeau Field for the first time. Dickey and Gregg each tried to tone down the racket when the Packers had the ball."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/84, p. 22

12.9.1984

PACKERS	20
CHICAGO	
BEARS	14

With Lynn Dickey held out with severe headaches, rookie Randy Wright, a quarterback from the University of Wisconsin, started in his place. When Wright injured his knee in the second quarter, third-string quarterback Rich Campbell replaced him. Campbell was Green Bay's number one draft choice in 1981.

The only points in the first half came on Campbell's touchdown pass to tight end Ed West. Walter Payton had an outstanding game with 175 yards rushing, a touchdown run, and a touchdown pass! In the third quarter, the Bears tied it on a 2-yard pass from Payton to Matt Suhey.

On the ensuing kickoff, Del Rodgers took it back 95 yards for a 13-7 lead. Chicago's defense answered two drives later with a second interception of Rich Campbell. Six plays later, a 7-yard dash by Walter Payton took back the lead 14-13.

With two minutes left and still leading 14-13, the Bears were stopped on fourth down on Green Bay's 28-yard line. The Packers took over, and Rich Campbell responded with three straight completions followed by three incompletions! On a third down, the Bears accepted a holding penalty on guard Ron Hallstrom and moved the Packers out of field goal range. With 34 seconds left, on third-and-20 from Chicago's 43, Campbell dropped back and desperately heaved a 43-yard touchdown pass Phillip Epps for the win!

The win dealt a fatal blow to Chicago's hopes of hosting a home postseason game. It was also Forrest Gregg's first and only win against Mike Ditka's Bears.

Green Bay	0	7	6	7	20
Chicago	0	0	7	7	14

59,374

Scott Kelnhofer "I had been covering the game for Channel 4 in Milwaukee, and I made it down to the sideline just as Green Bay stopped the Bears on fourth down. I was dreading going into the*

locker room after another loss because players don't like to be interviewed after a loss. With 34 seconds left, Campbell executed what is possibly the only play on his career highlight reel. Suddenly, the postgame questions changed dramatically. Campbell was obviously thrilled, not only for the game-winning drive but also to finally give Packers fans reason to not view him as a disappointment. To have seen it from the field level was thrilling. To see what it meant to Campbell immediately after the game was pretty cool as well."

* Interview: 4/28/17

12.16.1984

PACKERS 38

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 14

Quarterback Lynn Dickey returned to action, and the Packers finished 8-8 for the third time in three years. Dickey threw touchdown passes to Phillip Epps and Ed West, and he scored another on the ground. With Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown, the Packers built an impressive 31-0 first-half lead!

Green Bay easily outgained Minnesota 448-241. Cornerback Mark Lee led the defense with an interception and a fumble recovery. Rookie Tom Flynn grabbed a league-leading ninth interception. Green Bay won seven of its final eight games to finish 8-8, while the Vikings fell to 3-11 and finished last.

Green Bay 10 21 7 0 38

Minnesota 0 0 7 7 14

51,197

James Lofton's 1,361 receiving yards set a new GB record.

1984

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	10	6	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Tampa Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	4	11	1
Minnesota	3	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ellis
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Del Greco
Interceptions	Flynn

ALL-PRO

Coffman Tight End
Lofton Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Alphonso Carreker (1, DE)
Donny Humphrey (2, DE)
John Dorsey (4, LB)
Tom Flynn (5, S)
Randy Wright (6, QB)



**THE
PACKERS CENTURY**

1919-2019

1985

Record: 8-8-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Forrest Gregg

- In 1984, to boost future revenues, the Packers approved adding 72 suites to Lambeau Field before the 1985 season.
- Larry McCarren retired. John Jefferson was traded to Cleveland. In November, Mossy Cade was found guilty of sexual assault.
- For a third straight season and the second under Forrest Gregg, the Packers finished 8-8. The defense improved significantly, but the offense was inconsistent.
- Running backs Eddie Lee Ivery, Jessie Clark, and Gerry Ellis combined for 1,840 yards. Net yards in the passing game (197.7) was the team's lowest since 1979. Injuries plagued quarterback Lynn Dickey who started just 10 games.
- After the season, Dickey and the Packers could not reach a contract agreement, and he was released.

9.8.1985

PACKERS 20

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 26

The Patriots had a 7-0 lead when they took complete control with an interception, a fumble recovery, and a safety in the second quarter. They stretched the lead to 19-6 on quarterback Tony Eason's touchdown to Cedric Jones with eight seconds left in the half.

After a quiet third quarter along with the first eight minutes of the fourth, a 65-yard touchdown run by fullback Craig James put the game out of reach 26-6. The Packers rallied for two touchdowns in the final minutes to make it close.

"We can't move the ball at all. We can't move it on the ground. We can't move it through the air," said Forrest Gregg. Green Bay ran for 56 yards, Dickey was sacked seven times, and they were outgained 410-205.

Green Bay 0 6 0 14 20

New England 7 12 0 7 26

49,488

John Anderson broke his thumb in this game.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/85, McGinn, p. 17

9.15.1985

NEW YORK

GIANTS 20

PACKERS 23

The Packers won a close home opener thanks to Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown with four minutes left!

A field goal and Jessie Clark's 1-yard touchdown run gave the Packers an early 10-0 lead. They topped off the first 30 minutes with a run-pass option play, and quarterback Lynn Dickey found Paul Coffman for the touchdown and a 17-6 halftime lead. "I do have the option to run. I bet that scared them to death,"¹ Dickey said with a smile. The Giants were held to two first-half field goals by Ali Haji-Sheikh.

In the second half, New York quarterback Phil Simms threw two touchdowns passes. His second score, midway through the fourth quarter, went to Lionel Manuel and put the Giants ahead for the first time, 20-17. The Packers hit right back with a 75-yard drive. Two long passes from Dickey to James Lofton and Phillip Epps put them deep in Giants' territory. With 4:07 left, they retook the lead on Eddie Lee Ivery's touchdown run. In the final minutes, the Giants drove to the 37-yard line where Haji-Sheikh missed a 47-yard field goal with 1:06 left!

New York 0 6 7 7 20

Green Bay 10 0 7 6 23

56,149

Defensive End Donnie Humphrey of the Packers on The Wave done by the crowd: "Crowd support is great, but it screwed me up one time. I jumped offsides."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/85, Egle, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/85, p. 20

9.22.1985
NEW YORK

JETS **24**
PACKERS **3**

For the Packers, the “fun” began on their first offensive play. Lynn Dickey fumbled the snap, and the Jets recovered on the 18-yard line. Six plays later, Tony Paige caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from Ken O’Brien. Al Del Greco’s field goal for the Packers ended a relatively quiet first half.

The Jets pulled away after halftime, and Pat Leahy started it with a field goal. Lance Mehl’s interception of quarterback Lynn Dickey set up Tony Paige’s second touchdown on the next play. Then, when Green Bay fumbled another snap on a punt deep in their territory, nose tackle Tom Baldwin recovered it at the 9-yard line and scored for the Jets.

After a third straight lackluster performance by Dickey, Forrest Gregg responded to questions about the quarterback position with, “Don’t even ask me about my quarterbacks. That is for next week. You’ll know soon enough.”¹

New York **7 0 10 7 24**
Green Bay **3 0 0 0 3**
53,667
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/85, Christl, p. 17

9.29.1985

PACKERS **28**
ST. LOUIS
CARDINALS **43**

After an inconsistent start to the season, Lynn Dickey “asked to be demoted last week.”¹ Back up quarterback Randy Wright started in his place, but he struggled (8-17-77-0-2).

Dickey stayed on the bench into the second half, but Wright’s second interception hastened his return. Trailing 26-0, Dickey had an immediate impact. He marched Green Bay 74 yards, with Gerry Ellis scoring on a 39-yard draw-play. After the Cardinals matched it, Dickey tossed the first of three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter. James Lofton caught it, and Green Bay trailed 33-14.

In the final six minutes, Dickey and Paul Coffman hooked up twice more. In between those scores, St. Louis quarterback Neil Lomax threw his third touchdown pass. Overall, the Cardinals scored 19 points after two interceptions, a blocked punt, and a safety.

Green Bay 0 0 7 21 28
Cardinals 0 19 14 10 43
45,598

Total Yards: GB 454 STL 397

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/85, p. 1

10.6.1985

DETROIT

LIONS 10
PACKERS 43

*Before the game, former Packers center Larry McCarren was honored for his work with the Disabled Citizens of Neenah and the Fox Valley. "For several years, McCarren would interrupt his pre-game warmups to spend time with the group of disabled fans seated near the north end zone. McCarren would talk to the group, sign autographs, and pose for pictures."*¹

"We had fun today. We've been struggling,"² said Lynn Dickey of the 2-3 Packers. After Detroit scored first, it was all Green Bay! The Packers pounded the Lions for 512 yards. The Lions kept giving the Packers more chances with six turnovers!

The game got especially chippy, too. Before it was all over tackle Greg Koch of the Packers and linebacker Jimmy Williams of the Lions were both ejected.

Lynn Dickey threw two touchdown passes before he left the game with an injured thumb. Randy Wright stepped in and performed nicely with two more touchdowns. Phillip Epps caught two touchdowns, and Eddie Lee Ivery and Ed West caught the others. Though James Lofton did not score a touchdown, he had 10 catches for 151 yards. It moved him past Don Hutson for the most receiving yards in Packers' history (8,050).

Detroit 3 0 0 7 10
Green Bay 7 13 23 0 43
55,914

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/8, White, p.1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/8, McGinn, p. 19

10.13.1985

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 17
PACKERS 20

The game was tied three times, and Green Bay got back to .500 with the win. The Packers grabbed a 7-0 lead on a short drive after an interception by safety Mark Murphy. The Vikings tied it before halftime, and the Packers came back late in the third quarter on a

fumble recovery and touchdown by cornerback Tim Lewis. "As a cornerback, I feel agile enough to scoop up (fumbles) and go. If I was 300 pounds, I'd probably just dive on it."¹

Minnesota had trouble running the ball (62 yards), but quarterback Tommy Kramer had no problem throwing it! He passed for two touchdowns and 237 yards. Minnesota tied the score, 14-14, in the third quarter on Kramer's 43-yard touchdown pass to Leo Lewis. Late in the fourth quarter, an interception by Packers' linebacker John Anderson was critical. The Packers made it count with Al Del Greco's 45-yard kick for a 17-14 lead. The Vikings drove to Green Bay's 1-yard line, and Jan Stenerud tied it. Green Bay's final series moved quickly behind Dickey's passes to Eddie Lee Ivery. From the Minnesota 36, a long completion to James Lofton set up Al Del Greco's winning kick from the 22!

Minnesota 0 7 7 3 17

Green Bay 0 7 7 6 20

54,674

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/85, McGinn, p. 18

10.21.1985

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

On a Monday night, the Bears remained undefeated despite four early fumbles. Fullback Matt Suhey's fumble led to Green Bay's only points on quarterback Lynn Dickey's touchdown to James Lofton. Quarterback Lynn Dickey had an awful night (4-7-62-1-3). Two of his three interceptions did damage, and after the first, Mike Ditka had a trick up his sleeve. Always looking to show up the Packers, Ditka put rookie defensive tackle William "The Refrigerator" Perry (335 lbs) in the offensive backfield. Perry escorted Walter Payton into the end zone for a 7-7 tie.

Minutes later, after an interception by linebacker Wilbur Marshall, Perry ran it in himself from the 1-yard line for a 14-7 lead. Ditka's decision to use Perry to humiliate the Packers angered everyone associated with Green Bay. "There's been bad blood between the two teams since 1923, or whatever. It carries on,"¹ said Paul Coffman after the game.

The Packers were not only bowled over by Perry, but Lynn Dickey left the game with a thigh bruise in the second quarter. Back up Randy Wright lasted until the game's final two drives when his knees gave out. Jim Zorn finished the game. Overall, the Packers turned it over five times, gave up five sacks, and ran 16 fewer plays.

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7

Chicago 0 21 0 2 23

65,095

Tom Thayer, *Chicago Bears*: "Green Bay still has the same loyal fan base. They can't wait to get to their parking location. People all over the country go to Notre Dame games, and it was similar in Green Bay. It was just like a college atmosphere, and I loved it. Everybody converges, and then they leave. It's just neat to see what the stadium means to the area."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/85, McGinn, p. 19

2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 123

10.27.1985

PACKERS 10

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 37

"Humiliated"¹ read the accurate headline. Two first-quarter touchdown runs got the Colts rolling. Both were set up by interceptions by cornerback Eugene Daniel. Wayne Capers scored the first touchdown, one of three on the day for the third-year receiver.

Trailing 14-0, the Packers scored on a Lynn Dickey to Paul Coffman touchdown. Indianapolis then outscored Green Bay 23-3 the rest of the way. Their defense gave up just 74 yards rushing, and they forced Dickey to throw 47 times. He completed only 20, and four were intercepted. In a frustrated Packers' locker room after the game, there was some shouting and scuffling.

Green Bay 7 3 0 0 10

Indianapolis 14 6 7 10 37

59,708

Total Yards: GB 277 IND 496

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/85, p. 21

11.3.1985

CHICAGO

BEARS 16

PACKERS 10

There were more brawls, cheap shots, and penalties in this game than points. It all began before the game when a five-pound bag of horse manure was delivered to Chicago's locker room!

On the field, Mark Lee and Walter Payton got into it and flew over Green Bay's bench. Only Lee was ejected. Later, rookie Kenny Stills of the Packers "took a 15-yard head start and blasted Bears fullback Matt Suhey a good five seconds after the play was over."¹ In all, there were five penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct and unnecessary roughness.

In the game, Jim Zorn started at quarterback for Green Bay. The Packers held a 3-0 lead until there were 25 seconds left in the first half.

Walter Payton's 192 yards led the Bears' offense. "The Refrigerator" Perry fooled the Packers again by catching a 4-yard touchdown pass from Jim McMahon for a 7-3 lead. Late in the third quarter, the Packers went back in front 10-7 on a 55-yard touchdown pass from Jim Zorn to running back Jessie Clark.

With 12 minutes left in the game, Zorn was sacked in the end zone by linebacker Otis Wilson to make the score 10-9. On the safety's free-kick, the Bears took over on the Packers' 49. Two minutes later, Payton sprinted around right end for a 27-yard touchdown run that proved to be the winner.

Chicago 0 7 0 9 16
Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10
56,895

*"Your fans have a total knowledge of football. It was a good, basic football game, a real fighting match. This town deserves a winner."*²

1 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/85, Murphy, p. 1

11.10.1985

PACKERS 27
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 17

Lynn Dickey relieved Jim Zorn in the second quarter and rallied the Packers in a dramatic comeback. He was backed up by Eddie Lee Ivery's great running and the receiving of Phillip Epps and James Lofton.

Trailing 17-6 in the fourth quarter, the Packers rallied. In the final 12 minutes, Dickey led an 11-play drive that Gerry Ellis finished with a touchdown run with 7:33 left. After a three-and-out, Green Bay took over on the 32-yard line. On first down, Dickey dropped back and found Phillip Epps streaking down the right sideline for a 63-yard gain to the 5-yard line! Two plays later, a pass to Ivery gave the Packers a 20-17 lead with 5:29 remaining. Green Bay's safety Mark Murphy completed the stunning comeback with a 50-yard pick-six of Tommy Kramer with 3:56 left!

Green Bay 3 3 0 21 27
Minnesota 7 0 7 3 17
59,970

*"My sister-in-law was a Vikings fan, so we started getting into the rivalry and decorating our home and making a big deal about it. We had all our family over, and they've all become Packer fans."*¹

1 Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 152

11.17.1985
NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 14
PACKERS 38

No contest. The Packers led 24-0 before a pick-six put the Saints on the scoreboard. By the time New Orleans scored on offense, they trailed 31-7!

Green Bay outgained New Orleans 433-207, and Lynn Dickey had a fantastic game. He threw for 305 yards and two touchdowns. The ground game backed him up with 137 yards, with touchdown runs by Gerry Ellis and Gary Ellerson.

The Packers played well defensively. They held the Saints to 75 yards rushing, and they sacked quarterback Bobby Herbert six times. The victory kept Green Bay's postseason hopes alive.

New Orleans 0 0 7 7 14
Green Bay 0 17 7 14 38
52,104
Milwaukee County Stadium

11.24.1985

PACKERS 17
LOS ANGELES
RAMS 34

The L.A. Rams (9-3) snapped their 2-game losing streak. They were led by former Olympic sprinter, Ron Brown, who returned two kickoffs 98 and 86 yards for touchdowns. Quarterback Lynn Dickey's touchdown to Paul Coffman and Al Del Greco's field goal made it 14-10 at halftime. Green Bay pulled in front briefly with a 21-yard touchdown pass from Dickey to James Lofton. After going in front, the Packers were outscored 20-7.

The Rams unleashed running back Eric Dickerson, who blew through Green Bay for 150 yards. His second-half touchdown run and Ron Brown's third score put the game out of reach. The Rams scored 20 unanswered points in the game's final 24 minutes! L.A. controlled the line of scrimmage, and they held the Packers to 77 yards rushing. They also sacked Dickey five times. After the defeat, the Packers were 5-7, and Forrest Gregg said, "Right now I don't feel very well."¹

Green Bay 0 10 7 0 17
Los Angeles 7 7 7 13 34
52,710

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/85, McGinn

12.1.1985

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 0

PACKERS 21

In the game that became known as "The Snow Bowl," boy, did it snow! The teams played on despite a blinding blizzard that dropped 13.6 inches of snow on Green Bay, most of it during the game! Wisely, only 19,856 fans showed up.

Playing conditions were unimaginable. Besides the obvious, "Tampa Bay wore their white away team jerseys, which were difficult to see during the whiteout conditions. Coaches and commentators had difficulty seeing the field. Between plays, the grounds crew swept snow off the lines marking the field."¹

The 2-10 Buccaneers were as bad as their record. On offense, they generated just 65 yards in 60 minutes! After a scoreless first quarter, the Packers went to work with three touchdown runs by Lynn Dickey, Gerry Ellis, and Jessie Clark. They finished with 512 total yards, with 210 on the ground! Eddie Lee Ivery led the ground game with 109. Quarterback Lynn Dickey was right at home in the blizzard. He completed 22 of 36 passes for 299 yards.

Over time, "The Snow Bowl" has taken its "rightful place next to the Ice Bowl on the all-time inclement weather list."² The terrible conditions put up more resistance than the Buccaneers!

Tampa Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21
19,856

"The game was good, but the fans were great. When a little kid slipped in the aisle, all hands within reaching distance were helping him up. When a beer vendor fumbled with change with frozen fingers, the standard reply was to keep it."³

From a Luxury Box: We "had great empathy for the fans in the stands. But I noticed a lot of them in the south end zone were having a great time sliding down the aisles, climbing back up and sliding again."⁴

1 wikipedia.org/wiki/SnowBowl (1985), bucpower 4-1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/85, Langenkamp, p. 2.

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/85, Langenkamp, p. 2

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Murphy, p. 4

12.8.1985

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 34

PACKERS 24

In the last home game of the season, the Packers couldn't stop Miami's quarterback, Dan Marino. Almost singlehandedly, Marino took down Green Bay with five touchdown passes to five different receivers.

After the Packers took the lead on an early field goal, Marino connected with Tony Nathan to make it 7-3. Mark Clayton scored on a 21-yard touchdown pass, and a fumble by quarterback Jim Zorn on Green Bay's 18-yard line led to Marino's third touchdown pass. Four seconds before halftime, his 16-yard toss to Nat Moore gave Miami a 20-3 lead.

Green Bay came back in the second half with three touchdowns to go in front, at one point, 24-20. They took the second-half kickoff and drove 66 yards for Zorn's 29-yard touchdown to Preston Dennard. Zorn threw a second touchdown pass to James Lofton, and in the fourth quarter, Eddie Lee Ivery's 1-yard run topped off a 66-yard march!

After the Packers took a 24-20 lead, the Dolphins bounced back with a drive that caused a "bit of confusion"¹ for Green Bay's defense. Mixing in the use of running backs in the passing game, put the Dolphins on Green Bay's 2-yard line. Marino threw his fourth touchdown to tight end Joe Rose to lead 24-21. With two minutes left, Jim Zorn threw his second interception of the game leading to Marino's fifth touchdown pass, a 61-yard bomb to Dan Johnson! For the game, Marino was 30-44-345-5-1.

Miami 6 14 0 14 34

Green Bay 3 0 14 7 24

52,671

In the last home game of the season, things got a bit rowdy in the stands: "One of the fans at Sunday's game at Lambeau Field is thrown over the railing and onto the playing field by other fans after cheering for Miami. The fan was escorted off the field by two police officers."²

Several Packer fans from Florida attended the game. "One of them is 28 years old and has never seen snow. He's been like a little kid playing in the snow."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, Egle p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/85, Stingl/Shaw, p. 2

12.15.1985

PACKERS 26

DETROIT

LIONS 23

Detroit controlled the first half with two touchdown runs by Alvin Moore. The first followed a Packer fumble, and the second made it 17-6 seconds before halftime. The Packers woke up in the second half. A third-quarter touchdown run by rookie Gerry Ellerson brought it to 17-13. With nine minutes left, they took the lead 23-17 after Al Del Greco's field goal and Mike Douglass's 80-yard pick-six!

With two minutes remaining, the Lions struck again on a 30-yard touchdown bomb from Joe Ferguson to wideout Leonard Thompson. Eddie Murray missed the extra point, and it was 23-23. Green Bay's final possession started on their 20. It took nine plays, and Al Del Greco made the Lions pay with a 27-yard field goal as time expired!

Green Bay 0 6 7 13 26

Detroit 14 3 0 6 23

49,379

12.22.1985

PACKERS 20

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 17

In the final game, touchdowns by Philip Epps and Jessie Clark were wrapped around two Al Del Greco field goals for the win. The defense recovered two fumbles and delivered five sacks. Green Bay finished 8-8 again, and major changes were on the way!

Green Bay 7 3 3 7 20

Tampa Bay 3 7 0 7 17

33,992

1985

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	15	1	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Minnesota	7	9	0
Detroit	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Dickey
Rushing	Ivery
Receiving	Lofton
Scoring	Del Greco
Interceptions	Lewis

ALL-PRO

Lofton Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ken Ruettggers (1, OT)

Rich Moran (3, C/G)

Walter Stanley (4, WR)

Brian Noble (5, LB)

Gary Ellerson (7b, RB)

Ken Stills (8, S)



1986

Record: 4-12-0, 4th Place

Coach: Forrest Gregg

- Forrest Gregg and many others were tired of finishing 8-8-0. A housecleaning took place for a fresh start.
- Lynn Dickey could not agree on a new contract and was released. Offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker was dismissed. Mike Douglass, Paul Coffman, and Greg Koch were also were let go.
- Randy Wright started at quarterback with Vince Ferragamo and Chuck Fusina as back-ups.
- The 1986 Packers own the franchise record for consecutive losses from the start of the season (6). Offensively and defensively, they ranked at the bottom of the league.
- November's game at Soldier Field was marred by Charles Martin's body-slam of quarterback Jim McMahon. Martin was suspended for two games.
- Receiver James Lofton was charged with sexual assault. He was acquitted and let go by the Packers.

9.7.1986

HOUSTON

OILERS 31

PACKERS 3

In a very depressing home opener, the Packers were taken completely apart by Houston quarterback Warren Moon. It was a disappointing loss for Green Bay as the Oilers would end up with a worse record than the previous season.

Al Del Greco's field goal started the scoring, but that was it for Green Bay. Houston moved the ball easily. They ran for 157 yards, and they outgained Green Bay 375-224. Quarterback Warren Moon threw two touchdown passes to Larry Moriarty and Tony Hill. He ran for a touchdown in the third quarter, which gave the Oilers a three-touchdown lead. Houston ran 28 more plays from scrimmage, and the Packers generated only nine first downs.

Houston 7 7 10 7 31

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

54,065

*"But the magic that once existed between team and fans doesn't seem to be the same. And that should be a matter of concern, particularly for those in the Packer organization."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/8/86, Christl, p. 19

9.14.1986

PACKERS 10

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 24

Here's another loss to a team the Pack had hoped to beat, but quarterbacks Randy Wright and Vince Ferragamo couldn't get it done. They threw 59 passes and with seven picks.

New Orleans wasted little time scoring. With 1:32 gone in the game, Bobby Hebert connected with Eric Martin for a 72-yard touchdown. Minutes later, Martin caught another bomb from Hebert (84 yards) to set up a Morten Andersen field goal. Two interceptions led to 14 more points for the Saints, and they led 24-3 at halftime. In a disappointing loss, the Packers scored their only touchdown late in the third quarter on a Randy Wright to James Lofton touchdown.

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

New Orleans 17 7 0 0 24

54,065

“James Lofton tossed the ball to a youngster seated in the wheelchair section following his touchdown in the third quarter.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/86, p. 21

9.22.1986

CHICAGO

BEARS 25
PACKERS 12

It's Monday Night Football at Lambeau Field against the Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears. The Packers “gave it their best shot,”¹ which wasn't nearly enough as “their best shot” only amounted to four field goals by Al Del Greco.

Green Bay suffered a devastating loss in this game when cornerback Tim Lewis sustained a career-ending neck injury in a collision with receiver Willie Gault. Though he never played again, Lewis remained very active in the game as a defensive coach.

After the teams traded field goals, Walter Payton's touchdown run gave Chicago a 10-3 lead. All of Green Bay's points came on field goals and, after 45 minutes, they led 12-10. The Bears came back in the fourth quarter to take a 15-12 lead on two field goals by Kevin Butler and a controversial safety when Steve McMichael sacked Randy Wright. They finished off the Packers with a 42-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Steve Fuller to Keith Ortego. After the game, Steve McMichael on the rival Packers. “I can't believe they're 0-3 the way they played us today. If they don't get up for everybody like they did for us, they should. They'd win a lot more games.”²

Chicago 3 7 0 15 25

Green Bay 3 6 3 0 12

55,527

“ESPN, the cable TV sports network, had a crew roaming the grounds for local color. And it struck gold when it found about a dozen fans lounging in a portable hot tub bearing the sign, ‘It Don't Get No Better Than This.’”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/86, Christl, p. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/86, McGinn, p. 22

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/86, Langenkamp, p. 2

9.28.1986

PACKERS 7

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 42

A poor game against their northern rival dropped the Packers to 0-4. On their first play

from scrimmage, quarterback Randy Wright threw an interception that led to a 7-0 Minnesota lead. A few minutes later, Wright, who had been ill the day before, fainted from being dehydrated. Vince Ferragamo replaced him.

With six touchdown passes, quarterback Tommy Kramer of the Vikings was the story of the game. The blowout began in the game's first six minutes when he threw three touchdowns to Steve Jordan, Darrin Nelson, and Hassan Jones. By the end of the first quarter, he had thrown another to Jordan for a 28-0 lead. For his fifth touchdown, Kramer went back to Jones for a 35-0 halftime lead. The Packers were shell-shocked.

Early in the third quarter, Minnesota capitalized on an interception for Kramer's sixth touchdown to Mike Mularkey. Those were the game's final points, with 12:47 left in the third quarter.

The Packers did little offensively with 220 total yards. After the game, Forrest Gregg had some choice words about the performance. "I thought the opening game of the season was the worst game I'd ever seen a team play. But this one right here will have to live in my mind forever as the worst."¹

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Minnesota	28	7	7	0	42

60,478

GB Linebacker John Anderson broke his leg.

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 84

10.5.1986

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 34

PACKERS 28

Here was the first of two games against teams formerly coached by Forrest Gregg. His 1986 Packers (0-5) were off to the worst start in franchise history.

After Green Bay took a 7-0 lead, it went south quickly. The Bengals exploded for 27 points in the second quarter. Quarterback Boomer Esiason tossed the first of two touchdown passes, and James Brooks scored twice on the ground.

The Packers rebounded with a 21-point second half. Paul Ott Carruth, James Lofton, and Gary Ellerson scored. But as Green Bay heated up, Esiason threw his third touchdown pass to Eddie Brown for a 34-14 cushion with 11:15 left. Game over.

Cincinnati	0	27	0	7	34
Green Bay	7	0	7	14	28

51,230

Milwaukee County Stadium

James Lofton (7-109-1) moved past Don Hutson for the most catches in GB history!

Tim Krumrie, Bengals defensive tackle, Wisconsin Native, "I wanted to be a Packer, and I wanted fans cheering for me. We had great fans in Cincinnati, and they always supported us. But there was always something different about Packers fans. It always seemed they were actually out there on the field with the team."¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 110

10.12.1986

DETROIT

LIONS **21**

PACKERS **14**

The Lions followed the lead of rookie Garry James who broke away early for a 41-yard touchdown run. They stretched it to 14-0 before Randy Wright and James Lofton connected. On the touchdown, Wright threw into the end zone, and Lofton came down with the high toss with 20 seconds left in the first half!

After a scoreless third quarter, the first play of the fourth quarter proved decisive. A fumble on the snap by Wright was recovered by Eric Williams of the Lions. Detroit went 70 yards in 14 plays to take a two-touchdown lead with seven minutes left. With six seconds left in the game, Wright and tight end Dan Ross made the score more respectable.

Green Bay's inability to run the ball (42 yards) or stop the run (236 yards) proved costly. "Something's screwed up here, but I don't know what it is,"¹ was all linebacker Brian Noble could say.

Detroit **0 14 0 7 21**
Green Bay **0 7 0 7 14**
52,290

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/86, Langenkamp, p. 2

10.19.1986

PACKERS **17**

CLEVELAND

BROWNS **14**

The Packers rallied and defeated the 5-1 Browns for their first win! Cleveland started fast as quarterback Bernie Kosar threw two first-half touchdown passes to Earnest Boyer and Brian Brennan for a 14-3 lead. In the first 30 minutes, Green Bay's only points came after John Dorsey's fumble recovery that set up Al Del Greco's 24-yard field goal.

The Packers rallied early in the third quarter with an 84-yard march. Gerry Ellis took it in from the two. Trailing 14-10, Green Bay went in front to stay when quarterback Randy Wright hit a streaking Phillip Epps down the right sideline for a 47-yard touchdown!

Wright played very well (21-27-277-1-0), and he led the second-half comeback. It was a happy locker room. "We got into the playoffs. I was waiting for some champagne. I forgot what it was like to win a football game,"¹ said linebacker Brian Noble.

Green Bay 0 3 14 0 17

Cleveland 7 7 0 0 14

76,438

Rushing Yards: GB 96 CLEV 32

"The crowd of 76,438 represented the largest audience for a Packers game since the fifth week of the 1977 season when 80,638 saw Green Bay beat Detroit in the Silverdome."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/86, McGinn, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/86, p. 19

10.26.1986

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 31

PACKERS 17

The Packers jumped in front quickly, scoring the first two times they had the football. Paul Ott Carruth and tight end Mark Lewis scored the touchdowns for a 14-0 lead.

Without quarterback Joe Montana who was injured, the 49ers were led by back up Mike Moroski. He drove them 80 yards in eight plays, and Jerry Rice caught the first touchdown on a short pass. At halftime, Green Bay led 14-7.

The game turned around in the second half. Ronnie Lott's first interception of Randy Wright led to the tying touchdown. Then, in the first minute of the fourth quarter, Lott struck again with a 55-yard pick-six to put the Niners in front 21-14. After trading field goals, defensive back Tory Nixon grabbed the third pick and went 88 yards to end it. The Packers outgained San Francisco 464-222, and Randy Wright threw for 326 yards. The turnovers, however, were the difference.

San Francisco 0 7 7 17 31

Green Bay 7 7 0 3 17

50,557

Milwaukee County Stadium

"An opportunity to learn pon-pons and cheerleading techniques with the Green Bay Packer Cheerleaders is offered for girls currently enrolled in grades 6-9."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/27/86, p. 8

11.2.1986

PACKERS 3
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS 27

In the first five minutes, two fumbles by fullback Gary Ellerson helped the Steelers out to a 10-0 lead. Veteran quarterback Mark Malone had a great afternoon completing 20 of 32 passes for 195 yards and three touchdowns. All three touchdown passes went to wideout Weegie Thompson.

The Packers couldn't match the physical play of the Steelers, producing just one field goal.

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
Pittsburgh 10 3 7 7 27
52,831

Rushing: GB 61 PITT 126

11.9.1986

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 16
PACKERS 7

The Packers stayed close thanks to a "swirling 25mph wind that served to equalize the talent."¹ On their opening drive, Green Bay looked impressive. They marched 87 yards and scored on a 3-yard touchdown pass from Randy Wright to Phillip Epps. Late in the first half, Wright was injured when he was sacked by defensive end Charles Mann. Chuck Fusina replaced him.

Washington quarterback Jay Schroeder rallied the Redskins with two touchdown passes. The second one came after a fumble by Green Bay rookie Kenneth Davis near the end of the third quarter. The 'Skins took advantage and went 78 yards and scored on a 6-yard pass from Jay Schroeder to Kelvin Bryant for a 13-7 lead. The Packers dropped to 1-9.

Washington 6 0 7 3 16
Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
47,728

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/86, McGinn, p. 25

11.16.1986

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 7
PACKERS 31

Green Bay's 31 points were the most they scored all season. They had their way with the Buccaneers, running the ball for 154 yards and passing for another 238. Randy Wright threw touchdown passes to Phillip Epps (2) and James Lofton for a 21-0 lead at the break.

Gary Ellerson's touchdown run kept the offense rolling in the second half. Green Bay gave up only 63 yards rushing, and they contained Tampa's quarterback Steve Young by mixing-up blitzes. Young ran for only 33 yards, and he lost 34 yards on six sacks! The Bucs scored with three minutes left in the game.

Tampa Bay 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 14 7 10 0 31
48,271

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 437 TB 263

"A pilot who has admitted to flying his small plane at low altitude over Milwaukee County Stadium during a Green Bay Packers football game will be penalized for his actions, a Federal Aviation Administration said."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/86, p. 7

11.23.1986

PACKERS 10
CHICAGO
BEARS 12

Defensive tackle Charles Martin of the Green Bay Packers committed one of the most vicious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct in the game's history. In the second quarter, quarterback Jim McMahon of the Super Bowl Champion Bears threw an interception. Far from the action, and well after the play ended, Martin picked up McMahon and slammed him to the turf of Soldier Field. It completely tore McMahon's partially torn rotator cuff, and he was out for the season.

"Many of the Bears believe the cheap shot contributed to the arm woes that plagued McMahon for the remainder of his career, and that it also cost them the chance to win other Super Bowls."¹ The flagrant foul brought an immediate ejection and a two-game suspension for Martin. At the time, it was the longest suspension for on-field behavior in NFL history.

In the game, on the first play from scrimmage, Packers quarterback Randy Wright threw

an interception. But the Packers' defense finally stuffed "The Refrigerator," and they forced a fumble that linebacker John Dorsey recovered on his 2-yard line. The joy ended abruptly when rookie Kenneth Davis was tackled in the end zone by Dan Hampton for a safety. Bears 2-0.

In the second quarter, the Bears struck again. They recovered a blocked punt by Green Bay in the end zone for a 9-0 halftime lead. Trailing 9-3 in the fourth quarter, the Packers struck gold on a 78-yard drive in just three plays! The touchdown came on a Randy Wright to Ed West connection for a 46-yard touchdown. Green Bay 10-9! But with six minutes left in the game, Gary Ellerson's fumble was recovered by Dave Duerson on Green Bay's 34-yard line. With two minutes left, Kevin Butler kicked the winner.

Green Bay	0	0	3	7	10
Chicago	2	7	0	3	12

59,291

1 Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D'Amato & Christl, p. 93

11.27.1986

PACKERS	44
DETROIT	
LIONS	40

"It wasn't much of a defensive battle, but who really cares as long as it's a good game,"¹ was coach Gregg's assessment. Of course, the quarterbacks would have agreed as they both threw three touchdown passes!

The game certainly kept the attention of the fans! Five lead changes, six touchdown passes, and 88 points kept up the excitement. Walter Stanley made sure of that as the 2-10 Packers enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving. Stanley caught two touchdown passes from Randy Wright that went for 21 and 36 yards. The first gave the Packers the lead 23-20.

After Detroit went back in front 37-23, Green Bay didn't fold. Walter Stanley caught his second touchdown pass, and Paul Ott Carruth caught Wright's third touchdown to cut the lead to 40-37 with 3:31 remaining. For the game, Stanley caught four passes for 124 yards! After the Lions picked up a first down, they were forced to punt with a minute left. Stanley took the punt back 83 yards for the win to complete an incredible game.

Green Bay	13	10	7	14	44
Detroit	10	10	17	3	40

61,199

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/86, McGinn, p. 26

12.7.1986

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 32

PACKERS 6

Minnesota swept the season series. For the first time in franchise history, the Packers were winless at home. In this border battle, Green Bay managed just two field goals. Their new punter, Bill Renner, had problems on his first two punts—one was blocked and the other a bad snap—which helped the Vikings to a 13-3 lead. Their lead was never in danger.

Green Bay had the ball inside Minnesota's 25-yard line five times, but they came away with just two field goals. Former Packers' offensive coordinator, Bob Schnelker, now with the Vikings, relished beating his old team. In their two games this season, the Vikings outscored the Packers 74-13.

Minnesota 13 0 9 10 32

Green Bay 3 3 0 0 6

47,637

Total Yards: GB 367 MINN 303

"With my dad, I was a Packer-backer from the get-go. As a kid growing up around the Packers' first Super Bowl teams, you followed all those great guys, Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor, Fuzzy Thurston. After the Vikings showed up, a piece of my allegiance naturally went to them, but in the depths of my soul, it was still the Packers. So with us, we would win no matter what."¹

¹ Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 158

12.14.1986

PACKERS 7

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 21

The Battle of the Bays could not have been more lackluster. It featured the 3-11 Packers against the 2-12 Buccaneers, and only 30,099 fans showed up. Green Bay put together three touchdown drives of 80, 65, and 63 yards. The three touchdowns were scored on the ground by Randy Wright, Gerry Ellis, and Paul Ott Curruth. The defense held the Bucs to 242 total yards and sacked quarterbacks Steve Young and Steve DeBerg seven times.

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21

Tampa Bay 0 0 0 7 7

30,099

"Hey, we got more fans here than they do,"¹ linebacker Brian Noble pointed out.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/86, Langenkamp, p. 25

12.20.1986

PACKERS 24

NEW YORK

GIANTS 55

An end finally came to a long, difficult season. The Packers were overwhelmed from start to finish by the soon-to-be Super Bowl Champions and finished 4-12.

The Giants jumped out to a 24-0 lead, but Green Bay stayed close with 17 in the second quarter. Randy Wright and Eddie Lee Ivery connected for a touchdown, and a 56-yard pick-six by cornerback Ken Stills cut the lead to seven by halftime. In the second half, the Giants outscored the Packers 31-7, with Phil Simms throwing two of his three touchdown passes. The Packers were outgained 448-314.

Green Bay 0 17 7 0 24
New York 21 3 14 17 55
71,351

1986

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	14	2	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Detroit	5	11	0
Green Bay	4	12	0
Tampa Bay	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Wright
Receiving	Lofton
Rushing	Davis
Scoring	Del Greco
Interceptions	Lee

ALL-PRO

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Kenneth Davis (2, RB)
Tim Harris (4a, LB)
Burnell Dent (6, LB)



1987
Record: 5-9-1, 3rd Place
Coach: Forrest Gregg

- Tom Braatz was hired as an executive vice-president of football operations. He would handle the draft and work with Forrest Gregg on trades and player acquisition.
- A second players' strike short-circuited the season. The players walked out after two games. The owners signed replacement players, and for three weeks in October, the games went on.
- Overall, the defense performed better than the offense.
- Cornerback Mossy Cade went to prison for sexual assault, and defensive end Charles Martin was waived after a bar fight.
- In 1987, the Packers reported a profit of over \$3 million.
- Forrest Gregg resigned in January 1988 to take the head coaching job at SMU.

9.13.1987
 LOS ANGELES

RAIDERS 20
PACKERS 0

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

In the second half, a pick-six of Randy Wright by Vann McElroy made the score 14-0. Chris Bahr's two field goals then put it beyond reach. The Raiders dominated on the ground 193-66, with Marcus Allen leading the way 136 yards and a touchdown. The Packers were shut out for the first time since 1978.

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

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

9.20.1987

DENVER

BRONCOS 17
PACKERS 17 (OT)

This was the last game before another players' strike. Rookie quarterback Don Majkowski started his first game, and he was inconsistent throwing out of the mud (10-21-121-1-0).

Green Bay scored after a Denver fumble. Then, after an interception by linebacker John Anderson, Don Majkowski threw his first career touchdown pass to Paul Ott Carruth.

Trailing 14-3 in the second half, Denver rallied back. Quarterback John Elway opened with a quick 71-yard drive that made the score 14-10. In the fourth quarter, Al Del Greco's 32-yard field goal put the lead back to seven. But with six minutes left, Elway engineered an 18-play drive that overcame four third-down plays before tying it on a 2-yard touchdown run by Steve Sewell. In overtime, the game stayed 17-17 as each team turned the ball over once and missed a field goal.

Denver 0 3 7 7 0 17

Green Bay 7 7 0 3 0 17

50,624

Milwaukee County Stadium

Fans of the Broncos did not worry about cheering for their team at Lambeau. Packer fan, Steve Boettcher, reminds us of something John Madden once said about Green Bay. "Even though you are competitors, there's a kind of graciousness that the people in Green Bay extend to other fans. It's more fun-loving banter, as opposed to mean-spirited viciousness—worried about your life kind of thing when you go somewhere else."¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 212

1987 NFL Players' Strike

Teams recruited players between September 22nd and October 24th. The "replacement players" played three games. The results for the Packers (two wins, one loss) counted in the standings.

10/4 @ Minnesota Vikings W 23-16

For the first time in NFL history, each franchise had a "B" Team to replace their "A" Team that was on strike. The first game vs. the Vikings "B" Team was witnessed by 13,911 fans. Alan Risher, the Packer's replacement QB, threw one touchdown and ran for another.

10/11 vs. Detroit Lions L 19-16

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

10/18 vs. Philadelphia Eagles W 16-10

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

10.25.1987

PACKERS 34
DETROIT
LIONS 33

After 24 days, the striking players returned to the field. The Packers had conducted voluntary workouts during the strike, and they looked sharper than the Lions at the outset. Green Bay grabbed a 21-0 lead in the first nine minutes, and the highlight was quarterback Don Majkowski's 70-yard touchdown pass to Walter Stanley.

The rusty Lions fell behind 31-7 before getting in gear. From the middle to the second quarter until there was 3:02 left in the game, the Lions crept back with 26 unanswered points to overtake the Packers 33-31. Quarterback Chuck Long threw for 362 yards and two touchdowns.

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

Green Bay 21 10 0 3 34
Detroit 0 16 3 14 33
27,278

Rushing: GB 172 DET 17

11.1.1987

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 23
PACKERS 17

In a defensive struggle, the Bucs led 3-0 at halftime, thanks to Don Majkowski's fumble on Tampa Bay's 1-yard line! In the second half, the Bucs started fast on their first series with an 84-yard touchdown drive. Three plays after the Bucs touchdown, a second fumble by Majkowski gave them the ball back on Green Bay's 10-yard line. Steve DeBerg's touchdown pass to Gerald Carter made the score 17-0.

Randy Wright replaced Don Majkowski at quarterback, and he rallied Green Bay. After Al Del Greco's field goal, two rookies stepped up. Frankie Neal caught a touchdown pass from Wright, and after the Packers got the ball back, Brent Fullwood scored with 3:51 left

to cut the lead to six, 23-17. Green Bay never got the ball back, and halfway through the season, they stood all even at 3-3-1.

Tampa Bay 0 3 17 3 23

Green Bay 0 0 3 14 17

50,308

Milwaukee County Stadium

GB had 13 penalties.

11.8.1987

CHICAGO

BEARS 26

PACKERS 24

Johnny Morris, a former Bears receiver and now an analyst with CBS-TV, was barred from watching Packer practices during the week to prepare for the telecast. The Packers were convinced he would share information with his former team.

There were 23 penalties for 193 yards in this brutal meeting—Green Bay was flagged for 125 yards and the Bears 68. Chicago took an early lead 7-0 before Randy Wright got going and threw touchdown passes to Ed West and Phillip Epps. Along with a Brent Fullwood touchdown, the Packers led 21-13 at intermission.

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

Chicago 7 6 0 13 26

Green Bay 14 7 0 3 24

53,320

11.15.1987

PACKERS 13

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 24

Other than one field goal, all of the points were scored in the first half.

With Green Bay leading 3-0, running back Curt Warner's 57-yard sprint to the end zone gave Seattle a 7-3 lead. Quarterback Randy Wright came right back with a 47-yard touchdown pass to rookie Keith Paskett for a 10-7 lead. After the touchdown, Wright hurt his ankle, and the Packers managed only a field goal the rest of the way. The Seahawks

scored twice more in the final 2:08 of the half. They blocked Don Bracken's punt that was returned for a touchdown by safety Eugene Robinson for a 14-13 lead. "The blocked punt was the big play of the game,"¹ Forrest Gregg said later. Moments later, Randy Wright fumbled, and the Seahawks recovered inside Green Bay's 20. From the 8-yard line, quarterback Dave Krieg scrambled into the end zone to end an action-packed first half.

Wright's ankle injury kept him on the bench in the second half. Rookie Don Majkowski (4-16-80-0-1) replaced him. After the game, Gregg responded to a question about who would start at quarterback next week with "How 'bout Johnny Unitas?"²

Green Bay 3 10 0 0 13
Seattle 0 21 3 0 24
60,963

Both teams had 5 turnovers.

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

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

11.22.1987

PACKERS 23
KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS 3

Don Majkowski started in place of an injured Randy Wright, and the Packers (4-5-1) beat the Chiefs (1-8-0) on the road. Majkowski got off to a rough start with just two completed passes in the first half.

Though the Packers held a 7-0 at the break, Randy Wright came off the bench to start the second half. Wright delivered two touchdown strikes to Frankie Neal within a minute of one another. The first was a great one-handed catch by Neal, and the second came moments later after the Chiefs fumbled the ensuing kickoff.

Green Bay's defense had a solid game. The unit gave up just 201 yards and dominated the Chiefs with five sacks and three turnovers.

Green Bay 7 0 13 3 23
Kansas City 0 0 3 0 3
34,611

11.29.1987

PACKERS 10

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

This was the last rivalry game for both Forrest Gregg and Walter Payton.

In a 10-10 first half, the teams traded touchdowns by running backs Brent Fullwood and Neal Anderson. Chicago's defense took control in the second half with a blocked field goal attempt by Max Zendejas. The Bears capitalized with a field goal by Kevin Butler. Later in the quarter, Randy Wright was intercepted at midfield by safety Maurice Douglass. A personal foul by John Anderson kept the ensuing Bears' drive alive, and running back Thomas Sanders made it 20-10. Kevin Butler's field goal from the 52-yard line provided insurance.

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

Green Bay	7	3	0	0	10
Chicago	0	10	3	10	23

61,638

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

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/87, p. 21

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

12.6.1987

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 23

PACKERS 12

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

Montana's touchdown pass to fullback Tom Rathman started the scoring. In the second quarter, they stretched the lead to 13-0 on a quarterback draw play. Montana took up the middle of the defense and went untouched for a 10-yard score. Green Bay gave up 302 yards in the first half.

Trailing 16-6 in the third quarter, cornerback Dave Brown intercepted Montana. Four plays later, fullback Paul Ott Carruth dove over the goal line to stay within striking distance 16-12 with 7:41 left in the third quarter. Green Bay squandered three other scoring chances with two interceptions thrown by quarterback Randy Wright and Walter Stanley's fumbled punt. Montana followed the fumble with a 57-yard touchdown to Jerry Rice.

San Francisco 7 9 0 7 23

Green Bay 0 6 6 0 12

51,118

Total Yards: GB 315 SF 439

12.13.1987

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 16

A fine defensive performance by Green Bay slowed down the postseason-bound Vikings. Minnesota scored first, however, on a Tommy Kramer to Anthony Carter touchdown pass. The Packers put together a 73-yard drive for Paul Ott Carruth's 1-yard touchdown plunge.

After halftime, Darrin Nelson of the Vikings fumbled for the second time! Max Zendejas followed with a 47-yard field goal. With nine minutes left in the game, the Vikings tied the score, 10-10. The Packers won it when Ed West and Kenneth Davis led a drive downfield. A big catch by West went for 33 yards, and Davis picked up the next 27. Davis scored on the ground from the 7-yard line to win it with 1:14 left!

The was Green Bay's first home win over a favored opponent in 15 tries!

Minnesota 7 0 0 3 10

Green Bay 0 7 3 6 16

47,059

Milwaukee County Stadium

12.19.1987

PACKERS 10

NEW YORK

GIANTS 20

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

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

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

Green Bay 0 0 3 7 10
New York 0 13 7 0 20
51,013

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

12.27.1987

PACKERS 24
 NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS 33

Don Majkowski started at quarterback and played well. In the first quarter, he threw two touchdown passes to Walter Stanley for a 14-3 lead. New Orleans (11-3) kept the score close on the foot of kicker Morten Andersen, who kicked four field goals, but the Saints trailed at halftime, 17-12.

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

Green Bay 14 3 7 0 24
New Orleans 9 3 14 7 33
68,364

¹ The Packers Experience, Freedman. P. 165

1987

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

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

ALL-PRO

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

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



1988
Record: 4-12-0, 5th Place, Last
Coach: Lindy Infante

- Forrest Gregg resigned on January 15th, to become the head coach at his alma mater Southern Methodist University.
- On February 8, 1988, Lindy Infante, Cleveland's Offensive Coordinator, became the 10th head coach in franchise history.
- The season was plagued by "less than satisfactory kicking, injuries, an anemic running attack, and contract holdouts."¹ Brian Noble held out for four games into the regular season.
- The offense struggled with Coach Infante's new system, and the Packers were shut out three times. The defense showed improvement, especially in the secondary.
- After starting 0-5, the team's 4-12 finish tied the 1986 team for the most losses in franchise history.

¹ Green Bay Packers: Measure of Greatness, Gozka, p. 248

9.4.1988

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 34
PACKERS 7

While linebacker Brian Noble was on the cover of the game program, he remained a holdout and did not play. The opener was a complete failure for Green Bay's new regime. The Packers didn't score until the fourth quarter, partly due to seven turnovers—four fumbles and three interceptions. In the first half, two fumbles helped the Rams to a 21-0 halftime lead. After a 47-yard pick-six by L.A. cornerback Jerry Gray in the third quarter, putting the score at 31-0, the game was all but over.

The Packers' offense generated only 209 total yards, and Randy Wright and Don Majkowski were sacked seven times. After his first game, Infante remarked, "We were our own worst enemies today. I honestly don't think there's as big a difference between them and us as the score (indicates)."¹

Los Angeles 7 14 10 3 34
Green Bay 0 0 0 7 7
53,769

"It was the magic of Lambeau Field that mattered most to Denise Dufault, 31, and Darren Paradis, 26, Packer fanatics who traveled from their native Massachusetts to be part of opening day. They weren't even upset when they lost their ticket stubs. Unable to be seated, they watched the game and yelled themselves hoarse from the entrance tunnels into the stands. 'This is the best stadium for football in the world. We'll keep coming till we die.'"²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/88, Egle, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/88, Lyons, p.

9.11.1988

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 13
PACKERS 10

The Packers lost their first two games at home for the first time since 1956! They enjoyed an early lead in the game, 10-0, on a 50-yard field goal by Max Zendejas and a 30-yard touchdown pass from Randy Wright to Brent Fullwood. In the second quarter, Fullwood fumbled, and the Buccaneers capitalized with a touchdown. A 53-yard field goal by Donald Igwebuike "grazed the crossbar on its way over"¹ and tied the score 10-10.

The second half was a scoreless tug-of-war. Nine penalties didn't help Green Bay, especially the delay of game call that negated a 43-yard field goal by Max Zendejas in the fourth quarter. The kick was brought back for a second try, but Tampa Bay linebacker Eugene Marve blocked it.

After a fumble by quarterback Vinnie Testaverde, Max Zendejas missed from 52 yards away. With Green Bay's defense unable to stop Testaverde, the Buccaneers took off downfield. With no time left on the clock, Igwebuike's kick from the 28-yard line won it.

Tampa Bay 0 10 0 3 13
Green Bay 10 0 0 0 10
52,984

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/88, McGinn, p. 23

9.18.1988

PACKERS 17

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 24

Miami dominated early with 17 first-quarter points and never lost the lead. A blocked punt led to a touchdown, and Dan Marino and Mark Clayton also connected a short time later for a 17-0 lead.

In the second quarter, Randy Wright's touchdown run after a 77-yard drive narrowed it to 17-7. Three minutes later, Marino took the points right back. A 92-yard march led to Marino's second touchdown pass, this one to Ferrell Edmunds. The Packers struck again before halftime, and Brent Fullwood's one-yard run made it 24-14. A field goal by Max Zendejas cut the lead to seven.

Quarterback Randy Wright left the game in the third quarter with bruised ribs, and a Max Zendejas field goal was all Green Bay produced the rest of the way.

Green Bay 0 14 3 0 17
Miami 17 7 0 0 24
54,409

9.25.1988

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

PACKERS 6

When the game ended, Green Bay was the only winless team left in the NFL. Surprisingly, they led 7-0 after Mark Lee's interception and Brent Fullwood's touchdown run. On offense, because Green Bay was one-dimensional and could not run the ball, they were overwhelmed by Chicago's defense. Quarterback Randy Wright was sacked five times, and he threw two interceptions, one in the end zone.

The Bears scored 17 points in the last five minutes of the first half. Neal Anderson, Walter

Payton's heir apparent, scored twice. His first score was a 45-yard sprint that grabbed the lead, 7-6, with 5:20 left in the half. Before intermission, linebacker Ron Rivera stole another Randy Wright pass, and Neal Anderson scored again from the four-yard line with 1:47 left. When the Packers couldn't generate a first down, Kevin Butler added another field goal 15 seconds before the half that gave Chicago a 17-6 lead.

Green Bay's offense went nowhere after their opening touchdown. They couldn't match Chicago in total yardage 358-233, and the Bears ran for 242.

Chicago 0 17 0 7 24
Green Bay 6 0 0 0 6
56,492

GB ran for 34 yards.

10.2.1988

PACKERS **24**
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS **27**

Eight lead changes and 800 yards of offense kept everyone's attention. Very similar to their last game two weeks ago, it came down to Donald Igwebuike's field goal. This time, it came with 12 seconds left.

Throughout the game, the teams moved the ball easily through the air. Bucs' quarterback Vinnie Testaverde threw for 300 yards, and Randy Wright and Don Majkowski combined for 377 yards passing for Green Bay! Tampa topped the Packers on the ground 85-74.

In a 10-10 first half, Kevin Murphy scored on a pick-six of Randy Wright. Green Bay's touchdown came on Wright's pass to Ed West. The Packers went back in front after Chuck Cecil's interception. Brent Fullwood's touchdown run made it 17-10. After the Bucs tied it, Randy Wright led a 64-yard march, and he scored on a rollout that he took into the end zone. He was shaken up on the play. "I just got banged in the head. I made a touchdown leading with my head,"¹ he said later.

The Bucs tied it again, 24-24, on Testaverde's third touchdown pass. After a three-and-out by Green Bay, Tampa took over with 47 seconds remaining on their 42-yard line. Testaverde fired two passes to reach Green Bay's 26-yard line, and Igwebuike hit the winner from the 44.

Green Bay 3 7 7 7 24
Tampa Bay 0 10 0 17 27
40,003

Testaverde threw four interceptions.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/88, Langenkamp, p. 21

10.9.1988

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 3
PACKERS 45

Don Majkowski started at quarterback in place of an injured Randy Wright. In the second quarter, he ran for a touchdown, and he threw a touchdown pass to tight end Joey Hackett for a 17-3 halftime lead. Fullback Brent Fullwood ran all over New England for 118 yards, and in the second half, he scored three touchdowns. Green Bay held the Pats to 76 yards rushing, and they intercepted quarterbacks Doug Flutie and Steve Grogan five times!

After the win, Infante joked, "This is a very unfamiliar place for me. What do you do after one of these? I don't know."¹ It wasn't only unfamiliar to Infante. Rookie quarterback Don Majkowski (18-26-210-1-0) celebrated his first win as a starting NFL quarterback!

New England 3 0 0 0 3

Green Bay 0 17 7 21 45

51,932

Milwaukee County Stadium

When the Packers didn't "self destruct for a sixth straight time Sunday, they provided merciful relief for thousands and thousands of football fans in this state."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/88, Egle, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/88, Langenkamp, p. 17

10.16.1988

PACKERS 34

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 14

Don Majkowski started again at quarterback and completed 19 of 32 passes for 243 yards to spark Green Bay. To pull off the upset, the Packers capitalized on five turnovers and 15 penalties by the Vikings.

The first time they had the ball the Packers scored. They scored again in the second quarter when they recovered a fumble on Minnesota's 22-yard line (after Majkowski had initially fumbled the ball). Keith Woodside scored for a 16-0 lead. When the Vikings replaced Tommy Kramer at quarterback with Wade Wilson, Minnesota got on the board with a 46-yard touchdown pass to Leo Lewis to make it 16-7 at halftime.

In the second half, three Zendejas field goals and a safety by Tim Harris made the difference. Harris had a strong game with two sacks. Later in the game, he blocked a punt that he recovered for a touchdown. Four field goals from Max Zendejas set a club record at the time, and the Packers won going away.

Green Bay 9 7 8 10 34
Minnesota 0 7 0 7 14
59,053

Letter to the Editor: "People of Green Bay who want to ridicule the players still ought to re-evaluate their ideas and thoughts. The players are doing their best to win except for a few, which is no more than other teams."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/88, p. 6

10.23.1988

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 20
PACKERS 17

A meeting with the Super Bowl Champions was a nightmare for Green Bay's kicker Max Zendejas. The former Washington Redskin missed two field goals, including a game-tying attempt with 11 seconds left.

In a 10-10 first half, Don Majkowski and Doug Williams threw touchdown passes, while Max Zendejas and Chip Lohmiller traded field goals. In the first minute of the second half, a Redskins' fumble by Don Warren was recovered by Brian Noble on Washington's 8-yard line. Two plays later, Majkowski and Keith Woodside connected for their second touchdown of the game and a 17-10 Green Bay lead.

Quarterback Doug Williams and the Redskins came back with two long drives. They tied it on a great catch by Kelvin Bryant, who "caught the ball behind his helmet!"¹ Chip Lohmiller's second field goal with 10:59 left gave them the lead. In the final 10 minutes, Zendejas missed field goals from the 47 and 24-yard lines. He was waived two days later.

Washington 10 0 7 3 20
Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17
51,767

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/88, Egle, p. 23

10.30.1988

PACKERS 0
BUFFALO
BILLS 28

Quarterback Don Majkowski was sacked six times, and the Packers committed four turnovers to hand the game to the 7-1 Bills.

Buffalo's ground game gashed Green Bay for 195 yards. They were led by rookie Thurman Thomas who had 116 yards rushing. Quarterback Jim Kelly leaned on the potent running attack and threw just 14 passes (10-14-80-2-2). First-half touchdowns were scored by backs Robb Riddick and tight end Butch Rolle.

In the second half, Buffalo's defense did the damage. An interception by safety Mark Kelso and a fumble recovery by Leon Seals both went for touchdowns that put the game out of reach. "It's certainly not a step forward. Their defense totally outplayed our offense,"¹ commented Infante.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Buffalo 7 7 7 7 28
79,176

GB was outgained 261-131.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/31/88, p. 1

11.6.1988

PACKERS 0
ATLANTA
FALCONS 20

For the first time since 1932, the Packers were shut out in consecutive games. They were blanked by a Falcons team that hadn't won at home in seven games.

Turnovers continued to plague them—giving up four interceptions and three fumbles this game—and the Falcons (2-7) struck paydirt the second time they had the ball. Running back Gene Lang came down with the ball after battling with safety Mark Murphy for a 45-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Chris Miller.

In the second quarter, after a pass interference call against safety Mark Murphy, the Falcons scored on a 1-yard run by John Settle. Nine seconds before halftime, a fumble by quarterback Don Majkowski led to a field goal for a 17-0 Atlanta lead. In the second half, another fumble led to three more points for the Falcons..

The Packers were outgained 341-284. The offense failed to put up any points even though it was inside Atlanta territory seven times! "We played well in spurts,"¹ said linebacker Brian Noble.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Atlanta 7 10 0 3 20
29,952

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/88, McGinn, p. 24

11.13.1988
INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS **20**
PACKERS **13**

The Packers finally scored, but they couldn't salvage a win. Indianapolis quarterback Chris Chandler completed only nine passes, but two of them went for touchdowns.

After an opening field goal, the Packers weren't heard from again on offense until the fourth quarter. Indianapolis took the lead behind two Chandler touchdown passes after Packer fumbles by running back Keith Woodside and tight end Ed West.

Trailing 20-6 with 2:31 left in the game, a quick drive by the Packers paid dividends. Majkowski and wideout Aubrey Matthews connected with 42 seconds left. When Kenny Stills recovered the onside kick on the 49-yard line, the Packers were still in business, trailing 20-13. They drove to Indy's 2-yard line before Majkowski's final pass was knocked down by Harvey Armstrong.

Indianapolis 0 13 7 0 20
Green Bay 3 0 0 10 13
53,942

Majkowski: 24-41-216-1-0

11.20.1988
DETROIT

LIONS **19**
PACKERS **9**

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a relatively small crowd in Milwaukee saw Green Bay lose for a fifth straight time. They watched as the Packers handed the Lions nine points with two turnovers and a poor punt.

Three field goals by Eddie Murray gave Detroit a 9-0 lead at halftime. They stretched it to 16-3 in the third quarter with an 11-play touchdown drive—all running plays! Eddie Murray added a fourth field goal before the Packers scored with 10 seconds left for only their second touchdown in four weeks. The next day, the Press-Gazette roundly criticized Green Bay's performance. "In this limbo contest, the Packers proved that they can go lower than anyone else in the league."¹

Detroit 3 6 0 10 19
Green Bay 0 0 3 6 9
44,327

Milwaukee County Stadium

This was the smallest crowd at a Milwaukee game since 1961.

Low Carpenter—Detroit assistant coach—played for Green Bay for five years and coached there for 10 more. Commenting on his return: “You come in here, and you feel like, somewhere along the line, you’re still part of the organization.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/88, Langenkamp. P. 21

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/88, Egle, p. 23

11.27.1988

PACKERS 0

CHICAGO

BEARS 16

The Packers’ offense went nowhere. Their ground game was non-existent with 22 yards, the lowest total since 1956. They generated nine first downs and 189 total yards. Quarterback Don Majkowski (14-34-184-0-2) was sacked four times, and he threw two interceptions. The Bears clinched at least a wild card berth with the win. Chicago moved the ball at will with 213 yards on the ground and 22 first downs. Running back Neal Anderson was responsible for 139 yards, and he scored both Chicago touchdowns. After an interception by Vestee Jackson, Neal Anderson took off on an 80-yard touchdown run.

After the game, focusing on the positive, Infante commented, “I thought our defense played really well. That’s a very solid part of us. We’ve got to hang our hat on that.”¹

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago 7 0 7 2 16
62,026

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/88, p. 1

12.4.1988

PACKERS 14

DETROIT

LIONS 30

Brent Fullwood’s fumble on the first play from scrimmage helped the Lions get off to a 27-point head start. The Packers never recovered, and they didn’t score until the fourth quarter.

Randy Wright returned at quarterback and threw 52 passes for 284 yards. The Packers didn’t score until the fourth quarter when Wright threw touchdown passes to Ed West and Sterling Sharpe—the first of his career. Wright also threw three interceptions, including a 90-yard pick-six by safety Devon Mitchell. Six turnovers by the Packers led to 24 points for Detroit.

After the game, cornerback Mark Lee echoed what many players felt. “This is about as low

as it gets.”¹

Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14
Detroit	10	17	0	3	30

28,124

Total Yards: GB 360 DET 220

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/88, McGinn, p. 21

12.11.1988
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS	6
PACKERS	18

In six-degree temperatures, the Packers upset the 10-4 Vikings! Despite turning the football over four times, they shut down the Vikings for the second time this season. They sacked quarterback Wade Wilson three times—once for a safety—intercepted one pass, and held Minnesota to only 44 yards rushing.

On Green Bay’s second series of the game, Randy Wright led the Packers to a 7-0 lead with key completions to Aubrey Matthews and Perry Kemp. After a groin injury forced Wright to leave the game, Don Majkowski threw a third-quarter touchdown pass to Patrick Scott for a 16-3 lead and the game.

Minnesota	0	3	0	3	6
Green Bay	7	3	6	2	18

48,892

12.18.1988

PACKERS	26
CARDINALS	17

A busy first half featured all the scoring that ultimately mattered. It began with a 63-yard punt return for a touchdown by Ron Pitts, son of Elijah Pitts. A fumble by Stump Mitchell of Phoenix led to Keith Woodside’s touchdown run (13-0). Stump Mitchell redeemed himself with a second-quarter touchdown.

But two turnovers by the Packers helped the Cardinals. Quarterback Don Majkowski fumbled on the Packers’ 7-yard line. The defense held, and former Packer Al Del Greco kicked a field goal. Majkowski was then intercepted by linebacker E. J. Junior, and in three plays, Phoenix took the lead, 17-13, with 7:35 left in the half. The Packers went 61-yards on their next possession, and Majkowski’s touchdown pass to Larry Mason made it 20-17.

A second touchdown pass to Clint Didier opened the second half and made it 26-17. Green Bay's defense protected the lead. At least, as Brian Noble pointed out, "we're not the worst team in the NFL."¹

Green Bay 13 7 6 0 26

Phoenix 7 10 0 0 17

44,586

Headline: "26-17 win costs Pack top pick; Mandarich now likely choice"²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/88, Langenkamp, p. 28

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/88, p. 1

1988

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Majkowski
Rushing	Fullwood
Receiving	Sharpe
Scoring	Fullwood
Interceptions	M. Murphy
Sacks	Harris

ALL-PRO

Harris	Linebacker
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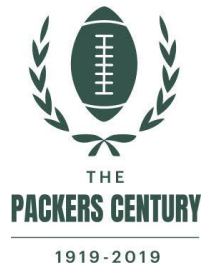
NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Sterling Sharpe (1, WR)

Shawn Patterson (2, DT)

Keith Woodside (3, B)

Chuck Cecil (4b, S)



1989

Record: 10-6-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Lindy Infante

- Bob Harlan was elected President of the Packers, succeeding Judge Robert Parins.
- The Packers selected Tony Mandarich, a tackle from Michigan State, with their first pick in the NFL draft.
- Ten wins were the most since 1972.
- The team was nicknamed the “Cardiac Pack” for being a resilient squad that won four games by one point. They also came from behind to win seven times!
- Lindy Infante’s offense scored the most points in the division. With quarterback Don Majkowski at the helm, Sterling Sharpe became the first Packer since Don Hutson to lead the league in receptions. The defense, however, was not as strong, especially against the run.
- The Packers and Vikings tied for first place. Minnesota won the tie-breaker with a better division record (6-2 vs. 5-3).

9.10.1989

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS	23
PACKERS	21

The Packers got a jump on things in the opener with Brent Fullwood’s early touchdown. Tampa Bay took control in the second quarter with three touchdown drives led by quarterback Vinnie Testaverde. Testaverde completed 22 of 27 passes for 205 yards and a touchdown. His touchdown pass to William Howard ended Tampa’s 20-7 first half.

In the third quarter, quarterback Don Majkowski’s touchdown pass to Ed West made it 20-14. The Bucs pushed back with a 52-yard field goal. But Tampa also fumbled in its own end zone, and the Packers recovered to cut the lead to 23-21. With five minutes left, Green Bay drove deep into Tampa territory. From the 8-yard line, Majkowski dropped back and looked to the end zone. He was intercepted for the second time in the game by safety Mark Robinson to end the “Battle of the Bays.”

Tampa Bay 0 20 3 0 23

Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21

55,650

Majkowski threw three interceptions.

9.17.1989

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 34

PACKERS 35

In an exciting fourth-quarter comeback, quarterback Don Majkowski made sure he wasn't intercepted at the end of this game!

The teams combined for 857 yards of offense, and the Saints held the lead most of the contest. They scored the first three times it had the ball. Bobby Hebert led the way with two two touchdown passes wrapped around a Dalton Hilliard touchdown run. By halftime, the score was 24-7 Saints.

Despite the score, the Packers were fired up for the second half. They came out of the locker room and marched 80 yards for Brent Fullwood's second touchdown run. The right arm of quarterback Don Majkowski brought Green Bay back with three touchdown passes to Ed West (2) and Sterling Sharpe. The second touchdown pass to West brought them to within three, 31-28, with 10:35 left.

The rest of the way, the Packers held the Saints to a field goal by Morten Andersen that came with 2:21 left. When Green Bay got the ball back, "The Cardiac Pack" and "The Majik Man" were born! Majkowski drove the Packers 80 yards in 55 seconds, and with 1:26 left on the clock, he hit Sterling Sharpe for a 9-yard touchdown pass to complete the comeback!

New Orleans 14 10 0 10 34

Green Bay 0 7 14 14 35

55,809

Majkowski threw for 354 yards, including 18 straight completions.

On a controversial call that went Green Bay's way on the game winning-drive, Saints cornerback Toi Cook commented, "If they'd have changed it, the whole stands would have come on to the field."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/89, McGinn, p. 17

9.24.1989

PACKERS 38

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 41

Another exciting squeaker, this time with 882 yards of offense! L.A. owned the first half, 38-7, behind quarterback Jim Everett's two touchdown passes and Greg Bell's two touchdown runs. The Rams picked off three Don Majkowski passes which led to 17 points, including an 81-yard pick-six by Vince Newsome.

In the second half, Majkowski caught fire. He brought the Packers back with touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe and Ed West. An interception by linebacker Brian Noble also led to Brent Fullwood's 11-yard burst off left tackle for six. Ed West's touchdown catch cut the edge to 38-28 after three quarters.

Chris Jacke's field goal narrowed it to seven. On Green Bay's next drive, a pass interference penalty against the Rams put the ball on their 1-yard line. On the next play, Brent Fullwood fumbled on the 1-yard line. The Rams recovered and held on to the football for a six-minute drive and a field goal for a 41-31 lead. On Green Bay's final possession, Fullwood scored again, but the Rams then ran out the clock.

Green Bay 0 7 21 10 38

Los Angeles 10 28 0 3 41

57,701

Sterling Sharpe: 8-164-1

10.1.1989

ATLANTA

FALCONS 21

PACKERS 23

The "Cardiac Pack" never gave up, and their fourth-quarter comeback burned the Falcons. Though it was only game five, the Packers were about to inject some serious drama back into Sunday afternoons. Coach Lindy Infante observed, "this football team has reached the stage where we can compete."¹

Atlanta led 14-6 at halftime with touchdowns by tight end Brad Beckman and fullback John Settle. Green Bay's points came on field goals by rookie kicker Chris Jacke. In the third quarter, Gene Lang's touchdown run stretched the advantage to 21-6. The Packers caught a huge break in the final 15 minutes when Jeff Query fumbled on Atlanta's 5-yard line. Sterling Sharpe scooped it up and took it in, 21-13.

With nine minutes to go, the Packers came within one, 21-20, on a 37-yard touchdown pass from Majkowski to Herman Fontenot. Late in the game, Majik again led them back

into striking distance, and Chris Jacke's field goal with 1:42 left completed the comeback. At the time, this score tied a game played on 10/28/51 for the biggest fourth-quarter comeback in franchise history. "One of these days, we're going to learn not to get so far behind,"² said Infante.

Atlanta 7 7 7 0 21

Green Bay 0 6 0 17 23

54,647

Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/89, McGinn, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/89, Mulhern, p. 1

10.8.1989

DALLAS

COWBOYS 13

PACKERS 31

The real "America's Team" won this battle fairly easily! Don Majkowski threw four touchdown passes to lead the league's top offense to 502 yards against the 0-5 Cowboys, who only managed 213.

Majik threw two touchdown passes to Herman Fontenot and one each to Sterling Sharpe and Perry Kemp. Sharpe's 79-yard touchdown put Green Bay ahead to stay 17-13 at halftime. Green Bay's defense shined all game, giving up just 45 yards rushing and shutting out Dallas in the second half. Brent Fullwood ran for 119 yards to lead a powerful ground attack that put up 189 yards.

Dallas 6 7 0 0 13

Green Bay 10 7 7 7 31

56,656

*"The best way to tell whether the 'Pack is Back' may be to watch what is going on outside Lambeau Field. The Green Bay Packers may have reached a turning point even before they thrashed Dallas Sunday when Green Bay Police made their first ticket-scalping arrests of the season."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/89, Bell, p. 1

10.15.1989

PACKERS 14

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 26

This was Herschel Walker's first game for the Vikings after being traded from Dallas. His

first run from scrimmage went for 47 yards as he shot through right guard like a rocket. He ran for an impressive 148 yards on 18 carries.

Green Bay scored on its opening drive with Herman Fontenot's 1-yard run. The Vikings came back with 26 straight points, including Tommy Kramer's two touchdown passes to Jim Gustafson and Rick Fenney.

The Vikings' defense overwhelmed quarterback Don Majkowski. He completed just nine passes for 198 yards, his lowest output of the season. He was sacked eight times, and he threw two interceptions, which led to 10 points for Minnesota. Green Bay was outgained by nearly 200 yards (398-219). "They took us out of our game by stopping the run and getting to me with pressure. They had good coverage downfield,"¹ Majkowski said.

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14
Minnesota 0 17 9 0 26
62,075

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/89, McGinn, p. 16

10.22.1989

PACKERS 20
MIAMI
DOLPHINS 23

Other than Chris Jacke's two field goals, the Packers were shut out in the first half. The Dolphins controlled most of the game with quarterback Dan Marino's two touchdown passes and Pete Stoyanovich's three field goals. Marino threw for 333 yards, and his touchdowns went to Jim Jensen and Mark Clayton. The Dolphins ran for 105 yards, and Stoyanovich's second field goal in the fourth quarter put them in front, 20-6.

With six minutes left, Majik threw touchdown passes of 22 and 10 yards to Sterling Sharpe! A fumble recovery by linebacker Johnny Holland led to Sterling Sharpe's second touchdown catch with 55 seconds left. Majkowski found Sharpe in the back of the end zone to tie the score at 20! Not to be outdone in front of the home crowd, Marino completed three quick passes. The completions set up Stoyanovich's winning kick from the 33-yard line with six seconds left.

As the Press-Gazette reported, "To beat Marino, however, the offense had to outscore him or keep the defense off the field. It did neither well enough to stave off one of the game's great all-time quarterbacks."¹

Green Bay 3 3 0 14 20
Miami 7 3 7 6 23
56,624

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/89, McGinn, p. 19

10.29.1989

DETROIT

LIONS **20**
PACKERS **23 (OT)**

With five lead changes, this one ended up in the win column for Green Bay. In a 10-10 first half, the teams traded touchdowns and field goals. The Packers owned the third quarter on Chris Jacke's field goal and Don Majkowski's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe.

In the fourth quarter, Detroit quarterback Rodney Peete, who earlier threw a touchdown pass to Troy Johnson, scored himself. After Majkowski was intercepted, Peete took off up the middle of Green Bay's defense for a 14-yard touchdown and a 20-20 game.

With the score tied in the final minutes, Peete fumbled. Green Bay's Chris Jacke missed a chance to win it in regulation, but in overtime, Mark Murphy's interception gave him another chance. Jacke redeemed himself from the 38!

Following the game, Packers' coach Willie Peete (Rodney' dad) said, "I can't recall one moment when I wasn't behaving like I was the coach of the Packers. Nope, not one time."¹

Detroit **7 3 0 10 0 20**
Green Bay **3 7 10 0 3 23**
56,624
Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/89, Mulhearn, p. 16

11.5.1989

CHICAGO

BEARS **13**
PACKERS **14**

The "Instant Replay Game" was one of the most memorable in franchise history. Coming in, the Packers hadn't beaten the Bears in four years, and a victory would put their record at 5-4. The Bears came in with a 5-3 record, having been dragged down by losses in three of their last four games.

In a dogfight, quarterback Don Majkowski's first-quarter touchdown pass to Clint Didier stood up until late in the third quarter. The Bears had managed only two field goals up to that point when they took off on an 80-yard drive for Brad Muster's 2-yard touchdown and a 13-7 lead.

Majkowski had trouble handling the ball in the fourth quarter. He fumbled once and threw

an interception. Trailing 13-7, with under five minutes left, the Packers took over on their 27-yard line. After moving deep into Chicago territory on the 14, they faced a fourth-and-goal. As Majkowski dropped back, he "found a lane to scramble up and find some time."¹ As he approached the line of scrimmage, Majik spotted Sterling Sharpe in the end zone and let fly for a touchdown with 32 seconds left! But the pass was ruled incomplete by an official who said Majkowski had crossed the line of scrimmage before he released the pass.

Replay official Bill Parkinson reviewed the play. In what seemed like an eternity, the call was reversed. The pass was ruled a touchdown, and Majik had performed his greatest trick to date! The ruling was based on where the football was at its release, not Majik's feet. "I had full confidence I was not over the line,"² said Majik. Chris Jacke's extra point set off a wild celebration, and as coach Lindy Infante pointed out "when you've got an athletic quarterback like Don, he's going to make some great plays for you. And he did."³

Chicago 3 0 10 0 13
Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14
56,556

Lindy Infante: "This one is for the fans as well as the football team."⁴

Frank Lamping, Packers Fan Hall of Fame *

"I remember it like it was yesterday. I was in our living room jumping up and down and running around screaming, 'We beat the Bears! We beat the Bears!' Then I was very upset when they threw a flag that Majik had crossed the line of scrimmage. After what seemed like an eternity, we heard, 'We have a reversal. Touchdown.' Instantly, it was back to euphoria! I ran out the front door, running around the yard screaming, 'We won! We won!'"

"About 10 years ago in 2008, I was lucky enough to be on Lambeau Field during pre-game. Majik was on the field with his wife and kids. I had a brief conversation with him. He explained that when he was injured in 1992, it was such a devastating injury that he almost had to have his leg amputated from the knee down."

* Interview: 12/21/18

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, Mulhern, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, Mulhern, p. 15

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, McGinn, p. 18

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/89, McGinn, p. 19

11.12.1989

PACKERS 22
DETROIT
LIONS 31

Detroit led the entire game thanks to four turnovers by the Packers. Quarterback Don Majkowski (34-59-347-1-2) had a rough first half, fumbling once and throwing two interceptions. A 23-yard pick-six by cornerback Jerry Holmes put the Lions in control, and by halftime, they led 24-3.

In the third quarter, the Packers rallied for two touchdowns. After an interception by safety Mark Murphy, the second touchdown came on a 1-yard run by rookie Vince Workman. It cut the lead to 24-17, but a disastrous fourth-quarter fumble by fullback Michael Haddix led to a touchdown by rookie Barry Sanders that sealed the deal.

Wide receiver Jeff Query of the Packers said this about losing to the 2-8 Lions, "It wasn't a letdown. We were pumped up and ready to go, but most of the calls and breaks went their way."¹

Green Bay 0 3 14 5 22
Detroit 3 21 0 7 31
44,324

Total Yards: GB 432 DET 128

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/89, Langenkamp, p. 17

11.19.1989

PACKERS 21
 SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 17

The Packers upset the defending Super Bowl Champions on the road! The Majik Man had a hand in all of Green Bay's points as he ran for two scores and threw one touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. The defense also dominated, forcing four turnovers, and they sacked quarterback Joe Montana six times!

In the second quarter, Chuck Cecil's interception of Joe Montana led to Majik's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe and a 14-7 Packer lead. Montana came back with a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Rice that made it 14 all.

After a scoreless third quarter, Green Bay's game-winning drive was kept alive by three 49er penalties. One of the infractions negated a 94-yard pick-six by safety Chet Brooks. Majik's 8-yard quarterback-draw put the Packers in front 21-14 lead with 11:55 left. The Niners were held to a field goal the rest of the way.

Cornerback Eric Wright of the 49ers had this to say about The Majik Man, "I didn't think he was as good as he was. I watched tons of film on the guy this week, and he's just like Joe (Montana)."¹ The win moved the Packers to within one game of the first-place Vikings!

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21
San Francisco 7 7 0 3 17
62,219

In hopes of rekindling an old winning tradition, 100 or so fans greeted the victors when they arrived home after midnight!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/89, Langenkamp, p. 17

11.26.1989
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 19
PACKERS 20

Though he did not practice much leading up to the game due to sore ribs, a strong performance by quarterback Don Majkowski (26-35-276-2-1) moved the Packers into a first-place tie with Minnesota.

Majik's two touchdowns to Sterling Sharpe (10-157-2) and Chris Jacke's two field goals provided all the points. Sharpe's first touchdown catch of the afternoon came on a 34-yard connection with Majik for a 10-3 lead. After that, Minnesota rallied for 13 straight points, and Hershel Walker's touchdown put them in front 16-10 in the third quarter.

The Majik Man's second touchdown pass to Sharpe with 11 minutes left put Green Bay up 20-19. In the final minutes, the Packers' defense protected the lead with one big defensive stop and two picks by cornerback Dave Brown!

Minnesota 3 3 10 3 19

Green Bay 3 7 3 7 20

55,592

Milwaukee County Stadium

*"My wife and I got married at halftime of a Packer-Viking game. There were over 200 people there, and the judge who married us was dressed in a ref's outfit."*¹

*Don Majkowski: "We're thrilled that we've finally fulfilled the need of this community, which has been so hungry for such a long time."*²

1 For Packer Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 229

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/89, Mulhern, p. 1

12.3.1989

PACKERS 17

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 16

In this tight divisional battle, Don Majkowski threw 53 passes for 331 yards and two touchdowns! Sterling Sharpe caught two more touchdown passes, and overall he caught eight passes for 169 yards. He set a new franchise record with 77 catches in a season.

Sharpe's first-quarter touchdown gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. It was 7-6 into the fourth quarter, as the Packers dominated defensively with four sacks and five interceptions. In an exciting final 15 minutes, the lead changed hands four times. After an interception, Tampa took a 13-7 lead on a 21-yard run around left end by veteran Sylvester Stamps.

Majik matched it on the next series with a 55-yard bomb to Sharpe for a 14-13 edge with 9:55 left. Sharpe explained that cornerback Rod Jones “got caught sleeping, and he couldn’t grab me when I went by him, and it was a great throw by Don.”¹

With under two minutes left, the Buccaneers drove past midfield. Green Bay stopped them at the 19-yard line, and Donald Igwebuike’s 36-yard kick made it 16-14 with 1:35 left. Majik then deftly marched the Packers 52-yards for Chris Jacke’s 47-yard boot as time expired!

Green Bay 7 0 0 10 17
Tampa Bay 0 3 3 10 16
58,120

“Police estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 people jammed and crammed into the airport terminal, many waiting more than three hours, many dressed in various versions of Packer colors, many carrying hastily-prepared signs, to welcome the Packers back from Tampa Bay.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4, Walter, p. 1

12.10.1989

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 21
PACKERS 3

The “frozen crowd sat in numbed silence,”¹ as quarterback Steve DeBerg outdueled The Majik Man. Kansas City’s defense played a huge role in the duel with four sacks, one interception, and they recovered Majkowski’s fumble late in the game. Majik wasn’t so magical (14-34-123-0-1).

All of the scoring took place in the second quarter. A 65-yard drive by the Chiefs finished with DeBerg’s 11-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Hayes. A field goal by Chris Jacke made it 7-3 with six minutes to go in the half. The Chiefs struck again—twice—in the final 1:01! Quarterback Steve DeBerg’s passing took care of 68 yards of the drive, and fullback Christian Okoye covered the last six yards and scored with 1:01 left. With 43 seconds left and trailing 14-3, Don Majkowski fumbled on Green Bay’s 15-yard line with 43 seconds left. Neil Smith recovered for K.C., and DeBerg hit Emile Harry for a 21-3 halftime lead.

Unable to get anything going offensively, the Packers were held to 208 yards and 11 first downs. The loss damaged their postseason hopes.

Kansas City 0 21 0 0 21
Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
56,964

¹ packershistory.net/1989Packers

12.17.1989

PACKERS 40

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

Don Majkowski backed up his miraculous finish against the Bears in November with another exceptional outing. Green Bay led from start to finish. Majik passed for 241 yards, threw for one touchdown, and scored two others on the ground.

The Packers pounded the Bears with 217 yards on the ground. The game stayed close into the second half as Green Bay piled up 456 total yards. Five turnovers by Chicago cost them 10 points and field position throughout the game.

After halftime, the Bears narrowed the score to 30-28 on Brad Muster's second touchdown run. Green Bay pulled away when linebacker Scott Stephen intercepted Jim Harbaugh. Majik's second touchdown run followed, and Jacke's fourth field goal tied a Green Bay record. "The last time the Packers scored that many points against the Bears, Vince Lombardi, and George Halas were coaches and John F. Kennedy was president."¹

Green Bay	14	10	6	10	40
Chicago	7	7	14	0	28

44,781

¹ Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 356

12.24.1989

PACKERS 20

DALLAS

COWBOYS 10

Green Bay never trailed in this one as Majik produced more magic, and Chris Jacke continued his steady kicking.

Quarterback Don Majkowski completed his magical season with one more miracle! He threw two touchdown passes—one in each half—to Jeff Query and Ed West. In between, Jack Del Rio's 57-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown tied the score at 10. Ed West's touchdown catch gave Green Bay the lead late in the third quarter, and Jacke's 24-yard field goal sealed the deal in the fourth.

Though they did not make the postseason because of Minnesota's better divisional record, 1989 was considered a success that had fans very optimistic about the future.

Green Bay	3	7	7	3	20
Dallas	3	0	7	0	10

41,265

*When The Majik Man returned to Lambeau Field years later after retiring, he was received warmly by Packer fans. "As he walked around the field before the game, the fans were unbelievably gracious to him. He had a chance to take a final bow. He went around and shook hands. And it was if he never left. It had been 10 or 12 years since his career-ending injury. His wife pulled me aside and whispered to me, 'You've done something great for this man who left the game he loved—had to leave, not on his terms, but because of an injury—and you brought him back to say goodbye in a very personal and final way.'"*¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 213

1989

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Majkowski
Receiving	Sharpe
Rushing	Fullwood
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Brown
Sacks	Harris

ALL-PRO

Harris	Linebacker
Majkowski	Quarterback
Moran	Guard
Sharpe	Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Tony Mandarich (1, OT)
Matt Brock (3a, DE)
Anthony Dilweg (3a, C)
Jeff Query (5b, WR)
Vince Workman (5c, RB)
Chris Jacke (6, K)

1990s





1990
Record: 6-10-0, 4th Place
Coach: Lindy Infante

- After 1989's success, this was a very disappointing season. Contract holdouts complicated the preseason, and 18 starters missed the first day of camp.
- After a fine 1989 season, The Majik Man held out the entire preseason. He signed a one-year contract four days before the season began. He missed the opener, played briefly in game two, and tore his rotator cuff in game 10.
- Both the offense and defense regressed. Contractual issues forced four of the five offensive linemen to miss time. Michael Haddix led in rushing with 311 yards.
- Brent Fullwood was let go in October after being too sick to play but was out socializing after the game.
- The Packers lost their last five games by a combined score of 120-51.

9.9.1990

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 24

PACKERS 36

The Packers opened with a win for the first time since 1984! Second-year quarterback Anthony Dilweg started his first NFL game in place of Don Majkowski, who had just signed his contract. Dilweg, whose grandfather played for the Packers from 1926-1934 (Lavvie)—had a fine debut. He threw two touchdown passes, and his 47-yard bomb to Jeff Query put them in front 17-14 before halftime.

Leading 20-14 in the fourth quarter, Dilweg (20-32-248-3-0) led an 82-yard drive with big completions to Sterling Sharpe and Jeff Query. A 7-yard touchdown pass to Ed West finished the drive. Moments later, Mark Lee stripped Rams receiver Henry Ellard of the ball, and Green Bay took over at the L.A. 4-yard line! Brent Fullwood scored from the 2-yard line to put it away. The next day's headline put it rather bluntly, "Forget Majik for now, Dilweg's the man."¹

Los Angeles 7 7 3 7 24
Green Bay 0 17 3 16 36
57,685

New NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue attended. Regarding the Packers: "It is a franchise that has a lot of meaning for the NFL and its fans. In many ways, Green Bay is the early days and the middle days of the league."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/90, Issacson, p. 20

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/90, McGinn, p. 20

9.16.1990

CHICAGO

BEARS 31

PACKERS 13

Though the Packers scored first on Keith Woodside's touchdown run, they managed just two field goals the rest of the way. Jim Harbaugh starred for Chicago with a first-half touchdown run and two second-half touchdown passes. The touchdowns went to Ron Morris and Neal Anderson.

The Bears' defense was "unmerciful, recording six sacks, three fumbles recoveries, and two interceptions."¹ Turnovers by the Packers led to 17 points for the Bears. Quarterback Anthony Dilweg could not get Green Bay into the end zone, and he was booed despite the previous week's promising start! Don Majkowski replaced Dilweg with seven minutes left, but Majik never appeared (8-12-84-0-1), and the Packers went quietly.

Chicago 0 17 7 7 31

Green Bay 7 3 3 0 13

58,938

Turnovers: GB 5 CHI 1

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 359

9.23.1990

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 17

PACKERS 3

For the first time since 1971, the Packers opened the season with three straight home games! They also had quarterback Don Majkowski back from his holdout (and abbreviated training camp) to start his first game.

Chris Jacke's 46-yard field goal got the scoring started, but that would be it for Green Bay. The Chiefs came right back on the next series with an 80-yard touchdown drive.

On K.C.'s first drive of the second half, they faked a field goal and came up 2 yards short of a first down. The Packers took over and drove downfield to K.C.'s 2-yard line. As

Majkowski fell handing off, Brent Fullwood was hit hard, and he fumbled. Linebacker Dino Hackett recovered on K.C.'s 1-yard line. After the Chiefs had to punt, the Packers were forced to do so as well. But Don Bracken's punt was blocked, and K.C. capitalized with a field goal, earning themselves a 10-3 lead.

The Packers were outmuscled by the Chiefs on defense. Several contract holdouts hindered Green Bay's timing on offense. There was no Majik in the air as he was sacked six times. With three minutes left, Majkowski threw a pick-six to finish a rough first outing (19-31-172-0-2).

Kansas City 0 7 0 10 17

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3

58,817

Turnovers: GB 4 KC 1

9.30.1990

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 21

The Majik Man returned, and not coincidentally, so did the Cardiac Pack! Majkowski threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns. His first touchdown pass went to Ed West in the second quarter. After Green Bay fell behind 21-10, Majik caught fire in the fourth quarter. He completed 11 of 12 passes and threw for two touchdown passes. A 4-yard toss to fullback Michael Haddix completed a 61-yard drive by the Packers.

With 3:09 left in the game, Majik marched the Packers to Detroit's 11-yard line before a sack pushed them back to the 26. Facing a third and 17 from the 26, Majik stepped up into the pocket and delivered a strike to Jeff Query in the end zone with 55 seconds left. Green Bay prevailed when Eddie Murray missed what would have been his fourth field goal with three seconds left.

Though Majik was sacked four times, he escaped Detroit's grasp often enough to lead Green Bay in rushing with 89 yards... the most since Tobin Rote's 106 in 1952! "We needed to win one the way we won it," Infante said later. "That was the kind of team we were last year. A never-give-up, never-quit, hard-working team. That's the way we have to play to win."¹

Green Bay 0 10 0 14 24

Detroit 7 7 7 0 21

64,509

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/90, Mulhern, p. 1

10.7.1990

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

The Bears beat the Packers again three weeks later in windy and rainy Soldier Field. Chicago did it without quarterback Jim Harbaugh who left injured in the second quarter.

In the first half, Chris Jacke kicked two field goals while the Bears scored on Neal Anderson's 3-yard run. The Bears counted on Anderson all game, and he responded with 141 yards. Leading 10-6 at halftime, Chicago scored what proved to be the winner in the third quarter on quarterback Mike Tomczak's 6-yard touchdown run.

In the fourth quarter, an impressive 76-yard touchdown pass from Don Majkowski to Sterling Sharpe cut the lead to four, 17-13. Chicago's defense put any comeback thoughts to rest, however, by dominating the time remaining. Overall, Majkowski was inconsistent (12 of 39), and the Packers couldn't run the ball (32 yards).

The Packers learned that a "sick" Brent Fullwood, who did not come out of the locker room in the second half, was out socializing after the game. The Packers released him.

Green Bay 3 3 0 7 13

Chicago 7 3 7 10 27

59,929

*"There are more important things than a winning football team, but not after the World Series is over."*¹

*Letter to the Editor: "Give the Packers a break. They are real human beings. Who says they have to be available to the public whenever the public demands it? Sure, they make a good wage and are role models for our children, but do you really think the best time for an autograph is after a physically and mentally exhausting day on the football field? These players are tired and anxious to get home to their families and friends. Enjoy the Packers Green Bay. We are fortunate to have them."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/90, Larson, p. 5

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/90, p. 5 (Steve Heroux)

10.14.1990

PACKERS 14

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 26

A big game for quarterbacks as both Don Majkowski and Vinny Testaverde combined to throw for over 600 yards. Majkowski also threw five interceptions, the most by a Green

Bay quarterback since 1950. The interceptions led to 13 points for Tampa.

With another poor performance running the football (36 yards), Green Bay's offense was one-dimensional, and Tampa pitched a first-half shut out, 16-0. It was 19-0 before the Packers got on the scoreboard on a very unusual play in the third quarter. A pass from Don Majkowski to Clarence Weathers was intercepted by Ricky Reynolds near the goal line. As Reynolds advanced the ball, he fumbled. Weathers recovered the fumble, but as he tried to score, he fumbled into his end zone, where Jeff Query fell on it for six!

Later in the third quarter, the teams traded touchdowns, and the Packers slipped to 2-4. "I don't think there's a team that's beat us yet," maintained wide receiver Clarence Weathers. "We just turn the ball over. The only two games we won, we didn't turn the ball over."¹

Green Bay 0 0 14 0 14
Tampa Bay 3 13 10 0 26
67,472

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/90, Mulhern, p. 13

10.28.1990

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 24

After the bye week, the Packers snapped their two-game losing streak. The defense led the way with five interceptions which led to 14 points!

Field goals by both teams started the scoring. Darrell Thompson's first NFL touchdown gave the Packers a 10-3 lead at the break. In the second half, interceptions extended Green Bay's lead. Rookie defensive end Shawn Patterson deflected quarterback Rich Gannon's pass, caught it, and went 9 yards into the end zone! As he scored, he couldn't help but think, "Was there a flag on the play? Was something wrong? Please let it count."¹

LeRoy Butler's fourth-quarter interception set up Majkowski's six-yard touchdown run to put it to bed. "It may not have been pretty at times, especially on offense, but it is certainly a step in the right direction,"² said Infante.

Minnesota 0 3 0 7 10
Green Bay 3 7 7 7 24
58,817,
Milwaukee County Stadium

Majkowski was sacked 6 times.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/90, Mulhern, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/90, McGinn, p. 16

11.4.1990

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 24

PACKERS 20

The 49ers won their 16th straight on another big day for quarterbacks. Joe Montana threw for 411 yards and three touchdowns, while Don Majkowski threw for 274 and two. Seventy-three passes were thrown without an interception.

Green Bay got out to a 10-0 lead behind Chris Jacke's field goal and Don Majkowski's first touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. Sharpe made a great catch with 38 seconds left before the half. The Niners took the short kickoff and scored 11 seconds before halftime on a Montana to John Taylor touchdown. "It was a letdown, of course. It bothered us,"¹ said Green Bay linebacker Scott Stephen.

In the second half, the veteran 49ers and Joe Montana continued their comeback. They tied it in the third quarter on Mike Cofer's field goal. Two more Montana touchdown passes to Brent Jones and Jerry Rice put the score at 24-13 in the fourth quarter. The Packers got the ball back with five minutes left and managed to score, narrowing the San Francisco lead to 24-20. On Green Bay's final series, Perry Kemp fumbled with 1:48 left to end it.

San Francisco 0 7 3 14 24

Green Bay 3 7 0 10 20

58,835

Rushing Yards: GB 70 SF 34

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/90, Isaacson, p. 1

11.11.1990

PACKERS 29

LOS ANGELES

RAIDERS 16

The first half got off to a fast start with two first-quarter touchdown runs by Marcus Allen. Two crucial penalties on the Packers kept both L.A. drives going. Packers' quarterback Don Majkowski began to round into form with a touchdown pass to Vince Workman. Along with three Chris Jacke field goals, the game stood 16-16 at halftime.

The second half went to Green Bay. On L.A.'s first play, Johnny Holland intercepted quarterback Jay Schroeder which led to Jacke's fourth field goal and the lead. In the final 15 minutes, the Packers pulled further ahead, 26-16, on Majik's 28-yard touchdown pass to Perry Kemp. Jacke then booted his fifth field goal to set a record and finish the scoring. Green Bay's defense held the Raiders to 165 total yards! They shut down their offense

with three interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Green Bay 3 13 3 10 29
Los Angeles 13 3 0 0 16
50,855

Bob Wieland, Vietnam veteran and Packers fan from Greenfield, Wisconsin, gave a short motivational speech to the team. "Wieland is a remarkable man. He stepped on a land mine in Vietnam and lost both legs. A few years ago, he walked across the country on his arms. Very, very inspirational individual,"¹ said Infante.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/90, Mulhern, p. 15

11.18.1990

PACKERS 24

PHOENIX

CARDINALS 21

The magic continued as quarterback Don Majkowski opened the scoring with a 54-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. In the second quarter, though, his season abruptly ended when he was thrown out of bounds by defensive end Joe Nunn. Majik landed on his right shoulder and tore his rotator cuff.

Anthony Dilweg replaced Majkowski, and Chris Jacke finished the drive with a field goal. Before halftime, Phoenix quarterback Timm Rosenbach and wide receiver Roy Green connected to cut the lead to 10-7. Rosenbach threw for two more touchdowns in the second half. One capitalized on an interception of Dilweg with the Cardinals going 98 yards in eight plays for 21-10 lead.

Despite being in a deep hole on the road, Dilweg summoned up a little magic of his own! With 6:20 left, he threw a fourth-down touchdown pass to Clarence Weathers to cut the lead to four 21-17. "I just threw it in the air hoping he'd turn around,"¹ Dilweg explained. After the defense stopped the Cardinals on fourth down at midfield, Dilweg had 2:10 left. Facing a prevent defense, a series of short passes brought the Packers to the 1-yard line. Then, on third and goal with 22 seconds left, a scrambling Dilweg found Ed West for the victory!

Green Bay 7 3 0 14 24
Phoenix 0 7 7 7 21
46,878

Photo Caption: "Green Bay Packers guard Rich Moran holds up a cheesehead thrown at the team's bench after the Packers' last touchdown against the Phoenix."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/90, Mulhern, p. 10

2 packershistory.net/1990Packers

11.25.1990

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 10

PACKERS 20

With Don Majkowski out for the year, Anthony Dilweg started at quarterback. Dilweg held his own against veteran signal-caller Vinny Testaverde who threw 49 passes for 281 yards. Dilweg threw two touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe and Michael Haddix.

Green Bay's backfield ran for 144 yards, the most all season. The Bucs turned it over twice, and the second miscue, a fumble by Reggie Cobb, was costly as the Packers took advantage for a 14-3 lead. Testaverde's touchdown pass to Bruce Hill cut the lead to 17-10, but Chris Jacke's second field goal pushed the lead back to 10.

A third straight win moved the Packers to 6-5, and they were still in the hunt for the postseason. Tampa Bay coach Ray Perkins vented about his team's performance. "We didn't deserve to beat anyone today. We probably couldn't beat the No. 1 high school team in Florida or Wisconsin."¹

Tampa Bay 0 3 7 0 10

Green Bay 0 7 10 3 20

53,677

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/90/, Isaacson, p. 1

12.2.1990

PACKERS 7

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 23

"The great unraveling of the Lindy Infante regime began on a Sunday night in the Metrodome."¹ The Packers turned the ball over five times and gained just 190 total yards. The loss sent the Packers into a tailspin, and they lost five straight to finish the season.

Green Bay scored its only points in the third quarter. It came on a blocked punt by safety Tiger Greene. Greene recovered the ball and returned it 36 yards for a touchdown for a brief 7-6 lead. Minnesota regrouped to score the next 17 points.

Following a field goal, Anthony Carter made a great catch of a 56-yard touchdown pass for a 16-7 lead. Fifty-one seconds later, the Vikings struck again. Defensive end Al Noga swatted the ball out of Dilweg's hand and recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown. "It ain't Anthony's fault... we had guys coming into his face all night. I got my kicked. I

gave up the touchdown to Noga,"² said tackle Tony Mandarich.

The Packers generated just 190 total yards. They ran for only 59, and quarterback Anthony Dilweg threw three interceptions and was sacked five times. The border rivals were now tied for first place at 6-6!

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Minnesota 3 3 17 0 23
55,125

¹ packershistory.net/1990Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/90, McGinn, p. 18

12.9.1990

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 20
PACKERS 14

The Packers tried for a comeback, but they fell short. The Seahawks dominated the first half, and they enjoyed a 17-0 halftime lead on the strength of a Dave Krieg touchdown pass and a touchdown run around by Derrick Fenner. Fenner led a Seattle ground game that generated 158 yards.

Green Bay ran the ball for only 13 yards, and for the first time in team history, they did not pick up a first down on the ground! Quarterback Anthony Dilweg struggled (6-22-69-0-1) before giving way to Blair Kiel late in the third quarter. Kiel threw for two short touchdowns and 198 yards. Both touchdowns came in the final six minutes.

Despite the loss, Green Bay still had an outside shot at the playoffs.

Seattle 7 10 3 0 20
Green Bay 0 0 0 14 14
52,015

Milwaukee County Stadium

The Packers gave up a team record of 62 sacks in 1990.

The booing? Green Bay linebacker Brian Noble: "I think it was just. I think people have the right to boo us with the type of performance we gave."

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/90, McGinn, p. 18

12.16.1990

PACKERS **0**

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **31**

The Eagles clinched a postseason berth convincingly. They pounded the Packers for 422 yards of offense while Green Bay mustered just 158.

In the first half, running back Keith Byars threw a touchdown pass to Anthony Toney, and he also caught a touchdown pass from Randall Cunningham. In the second half, Cunningham added a touchdown run of his own from 17 yards out as Philadelphia disposed of Green Bay easily. With a record of 6-8, "we still have a shot at it (the postseason)," said an optimistic Ron Hallstrom.

Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	7	10	0	14	31

65,627

12.22.1990

DETROIT

LIONS **24**

PACKERS **17**

Green Bay used to make comebacks like this, but now it was Detroit's turn. With the temperatures hovering near zero at kickoff, the only first-half scoring came on touchdown runs by quarterbacks Rodney Peete and Blair Kiel. The second half started with a 76-yard kickoff return by Green Bay rookie Darrell Thompson. After the teams traded field goals, the Packers led 17-10 entering the fourth quarter.

The Packers couldn't hold the lead. The Lions scored twice more when cornerback Ray Crockett took back a Green Bay fumble for six, followed by a Barry Sanders touchdown. A final drive by Green Bay got to Detroit's 14-yard line before Crockett intercepted Keil with 1:56 left. The Lions ran out the clock.

Detroit	7	0	3	14	24
Green Bay	7	0	10	0	17

46,700

"Jason Walder may have been among the more intelligent forms of life at Lambeau Field Saturday. He sold programs for the Green Bay Packers-Detroit Lions game in one of the men's bathrooms. 'Business is better here than it is out there.' gesturing toward the door and the two-degree, minus-35 degree wind chill conditions outside. 'At least in here I can feel my fingers.'"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/90, Langenkamp, p. 1

12.30.1990

PACKERS 13

DENVER

BRONCOS 22

The Packers ended a disappointing, 6-10 season with a loss in the Rocky Mountains. The Packers never led, and they gave up four sacks and coughed up the ball up three more times.

In the first half, each team kicked two field goals. The Broncos scored twice in the third quarter to take control 20-6. Quarterback Anthony Dilweg's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe cut the lead to seven, but a safety by Karl Mecklenberg ended the scoring.

Green Bay 3 3 0 7 13

Denver 3 3 14 2 22

46,943

1990

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Majkowski
Receiving	Sharpe
Rushing	Haddix
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Butler, Holmes & M. Murphy w/3
Sacks	Harris

ALL-PRO

Campan	Center
Sharpe	Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

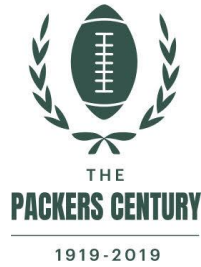
Tony Bennett (1, LB)

Darrell Thompson (1b, RB)

LeRoy Butler (2, CB)

Jackie Harris (4, TE)

Bryce Paup (6, LB)



1991
Record: 4-12-0, 4th Place
Coach: Lindy Infante

- Don Majkowski returned, but there was not a lot “Majik.” He shared the position with Mike Tomczak, formerly of the Bears.
- Of Green Bay’s four wins, three came against two teams that won fewer games than they did—Tampa Bay and Indianapolis.
- The offense struggled but the defense finished 10th in yards allowed. Tim Harris was traded to San Francisco in October.
- On November 20, Packer President Bob Harlan fired Tom Braatz. One week later, he hired Ron Wolf, the Assistant General Manager of the Jets. Harlan knew Wolf from a previous interview. Harlan gave Wolf complete control of the football operation.
- The day after the season ended, Wolf fired Head Coach Lindy Infante and his staff.

9.1.1991

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 20

PACKERS 3

Given last season’s problems with the offense, this was not a good start for the Packers. Don Majkowski threw 42 passes, but he completed just 16 with three interceptions. Green Bay’s only points came on a Chris Jacke field goal.

Philadelphia survived the loss of their quarterback Randall Cunningham, who injured his knee when linebacker Bryce Paup sacked him in the second quarter. Jim McMahon came into the game and led the Eagles to 10 points before the half. Philadelphia’s touchdown came on a great catch by Keith Byars who caught a deflected pass for the score.

In the fourth quarter, McMahon finished off the Packers with a 75-yard bomb to Fred Barnett. The Eagles’ defense dominated. They intercepted three passes, sacked Majkowski four times, and held the Packers to 44 yards rushing (228 total).

Philadelphia 0 13 0 7 20

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

58,991

9.8.1991

PACKERS 14

DETROIT

LIONS 23

It was Detroit's home opener, and quarterback Rodney Peete outplayed Don Majkowski. The Lions opened the scoring with a 10-minute drive that Barry Sanders finished off with a 4-yard run. The Packers tied it quickly on Vince Workman's touchdown.

After a field goal put them in front 10-7 at halftime, Rodney Peete's touchdown pass and Eddie Murray's second field goal put up the first points of the second half. Now trailing 20-7 in the fourth quarter, Majkowski scored on a short run to cut it to 20-14. In the fourth quarter, Murray's third field goal secured the win.

Peete threw for 271 yards and one touchdown, while Majkowski totaled 185 yards and one interception. After the game, when asked about the 0-2 start, Infante replied, "I don't think the season is over. Certainly, no one is conceding anything here. I honestly think we can bounce back."¹

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14

Detroit 7 3 10 3 23

43,132

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/91, Mulhern, p. 1

9.15.1991

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 13

PACKERS 15

"The rally was reminiscent of 1989."¹ The Packers took a 2-0 lead on Bryce Paup's sack of quarterback Vinnie Testaverde for a safety. Paup had an outstanding game, leading the defense with 4.5 of its seven sacks. Chris Jacke's field goal made it a 5-0 game at halftime.

After intermission, the Buccaneers went in front 13-5 with two field goals and Testaverde's 87-yard touchdown rocket to Willie Drewery. In the final four minutes of the game, Majik awoke! He went five-for-five on a touchdown drive that he topped off with a touchdown pass to Vince Workman with three minutes left. When the defense forced a three-and-out, the Packers took over on Tampa Bay's 44-yard line with 1:09 left. In four plays, Chris Jacke's second field goal put it in the win column. "This will be a real stepping stone for the rest of the season,"¹ said Bryce Paup.

Tampa Bay 0 0 3 10 13

Green Bay 0 5 0 10 15

58,114

GB's seven sacks were the most since 1978.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/91, Havel, p. 13

9.15.1991

PACKERS 13

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 16

Kicker Pete Stoyanovich kicked three field goals, including the game-winner for the Dolphins. Miami's defense held the upper hand all game with three forced turnovers and five sacks.

Green Bay held a 13-6 lead at halftime on two Chris Jacke field goals and an Ed West touchdown catch. In the third quarter, Majkowski dropped back into the end zone to pass. Untouched, he dropped the football, and Miami defensive tackle Chuck Klingbeil fell on it for a touchdown. With the score tied at 13, quarterback Dan Marino drove the Dolphins back into Stoyanovich's field goal range with 8:21 left. He drilled what proved to be the winner from the 31-yard line. Vestee Jackson sealed the deal when he recovered another Majkowski fumble with under two minutes left.

Green Bay 0 13 0 0 13

Miami 6 0 10 0 16

56,583

This was on Don Shula's 300th coaching win.

9.29.1991

PACKERS 21

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 23

Don Majkowski left the game with a shoulder injury, and Blair Kiel took over in the second quarter. Prior to the injury, Majkowski was ineffective (3-8-38-0-1), but he did score on a 2-yard run to give Green Bay a brief 7-3 lead.

In the final minutes before halftime, the Packers fumbled twice. The Rams capitalized on the first to take the lead 13-7. On the ensuing kickoff, Vai Sikahema fumbled, and Anthony Newman grabbed the ball out of the air and raced untouched into the end zone. The Rams led 20-7.

In the second half, Blair Kiel did his best "Majik" imitation. In the fourth quarter, he threw two short touchdown passes to Perry Kemp and Vince Workman that put the Packers

within two points of tying the score. But in the final five minutes, the Rams ran out the clock with two first downs.

Mike McKenna, a former WBAY sportscaster, offered this explanation for Green Bay's poor start: "I think in 1989, the ball bounced well for us. It hasn't since, and it becomes a matter of confidence. I just don't think the Packers were as good as 10-6 two years ago, and they're not as bad as 1-4 now."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 14 21
Los Angeles 3 17 3 0 23
54,736

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Langenkamp, p. 2

10.6.1991

DALLAS

COWBOYS 20
PACKERS 17

Green Bay ran for only 60 yards, and they turned the ball over three more times. After a scoreless 15 minutes, quarterback Blair Kiel threw two interceptions. The first was a 65-yard pick-six by Ray Horton, and the second, which came moments later, led to a Troy Aikman's touchdown to Jay Novacek. The Cowboys led at the half, 14-3.

Green Bay bolted out of the locker room door with an 82-yard kickoff return by Charles Wilson. The defense kept the Packers in the game and allowed only two Dallas field goals in the second half. The Packers crept closer with seven straight completions by Kiel on an 84-yard touchdown drive. The touchdown went to Sterling Sharpe with 3:39 left.

For the second week in a row, the defense could not get the ball back, and the Packers came up short. After the game, safety Chuck Cecil vented. "We're 1-and-5. You'd better be discouraged."

Dallas 0 14 3 3 20
Green Bay 0 3 7 7 17
53,695

Milwaukee County Stadium

*"Fan Hotline: For a daily update on injuries, transactions and other Packers news, 496-7722."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/91, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/91, p. 13

10.17.1991

CHICAGO

BEARS **10**
PACKERS **0**

A national television audience saw Green Bay's offense take the night off. The Packers generated only five first downs and 141 total yards. Quarterbacks Don Majkowski and Mike Tomczak completed only seven passes for 50 net yards. The closest Green Bay came to scoring was Chicago's 43.

The Bears scored on Jim Harbaugh's second-quarter touchdown pass to tight end James Thornton and Kevin Butler's fourth-quarter field goal. Don Majkowski, who completed just three passes, was replaced by former Bears quarterback Mike Tomczak in the fourth quarter. After the game, a frustrated Lindy Infante told the media, "I don't have the answers. I wish I did. All I can do is apologize for our performance offensively."¹

Chicago **0 7 0 3 10**

Green Bay **0 0 0 0 0**

58,435

GB failed to rush for 100 yards for the 11th straight game.

At halftime, "The University of Wisconsin Marching Band was a big hit with the fans."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/91, Havel, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/91, Walter, p. 1

10.27.1991

PACKERS **27**

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS **0**

Two struggling 1-6 teams met, and the Packers emerged victoriously. Green Bay was gifted with eight turnovers, and they capitalized on four of them for 20 points! The defense also came through with six sacks.

Five minutes in, defensive end Matt Brock of the Packers knocked the ball from quarterback Chris Chandler's hands. Brian Noble fell on it in the end zone for a 7-0 lead. The two interceptions that followed led to field goals, and it was 13-0 Packers at half. A third Packers' interception by nose tackle Esera Tuaolo led to Majkowski's touchdown pass to Ed West. Vince Workman finished the scoring with a 4-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

"In their last 14 games, the Packers are 3-0 against the Buccaneers and 0-11 against everyone else,"¹ the Press-Gazette pointed out.

Green Bay 10 3 7 7 27
Tampa Bay 0 0 0 0 0
40,275

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/91, Havel, p. 15

11.3.1991

PACKERS 16
 NEW YORK
JETS 19 (OT)

Other than quarterback Ken O'Brien's 50-yard "Hail Mary" touchdown pass to Chris Burkett just before halftime, Pat Leahy's field goals headlined this New York win. Green Bay's only points came in the third quarter on a 1-yard toss from quarterback Mike Tomczak to tight end Ed West.

The rest was left to the kickers! Veteran kicker Pat Leahy of the Jets—the oldest player in the NFL—kicked four field goals, one more than Green Bay's Chris Jacke. Leahy tied the score in regulation, and 10 minutes into overtime—after Jacke had already missed a field goal—a fumble by Vai Sikahema was recovered on Green Bay's 23-yard line. Linebacker Bobby Houston, a former Packer, recovered for the Jets, and three plays later, Leahy connected from the 37 for the win.

Green Bay 3 3 7 3 0 16
New York 3 10 3 3 3 19
67,435

GB had three turnovers.

11.10.1991

BUFFALO
BILLS 34
PACKERS 24

The defending AFC Champion Bills (8-1) overcame an early Green Bay lead to win their ninth game. The Packers fell to 2-8.

Mike Tomczak started his first game at quarterback for Green Bay in place of injured Don Majkowski. He threw for 317 yards and two touchdowns. He was also picked off twice and sacked three times.

With the Packers leading 10-7, Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly threw his second touchdown pass. It went to Don Beebe for a 14-10 halftime lead. In the third quarter, with quarterback Jim Kelly out for a few plays with a sore back, Thurman Thomas scored on a 5-yard run.

Kelly directed a 12-play drive and scored on a 1-yard plunge to make it 31-17. The key play of the drive was his 19-yard completion to former Green Bay great James Lofton.

Buffalo 0 14 10 10 34

Green Bay 7 3 7 7 24

52,175

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 381 BUF 370

11.17.1991

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 35

PACKERS 21

Mike Tomczak's two touchdown passes in the first half gave Green Bay an early lead. His 75-yard bomb to Charles Wilson and a 1-yard toss to tight end Jackie Harris helped Green Bay to a 21-14 halftime lead.

The second half made the difference. Minnesota dominated with 21 points, while the Packers were shut out. Minnesota's three scoring drives went for 79, 80, and 98 yards. Quarterback Rich Gannon's 17-yard touchdown pass to Chris Carter tied the score at 21. After Herschel Walker's touchdown run, Gannon's 5-yard run sealed the deal.

Green Bay ran for just 29 yards, and Mike Tomczak was forced to throw 40 passes (20-40-271-1-2). Sterling Sharpe caught eight or 135 yards.

Minnesota 7 7 7 14 35

Green Bay 14 7 0 0 21

57,614

Total Yards: GB 300 MIN 443

11.24.1991

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 10

PACKERS 14

It was a challenging game offensively as neither team gained over 200 yards. Green Bay's quarterback Mike Tomczak and the defense rose to the occasion in this win.

Leading 7-3 in the third quarter, Tomczak took off on a 48-yard run from scrimmage, Green Bay's longest of the season. It set up his 2-yard touchdown run moments later. A touchdown pass by Indianapolis quarterback Jeff George cut the lead to 14-10. In the last two minutes of the game, Green Bay's defense rose to the occasion and stopped the Colts'

final threat. After the game, quarterback Mike Tomczak said, "Fans in Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin, here's your victory."¹

Indianapolis 0 3 0 7 10

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14

42,132

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 192 IND 189

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/91, Walter, p. 1

12.1.1991

PACKERS 31

ATLANTA

FALCONS 35

Green Bay's new General Manager Ron Wolf, who was hired on November 27, was on hand to watch his new team. He was also there to scout Falcons' third-string quarterback Brett Favre.

This high-scoring affair went down to the wire. The Packers put together a solid first half, and they were on top most of the game. Quarterback Mike Tomczak threw three more touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe (2) and Perry Kemp. With a 21-7 lead in the second half, Green Bay fell apart.

The Falcons cut into the lead with running back Steve Broussard's touchdown run. Quarterback Chris Miller then threw the first of two touchdown passes to wideout Andre Rison. In between Rison's two touchdown catches, Charles Wilson of Green Bay fumbled the kickoff return. Joe Fishback of the Falcons took it back 16 yards to the end zone to knot it at 28. With 3:21 remaining, the Packers took back the lead on a 27-yard field goal by Chris Jacke.

With 1:34 left, Green Bay was forced to punt. Punter Paul McJulien fumbled the snap and ran around right end before being tackled short of the first down. From Green Bay's 16, Rison's second touchdown catch won it with 41 seconds left.

Green Bay 7 14 0 10 31

Atlanta 7 0 7 21 35

43,270

12.8.1991

PACKERS 13

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

The Bears beat the Packers in Chicago to put the breaks on their two-game losing streak. The game featured 15 penalties, nine of which were on the Packers. Chicago had a potent attack with two touchdown runs by fullback Brad Muster and two touchdown passes by quarterback Jim Harbaugh.

While the game was fairly even statistically, Green Bay's inability to run the ball (62 yards) allowed Chicago to pressure the pass. The Bears sacked their former quarterback, Tomczak, three times. He also threw an interception and fumbled once. Chicago capitalized on both.

The loss spoiled Tomczak's return to Soldier Field. After the game, Chicago reporters wanted to know how he felt about playing for the Packers? Tomczak summed it up with, "I wear the Green Bay Packer colors now, and I'm proud of it."¹

Green Bay 3 10 0 0 13

Chicago 7 14 6 0 27

62,353

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/91, Walter, p. 15

12.15.1991

DETROIT

LIONS 21

PACKERS 17

In wind chills between 10 and 20 degrees below, the Lions beat the Packers to make the postseason for the first time since 1983.

A 30-yard touchdown run by Vince Workman and Chris Jacke's field goal gave the Packers a 10-7 lead. The score remained 10-7 until the fourth quarter when 20mph winds smacked down the punt of Green Bay's Paul McJulien which set up the Lions with favorable field position. Quarterback Erik Kramer's 3-yard toss to Robert Clark made it 14-10. Then, a 78-yard punt return for a touchdown by Detroit's Mel Gray completed the season sweep.

Detroit 7 0 0 14 21

Green Bay 7 3 0 7 17

43,881

"I think the best story I've heard is about away games. The airport is only five miles from downtown Green Bay, and the players all drive out to the airport and leave their cars. They leave

*their keys at the airport, and fans come out and start their cars for them when they are due to get back! There's something about the Packers that's almost like family."*¹

1 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 176 (Herbert Barnes)

12.22.1991

PACKERS 27

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 7

The head coach of the Vikings and former Green Bay assistant coach, Jerry Burns, was retiring and was coaching his last game. For different reasons, Packers' coach Lindy Infante was also coaching his last game for Green Bay. He would be fired after the Packers finished with fewer than five wins for only the fourth time since 1960. Two of those seasons were 1988 and 1991.

The game belonged to Green Bay from start to finish. Running backs Vince Workman and Keith Woodside scored the touchdowns, and Chris Jacke did the kicking. Green Bay led 27-0 before the Vikings spoiled the shutout with 1:22 left. After the game, coach Lindy Infante was fired by new G. M. Ron Wolf. His four-year record in Green Bay was 23-40.

Green Bay 10 0 10 7 27

Minnesota 0 0 0 7 7

52,860

Total Yards: GB 188 MINN 272

1991

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Detroit	12	4	0
Chicago	11	5	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Green Bay	4	12	0
Tampa Bay	3	13	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Tomczak
Receiving	Sharpe
Rushing	D. Thompson
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Cecil, Butler, & M. Murphy w/3
Sacks	Bennett

ALL-PRO

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Vinnie Clark (1b, BB)

Esera Tuaolo (2, NT)

Don Davey (3a, DE)



1992

Record: 9-7-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- On January 11th, Mike Holmgren was named the 11th head coach in franchise history. Holmgren was an assistant coach with the San Francisco 49ers. He brought with him a winning pedigree and the West Coast offense.
- In February, Wolf traded a first-round draft pick in the 1992 draft for third-string quarterback Brett Favre of the Atlanta Falcons. After an injury to Don Majkowski, Favre became the starting quarterback for the next 16 seasons!
- Favre and wide receiver Sterling Sharpe made the Pro Bowl. Favre completed 64.1% of his passes. Sterling Sharpe caught 108 passes for an NFL record at the time.
- In Holmgren's first season, the offense showed more improvement than the defense.

9.6.1992

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 23

PACKERS 20 (OT)

A rainstorm greeted two new coaches who knew each other! Mike Holmgren of Green Bay and Dennis Green of Minnesota previously worked as offensive coaches for the 49ers.

The Packers, using Bill Walsh's West Coast Offense, began scripting their first 15 offensive plays. The first 15 went smoothly, and the opening drive covered 84 yards, with quarterback Don Majkowski hitting Sterling Sharpe in the end zone on play number 17. Quarterback Rich Gannon of the Vikings also threw a touchdown pass in a 10-10 first half.

Vince Workman was the Packers' spark plug all game with 89 yards rushing and 12 catches for another 50 yards. But Terry Allen of the Vikings broke off two long runs in the fourth

quarter that turned the game Minnesota's way. The first went for 51 yards and set up Gannon's touchdown pass to Hassan Jones for the lead.

After Chris Jacke's field goal forced overtime, they played for 10 minutes before Allen exploded through the defense again. This time, his 45-yard dash set up the winner for Faud Reveiz from the 25. After the game, Packers fan John Hickey said prophetically, "I don't think we have a quarterback yet, but that will come in time."¹

Minnesota 0 10 3 7 3 23
Green Bay 7 3 0 10 0 20
58,617

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/7/92, Khang, p 1

9.13.1992

PACKERS 3
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS 31

Quarterback Vinny Testaverde had a spectacular game (despite the flu) with 363 passing yards and two touchdown passes. His 2-yard touchdown run late in the game closed out one of the best games of his career.

A fumble by fullback Harry Sydney and an interception thrown by quarterback Don Majkowski put them behind early 14-0. They trailed 17-0 at halftime, and with nothing working, Holmgren decided to give Brett Favre a shot. "I didn't agree with the switch. I was very angry. I still wanted to go in there,"¹ Majkowski said.

Favre's first pass was one-of-a-kind! Minnesota defensive end Ray Seals blocked the pass right back to Favre, who then lost seven yards. But showing early signs of the resilience that would characterize his career, Favre led the Packers downfield on the drive for a field goal to avoid the shutout. Favre played like it was his first action (8-14-73-0-1), and he was sacked four times. After the game, Holmgren made it clear that Majkowski would start against the Bengals the following week.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3
Tampa Bay 14 3 7 7 31
50,051

*"Vince Workman played in Green Bay from 1989-1992 before signing a free-agent deal with Tampa Bay. 'I never wanted to leave. It was a business decision. I wanted to come back. I wish I'd never left.'"*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/92, T. C. Porter, p 1

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. XXIV

9.20.1992

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 23

PACKERS 24

A sign on the marquee outside Motor Parts West in Ashwaubenon read, "Go Pack! Beat Someone. Anyone. Please!"¹

A memorable game unfolded right in front of a group of former Packer players back in town for Homecoming! In the first quarter, Don Majkowski's left leg was injured, and Brett Favre came off the bench. The Packers struggled through three quarters and trailed 17-3 in the fourth quarter.

Terrell Buckley sparked the comeback with a 58-yard punt return for a touchdown! Favre's first NFL touchdown pass went to Sterling Sharpe to narrow the lead to 20-17. After a Cincinnati field goal pushed it to 23-17, only 1:07 stood between the Packers and 0-3.

With no timeouts left, 92 yards stood between the Packers and the end zone. However, it took the young quarterback only four plays to drive the offense to Cincinnati's 35-yard line. With 19 seconds left, on second-and-ten, Favre threw a bullet to streaking wideout Kitrick Taylor, who beat Rod Jones down the right sideline for the win. It was Taylor's first and only touchdown of his career! Favre explained later, "I couldn't bear to look. I just closed my eyes and waited for the crowd to let me know."²

This heart-stopping finish was the first of 22 fourth-quarter comebacks orchestrated by Favre. Center James Campen, who would see many of them, said, "Yeah, I was crying. I'm an emotional kind of guy. But it meant a lot to me."³

Cincinnati 0 10 7 6 23

Green Bay 0 3 0 21 24

57,272

Steve Mariucci, former Quarterbacks Coach: "What a lot of people don't know is that Don Majkowski was also our holder for field goals and extra points, so Brett had to take that role. He was the backup holder, and he only practiced it once in a while. So, after he throws the touchdown pass, he was going crazy, celebrating on the sidelines, and Mike says, 'Where's the holder?' So, he came out there late, and he really didn't even hold the ball. He caught it and let it go, and the ball stuck straight up.' And it stayed up long enough for Chris Jacke to kick the extra point through the uprights. And a legend was born. Favre completed 22 of 39 passes for 289 yards and two touchdowns that day, leading Green Bay back from a 17-3 deficit. It was the first win of Holmgren's career, the first win for Favre, and it signaled the start of a magical run."⁴

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Schultz, p. 5

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Havel, p. 15

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/92, Havel, p. 15

⁴ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 176

9.27.1992

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 3

PACKERS 17

Brett Favre started his first game, and his rifle-like right arm upset the 3-0 Steelers!

In a first half of only two field goals, the Packers stirred things up just before halftime. Green Bay's Vinnie Clark blocked a field goal, and on the very next play, Favre unloaded a 76-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe! The Packers led 10-3 at the break.

The score stood at 10-3 into the fourth quarter. The Packers would get an opportunity to extend their lead when Pittsburgh's Rod Woodson misplayed a punt. Favre converted the turnover into his second touchdown pass. The touchdown went to rookie Robert Brooks who made the catch in the right corner of the end zone to give the Packers a 17-3 lead. Favre played very well (14-19-210-2-0), and on both touchdowns, he took advantage of all-pro cornerback Rod Woodson's aggressiveness. The Packers held Pittsburgh quarterback Neil O'Donnell to 16 completions in 41 attempts. In the second half, the Steelers ran the ball for only 28 yards.

After the game, with his starting status uncertain, Favre said bluntly, "I went into the game feeling I didn't have anything to prove. But I'd like to think I changed some people's minds today."¹

Pittsburgh 3 0 0 0 3

Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17

Attendance: 58,724

Favre's QBR was 144.6.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/28/92, Isaacson, p. 31

10.4.1992

PACKERS 10

ATLANTA

FALCONS 24

Atlanta quarterback Chris Miller torched Green Bay's secondary and spoiled Brett Favre's return to Atlanta. Miller passed for three touchdowns while Favre threw for 276 yards, one touchdown, and one interception.

Miller struck twice in the first quarter with touchdowns to Mike Pritchard and Andre Rison. Trailing 14-0 at halftime, the Packers bounced back with quarterback Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. In the fourth quarter, Chris Jacke's 41-yard field goal cut the lead to 17-10. Miller ended Green Bay's comeback with his third touchdown pass,

a 21-yard strike to Rison. After the loss, Holmgren reflected, "I think we're walking, ya' know? I'd like to be sprinting."¹

Green Bay	0	0	7	3	10
Atlanta	14	0	3	7	24

63,769

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/92, Isaacson, p. 15

10.18.1992

PACKERS	6
CLEVELAND	
BROWNS	17

The Browns' defense won this game. The Packers did not score a touchdown, and they were shut out until the second half. Green Bay got inside Cleveland's 30-yard line five times, but they came away with just two field goals.

In the second quarter, fumbles also got in the way. After Darrell Thompson fumbled deep in Browns' territory, Cleveland fumbled it back on the next play. Vince Workman then fumbled it back to Cleveland. The Packers went into the locker room trailing 3-0.

Chris Jacke's third-quarter field goal tied it, and later in the quarter, Cleveland fullback Kevin Mack broke the tie with a touchdown run. Then, in the fourth quarter, Mack scored on a 5-yard run to end all doubt. Cleveland ran the ball 35 times for 142 yards. Gaping holes in Green Bay's defense forced safeties LeRoy Butler and Chuck Cecil to make 17 tackles!

Brett Favre's inconsistent play (20-33-223-0-0) had many fans wondering who would be the starting quarterback.

Green Bay	0	0	3	3	6
Cleveland	3	0	7	7	17

69,268

10.25.1992

CHICAGO

BEARS	30
PACKERS	10

With Brett Favre at quarterback—and Paul Hornung serving as the honorary captain—it looked like an unbeatable combination. Unfortunately, the Packers lost their third straight game as Brett Favre didn't begin his domination of the Bears until their next game.

The Bears pulled a fast one on their first touchdown. On fourth down as Chris Gardocki prepared to punt, Mark Green of the Bears ran onto the field just before the snap. He was waved off by teammates as if to indicate that they had enough players. It turned out they did not. As Green ran to the sideline, the ball was snapped, and Green quickly turned up field and caught Gardocki's pass for a huge gain. Two plays later, the score was 10-3 Chicago.

In the second quarter, Jim Harbaugh's 13 straight completions included a touchdown pass to Keith Jennings that made it 17-3. Brett Favre and Sterling Sharpe connected for a touchdown to trim the lead to seven, but the Bears pulled away. They scored the next 13 points on two Kevin Butler field goals and Darren Lewis' touchdown run.

Chicago 3 17 3 7 30
Green Bay 10 0 0 0 10
59,435

*Doug Plank, former Chicago Bears Safety: "I remember every time I played there, I'd look around and I'd think to myself, 'Where are all these people coming from?' The place was always packed. And the next day there were motor homes and campers and cars all over the place. It was stunning. They came from all over the place. These guys are all about football and community."*¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson. p. 4

11.1.1992

PACKERS 27
DETROIT
LIONS 13

Brett Favre started at quarterback, and the Packers dominated. Green Bay's defense shined, holding the Lions to 150 yards of offense. They sacked quarterback Rodney Peete four times, and after Detroit took a 3-0 lead, it was all Green Bay. The Packers scored the next 20, including Favre's touchdown pass to tight end Jackie Harris, 17-3.

Detroit's only touchdown came on a blocked punt recovered for a touchdown late in the third quarter. It narrowed the lead to 20-13, and it rallied the hometown fans. But Green Bay came back with a clutch, 77-yard drive. Favre's quick, over the middle pass to Sterling Sharpe went for a 30-yard touchdown and put the Lions away.

"Before the drive, the crowd was fired up. After the drive, the crowd was going home,"¹ observed linebacker Johnny Holland. Favre had a great game (22-37-211-2-0), and Vince Workman became the first Packer running back in 40 games to crack the 100-yard mark with 101. All in all, the Packers were starting to believe in themselves and their young signal-caller.

Green Bay 7 10 3 7 27
Detroit 3 0 10 0 13
60,694

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/92, Havel, p. 25

11.8.1992

PACKERS **7**
NEW YORK
GIANTS **27**

Brett Favre's three interceptions gave the game away. Unfortunately, a solid performance by the defense was wasted, holding the Giants to 177 total yards and nine first downs.

In the second quarter, Vince Workman's touchdown run gave Green Bay a 7-6 lead. Unfortunately, the Packers didn't score again as Favre's three interceptions kept giving the ball back to the Giants. Green Bay also made mistakes on special teams. A blocked punt, a fumbled punt, a missed field goal, and a bad snap on a punt gave the game away.

In the second quarter, the Giants capitalized on Workman's fumble to take a 13-7 lead. Rodney Hampton scored the touchdown, and it stayed 13-7 until an interception late in the game. With four minutes left, "Pepper Johnson intercepted a weak pass by Brett Favre and, while returning it, made several turns rather than falling down. Favre then knocked the ball loose, and Sanjay Beach recovered for Green Bay."¹ Two plays later, Reyna Thompson jumped Brett Favre's pass to tight end Jackie Harris and took it home for six (after Favre missed the final tackle). The Giants led 20-7, and Hampton's second touchdown run put it out of reach.

Green Bay **0 7 0 0 7**
New York **6 7 0 14 27**
72,038

¹ packershistory.net/1992Packers

11.15.1992

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **24**
PACKERS **27**

The Packers were outgained (410-272) and almost outscored by the favored Eagles. Green Bay enjoyed a 14-3 lead after the first half on a Vince Workman touchdown run and a touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Sterling Sharpe.

The Eagles cut the lead to 14-10 before a Favre-to-Darrell Thompson touchdown stretched it to 21-10. The Eagles came back on quarterback Randall Cunningham's screen pass to fullback Heath Sherman. It turned into a 75-yard touchdown, and a Herschel Walker touchdown run gave them a 24-21 edge with 5:45 remaining. In the final minutes, fumbles by Sherman and Walker gave the game away. The Packers capitalized with field goals. Chris Jacke tied it from the 31 and won it as time expired from the 41!

In the game, Brett Favre suffered a separated shoulder after being sacked by Reggie White and Andy Harmon. Favre remained in the game and led the Packers to a win. After Reggie White signed with Green Bay as a free agent, he mentioned Favre's courageous play in this game helped convince him to come to Green Bay.

After the game, Ron Wolf commented on Favre's leadership. "In time, the locker room will become his locker room, and in time, the team will become his team."¹

Philadelphia 3 0 7 14 24

Green Bay 0 14 0 13 27

52,689

Milwaukee County Stadium

*Steve Mariucci, former Quarterbacks Coach: "I remember when I first began coaching with Mike Holmgren in Green Bay. I remember the "G" in the carpeting, and late at night, I'd walk down the hall and walk the facility, and I'd take it all in and say, 'I can't believe I'm working for the Green Bay Packers.' Talk about a dream come true. It absolutely was. For a kid from the Upper Peninsula, this was it. And when they remodeled the locker room, I grabbed some of that carpeting, and I kept it with me for years. My wife finally got disgusted with it and threw it out. That really bummed me out."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/92, Isaacson p. 13

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 124

11.22.1992

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

In a steady rain, 10,000 fans stayed away rather than watch the Bears lose a fourth straight game. They also missed the first of many fine games by quarterback Brett Favre against the Bears. They also missed Edgar Bennett's first start and his 107 yards rushing!

In a 3-3 game in the first quarter, a short punt gave the Packers great field position. Favre capitalized with a 49-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. It stayed 10-3 until the fourth quarter when Favre found Harry Sydney out of the backfield on a crucial third down. With the ball on the 1-yard line, Favre clinched it two plays later with the first rushing touchdown of his career. The Packers ran for 130 yards, and Edgar Bennett led the way with 107. After the win, in an emotional locker room, linebacker Johnny Holland said, "We'll look back and say this is where it all turned around, right here."¹

Green Bay 10 0 0 7 17

Chicago 3 0 0 0 3

56,170

Brian Noble, Linebacker: "Packer fans all over the country, just say, 'Please beat the Bears.' Here's

*your victory. We're all going to savor this one for a while."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/92, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/92, Isaacson, p. 1

11.29.1992

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14

PACKERS 19

This was Green Bay's 100th regular-season game in Milwaukee, and they celebrated with a win. The Packers got back to 6-6 thanks to Chris Jacke's leg and Brett Favre's arm!

With the running game going nowhere, Favre threw 41 times for 223 yards. For Tampa Bay, quarterback Vinny Testaverde threw touchdowns to Mark Carrier and Anthony McDowell, but he also threw three interceptions.

Chris Jacke's four field goals from 34, 33, 29, and 48 yards away put Green Bay up 12-7 in the third quarter. Tampa took the lead 14-12 on Testaverde's second touchdown pass. Favre then marched the Packers 69-yards, and a touchdown pass to tight end Jackie Harris retook the lead. Leading 19-14 lead with ten minutes left, the defense kept the Bucs at bay and sealed the deal with an interception by cornerback Roland Mitchell with 1:32 left!

Tampa Bay 7 0 7 0 14

Green Bay 3 6 3 7 19

52,347

Milwaukee County Stadium

12.6.1992

DETROIT

LIONS 10

PACKERS 38

On a snowy field in Milwaukee, 45 points were scored in the first half! The Packers led 28-0 before Detroit scored, and by halftime, the score was 35-10.

Quarterback Brett Favre threw three touchdown passes, and they pounded the ball on the ground for 166 yards. Darrell Thompson led the ground game with 81 yards, and he scored the game's first touchdown. Favre took over with touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe (2) and running back Harry Sydney. The Lions also gave the ball away five times, and one fumble was returned for a touchdown by linebacker Tony Bennett. Green Bay won its fourth straight game for the first time in eight years! "We're probably a little bit ahead of schedule,"¹ said coach Mike Holmgren. Indeed. For the first time in 10 years,

Green Bay will be "mailing orders for playoffs tickets to season-ticket holders today."²

Detroit 0 10 0 0 10
Green Bay 14 21 0 3 38
52,347
Milwaukee County Stadium

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/41, Isaacson, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/41, p. 1

12.13.1992

PACKERS **16**
HOUSTON
OILERS **14**

In the Astrodome, Green Bay won its fifth straight game as the defense contained Houston's run-and-shoot offense. The Oilers ran for just 59 yards, and they turned the ball over four times. Green Bay scored 10 points off the miscues.

Chris Jacke's field goals made it 9-0 by the third quarter. After quarterback Cody Carlson of the Oilers scored on a 1-yard run to make it 9-7, he later fumbled on Green Bay's 37-yard line. Green Bay made Houston pay. Favre went five-for-five on the drive, and he hooked up with Sterling Sharpe for a 6-yard touchdown and a 16-7 lead. The Oilers scored again with 1:55 left, but the Packers recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Green Bay 0 3 6 7 16
Houston 0 0 7 7 14
57,285

12.20.1992

LOS ANGELES

RAMS **13**
PACKERS **28**

The temperature at kickoff was eight degrees with a wind chill of minus 15. On the second play from scrimmage, Darrell Thompson's fumble led to a quick L.A. lead. When Brett Favre was intercepted in the end zone, L.A. halfback David Lang broke free for a 70-yard run. He was stopped at the 1-yard line by a touchdown-saving tackle by Terrell Buckley. The defense held for a field goal, and the momentum began to turn.

The Packers caught fire in the second quarter. They scored 28 points in the final 6:48. The avalanche began with a nine-play drive and a redeeming touchdown run by Darrell Thompson. A 33-yard pick-six by Terrell Buckley then gave Green Bay the lead 14-10. The

defense stopped the Rams twice before halftime, and Favre delivered, with two touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe for a 28-10 lead!

For all practical purposes, the game was over. The defense intercepted two more passes, and linebacker Johnny Holland led the charge with 13 tackles. After the game, a happy Mike Holmgren said, "The fact that (we) won six in a row, regardless of what happens next week, I'm very, very proud of them."¹

Los Angeles 7 3 3 0 13
Green Bay 0 28 0 0 28
57,796

"There's something about the Green Bay Packer mystique that makes cold-weather games something special,"² said Jeff Hoerning of Appleton.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/92, p. 27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/92, McGillis, p. 1

12.27.1992

PACKERS 7
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 27

To make the postseason, the Packers needed to win. After they got out to a 7-0 lead, Minnesota put up the next 27 points, including two touchdown passes by quarterback Sean Salisbury. Salisbury threw for 292 yards.

The Packers couldn't run the ball with 29 yards, and Brett Favre threw three interceptions.

The loss was a disappointing end to a good season. Other than 1989's "Cardiac Pack," the last time the Packers won nine games was 1972. But, as quarterback Brett Favre reminded everyone, there was more to be done. "We keep telling ourselves that we had a good year, but I can't accept a loss like this. We've got to work harder to become a playoff team."¹

Green Bay 7 0 0 0 7
Minnesota 7 13 7 0 27
61,461

Sterling Sharpe set a new NFL record with 108 catches!

Bob Harlan, Packers President: "The cornerstone is laid. The foundation is in place. Things are going to get better."²

1 Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 168

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/92, Walter, p. 1

1992

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Rushing	Workman
Receiving	Sharpe
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Cecil
Sacks	Bennett

ALL-PRO

Cecil	Safety
Harris	Tight End
Sharpe	Wide Receiver

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Terrell Buckley (1, CB)
Mark D'Onofrio (2, LB)
Robert Brooks (3, WR)
Edgar Bennett (4, RB)
Mark Chmura (6, TE)
Ty Detmer (9a, QB)



1993

Record: 9-7-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- On April 8th, free agent Reggie White shocked the NFL world and signed with the Packers.
- Both the offense and defense improved significantly, though Brett Favre threw a league-leading 24 interceptions. Sterling Sharpe caught 112 passes breaking the NFL record he'd set the previous year!

- LeRoy Butler did the Lambeau Leap for the first time against the Los Angeles Raiders.
- Brian Noble’s knee injury ended his nine-year career with the Packers.
- For the first time since the strike-shortened 1982 season, the Packers made the postseason. They entered as a wild card team.

9.5.1993
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **6**
PACKERS **36**

The Packers opened in Milwaukee and blew out Los Angeles at County Stadium. “They shut everything down,”¹ offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese said of the new Reggie White-led defense. The Packers allowed just two field goals and 53 yards rushing (11 in the first half).

The offense was impressive as well, with 138 yards on the ground and 264 through the air. After quarterback Brett Favre fumbled on Green Bay’s first series, the Packers began their assault. Favre threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to a double-teamed Sterling Sharpe. Both defenders went up and deflected the ball to Sharpe standing behind them in the end zone. Favre’s short toss to Mark Clayton then made it 19-6 at half.

Right out of the locker room in the second half, the Packers scored on their first two possessions. On both drives, Edgar Bennett scored on the ground to finish off L.A.

Los Angeles **3 3 0 0 6**
Green Bay **9 10 14 3 36**
54,648

Milwaukee County Stadium

Total Yards: GB 381 LA 228

A friend asked, “Have you ever met Tootie Robbins? I’ll introduce you to him. He (Tootie) was a really nice guy. We followed him to this little hole-in-the-wall bar. He opened this door at the back, and it was like Animal House. You couldn’t believe the players in this dinky bar—Sterling Sharpe, Brett Favre, Edgar Bennett, Frank Winters, Chmura—unbelievable the number of players there. It was so cool to be around them. We shook dice with a lot of the players. As long as you didn’t talk football, we could talk to them.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/6/93, p. 14
² For Packers Fans ONLY!, Wolfe, p. 48

9.12.1993

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 20

PACKERS 17

Though Reggie White had a fine game, the Packers lost to his former team. White had two sacks, and on both of them, he stripped Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham of the ball.

Philly overcame four turnovers, and their defense slowed down Brett Favre. The Packers managed just ten first downs and 159 total yards. Though Favre tossed two touchdowns, he was held to 12 completions for 111 yards with two interceptions.

Sterling Sharpe caught Favre's first touchdown pass for a 7-0 lead, and Jackie Harris extended the lead to 17-7 with the second. It stayed a 10-point game into the fourth quarter when Favre threw an interception that led to a Philadelphia field goal. With 4:14 left, Randall Cunningham's 40-yard touchdown bomb to Victor Bailey tied it at 17. The Packers went three-and-out, and a short punt gave the ball back to the Eagles at midfield with 3:15 to go. They called seven straight running plays, which put them at Green Bay's 13. With five seconds left, Roger Ruzek's second field goal completed the comeback.

Philadelphia 0 7 0 13 20

Green Bay 7 3 7 0 17

59,061

Total Yards: GB 150 PHI 352

Dan Reeves: "I've never been in a stadium before a game or after that fans have been as nice as Packers fans. They'd invite you over to have a bratwurst while you're waiting for the team bus. They were great fans. You know you're part of the NFL if you play in Lambeau Field."¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. XXVI

9.26.1993

PACKERS 13

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 15

The Packers resumed play after a 12-day break, and both teams came in 1-1. Quarterback Jim McMahon started for Minnesota, and the Vikings outgained the Packers 317-256.

Though McMahon outplayed Brett Favre, it was the five field goals by Fuad Reveiz that accounted for all of Minnesota's points. In the first half, Favre's touchdown run and Chris Jacke's 49-yard field goal gave Green Bay a 10-6 lead. In the second half, it was all field goals.

Late in the game, with Green Bay leading 13-12, McMahon faced a third-and-10 from the 50-yard line. He spotted rookie wideout Eric Guilford wide open for a 45-yard gain. From the Packers' 5-yard line, Reveiz booted his fifth field goal, with six seconds left, to secure the win for the Vikings.

Many angry fans pointed the finger at outspoken cornerback Terrell Buckley for the blown coverage. But safety LeRoy Butler would have none of it. "We're not going to point out anybody. No, it's not Terrell's (Buckley's) fault. No, it's not my fault. It's the whole team's fault."¹

Green Bay 7 3 0 3 13
Minnesota 3 3 6 3 15
61,077

*Mike Heck, Packer Fan * — When Mike Heck worked for Northwest Airlines, he coordinated the Packers' flight schedule. The team was scheduled to fly back to Green Bay two hours after this game. Mike learned during the game that the flight would be delayed because of a work slowdown at Northwest Airlines. He would have to inform Coach Holmgren about this unexpected delay after a very tough loss. "I see the three team buses pulling into the airport. I am a 26-year-old having to tell Coach Holmgren, after a loss, 'Hi, coach, how are you doing? You don't have a plane.' So, I tell him what's going on, and I thought his head was about to explode. He didn't say a word. He just looked at me, glared at me. All I wanted to do was turn around and run back up into the airport." A two-hour delay ensued.*

* Interview: 8/23/2018

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/93, Havel, p. 16

10.3.1993

PACKERS 14
DALLAS
COWBOYS 36

Green Bay's third straight loss was not how the first month of the season was supposed to go, but the Pack could not overcome a spectacular afternoon by Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman (18-23-317-1-0). Michael Irvin was his favorite target (7-155-1), and Eddie Murray, who had just signed with Dallas, kicked five field goals. Dallas' offense was in midseason form, and they outgained Green Bay 395-214.

After the Packers took a 7-0 lead on their opening drive, the defending champions took over with the next 26 points. The Packers got six back on Robert Brooks' 95-yard kickoff return to cut the Cowboy lead to 12. That was as close as Green Bay came. After the loss, a very frustrated fan remarked about the team's 1-3 start, "They should have signed Tony Bennett for half the money instead of Reggie White."¹

Green Bay 7 0 7 0 14
Dallas 10 6 13 7 36
63,568

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/93, Lagenkamp, p. 2

10.10.1993

DENVER

BRONCOS 27

PACKERS 30

Reggie White must have sensed the concern. He also knew it was Brett Favre's birthday. White rose up and took over the game and stopped the Broncos in the closing minutes for his first indelible mark on Packer history!

It was the tale of two halves. In a game that featured two quarterbacks who weren't afraid to throw the football, 91 passes flew for 702 yards. The Packers controlled the first 30 minutes with points on their first six possessions. Edgar Bennett and John Stephens scored on the ground, and Brett Favre threw a 66-yard touchdown bomb to Jackie Harris. With Chris Jacke's three field goals, Green Bay led comfortably at halftime 30-7!

The Broncos woke up in the second half, and they capitalized on three picks of Brett Favre. Linebacker Mike Croel's pick-six was followed by a 68-yard Denver drive that cut Green Bay's lead to 30-21. With the momentum now clearly with Denver, two field goals in the fourth quarter cut it to three. The second came with 8:31 left, after Favre's second pick.

Two possessions later, with 1:50 remaining, Favre threw his third interception to Le-Lo Lang. Denver took over at Green Bay's 43. Reggie White saved the day with back-to-back sacks of John Elway, sealing the deal. "We needed somebody to be Reggie White,"¹ said the Press-Gazette. Fortunately, they had the real thing.

Denver 0 7 14 6 27
Green Bay 17 13 0 0 30
58,943

"Valley Bank is helping to make this a winning Packer season for everyone. After each Packer game, add up the total points scored by both teams to determine how many basis points you'll receive off a consumer loan. The score of the last Packers game was 30-27, totaling 57 points; therefore, .57% will be deducted from any of our published consumer installment loan rates, including home equity loans!"²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/93, Isaacson, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/93, p. 2

10.24.1993

PACKERS 37

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14

Green Bay rolled over Tampa Bay with 421 total yards. They raced out to a 24-0 halftime lead behind three Brett Favre touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe! The touchdowns came from 7, 30, and 10 yards away.

Three straight field goals by Chris Jacke made it 30-0 in the third quarter. Tampa Bay scored with two touchdown passes to rookie wideout Horace Copeland. In between, Favre and Sharpe connected for touchdown number 4, this one from the 32. Sharpe led receivers with 10 catches for 147 yards. His four touchdowns in a game tied a Green Bay record set by Don Hutson in 1945.

The Packers also got creative with Sharpe. He completed one pass for 1 yard, and he ran once for 5 yards. Darrell Thompson led the ground game with 105 yards, and the defense stepped up with three interceptions and one fumble recovery!

Green Bay 7 17 6 7 37

Tampa Bay 0 0 7 7 14

47,354

Total Yards: GB 412 TB 246

10.31.1993

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

PACKERS 17

Happy Halloween, Jim Harbaugh! Green Bay's front seven was bolstered by the return of linebacker Tony Bennett. They celebrated with seven sacks. Reggie White dropped Harbaugh twice to move him past Lawrence Taylor for the most sacks in NFL history!

After they took the lead with a field goal, the Packers struck again in the second quarter with a Brett Favre to Sterling Sharpe touchdown. They led at halftime 10-3.

Late in the fourth quarter, Harbaugh marched the Bears to Green Bay's 12-yard line. Just before the key play of the game, linebacker Johnny Holland said in the huddle, "Somebody's got to make a play, who'll it be?" "I'll try,"¹ responded third-year safety LeRoy Butler. On a blitz, Butler knocked the ball out of Harbaugh's hand and recovered the fumble! A short time later, Favre led a 91-yard march, and Darrell Thompson's 17-yard touchdown run put it away.

Chicago 0 3 0 0 3
Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17
58,945

Turnovers: GB 1 CHIC 3

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 370

11.8.1993

PACKERS **16**
KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS **23**

For the first time since 1986, the Packers were on Monday Night Football, but they did not impress. They turned it over six times with quarterback Brett Favre responsible for five of the gifts with two fumbles and three picks. His two fumbles led to K.C. points.

Field goals ruled the first half, and Green Bay led 9-3 at the break. On the first play in the second half, K.C. linebacker Derrick Thomas swiped the ball out of Brett Favre's hands. It was picked up by defensive tackle Dan Saleaumua, who lumbered 16 yards into the end zone for the go-ahead score. In the fourth quarter, Marcus Allen's touchdown run stretched it to 20-9.

Favre's 35-yard touchdown to Jackie Harris made it a four-point game. But the Packers had trouble holding on to the ball in the final six minutes. Darrell Thompson's fumble ended a promising drive on K.C.'s 2-yard line, and with 1:40 left in the game, Favre threw his third interception. Game over.

Green Bay 3 6 0 7 16
Kansas City 3 0 10 0 23
76,742

*"All Aboard the TitleTown Express to the Packers-Bears game on Dec. 4-5: Travel first class with celebrity guests aboard an elegant, privately-owned passenger train... Lodging at The Bismark Hotel... 200 seats available... \$489 per person."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/93, p. 7

11.14.1993

PACKERS **19**
NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS **17**

Two touchdown passes by quarterback Wade Wilson put the Saints up 14-10 at halftime. But throughout the game, five turnovers haunted the Saints. Green Bay's defense shined as "Reggie White had two sacks, Johnny Holland had a sack, an interception, and a forced

fumble, and LeRoy Butler added another interception.”¹

In the second half, it was all field goals. Chris Jacke booted three more for Green Bay, and Morten Andersen also nailed one. Trailing 17-16 with 52 seconds left, quarterback Brett Favre unloaded a 54-yard bullet to Sterling Sharpe that put Green Bay on the Saints’ 18! With three seconds left, Jacke booted his fourth field goal from the 36 for the win! The Packers moved into a second-place tie with the Vikings. Both teams trailed the Lions.

Green Bay 3 7 3 6 19

New Orleans 0 14 0 3 17

69,043

Total Yards: GB 194 NO 329

Ron Wolf on playing in Green Bay: “If a person wants to play football, and that’s the sole reason for his existence, he can come here and do just that. He doesn’t have to worry about anything else. It’s a great community, it’s a great place to play, the fans are marvelous, and we’ve got excellent facilities.”²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/93, Havel, p. 13

² Packer Update, Spring 1993, p. 7

11.21.1993

DETROIT

LIONS 17

PACKERS 26

Green Bay pulled off the upset, and the win gave them sole possession of second place. The Packers had no trouble moving the ball, and they rolled over the Lions for 404 yards while Detroit struggled with only 205. Edgar Bennett opened and closed the game with touchdowns! Along with Darrell Thompson, the Packers ran for 153 yards.

In between Bennett’s two touchdowns, Chris Jacke continued to come through. He put up the rest of Green Bay’s points with one field goal per quarter. In the fourth quarter, after LeRoy Butler’s interception, Bennett’s second touchdown run sealed the deal 26-17. When Holmgren was asked about the possibility of playing Detroit again to make the postseason, he responded, “That would be a great thing for us, like last year, to give us a chance in the last game to get in there.”¹

Detroit 0 10 7 0 17

Green Bay 10 3 3 10 26

55,119

Milwaukee County Stadium

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/93, p. 14

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/93, Murphy, p. 1

11.28.1993

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 10

PACKERS 13

For the first 45 minutes, it was a field goal duel between Chris Jacke and Michael Husted. Jacke's two kicks gave Green Bay a 6-3 lead at the start of the fourth quarter!

With seven minutes left, quarterback Craig Erickson's touchdown pass to Courtney Hawkins put Tampa in front 10-6. With pressure building on their next series, Favre completed 8 of 12 passes on a 75-yard march. On the 14th play of the drive, he took a hard hit that bruised his thigh. It nearly kept him from completing the drive. "But after spotting (Ty) Detmer warming up on the sideline,"¹ he asked Holmgren to let him play. On the next play, he found Sterling Sharpe for the winner with 1:16 left!

Both defenses controlled the game as the offenses combined for just 466 yards with 19 punts! Favre threw for 159 yards, and as LeRoy Butler said later, "It'll probably be a real short highlight film."² With their sixth win in the last seven, the Packers were now in a first-place tie with the Lions!

Tampa Bay 0 0 3 7 10

Green Bay 0 3 3 7 13

56,995

Vince Workman, Former Packers Running Back: "I can honestly say that playing in different places around the league, Packers fans were easily the best. My nickname, 'Pookie' was well known to Packers fans, and I saw a sign in the stands that said, 'We Miss You, Pookie.' That was heartwarming. I remember I had one of my best games as a Buccaneer that day, but we still lost. But it was a fun game to play in. They were my brothers. After that game, Brett came up to me, and we talked, and he said, 'Pookie, we miss you.'"³

1 Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 178

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/83, Havel, p. 15

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 113

12.5.1993

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 30

Brett Favre threw for 402 yards, but five turnovers sunk the Packers. For most of the game, quarterback Brett Favre marched the Packers up and down Soldier Field at will. He completed 36 passes, a Packer record at the time.

The Bears did not win the yardage battle (466-210), but Brett Favre's three turnovers made

all the difference. Linebacker Dante Jones grabbed the first pick and lateraled to Jeremy Lincoln, who took it 80 yards for a 7-0 lead. Brett Favre tied it with a touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe!

A short time later, when the football slipped out of Favre's hand, Dante Jones picked it up and went 32 yards for six more. In the fourth quarter and trailing 23-17, a pick-six by Chicago safety Mark Carrier wrapped it up.

Green Bay 7 0 10 0 17
Chicago 7 3 10 10 30
62,236

12.12.1993

PACKERS 20
SAN DIEGO
CHARGERS 13

Green Bay never trailed in this Sunday night matchup. The defense shut down San Diego's running game (57 yards), and it marked the fourth straight game they'd held opponents under 300 total yards. Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries without a ground game threw 51 passes for 257 yards, one touchdown, and three interceptions.

Edgar Bennett's early touchdown run and two long field goals by Chris Jacke gave Green Bay the edge 13-6. The teams traded touchdowns in the third quarter, with Darrell Thompson's run giving Green Bay a 20-6 lead. With under two minutes to play, interceptions by Terrell Buckley and Mike Prior finished off the home team.

Green Bay 7 6 7 0 20
San Diego 3 3 7 0 13
57,930

Total Yards: GB 227 SD 282

*"Cheesehead hats are, well, 'moo-ving' as they've never done before. Those foamy, wedgy, yellow Dairyland chapeaux are practically popping off store shelves onto customers' heads, retailers say."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/93, Klemm, p. 1

12.19.1993

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 21
PACKERS 17

The Packers failed to clinch a postseason berth as they "were outgained, outthustled, and

outplayed.”¹ Vikings quarterback Jim McMahon threw three touchdown passes, and he beat Green Bay for the 10th straight time in his career.

After a Chris Jacke field goal, McMahon and Favre traded touchdowns for a 10-7 Green Bay lead at the break. Favre’s touchdown pass was a 37-yard bomb to Sterling Sharpe.

In the second half, two touchdown passes from McMahon to Chris Carter made it 21-10 Vikings. The Packers caught a break when a deflected pass from Favre went to Mark Clayton for six! On Green Bay’s final drive, they got to Minnesota’s 2-yard line with two minutes left. After a running play lost 5 yards, three passes sadly fell incomplete. Linebacker Bryce Paup summed the performance with, “We kind of fell on our face out there.”²

Minnesota 0 7 7 7 21

Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17

54,733

Milwaukee County Stadium

“I was a Packers fan before I understood what it was all about... before you knew you got three tries to make a first down. My father’s uncle was there for the games at all the stadiums since the beginning, so he saw all of the good and bad. I think he’s why we got interested, and now we’re all Packers fans. I bought stock for all my nieces and nephews.”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/93, Havel p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/93, Isaacson, p. 15

3 Cold Wars. Mishler, p. 15

12.26.1993

LOS ANGELES

RAIDERS 0

PACKERS 28

This was a historic game in many ways. First, it secured Green Bay’s first postseason berth in a non-strike season since 1972! It was also one of the coldest games ever at Lambeau Field at the time. “The kickoff temperature was zero, the second coldest in the history of Lambeau Field, and the wind chill was minus 22 degrees, the third coldest in the history of the fabled stadium.”¹

But the game would attain legendary status in the fourth quarter when Randy Jordan of the Raiders fumbled. Reggie White recovered the fumble, and as Steve Wisniewski was tackling him, he lateraled the football to LeRoy Butler. Butler took it the final 25 yards to the end zone. After he scored, Butler kept running. He leaped into the stands, and the spontaneous celebration known as “The Lambeau Leap” was born! Today, it’s one of the most recognizable and poignant celebrations between a sports team and its fans.

After Butler’s leap, Darrell Thompson completed the blowout with a 60-yard touchdown

run. Quarterback Brett Favre threw for 190 yards without an interception, and his lone touchdown pass went to Sterling Sharpe. Green Bay's defense forced four turnovers, delivered eight sacks, and allowed just 182 total yards!

Los Angeles 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 7 7 14 28
54,482

Total Yards: GB 329 LA 182

Regarding the cold? "I sell my tickets to games in Milwaukee because the seats are lousy, but I wouldn't miss one here. They're playing for the playoffs, aren't they? This is the American way,"² said Packer fan Mark Peters.

¹ packershistory.net/1993Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/93, Langenkamp/Klemm, p. 1

1.2.1994

PACKERS 20
DETROIT
LIONS 30

Even without Barry Sanders, the Lions roared enough to win. Detroit won the NFC North with the victory, and the Packers took the postseason wild card berth.

Quarterback Brett Favre had a shaky outing with four interceptions. After he started the scoring with a 39-yard bomb to Edgar Bennett, the Lions matched it. Field goals then gave the Lions a 13-10 edge at halftime.

Green Bay went back in front 20-16 on Bennett's touchdown run and Chris Jacke's 47-yard field goal. When Mel Gray returned a kickoff to Green Bay's 44, the Lions scored in eight plays. It was the first of two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to take the lead for good.

For the Packers, the loss meant they would travel back to Detroit the following week for the Wild Card Game.

Green Bay 7 3 10 0 20
Detroit 0 10 6 14 30
77,510

Turnovers: GB 5 DET 1

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/3/94, Isaacson, p. 1

1.8.1994

1993 NFC Wild Card Game

PACKERS 28

DETROIT

LIONS 24

The last time the Packers made the postseason in a non-strike season was 1972. The spectacular ending to this game almost made the wait almost worthwhile!

Thanks to a poor performance one week earlier, the Packers returned to the Silverdome motivated. Brett Favre made up for his four interceptions six days earlier with only one interception and three touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe. With Barry Sanders finding lots of running room, the Lions held strong in the first half for a 10-7 lead at the break. Green Bay's only points came on Favre's 12-yard pass to Sharpe.

Detroit looked poised to pull away in the second half as Sanders was unstoppable. He set a postseason record for the Lions with 27 carries and 169 yards. To start the third quarter, Detroit stretched the lead to 17-7 on a pick-six by Melvin Jenkins. Favre's second touchdown to Sharpe made it 17-14, and the defense stepped up late in the third quarter. Safety George Teague intercepted quarterback Eric Kramer in the end zone and went 101 yards down the sideline for a 21-17 lead!

But the Lions weren't finished. They hit back with an 89-yard touchdown drive for a 24-21 lead with 8:27 to go. Green Bay's last possession began at the 29-yard line with 2:26 left. Three completions by Favre and Edgar Bennett's run put them on Detroit's 40. With just over a minute left, on second down, Favre dropped back and scrambled to his left. Helped by a mixup in Lions' secondary, Favre spotted Sharpe breaking free on the opposite side of the field. In one of the most spectacular passes he ever threw, Favre stopped, turned to his right, and unloaded. He threw a 40-yard skyscraper to the end zone that Sharpe caught for a win and a date in Dallas!

After the game, Favre said, "I figured, What the heck? I'll give it the big heave-ho."¹ Coach Holmgren: "It was the longest two seconds of my life."²

Green Bay 0 7 14 7 28

Detroit 3 7 7 7 24

68,479

Total Yards: GB 293 DET 410

"Three hours after their win, the Packers were greeted by a friendly mob of almost 2,000 Saturday night. Ellen Dymond of Green Bay has turned out to cheer the Packers since sixth grade. 'We were there when they came home at the train depot. I come here whether they win or lose.'³

¹ Brett Favre: A Packer Fan's Tribute, p 23

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/10/94, Isaacson, p. 15

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/10/94, Campbell, Rossich, Higgins, p. 1

1.16.1994

1993 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 17

DALLAS

COWBOYS 27

The Packers didn't have much success against the defending champs. They couldn't run the ball (31 yards), and quarterback Brett Favre threw 45 passes for 331 yards. He also threw three interceptions and was sacked three times.

A first-quarter field goal put the Packers ahead. It would be their only points until the second half. In the final seconds of the first half, Dallas took command. After Eddie Murray's field goal made it 10-3 with 23 seconds left, Corey Harris fumbled the ensuing kickoff. With five seconds to go, Dallas capitalized with quarterback Troy Aikman's touchdown to tight end Jay Novacek. Cowboys 17-3.

The home team pulled away 24-3 on Aikman's third touchdown pass, this one to Michael Irwin (the first was to Alvin Harper). Favre then threw two touchdown passes to Robert Brooks and Sterling Sharpe, but it was too late. "This (game) is as big as they get, and they didn't blow us out,"¹ Favre said, looking for the bright side.

Green Bay 3 0 7 7 17

Dallas 0 17 7 3 27

64,790

Favre 38-45-331-2-2

About 700 fans greeted the team at the airport. "They came one last time to say thank you. The loss didn't matter. This was a charitable crowd, a throng willing to brave snow and temperatures around zero. It was pride at the end of a special season"²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/94, Havel, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/17/94, Langenkamp, p. 1

1993

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Sharpe

Rushing	Thompson
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Butler
Sacks	White

ALL-PRO

Butler	Safety
Jacke	Kicker
Sharpe	Wide Receiver
White	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Wayne Simmons (1a, LB)

George Teague (1b, S)

Earl Dotson (3, OT)

Doug Evans (6, CB)

Bob Kuberski



1994

Record: 9-7-0, 2nd Place, Tied

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- Quarterback Brett Favre signed a contract extension.
- On the day before the opener, Sterling Sharpe threatened to sit out the season unless his contract was renegotiated. The sides reached a quick settlement.
- This was the Packers' last season playing in Milwaukee. With luxury boxes added to Lambeau Field, it became more profitable to play all home games in Green Bay. They played in Milwaukee from 1933-1994.
- The Packers finished 9-7-0 for the third straight season.
- Favre threw a team record 33 touchdown passes. Sterling Sharpe caught 18 of them to break Don Hutson's team record of 17 set in 1942. A neck injury made this Sharpe's final season.
- Though the defense slipped in the second half of the season, the Packers made their second straight trip to the postseason.

9.4.1994

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 16

Prior to the game, Coach Mike Holmgren faced a crisis. The day before the opener, Sterling Sharpe “skipped practice, missed the team photo, and threatened to sit out the whole season.”¹ He wanted his contract adjusted. Frantically, management resolved the issue Saturday night, and Sharpe came through against the Vikings (7-53-1).

Mike Holmgren won his first game against the Vikings. The Packers’ new defensive coordinator, Fritz Schumer, matched wits with Minnesota’s new quarterback Warren Moon (20-37-166-0-3). The defense blanked the Vikings in the first half, and they gave up only three points and 194 yards all game!

On the Vikings’ first play from scrimmage, George Teague picked off Warren Moon, and the Packers struck first with Chris Jacke’s first field goal. It was the first of two interceptions by Teague, and it put the Vikings on notice early. Quarterback Brett Favre connected with a happy Sterling Sharpe for a second-quarter touchdown, and the Packers went to the locker room leading 13-0.

The Vikings rallied in the second half. Late in the third quarter, a field goal put them on the scoreboard. On the Packers’ next series, a fumble by Favre was returned for a touchdown by defensive end James Harris. With the lead cut to 13-10, the defense held, and Chris Jacke’s 49-yard field goal sealed it.

Minnesota 0 0 3 7 10

Green Bay 3 10 0 3 16

Attendance: 59,487

Turnovers: GB 3 MINN 1

“Jim Nelson, a Packers fan who lives in Alexandria, Minn., had dreamed of proposing at a Packers game. His dream came true. Fittingly, just as the Packers were preparing to beat the Vikings. ‘Everybody knew what was going on, but she didn’t have a clue. It was wonderful,’ he said.”²

¹ packershistory.net/1994Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/5/94, Schultz, p. 1

9.11.1994

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 24

PACKERS 14

The Packers were never in this one. Brett Favre got off to a poor start, and Miami took

the lead behind the running of rookie Irving Spikes. Quarterback Dan Marino threw touchdown passes to Keith Jackson and Keith Byars. The Dolphins led 17-0 at half. With his offense going nowhere, Holmgren considered replacing Favre with rookie quarterback Mark Brunell.

In the second half, Green Bay's offense never got going. Brett Favre's fumble led to another Miami touchdown, and they 24-0 lead. The Packers generated only 38 yards on the ground, forcing Favre to throw 51 times (31-51-362-2-1). Many of the yards (129) came after the game had been decided, and Favre's two touchdown passes came with less than seven minutes to play.

Miami	3	14	7	0	24
Green Bay	0	0	0	14	14

55,011
Milwaukee County Stadium

9.18.1994

PACKERS	7
PHILADELPHIA	
EAGLES	13

The Packers wore their 1937 throwback uniforms, and one fan even commented that they played "liked they felt they looked... ugly."¹

On Reggie White's return to Philadelphia, the "Minister of Defense" was double and triple-teamed most of the game. He was held in check with three tackles and no sacks. Green Bay took a first-quarter lead on quarterback Brett Favre's touchdown pass to running back Reggie Cobb. The offense struggled the rest of the way, and in the second half, the Eagles came back.

In the third quarter, the Packers ran 13 plays and produced minus 22 yards! For the game, they ran it for just 37 yards, and Favre was sacked six times. A fumble by Cobb in the third quarter set up Philly's only touchdown, and the 1-2 Packers looked to regroup.

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Philadelphia	0	3	10	0	13

63,922

9.25.1994

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 3

PACKERS 30

Quarterback Brett Favre came alive in front of 60+ former Packers who were in town for Homecoming! He put on a show, and he found his rhythm quickly. Favre connected on 30 of 39 passes for 306 yards. He tossed three touchdown passes without an interception. The Packers also ran the ball better than they had all season with 95 yards.

Tampa got off to a bad start with three turnovers that led to all of Green Bay's points in the first half. Edgar Bennett scored the touchdown, and Chris Jacke's two field goals made it 13-0.

The Bucs finally scored in the second half, but Favre's second and third touchdown passes to Ed West and Sterling Sharpe put the game out of reach. Reggie White also had a big game with a sack, a fumble recovery, and a blocked pass. After the blowout, Favre was relieved. He knew many fans, and some of the coaches were questioning his erratic play. "It was probably as comfortable as I've felt since I've been here,"¹ he said.

Tampa Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Green Bay 0 13 10 7 30

58,551

Total Yards: GB 401 TB 231

Bill Hammann, Packers Fan: "I own a share of stock. They don't screw around with that. They send out their income statement, just like any corporation. It's cool to look at their profit and loss statement. The Packers are a not-for-profit corporation. To qualify for that, they have to pour a ton of their profit into all these charities all over the place. I don't live there, but I see they pour so much back into the community."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/94, p. 1

² For Packers Fans ONLY! Wolfe, p. 37

10.2.1994

PACKERS 16

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 17

Two promising young quarterbacks met for the first time—Brett Favre and Drew Bledsoe. Between them, they threw 100 passes, completing 54 for 928 yards and three touchdowns. There were also three interceptions. Overall, the edge went to Bledsoe.

Green Bay controlled the first half. Chris Jacke's field goal and Brett Favre's touchdown to Sterling Sharpe gave them a 10-0 lead. Drew Bledsoe came back with two second-half

touchdown passes to put the Patriots in front 14-10.

Favre threw back-to-back interceptions—one on the goal line—that stalled Green Bay's offense. But with just over a minute left in the game, the young gunslinger rallied and marched Green Bay to the 1-yard line, where Reggie Cobb took it over for a 16-14 lead. The snap on the extra-point couldn't be handled, which proved critical. It didn't help matters when Chris Jacke's kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Pats the ball at their 40-yard line. With four seconds left, Matt Bahr delivered the win from the 33-yard line. Green Bay stood at 2-3, and fans were more than anxious.

Green Bay **3 7 0 6 16**
New England **0 0 7 10 17**
57,522

10.9.1994
LOS ANGELES

RAMS **17**
PACKERS **24**

A tale of two halves. The first 30 minutes went to the Rams, and the second belonged to Green Bay. Two Chris Miller touchdown passes to Troy Drayton put the Rams in control at halftime 17-3. As the Packers left the field for the locker room, the fans let them have it with "their jeers, and their boos, and their hisses."¹

Dismayed by the reaction, the Packers rallied. The defense forced the Rams to punt on their first five possessions of the second half! Favre showed the way with his touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe. A little over one minute later, Robert Brooks returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown. Momentum had shifted to Green Bay in a 17-17 deadlock.

Edgar Bennett's 2-yard touchdown run early in the fourth proved to be the winner. It gave Green Bay a 24-17 lead. The defense backed up the comeback with an impressive second half. For the game, the Rams were held to 64 yards rushing and 211 total yards. On their final series, a second sack by Reggie White stripped Chris Miller of the football ending the threat. "We fought back, didn't panic, went out and executed,"² said Reggie Cobb.

Los Angeles **7 10 0 0 17**
Green Bay **3 0 14 7 24**
58,911

Vanity license plates went on sale in Wisconsin. A lottery was held for the "PACKERS" plate.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/94, p. 13

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/94, Dougherty, p. 13

10.20.1994

PACKERS 10
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 13 (OT)

After the bye week, the Packers were a bit rusty in the first quarter of this Thursday Night Game. Quarterback Brett Favre was intercepted by defensive end James Harris. Harris fumbled the ball, and Anthony Parker took it the rest of the way for a 7-0 Minnesota lead.

Later in the quarter, Favre bruised his left hip and had to leave the game. Backup quarterback Mark Brunell played the rest of the game, and his touchdown run just before halftime gave the Packers a 10-7 lead. It stayed 10-7 until quarterback Warren Moon led a quick, 58-yard drive. From the 29-yard line, Fuad Reveiz nailed the game-tying field goal with 17 seconds left. Four minutes into the overtime, he won it from the 27.

The loss was a low point in Favre's career. Following the game during the week, Holmgren polled his coaching staff about the team's starting quarterback. Brunell won the vote, but Holmgren stayed with Favre saying, "We're joined at the hip. Either we're going to the Super Bowl together, or we're going down together."¹

Green Bay 10 0 0 0 0 10
Minnesota 7 0 0 3 3 13
63,041

¹ Sports Illustrated, 1/27/1997

10.31.1994

PACKERS 33
CHICAGO
BEARS 6

Another game played in throwback jerseys! But wind gusts as strong as 43 mph created Monsoon-like conditions that pounded both teams, the fans, and the Monday Night Football crew.

The all-day downpour seemed to affect only the Bears. After the first quarter, Green Bay had no trouble navigating the horizontal rain and the swamp-like conditions. They ran the ball for 233 yards (the most since 1989), and Edgar Bennett scored three touchdowns. In the wind-swept conditions, Brett Favre completed just six passes for one touchdown. In the second quarter, he ran for the longest touchdown of his career (36 yards), and he nearly had more rushing yards than passing... 58 to 82.

Punting played a big role in the game, and Craig Hentrich and the Packers held the edge. "Once they turned the field around on us, we were in trouble,"¹ Bears' Coach Dave

Wannstedt admitted. The Bears turned the ball over five times, and their two fumbles led to Packer touchdowns.

Green Bay 0 14 7 12 33
Chicago 0 0 0 6 6
47,381

“When the game was over, nearly every player dumped his shoes into a garbage can. (Red) Batty and his crew pulled them out, and let them dry out; the team then sold them at various auctions for charities.”²

On the big screen at Lambeau Field, 2,500 fans watched the game!

1 Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D’Amato & Christl, p. 152

2 Mudbaths & Bloodbaths, D’Amato & Christl, p. 154

11.6.1994

DETROIT

LIONS 30

PACKERS 38

It looked like a rout early as Green Bay “scored its first 17 points off three turnovers.”¹ With four minutes gone, linebacker Bryce Paup started the fun with a pick-six. Three Brett Favre touchdown passes followed to Robert Brooks (2) and Edgar Bennett—and the first half closed with a 24-point lead.

Detroit’s only points in the first half came on Mel Gray’s 91-yard kickoff return. After halftime, quarterback Dave Krieg, who replaced an injured Scott Mitchell in the first quarter, brought the Lions back with three touchdown passes. Two of the touchdowns went to Herman Moore. His second touchdown cut the lead to 38-30 with 8:31 left.

On their final series, Krieg led the Lions to Green Bay’s 15-yard line. On fourth down with 42 seconds left, Krieg’s pass to the end zone to former Packer Aubrey Matthews was knocked down by cornerback Doug Evans. The Packers were 5-4.

Detroit 0 7 7 16 30

Green Bay 10 21 7 0 38

54,995

Milwaukee County Stadium

On the team’s decision beginning in 1994 to play all its home games in Green Bay, one fan had this to say, “I am surprised it took this long to leave given all the concern about the new stadium (in Milwaukee).”²

1 packershistory.net/1994Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/94, Hayes, p. 1

11.13.1994

NEW YORK

JETS 10

PACKERS 17

The Jets won the statistical battle, but not the game. Brett Favre's two touchdown passes led the Packers to their third straight win. Favre went after safety Pat Terrell, who played in place of an injured Ronnie Lott.

Green Bay took a 7-0 lead on Favre's touchdown to Robert Brooks. Trailing 7-3 before the half, Jets' quarterback Boomer Esiason threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Rob Moore for a 10-7 halftime lead.

The Jets didn't score in the second half as the Packers stopped their bigger receivers when it counted most. "That was our game plan—if we could take advantage of our receivers' size against those guys. I thought we did,"¹ said Esiason. But not against Doug Evans, whose tight coverage on the Jets Rob Moore, especially late in the game, secured the win.

Early in the third quarter, Favre found Anthony Morgan or what proved to be the winner. Favre (20-28-183-2-0) outplayed Esiason (24-43-214-1-1), and the Packers (6-4) remained tied with the Bears, one game behind Minnesota.

New York 0 10 0 0 10

Green Bay 7 0 7 3 17

58,307

Total Yards: GB 234 NY 315

"Bob Gauber, The Sporting News football columnist, rated Packers fans the No. 1 fans in the NFL. His comments came in the tabloid's Nov. 14 issue, which praised fans here for such things as showing up in lousy weather and supporting the team when it's rebuilding."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/94, p. 1

11.20.1994

PACKERS 20

BUFFALO

BILLS 29

Green Bay's three-game winning streak came to an end. The loss was the first of back-to-back losses to the previous year's Super Bowl teams.

In this matchup, the Packers didn't get on the scoreboard until it was 24-0 Buffalo. The blowout saw Jim Kelly and Andre Reed connecting 15 times for two touchdowns and 191 yards. Thurman Thomas also ran for a touchdown, and at the break, it was 27-6 Bills.

Favre cut the lead to seven in the second half with his second and third touchdown passes to Edgar Bennett and Sterling Sharpe. But the rally came up short when the Packers were unable to put together a scoring drive in the fourth quarter. They also couldn't stop Jim Kelly, who threw for 365 yards.

After the game, Mike Holmgren didn't bother to look for the silver lining. "We lost a football game. I think we're beyond the moral victory stage."¹

Green Bay 0 6 14 0 20
Buffalo 14 13 0 2 29
79,029

Total Yards: GB 266 BUF 455

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/94, p. 1

11.24.1994

PACKERS 31
DALLAS
COWBOYS 42

A Thanksgiving Day disappointment in the Big D. Green Bay missed an opportunity to win on the road when Dallas quarterbacks Troy Aikman and Rodney Peete were ruled out with injuries. Second-year quarterback Jason Garrett started.

For the second time in his career, Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes. All of the aerials went to Sterling Sharpe, and two came in the first half for a 17-6 halftime lead. After holding Dallas to six points, the defense collapsed, and the Cowboys put up a team record of 36 points (to date) in the second half. They took the opening kickoff back 87 yards to set up a quick Emmitt Smith touchdown run with just 23 seconds gone.

Favre struck right back with touchdown number three to Sterling Sharpe from 30 yards away (24-13). Dallas then took over with the next four touchdowns, and Darryl Johnston's 2-yard run in the third quarter gave them the lead 25-24.

Emmitt Smith ran right through the Packers all game for 228 total yards. In the final quarter, touchdowns by Smith and Michael Irvin put the game in the win column for the Cowboys. Dallas put up 436 yards on the Packers, the most they had given up all season. A frustrated Packer fan, Rollin Jacques of Green Bay, let loose: "Evans, interference? No way. Koonce, personal foul? No way. It's no wonder Europeans chase the officials out of the stadium."¹

Green Bay 7 10 7 7 31
Dallas 0 6 19 17 42
64,597

Total Yards: GB 277 DAL 436

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/94, Walter, p. 18

12.4.1994

PACKERS 31

DETROIT

LIONS 34

In the first half, quarterback Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, and Robert Brooks returned a kickoff 96-yards for a touchdown! But the defense struggled to stop a potent offense. Barry Sanders had a record-setting day with 188 yards rushing. The Packers ran for only 58. Sanders' first-half touchdown was the first of six lead changes.

Brett Favre threw for 366 yards and three touchdowns—two went to Anthony Morgan and one to Sterling Sharpe. He was also intercepted twice. At halftime, Detroit 24-21.

Green Bay surged back in front early in the third quarter on a field goal by Chris Jacke and Favre's 47-yard bomb to Anthony Morgan. Leading 31-27, Green Bay could not hold on.

The only fourth quarter points came from Derrick Moore's touchdown run with six minutes left. Detroit's defense protected the lead with an interception and a fourth-down stop in the final minutes. The Packers were 6-7 and still in postseason contention.

Green Bay 14 7 10 0 31

Detroit 3 21 3 7 34

76,338

"The diehards stopped by Lombardi Avenue anyway on Monday, just in case. They came to buy their Green Bay Packers playoff tickets, despite their team's three-game skid."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/94, Content, p. 10

12.11.1994

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

PACKERS 40

There's nothing wrong with the Packers that a game against the Chicago Bears couldn't cure! In this blowout, the Packers moved the ball up and down Lambeau Field at will. They generated 516 total yards behind Brett Favre's three touchdown passes and Chris Jacke's four field goals!

Chicago's only points came early on Kevin Butler's 25-yard field goal. After the kick, it was 40 straight points by Green Bay. Brett Favre threw three touchdown passes, two to Sterling Sharpe and one to Robert Brooks. Green Bay's ground game was also dominant. Edgar Bennett (106) and Reggie Cobb (78) led a 257-yard effort, the best so far this season. The Packers ran 80 plays while the Bears had possession for just 49.

Chicago 3 0 0 0 3
Green Bay 7 17 10 6 40
57,927

“Toward the end of the game, a few thoughtless Packer fans, smelling blood and wanting the Packers to run up the score, began booing when they failed to go for a touchdown while deep in Bear territory. After the boos died down, many started chanting, ‘Bears still suck! Bears still suck!’ At least one Chicago Bear agreed with the chanting throng. ‘Hey, we did,’ Bears’ linebacker Joe Cain said after the game. ‘I’m not going to lie to you.’”¹

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 376

12.18.1994

ATLANTA

FALCONS 17

PACKERS 21

After 61 seasons, the Packers played their final game at County Stadium. The fantastic finish followed the continued emergence of quarterback Brett Favre, who won it with a dramatic dive into the end zone.

Green Bay needed a win to stay in contention for the postseason. Quarterback Brett Favre took matters into his own hands with two first-quarter touchdown passes, one each to Sterling Sharpe and Anthony Morgan. In the second quarter, Sharpe injured his neck and had to leave the game. The Packers led 14-9.

After a quiet third quarter, Atlanta quarterback Bobby Herbert and a successful two-point conversion put Atlanta in front 17-14. Favre led the Packers back on a 10-play, 67-yard drive with 1:58 left. Favre went six-for-nine on the drive, and he marched the Packers to Atlanta’s 9-yard line.

On third and one, with 21 seconds left and no timeouts, Favre rolled right. Not finding a receiver, he took his chances and ran to the end zone. He stumbled at the 3-yard line but dove across the goal line for the win with 14 seconds left! The stadium erupted, and the players headed for Favre! “After the game, Packers coach Mike Holmgren thrust his fists in the air and blew kisses to the fans. ‘Thank you, Milwaukee!’”¹ he shouted repeatedly. It couldn’t have ended any better!

Atlanta 3 6 0 8 17

Green Bay 14 0 0 7 21

54,885

Milwaukee County Stadium

Sterling Sharpe’s neck injury eventually ended his career.

“Ryan of Racine has been attending games at County Stadium for the previous 20 years. ‘I’ll never disagree about how wonderful Lambeau Field is, but it was always special to come here.’”²

*"They should play in Green Bay. That's their real home."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/94, Hildebrand p. 2

12.24.1994

PACKERS 34

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 19

The Packers clinched a wild card berth as Brett Favre threw three first-half touchdown passes to put the Buccaneers away early. All three touchdown passes went to Sterling Sharpe. Sadly, this would be Sharpe's last game due to concerns about his neck and upper spine. His performance was memorable, with three touchdowns!

Sharpe, along with Edgar Bennett, gave Green Bay a 14-0 edge. They put it out of reach before halftime with two more Favre to Sharpe touchdowns! Tampa scored on its first drive of the second half, but not again until there was one minute left in the game. The Packers held the Bucs to 61 yards rushing and 214 yards overall.

Green Bay 14 14 6 0 34

Tampa Bay 0 6 6 7 19

65,076

Total Yards: GB 433 TB 214

Laura Hollister of Suamico and nearly 300 fans showed up at the airport on Christmas Eve to greet the team. "It was the best Christmas present we could ask for,"¹ she said.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/94, Anderson, p. 2

12.31.1994

1994 NFC Wild Card Game

DETROIT

LIONS 12

PACKERS 16

The Packers played their first home postseason game in a non-strike season since the Ice Bowl. Ironically, it was the 27th anniversary of the Ice Bowl, their last home playoff game!

For Green Bay, it was about stopping Barry Sanders. Four weeks prior in Detroit, Sanders punished the Packers with an elusive 188 yards. Detroit fans hoped for another inspiring performance, but the Packers were ready and would have none of it! To slow down Sanders, Defensive Coordinator Fritz Schumer moved Reggie White inside. Sanders was "harassed, harried, and hit"¹ to the tune of minus one yard (-1) on 13 carries!

With Sanders contained, the Packers teed off on quarterback Dave Krieg. He was sacked four times, and the Lions were held to nine first downs and 171 yards. Brett Favre did not throw a touchdown. Without his best receiver Sterling Sharpe, Favre played well (22-38-262-0-0), but Green Bay's only touchdown came midway through the first quarter. Rookie Dorsey Levens scored from the 3-yard line for a 7-0 Packer lead.

With their strong defense, three field goals from Jacke was all the Packers needed. In explaining the loss, Detroit coach Wayne Fontes said, "Since I've been here as head coach, no team has dominated us on the line of scrimmage (like today)."²

Detroit	0	0	3	9	12
Green Bay	7	3	3	3	16
58,125					

*Headline: "Fans bask after a 27-year wait. Celebrations were everywhere before, during, and after the game."*³

*"Pooh Bear Will You Marry Me" the sign read over the stadium. "Ted Thomas of Boulder Junction went to the sky with his proposal."*⁴ Jan "Pooh Bear" Lemorande said yes!

1 Measure of Greatness, Gozka, p. 404

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, Dougherty, p. 24

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/95, p. 2

1.8.1995

1994 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 9

DALLAS

COWBOYS 35

Green Bay's postseason rematch with Dallas didn't go well. Cowboys' quarterback Troy Aikman threw for over 100 yards to three different receivers—Michael Irvin (111), Alvin Harper (108), and Jay Novacek (104)—to easily defeat Green Bay.

The Packers fell behind quickly as Dallas took the opening kickoff and scored in 3:53. Emmitt Smith's 5-yard run put them in front before he left the game with a knee injury. After a Green Bay field goal, Aikman connected with Alvin Harper for a 94-yard touchdown, and Blair Thomas scored from the 1-yard line. Before halftime, the teams traded touchdowns, and Dallas led 28-9.

The Cowboys put up over 300 yards in the first half, and in the second half, they scored once more to finish the job. Though he was very disappointed in defeat, General Manager Ron Wolf knew what the Packers needed to do to go further in the postseason. "There's no doubt we have to address our offense,"¹ he said.

Green Bay 3 6 0 0 9
Dallas 14 14 0 7 35
64,745

Total Yards: 450-327

*Holmgren on Favre: "I thought he has made marvelous strides this year. And he's a young man. So there is hope, for those of you that are little bit pessimistic."*²

*Three-hundred fans welcomed the team home at the airport. Fans and players "dished out high-fives, handshakes, and pats on the back."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/95, Dougherty, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/95, p. 19

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/95, Mahesh, p. 1

1994

NFC CENTRAL

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Sharpe
Rushing	Bennett
Scoring	Sharpe
Interceptions	Buckley
Sacks	Jones

ALL-PRO

Paup	Linebacker
White	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Aaron Taylor (1, G)

LeShon Johnson (3, RB)

Gabe Wilkins (4, DE)

Dorsey Levens (5a, WR)

Bill Schroeder (6c, WR)



1995

Record: 11-5-0, 1st Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- Two new franchises joined the league—the Carolina Panthers and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Two other franchises relocated from Los Angeles. The Rams left for St. Louis, and the Raiders moved back to Oakland.
- Because of his neck injury, the Packers released Sterling Sharpe. Before the season, linebacker Bruce Paup was let go. In late October, tight end Keith Jackson was signed.
- After three straight 9-7 finishes, 1995 would be a breakthrough season. They would play in their first NFC Championship Game.
- On both sides of the ball, the Packers ranked among the best. Brett Favre came into his own with 38 touchdown passes. He won his first NFL MVP Award.
- Robert Brooks, who replaced Sterling Sharpe, caught 102 passes and set a team record with 1,497 receiving yards. Edgar Bennett led the ground game with 1,067 yards.

9.3.1995

ST. LOUIS

RAMS **17**

PACKERS **14**

The *new* St. Louis Rams pulled off the upset, and the Packers were booed at halftime!

With neither team able to establish a ground game, quarterbacks Brett Favre and Chris Miller, once teammates in Atlanta, unloaded 81 passes, and they were sacked nine times. On the game's opening drive, Favre threw his first interception on the Rams 6-yard line. In the second quarter, Isaac Bruce of the Rams blocked a punt that he also recovered on Green Bay's 23. On the next play, Bruce caught a touchdown pass from Miller to complete his trifecta for a 7-0 St. Louis lead.

After fans began to express their displeasure with some booing, Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Mark Chmura tied it 7-7. Later in the third quarter, Chris Miller broke the tie with a 30-yard touchdown to wideout Alexander Wright.

When Favre tossed his third interception, the Rams cashed in with a field goal with 5:22

remaining. It proved to be enough even after Favre's late touchdown to Charles Jordan. "It's a tough loss. But it isn't anything a good win can't erase,"¹ commented LeRoy Butler.

St. Louis 0 7 7 3 17

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

60,104

First Downs: GB 21 STL 11

"I'm eight, and I went to my first Packer game today. Even though they lost, I enjoyed my first game."² said Any Hansen of Algoma.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/95, Havel, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/95, p. 20

9.11.1995

PACKERS 27

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

Monday Night Football at Soldier Field was host to the 150th meeting between the Packers and the Bears.* The Packers celebrated with their third straight win over their ancient rival.

"We know we are a much better team than we showed last week,"¹ said Brett Favre describing the team's mindset. He set out to prove it, and the Packers scored the first five times they had the ball! They jumped out to a 21-0 lead after Favre's touchdown passes to Robert Brooks and Anthony Morgan. Brooks caught two of the touchdowns, including a 99-yard record-setting score in the second quarter. Anthony Morgan's touchdown made it a commanding 24-7 lead at intermission.

The Bears' defense regrouped and held the Packers to just three points in the final 30 minutes. Poor punting plagued Green Bay, and a blocked punt fueled Chicago's comeback. Quarterback Erik Kramer rallied the Bears with a touchdown pass to Jim Flanigan, and Rashaan Salaam's second touchdown run made it 27-21.

In the final 10 minutes, Green Bay's defense closed ranks. Reggie White and Johnny Holland led the way, stopping the Bears with a goal-line stand and a strip-sack by White.

Green Bay 14 10 3 0 27

Chicago 0 7 7 10 24

64,855

Total Yards: GB 431 CHI 243.

* 1941 Playoff Game Included

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/95, Havel, p. 2

9.17.1995

NEW YORK

GIANTS 6

PACKERS 14

With a win, the Packers got off to a great start. They were 2-1 after three games for the first time since 1983! Two first-half touchdown passes by Brett Favre to Mark Ingram and Robert Brooks gave Green Bay the lead for keeps. Rookie Antonio Freeman also caught two passes from Favre.

The defense kept the lid on New York's potent offense which outgained the Packers 303-198. They kept the Giants out of the end zone and forced two Brad Daluiso field goals.

In the second half, Green Bay's offense stalled, and the team played conservatively. They generated only 36 total yards, and Craig Hentrich punted nine times! "If the Packers game plan called for punting enough times to iron put their blocking deficiencies, they executed it to perfection."¹

Brad Daluiso kicked his second field goal with under one minute to play. With the Giants driving for a tying touchdown, an interception by safety Mike Prior ended the threat.

New York 0 3 0 3 6

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14

60,117

"Unlike the first time Milwaukee season ticket holders came to Lambeau Field this year, they found their way there Sunday without creating massive traffic jams."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/95, Havel, p. 17

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/95, Mahesh, p. 7

9.24.1995

PACKERS 24

JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS 14

On a Sunday night, the Packers visited the *new* Jacksonville franchise. Their starting quarterback, Mark Brunell, was Brett Favre's former backup. Jacksonville had selected him in the expansion draft. The Jaguars were also coached by Tom Coughlin, a former coach with Green Bay.

Both Favre and Brunell had good games. Brunell, though, was sacked five times and harassed all game. The dominant Packers' defense did not allow a first down in the first half. Overall, Green Bay outgained the Jags 322-201.

A 49-yard field goal by Green Bay started the scoring. Favre extended the lead just before halftime with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Robert Brooks. After Dorsey Levens' touchdown run made it 17-0, Brunell got his offense in gear with two touchdown passes to Willie Jackson. In between Brunell's touchdowns, Favre put it away with a 29-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Morgan.

Jacksonville 0 0 7 7 14
Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24
66,744

Favre threw two or more touchdowns in his 12th straight game, which tied a record held by Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith, and Dan Marino.

10.8.1995

PACKERS 24
DALLAS
COWBOYS 34

After their bye week, the Packers lost to Dallas for the fifth straight time. Cowboys' quarterback Troy Aikman, who wasn't expected to play, threw for 316 yards and two touchdowns. He had help from Emmitt Smith, who ran for two touchdowns and 106 yards. Michael Irvin also got the best of Green Bay's secondary with eight catches for 150 yards and a touchdown.

Dallas took a 7-0 lead after linebacker Godfrey Myles intercepted Brett Favre. With a minute to play in the half, Emmitt Smith also scored on the ground for a comfortable 17-3 lead. The Cowboys struck first after halftime with a 48-yard touchdown pass from Aikman to Michael Irvin. Trailing 24-3, the Packers mounted a comeback. Favre scored twice on the ground in the final 18 minutes, and he also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Mark Chmura. Green Bay narrowed the score to 31-24 with 8:13 left, but the Cowboys used up the next six minutes and clinched it with a field goal.

Green Bay 0 3 7 14 24
Dallas 0 17 7 10 34
64,806

10.15.1995

DETROIT

LIONS 21
PACKERS 30

"Everyone knows the importance of this stretch of games,"¹ said Mike Holmgren after the Packers finished the first of five straight wins over division opponents. Though they didn't

stop Barry Sanders (124 yards), they did lead this skirmish from start to finish.

After their loss to Dallas, the Packers expected to win this game, and they played with urgency. Brett Favre got off to a great start, going 15 for 19 for 215 yards and one touchdown. His touchdown pass went to rookie Dorsey Levens. Edgar Bennett also scored on the ground in a 17-0 first half.

In the second half, the Lions came back. Quarterback Scott Mitchell threw three touchdown passes. Two went to Herman Moore and the other to Johnnie Morton. Favre (23-34-342-2-0) kept pace with a touchdown pass to Robert Brooks. With eight minutes left, Chris Jacke's field goal won it. After the game, Reggie White praised Favre's play with, "he can take us where we need to go."²

Detroit **0 0 14 7 21**
Green Bay **3 17 7 3 30**
60,302

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/95, Havel, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/95, p. 18

10.22.1995

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **21**
PACKERS **38**

Back-to-back wins over Central Division rivals proved to be good medicine for the Packers. Quarterback Brett Favre threw for 295 yards and four touchdown passes that went to Mark Chmura, Charles Jordan, Dorsey Levens, and Edgar Bennett.

The game was all about turnovers. With the score 7-7 in the second quarter, an interception by Packers' linebacker George Koonce set up Favre's second touchdown pass. Then, with a minute left before halftime, Minnesota quarterback Warren Moon tied it with a pass to Jack Reed.

In the third quarter, Doug Evans' interception helped the Packers take control. Favre followed the turnover with his third touchdown pass to Dorsey Levens. Edgar Bennett's touchdown run in the fourth quarter stretched it 28-14. Less than a minute later, defensive end Sean Jones recovered a fumble in the end zone for six more! The ball had been knocked away by Reggie White, and the Packers pulled away 35-14.

With seven minutes left, quarterback Warren Moon benched himself after a poor performance. He threw two picks and lost a fumble that the Packers recovered for a touchdown!

Minnesota 7 7 0 7 21
Green Bay 7 7 7 17 38
60,332

CARTOON!

Frame 1 It's blasphemy to hold trick or treat on Sunday.

Frame 2 Those God-forsaken little witches and goblins begging door-to-door desecrates everything we hold dear.

Frame 3 We want this pagan celebration moved to another day, which doesn't conflict with our most sacred of traditions.

Frame 4 Watching the Packer game!"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/95, Heller, p. 7

10.29.1995

PACKERS 16

DETROIT

LIONS 24

This was a reversal of fortune from two weeks earlier as mistakes doomed the Packers. Four turnovers by Brett Favre, several dropped passes, and soft coverage in the secondary were the primary offenders.

Eight hundred yards of offense filled the gridiron with action. Quarterback Scott Mitchell of the Lions threw three first-half touchdown passes, all to Herman Moore. Though Brett Favre threw for more yards than Mitchell (304-249), he also threw three more interceptions. Favre also turned it over on a fumble. The picks ended two promising Green Bay drives, and one eventually led to a Detroit touchdown. The fumble came with three minutes left when Favre was sacked deep in Detroit territory. "The guys played hard today against a good football team, and I'm happy,"¹ said Holmgren.

Green Bay 0 10 6 0 16

Detroit 7 14 0 3 24

73,462

First Downs: GB 28 DET 18

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/95, p. 19

11.5.1995

PACKERS 24

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 27

In one of the most forgettable finishes in team history, third-string quarterback T. J. Rubley made a name for himself. After injuries shelved both Brett Favre and Ty Detmer, the

Packers turned to Rubley to save the day. Unfortunately, he saved it for the Vikings.

The game went back and forth with seven turnovers and seven lead changes. Six of the turnovers belonged to Green Bay, and five came in the second half. In the second quarter, Packers' guard Aaron Taylor fell on Favre and injured his left ankle. Favre left the game and was replaced by Ty Detmer. Detmer lasted until the fourth quarter when he had to leave with an injured thumb. Reggie White also left the game with a sprained right knee, and defensive end Sean Jones suffered a concussion and had to be "removed from the locker room on a stretcher"¹ and hospitalized.

The Packers took a 16-10 lead behind Edgar Bennett's touchdown and Chris Jacke's three field goals. Early in the second half, quarterback Warren Moon put the Vikings back in front with two touchdown passes less than four minutes apart. With the Packers now trailing 24-16 in the fourth quarter, Detmer and Mark Chmura hooked up for a touchdown and tied the score with a two-point conversion.

With five minutes left in the game, the tension switched into high gear with four turnovers. To start the roller-coaster finish, Detmer was intercepted by Roy Barker at midfield. Detmer also injured his hand on the play and was replaced by T. J. Rubley. On Rubley's first play under center, he fumbled and lost the football. Fortunately, the Packers got it right back when safety LeRoy Butler stripped running back James Stewart of the ball. George Teague recovered it with 2:52 left, and Rubley had another chance.

After four completed passes and the ball on Minnesota's 38-yard line, Rubley got ahead of himself and called an audible. On third-and-one, as a safety came down into the box to stop the run, he changed the play to a pass. Rubley was forced out of the pocket and chased to his right when he launched a pass across his body toward Antonio Freeman. It floated and never made it to its destination. It was intercepted by Jeff Brady, a former Packer. Warren Moon directed a 51-yard drive for Fuad Reveiz's 39-yard kick for the win.

When Rubley was asked about his decision to audible after the safety moved into the box, he said, "I thought I was doing what I've been coached to do. I learned later we can adjust (among the offensive linemen) to block that."²

Green Bay	7	9	0	8	24
Minnesota	10	0	14	3	27
62,839					

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/95, Havel, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/95, Dougherty, p. 18

11.12.1995

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

PACKERS 35

"Brett Favre undergoes round-the-clock treatment to get him set to play Sunday."¹

"Reggie White says a knee injury won't sideline him, but the Packers are preparing Matt LaBounty just in case."²

These two headlines appeared in the Green Bay Press-Gazette on the Tuesday before the game. Why then did the Bears make such a big issue five days later about Favre and White playing? Though Chicago scored on its opening drive, Favre had one of his greatest games (25-33-336-5-0). With his ankle taped so tight "that it would essentially be a cast,"³ he threw five touchdowns! Reggie White's inspirational play solidified the defense with a deflected pass, a shared sack, and constant pressure. Favre was unstoppable with three first-half touchdown passes—one each to Robert Brooks, Edgar Bennett, and Dorsey Levens. Quarterback Erik Kramer threw two for the Bears, and the first half closed 21-21.

Rashaan Salaam's second touchdown run put Chicago back in front 28-21. Near the end of the third quarter and early in the fourth, Favre struck again. The first was a 44-yard bomb to Brooks, and the second was a 16-yard pass to Bennett with three minutes left.

On the game's final possession, the Bears were stopped. Kramer threw three incomplete passes, and the last aerial was thrown "with White draped around his ankles."⁴ Game over.

Chicago 7 14 7 0 28

Green Bay 14 7 7 7 35

59,996

Total Yards: GB 356 CHI 444

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/95, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/95, p. 1

3 Game of my Life, Carlson, p. 71

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/95, Havel, p. 1

11.19.1995

PACKERS 31

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 20

On November 6th, Cleveland owner Art Modell announced his intention to relocate his team to Baltimore after the 1995 season. The Browns lost their next two games on the road. Their first home game came against Green Bay! Only 55,388 came compared to the 69,268 that attended the Packers-Browns game in 1992.

The Browns lost their third straight as quarterback Brett Favre had another excellent game (23-28-210-3-0). The "Gunslinger" threw three touchdown passes in the first half to Dorsey Levens, Mark Chmura, and Anthony Morgan. The longest of the touchdown passes was 13 yards to Morgan, and Favre ran for another score in the fourth quarter. Browns' quarterback Vinnie Testaverde threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes that made the final score more respectable.

Green Bay 7 14 3 7 31
Cleveland 3 0 3 14 20
55,388

11.26.1995
TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 13
PACKERS 35

The Buccaneers weren't going anywhere in the snow-cold combination they faced in Green Bay. A game-time temperature of 35 degrees and three inches of snow overnight made it a challenging game for Tampa Bay.

Brett Favre threw three more touchdown passes without an interception. In the first half, Mark Ingram and Robert Brooks caught the touchdowns. Dorsey Levens ran for the first of two touchdowns, and the Packers enjoyed a 21-10 advantage at halftime.

In the second half, Levens added another touchdown run. Favre also escaped a pass rush to find Robert Brooks open for a 3-yard score midway through the fourth quarter. The defense held Tampa Bay to 42 yards rushing and their rushing leader, Errict Rhett, to minus -1 yard.

Without a ground game, quarterback Trent Dilfer threw 50 times for 312 yards. He was sacked four times, and he did not throw a touchdown. After the game, Tampa coach Sam Wyche praised Brett Favre. "I couldn't have more respect for any quarterback playing the game than Brett Favre. I think he's on top of his game."¹ Since leaving the game against the Vikings three weeks earlier with an ankle injury, Favre had thrown 11 touchdown passes without an interception.

Tampa Bay 0 10 3 0 13
Green Bay 7 14 7 7 35
59,218

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/95, Dougherty p. 18

12.3.1995

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 10

PACKERS 24

Brett Favre passed the Packers into sole possession of first place in the NFC Central. He passed for 339 yards and three touchdowns! The Bengals led 10-3 when Favre's first touchdown pass to Mark Ingram tied the score six seconds before intermission. He threw two more in the second half to Edgar Bennett and Mark Chmura.

The defense clamped down on the Bengals in the second half. For the game, they ran for just 31 yards, and quarterback Jeff Blake was intercepted twice and sacked three times. Reggie White was credited with 1.5 sacks before injuring his left hamstring with six minutes left. On the play, White was hurt, and LeRoy Butler intercepted a pass in the end zone to end Cincinnati's last scoring threat.

Cincinnati 0 10 0 0 10

Green Bay 3 7 7 7 24

60,318

Total Yards: GB 434 CINN 217

12.10.1995

PACKERS 10

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 13 (OT)

The Packers were upset by the 6-7 Buccaneers in overtime. Reggie White missed the first game of his 11-year career, and the Packers failed to clinch the division title. "Too many guys looked at this game as a cakewalk, and it wasn't,"¹ said safety LeRoy Butler,

Green Bay ran the ball for just 61 yards, and quarterback Brett Favre had a modest game compared to the statistics he'd been producing that season (27-46-285-1-1). Though they shut out the Bucs in the first half, the Pack put up only three points on their first six drives.

Tampa Bay took the lead, 7-3, in the third quarter on a 3-yard run by rookie running back Jerry Ellison. Green Bay moved ahead in the fourth quarter on tight end Keith Jackson's first touchdown for the Packers. Tampa tied it 10-10 on a 38-yard field goal by Michael Husted with 4:48 left. The game came down to Chris Jacke's 45-yard field goal try with nine seconds left in regulation. The kick sailed wide left. The Bucs won it 3:46 into overtime on Husted's 47-yard boot.

Green Bay 0 3 0 7 0 10

Tampa Bay 0 0 7 3 3 13

67,557

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/95, Havel p. 1

12.16.1995

PACKERS 34

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 23

Reggie White returned, and Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes!

The Packers clinched a playoff berth as Favre threw touchdowns to Anthony Morgan, Robert Brooks (2), and rookie Antonio Freeman. The Packers sprinted out to a 28-7 lead in the first half before their offense stalled in the second half. The rest of the way, they managed just two field goals.

Edgar Bennett ran for 80 of the team's 103 yards rushing. He became the first Green Bay running back since 1978 to gain more than 1,000 yards in a season. He also caught three passes in this game for another 70 yards.

The return of Reggie White lifted the overall performance of the defense. Defensive Coordinator Fritz Shurmur had this to say about White's performance, "I'm never going to write him off. He was magnificent and a boon to our team."¹

Green Bay 14 14 6 0 34

New Orleans 7 7 0 9 23

50,132

GB snapped its 10-game losing streak on artificial turf!

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/95, Dougherty, p. 26

12.24.1995

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 19

PACKERS 24

The best regular season in decades closed with a win thanks to a dropped pass by Yancey Thigpen in the end zone. The drop handed the Central Division title to the Packers!

After a quiet first quarter, Green Bay broke the ice with Edgar Bennett's 9-yard touchdown run. The Packers led the entire game behind quarterback Brett Favre, who was nearly flawless (23-32-301-2-0). Favre connected with Robert Brooks to add to Bennet's touchdown for a 14-10 halftime lead.

Mark Chmura's touchdown catch made it 21-10 just five minutes into the new half. The Steelers countered with a field goal, and on Green Bay's next series, Favre was drilled by linebackers Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd. Dazed, Favre "stood up, then went to a knee and began spitting up blood."¹ He left the game for the rest of the series. The Packers

finished the drive with a field goal and a 24-13 lead.

Fullback Tim Lester scored on the ground to bring the Steelers to within 24-19. After getting the ball back with five minutes left, Pittsburgh drove 75 yards to Green Bay's 5-yard line. On fourth-and-goal, O'Donnell threw to a wide-open Yancey Thigpen in the end zone. Thigpen bobbled the ball, and it bounced off his knee and fell incomplete! The Green Bay crowd was shocked and ecstatic. The Packers had clinched a division title for the first time since 1972!

After the game, Thigpen said, "Merry Christmas, Green Bay"², and to all, a good night!

Pittsburgh 0 10 3 6 19

Green Bay 0 14 7 3 24

60,649

GB finished with its best winning percentage (.688) since 1967.

"Sometimes they (fans) don't realize how important they are to us,"³ said Favre after the game.

1 Game of My Life, Carlson, p. 74

2 Game of My Life, Carlson, p. 72

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/96, Walter, p. 1

12.31.1995

1995 NFC Wild Card Game

ATLANTA

FALCONS 20

PACKERS 37

The Packers quickly disposed of the Falcons with an overwhelming first half. The defense stopped Atlanta's "run-and-shoot" offense by applying the brakes to their running game. Fullback Craig "Iron Head" Hayward managed only 21 yards on nine carries. Falcons' quarterback Jeff George threw 54 times for 366 yards, including two touchdowns and two interceptions. Brett Favre outplayed George with three touchdown passes without a pick.

Atlanta struck with just three minutes gone in the game with a 65-yard pass from George to Eric Metcalf. The Packers came back on their first drive to tie it. Later in the quarter, Favre and Robert Brooks connected to lead 14-7, a lead the Packers would never lose.

By halftime, Antonio Freeman's 76-yard punt return and Favre's touchdown pass to tight end Mark Chmura made it 27-10. Edgar Bennett sparkled in the backfield with 108 yards and one touchdown. Robert Brooks led receivers with seven catches for 73 yards and a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, the teams traded touchdowns and field goals, and Green Bay won easily.

Atlanta 7 3 0 10 20

Green Bay 14 13 0 10 37

60,453

Total Yards: GB 307 ATL 360

From Darrin White, who grew up in Ontonagon, Michigan, and lives in Green Bay...‘Hell, the first word I ever heard in my life was ‘Packers’.’¹

“I just want to tell the players and coaches, God Bless You. Our hearts and prayers will be with you next year, and thanks for some wonderful football.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/96, Walter, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/96, Walter, p. 2

1.6.1996

1995 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 27

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 17

A win over the defending Super Bowl Champions was the breakthrough win for the resurgent Packers of the 1990s. This was their first NFC Championship Game and their biggest postseason win in over 20 years. They did it convincingly with a brilliant performance by Brett Favre (21-28-299-2-0) and a defense that set the tone early.

Green Bay’s first drive ended on a blocked field goal. On San Francisco’s first play from scrimmage, Adam Walker caught a short swing pass out of the backfield. Green Bay linebacker Wayne Simmons delivered a crushing tackle that leveled Walker and forced a fumble. Rookie cornerback Craig Newsome scooped up the ball and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead. The Packers made a statement, and they never looked back. On their next series, Brett Favre was three-for-three for 58 yards and a touchdown to Keith Jackson. When the Packers got the ball back, Favre went four-for-four with a 13-yard touchdown to Mark Chmura.

On defense, Reggie White “played like a man who never heard of a (left) hamstring tear.”¹ He hit quarterback Steve Young a few times and helped the defense shut down the NFL’s top-scoring team. Green Bay’s secondary was under siege all game. Young threw a playoff record of 65 passes, but he did not throw a touchdown.

With the first drive of the second half, the defending Super Bowl champs went 70 yards in 15 plays. Steve Young took it one yard home to make it 21-10. Two field goals by Chris Jacke made it 27-10 with seven minutes left. The 49ers scored again to cut the lead to 10, but an interception by Craig Newsome clinched a date in the NFC Championship Game! The Packers were in control from start to finish. After the game, Mike Holmgren said it was “my biggest win.”² The 8,000 fans at the airport agreed!

Green Bay 14 7 3 3 27

San Francisco 0 3 7 7 17

69,311

This was the only win on the road by an NFC team in the postseason from 1990-99.

"It was crazy. It was bedlam. It was standing-room-only, high-fiving, chanting, screaming, lung-busting crowd. And that was only in the third quarter!"³

"The club seats at Lambeau Field will be dark Sunday when the Packers take on Dallas. The Packers organization is taking its staff to Dallas, leaving no one behind to staff the club seats."⁴

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/96, Langenkamp, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/96, Walter, p. 21

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/96, Langenkamp, p. 1

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/9/96, p. 10

1.14.1996

1995 NFC Championship Game

PACKERS 27

DALLAS

COWBOYS 38

"Leah Baxter, who couldn't find a cheesehead in Green Bay, bought a giant foam Cowboy hat at the Stockyards in Forth Worth and carved holes in it. She wore it to Texas Stadium, and before the game, strolled down to the front row to watch the team's warm-up. Someone offered her \$50 for the hat. Leah turned it down."¹

"There were also Texans that wore blue Cowboy hats and cheered for the Packers. And they nicknamed themselves The Blue Cheeseheads."²

The Packers tried to exorcise their Dallas demons and reach Super Bowl XXX. They led 27-24 early in the fourth quarter, but it was not to be.

Dallas had no trouble moving the ball all game, and they blew past the Packers for 419 yards. In the first quarter, quarterback Troy Aikman threw two touchdown passes to Michael Irvin for a 14-3 lead. Favre kept the game close with two touchdown passes. A 73-yard bomb to Robert Brooks and a 24-yard pass to tight end Keith Jackson matched Aikman. With 14 seconds left before halftime, Emmitt Smith's 9-yard touchdown run put Dallas in front 24-17.

Green Bay came back strong in the second half. Chris Jacke's field goal and Favre's second touchdown pass to Brooks gave them a 27-24 lead at the start of the final 15 minutes. After falling behind, Troy Aikman led a 90-yard march that Emmitt Smith took in to retake the lead 31-27. A few minutes later, Larry Brown's interception of Favre led to Smith's third touchdown and a Super Bowl berth for the Cowboys.

"On the flight home, White, Butler, Favre, and safety Mike Prior found themselves together at the rear of the plane, discussing what went wrong. Next year, White said, we're winning

the Super Bowl. Favre's mood changed from despondent to hopeful. Hell, yes, he said. Hell, yes."³

Green Bay 10 7 10 0 27
Dallas 14 10 0 14 38
65,135

GB Assistant coach Gil Haskell, who suffered a fractured skull and a brain bruise when he was inadvertently run over on the sidelines, remained in the ICU at Baylor University Medical Center. Haskell fully recovered.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/96, p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/15/96, p. 2

3 Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 199

1995

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	11	5	0
Detroit	10	6	0
Chicago	9	7	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Tampa Bay	7	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Brooks
Rushing	Bennett
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Butler
Sacks	White

ALL-PRO

Brooks	Wide Receiver
Chmura	Tight End
Favre	Quarterback
White	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Craig Newsome (1, CB)

Darius Holland (3a, DT)

William Henderson (3b, FB)

Brian Williams (3c, LB)

Antonio Freeman (3d, WR)

Travis Jervey (5b, RB)

Adam Timmerman (7, G)



1996
Record: 13-3-0, NFL Champion
Coach: Mike Holmgren

- Brett Favre's personal struggles shocked some in management and most of the fans. During the offseason, he admitted to an addiction to pain killers and entered the Menninger Clinic for 46 days.
- On his return, he predicted a Super Bowl win. He followed through with 39 touchdown passes, his second NFL MVP Award, and a Super Bowl XXXI win for the Packers!
- Injuries stacked up: Robert Brooks tore his ACL. Antonio Freeman broke his forearm. As injuries weakened the receiving corp, Ron Wolf signed Terry Mickens, Anthony Morgan, and Andre Rison.
- The Packers scored the most points in the league and gave up the fewest. They outscored opponents by 246 points! The resurgence of the franchise was complete with a win in Super Bowl XXXI!

9.1.1996

PACKERS **34**
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS **3**

"A good old-fashioned *Buc* kicking" was how one publication described it. A great start in Tampa was helped by six Buccaneer turnovers that turned into 17 points for Green Bay! Green Bay's offense was hot right out of the gate, and Brett Favre had a phenomenal game (20-27-247-4-0). Favre tossed three first-half touchdown passes to Keith Jackson, and in the second half, he topped it off with a fourth to running back Dorsey Levens.

Green Bay had its way with Tampa. The game turned into a blowout in the last seven minutes of the first half when Favre's two touchdown passes to Keith Jackson made it 24-3. The second touchdown was a 51-yard strike to the big tight end with 10 seconds left in the half. The Bucs never recovered.

Two interceptions by LeRoy Butler were the final blows, the second of which he returned 50 yards. Tampa Bay's offense produced just 176 yards compared to 406 for Green Bay. "I thought we played physical against the run, and we got decent pressure on the quarterback,"¹ said happy defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur.

Green Bay 10 14 10 0 34
Tampa Bay 0 3 0 0 3
54,102

1 Return to Glory, December 2006, Havel/Vandermause, p. 16

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/2/96, Havel, p. 19

9.9.1996

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 13
PACKERS 39

Monday Night Football returned to Lambeau for the first time since 1986! However, the game was over "shortly after the coin toss"¹ with a dominant performance by Green Bay.

On Philadelphia's first play from scrimmage, an interception by Doug Evans sent the message that this would be Green Bay's night. In the first half, the Eagles turned it over four times, and Green Bay cashed in for 13 points!

Brett Favre threw for 261 yards and three touchdowns. Robert Brooks caught two touchdowns in the first half, and he introduced the Monday Night Football audience and America to the Lambeau Leap! His second touchdown catch gave the Packers a 30-7 lead at halftime.

Edgar Bennett balanced the offense with 93 yards rushing and 49 yards receiving. He also caught Favre's fourth touchdown pass. Green Bay's final points came on a safety when Rodney Peete was tackled in the end zone by Reggie White and Santana Dotson. "It was so loud my ears are still ringing. The crowd was great,"² safety LeRoy Butler said. The Packers were 2-0 for the first time since 1982!

Philadelphia 0 7 0 6 13
Green Bay 10 20 7 2 39
60,666

"The Packers have won 19 of their last 20 at Lambeau Field, a feat unmatched even by Lombardi's teams. This is a team whose present has outrun its past, fueled by a team whose future seems limitless."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/96, Havel, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/96, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/96, Havel, p. 13

9.15.1996

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 10

PACKERS 42

Before this game, former Packers from Super Bowl I & II “gathered with members of the community to benefit the local Boys & Girls Club and to celebrate the Packers’ Super Bowl championship teams of 1967 and ’68. Each player, when introduced, was escorted by a child from the club.”¹

The Packers dominated with a strong first half. Edgar Bennett started the scoring with a 10-yard run, and Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes—one each to Antonio Freeman and fullback William Henderson. Robert Brooks led all receivers with eight catches for 108 yards.

The second half featured a Favre to Keith Jackson connection for a 28-3 lead. San Diego’s only touchdown came in the fourth quarter after Favre was intercepted. The Packers closed out the game with two spectacular plays fewer than two minutes apart. First, LeRoy Butler intercepted quarterback Stan Humphries and went 90 yards for six. Desmond Howard then returned a punt 55 yards for the final points.

Green Bay’s defense was spectacular. Reggie White had two sacks, and the Chargers ran for just 33 yards. Favre’s passing led an offense that outgained San Diego 336-141. “They really kicked our butts from the beginning. They’re a hell of a team,”² said Bobby Beathard, San Diego’s General Manager.

San Diego 3 0 0 7 10

Green Bay 7 14 7 14 42

60,584

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/96, Morton, p. 1

² Return to Glory, December 2006, Havel/Vandermause, p. 21

9.22.1996

PACKERS 21

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 30

The Packers lost for the fifth straight time in the Metrodome, and the Vikings moved into first place. Minnesota scored five touchdowns from more than 20 yards away, with quarterback Warren Moon leading the charge.

Minnesota’s defense controlled the game with unrelenting pressure on quarterback Brett Favre. He was sacked seven times, knocked down eight more, hurried 15 times, and lost two fumbles. The high-flying Green Bay offense was brought down to earth with just eight

first downs and 217 total yards.

Green Bay led 7-0 early, but touchdown passes from Warren Moon and a field goal put the Vikings in front 17-7. The Packers grabbed the lead back with two long-distance strikes. Favre and Don Beebe hooked up for a 90-yard touchdown, and on defense, George Koonce's 75-yard pick-six gave Green Bay a 21-17 lead.

The defense couldn't protect the lead. A 37-yard touchdown run by Robert Smith and two field goals by Scott Sisson put Minnesota back in control. The first field goal came after a Favre fumble. Green Bay fan Scott Olson said it best about the Packers' offense, "You can't pass the ball when you are laying on your back."¹

Green Bay 7 0 14 0 21
Minnesota 7 7 3 13 30
64,168

Favre threw for only 198 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/96, p. 21

9.29.1996

PACKERS 31

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 10

On the first play from scrimmage, the Packers lost Robert Brooks to a concussion. But the offense stayed in high gear as Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes and was sacked only twice.

Seattle quarterback Rick Meir threw four interceptions and lost one fumble. The five turnovers cost the Seahawks 24 points. Eugene Robinson, formerly of Seattle, grabbed the first interception. The Packers' first touchdown came quickly on a Favre to Antonio Freeman connection. Freeman, who took over for Robert Brooks, led all receivers with seven catches for 108 yards.

On Seattle's next series, Reggie White intercepted Meier, and he lumbered 46 yards downfield to set up a field goal. Favre threw three more touchdown passes, one in each quarter, to Dorsey Levens, Keith Jackson, and a second to Antonio Freeman. Running backs Edgar Bennett and Dorsey Levens had their best game of the season with 122 yards, and they caught five passes from Favre, including Levens' touchdown.

Green Bay 10 7 7 7 31
Seattle 0 7 3 0 10
59,973

This was the first sellout of the season for Seattle.

The Kingdome crowd of 59,973 was crawling with Packer fans, discernible by their green jerseys,

*cheeseheads, and chants of "Reggie!" "Reggie!"*¹

"The second annual Participate to Educate campaign kicks off Tuesday with a parent pep rally. Sara White, wife of defensive end Reggie White, will be the keynote speaker."

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/96, Havel, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/96, p. 6

10.6.1996

PACKERS 37

CHICAGO

BEARS 6

This blowout made it five straight wins over the Bears. Brett Favre led the slaughter with three touchdown passes in the first half. He threw four touchdown passes overall (18-27-246-4-1), with a fifth called back on a penalty.

Two of the four touchdowns were pivotal. They came in the last 35 seconds of the first half and turned a 7-3 game into a rout. Keith Jackson caught the first, and after a Doug Evans interception, Antonio Freeman caught a 50-yard touchdown from Favre.

The beating continued in the third quarter with a 90-yard kickoff return by Don Beebe. "It was like the Red Sea parted," said Beebe about the return. Antonio Freeman's emergence as a receiving threat continued. He caught seven passes for 146 yards, including two more spectacular touchdown catches. The defense continued its dominance with three interceptions, and they held the Bears to 53 yards rushing.

Green Bay 0 20 14 3 37

Chicago 0 3 3 0 6

65,480

*"I have a good name for the Packers defense... The Baker Boys because they create so many turnovers."*² Robert Karbon, Oconto, Wisconsin

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/96, p. 18

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/96, p. 1

10.14.1996

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 20

PACKERS 23 (OT)

In a much-anticipated Monday Night matchup, injuries, unfortunately, played a critical role. For San Francisco, quarterback Steve Young could not play. For the Packers, on the first play from scrimmage, Robert Brooks was lost for the season with a knee injury.

This was a physical game between two NFC powerhouses, with the winner having an early edge for home-field advantage in the playoffs. Green Bay took an early lead behind two of Chris Jacke's five field goals! With six minutes left in the half and the Niners trailing 6-3, Jerry Rice caught two touchdown passes. Quarterback Elvis Grbac's first touchdown pass went for seven yards. The second score to Rice came after Brett Favre was intercepted by defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield. San Francisco led at the half 17-6.

Green Bay's defense came on strong in the final 30 minutes and allowed just 75 yards and one field goal. The Packers' comeback began on their second possession. Favre directed a four-play drive that went quickly with his 59-yard touchdown pass to Don Beebe. With Edgar Bennett's dive for the two-point conversion, Green Bay trailed 17-14. Beebe, who replaced an injured Robert Brooks, had an outstanding game with 11 catches for 220 yards and one touchdown.

After Favre's touchdown pass, the three-point game became a battle of field position and field goals. Five punts were exchanged before an early fourth-quarter field goal by Jacke tied it at 17. After a three-and-out by the Packers, cornerback Marquez Pope intercepted Brett Favre, and the Niners took back the lead 20-17 on another field goal.

But with 1:42, a red-hot Favre completed four straight passes. On a crucial third down, he ran 12 yards around left end for a first down. His next three passes to the end zone fell incomplete, and with eight seconds left, Chris Jacke forced overtime from the 31-yard line.

The 49ers won the overtime toss and went three-and-out. A short, 31-yard punt gave Green Bay the ball on their 44. After a first-down pass by Favre and a second set of downs, the Packers faced a fourth-and-five on San Francisco's 35. Coach Holmgren decided to gamble. With the ball spotted at San Francisco's 43, Jacke nailed his fifth three-pointer of the game, a 53-yard winner! "It was probably one of the better balls I've kicked in a long time,"¹ he said later.

San Francisco 0 17 0 3 0 20

Green Bay 6 0 8 6 3 23

60,716

Favre threw 61 passes for 395 yards!

"I used to think the NFL was all about personalities and individuals. It's not like that at all. These guys aren't individuals at all, with all the hugging and tears floating around here. They're one big team. Maybe it's not like that everywhere. Around here, it's pretty sweet."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/96, Dougherty, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/96, Havel, p. 13

10.27.1996

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS **7**
PACKERS **13**

After the bye week, the Packers won this defensive battle, but they lost receiver Antonio Freeman for four-six weeks with a broken left forearm. Green Bay scored all its points in the first half, and the defense made it stand.

The scoring for Green Bay started after Brett Favre had been intercepted. When the defense held Tampa Bay and forced a punt, Reggie White blocked the punt! Chris Jacke cashed in with a 40-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead.

A Dorsey Levens touchdown run made it 10-0, and Jacke's second field goal from the 48 was good, though it drifted a bit. After the game, Jacke joked, "Maybe Vince Lombardi was up there blowing on it a little."¹

The Packers didn't score in the second half, but their defense held the Bucs scoreless until quarterback Trent Dilfer's fourth-quarter touchdown pass with 5:28 left. On Tampa's next possession with 1:14 left, Dilfer was sacked on fourth down by LeRoy Butler and Brian Williams to end it.

Tampa Bay **0** **0** **0** **7** **7**
Green Bay **3** **10** **0** **0** **13**
60,627

For the first time in 17 games, Favre did not throw a touchdown pass.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/96, Dougherty, p. 21

11.3.98

DETROIT

LIONS **18**
PACKERS **28**

Before the game, Vince Lombardi's daughter, Susan, returned to Lambeau Field to unveil a stamp of her father issued by the U. S. Postal Service. Former Packer quarterback Don Majkowski also returned and started for the Lions! He was outplayed by Brett Favre, who threw for 281 yards and four touchdowns, while Majkowski threw for 153 and one.

Favre's first touchdown pass made it 7-3 Green Bay. Barry Sanders put the Lions back on top with an 18-yard sprint off left tackle. Trailing 10-7, Favre struck back with an 80-yard drive for the first of 21 unanswered points, with a touchdown pass to Terry Mikkens. It was Mikkens' first NFL touchdown catch after being re-signed to help replace Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman.

On the first series of the second half, Favre and Mickens connected again for a 21-10 lead! Mickens led the Packers with seven catches. "That's every player's dream, to get in and play, and not only play but play well,"¹ was how Mickens described it. At the end of the third quarter, Favre unloaded a 65-yard bomb to Don Beebe for a 28-10 lead.

The defense contained Majkowski, and they sacked him five times!

Detroit 3 7 0 8 18

Green Bay 7 7 14 0 28

60,695

GB's 8-1 start is the best since 1963.

*"I came all the way from Cincinnati to eat brats, wear cheese on my head, watch players jump in the stands, and watch the MVP, Brett Favre. You all don't know what you have up here."*² Steve Stoll, Cincinnati

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/96, Dougherty p. 26

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/96, p. 29

11.10.1996

PACKERS 20

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 27

Green Bay's second three-game road trip began with a dud. The Packers never had the lead, and a strong first half by Kansas City set the pace on both sides of the ball.

It was running back Greg Hill's Day for the Chiefs. A touchdown run by Hill and Steve Bono's 34-yard touchdown pass to him put the Chiefs in command 20-6 at halftime. K.C. also ran the ball for 182 yards on 40 carries.

Early in the third quarter, a fumble by Favre led to Hill's third touchdown. Favre tried to redeem himself with two touchdown passes to Don Beebe and Derrick Mayes, which tightened the lead but weren't enough. As General Manager Ron Wolf noted, "we have to go on the road and win some games."¹ They would have to do it, however, without another offensive weapon as tight end Mark Chmura injured his foot.

Green Bay 3 3 7 7 20

Kansas City 3 17 7 0 27

79,281

GB injuries continue with Mark Chmura's foot injury.

¹ The Road to Glory, McGinn, p. 80

11.18.1996

PACKERS 6

DALLAS

COWBOYS 21

On Monday Night Football, Green Bay suffered its seventh straight defeat in Dallas. Though they kept the Cowboys out of the end zone this time, they couldn't keep them far enough away from the goalposts.

Chris Boniol provided all the offense Dallas needed with seven field goals from 29, 35, 37, 39, 42, and two from the 45. Green Bay's offense couldn't move the ball as Edgar Bennett led the ground game with 48 yards. The Packers punted on five straight possessions in the first half and didn't have a sustained drive until the third quarter.

With his receiving corps decimated by injuries, quarterback Brett Favre completed 21 of 37 passes for 194 yards and one touchdown. He was sacked four times, and his lone touchdown pass came with 1:53 left in the game. With 20 seconds left, the Cowboys sent out Boniol for a seventh field goal to tie an NFL record. It angered the Packers, and Reggie White lectured the Dallas bench. A major confrontation was avoided, but it was a disappointing game all around for the Packers.

After the loss, Green Bay signed wide receiver Andre Rison.

Green Bay	0	0	0	6	6
Dallas	6	9	0	6	21

65,032

Total Yards: GB 254 DAL 309

11.24.1996

PACKERS 24

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 9

St. Louis scored the first nine points of the game. Wideout Isaac Bruce caught a touchdown pass, and 21 seconds later, a safety was called on Brett Favre for grounding the ball in the end zone. On the punt after the safety, Mike Prior recovered for Green Bay, and Chris Jacke's 37-yard field goal made it 9-3 at half. On the second play from scrimmage in the second half, a pick-six by cornerback Doug Evans put the Packers in front 10-9. The pick gave Green Bay the momentum, and after the season, many of the players thought this interception "was the biggest play of the season."¹

After a fumble by quarterback Tony Banks, the Packers capitalized with a Favre to Keith Jackson touchdown pass, making the score 17-9. Then, a few plays later in the fourth

quarter, Favre pulled off the play of the game. Being chased, he “avoided two potential sacks on the play, (and) covered at least 25 yards of the field scrambling back and forth,”² before finding Dorsey Levens for a 5-yard touchdown! Game over.

Green Bay 0 3 14 7 24
St. Louis 0 9 0 0 9
61,499

Andre Rison caught five passes for 44 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/96, Dougherty, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, The Glory Returns, 1/19/97, Silverstein, p. 11

12.1.1996

CHICAGO

BEARS 17
PACKERS 28

In the first half, Brett Favre and Dave Krieg each threw one touchdown pass. The Bears held the early edge as Favre’s touchdown pass to Keith Jackson came in the final seconds of the half. It completed a 60-yard drive and got the offense in gear before intermission.

In the second half, the Packers ran for 113 yards. Antonio Freeman, with a cast, also returned to action with 10 catches for 156 yards! Late in the third quarter, Desmond Howard returned a punt 75 yards untouched into the end zone. Chicago came back with a field goal to stay close 14-10. In the fourth quarter, Dorsey Levens and Brett Favre ran for touchdowns to put the game away.

Favre completed another fine performance (19-27-231-1-0). The defense gave up only 88 yards rushing and 292 overall. The Packers impressed the media with the win, and the Press-Gazette stated emphatically, “There is only one team left on their schedule capable of costing them the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. That team is the Packers.”¹

Chicago 0 7 3 7 17
Green Bay 0 7 7 14 28
59,682

Page 1 Photo: “Green Bay Packers fan Brian Wojtasiak attacks a stuffed Bear in the parking lot of Lambeau Field.”²

“An indication that the grand old rivalry isn’t what it used to be was the fact that scalpers’ prices 40 minutes before kickoff were in the \$40 to \$70 range—a far cry from the \$250-and-higher-prices of some earlier home games.”³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/96, Havel, p. 21

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/96, p. 1

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/96, Langenkamp, p. 1

12.8.1996

DENVER

BRONCOS 6
PACKERS 41

Since the Broncos had clinched home-field advantage throughout the postseason, John Elway sat out this game. Denver's offense struggled, and two Jacob Elam field goals were all they produced.

The Packers' offense rolled over and hammered Denver with four Brett Favre touchdown passes. Favre began his assault late in the first half with Green Bay leading 6-3. He threw his first touchdown to Antonio Freeman 13 seconds before halftime. He came out firing in the second half and threw two more to Antonio Freeman and one to Keith Jackson.

The Broncos never had a chance. Freeman caught three touchdowns and six other passes for 175 yards! Tight end Mark Chmura, who also returned, caught four passes for 70 yards. Green Bay outgained Denver 379-176. Green Bay had become a second-half team. In the previous three games, they'd scored 70 points in the second half compared to just 23 in the first.

Denver 3 0 3 0 6
Green Bay 3 10 7 21 41
60,712

12.15.1996

PACKERS 31
DETROIT
LIONS 3

Another blowout by Green Bay! After a field goal and Desmond Howard's 92-yard punt return for a touchdown, Green Bay led at halftime. The action picked up in the second half with Brett Favre's touchdown run in the third quarter. The Lions were put out of their misery with Dorsey Levens' touchdown run and Favre's 27-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman.

Overall, Favre went 16 for 25 for 240 yards and one touchdown. Reggie White led a strong performance by the defense with two of the team's three sacks. They held their opponent without a touchdown for the fifth time this season—since mid-November, they'd given up only three!

The victory assured the Packers of a first-round bye in the postseason. After the game, General Manager Ron Wolf reminded everyone of the importance of the next game. "We have to be the dominant team in our division. If we beat Minnesota, we'll be that."¹

Green Bay 3 7 6 15 31

Detroit 0 0 3 0 3

73,214

Barry Sanders was held to 78 yards rushing.

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/96, Havel, p. 1

12.22.1996

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 38

"I'm coming to Lambeau Field ready to headhunt,"¹ was how former Green Bay Packer Jeff Brady put it. It didn't work out that way for Brady, as Green Bay won easily and secured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

In a 10-10 first half, the teams traded touchdowns and field goals. After halftime, Brett Favre's three touchdown passes to Dorsey Levens, Andre Rison, and Keith Jackson broke the game open. It began three minutes into the half with a 13-yard toss to Levens for a 17-10 lead. Rison's 22-yard touchdown, his first for Green Bay, made the score 24-10. Keith Jackson's 23-yard touchdown catch completed Favre's hat trick. When the Vikings looked up, they trailed 31-10. As if that wasn't enough, Dorsey Levens ran for a second touchdown, and he led a ground game that put up 233 yards.

The defense shut out the Vikings after the break, and the Packers became the first team since 1972 to lead the league in both points scored (456) and fewest points allowed (210)!!

Minnesota 7 3 0 0 10

Green Bay 7 3 14 14 38

59,306

Favre broke his team record with 39 touchdown passes.

The wind chill stood at 10 degrees. "They drink beer no matter what," said vendor Bill Van Camp, De Pere. "Wait until the playoffs—it'll be 15 degrees colder—and they'll be even thirstier."³

"Fans participation at Lambeau is reaching new heights, just in time for the playoffs. What was once an occasional uproar when the opposition has the ball is now a deafening, unrelenting din when the quarterback tries to call signals."²

1 Cold Wars: 40 Years of Packer-Viking Rivalry, Mishler, p. 108

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/1996, Langenkamp, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/1996, Langenkamp, p. 1

1.4.1997

1996 NFC Divisional Playoff

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **14**

PACKERS **35**

A rematch of the previous year's divisional round took on a different look due to injuries and the weather. Early in the contest, San Francisco lost quarterback Steve Young and defensive tackle Bryant Young to injuries.

In a steady downpour, Desmond Howard returned the first punt of the "Mud Bowl" for a 71-yard touchdown! He eluded seven Niners on the way. Two punts later, Howard went 46 yards to set up Brett Favre's 4-yard touchdown pass to Andre Rison. Howard had 117 return-yards in the game.

In the second quarter, Craig Newsome's interception deep in Niners' territory led to Edgar Bennett's first touchdown run and a 21-0 lead. But just before the half and right after the break, the Packers courted disaster. The first miscue was a muffed punt that was recovered by San Francisco on Green Bay's 26-yard line. With 24 seconds left in the half, quarterback Elvis Grbac and running back Terry Kirby connected to make it 21-7.

Desmond Howard did not get on the field in time for the second-half kickoff. Don Beebe let the kickoff bounce past him, and the Niners recovered on the 4-yard line. On the next play, Grbac ran it in. It was a new game, 21-14.

The Packers regrouped and put together the decisive drive. They dug into the mud and ran the ball ten times on the 12-play drive. Though Edgar Bennett fumbled on the goal line, it was recovered in the end zone by Antonio Freeman! Freeman "lept from beneath the pile holding the football, and the victory, in his hand."¹ One minute later, after Terry Kirby's fumble, Edgar Bennett scored what should have been his third touchdown of the game to finish off San Francisco.

San Francisco **0** **7** **7** **0** **14**

Green Bay **14** **7** **7** **7** **35**

60,787

GB won its 17th straight home game.

"The bad weather had some wondering how many fans wouldn't show up. When the public address announcer announced the attendance of 60,787, he announced no-shows: Three!"²

"What a show they put on rolling in the mud like it was a sunny September afternoon. Wow!"³
Marguerite Cygan, Green Bay

"Female tailgaters seeking male tailgaters. We play to win." Lisa Brunner and her older sister, Susan Lemke, put that sign in their minivan's window parked next to Lambeau Field. They hoped

to attract a few good men on their way to the game. Unfortunately, “their luck was about as good as the 49ers’ performance.”⁴

“Packers pro personnel assistant Reggie McKenzie had two reasons to celebrate. Not only were the Packers big winners, but his wife, June, delivered a baby boy Friday night. ‘He (Reggie Jr.) might be cheering for the Pack right now,’ McKenzie said.”⁵

“James Lofton served as honorary captain for the game and watched the game from the auxiliary press box with his wife, Beverly. ‘It is quite an honor. We’re excited for the Packers. To get to a winning level is a whole different ball game.’”⁶

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/97, Havel, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/97, Dougherty/Morton, p. 17

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/97, p. 18

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/5/97, Stewart, p. 5c

5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/5/97, Gardner, p. 9c

6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/5/97, Gardner, p. 9c

1.12.1997

1996 NFC Championship Game

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 13

PACKERS 30

At kickoff, the temperature was three degrees with minus 17-degree wind chills. Like the Ice Bowl 30 years earlier, a bitterly cold day would send Green Bay back to the Super Bowl!

It was a rocky start, though, against the young franchise from North Carolina. An interception by linebacker Sam Mills helped the Panthers to an early 7-0 lead. In the second quarter, Favre fumbled near midfield, and Lamar Lathon recovered. A field goal followed that made it 10-7 Carolina.

In between the turnovers, Favre threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Dorsey Levens. Later in the second quarter, his 6-yard toss to Antonio Freeman gave Green Bay the lead 14-10. Just before halftime, a one-handed interception by cornerback Tyrone Williams helped extend the lead when Chris Jacke kicked the first of three field goals.

Favre directed six scoring drives of 73, 71, 48, 73, 74, and 36 yards! His passing and Green Bay’s ground game overwhelmed Carolina. Edgar Bennett and Dorsey Levens ran for 187 yards, and they broke free seven times for 20 yards or more.

The teams traded field goals in the third quarter for a 20-13 Green Bay lead. With two minutes left in the quarter, Favre led a decisive, 74-yard drive in three plays. Edgar Bennett took it home on a 4-yard run over right guard for a 27-13 lead. After Jacke’s third field goal sealed the deal, “the tiny franchise at the mouth of the mighty Fox ruled one-half of the football world again.”¹

Carolina 7 3 3 0 13
Green Bay 0 17 10 3 30
60,215

Total Yards: GB 479 CAR 251

*"This team and its town stuck together, side by side in sickness and in health, waiting for the cure."*²

*"When the Packers are this close to the Super Bowl, you want to be as close to Green Bay as you can be."*³ Steve Domitrovich, Ontonagon, Michigan

*"The victory celebration lasted into the evening at Merkle's Saloon near Little Sturgeon in Door County. 'I'm telling you it was great,' bartender Elaine Dart said. 'There were many people in their 30s crying. They've followed the Packers for so many years, and, finally, they get to feel what their parents felt. And now they're dancing,' she said. 'And we'll be dancing for the next two weeks.'"*⁴

*"Vince Lombardi wasn't here to say it, so Boyd Konowalski said it for him. 'Vince wants his trophy back,' proclaimed the sandwich board worn by the Green Bay resident. I bet 100 people have stopped me, and I've been here for about a half-hour."*⁵

*Giles Clark plays the accordion. "Whenever the Menasha resident gets the feeling, he brings his instrument to the Packers' parking lot on game days and takes requests. The crowd's favorite song? The Beer Barrel Polka. I love to come up and add to the experience."*⁶

*Several former Packers were on hand to watch the '96 Packers exorcize the ghosts of titles past. Bart Starr spoke for Jerry Kramer, Willie Davis, and Ray Nitschke when he said, "It's time for the other generation to have their champion. They have it. That's what we're so thrilled about."*⁷

*As Terry Bradshaw of FOX Sports presented the NFC Championship Trophy to the Packers, he felt someone "tugging at his south side. That something was Brett Favre's hand. 'He was goosing me on my butt, I'm trying to present the trophy, and this guy is grabbing me on my butt. I turn around, and he's (Favre) laughing.'"*⁸

*"On Sunday, we all will be in front of our consoles. The Green Bay Packers are Wisconsin. And if I'm not knowledgeable about Wisconsin, I'll still turn the game on. I feel as if I'm supposed to have the game on because even though my mother and father are gone, they would have wanted to see it. My father would crack open a beer, and my mother would fix herself a cup of cocoa, and they would give the New England Patriots hell. Isn't it wonderful, I think, how just by moving a ball around on a field, a bunch of guys I've never even met can give me back my parents, bring them back as young and innocent as they were in the beginning?"*⁹

*With the NFC Championship Trophy in hand, Reggie White told the Lambeau Field crowd, "Green Bay, I hope you are proud of us because we're proud of you."*¹⁰

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Bauman, Packers Extra, p. 1

2 Return to Glory, Super Bowl XXXI Anniversary, p. 54

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/97, Anderson, p. 28

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/97, Anderson, p. 28

5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/13/97, Stewart, p. 10

6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/13/97, Stewart, p. 10

7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/13/97, Lea, p. 5

8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/23/97, Wolfley, p. 8

9 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/97, Cherry, p. 6

10 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/19/97, Gardner, p. 7

1.26.1997

Super Bowl XXXI

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 21

PACKERS 35

Going “home” to play in the Super Bowl had to be a dream come true for quarterback Brett Favre. He grew up just one hour northeast of New Orleans, and he would play the most important game of his life in the Superdome.

For the Packers franchise, it had been for 28 years since Lombardi walked off the field a winner in Super Bowl II in 1968. For New England, before the game, rumors swirled about the future of coach Bill Parcells. In his fourth year with New England, Parcells was rumored to be on his way out after differences with ownership. The amount of attention that rumor received irritated some of the Packers.

The scoring started quickly, and the Packers jumped into the lead. “Favre was plenty loose coming out of the locker room,”¹ and on the second play from scrimmage, he audibled and threw a 54-yard touchdown pass to Andre Rison! The delirious “Gunslinger” charged downfield—helmet sky-high—to join the celebration.

A fast start continued four plays later with an interception by Doug Evans. It led to Chris Jacke’s field goal for a 10-0 Packers lead with less than six minutes gone. On New England’s next drive, a pass interference call against cornerback Craig Newsome put the ball at the Green Bay’s 1-yard line. Keith Byars took it in to make it 10-7.

New England’s speed on defense forced a quick three-and-out by Green Bay. On a third-and-one for New England, a gutsy call by Parcells fooled the Packers. Quarterback Drew Bledsoe dropped back used what LeRoy Butler called “the best play fake I’ve ever seen,”² for a 44-yard completion to Terry Glenn. It put the ball on Green Bay’s 4-yard line. Bledsoe and tight end Ben Coates connected for a 14-10 lead.

In the second quarter, Favre reclaimed the lead for good. In single coverage by rookie safety Lawyer Milloy, Antonio Freeman faked inside and headed toward the sideline. Favre hit him in stride in front of the New England bench for an 81-yard touchdown. It was the longest touchdown pass in Super Bowl history at the time!

Chris Jacke’s third field goal and Mike Prior’s interception helped extend the lead. Favre capitalized on the interception with a nine-play drive that culminated with his 2-yard run around left end for a 27-14 halftime lead.

Late in the third quarter, a seven-play drive by the Pats was capped off by Curtin Martin’s 18-yard touchdown run up the middle that made it 27-21. With a six-point lead, Green

Bay still had a game on its hands. Desmond Howard changed that quickly by returning the ensuing kickoff 99 yards to halt the momentum shift.

Those were the game's last points. Green Bay's defense held New England to 6 net yards in the fourth quarter. The Pats had trouble running the ball (43 yards), and Drew Bledsoe threw four interceptions. In the second half, Reggie White sacked Bledsoe three times to squash any comeback. Bledsoe was sacked five times overall.

Favre celebrated a Super Bowl win in New Orleans. The MVP Award went to Desmond Howard for his clutch 244 return yards. Howard, Favre (14-27-246-2-0), and a Reggie White-led defense put Green Bay back on top of the football world once again!

New England	14	0	7	0	21
Green Bay	10	17	8	0	35

*"John O'Neill, a corrections officer from Madison, might have been the most photographed object outside the Dome, not counting the dome itself. O'Neill was dressed in green-gold papal raiment's—complete with a staff topped with a wedge of cheese and a miter on which he had written 'St. Vince.' Packers and Patriot fans alike stopped to have their picture taken with O'Neill. Hundreds of them."*³

*"Just as the football players got dressed, prepared for the big game and put on their game faces Sunday, Bill Fonti and Tom Vickerman took several hours to transform themselves into lean, mean fighting Packers machines. The pair cruised the French Quarter in their Packers fan personas before taking their seats near the 50-yard line in the Superdome's upper deck. 'We've had 300 to 400 pictures taken of us,' said Fonti."*⁴

*Dick Schapp on the Lombardi Packers: "They wanted it so badly. I was sitting next to Fuzzy Thurston the last few minutes of the game; he was shivering, he was so excited. Bob Skoronski was here. Paul Hornung. Max McGee. Bart Starr was here. They're all excited."*⁵

*"Packer fans had a variety of headgear Sunday. Among them: Cheeseheads decorated with fish lures, tiny football players and little goal posts; a Cheesehead with a foam muskellunge sticking from the front and a yellow football stuck in its mouth; a Packers hard hat with a hurricane glass (for the drink, not the storm) glued to the top, three-tiered, green and gold pagoda hats; a Cheesehead with life-size plastic lobsters and crabs on top; a yellow cheese headband with two cheese antennas bobbing; and Cheesehead with a furry cow on top that was wearing little cheese wedge earrings."*⁶

*Former Packer great Jim Taylor celebrated the Packer win with current fans. "The Packers' Hall-of-Fame running back, who'll sign anything for \$20, slips off his ring from the Packers championship team 31 years ago and presents it to Gary Kowalke, 45, a plumbing contractor from Baraboo, Wis., and lifelong Packers fan. Kowalke is awed. Timidly he slips the ring on his own finger. A huge smile crosses his face. 'It's a beauty,' he says."*⁷

*"There are educated fans all across the country, but in terms of being there no matter what the temperature or the climate, Packer fans are unparalleled. And by climate, I don't mean weather, but climate in terms of how your team is doing. That's what really differentiates them from other fans around the league."*⁸

*Colleen Murphy hugged and kissed the frozen green walls of the stadium (Lambeau Field). "This is the best moment of my life," Murphy said, her arms stretched against the green wall, just below the yellow Packers lettering. "I'm going to cry."*⁹

*"I am saving the snow that fell on my car in the parking lot of Lambeau Field during the game. I'm going to melt it down, put it in a jar and save it,"*¹⁰ *said Jim Gittings of Moline, Illinois.*

*On Water Street in Downtown Milwaukee, "Many in the crowd tackled others in the snow, tore off their shirts and paraded a fake Lombardi trophy around the street."*¹¹

*Packer fan Chip Erwin said, "We're outnumbered by Chowderheads, but the Cheeseheads are having more fun."*¹²

*"Roger Van DeHay, drove 2,800 miles from his home in Gridley, California, to see the game. Why? 'In 1967-68, I was in Vietnam. I didn't get to see the game. That's why I am here.'"*¹³

*"It's time the Lombardi Trophy goes home to Lambeau Field where it belongs."*¹⁴ *Bob Harlan, Team President*

*A crowd estimated at 10,000 greeted the team on its arrival back in Green Bay in snowy, 20-degree temperatures. It took nearly three hours to make it from the airport to Lambeau Field. Thousands of fans lined the streets. "People on crutches hobbled over snow and ice to salute the buses. Nurses emerged from St. Vincent and Bellin hospitals in scrubs to wave their greetings. A woman in a wheelchair sat in the doorway of a home, holding a sign that simply said. 'Thank you.'"*¹⁵

*"And they engaged in more than a bit of nuttiness along the way. Some women bared their breasts for the buses. A group of bare-chested men spelled out "GO PACK" on their bodies with black electrical tape."*¹⁶

*"And some 30 minutes later, Michael Castle walked into a virtually empty stadium. He'd driven Monday to Green Bay from Beloit, he said, but his car broke down about 40 miles away. Alternately hitchhiking and walking, Castle managed to make it to Lambeau too late for the show, not too late to pay homage. He stood in the empty seats, held a newspaper aloft, and whooped for joy."*¹⁷

*"Other teams have fans. The Packers—The NFL's proudest franchise, owned by the people of the league's humblest city—have devotees."*¹⁸

*Reserve tackle John Michels of the Packers said, "I think it is safe to say we are the true America's Team. You don't see fans like this shut down an entire town."*¹⁹ *-John Michels, Green Bay Packers*

*"A Bay View couple waited until the Green Bay Packers delivered their Super Bowl victory before leaving for the hospital and a delivery of their own. The intense interest of Irene Galati and her husband, Santo, in watching the game on television, coupled with a missed signal that turned out to be labor, resulted in the couple barely making it to the hospital in time for the delivery. 'It happened so fast we could have had the baby in the house.'"*²⁰

1 Brett Favre, A Packers Fans Tribute, p. 89

2 The Road to Glory, McGinn, p. 166

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/1997, p. 23

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, Jones, p. 25

5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, Christl, p. 21

- 6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/1997, p. 23
- 7 USA Today, 1/27/97, Howlett, p. 7c
- 8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Extra, D'Amato, 1/27/97, p. 1
- 9 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, p. 6a
- 10 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, p. 6a
- 11 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, p. 6a
- 12 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, Heinen, p. 8a
- 13 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/97, Jones, p. 27
- 14 The Scrapbook History of Green Bay Packer Football, Zimmerman, p. 85
- 15 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, p. 5a
- 16 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, p. 5a
- 17 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, p. 5a
- 18 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, p. 5a
- 19 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, p. 1a
- 20 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/28/97, Rosenberg, p. 6a

1996

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	3	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Tampa Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Freeman
Rushing	Bennett
Scoring	Jacke
Interceptions	Robinson
Sacks	White

ALL-PRO

Butler	Safety
Favre	Quarterback
Howard	Punt Returner
Robinson	Safety
White	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

John Michels (1, OT)
 Derrick Mayes (2, WR)
 Mike Flanagan (3a, C)
 Tyronne Williams (3b, DB)
 Marco Rivera (6b, G)
 Keith McKenzie (7b, LB)



1997

Record: 13-3-0, Lost Super Bowl XXXII

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- The Packers named the two practice fields on opposite sides of the Don Hutson Center after two other Hall of Fame stars—Clarke Hinkle and Ray Nitschke. After winning the Super Bowl, a street was also named after Mike Holmgren—Holmgren Way.
- The defending champs made a few roster changes. Sean Jones and Keith Jackson retired. Desmond Howard, Chris Jacke, and Andre Rison were not re-signed.
- Brett Favre signed a 7-year contract for \$42 million, plus a signing bonus of \$12 million.
- In the preseason, Edgar Bennett tore his Achilles and was out for the year.
- The Packers finished second in points scored and fifth in points allowed. Their run defense dropped from fourth to twentieth.
- Brett Favre won his third straight MVP award. He shared it with Barry Sanders.
- Packers' President Bob Harlan: "We know there could come a time when we just won't have the money to stay competitive. And, well, I can't sit here and say that for 10, 15, or 20 years this stadium is going to be fine. Because I am not sure that it is."¹
- In November, the franchise launched its fourth stock sale. Funds would be used to renovate Lambeau Field. A share cost \$200, and sales continued into 1998.
- Green Bay lost to Denver in Super Bowl XXXII.

¹ Frozen In Time, Sports Illustrated, Great Football Writing, by Peter King, 2006

9.1.1997

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

PACKERS 38

"I always hated the Bears," said Merton Eberlein of Mauston, Wisconsin, celebrating his 95th birthday. He saw his first Packers game in 1922. "I took a bus to the east side. I stood on the sidelines, and they passed the hat, and I put a silver dollar in the hat."¹

The Super Bowl Champions opened against their biggest rival. Monday Night Football was there, and the national audience wasn't disappointed. The Packers, of course, were happy to smack around the bruins!

After a Green Bay field goal, the Bears scored the first touchdown. A botched extra point turned into a desperate two-point conversion caught by linebacker Jim Flanigan for an 8-3 lead. Brett Favre's fine outing started with two first-half touchdown passes. Doug Evans' interception set up the first to Jeff Thomason to retake the lead 11-8. After a Chicago field goal, Favre went five-for-five on Green Bay's next drive. Two passes went to Robert Brooks, which covered 62 yards, including the 18-yard touchdown that gave them the lead for good.

After Ryan Longwell nailed two more field goals in the third quarter, Dorsey Levens scored for a 31-11 lead with eight minutes left. The Bears scored twice in the final four minutes, but they also fumbled the ball on their 1-yard line, and Gabe Wilkins scored six more!

Chicago **0 11 0 13 24**
Green Bay **3 15 6 11 38**
60,766

GB's Craig Newsome injured his knee on the game's first play and was lost for the season.

Photo Caption: "Packer fans Jim Johnston, John Johnston, and Leo Liegeois dish-up black bear for Monday's tailgate festivities."²

"The people in Green Bay are simply the greatest," said Ruben Mendez, from Chicago, who came to the game with three pals and bravely wore a Bears jersey. "There's a lot of teasing, but it's really good-natured."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/2/97, Anderson, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/2/97, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/2/97, Anderson, p. 1

9.7.1997

PACKERS **9**

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **10**

Green Bay suffered its first loss since the previous November! They generated 380 yards of offense, but they couldn't get into the end zone. They kicked three field goals, and Brett Favre was chased all game by Philadelphia's blitzing defense. Though he was sacked only once, the pressure had the desired effect (19-41-279-0-1).

The game's only touchdown came late. With the Packers leading 9-3, the Eagles went on a 19-play march that wore down Green Bay's defense. Philly quarterback, former Packer Ty Detmer, marched the Eagles 80 yards and threw a short touchdown pass to Freddie Solomon with 1:56 left. Now trailing 10-9, rookie Bill Schroeder returned the kickoff 40 yards to help to set up a 28-field goal for fellow rookie Ryan Longwell. With 15 seconds

left, Longwell slipped on slick surface, and the kick went wide right. It was his first miss after six straight.

Green Bay 0 6 3 0 9
Philadelphia 0 0 3 7 10
66,803

Total Yards: GB 380 PHI 258

9.14.1997

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 18

PACKERS 23

Green Bay's defense shut down Miami quarterback Dan Marino and the undefeated Dolphins! Even though Gilbert Brown had to leave the game in the first quarter with an injured knee, Green Bay kept the Dolphins out of the end zone until it was too late to matter.

The Packers had no trouble with Dan Marino (21-47-240-1-1), and the Dolphins had trouble running the football (59 yards). Kicker Olindo Mare scored most of Miami's points with four field goals. The Dolphins only touchdown came with 1:37 left in the game on a Marino to Charles Jordan touchdown.

Brett Favre outplayed Marino (24-37-253-2-0), and his two touchdown passes went early to Antonio Freeman and late to William Henderson. Kicker Ryan Longwell bounced back with three field goals, and Dorsey Levens powered the ground attack with 121 yards.

As the defending champions, the 2-1 Packers were struggling to meet early season expectations. "They find themselves being measured by the quality of the victory, and in that respect, they haven't fared well."¹

Miami 6 3 3 6 18
Green Bay 0 10 3 10 23
60,075

Dave Robinson: "In this town everybody's a Green Bay Packers fan. This is the best place in the league to play football as far as fans and the town are concerned."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/97, Dougherty, p. 34

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/97, Dipko, p. 2

9.21.1997

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 32

PACKERS 38

Brett Favre threw four first-half touchdown passes to begin his five-touchdown day! Favre's touchdowns moved him past Bart Starr for the most touchdown passes in Packers' history. "We throw the ball a lot more, so I don't want to take anything away from Bart," Favre said.

After the Vikings took a 7-0 lead, Green Bay scored 31 unanswered points before halftime! Favre threw touchdowns went to Antonio Freeman (2), and one each to Robert Brooks and Terry Mickens. In the final quarter, his fifth touchdown pass went to Mark Chmura.

In the second half, two turnovers by the Packers were turned into two quick touchdowns from quarterback Brad Johnson to Chris Carter and Jake Reed. Reed caught a second score with 6:44 left in the game. Green Bay's halftime lead had almost vanished, 38-32.

It all came down to Minnesota's final drive. Green Bay's defense forced three straight incomplete passes to end the comeback! After the game, LeRoy Butler said about Brett Favre, "Guys were rushing him and kicking him and pushing him and spitting on him, and he's hanging in there delivering touchdowns."²

Minnesota 7 0 15 10 32

Green Bay 7 24 7 0 38

60,115

Favre's second touchdown pass to Freeman, #154, moved him past Bart Starr for most touchdown passes in Packers' history.

"I think it was after one of the Packers' touchdowns when someone behind me plunked a cheese hat on my head. So I wore it for a while."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/97, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/97, Dougherty, p. 32

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/97, Dipko, p. 2

9.28.1997

PACKERS 15

DETROIT

LIONS 26

Two field goals by Ryan Longwell started the scoring, but a pick-six in the second quarter by Reggie Brown of the Lions fueled the upset. Smith's touchdown kicked off a 17-point surge that included Scott Mitchell's touchdown pass to rookie tight end Pete Chryplewicz.

Quarterback Brett Favre's second interception led to a Lions field goal, and the Packers trailed at the break 17-9. But on the opening drive of the second half, a 7-yard touchdown pass from Favre to Bill Schroeder trimmed it to 17-15. The pass bounced off receiver Terry Mickens, and Bill Schroeder made a diving catch!

But that was it for the Packers offensively. Favre threw another interception that killed a drive, and Dorsey Levens fumbled on Detroit's 2-yard line to doom another. Great games by Barry Sanders (159 yds) and Jason Hanson's four field goals, helped them move into a second-place tie with Minnesota and Green Bay.

Green Bay 6 3 6 0 15
Detroit 0 17 3 6 26
78,110

"I don't think there are too many teams whose fans travel as well as the Packers fans do. Maybe Steelers fans, but that's about it. And a lot of times they're not even at the game, but they still came to the city where the Packers were playing. It's just such devotion to a team."¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 118

10.5.1997

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 16
PACKERS 21

The undefeated Bucs could not overcome a very productive second quarter by Green Bay. Two Brett Favre bullets to Antonio Freeman and a 77-yard pick-six by defensive end Gabe Wilkins made it 21-3 at halftime. Wilkins' pick came right after a Brett Favre fumble, and on the 77-yard return, he jumped over quarterback Trent Dilfer! A bailed-out Brett Favre praised Wilkins. "I am so happy for Gabe that I could've gone up to him and given him a great big kiss. I fumbled, and on the next play, he comes along and looks like O. J. Simpson running through the airport."¹

In the second half, after blocking a field goal, the Buccaneers rallied. With the absence of defensive tackle Gilbert Brown, the Bucs cut up the Packers for 217 yards on the ground. They put together two second-half touchdown drives of 63 and 90 yards to trim the lead to 21-16. Though Green Bay gave up too many yards (372), they stopped the Bucs at the end. On Tampa Bay's final drive, the Bucs moved past midfield into Green Bay territory. However, the defense clamped down on Warrick Dunn and company, and Tampa's clock management in the final seconds ended their comeback.

Tampa Bay 3 0 7 6 16
Green Bay 0 21 0 0 21
60,100

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/97, Havel, p. 30

10.12.1997

PACKERS 24

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

The Packers were 11.5 point favorites, but no one told the Bears (0-6). Chicago jumped in front 10-0 in the first quarter, and they outgained the Packers overall 353-227.

Brett Favre's second pass was intercepted and the Bears began on the Green Bay's 21. Raymont Harris scored on Chicago's third play. They followed with a field goal before Green Bay took notice. Favre brought the Packers back in the second quarter. The first touchdown completed an 11-play drive and the second followed an interception by linebacker Brian Williams, after Reggie White's deflection. Favre's second touchdown pass went to Dorsey Levens and Green Bay led at halftime.

Seven minutes into the second half, the Bears took the lead back on a 73-yard drive. Quarterback Erik Kramer scored on a 3-yard run. Eight plays later, Favre's second touchdown to Mark Chmura took it back, 21-17.

The fourth quarter was quiet until the final three minutes. Ryan Longwell's field goal extended the lead to 24-17, but the Bears weren't done. They went 67 yards in 30 seconds, and Kramer's 22-yard touchdown pass made the score 24-23 with 1:59 left. Instead of kicking the extra point for the tie, they elected to go for two. "Psychologically, for our football team, we wanted to go for the win," Bears' Coach Dave Wannstedt explained. An incomplete pass from Kramer to Raymont Harris sealed the deal, and the victorious Packers headed into their bye at 5-2.

Green Bay 0 14 7 3 24

Chicago 10 0 7 6 23

62,212

GB cashed in on two turnovers for 10 points.

10.27.1997

PACKERS 28

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 10

After the bye week, the Packers won their Super Bowl XXXI rematch on a Monday Night! Brett Favre torched the Patriots with three touchdown passes.

The scoring started early after a fumble recovery by Reggie White. An 81-yard drive and quarterback Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Dorsey Levens made it 7-0. New England capitalized on a fumble by Favre with a touchdown, and along with a field goal, they led

10-7 with two minutes left in the half. Favre executed the two-minute drill perfectly and closed the half with a 32-yard strike to Mark Chmura for a 14-10 lead.

New England went quietly in the second half. After a goal-line-stand by Green Bay, Favre took them 99 yards for another touchdown. A 19-yard touchdown pass to Robert Brooks completed Green Bay's third long scoring drive of the game—75, 99, and 86 yards! For good measure, Dorsey Levens scored on a 15-play, 85-yard drive late in the game to wrap things up.

"Both teams had changed considerably since Super Bowl XXXI. The Patriots have a new coach Pete Carroll, and the Packers have been hurt by injuries. But Green Bay still has Favre."¹

Green Bay 7 7 7 7 28
New England 0 10 0 0 10
59,972

*"A New London, Wisconsin man, and his son, who were cheated out of seeing the 1996 NFC Championship Game last year, will get to see a Packer game next month for free, thanks to a local tavern owner who read about their ordeal. Charles Runge, 49, and Todd Runge, 27, paid a scalper \$230 for two tickets to the 1/12/1997 game at Lambeau Field between the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers. The tickets turned out to be counterfeit, and the Runge's were ejected from Lambeau Field. They got home to watch the second half on television. Danny Shandor, who owns Packer Stadium Lounge 1342 S. Broadway with his wife Kathy, read about the Runge's tale in the Press-Gazette. 'My wife said it was a shame how they were done wrong.' So the Shandors offered the Runge's two tickets to the Sunday, Nov. 9 game against the St. Louis Rams. 'We're real appreciative of them,' Runge said. Their offer says a lot about the people of Green Bay."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1997 Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/97, Hoeft, p. 1

11.2.1997

DETROIT

LIONS 10
PACKERS 20

It was sweet payback for September as quarterback Brett Favre and a stingy defense showed the way. The Lions took an early 7-0 lead until Favre found Robert Brooks from 23 yards away to tie it in the second quarter. From that point forward, it was all Packers.

The Packers' defense played its best game of the season. They stole four passes from quarterback Scott Mitchell and sacked him four times. LeRoy Butler grabbed two of the interceptions, and rookie safety Darren Sharper's 50-yard pick-six gave Green Bay a lead that it never lost.

In the third quarter, with Green Bay leading 14-10, the Lions recovered a fumbled punt

on Green Bay's 17-yard line. Three plays later, Doug Evans ended the threat with an interception of Scott Mitchell. The defense controlled Detroit's big weapons. Barry Sanders was held to 32 yards in the first half and 105 for the game. Lions' receiver Herman Moore caught nine passes for only 50 yards! Neither star scored a touchdown, and Reggie White explained, "We did a good job against Barry Sanders, particularly in the first half. We wanted to make them throw the ball, and that's what we did."¹

Detroit **7 3 0 0 10**
Green Bay **0 14 3 3 20**
60,126

Total Yards: GB 244 DET 256

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/3/97, p. 31

11.9.1997
ST. LOUIS

RAMS **7**
PACKERS **17**

For the first time this season, Brett Favre threw for over 300 yards! Antonio Freeman was his favorite target with seven catches for 160 yards and a touchdown. The only points in the first half, however, came on Ryan Longwell's 44-yard field goal!

After halftime, the Packers stormed out of their locker room and scored the first time they had the ball. They went 80-yards in seven plays, with Freeman grabbing a 25-yard touchdown pass for a 10-0 edge. Late in the third quarter, the Rams scored to narrow the lead to three.

On Green Bay's next drive, Favre got the points back with a 79-yard march that he finished with a 7-yard run. The defense had another strong outing giving up just 269 yards. They stopped the run (66 yards) and delivered four sacks.

The Pack's 21st straight win at home set a new team record surpassing the 1929-31 teams.

St. Louis **0 0 7 0 7**
Green Bay **0 3 7 7 17**
60,093

The 24 penalties were the most in a Green Bay game since 1984.

Go Pack Go! "The Lord and I, well, we had a little talk earlier today," said Sister Barbara Mathe, a Catholic nun from Kaukauna. "He had a serious listen, and I had a serious talk, actually."¹

"If Lindy Infante can last the week, next Sunday's game will be the first regular-season contest in 45 years in which the Packers have opposed a former head coach. The last such meeting occurred on October 5, 1952, when Gene Ronzani's Packers defeated former Packers' coach Curly Lambeau's Washington Redskins 35-20 in Milwaukee's Marquette Stadium before 9,657 fans."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/97, Dipko, p. 2
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/97, Goska, p. 42

11.16.1997

PACKERS 38
INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS 41

The winless Colts, coached by former Packers' head coach Lindy Infante, upset Green Bay. The game had plenty offensive fireworks with 908 total yards, and the lead changed hands seven times.

Brett Favre threw three touchdown passes and two interceptions! Dorsey Levens scored three touchdowns, and Antonio Freeman scored twice. The Packers led 14-3, fell behind 24-14, reclaimed the lead 31-30 before losing on a field goal as time expired.

The Colts staged the upset with backup quarterback Paul Justin calling the plays. He threw for 340 yards and one touchdown. Four different Colts scored, and Cory Blanchard kicked four field goals. Favre's two interceptions and fumble set up the Colts for 17 points. "I'd be lying if I said this wasn't really special. I'm human like everyone else,"¹ said a smiling Lindy Infante.

Green Bay 14 14 0 10 38
Indianapolis 9 18 3 11 41
60,928

GB's gave up 467 yards, the most since 1992.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/97, Havel, p. 35

11.23.1997

DALLAS

COWBOYS 17
PACKERS 45

Eight straight losses to Dallas were enough. The Packers delivered some serious payback and proved their superiority on many fronts. Brett Favre threw four touchdown passes with three in the second half. The running game pounded Dallas for 220 yards. Behind a strong offensive line, Dorsey Levens set a new franchise record with 190 yards!

A 10-10 first half featured Favre's first touchdown pass to Dorsey Levens. Dallas enjoyed a 50-yard pick-six by Deion Sanders, but after a 10-10 first half, it was all Green Bay! Green Bay scored every time it had the ball in the second half. Tight end Mark Chmura (5-52-2) scored twice in the third quarter on two short touchdown passes from Favre. Early in the fourth quarter, a touchdown run by the Cowboys' Emmitt Smith kept it close, 24-17. Favre

and the Packers put it away with authority scoring the next 21 points, including a fourth touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman.

Late in the game, Deion Sanders of the Cowboys reminded Favre of his 50-yard pick-six in the second quarter. "Sanders playfully raised one finger to signify the play. Favre responded by raising four, one for each of the touchdown passes he threw against a reeling Cowboy defense that came in ranked #1 against the pass."¹

Green Bay's defense contained the Cowboys allowing 213 yards. Emmitt Smith ran for only 53 yards, and Dallas was outscored in the second half, 35-7. "There's no question as to who was the better team."² said safety, LeRoy Butler. With the win, the 9-3 Packers took over sole possession of first place in the NFC Central.

Dallas **3 7 0 7 17**
Green Bay **7 3 14 21 45**
60,111

Total Yards: GB 409 DAL 213

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/97, Havel, p. 33

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/97, Dougherty, p. 32

12.1.1997

PACKERS **27**
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS **11**

On the day of this Monday Night Football game, a radio personality in the Twin Cities claimed Brett Favre had been in a hotel room with a woman other than his wife. The accusation spread like wildfire, but it was proven to be a lie. The radio personality was fired. Such was the intensity of the rivalry in late 1997 when the Packers and Vikings met in Minnesota. Fortunately, the Packers won the game and clinched a playoff berth. It was also Mike Holmgren's first win over the Vikings in the Metrodome!

The Packers swept the season series with fine games from Brett Favre and Dorsey Levens. With the game tied 3-3 late in the first half, an 88-yard drive and Favre's touchdown pass to Robert Brooks put Green Bay in front. In the second half, Levens, who ran for 108 yards, scored twice. His touchdowns followed an interception and a fumble recovery by cornerback Doug Evans.

The Packers pulled away as the defense gave up only 253 yards compared to the 393 they put on the Packers in September. Quarterback Brad Johnson was sacked six times, and Reggie White had a hand in 2.5 of them.

Green Bay **3 7 7 0 27**
Minnesota **0 3 0 8 11**
64,001

*Rick Hanson, Packers Fan: "Thank you to all the Packer fans in the dome tonight. You've done your job."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/97, p. 41

12.7.1997

PACKERS 17

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 6

The Packers won the NFC Central for a third straight year as Brett Favre and the Green Bay defense smacked down the Buccaneers.

Favre threw two touchdown passes, and the defense dominated. The Packers gave up two field goals, eight first downs, and 161 total yards. They also ravaged the Bucs with four sacks, one pick, and a fumble recovery!

Tampa Bay led 3-0 when Favre stepped into the pocket and found Robert Brooks open for a 43-yard missile and a 7-3 lead. After halftime, Favre stunned the Florida crowd when he flicked a pass across his body at the last moment to Dorsey Levens for a touchdown and a 14-6 lead! "He does things out there on the football field that you really can't plan for,"¹ acknowledged Tony Dungy, Tampa's coach.

Ryan Longwell completed the scoring with a 27-yard boot in the fourth quarter. Favre played very well (25-33-280-2-1), and he became the first quarterback in history to throw for more than 30 touchdowns four seasons in a row.

Green Bay 7 0 7 3 17

Tampa Bay 3 3 0 0 6

75,523

*Brett Favre: "The Packer fans are the best fans in the league. It really makes a difference when you're ahead (on the road) to hear the home team getting booed."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/7/97, Dougherty, p. 36

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/97, Havel, p. 37

12.14.1997

PACKERS 31

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 10

The last time these teams met, the winner went to Super Bowl XXXI. While the stakes weren't quite as high, the Packers did end Carolina's playoff hopes for 1997 with this win.

Brett Favre's hot streak continued with three touchdown passes. Antonio Freeman led all receivers with 10 catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns. The ground game also punished the Panthers with 218 yards. "When I thought they were going to pass, they ran, and when I thought they were going to run, they passed. We never seemed to get it right,"¹ said defensive tackle Les Miller.

On the road without an injured Gilbert Brown (ankle), the Packers still held Carolina to 172 total yards. It was their fourth straight strong defensive performance, with Carolina's only touchdown coming in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Kerry Collins completed just seven of 26 passes for 56 yards, and it was only the "fifth time in the last 37 years that Green Bay has held an opponent to a completion percentage of less than 30 percent."²

Green Bay	14	3	7	7	31
Carolina	0	3	0	7	10

70,887

Total Yards: GB 458 CAR 172

Deborah Gaesswitz, Packers Fan: "The 1997 season was it! It ended with the Pack winning its second consecutive NFC Championship but losing to John Elway's Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII. We have so many great memories. My husband, Lou, was a diehard Marine and Packers fan. We loved the gunslinger, Brett Favre! Lou passed away in 2008, and I got this memory tattoo of the Packers "G" in 2009."

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/97, Hoogervorst, p. 33

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/97, Gozka, p. 34

12.20.1997

BUFFALO

BILLS	21
PACKERS	31

The Packers won their 26th consecutive game at Lambeau Field to finish the 1997 regular season 13-3. After two Brett Favre touchdown passes built a 21-0 lead, back-up Steve Bono replaced him in the second half.

For the first time in Green Bay's history, two receivers, Antonio Freeman and Robert Brooks, finished a season with over 1,000 receiving yards. Running back Dorsey Levens, with 1,435 yards rushing, finished 40 yards short of breaking Jim Taylor's all-time single-season rushing record.

Buffalo	0	0	8	13	21
Green Bay	17	7	3	7	31

60,108

"For Garth Seiler and Mike Drexler, it's a once-a-week tradition. Seiler and Drexler, both from Oshkosh (Wisconsin), watch every home game in the (Lambeau Field) parking lot while friends go into the stadium. 'We do this every week,' said Seiler, 43, 'We come out for the party before the

game and after the game. Plus, it's warmer in the van."¹

*"The Green Bay Press-Gazette makes its move into cyberspace today with the debut of its Packer-dominated internet site."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/97, Bruss p. 2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/97, Content, p. 1

1.4.1998

1997 NFC Divisional Playoff

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 7

PACKERS 21

After overcoming six dropped passes and seven penalties, the Packers defeated Tampa Bay for the third time this season in a hard-fought defensive battle. To many fans, it appeared that the Packers took the Bucs too lightly.

Quarterback Brett Favre put Green Bay on the scoreboard after they blocked a Tampa Bay field goal attempt. Favre and Mark Chmura hooked up for a 7-0 lead, and two Ryan Longwell field goals stretched it to 13-0.

Antonio Freeman's 90-yard kickoff return to start the second half was called back on a holding call. Green Bay drove to Tampa's 25 before cornerback Donnie Abraham made the first of his two interceptions. He grabbed Favre's pass on Tampa's 6-yard line, and the Bucs went 94 yards to narrow the lead to 13-7.

Dorsey Levens saved the day for Green Bay with an outstanding second half. He ran for 94 of his 112 yards after intermission. In the fourth quarter, his touchdown run made it a 14-point lead with Favre's two-point conversion on quarterback draw! "When we went up 21-7, I knew it was over,"¹ Favre said later.

Gilbert Brown's return also solidified the defense as backs Warrick Dunn and Mike Alstott were held to 90 yards. In Tampa's first postseason appearance since 1982, they scored only seven points on three turnovers by Green Bay.

Tampa Bay 0 0 7 0 7

Green Bay 7 6 0 8 21

60,327

*"Here's your chance to nominate the No. 1 family of Green Bay Packers fans. We're looking for families with the wackiest, most outrageous, or just plain total devotion to the green and gold. Tell us in a few lines why your nominee is No. 1. The deadline is Noon Wednesday."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/98, Havel, p. 28

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/98, p. 1

1.11.1998

1997 NFC Championship Game

PACKERS **23**

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **10**

"When we saw the rain and sloppy field, we said to ourselves, 'This is our weather,' said Antonio Freeman. "We felt like we were at home."¹ With another Super Bowl appearance hanging in the balance, the final score did not reflect how convincingly the Packers beat the 49ers.

Green Bay's defense stole the show. They kept the 49ers out of the end zone until a 95-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter. They sacked Steve Young four times and held the 49ers to 33 yards rushing!

Green Bay took the early lead on a Ryan Longwell field goal. Then, Eugene Robinson's 58-yard interception return set up Green Bay's first touchdown. Two plays later, Brett Favre and Antonio Freeman connected for six from the 27!

With a 10-3 lead in the fourth quarter, the Packers put it away. Two more field goals by Longwell and a fourth-quarter touchdown run by Dorsey Levens took care of business. Levens had another huge game with 114 yards rushing, and he caught four passes for another 27. Green Bay's defense kept the lid on Steve Young, who threw for 250 yards and no touchdowns. The Packers looked ready to defend their Super Bowl title!

Green Bay 3 10 0 10 23

San Francisco 0 3 0 7 10

68,987

Total Yards: GB 325 SF 257

*Gary Plummer, 49ers Linebacker: "What the Packers and their fans care about is winning. For so many other teams, it's about the money. You just don't see that kind of attitude anymore."*²

*At 1:15 a.m., about 1,000 fans were on hand to welcome home the Packers. "You can sleep any day of the year," said Trisha Kann of Green Bay as she stood next to her sister and mother at the front of the waiting area. "This is more exciting."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/12/98, Dougherty, p. 28

2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 6

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/12/98, Dipko, p. 1

1.25.1998

Super Bowl XXXII

PACKERS 24

DENVER

BRONCOS 31

The Denver Broncos, the AFC wild card winner, hoped to win their first Super Bowl. The Packers were the defending champions and riding a seven-game winning streak. Green Bay was favored by 11-points, and the Broncos looked like easy prey.

The favored defending champions received most of the pre-game attention. Their explosive offense and dominant defense were intimidating, and there was some pre-game talk of a possible dynasty in the making. Denver went along with all the flattery and "bit their tongues for two weeks."¹ The Packers were said to be invincible!

Green Bay took the opening drive and marched 76 yards for Brett Favre's touchdown to Antonio Freeman and a 7-0 lead! Denver came back to tie it on Terrell Davis' first touchdown run. Davis followed a quick and agile offensive line that frequently got the best of Green Bay's front seven, especially as the game wore on. Though Terrell Davis missed the second quarter with a severe migraine, he ran all over the Packers for 157 yards and three touchdowns.

The next two possessions were a disaster for Favre. He turned the ball over twice with an interception and a fumble. The pick, by Tyrone Braxton, led to quarterback John Elway's 1-yard touchdown run. On the third play from scrimmage after Denver's touchdown, Favre fumbled after being hit by safety Steve Atwater. Denver capitalized with a field goal and gave themselves a 17-7 lead.

With 7:38 to go before the half, Favre bounced back. He took the Packers on a 17-play drive that covered 95 yards. On the drive, he completed nine of 13 passes, and with 17 seconds left in the half, a 6-yard pass to Mark Chmura cut the Broncos' lead to 17-14.

On Denver's first play from scrimmage in the second half, Terrell Davis fumbled on his 23-yard line. The Packers had to settle for a field goal and a 17-17 tie. Two drives later, the Broncos stormed 92-yards, and John Elway made the play of the game. On third-and-six at the 12-yard line, Elway took off to his right. As he left for the first down at the 7-yard line, he was hit by both LeRoy Butler and Mike Prior, which sent him "pinwheeling to earth at the four."² Two plays later, Davis scored his second touchdown of the game for a 24-17 lead. The Broncos eyed an upset.

When Antonio Freeman fumbled the ensuing kickoff on the 22-yard line, Denver recovered. Fortunately, safety Eugene Robinson stole Elway's first pass. On cue, Favre threw four straight completions to Freeman and Brooks, and his third pass to Freeman went for a 13-yard touchdown. Longwell tied it at 24 with 13:32 left.

The break for Denver came on a short, 39-yard punt by Craig Hentrich that gave the Broncos the ball on Green Bay's 49 with 3:27 left. Elway, Davis, and fullback Howard Griffith pounded Green Bay's tired defense to the 1-yard line in four plays. Coach Holmgren made a controversial call. To get the ball back as soon as possible, he let Terrell Davis score from the one for a 31-24 Denver lead with 1:47 left. "Even if you buy his (Holmgren's) statement that he thought it was first down instead of second down before Davis scored—which would have allowed Denver to kill more time—the truth remains. The Packer coach stopped believing in the Packer magic. Somewhere about now, Ray Nitschke is gnashing both of his teeth."³

Trailing 31-24 at their 30-yard line, the Packers had 1:39 left. Favre stayed hot with four straight completions to Dorsey Levens. With 42 seconds left at Denver's 31-yard line, Favre went cold with three incompletions. The defending champs were dethroned.

Green Bay 7 7 3 7 24
Denver 7 10 7 7 31
68,912

Rushing: GB 95 DEN 179

1 The Ultimate Super Bowl Book, McGinn, p. 244

2 The Ultimate Super Bowl Book, McGinn, p. 245

3 Los Angeles Times, 1/27/98, Plaschke

1997

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	3	0
Tampa Bay	10	6	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Chicago	4	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Freeman
Rushing	Levens
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	Butler
Sacks	White

ALL-PRO

Butler	Safety
Evans	Cornerback
Favre	Quarterback
Hentrich	Punter
Jervey	Special Teams
White	Defensive End

Williams

Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Ross Verba (1, OT)

Darren Sharper (2, S)

Brett Conway (3, K)



1998

Record: 11-5-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Mike Holmgren

- The team's fourth stock sale was a big success. It raised \$24 million for the Lambeau Field renovation. The shareholders met at Lambeau and 18,707 owners attended.
- Though it was their seventh straight winning season, the Packers did not return to the Super Bowl. Their home winning streak during the regular season ended at 28.
- Reggie White retired at the end of the season. With 16 sacks, he was named the Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press.
- Brett Favre signed a seven-year contract that made him the highest-paid player in NFL history. Dorsey Levens held out through training camp. Ten days after signing, he broke his leg and missed nine games. Edgar Bennett signed with the Bears.
- The performance of both the offense and defense slipped from 1997.
- Speculation about Mike Holmgren's future in Green Bay increased. Five days after the season ended, he resigned and took a position with the Seattle Seahawks.

9.6.1998

DETROIT

LIONS **19**

PACKERS **38**

The defense set the tone for this opener by holding Barry Sanders to 70 yards rushing.

After a Ryan Longwell field goal, Packer linebacker Brian Williams stripped quarterback Scott Mitchell of the ball. LeRoy Butler picked it up and went 32 yards for a 10-0 lead. Favre also looked sharp in the first half (11-16-107), and Dorsey Levens scored on a 4-yard run to complete an 80-yard drive.

Trailing 17-6 at halftime, Detroit scored on the opening drive of the second half with a 25-yard touchdown pass from Mitchell to Herman Moore. It stayed 17-12 until there were 17 seconds left in the quarter when Favre threw the first of two touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman. The Packers led, 24-12.

The teams then traded back-to-back kickoff returns for over 100 yards!! The returners Terry Fair and Roell Preston "became the first players to return kickoffs back-to-back for touchdowns in Packers' annals."¹ With a 31-19 lead late, an interception by safety Mike Prior and Favre's 84-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman finished the scoring!

Detroit **3 3 13 0 19**
Green Bay **10 7 7 14 38**
60,102

Favre: 24-32-277-2-0

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/7/98, Goska, p. 42

9.13.1998

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS **15**
PACKERS **23**

A rematch of the previous year's playoff game was a satisfying and costly win for Green Bay. Quarterback Brett Favre had another strong outing, but the Packers lost running back Dorsey Levens with a broken leg.

The Packers' defense was hard to handle. They sacked Tampa quarterbacks Trent Dilfer and Steve Walsh six times. Reggie White landed three of them! The Buccaneers also turned the ball over four times. Trent Dilfer's fumble in the first quarter led to Brett Favre's first touchdown pass to Tyrone Davis. Three Ryan Longwell field goals finished the first-half scoring.

Green Bay's only points in the second half came on a 38-yard Favre to Antonio Freeman touchdown for a 23-0 lead. In the final six minutes, Tampa Bay scored twice. It mattered little as Brett Favre outgunned the Bucs again (22-33-237-2-0). Though Warren Sapp sacked Favre twice, he commented later, "We're just out there having fun."¹ Favre undoubtedly would agree.

Tampa Bay **0 0 0 15 15**
Green Bay **10 6 0 7 23**
60, 124

The combined total yardage for both teams was 471 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/98, Demovsky, p. 36

9.20.1998

PACKERS 13

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 6

The Packers were 3-0 for only the 12th time in their history. "Our defensive line basically took the game over,"¹ linebacker Brian Williams said. The front four controlled the trenches, and the Bengals ran for just 28 yards and gave up three sacks.

In a game of field goals, Cincinnati took the early lead. Midway through the first quarter, the Packers hit back with Robert Brooks' spectacular catch in the end zone for a 7-3 lead. After trading field goals, Green Bay ended the first half with a goal-line stand that set the tone for the rest of the game.

Offensively, running back Raymont Harris, acquired after Dorsey Levens was injured, ran for 76 yards in his first action. The game's final points came on Ryan Longwell's field goal at the start of the fourth quarter. The Bengals were held to 160 total yards. The difference was Brett Favre, who threw for 274 yards, and the game's only touchdown.

Green Bay 7 3 0 3 13

Cincinnati 3 3 0 0 6

56,346

Total Yards: GB 328 CINN 160

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/98, p. 1

9.27.1998

PACKERS 37

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 30

For the third straight time, Green Bay defeated Carolina. The Panthers got off to a quick 10-0 start, but quarterback Brett Favre continued his mastery over Carolina with five touchdown passes and 388 yards passing.

In the first half, Favre threw touchdowns to Mark Chmura (25 yards), Derrick Mayes (21 yards), and Tyrone Davis (20 yards). Carolina kept pace with a 16-yard pick-six by Eric Davis and a touchdown pass from Kerry Collins to Raghib Ismail.

After a 20-20 first half, Green Bay took control in the final 30 minutes. Two more Favre touchdown passes went to Derrick Mayes, who had five catches for 87 yards and three touchdowns. Mayes' second touchdown catch gave Green Bay the lead for good, 27-20.

The defense kept Carolina contained. "Reggie White and rookie Vonnie Holiday played havoc with Carolina quarterback Kerry Collins. Each sacked Collins twice."¹ They also defended three passes, and White forced a fumble. Green Bay stayed on top of the Panthers and moved to 4-0.

Green Bay	6	14	10	7	37
Carolina	10	10	0	10	30

69,723

Total Yards: GB 487 CAR 230

¹ packershistory.net/1998

10.5.1998

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 37

PACKERS 24

On a rainy Monday night, the undefeated Packers were brought down to earth by the undefeated Vikings. The loss snapped Green Bay's home winning streak at 28.

Quarterback Brett Favre had an awful game (13-23-114-0-3.) He threw three picks, and the Packers never had the lead. After the Packers tied it 10-10 on Roell Preston's 101-yard kickoff return, it was all Vikings. Quarterback Randall Cunningham sliced and diced the Packers' defense for 442 yards—the most ever against the Packers to date. He threw four touchdown passes, with two going to the sensational and outspoken Randy Moss, a rookie, who burned the Packers for 190 yards on just five catches.

The Packers didn't score again until they trailed 37-10 with under five minutes left. Green Bay fan Ed Beale said it perfectly, "This was an old-fashioned butt-kicking."¹

Minnesota	3	21	3	10	37
Green Bay	0	10	0	14	24

59,849

Total Yards: GB 306 MINN 545

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/98, Langenkamp/Gorczyca, p. 1

10.15.1998

PACKERS 20

DETROIT

LIONS 27

After the bye week, the Packers were upset on the artificial turf of the Silverdome. On a Thursday night, Brett Favre passed for 300 yards and two touchdowns. He also tossed

three interceptions, which the Lions turned into 10 points.

Green Bay scored early with a 65-yard touchdown strike from Favre to Antonio Freeman. After field goals by Ryan Longwell and Jason Hanson, the Lions evened it up before halftime. Safety Mark Carrier intercepted Favre, and rookie quarterback Charlie Batch made it count with a 3-yard toss to tight end Paul Chryplewicz for a 10-10 game.

A Ryan Longwell field goal made it 13-10, but the Lions took it from there. Nine seconds into the fourth quarter, rookie quarterback Charlie Batch found another rookie, Germane Crowell, for a 68-yard touchdown. Crowell's amazing one-handed catch gave them the edge, 17-13. Then, midway through the quarter, Barry Sanders cut left and went 73 yards to put the game away. The touchdown topped off a great game by Sanders of 155 yards rushing, 27 yards receiving, and one touchdown.

Green Bay 10 0 3 7 20
Detroit 0 10 0 17 27
77,932

*Headline: "Nitschke Bridge gets stuck open; traffic snarls"*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/98, Cioni, p. 1

10.25.1998
BALTIMORE

RAVENS 10
PACKERS 28

The Packers took a first-quarter lead and never looked back! With less than two minutes gone, Roell Preston zig-zigged his way through the Ravens on a 71-yard punt return and a 7-0 lead. Near the end of the first quarter, the Packers switched to a no-huddle offense and marched 69 yards for a Brett Favre touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. The no-huddle offense kept the Ravens' defense in check, and as Favre pointed out, "It's hard to call blitzes when you can't huddle up."¹

After halftime, Favre and Robert Brooks made it 21-0 on Brooks' diving catch for a 28-yard touchdown. "It was great to see him come in, make some big catches, and also get in the end zone and do his famous jump in the stands (Lambeau Leap)."²

After the Ravens got on the board with a field goal, an interception by LeRoy Butler set up the clincher. Four plays later, Favre scored from the 4-yard line (28-3). The Packers ran 18 more offensive plays, and the defense held Baltimore to 56 yards rushing. The win stopped Green Bay's two-game losing streak.

Baltimore 0 0 3 7 10
Green Bay 14 0 14 0 28
59,860

Penalties: GB 9-70 BAL 12-98

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/98, Dougherty, p. 32

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/98, Spofford, p. 36

11.1.1998

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 22

PACKERS 36

Brett Favre and Antonio Freeman dominated this game. Favre threw for almost 300 yards along with three touchdowns and three interceptions. Freeman caught seven passes for 193 yards and two scores. The Packers' defense also shined. They sacked 49ers quarterback Steve Young nine times. Reggie White delivered three sacks, and overall, the defense allowed 266 yards.

Brett Favre was "awesome, and he was awful."¹ The Packers took control with Favre's two touchdown passes in the first quarter to Freeman and Robert Brooks. But Steve Young kept the Niners close. A touchdown pass to Jerry Rice and Young's touchdown run made it 19-13 at halftime.

The 49ers took the lead after back-to-back picks of Brett Favre. After the first interception, running back Garrison Hearst sprinted 30 yards to the end zone. After the second interception, the 49ers took the lead 22-19.

The Packers owned the fourth quarter. Ryan Longwell's field goal was followed by Favre's 62-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman for a 29-22 lead. Defensive tackle Santana Dotson recovered a fumble by Steve Young on San Francisco's 11. On the first play after the turnover, Travis Jerve's touchdown put the game away. "My hat is off to the Packers. They're still the team to beat,"² said 49ers coach Steve Mariucci.

San Francisco 6 7 9 0 22

Green Bay 16 3 0 17 36

59,794

Favre's second touchdown pass to Freeman moved him past Bart Starr to become Green Bay's all-time leading passer with 24,720 yards.

On Brett Favre: "I have a picture in my office where I was standing at pregame warm-ups before a regular-season game between us and the Packers in 1998. I'm playing catch with Steve Young, and suddenly some balls go flying by me. I look over, and Favre's on the other side of the field, and he's throwing balls at me. He comes over and says, 'Steve, let's get a picture.' So Vernon Biever took a picture of the three of us at the 50-yard line. It was just like old friends. It was crazy. It's a classic photo of the three of us. But that was Brett. Before a game, and he wants to get a photo. And the Packers beat us."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/98, Havel, p. 41

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/98, Demovsky/Dougherty, p. 43

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 138

11.9.1998

PACKERS 20

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 27

A disaster unfolded at the confluence of the three rivers. The final score doesn't adequately explain how badly the Packers were beaten on this Monday Night.

The Steelers scored the first five times they had the ball. Pittsburgh carved up Green Bay, and quarterback Kordell Stewart led the charge. In the first quarter, Stewart threw one touchdown pass, and he ran for a score as well. "They basically took it to us and we were in a hole we couldn't come out of,"¹ said linebacker George Koonce.

The Steelers led 27-0 midway through the third quarter when Green Bay found some traction. Green Bay scored 20 unanswered points and made the final score respectable. One of the touchdowns was an 88-yard pick-six by cornerback Mike McKenzie. Ryan Longwell's 37-yard field goal cut the lead to seven with 2:40 left. But Steeler fullback Jerome Bettis, who ran for 100 yards overall, couldn't be stopped when it counted in the fourth quarter.

Green Bay 0 0 3 17 20

Pittsburgh 14 10 3 0 27

60,507

Total Yards: GB 256 PITT 360

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/98, Havel, p. 36

11.15.1998

PACKERS 37

NEW YORK

GIANTS 3

The Packers "played their most complete game of the season and throttled the New York Giants."¹ Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes to tight end Tyrone Davis and the first was the 200th touchdown pass of his career.

Favre directed an assault that amassed 433 yards and controlled the football for 39 minutes! The offensive line responded to a challenge from Holmgren, and Darick Holmes became the first Packers running back this season to top 100 yards. He ran for 111 yards and scored one touchdown.

The defense completely shut down New York. Reggie White had two of the five sacks that hammered quarterbacks Danny Kannel and Kent Graham to the turf. The 127 total yards

they gave up were the fewest the Packers had allowed since 1985 when they held Tampa Bay to 65 in the infamous "Snow Bowl." After the game, White said, "We need this for six more games in the regular season."²

Green Bay 7 13 10 7 37
New York 0 3 0 0 3
76,272

¹ packershistory.net/1998Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/98, p. 1

11.22.1998

PACKERS 14

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 28

This one did sting. The Packers' three-game road trip ended with a dud. The defeat dropped them three games back in the division, and it gave the Vikings their first sweep of the season series since 1993.

On the fourth play from scrimmage, Brett Favre dropped the football, and the Vikings recovered to kick a field goal. Later in the quarter, a 58-yard pick-six by Jimmy Hitchcock made it 10-0 Vikings after 15 minutes.

Gary Anderson's second field goal made the score 13-0, but Favre got seven back with a touchdown pass to tight end Tyrone Davis. Minnesota retaliated with 24 seconds left in the half on quarterback Randall Cunningham's touchdown to Cris Carter.

Still trailing 20-7 in the fourth quarter, Brett Favre completed nine of 10 passes, including a second touchdown to red-hot Tyrone Davis. It cut the lead to seven with eight minutes left. The Vikings wasted no time, and six plays later, Randall Cunningham's 49-yard bomb to Randy Moss "put the Packers out of their misery and in all likelihood out of the NFC Central Division race."¹

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14
Minnesota 10 10 0 8 28
64,471

Most Packer fans hadn't lost faith in their team. As Linda Robinson of Oneida put it, "We're going to do it. We may not win our division, but we'll make it through the Super Bowl. I have faith in my boys."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/98, Demovsky, p. 34

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/98, Gorczyk, p. 1

11.29.1998

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 16

PACKERS 24

"Coming off the game last week, it was a big emotional letdown to go up and lose that game. (Today's) game was terribly hard to get up for,"¹ Santana Dotson admitted. It showed.

After three games on the road, the Packers came home and were 19.5 point favorites. But the 2-9 Eagles, coached by Ray Rhodes, put up a fight. After a scoreless first quarter, Ryan Longwell's field goal and Brett Favre's touchdown pass to William Henderson made it 10-0. Twenty-eight seconds before halftime, quarterback Koy Detmer's touchdown pass to Jeff Graham made it 10-6.

Right out of the locker room after halftime, the Eagles drove 78 yards in 13 plays to go up 13-10. They scored on Detmer's second touchdown to Graham. "After the score, Detmer taunted the Packers' sideline. Bad move."² In five plays, Brett Favre hit Antonio Freeman on a crossing pattern that went the distance and put them back on top 17-13. Favre returned Detmer's taunt, and Green Bay rolled over Philly in yards gained 499-232.

On the fourth play of the fourth quarter, Favre was intercepted. The defense held the Eagles to a field goal. On the ensuing drive, Green Bay ate up the clock behind the running of Darick Holmes. For the game, Holmes ran for 163 yards, and he caught five for 53. William Henderson's touchdown run clinched it with three minutes remaining.

Philadelphia 0 6 7 3 16

Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24

59,862

"A Burlington man banged a portable seat on his stadium seat until he attracted attention, then dropped his pants at Lambeau Field. 'He was entertaining a group in the skyboxes,'"³ said Capt. Bruce Tilkens.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/98, Dougherty, p. 30

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/98, p. 36

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/98, p. 9

12.7.1998

PACKERS 22

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 24

Not a good start to the month of December for Green Bay. In their first game at new Raymond James Stadium on a Monday night, the Packers played a game they'd rather

forget. On the injury front, they lost both center Frank Winters and wideout Bill Schroeder for the season. Three receivers left the game with hamstring injuries.

Brett Favre played well (29-41-260-2-0) despite being chased and hit all game. He was sacked eight times! Though defensive tackle Warren Sapp had just one sack, he was satisfied. "We wanted to make Brett Favre uncomfortable,"¹ and we did.

After a field goal, it was all Tampa Bay. Quarterback Trent Dilfer connected on two long touchdown passes to Jacquez Green (64 yards), and Bert Emanuel (62 yards). The Bucs led at halftime, 14-6.

In the third quarter, the "Bays" traded field goals before a Brett Favre to Mark Chmura touchdown early in the fourth narrowed Tampa's lead to 17-15 (two-point conversion failed). After a three-and-out by the Bucs, seconds later, receiver Derrick Mayes fumbled the ball back to Tampa near midfield. The Buccaneers went the distance, and Dilfer took it in from the 6-yard line. Favre threw for another touchdown, but Tampa Bay held on.

Green Bay 3 3 3 13 22
Tampa Bay 7 7 3 7 24
65,497

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/98, Perry, p. 39

12.13.1998

CHICAGO

BEARS 20

PACKERS 26

Green Bay and Chicago never had to wait this long to play each other, and the wait had them playing twice in the final three weeks! The game also marked the return of Edgar Bennett to Lambeau Field after signing with Chicago.

In a quiet first half, the Bears scored the first time they had the ball. Ryan Longwell's three field goals gave the Packers a 9-7 lead, but a pick-six by Chicago's Walt Harris put the Bears up in 13-9 before the half.

Brett Favre, unfazed by his first-half interception, directed two second-half touchdown drives. He went 11 of 15 on the back-to-back drives, with Mark Chmura and Antonio Freeman catching the touchdowns. Green Bay regained control 23-13. The return of Dorsey Levens energized Green Bay's offense, and he ran for 105 yards.

After Longwell's fourth field goal for a 26-13 lead, the Bears cut the lead back to six on a Glyn Milburn's 94-yard kickoff return. With Chicago looking for more in the final minutes, consecutive sacks by Billy Lyon, Reggie White, and Santana Dotson shut it down. After the

game, Holmgren was relieved. "I don't care how big the margin is as long as we win. Right now, with the way we're nicked up, I'll take anything I can get."¹

Chicago 7 6 0 7 20
Green Bay 3 6 7 10 26
59,813

*Former Packer Edgar Bennett "got a loud ovation afterward from the Lambeau Field crowd, a gesture he said words could not describe. 'It was just a phenomenal feeling. The fans here in Green Bay are unbelievable.'"*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/98, Dougherty, p. 34

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/98, Spofford, p. 38

12.20.1998

TENNESSEE

OILERS **22**
PACKERS **30**

This was Reggie White's last game at Lambeau Field. Green Bay gave him a fitting send-off with a temperature of minus one degree with the wind chill!

The defense was incredible against the run (79 yards), and Eddie George, the Oilers' all-pro running back, did little with 30 yards on 15 carries.

Brett Favre took control early. With barely one minute gone in the game, the "Gunslinger" caught the Titans in a blitz. He unloaded and threw the first of three touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman! All of the touchdowns came in the first half on a barrage for 21 points from 57, 68, and 32 yards away. Late in the third quarter, Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair threw the first of two touchdown passes. The second came with 53 seconds left in the game! Between Tennessee's points, the Packers continued to move the ball, and three field goals by Ryan Longwell kept the Oilers at bay.

After the battle, a happy Reggie White acknowledged that Green Bay's hopes for the postseason depend largely on the play of their quarterback. "We'll have to ride on Brett Favre's coattails,"¹ he said.

Tennessee 0 7 7 8 22
Green Bay 14 7 3 6 30
59,888

Total Yards: GB 362 TENN 341

*After the game, Reggie White "took a victory lap around the field after the Packers beat the Tennessee Oilers. 'I didn't want to just walk off the field and not greet everybody,' said White."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/98, Havel, p. 33

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/21/98, Demovsky, p. 35

12.27.1998

PACKERS 16

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

Just like the game two weeks earlier, Chicago had the ball in Green Bay territory in the final minutes, but they could not score. With 54 seconds left and the ball on Green Bay's 33, safety LeRoy Butler blitzed and slammed into quarterback Steve Stenstrom. Down went Stenstrom, and out came the football. Butler recovered it to finish off the Bears.

Green Bay's defense was aggressive from start to finish. They started the game with a tipped pass by Reggie White that defensive end Keith McKenzie caught and returned 28 yards for a 7-0 lead! The Bears returned the favor with an interception by linebacker Andre Collins that led to a touchdown. At halftime, Chicago led 10-7.

Green Bay opened the second half with a 13-play scoring drive and Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. When the extra-point failed, Jeff Jaeger's field goal for the Bears tied it at 13. Early in the fourth quarter, an 18-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell proved to be the winner.

Green Bay's 10th straight win over the Bears set up a Packers' postseason wild card game against the 49ers. "Our offense has to be more effective for us to win in the playoffs,"¹ said Mike Holmgren.

Green Bay 7 0 6 3 16

Chicago 7 3 3 0 13

58,393

The Bears not only lost the game, but they also lost their announcer, Wayne Larrivee. Larrivee accepted the same position with the Packers for 1999. That explains Larrivee's comment near the end of the first half. "We'll be back from Soldier Field in Green Bay."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/98, p. 34

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/98, Havel, p. 32

1.3.1999

1998 NFC Wild Card Game

PACKERS 27

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 30

In a stunning postseason loss, the game was won on the final play. Quarterback Steve Young's bullet to Terrell Owens in the end zone was the dramatic play that sent the 49ers to the divisional round. It was a painful final game, and the last for both Reggie White

and Mike Holmgren with the Packers. White retired (for one season), and Holmgren left for Seattle.

San Francisco took a 7-3 lead on Steve Young's touchdown to tight end, Greg Clark. The Packers snapped back on their next series with Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman for a 10-7 lead. Before halftime in a 10-10 game, linebacker George Koonce intercepted Steve Young. The Packers took it home in eight plays with a touchdown run by Dorsey Levens for a 17-10 lead.

In the third quarter, linebacker Lee Woodall intercepted Brett Favre deep in Green Bay territory. A second Steve Young to Greg Clark touchdown pass tied the score at 17. Three field goals followed, two by the 49ers, for a 23-20 lead with 6:12 left in the game. Favre was intercepted again, but the defense forced a three-and-out. An 89-yard drive by Green Bay was topped off by a great catch by Antonio Freeman for a 27-23 Packers lead with 1:55 left.

On the fifth play of the 49ers' final drive, a poor call cost Green Bay. Jerry Rice was ruled down before he fumbled (which was recovered by Green Bay). The drive continued to the 25-yard line, and two plays later with 0:08 left, Young threw a bullet down the middle of the field to Owens. He caught it "in between four defenders with three seconds remaining."¹ He landed in the end zone after being hit hard by Darren Sharper and Pat Terrell. Touchdown.

Green Bay **3 14 0 10 27**
San Francisco **7 3 10 10 30**
66,506

¹ Green Bay Packers Media Guide 2018, p. 503

1998

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	15	1	0
Green Bay	11	5	0
Tampa Bay	8	8	0
Detroit	5	11	0
Chicago	4	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Freeman
Rushing	Holmes
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	Williams
Sacks	White

ALL-PRO

Butler	Safety
Freeman	Wide Receiver
Jervey	Special Teams
Preston	Kick Returner
White	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Vonnie Holiday (1, DT)

Roosevelt Blackmon (4, CB)

Corey Bradford (5, WR)

Scott McGarrahan (6a, S)

Matt Hasselbeck (6b, QB)

Supplemental Draft (Round, Position)

Mike Wahl (2, T)



1999

Record: 8-8-0, 4th Place

Coach: Ray Rhodes

- On January 8th, Mike Holmgren resigned. On January 11th, Ron Wolf selected Ray Rhodes, head coach of the Eagles, to replace him. Rhodes had been the team's defensive coordinator from 1992 to 1993.
- Discussions began about building a new stadium or renovating Lambeau Field.
- The Packers drafted three defensive backs to counter Randy Moss of the Vikings. Despite the moves, the defense slipped further, and they could not stop Moss.
- A preseason game was held at Camp Randall Stadium of The University of Wisconsin-Madison. The attendance was 78,184.
- Though the early season comebacks were spectacular, nothing came easy in 1999. The offense continued to slip from its high point in 1996. The defense performed poorly, particularly against the run.
- After the final game of the season, Ray Rhodes was fired.

9.12.1999
OAKLAND

RAIDERS 24
PACKERS 28

Ray Rhodes won his first game as head coach. The opener was dominated by quarterback Brett Favre, who threw for 333 yards, four touchdowns, and three interceptions!

Brett Favre was a perfect five-for-five on a 62-yard drive that started the scoring. His first touchdown pass went to Bill Schroeder. By halftime, the Raiders led 10-7 on the strength of cornerback Darrien Gordon's interception of Favre that led to an Oakland touchdown.

After the break and early in the third quarter, Favre reinjured his right thumb and hand that he had first hurt in August. His availability for the rest of the game looked in doubt. His hand, as safety LeRoy Butler, described it, "looked like somebody ran it over with a car."¹ Favre stayed in the game, and later in the same drive, threw a touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman to retake the lead 14-10!

Quarterback Rich Gannon brought the Raiders back. On Green Bay's next possession, Favre was intercepted again. Running back, Tyrone Wheatley scored from five yards out for a 17-14 Oakland lead. The Raiders got the ball back in five plays, and Randy Jordan put them back in the lead, 24-14, four minutes into the fourth quarter.

In the final 11 minutes, an injured Brett Favre snatched victory from defeat by valiantly leading two touchdown drives. He completed 12 of 17 passes on the drives, and Corey Bradford caught the first touchdown, and the Packers trailed by three. When they got the ball back, there was 1:51 left. From his 18-yard line, Favre was nearly perfect on the drive. With only 11 seconds left on the clock, he hooked up with tight end Jeff Thomason for the win!

After the game, Favre was too emotional to answer questions. Trying to compose himself at the podium, he bowed his head and pulled his cap down before saying "Sorry, fellas,"² and left.

Oakland 3 7 7 7 24
Green Bay 7 0 7 14 28
59,872

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/99, Havel, p. 35

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/99, Havel, p. 35

9.19.1999

PACKERS 15

DETROIT

LIONS 23

Green Bay put up 437 yards, but the offense was inconsistent. Mark Chmura left the game with an injured neck, and quarterback Brett Favre's thumb clearly hindered his passing. It would for the rest of the season.

Happily, the Packers didn't have to worry about the retired Barry Sanders anymore, but quarterback Charlie Batch did the early damage with two touchdown passes that gave the Lions a 14-6 lead at half.

Two turnovers by Favre kept Green Bay off the scoreboard in the third quarter. At the start of the final 15 minutes, the Lions snapped the ball out of the end zone for a safety (14-8). The punt from the safety also gave Green Bay good field position. Dorsey Levens, who ran for 153 yards on the afternoon, finished the drive with a 2-yard plunge for a 15-14 lead with 13 minutes left.

On the ensuing kickoff, Terry Fair returned it 92 yards to Green Bay's eight-yard line. Three plays later, Batch scored on the ground to take the lead for good 20-15. The loss was Green Bay's sixth in their last seven visits to the Silverdome.

Green Bay	3	3	0	9	15
Detroit	0	14	0	9	23

76,202

9.26.1999

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20

PACKERS 23

This was Brett Favre's 12th fourth-quarter comeback of his career. He and Corey Bradford pulled it off again in the final seconds!

The Packers started slowly. Green Bay's only touchdown in a 10-10 first half came on a pick-six by rookie cornerback Antuan Edwards. After trading field goals in the third quarter, Longwell kicked another in the fourth quarter with 4:25 left.

With Minnesota now trailing 16-13, quarterback Randall Cunningham stepped up and appeared to put the game away. A 50-yard pass to Jake Reed put the Vikings inside Green Bay's 30-yard line. With 1:56 left, Cunningham and Randy Moss connected on a 10-yard score to put Minnesota back in front 20-16.

With their backs against the wall, the Packers went 77 yards in seven plays. Favre completed five-of-six on the drive before facing a fourth-and-one with 16 seconds left. Favre dropped back and found Corey Bradford with the 23-yard winner after cornerback Jimmy Hitchcock bit on the pump fake! Once he reached the sideline, Favre "collapsed onto a sideline bench and was helped off the field by medical staff."¹

Minnesota 7 3 3 7 20
Green Bay 0 10 3 10 23
59, 868

*"My son and I were sure they were going to win," said Gloria Sarandos of Milwaukee. "It was money in the bank," said her son Steven Sarandos. "It's just Minnesota. They ain't nothing."*²

¹ packershistory.net/1999Packers

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/99, Cole, p. 1

10.10.1999
TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 23
PACKERS 26

After the bye week, the Packers returned and looked ready to roll with 450 total yards. Brett Favre put together 390 yards passing with two touchdown passes! He hurt his right thumb three different times during the game and was sacked five times, twice by tackle Warren Sapp. After Sapp's second sack in the fourth quarter, "he stood face-to-face with Favre and exchanged had butts and grins."¹

The game opened and closed with touchdown passes from Favre to Antonio Freeman (5-157-2). The Packers took a 10-0 lead in the first seven minutes, but Tampa tied it 13-13 before halftime.

In the second half, two field goals by Ryan Longwell put Green Bay back in front 19-16. With six minutes left in the game, the Bucs marched 64 yards, and Mike Alstott's 22-yard touchdown run made it 23-19 with 1:45 to go. After the kickoff, the Packers went 73 yards in six plays. With Favre in the shotgun, a 42-yard completion to Bill Schroeder set up another great finish. Favre connected with Freeman on a 21-yard touchdown pass for the win with 1:05 remaining!

Tampa Bay 0 13 0 10 23
Green Bay 10 3 3 10 26
59,868

Reggie White returned to celebrate the retirement of his #92 jersey and Brett Favre's birthday!

Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay: "And I'll always remember Packer fans. It's a great fan base, and it was always such a great atmosphere. We'd come over on the bus on game day and go through those neighborhoods, and then you'd see Lambeau Field rise up. That really impressed a lot of the new

guys when they first saw that. And you see those neighborhoods where people charged \$20 to park on the front lawns. I thought that was pretty cool.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/99, Christopher, p. 35

2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 109

10.17.1999

PACKERS 10

DENVER

BRONCOS 31

In a late afternoon game in the mountains, Brett Favre had one of his more forgettable games. Against 1-4 Denver, he completed only seven passes for 120 yards. He did not throw a touchdown pass, but he did throw three interceptions.

After a 3-3 first half, Denver’s offense caught fire even though they did not have Terrell Davis or Shannon Sharpe. They dominated as quarterback Brian Griese got into a rhythm and threw two touchdown passes to wideout Ed McCaffrey. Six minutes after the first touchdown, the second was a 78-yard bomb that broke the 10-10 tie. The Packers never recovered, and the Broncos went on to score 14 more.

For the game, Green Bay had the ball for only 14:46. They generated 133 yards while the Broncos were unstoppable with 514. “As long as I’ve been here, this is the worst we’ve played,”¹ was Ron Wolf’s frank assessment.

Green Bay 0 3 7 0 10

Denver 3 0 21 7 31

73,352

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/99, Dougherty, p. 33

10.24.1999

PACKERS 31

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 3

The Packers responded and played their best game of the season. They hammered the first-place Chargers behind a defense that yielded just 76 yards rushing. Quarterbacks Erik Kramer and Jim Harbaugh were kept on the run with new blitz packages designed for safety LeRoy Butler and linebacker Brian Williams. They threw six interceptions and were sacked three times.

For the Packers, Brett Favre (12-22-173-3-1) threw touchdown passes to William Henderson, Bill Schroeder, and Antonio Freeman. Dorsey Levens led the backfield with

102 yards rushing and one touchdown. "For the first time this season, the Packers had more running plays (28) than passing plays (26)."¹

Green Bay 7 7 14 3 31
San Diego 0 3 0 0 3
68,274

*"There was a huge contingent of Packer fans, numbering perhaps 20,000. 'This felt like a home game today,' said LeRoy Butler."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/99, Goska, p. 40

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/99, p. 35

11.1.1999

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 27
PACKERS 7

Former coach Mike Holmgren returned to Lambeau Field on a Monday night and pounded the Packers. The Packers were obviously anxious playing their former coach, and they turned it over seven times and committed ten penalties.

Seattle's defense was impressive as well. Brett Favre was hit, chased, and sacked so often (14-35-180-1-4) he was visibly uncomfortable. He completed only 16 passes, fumbled twice, and threw four interceptions.

It looked bleak from the start for Green Bay. Late in the first quarter, Shawn Springs returned a blocked punt 61 yards for a touchdown. Favre's 74-yard touchdown to Corey Bradford tied it, but not for long. Seattle scored 20 straight points, including quarterback John Kitna's touchdown passes to former Packer Derrick Mayes.

The Packers slipped to 4-3, and eyebrows were raised after another poor performance.

Seattle 7 7 7 6 27
Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
59,869

*"A standing ovation. That's how Green Bay Packers fans welcomed former coach Mike Holmgren back to Titledown."*¹

*"Fuzzy Thurston is moving to Green Bay. Moving his bar, that is. On Wednesday, December 1st, Fuzzy's will open at 2511 W. Mason Street."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/1999, Stur, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/1999, Bruss, p. 1

11.7.1999

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

PACKERS 13

Six days before the game, the great Walter Payton passed away. Somehow, the Bears were able to control their emotions enough to beat Green Bay for the first time since 1993.

Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Tyrone Davis 30 seconds before halftime gave the Packers a 10-7 lead. In the second half, the game got away from Green Bay. Late in the third quarter, a touchdown pass from back-up quarterback Jim Miller to Bobby Engram put Chicago in front 14-10. Miller had replaced Cade McNown, who was hurt in the first quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Ryan Longwell cut the lead to 14-13. As the clock wound down to 3:19 remaining, the Packers got the ball back. Favre led a 73-yard drive that stalled at the 11-yard line. In the final seconds, the Packers ran three straight running plays to set up a field goal try rather than try for the touchdown. It backfired. Longwell's 28-yard kick was blocked by big defensive end Bryan Robinson as time expired.

The game marked Brett Favre's 117th consecutive start. This broke Ron Jaworski's quarterback record, and "Jaws" was on hand to congratulate him!

Chicago 7 0 7 0 14

Green Bay 3 7 0 3 13

59,867

For the first time since 1991, the Packers lost back-to-back home games.

Headline: "Harlan urges stadium action, Packers President says team slipping behind financially"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/1999, Berghaus, p. 1

11.14.1999

PACKERS 13

DALLAS

COWBOYS 27

The Packers lost for the fourth time in five games and for the eighth straight time in Dallas. Even though the Cowboys played without quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith, and wide receiver Michael Irvin, they still handled the Packers. Back-up quarterback Jason Garrett threw touchdown passes to David LaFleur and Rocket Ismail, and the Cowboys never trailed.

Overall, the Packers could not run the ball (40 yards), and Brett Favre was 26 for 50 for

260 yards, one touchdown, and two interceptions. The Packers managed only one Ryan Longwell field goal until the fourth quarter.

With eight minutes left, and Dallas leading 20-3, Favre found Antonio Freeman for a touchdown. Trailing 20-10, they crept to within seven on Longwell's second field goal with 1:21 left. When they recovered the onside kick, they drove to Dallas' 25-yard line. With 21 seconds left, Favre was picked off by former Packer George Teague, who returned the football 95 yards to end it. General Manager Ron Wolf was miffed, "Somehow we have to figure out how to score. Ludicrous."¹

Green Bay 0 3 0 10 13

Dallas 7 3 7 10 27

64,634

Rushing Yards: GB 40 DAL 149

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/1999, Dougherty, p. 30

11.21.1999

DETROIT

LIONS 17

PACKERS 26

The Packers split the season series with Detroit as Brett Favre "played better than he has all season"¹ with 309 yards passing and one touchdown. His thumb was much better, and it showed with his exuberance both on and off the field. Dorsey Levens ran for a first-half touchdown, and he caught ten passes for 99 yards!

The game belonged to the Lions early, and they held the lead behind quarterback Gus Frerotte. Then, with his team trailing 17-12, Favre got Green Bay rolling in the third quarter. He connected with Corey Bradford, who made a one-handed touchdown catch and the two-point conversion reception for a 20-17 lead. After the touchdown, Favre received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for his second throat-slitting gesture to cornerback Robert Bailey. Bailey had taunted the Packers earlier in the game.

Two more Ryan Longwell field goals (he kicked four) put it away as the defense shut out the Lions in the second half. As far as the immediate future, the victory will either be a "catalyst for a strong finish or the basis for a short-lived reprieve."²

Detroit 7 10 0 0 17

Green Bay 0 12 11 3 26

59,869

Penalties: GB 10-90 DET 8-119

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/1999, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/1999, Havel, p. 36

11.29.1999

PACKERS 20

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 3

On Monday Night Football, the struggling 49ers (2-7) led 3-0 in the second quarter. It was all Green Bay from that point forward as Brett Favre connected with nine different receivers for 236 yards and two touchdowns.

Favre's thumb looked completely healed as he "sliced and diced the Niners' defense with precision and patience."¹ Two big penalties on the 49ers kept drives alive, and Favre capitalized. The first led to a touchdown pass to Corey Bradford and the second to Ryan Longwell's field goal.

Late in the third quarter, Tyrone Davis caught Favre's second touchdown that gave Green Bay a comfortable two-touchdown lead, 17-3. The loss was the seventh straight for San Francisco.

Green Bay 0 10 7 3 20

San Francisco 0 3 0 0 3

68,304

12.5.1999

PACKERS 35

CHICAGO

BEARS 19

Three in a row felt awfully good, but on a cold, wet December day in Chicago, it didn't start that way. Six minutes in, linebacker Barry Minter intercepted Brett Favre and went 25 yards for a touchdown. After a field goal, it was 10-0 Bears. However, Favre rebounded, and the Packers exploded in the second quarter. Bill Schroeder caught Favre's only touchdown, and William Henderson's touchdown run gave them a 14-10 edge. Two minutes later, Packers' defensive end Keith McKenzie picked up a fumble by punter Todd Sauerbrun and went 45 yards for a 21-13 halftime lead!

The Bears made it 21-19 on a touchdown run by Curtis Enis. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay rookie running back De'Mond Parker put it away with two touchdowns. Parker ran for a career-best 113 yards. After the game, while celebrating and waving a towel to cool off his feet, he said, "I was trying to cool off my Nikes. My Nikes caught on fire."¹

Green Bay 0 21 0 14 35

Chicago 7 6 6 0 19

66,944

“Noting the Green Bay Packers’ history as a publicly-owned team, Packers President Bob Harlan and several state legislators have recommended a referendum on public financing for a new stadium or renovating Lambeau Field.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/1999, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/1999, p. 1

12.12.1999

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 33

PACKERS 31

A home loss in December to Carolina? The Packers hadn’t lost a December game at Lambeau Field since 1993.

The teams threw 80 passes on the frozen tundra, and the lead changed hands ten times. Green Bay couldn’t slow down Carolina’s quarterback Steve Beuerlein. Without a ground game (13 yards), it all fell on Beuerlein, who rose to the occasion to pick apart Green Bay’s secondary for 373 yards and three touchdowns. He also scored the winning touchdown on a 5-yard run as time expired.

For Green Bay, Brett Favre threw for 303 yards with two touchdown passes, one each to Antonio Freeman and rookie Donald Driver. On defense, other than Mike McKenzie’s first-quarter pick-six, the Panthers “scored at will,”¹ said a disappointed Coach Ray Rhodes. Later, Rhodes was criticized for not calling a timeout on Carolina’s winning drive with 45 seconds left. Doing so would have given Favre more time.

The loss seriously hurt Green Bay’s postseason chances.

Carolina 3 7 14 9 33

Green Bay 7 7 7 10 31

59,869

Turnovers: GB 4 CAR 2

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/1999, Dougherty, p. 1

12.20.1999

PACKERS 20

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 24

On Monday Night Football, Randy Moss led the Vikings over the Packers. Moss caught five passes for 131 yards and two touchdowns. The first, a 57-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Jeff George, tied the score in the second quarter.

The Packers enjoyed a 13-10 advantage at halftime on Dorsey Levens' touchdown run and two field goals. Late in the third quarter, Minnesota went back in front 17-13 on Moss' second touchdown catch. A successful fake field goal attempt helped Green Bay take back the lead. Back-up quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, the holder, threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Thomason to make it 20-17 Packers with 12 minutes to go.

With the game on the line, Green Bay's defense faltered. It took Jeff George just eight plays to put Minnesota back on top. Randy Moss' catch right down the middle of the field put the ball on the 1-yard line with 8:58 to go. Leroy Hoard's touchdown proved to be enough when Brett Favre was picked off in the end zone on Green Bay's final drive.

Green Bay 0 13 0 7 20
Minnesota 0 10 7 7 24
64,203

12.26.1999

PACKERS 10

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 29

With the defeat, the Packers lost control of their postseason destiny. Tampa Bay shut down Green Bay's ground game (12 yards), and they intercepted Brett Favre twice. The Packers' only touchdown came in the first half on a Brett Favre to Dorsey Levens connection.

Until the second half, Tampa Bay's only points came from kicker Martin Gramatica who drilled three field goals. The Packers led 10-9 at halftime, but they would "wilt in the second half for the third straight week."¹ They were shut out after halftime, while Tampa scored on its first series to retake the lead, 16-10. They would not relinquish the lead and the game ended with Tampa Bay on top, 29-10.

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10
Tampa Bay 3 6 7 13 29
65,273

*Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay Buccaneers: "There's no question that playing against some of those great Packers teams helped us grow as a team. We grew up awful fast because we had to. It was a great division we played in, and we had to grow up if we wanted to be competitive."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/27/1999, Dougherty, p. 35

² Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 159

1.2.2000
ARIZONA

CARDINALS 24
PACKERS 49

Despite a spotty season, it was still possible for the Packers to squeeze into the postseason. But, first, they needed to defeat Arizona* and then hope the Giants beat the Cowboys. The Packers won, but the Giants did not.

The season ended with Favre throwing for 311 yards and two touchdowns. Dorsey Levens ran for four touchdowns and gained 146 yards overall. Both offenses were unstoppable, and Green Bay barely outgained Arizona 475-464.

The Packers finished 8-8. "As a team, we didn't get this thing done this year. I will be the last to try to make any excuses for anything,"¹ said Coach Rhodes. He would be fired the next day.

Arizona 0 3 7 14 24
Green Bay 7 7 14 21 49
59,818

Turnovers: GB 1 AZ 4

*Ron Wolf: What we need "is a well-disciplined, tough, hard-nosed football team. That is the way you are successful in this business. We don't have that here."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/4/2000, p. 19

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/4/2000, p. 1

1999

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Tampa Bay	11	5	0
Minnesota	10	6	0
Detroit	8	8	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Chicago	6	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Freeman
Rushing	Levens
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	M. McKenzie
Sacks	K. McKenzie

ALL-PRO

Winters

Center

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Antwan Edwards (1, CB)

Fred Vinson (2, CB)

Mike McKenzie (3a, CB)

Cletidus Hunt (3b, S)

De'Mond Parker (5a, RB)

Donald Driver (7b, WR)

2000s





2000
Record: 9-7-0, 3rd Place
Coach: Mike Sherman

- Mike Sherman was named the 13th coach in Packers history on January 18th. Sherman was Seattle's offensive coordinator and a former assistant coach with the Packers.
- Faced with limited revenue as free agency pushed player salaries higher, renovating 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 53% to 47%. 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 would gain over 1,000 yards for six of the next seven seasons!
- The Packers finished with four straight wins over division opponents, but they fell short of the postseason as six teams in the NFC had ten 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.

9.3.2000

NEW YORK

JETS 20

PACKERS 16

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 Tyrone Davis came after Vinny Testaverde was intercepted. It started the scoring in a 10-10 first half. Ahman Green also made his debut with the Packers with 41 yards on the ground and three catches for another 21 yards.

When Green Bay managed only two field goals in the second half, the Jets stayed within

striking distance. Curtis Martin hit the Packers hard for 110 yards rushing, including a first-half touchdown run. Then, with 3:20 left in the game, he caught a go-ahead touchdown pass from Vinnie Testaverde for a 20-16 lead.

Favre had time to drive the Packers to New York's 35-yard line and a come-from-behind win seemed on the horizon, but safety Victor Green intercepted Favre's pass to Bill Schroeder to end the comeback. After the game, Favre was treated for a new thumb injury and tendonitis in his right elbow that developed during the preseason.

New York 7 3 0 10 20
Green Bay 7 3 3 3 16
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

9.10.2000

PACKERS 18
BUFFALO
BILLS 27

Green Bay was 0-2 for the first time since 1992. The Packers trailed the entire game. They gave the ball away three times, 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 touchdowns to tight end Jay Riemersma. The Packers' defense hit Johnson often, and they sacked him five times. But he kept 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 slightly better, Brett Favre played and completed his first 14 passes. He also 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
72,722

Total Yards: GB 274 BUFF 309

"Yes to Lambeau,"² said the headline of the Press-Gazette reporting on the passage of the 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

9.17.2000

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 3

PACKERS 6

Mike Sherman's first win was made possible by Ryan Longwell's first game-winning field goal. It was the Packers' lowest-scoring game since 1979, when they lost 6-3 to the Bears.

The Packers were held to 236 total yards. Quarterback Brett Favre threw three interceptions, and he was sacked five times for a total of 10 in the first three games. The Eagles were even less productive with 171 yards of offense. They also committed 12 penalties for 115 yards. Both teams combined for only 407 yards as Brett Favre and Philly's quarterback Donovan McNabb completed 33 of their 64 total passes.

A field goal by David Akers gave Philadelphia the halftime edge. Ryan Longwell kicked two for the Packers in the second half, with the winner coming from the 38 with three seconds left.

Philadelphia 0 3 0 0 3

Green Bay 0 0 3 3 6

59,869

Total Yards: GB 236 PHI 171

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

9.24.2000

PACKERS 29

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 3

"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 19-yard touchdown run. Quarterback 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 with four more field goals after halftime to seal the deal. Favre rebounded with a strong performance, 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

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

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

10.1.2000

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

PACKERS 24

A sign in the Bears' locker room read, "Redeem Yourself, Beat Green Bay."¹ The winless Bears did exactly that. Chicago got rolling immediately when safety Tony Parrish grabbed Brett Favre's first pass. The Bears reached the end zone with just 2:42 gone. In the second quarter, a 68-yard touchdown pass from Cade McNown to Marshall Robinson closed out an impressive first half.

A second McNown to Robinson touchdown stretched their advantage to 24-3. In the third quarter, the Packers found a rhythm. Brett Favre lit up the second-half airways with three touchdown passes (333 yards for the game). 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 the touchdowns, Paul Edinger of the Bears booted a 47-yard field goal that made the difference.

Linebacker Bernardo Harris summed it up pretty well. "You hate losing a game. But losing at home, losing a division game, losing a rivalry, those things eat at you."²

Chicago 10 7 7 3 27

Green Bay 0 3 7 14 24

59,869

*"The Packers' Women's Association annual food drive brought in \$13,000 non-perishable items and \$8,572 in donations."*³

1 Bear Moments, Gorr, p. 117

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/00, Dougherty, p. 22

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

10.8.2000

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 31

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 It started with a strip-sack of Favre and 3-0 Detroit led. Quarterback Charlie Batch threw two of his three touchdown passes to push the advantage to a 17-3 lead. With 1:33 left before the half, a pick-six by safety Lamar Campbell put the Lions up 24-3.

In the second half, Batch extended the lead to 31-9 with a pass to big Herman Moore for a 30-yard touchdown. Until the end of the third quarter, Green Bay's offense amounted to three field goals. While it was too late to mount a serious comeback, Favre never said never. He found Antonio Freeman for a touchdown at the start of the final quarter. With 7:15 left in the game, he struck again with a touchdown pass to fullback William Henderson. Trailing now by just seven, 31-24, Favre uncorked two interceptions on Green Bay's last two drives.

Afterward, 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
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

10.15.2000

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 28

PACKERS 31

This was an exciting matchup that produced almost 800 yards of offense. Quarterback Jeff Garcia of San Francisco was unstoppable, even though the 49ers came up just short.

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 the half put the Packers back on top 14-7.

In the second half, Dorsey Levens scored to stretch the lead to 21-7. Garcia rallied the Niners, and the Packers held on. Late in the third quarter, Garcia found J. J. Stokes for six to start the rally. After his catch, Stokes "jumped into the stands in the south end zone. Wisely, Packer fans threw him back."¹ Garcia wasn't finished. He threw two more touchdowns to Terrell Owens. The second tied the score at 28 with 5:30 left.

From his 39-yard line, Favre marched the Packers to San Francisco's 17. Longwell nailed a field goal from the 35 to win it with 54 seconds left. "They're called game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime. Favre has presided over 17 of them in the regular season. That ties him with Bart Starr for the most in team annals."² Green Bay went into the bye 3-4.

San Francisco 0 7 7 14 28

Green Bay 7 7 7 10 31

59,870

Total Yards GB 378 SF 414

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

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, Goska, 10/16/00, p 24

10.29.2000

PACKERS 20

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 28

After the bye, the Packers jumped right into the lead with a 51-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell and two touchdown runs by Dorsey Levens. His first touchdown cashed in on a Thurman Thomas fumble.

The next 28 points were Miami's. With 1:15 left in the half, a quarterback sneak for six by quarterback Jay Fiedler started their comeback. On the opening drive of the third quarter, Fiedler hit wideout Oronde Gadsden for a touchdown to trim Green Bay's lead to three. A

fake punt by Miami went 41 yards and set up running back Lamar Smith's 4-yard touchdown 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 a late pick thrown by Favre 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
73,740

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

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

11.6.2000

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20

PACKERS 26 (OT)

Here is one of the craziest finishes in Packers' history. If you stayed awake long enough on this Monday night to see the finish, you might have thought you were dreaming!

In a game of non-stop action, the Packers never enjoyed the lead until the overtime! The scoring went back and forth like a pinball machine as the teams put up 705 yards of offense. Ahman Green led Green Bay's ground game with 102 total yards, and he scored two touchdowns. Favre and Antonio Freeman connected five times for 118 yards, including the acrobatic winner in overtime.

Green Bay was outgained 407-298, but Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper threw four interceptions. The Vikings were also penalized 11 times for 129 yards! In the first half, the teams traded touchdowns and field goals. Ahman Green caught a short touchdown from Favre, and Ryan Longwell booted two field goals.

In the second half, running back, Robert Smith of Minnesota hauled in a 45-yard pass from Culpepper to break the deadlock 20-13. When Allen Rossum returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards, Ahman Green's second touchdown run came on the next play to knot it again. Gary Anderson of the Vikings missed a 33-yard field goal as time expired, forcing the overtime.

Green Bay won the toss, and on their seventh play, something incredible happened. On third-and-four from Minnesota's 43, Favre threw a desperate pass to Antonio Freeman

along Green Bay's sideline. As Freeman fell trying to catch the pass, he landed on his back. The football 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. Since Freeman had fallen untouched to the ground, he jumped up with the ball and finished the 20 yards to the end zone for the win! The circus catch stunned the Lambeau crowd, but they recovered quickly to celebrate.

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
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

11.12.2000

PACKERS 15
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS 20

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

Quarterback 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 Hasselbeck.

At the start of the fourth quarter, on a fake field goal attempt, Hasselbeck threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Bubba Franks that gave the Packers their first lead 15-14! The two plays that followed, however, gave the game to the Buccaneers. 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 Gramatica capitalized with a 51-yard boot for a 20-15 lead.

With seven minutes left and Favre on the bench, the Bucs held the Packers in check. Overall, Hasselbeck threw for 66 yards, and Green ran for 65. To make matters worse, the next day it was reported that Favre would "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
65,621

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

11.19.2000

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 24

PACKERS 26

Brett Favre's left foot responded to treatment during the week, and he was cleared 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 on a wet field when Manning (25-44-294-3-1) fumbled the first wet snap in the end zone for a safety. Ryan Longwell's field goal made it 5-0 before the offense heated up. Favre (23-36-301-2-1) moved the Packers easily up and down the field for touchdown passes to Tyrone Davis and Antonio Freeman. After 30 minutes, they led 19-0.

In the fourth quarter, Payton Manning's arm heated up for a comeback with three touchdown passes to E. G. Green, Jim Finn, and Jerome Pathon. The second of his three touchdown passes came with 4:32 left and narrowed the lead to 19-17. On the ensuing kickoff, Green Bay's Allen Rossum took it 92 yards to paydirt to slow down Indy's momentum 26-17. But Manning came right back and threw his third touchdown pass in six plays! With 2:29 left, the Packers ate up the final minutes, and Manning's early safety remained the difference.

Favre's great play after his foot injury the previous week surprised everyone. "I don't know if it's the weather or the injuries that make him play better. But it was very Favre-esque,"¹ said backup Matt Hasselbeck.

Indianapolis 0 0 3 21 24

Green Bay 5 14 0 7 26

59,869

Total Yards: GB 432 IND 338

The University of Wisconsin Marching Band performed three times for fans. The National Anthem, followed by the halftime performance, and finally "the traditional Fifth Quarter after the game."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 11/20/2000, p. 23

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/2000, p. 6

11.27.2000

PACKERS 14

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 31

On Monday Night Football, the Packers lost to their former defensive leader Reggie White, who came out of retirement after a year away from football.

Carolina took a 14-0 lead before Ahman Green's 26-yard touchdown run and Brett Favre's 32-yard strike to Donald Driver tied it up. But that was all the scoring Green Bay did as Carolina's defense dominated the second half.

Favre was intercepted three times and sacked three times as well. Reggie White, thanks to rookie right tackle Mark Tauscher, did not record a sack or a tackle.

Carolina's 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. The Packers fell to 5-7, and their postseason hopes were in serious trouble.

Green Bay 0 14 0 0 14

Carolina 14 3 7 7 31

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

12.3.2000

PACKERS 28

CHICAGO

BEARS 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.

Ahman Green's 2-yard touchdown broke the ice early in the second quarter. Then, after a Bears' field goal, Favre hit back with a 66-yard drive and a touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. Favre's 225 yards passing pushed him over the 3,000-yard mark for the ninth straight season.

Green's second touchdown run in the middle of the third quarter made it 21-3. The

defense pitched in with two interceptions of quarterback Shane Matthews. Tyrone Williams' 38-yard pick-six at the start of the fourth quarter ended all doubt. The win made it seven in a row at Soldier Field for the Packers!

Green Bay 0 14 7 7 28
Chicago 0 3 0 3 6
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

12.10.2000

DETROIT

LIONS 13

PACKERS 26

On a cold, windy day in Green Bay, it was a field goal contest until halfway through the fourth quarter! Ryan Longwell kicked four for the Packers, and Jason Hanson booted two. In wind chills of five degrees, the Lions turned the ball over five times. It cost them six points.

Midway through the fourth quarter, running back James Stewart scored Detroit's only touchdown for a 12-10 advantage. Less than three minutes later, it was 19-10 on Favre's 3-yard touchdown pass to Ahman Green with 4:29 to go. Jason Hanson's second field goal trimmed the lead back to six before Ahman Green wrapped it up with a 39-yard burst up the middle with 1:54 left. Green ran for 118 yards and scored both Packer touchdowns—one on the ground and one from Brett Favre!

Detroit 0 0 3 10 13
Green Bay 6 0 3 17 26
59,854

Turnovers: GB 2 DET 5

12.17.2000

PACKERS 33

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 28

This was Green Bay's best overall game of the season. Their third straight win upset the division-leading Vikings, and it kept their slim postseason hopes alive.

In an offensive slugfest of over 800 total yards, Green Bay led the entire game as Brett

Favre threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns. The ground game sparkled with Ahman Green's career day of 161 yards rushing. After the Packers took a 10-0 lead, Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper and Randy Moss connected for a 78-yard touchdown. It was the first of three touchdown passes for Culpepper.

The Packers responded with Favre's touchdown pass to Ahman Green. At halftime, Green Bay led 20-14. After the break, Green Bay added a field goal before Minnesota stormed back with two more touchdown passes by Culpepper. The first to Johnny McWilliams brought the Vikings to within two, 23-21. However, it didn't phase the Packers, who scored ten more in the fourth quarter. Favre's third touchdown pass and Longwell's second field goal held off Minnesota.

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

12.24.2000

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 14
PACKERS 17 (OT)

Green Bay's fourth straight win wasn't enough to make the postseason. The Packers needed a win and a loss by St. Louis to make it. Green Bay did its job, but the Rams defeated the Saints to take the final wild card berth 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 extra-time on Ryan Longwell's 22-yard field goal.

Tampa Bay 0 0 3 11 0 14
Green Bay 7 0 7 0 3 17
59,692

Turnovers: GB 4 TB 0

2000

NFC CENTRAL

	<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
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NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

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



2001

Record: 12-4-0, 2nd Place, Tied

Coach: Mike Sherman

- Stadium Renovation Update: "Work begins in January, but the official groundbreaking is delayed until May 19 in deference to warmer weather. As part of the ceremonies, 872 people will form a semicircle from the south end zone to the 50-yard line for a group hug, coming just short of a world record for group-hug participants but raising almost \$30,000 for Special Olympics."¹
- On June 1, Ron Wolf stepped down as General Manager. President Bob Harlan gave Wolf's responsibilities to Head Coach Mike Sherman.

- The Packers had a top-five ranking on both offense and defense, and they went undefeated in the NFC Central.
- Brett Favre and Ahman Green led the offense. Favre threw 32 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. In February, Favre signed a lifetime contract with the Packers.
- Ahman Green, for the second straight season, led the team in rushing and pass receptions.
- The Packers made the playoffs for the first time since 1998.

1 packershistory.net/2000Packers

9.9.2001

DETROIT

LIONS **6**
PACKERS **28**

When talks broke down between the league and the union representing the referees, replacement officials worked this game.

The Packers “put on a show in the first quarter unlike any before.”¹ They opened with 21 points, which had been done only once before in 1940. They gained 223 yards! Big plays jump-started the offense. Ahman Green scored twice on long touchdown runs (31 and 83 yards), and Brett Favre and Bill Schroeder hooked up for a 23-yard score. Schroeder caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown.

The Packers surrendered just two field goals. They held the Lions to 56 yards on the ground, picked off two passes, and sacked quarterback Charlie Batch seven times. Second year defensive end Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, also known as “KGB,” delivered three!

Detroit **3 3 0 0 6**
Green Bay **21 0 7 0 28**
59,523

Total Yards: GB 424 DET 288

Scott Mitchell, Detroit Lions: “Lambeau was far and away my favorite place to play. It’s located right in a neighborhood. There are all these houses, and then all of a sudden up pops this massive stadium.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/01, Gozka, p. 19

2 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 120

9.24.2001

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 0

PACKERS 37

Thirteen days after September 11th, pro football resumed on a Monday night in Green Bay. In a moving, pre-game tribute to the nation, Packers linebacker and Air Force reservist Chris Gizzi sprinted out of the tunnel holding an American flag to the chants of "USA! USA!"

Green Bay had no trouble with Washington. They were dominant on both sides of the football. The Redskins generated just 137 total yards, and they turned the ball over three times. Quarterback Jeff George was sacked five times, and the shutout was Green Bay's first since 1993.

Brett Favre completed passes to eight different receivers for 260 yards and two touchdowns. He opened the scoring with a touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. In the second half, Favre threw two more to Bill Schroeder and Bubba Franks. Ahman Green ran all over Washington for 116 yards, and he caught six passes for another 30. Green's running, Favre said, "softens (up) the passing game when you run the football like that. They have to put more men up there."¹

By any measure, a shutout was a great sign for the defense. After the game, Sherman remarked, "When you win convincingly like we did, I think we did take a step."²

Washington 0 0 0 0 0

Green Bay 7 3 10 17 37

59,771

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/01, Dougherty, p. 20

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/01, Dougherty, p. 2

9.30.2001

PACKERS 28

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 7

One minute into the second quarter, Carolina took a 7-0 lead on Wesley Walls' touchdown catch. After that, it was Green Bay's game. On very muddy turf that was torn apart on every play, the Packers scored 28 unanswered points.

They began with two field goals by Ryan Longwell before halftime. Quarterback Brett Favre, who had thrown two interceptions in the first half, made amends after the break with two touchdown passes. He had lots of help in the third quarter from Carolina's Steve

Smith, who fumbled the ball back to Green Bay on back-to-back kickoffs! Favre capitalized on both fumbles with touchdown passes to Bill Schroeder and Bubba Franks for a 21-7 lead.

Favre threw for 308 yards, and he finished the scoring in the fourth quarter with a 5-yard toss to Corey Bradford. "The guys made some plays. The bottom line is, in the second half, we made plays when we had to,"¹ Favre said later. The Packers outgained the Panthers 383-169, and the defense held them to nine first downs.

Green Bay 0 6 15 7 28
Carolina 0 7 0 0 7
73,120

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/01, Gozka, p. 18

10.7.2001

PACKERS 10
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS 14

On a blistering hot day—114 degrees on the field—quarterback Brett Favre's first pass was intercepted by Donnie Abraham. Though the Buccaneers didn't capitalize, a 98-yard pick-six by linebacker Shelton Quarles in the second quarter made it 7-0. Later in the quarter, Favre evened it up with a 67-yard touchdown strike to Bill Schroeder.

A field goal by Ryan Longwell made it 10-7 in the third quarter. Then, midway through the fourth quarter, after a costly penalty on Bill Schroeder for a late hit, the Bucs took over. Quarterback Brad Johnson led the way, and on the eighth play of the drive, Mike Alstott went around left end for a 39-yard touchdown, with 6:45 to go. It proved to be enough, as Favre threw his third interception on their next series.

Green Bay 0 7 3 0 10
Tampa Bay 0 7 0 7 14
65,510

Total Yards: GB 322 TB 253

*"To post questions for our Packers experts online and for our daily Web-only columns, visit Packers news @ greenbaypressgazette.com."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/01, p. 16

10.14.2001

BALTIMORE

RAVENS 23

PACKERS 31

Green Bay won with a fine game from Brett Favre and the defense. Favre threw for three touchdowns, and the defense held the Ravens to 10 points until the final three minutes.

A fumble by Ahman Green set up the Ravens. They took advantage with an 18-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Elvis Grbac to Travis Taylor. The Packers scored the next 17 points before a Baltimore field goal briefly interrupted their march to a 31-10 lead! Favre led touchdown drives of 59, 74, 80, and 82 yards. He threw for 337 yards against Baltimore's highly-ranked defense.

Antonio Freeman topped all receivers with nine catches for 138 yards and a touchdown. "Those guys made some phenomenal catches downfield today,"¹ said the happy quarterback. Favre moved past Bart Starr as the winningest quarterback in team history with 95 wins!

Baltimore 7 0 3 13 23

Green Bay 0 17 7 7 31

59,866

"The best thing I remember about Favre is that he saved me from gutting my entire house. Every time they lost, I ripped out a wall on the second floor. With Favre, they finally started winning, and I finished the upstairs remodeling."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/01, Dougherty, p. 19

² Brett Favre: A Packer Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 145

10.21.2001

PACKERS 13

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 35

The Packers never had a chance. "The Vikings drubbed the dreadful-looking division leaders"¹ with a powerful offensive performance. They outgained Green Bay 377-234, and they racked up 23 first downs.

Midway through the first quarter, the Vikings took a 7-0 lead on a 43-yard touchdown bomb from quarterback Daunte Culpepper to Cris Carter. Twenty-two seconds later, Brett Favre threw a pick-six to middle linebacker Kailee Wong. After being shut out in the first half, Favre threw his first touchdown pass to Bubba Franks in the third quarter. Green Bay didn't score again until there were 45 seconds left in the game.

Defensively, the Packers didn't have an answer for Minnesota. With an injured LeRoy Butler leaving the game in the second quarter, Green Bay struggled to stop the Vikings. Linebacker Bernardo Harris summed it up with, "Whatever we called, they called something and executed it better than we did."²

Green Bay 0 0 7 6 13
Minnesota 0 20 0 15 35
64,16

On their final series with 45 seconds left, Favre hurt his wrist and elbow.

1 Cold Wars, Mishler, p. 119

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/01, Walsh, p. 17

11.4.2001

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 20

PACKERS 21

After their bye week, a fourth-quarter comeback gave Green Bay the game. A strong defensive effort pointed the way with seven sacks, and Tampa was held to 61 yards rushing and 197 yards overall.

A 21-yard touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. The Packers had trouble holding on to the football, however, and they turned it over three times. Tampa Bay turned two interceptions and a fumble recovery into 17 unanswered points.

Late in the third quarter, Ahman Green made up for an earlier fumble with a 63-yard dash to the end zone. It cut the deficit to three, 17-14. When the defense held the Buccaneers to a Martin Gramatica field goal with seven minutes left, it stayed a one-score game. Those points came in spectacular fashion on Allen Rossum's 55-yard punt return with three minutes left! "Good riddance to Tampa,"¹ Favre declared in the locker room. Tampa Bay would be moving to the new NFC South in 2002.

Tampa Bay 0 10 7 3 20
Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21
59,861

*"WIN a pair of tickets to the Packers vs. Bears Game on Dec. 9th. Send entry to Packers Getaway, Press-Gazette, P.O. 10235, GB, 54307"*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/01, p. 17

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/01, p. 10

11.11.2001

PACKERS 20

CHICAGO

BEARS 12

Brett Favre led another strong performance against the Bears. The defense stood tall and gave up just four field goals, and the Bears ran for only 47 yards!

With the Packers trailing 6-3 with 45 seconds left in the half, Favre threw it 50 yards in the air for a touchdown to Bill Schroeder for a 10-6 lead. After halftime, his second touchdown pass was a bullet to Antonio Freeman, and it sealed the deal 17-9.

The Bears, who had won their previous two games with dramatic comebacks, looked to do it again. With four minutes left and trailing by eight, they drove deep into Packer territory. On a fourth-down call, running back James Allen did not see the pass that bounced off his arm on Green Bay's 20-yard line, "citing a blinding sun."¹ Whew.

Green Bay 0 10 7 3 20

Chicago 6 3 3 0 12

66,944

"When I was a young boy living in California, I would watch my beloved Packers whenever possible on a snowy, obscure UHF channel on my black-and-white TV. I cried when they carried Bart Starr off the field and straight to the hospital toward the end of his career. Twenty-plus years later, Brett Favre made me cry again, this time with tears of joy, watching the Packers hoist the Lombardi Trophy as champions of Super Bowl XXXI."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/12/01, Dougherty, p. 15

² Brett Favre: A Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 144

11.18.2001

ATLANTA

FALCONS 23

PACKERS 20

Though the Packers were confident after their road win in Chicago, turnovers in this game quickly undermined that confidence. Cornerback Ashley Ambrose intercepted Brett Favre twice—his first and last pass of the game! Neither cost Green Bay any points, but they were bookends to a rare home defeat.

For the game, Brett Favre (16-29-262-2-3) tossed three interceptions and lost a fumble. All three of the picks were on passes intended for Bill Schroeder. The turnovers cost Green Bay 13 points! Favre also connected with Schroeder and Antonio Freeman for touchdowns.

With 1:18 to go and trailing by three, the Packers came up short. With the ball on Atlanta's 45-yard line, Favre dropped back to pass on second down. He went for it all and was intercepted again by Ashley Ambrose at the 2-yard line.

Atlanta **6 10 0 7 23**
Green Bay **3 7 3 7 20**
59,849

Safety LeRoy Butler suffered a broken shoulder blade that ended his career.

11.22.2001

PACKERS **29**
DETROIT
LIONS **27**

The last time the Packers met the Lions on Thanksgiving was 1986. To give the national game a vintage feel, both teams wore *throwback* uniforms. The game was also Green Bay's last in the Pontiac Silverdome.

A nasty battle ensued with 19 penalties for 180 yards. The Packers had the lead for all but four minutes of the game, with Ahman Green and Brett Favre leading the way. After a 26-yard touchdown run by Ahman Green, Brett Favre was sacked, and he fumbled on Green Bay's 8-yard line. James Hill of the Lions took it the 8 yards for a 13-10 edge. It was their last lead.

With three minutes to go, the Packers flew 81 yards downfield. Favre went five-for-seven on the drive for 47 yards and a touchdown. His 1-yard toss to tight end David Martin made the score 17-13. After the half, Green Bay extended their lead to 24-13 after an interception by linebacker Nate Wayne. Four plays later, Ahman Green took it 35 yards to the house!

The fourth quarter started with KGB's sack of Charlie Batch which resulted in a safety. When that was followed by Ryan Longwell's field goal (29-13), the Lions rallied. They scored the next 14 points when quarterback Mike McMahon, who had replaced Charlie Batch, caught fire. With 6:56 left, the elusive rookie took the Lions 71 yards to the end zone. On the drive, he called his own number for a pass or run on 21 consecutive plays! On the last play of the drive, he handed off to veteran running back Lamont Warren for the 1-yard score and a 29-21 lead with 1:20 left.

The onside kick was recovered by Detroit's Todd Lyght. The Lions scored again on McMahon's touchdown pass with 10 seconds left. When they missed the two-point conversion, KGB's safety was the difference. The "last seven minutes had to have lasted an hour,"¹ said relieved Packers cornerback Bhawoh Jue.

Green Bay **7 10 7 5 29**
Detroit **3 10 0 14 27**
77,730

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/01, Demovsky, p. 22

12.3.2001

PACKERS 28

JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS 21

This was a memorable come-from-behind win on the road. On Monday Night Football, Brett Favre threw three touchdown passes and scored the winning touchdown with 1:30 left! Along the way, Jacksonville cooperated with four turnovers.

After a touchdown pass by former Packer Mark Brunell (26-45-311-1-2) and two field goals, the Packers trailed 13-0. Favre finally returned fire 25 seconds before halftime with a touchdown pass to Ahman Green. Late in the third quarter, as Favre dropped back to pass, he was stripped of the football by Tony Brackens. The loose ball was returned 60 yards by safety Ainsley Battles for 21-7 Jacksonville lead.

The final 18:45 of the game belonged to Green Bay. Favre (24-42-362-3-0) orchestrated two scoring drives with touchdowns to Bill Schroeder and Bubba Franks to tie the game. On Green Bay's final drive, a 42-yard screen pass to Green set up Favre's 6-yard bootleg around left end for the win with 1:30 left! "That ranks as one of the better wins I've been a part of,"¹ Favre said later.

Green Bay 0 7 14 7 28

Jacksonville 3 10 8 0 21

66,908

Yards Rushing: GB 37 JACK 62

"If you want to buy or sell your tickets outside Lambeau Field, the rules are relatively simple. Sellers are legally confined to an area on Packer Drive, between the Hutson Center and the Brown County Arena. Those who sell tickets above face value must have a seller's permit. People selling their own tickets at face value do not need a permit."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/01, Dougherty, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/01, p.9

12.9.01

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

PACKERS 17

With Green Bay one game behind the first-place Bears, the rivals met at Lambeau Field. The Packers prevailed for the 16th time in the last 20 games!

"The Packers beat the Bears between the tackles and between the ears."¹ They rolled over Chicago for 352 yards, and they held them to 189. The Packers' screen pass worked well even though guard Marco Rivera played with a broken left hand suffered in practice. Late

in the first quarter, a Favre touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman got it started.

Ahman Green ran for 125 yards, and he caught two passes of more than 48 yards. He became Green Bay's first running back since John Brockington in 1972 to rush for 1,000+ yards in two straight seasons! His third-quarter touchdown run gave Green Bay the lead for good.

Chicago **0 0 7 0 7**
Green Bay **7 0 7 3 17**
59,869

Favre became the first QB in NFL history to pass for 3,000+ yards in 10 straight seasons.

*"Miller Brewing Company and the Vince Lombardi Titletown Legends Charity announced the formation of a long-term alliance to help raise money for Wisconsin-based charities."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/01, Havel, p. 19

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/01, p. 9

12.16.2001

PACKERS **20**
TENNESSEE
TITANS **26**

Quarterback Steve McNair (25-35-282-2-0) of the Titans outplayed Brett Favre (20-38-199-2-1), and the Packers failed to clinch a postseason berth. Tennessee led most of the game behind McNair's two touchdown passes. After a 3-2 lead for Green Bay, a Brett Favre to Donald Driver touchdown pass made it 10-2.

McNair's touchdowns came in the second quarter, and the first went to Mike Green. The second came minutes later after Brett Favre fumbled. Derrick Mason caught the second for a 15-10 lead. Throughout the game, the Packers pressured McNair. They took down McNair four times, but he "continued to make plays."¹

With 10:42 left, the Titans sealed the deal on a 22-yard touchdown run by halfback Skip Hicks. For the game, they outgained Green Bay by 200 yards. They ran it for 167, while Favre led Green Bay with 20.

Green Bay **10 3 0 7 20**
Tennessee **2 13 3 8 26**
68,804

After the game, coach Mike Sherman and Brett Favre met privately for 30 minutes.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/01, Walsh, p. 15

12.23.2001

CLEVELAND

BROWNS **7**

PACKERS **30**

A blowout puts the Packers back in the playoffs for the first time since 1998! Favre started the offensive roll with a 66-yard drive and his first touchdown pass to Bubba Franks. Green Bay's defense stepped in with Bernardo Harris' pass deflection that Bhawoh Jue intercepted. The pick led to Favre's second touchdown to Bubba Franks. Ten minutes into the game, and the Packers led 13-0! A 69-yard pick-six by Tyrone Williams, the first of his two interceptions, pretty much put the game away before halftime, 23-7.

In between all the defense, Favre (18-28-139-3-0) had another strong game. He threw two touchdown passes to Bubba Franks and one to a Dorsey Levens. Ahman Green also ran for 150 yards! The Browns helped out by turning the ball over five times, and the Packers took advantage with 21 points. Cleveland's offense was all about running back Jamel White. He generated 216 all-purpose yards and scored their lone touchdown. "We still want to win our division and keep pace with the Bears,"¹ Sherman reminded everyone after the game.

Cleveland **0 7 0 0 7**

Green Bay **13 10 0 7 30**

59,824

Sacks: GB 4 CLEV 0

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/01, Dougherty p. 14

12.30.2001

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **13**

PACKERS **24**

The game started slowly, and the 5-9 Vikings trailed the Packers 7-3 at half. The 10-4 Packers scored on a reverse to Donald Driver, who took it 31 yards to the house. Driver's touchdown was just the "10th rushing touchdown scored by a Packers' receiver since 1921."¹ On the play, Driver picked up a block from quarterback Brett Favre!

After trading field goals to start the second half, the Vikings stunned the silenced the crowd, and took the lead 13-10 on a 47-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Spergon Wynn to Byron Chamberlain. Who? Wideout Randy Moss, who burned the Packers repeatedly, caught just two passes for 10 yards!

Trailing 13-10, Favre brought the Packers back with a 79-yard march in seven plays. With 6:28 remaining, Ahman Green scored from the 4-yard line to retake the lead 17-13. On

Minnesota's next series, cornerback Mike McKenzie iced it with a 38-yard pick-six! After the game, coach Mike Sherman said, "I'm still trying to win the division." With a win next week over the Giants, that box could be checked off!

Minnesota 0 3 3 7 13
Green Bay 0 7 0 17 24
59,870

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/01, Gozka, p. 14

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/01, Dougherty, p. 13

1.6.2002

PACKERS 34
NEW YORK
GIANTS 25

A home playoff game was at stake, and the Packers came up big for a third straight win! The victory secured the home field for the wild card Game against San Francisco. Green Bay won despite giving up 524 yards to the Giants (7-8).

On Green Bay's first series, it took Brett Favre 2:13 to go 62 yards and find Bill Schroeder for the first points. Green Bay went up 14-0 after an interception followed by a touchdown run by Ahman Green. The Giants stayed close on quarterback Kerry Collins' touchdown to Ike Hilliard. After trading field goals, the Packers led 17-10 at halftime.

Green Bay poured it on in the third quarter with 20 unanswered points. After Dorsey Levens brought back the opening kickoff 53 yards, Ahman Green scored his second touchdown of the game just three minutes into the half. Two field goals by Ryan Longwell and a 54-yard touchdown from Favre to Corey Bradford settled the issue 34-10.

With the game all but over, the Giants scored twice in the fourth quarter. Then, with less than three minutes left, defensive end Michael Strahan of the Giants "sacked" Favre to break Mark Gastineau's NFL sack record with 22.5 sacks. "Strahan can get sacks on his own, so we don't have to give them to him,"¹ said, Mike Sherman.

Green Bay 14 3 17 0 34
New York 7 3 0 15 25
78,601

Total Yards: GB 413 NYG 524

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/7/02, Dougherty, p. 16

1.13.2002

2001 NFC Wild Card Game

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 15

PACKERS 25

Green Bay's last playoff game was against the 49ers in 1998. That game ended in shocking fashion. This time, the Packers held on, and "everyone who suited up contributed."¹

Brett Favre had another excellent game (22-29-269-2-1). "He made all the throws. I tip my hat to him,"² said San Francisco safety Lance Schulters. After a 35-yard punt return by Allen Rossum, Favre opened the scoring with a touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. The extra point was blocked. Just before halftime, the 49ers jumped in front 7-6 on a 15-play, 86-yard drive. Garrison Hearst scored from the 2-yard line.

"Favre lobbied with coaches at halftime to open up the passing game."³ Ryan Longwell's field goal made it 9-7 Packers. A 19-yard touchdown pass from Favre to Bubba Franks extended it 15-7 as the two-point conversion failed. The Niners fought back with quarterback Jeff Garcia's touchdown pass to Tai Streets. The two-point conversion made it 15-15 early in the fourth quarter.

The Packers took care of business in the remaining 12 minutes. Longwell's 45-yard field goal, and Ahman Green's 9-yard touchdown run that topped off an 83-yard drive with 1:55 left, made it 25-15.

In preparing their defense, the Packers changed some of their tendencies seen on video. They played well, led by the return of Gilbert Brown, who sacked Jeff Garcia on the game's first play! The "Gravedigger" helped hold San Francisco's potent ground game to 71 yards. At one point, Brown "encouraged fans in the north end zone (to get) up and on their feet and thumped his heart for them."⁴ Terrell Owens had only four catches in this game for 40 yards.

San Francisco 0 7 0 8 15

Green Bay 6 0 9 10 25

59,825

Total Yards: GB 368 SF 290

Barry Rawlins, 49ers Fan: "Just being at Lambeau Field, they don't even have to play a game for me."⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/02, Havel, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/02, Schwab, p. 17

3 Green Bay Packers Media Guide 2019, p. 504

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/02, Rauen, p. 4

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/02, Rauen, p. 1

1.20.2002

2001 NFC Divisional Playoff Game

PACKERS 17

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 45

Crash and burn best describes this performance by Green Bay. An unhinged Brett Favre tied an NFL playoff record with six interceptions. Three of the picks were returned for touchdowns. Cornerback Aeneas Williams scored the first and last points for St. Louis with his two interceptions.

Coach Dick Vermeil's "Greatest Show on Turf" cruised to an easy win. Quarterback Kurt Warner, a former practice squad member of the Packers, threw two quick touchdown passes in the second quarter to Terry Holt and James Hodgins. The touchdowns came just two minutes apart as Brett Favre was intercepted right after Holt's touchdown. St. Louis led 24-10 at halftime.

The knockout punch came on Marshall Faulk's touchdown run in the third quarter that put the Rams in command 31-10. Favre's fifth and sixth interceptions followed, and both were returned for touchdowns, the latter by Aeneas Williams. A postseason game to forget for Green Bay.

Green Bay 7 3 0 7 17

St. Louis 7 17 14 7 45

66,338

Total Yards: GB 383 STL 292

2001

NFC CENTRAL

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	13	3	0
Green Bay	12	4	0
Tampa Bay	9	7	0
Minnesota	5	11	0
Detroit	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

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

ALL-PRO

Favre	Quarterback
Green	Running Back
Sharper	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jamal Reynolds (1, DE)

Robert Ferguson (2, WR)

Bhawoh Jue (3a, CB)

David Martin (6, TE)



2002

Record: 12-4-0, 1st Place

Coach: Mike Sherman

- Tampa Bay moved to the new NFC South, and the NFC North Division made its debut.
- Progress on the Lambeau Field renovation continued. Administration offices opened as well as the new pro shop.
- Despite numerous injuries, Green Bay started 8-2. They set a franchise record with four second-half comebacks.
- The offense was Top 10, but the defense wasn't as strong. The Packers had no trouble winning the first NFC North title. They finished with six more wins than the second-place Vikings.
- A disappointing loss in the final game of the season against the Jets carried over into the postseason. Green Bay lost its first postseason game at Lambeau Field to Atlanta.

9.8.2002

ATLANTA

FALCONS	34
PACKERS	37 (OT)

The Packers squeaked by the Falcons on a hot, 83-degree day in Green Bay. It tied the record for the warmest home opener that was set in 1976. Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, and Ahman Green's 197 all-purpose yards showed the way. There were six lead changes, with five coming in the turbulent second half.

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

Two field goals by Ryan Longwell and Brett Favre's touchdown pass to David Martin kept Green Bay close. The Packers 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 touchdowns. 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 on top 27-24.

Atlanta took back the lead on Dunn's second touchdown run, but Favre struck back with an 80-yard drive. William Henderson's 1-yard run took back the lead, 34-31, with 1:10 left. The Falcons flew downfield in 65 seconds for Jay Feeley's 52-yard field goal to force the overtime.

The Packers won the toss. After the three sets of downs, they punted. A three-and-out by Atlanta gave it back to Green Bay, and Ryan Longwell's kick won it from the 34!

Atlanta **0 21 3 10 0 34**
Green Bay **3 10 14 7 3 37**

Total Yards: GB 484 ATL 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

9.15.2002

PACKERS **20**
NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS **35**

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

The Saints 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 before halftime, Brett Favre to wideout Terry Glenn made it 21-10.

The final 30 minutes didn't go much better for the Packers. On their first series, Terry

Glenn fumbled, and Keyuo Craver returned it 38 yards for a touchdown. Behind 28-10, Green Bay brought it back to an eight-point game on Favre's touchdown pass to Donald Driver and Ryan Longwell's field goal.

With under three minutes to play and the ball on the New Orleans 33, Deuce McAllister took it off right tackle and went 62 yards to Green Bay's five. He scored two plays later to seal the deal.

Green Bay	0	10	7	3	20
New Orleans	7	14	7	7	35

6,958

Total Yards: GB 357 NO 357

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

9.22.2002

PACKERS 37

DETROIT

LIONS 31

The Detroit Lions could not have opened their new stadium, Ford Field, with a more exciting game. Unfortunately for the Lions, the Packers escaped with the win!

This was a very physical game, and the Packers committed 12 penalties for 88 yards. They were bruised and beaten up, and the physicality on short yardage plays featured 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, the Lions took the lead on Az-Zahir Hakim's 72-yard punt return. A 78-yard pick-six by Green Bay rookie Marques Anderson tied it. Quarterbacks Brett Favre and rookie Joey Harrington also threw first-half touchdowns, with Favre's going to Donald Driver to finish a 17-17 first half.

The Packers grabbed the second-half momentum. Brett Favre (31-47-357-3-1) threw touchdowns to both Robert Ferguson and Bubba Franks. By the fourth quarter, it was 34-17, but poor play almost cost the Packers. Midway through the quarter, a 50-yard kickoff return set up a short Detroit touchdown drive. When the Lions got the ball back with 3:39 left, Harrington's 52-yard touchdown pass cut it to 34-31.

Detroit recovered a short kickoff, which was called back on an offsides penalty. When an onside kick came next, the Packers recovered. Ryan Longwell's field goal stemmed the tide for a 37-31 lead. On the ensuing kickoff, two offsides penalties against the Packers pushed the kickoff back to the 20! Detroit began at midfield, but with 35 seconds left, an interception on the three-yard line by Tod McBride ended it!

Though the Packers won, they gave up more than 30 points for the third straight game. "We're 2-1, but it's a shaky 2-1,"² said Brett Favre

Green Bay 7 10 14 6 37
Detroit 7 10 0 14 31
61,505

Total Yards: GB 442 DET 271

"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."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/02, Walsh, p. 18

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/02, Demovsky, p. 17

3 Brett Favre: A Packer Fan's Tribute, Kertscher, p. 147

9.29.2002

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 14

PACKERS 17

With receivers Terry Glenn and Javon Walker out injured, the Packers had trouble scoring. 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 Packers a 10-7 lead at half.

Carolina took a 14-10 lead early in the fourth quarter on a 55-yard drive that took just five plays. With only 4:10 left in the game, the Packers came back when Favre spotted Driver again for a 22-yard touchdown and a 17-14 lead! Driver, who was becoming a Favre favorite, caught five passes for 97 yards.

With time left, the Panthers drove to the 5-yard line before the Packers held. With 13 seconds left, Shayne Graham missed a 24-yard field goal, and the Packers celebrated! Coach Sherman, who exploded and tossed his headset about a call that was later overturned, said afterward, "I see a need for our team to play with more passion."² The players saw it up close, and their intensity never wavered.

Carolina 7 0 0 7 14
Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17
63,329

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."³

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/02, Goska, p. 20
- 2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/02, Dougherty, p. 15
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/02, p. 19

10.7.2002

PACKERS 34

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

While Soldier Field was being renovated, Brett Favre didn't miss a beat against 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 Chicago out of the end zone for the first 23 minutes of the second half. KGB's 72-yard pick-six in the third quarter made it 31-14. Favre completed another stellar game against the Bears (22-33-359-3-0), and for his career, he surpassed 40,000 yards passing!

Green Bay 14 0 7 3 34

Chicago 7 7 0 7 21

63,226

Total Yards: GB 457 CHI 380

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

10.13.2002

PACKERS 28

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 10

Brett Favre outplayed Tom Brady, and the Packers defeated the defending Super Bowl Champions on the road!

After a 3-0 New England lead, Green Bay scored the next 28 points as Favre tossed three short touchdown passes to three different receivers. Late in the first half, he directed a 76-yard touchdown march that led to a 3-yard touchdown to William Henderson. Forty-three seconds later, KGB recovered a fumble on New England's 8-yard line, and Favre found

Ahman Green for a touchdown to lead 14-3.

Late in the third and early in the fourth quarter, the Packers put it away. Favre tossed a 2-yard touchdown to Bubba Franks, and after a Green Bay interception by Marques Anderson, Ahman Green iced it with a 1-yard plunge over right guard, making the score 28-3. The defense intercepted Tom Brady three times. New England's lone touchdown came with six minutes left on Brady's 4-yard pass to David Givens. "When we're clicking, we're good,"¹ said center, Mike Flanagan. Enough said!

Green Bay **0 14 7 7 28**
New England **0 3 0 7 10**
68,436

Favre: 17-27-147-3-0

Brady: 24-44-183-1-3

*"I never watched football until Brett Favre started playing for the Green 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

10.20.2002

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS **9**
PACKERS **30**

The Packers easily dominated this penalty-filled slugfest. Twenty-two infractions were called—11 by each team—for 234 yards! The outcome though, was never in question. The Packers held the Redskins to 238 total yards and three field goals. Washington fumbled the ball away four times, and Green Bay pounded quarterback Patrick Ramsey with six sacks!

Ahman Green's three-touchdown performance and his 100 all-purpose yards continued to impress. But with the Packers up 17-6 in the third quarter, quarterback 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, Washington helped out by fumbling the ball back to the Packers on their next three possessions. Green Bay put it out of reach with 10 more points. Regarding Favre's injury, Mike Sherman had this to say: "I don't think you rule out anything until you get the MRI results."²

Washington **3 3 3 0 9**
Green Bay **7 10 0 13 30**

63,363

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

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

11.4.2002

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 10

PACKERS 24

After the bye week, Green Bay had it easy on Monday Night Football! Four turnovers by Miami and five sacks by the Packers cleared up matters pretty quickly.

Brett Favre's left knee injury did not prevent him from playing, and he played very well (22-33-359-3-0). Ahman Green broke the ice and scored Green Bay's first two touchdowns. His second touchdown came 10 minutes after his first on a 23-yard pass from Brett Favre. In the third quarter, a field goal and Darren Sharper's 89-yard pick-six wrapped up the scoring.

Green Bay kept the shutout alive until midway into the fourth quarter. The win put the Packers at 7-1, the NFL's best record.

Miami 0 0 0 10 10

Green Bay 0 14 10 0 24

63,284

Total Yards: GB 270 MIA 306

11.10.2002

DETROIT

LIONS 14

PACKERS 40

Green Bay won its seventh straight. Brett Favre threw for 351 yards and two touchdowns in this blowout as the Packers trounced the Lions!

With Detroit leading 7-3 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 Green Bay a 40-3 lead. But Donald Driver was "the driving force behind the Packers offense, catching a career-high 11 passes for 130 yards."¹

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 the second-place Lions.

Detroit 7 0 0 7 14

Green Bay 3 27 10 0 40

63,313

Total Yards: GB 503 DET 362

Even though Packer Terry Glenn's Lambeau Leap was for naught when he was ruled down at the Detroit 1-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."²

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."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/02, Demovsky, p. 16

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

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 118

11.17.2002

PACKERS 21

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

The Packers lost for the ninth time in the 11 games in the Metrodome. In this physical confrontation, where both squads pushed the limits with 25 penalties for 223 yards, the Packers were outgained on the artificial turf 425-367.

Quarterback Daunte Culpepper and wideout Randy Moss had another good game against the Packers. They started the scoring on Minnesota's first series, and at halftime, they 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.

With an inconsistent ground game (71 yards), quarterback Brett Favre threw 43 passes for 296 yards. His two second-half touchdown passes brought the Packers back. The second touchdown, an 85-yard bomb to Donald Driver, tied the score at 21 early in the fourth quarter. The Vikings had the edge in the final 12 minutes, starting with a field goal. Running back Michael Bennett exploded for a 62-yard run to set up Mo Williams' winning touchdown with 1:56 left. "I know every time I step into this building, it's a challenge,"² said Favre (24-43-296-2-3).

Green Bay 0 7 7 7 21

Minnesota 14 0 7 10 31

64,153

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

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

11.24.2002

PACKERS **7**
TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS **21**

In a meeting of former divisional rivals, the Packers lost to the NFC South's first-place team. Coming into the game, both teams were 8-2. But in a battle that is perhaps more remembered by Packer fans for the post-game confrontation between Coach Mike Sherman and Warren Sapp, Tampa completely dominated after the first 10 minutes.

A Brett Favre to Donald Driver touchdown pass put Green Bay in front. Two field goals by Tampa's Martin Gramatica made it 7-6. In the second half, two interceptions thrown by Brett Favre led to Tampa touchdowns. Quarterback Brad Johnson capitalized with touchdown passes to Joe Jurevicius and Ken Dilger.

Favre threw four interceptions, and the Packers generated just 267 yards. After the game, a confrontation between Mike Sherman and Warren Sapp grabbed the 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 pelvic injury and lost for the season.

Green Bay **7** **0** **0** **0** **7**
Tampa Bay **0** **3** **11** **7** **21**
65,672

¹ packershistory.net/2002Packers

12.1.2002

CHICAGO
BEARS **20**
PACKERS **30**

Thanks to two amazing plays, the Packers snapped a two-game losing streak while clinching the first-ever NFC North title! It was their first division championship since 1997.

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, but Javon Walker stepped in. Quarterback Brett Favre was intercepted by Damon Moore. After 35 yards, Moore fumbled, and Roosevelt Williams took it the rest of the way... well, almost! Williams was caught from behind by Javon Walker "as he was about to dance into the end zone."¹

After Javon Walker’s incredible play and a few halftime adjustments, the Packers 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 Franks’ touchdown in the third quarter gave Green Bay a 14-13 lead, defensive tackle Rod Walker made incredible play number two. On first-down play for the Bears on Green Bay’s 1-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, and Green Bay marched 98 yards for the go-ahead field goal, 16-14. Tony Fisher starred on the drive, and the Packers pounded the Bears for 181 yards on the ground.

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 of the game to William Henderson. Late in the game, they slammed the door shut with a 58-yard touchdown drive. Favre gave the ball to Tony Fisher on all seven plays of the drive!

Chicago 7 7 0 6 20
Green Bay 3 3 10 14 30
64,196

“Tight end Bubba Frank will ring bells for The Salvation Army from 12:00-1:00pm today at Bay Park Square Mall.”²

Fans waited in 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

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

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

12.8.2002

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **22**

PACKERS **26**

A quick rematch on a Sunday night! Early on, it looked like a repeat of three weeks earlier, but the Packers rallied to split the season series.

In a cold 11 degrees (wind chill -6), Green Bay’s offense froze in the first half. For Minnesota, a fumble by Brett Favre led to Daunte Culpepper’s touchdown pass to Randy Moss for a 10-0 lead. Other than two field goals, Green Bay’s offense was quiet.

Thankfully, that changed in the second half. After Minnesota extended its lead to 19-6, Favre rallied Green Bay with two touchdown passes to Robert Ferguson. The second came early in the fourth quarter with 10:48 left. Favre scrambled to his right, threw across his body, and hit Ferguson near the middle of the field. Ferguson took it the distance to cut

the lead to 22-20.

In the waning minutes, the Packers went 85 yards in nine plays. A Vikings' interception was called back due to pass interference, and with 1:06 left, Tony Fisher (96 yards) capped it off with a 14-yard burst off the left side for the win! "The guys hung in and battled,"¹ said a happy Mike Sherman.

Minnesota 10 3 9 0 22

Green Bay 0 6 7 13 26

64,070

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

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/9/02, Dougherty, p. 19

12.15.2002

PACKERS 20

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 14

"A well-played game in terrible conditions"¹ was how quarterback Brett Favre described it. In a driving rainstorm, with wind gusts to 25mph, the Packers trailed at halftime 6-3.

On the second-half's opening drive, the rain stopped temporarily, and Favre completed passes of 15, 23, and 22 yards. It led to Ahman Green's nine-yard touchdown run for a 10-6 lead. The Packers capitalized on an interception by defensive end Vonnie Holiday with Favre's touchdown pass to Donald Driver. In the third quarter, Green Bay was on op 17-6.

The 49ers hit back hard. They trimmed it to three with a 45-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jeff Garcia to Terrell Owens. A two-point conversion made it 17-14. After a second Ryan Longwell field goal, Green Bay's defense stood tall and stopped the Niners on the 11-yard line with 26 seconds left!

Green Bay 3 0 14 3 20

San Francisco 0 6 8 0 14

67,947

Total Yards: GB 302 SF 263

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

12.22.2002

BUFFALO

BILLS 0

PACKERS 13

In windy Lambeau Field, the Packers finished the home schedule undefeated. The defense played an outstanding game, holding Buffalo to 43 yards on the ground and 185 yards

overall. The Bills turned it over six times. Quarterback Drew Bledsoe threw two early interceptions and was sacked six times. Five of the sacks (still a Packers' record) belonged to defensive end Vonnie Holiday, who also forced two fumbles. The first turned into the game's only touchdown, and the second stopped a Buffalo drive at Green Bay's 17-yard line with under two minutes left.

Green Bay scored on Ryan Longwell's three-pointer and a fourth-quarter touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Donald Driver! Overall, they ran for 119 yards, and they outgained the Bills 223-185.

Buffalo **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **0 3 0 10 13**
64,106

*"After the game, several Packers players went around the first row of the stadium hugging fans, shaking their hands, and delivering high-fives. 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

12.29.2002

PACKERS **17**
NEW YORK
JETS **42**

The Packers missed their opportunity to clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Jets, however, led the entire game and won the AFC East.

After a scoreless first quarter, New York quarterback Chad Pennington began to tear the Packer secondary to shreds. His first two touchdowns went to Richie Anderson and Wayne Chrebet for a 14-10 lead. After the half, the Jets reeled off the first 21 points. After Curtis Martin scored, Pennington threw for two more scores. In the first minute of the fourth quarter, Chrebet's second touchdown put it away 35-10. Despite the embarrassing blowout, the Packers 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**
78,733

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

1.4.2003

2002 NFC Wild Card Game

ATLANTA

FALCONS **27**

PACKERS **7**

In a rematch with the dangerous Falcons (see Game 1, 9.8.2002), the Packers not only lost a home postseason game for the first time, but it was evident early that they never stood a chance.

Quarterback Michael Vick orchestrated a stunning postseason upset. As he did in the season opener, Vick proved to be far too quick for Green Bay's defense. He moved freely behind the line scrimmage all game, and was not sacked. Vick threw a touchdown pass in the first six minutes, and he kept plays "alive" all night. On 10 carries, he ran for 64 yards, and his ability to change direction was unmatched.

The game became a mismatch quickly. Atlanta scored the first 24 points, outplaying the Packers from start to finish. Green Bay's only points came right after halftime on a Brett Favre to Donald Driver connection. But as more and more boo-birds continued to express 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.

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

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

2002

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<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

ALL-PRO

Favre Quarterback
Sharper Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

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



2003
Record: 10-6-0, 1st Place
Coach: Mike Sherman

- Minnesota won the first game at renovated Lambeau Field.
- For most of the season, Brett Favre played with a broken thumb. He still led the league in touchdown passes and broke several team records along the way.
- Green Bay had a top-five offense. The defense was not as strong.
- Ahman Green broke Dorsey Levens' single-game rushing record with 192 yards against the Eagles. Seven games later, he broke his own record against the Broncos!
- The Packers were 3-4 before the bye week and 7-2 the rest of the way. They made the postseason only after Arizona beat the Vikings in the final game of the season.
- The infamous 4th-and-26 play helped end the season in Philadelphia.

9.7.2003

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 30

PACKERS 25

The final score belies the poor performance by the Packers. Minnesota scored on its opening drive, as quarterback Daunte Culpepper threw the first of three touchdown passes. Later in the quarter, Brett Favre threw an interception which the Vikings turned into a field goal and a 20-3 halftime lead.

A third-quarter touchdown pass from Culpepper to Randy Moss extended the dominance to 27-3. Moss caught nine passes for 150 yards and one touchdown. For Green Bay, in the last eight minutes, touchdowns by Ahman Green and Javon Walker made the final score respectable.

But Green Bay could not overcome its sluggish start, and their ground game amassed just 62 yards. Brett Favre threw four interceptions that led to six critical points on field goals. Favre's all-time record against the Vikings fell to 10-12.

Minnesota 10 10 7 3 30
Green Bay 0 3 8 14 25
70,505

GB gained just four yards in the first quarter.

"A friend of my son's gave him a purple Geo. It ran and everything, but I had this idea. I put a stripe on it and had Viking horns put on it. I parked it out front and charged people to hit this car with a sledgehammer. All proceeds went to the snowmobile club. I raised \$180.00"¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 239

9.14.2003

DETROIT

LIONS 6
PACKERS 31

After a rousing pre-game speech by Brett Favre, a wet field couldn't slow down the Packers! In the first minute, Ahman Green broke through Detroit's front seven on his first carry. He went 65-yards for a touchdown. On their next series, Favre tossed his first touchdown pass to running back Tony Fisher for a 14-0 lead. The game was just ten minutes old.

The Packers controlled the trenches with 200 yards on the ground. The Lions ran for just 56 yards. Rookie linebacker Nick Barnett prowled the middle of the field with a team-leading 12 tackles. In the second half, Brett Favre found Robert Ferguson for a touchdown. Newcomer Al Harris topped off a strong effort on both sides of the ball with a 56-yard pick-six.

Detroit 0 6 0 0 6
Green Bay 14 3 7 7 31
70,244

Favre: 15-28-132-2-1

"I still think the Packers will make it to the playoffs," said Steve Gramolini, who flew in from New York for the game. "I just don't know if they can make it to the championship game."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/03, De Jesus, p. 4

9.21.2003

PACKERS 13

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 20

In record-breaking heat of 106 degrees, the Packers wilted in the second half, and Arizona pulled off the upset. The Cardinals took the lead on quarterback Jeff Blake's 1-yard run. Green Bay countered with a short touchdown pass from quarterback Brett Favre to tight end David Martin. At halftime, the game stood 10-10.

While the Packers tried different ways to stay cool, nothing cooled off the heat. After trading field goals, the 0-2 Cardinals broke the 13-13 tie with a seven-minute, 68-yard drive. Blake's 1-yard touchdown pass to James Hodgins put them in front. In the final minutes, Favre drove the Packers to Arizona's 7-yard line. His pass to Javon Walker in the end zone was intercepted by safety Dexter Jackson to end the threat. In explaining the loss, Favre said, "I thought I could squeeze it in there. You have to go down shooting."¹

Green Bay's 1-2 start had fans wondering. Looking ahead to their next game against the archrival Bears, Coach Sherman sent out the word. "We'll see who's got what it takes to right the ship,"² he said.

Green Bay 0 10 0 3 13

Arizona 7 3 3 7 20

58,784

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/2003, Dougherty, p. 18

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/2003, p. 14

9.29.2003

PACKERS 38

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

It's Monday Night Football at the newly renovated Soldier Field. In this high-scoring affair, the Packers led from start to finish.

Running back Ahman Green set the pace right out of the gate with a 60-yard touchdown run. By halftime, Green ran for another touchdown, and for the game he churned out a career-high of 176 yards. "Just attack them with the run,"¹ he said of the game plan.

Before halftime, William Henderson caught a Brett Favre touchdown pass for a 24-6 lead. In the fourth quarter, when the Bears cut it to 24-16, Favre put it away with his second and third touchdown passes of the night. The touchdowns went to Javon Walker and Bubba Franks.

This was Favre's 10th straight road win against the Bears!

Green Bay	17	7	0	14	38
Chicago	0	6	3	14	23

60,257

Sacks: GB 5 CHI 0

Lombardi Middle School in Green Bay hosted a tailgate party before the game for over 200 students, parents, and volunteers!

*"My wife, Karen, from Central Illinois, is a Bears fan. When we were dating, when the Bears scored, she started jumping around. I almost left her apartment. Then we had to come to an agreement where, 'Okay, you can be a Bears fan, but don't cheer during the game.' Then it became. 'Okay, if we go to a game, you can't wear your Bears stuff.' Before long, she was totally converted, and her father is too."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/2003, Dougherty, p. 18

2 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 168

10.5.2003

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 13

PACKERS 35

In a huge game early in the season, the 2-2 Packers saved their best performance to date for their former coach, Mike Holmgren, and his undefeated Seattle Seahawks.

Favre was exceptional, leading five consecutive touchdown drives (19-25-185-2-0). His first touchdown pass went to Donald Driver after the Packers recovered a Seattle fumble by Shaun Alexander. Former Seattle Seahawk, Ahman Green, added 118 yards rushing and two more touchdowns!

Though the Seahawks moved the ball easily against Green Bay (343 yards), two turnovers and seven critical penalties derailed their offense. Late in the third quarter, Green Bay put it entirely out of reach 35-13 on a 2-yard shovel pass from Favre to William Henderson. After the game, Holmgren praised his former pupil. "We just lost a game to one of the best players to ever play the game. He played real well. It doesn't surprise me."¹

Seattle	7	6	0	0	13
Green Bay	7	14	14	0	35

70,365

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/2003, Wideman, p. 17

10.12.2003

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS

40

PACKERS

34 (OT)

On a beautiful fall afternoon, the Packers threw away a 31-14 fourth-quarter lead. Though the Packers were in command most of the game, the Chiefs won it 6:18 into overtime.

Before Green Bay collapsed, Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, and Ahman Green scored twice. Favre threw for 272 yards (25-36-272-2-1), but he was outplayed by K.C. quarterback Trent Green (27-45-400-3-0).

Trailing 31-14, the Chiefs stormed back. After a Priest Holmes touchdown run, a Brett Favre pass bounced off Donald Driver and into the hands of veteran safety Jerome Woods. Woods took it 78-yards to the end zone and cut the lead to 31-28. A 65-yard strike from Trent Green to Tony Gonzalez set up a tying field goal with under six minutes to go.

Ryan Longwell's 41-yard field goal with 2:43 left made it another three-point Green Bay lead. When the Chiefs went 77 yards in 12 plays, they forced the overtime with a Morten Andersen field goal with one second left.

In overtime, the Chiefs won the toss, and Trent Green gave the football to running back Priest Holmes on nine straight plays for 51 yards. After he threw an incomplection, Cledius Hunt blocked a K.C. field goal. On the next play, Jerome Woods hit Ahman Green, who fumbled. The Chiefs recovered, and on first down, quarterback Trent Green threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to Eddie Kennison to win it. "I kept telling the guys to hang in there, and I've seen some things happen here when I was on the other side of the ball..."¹ said happy former Packer Vonnie Holiday.

Kansas City 7 7 0 20 6 40

Green Bay 14 7 10 3 0 34

70,407

Total Yards: GB 440 KC 482

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

"Devastating. Everybody filed out of that stadium, and I didn't hear anybody talking to anybody. I walked out consoling my 13-year old son."

* Interview: 1/6/17

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/13/03, Wideman, p. 20

10.19.2003

PACKERS 24

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 34

Other than an early 3-0 edge, the Packers trailed the rest of the way. Ahman Green ran for only 35 yards, and his two fumbles were converted into touchdowns by the Rams.

Green Bay turned the ball over four times, leading to 17 points for St. Louis. At halftime, the Packers trailed 21-10. In the third quarter, quarterback Brett Favre found William Henderson for six to narrow St. Louis' lead to 21-17. The Rams came back, and quarterback Marc Bulger threw his third touchdown pass of the game to wideout Dane Looker. It gave them a 28-17 lead and momentum.

Two field goals by Jeff Wilkins held off Green Bay, who scored again on Najeh Davenport's 76-yard run. For the Packers, after the game, Brett Favre's thumb injury was more of a concern. He broke his right thumb when his hand hit the shoulder pad of a teammate. The bye week came at the perfect time.

Green Bay 3 7 7 7 24

St. Louis 14 7 7 6 34

66,201

11.2.2003

PACKERS 30

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 27

With the season on the brink after Brett Favre's injury, the Packers won in Minnesota! Favre played through the pain of a fractured right thumb and threw three touchdown passes! Green Bay guard Marco Rivera shared what most of the team and fans thought about Favre's effort. "I don't know if I could even throw the ball with a broken thumb, and he's doing it. He's unbelievable."¹

The Packers also ran the ball at will for 261 yards, and Ahman Green set the pace with 137. Overall, Green Bay churned out 451 yards. "We knew coming in it was do or die, and we played like it,"² said a happy Mark Tauscher.

The Vikings led early on a Randy Moss touchdown. Favre was sharp (18-28-194-3-1), and he appeared unaffected by the thumb injury. Javon Walker caught two touchdown passes, with the second score breaking a 20-20 tie in the fourth quarter. Longwell followed with his third field goal, which turned out to be the winner when Viking quarterback Daunte Culpepper scored with 33 seconds left.

Green Bay 6 14 0 10 30

Minnesota 7 7 6 7 27

64,482

Total Yards: GB 451 MINN 323

1 If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee/Reischel, p. 28

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, p. 13

11.10.2003

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 17

PACKERS 14

A wet field didn't stop Ahman Green from setting a new Green Bay record for rushing yards in a single game with 192. He broke Dorsey Levens' record set in 1997. Levens had broken Jim Taylor's record set in 1961!

In the first half, Ahman Green caught a 24-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Brett Favre for a 7-0 lead. Though the Eagles recovered two Favre fumbles, Green Bay still held a slim 7-3 lead in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles suddenly soared. Quarterback Donovan McNabb tossed a 51-yard pass to receiver James Thrash to put the Eagles in business. Three plays later, McNabb ran it in for a 10-7 Eagles lead. On Green Bay's next series, Ahman Green grabbed back the lead with a 45-yard sprint to the end zone right through the middle of the Philadelphia defense. It was 14-10 Packers with 7:11 left.

After exchanging punts, the Eagles took over on their 35-yard line with 2:43 remaining. On the eighth play of the drive, McNabb found wideout Todd Pinkston for the win with 27 seconds left. The following day, the Press-Gazette reported, "The reality the Packers stare down to today is they now need five victories in their final seven games for a 9-7 record, which still may not be enough for anything more than some parting gifts."¹

Philadelphia 0 0 3 14 17

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

70,291

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/03, Woods, p. 20

11.16.2003

PACKERS 13

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 20

Brett Favre “played with a broken right thumb,”¹ and defeated the defending NFL champs! Green Bay’s offensive line kept the pressure away, and Tampa Bay did not record a single sack.

An unstoppable ground game (190 yards) kept Tampa’s defense guessing all day. The game stood all even, 13-13, at the end of three quarters. Quarterbacks Brett Favre and Brad Johnson had each thrown for one touchdown pass.

Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, the Packers went 98 yards in 17 plays to score the winner. The drive took nearly 10 minutes, and Ahman Green’s 1-yard touchdown run topped it off with six minutes left. The Bucs couldn’t move the ball, and the defense completed a strong performance that included two picks, a fumble recovery, and three sacks!

Green Bay 7 6 0 7 20

Tampa Bay 0 6 7 0 13

65,614

Plays: GB 51 TB 35

¹ packershistory.net/2003Packers

11.23.2003

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 10

PACKERS 20

Quarterback Brett Favre threw only 15 passes. Two went for touchdowns, and three went directly to the 49ers. Fortunately, Green Bay had no trouble with the Niners and their backup quarterback Tim Rattay.

The Packers never trailed. They ran the ball 48 times for 243 yards! Ahman Green led the backfield with 154 yards which moved him past John Brockington to become the second-leading rusher in franchise history! While there were more opportunities to pass, Brett Favre knew with Ahman Green and the blocking, “we’re able to pound the ball and keep them off the field.”¹

The game’s first points came on the longest touchdown pass of the season for the Packers. With four minutes gone, Favre unloaded a 66-yard bomb to Javon Walker. The second

touchdown came on an 83-yard march in the second quarter, and Favre found Robert Ferguson. Staked to a 14-0 lead, two field goals by Ryan Longwell, and a dominant ground game were enough to hold off the 49ers. The win put Green Bay at 6-5.

San Francisco 0 3 7 0 10
Green Bay 7 10 0 3 20
70,250

Total Yards: GB 379 SF 192

*Lambeau Field: "I'm so glad the Packers didn't tear down the old stadium. They did a great job fixing it up. They've made it so much nicer now. Here I am, 44 years old, and I'm planning this trip to Green Bay. I'm all excited, talking about getting there early and maybe getting some autographs, maybe getting some stuff. I am old enough to be most of the players' dad, and I'm still like that 17-year old going to my first game. To me, Green Bay is better than Disney World."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/03, Demovsky, p. 15

2 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 98

11.27.2003

PACKERS 14
DETROIT
LIONS 22

Five turnovers by the Packers and five field goals by Jason Hanson of Detroit spoiled the Thanksgiving holiday for Green Bay. For the second straight week, quarterback Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes and three interceptions.

The 3-8 Lions were pumped up for this Thanksgiving battle against the Packers. They stormed off the sidelines to take a quick, 10-0 lead in the first quarter. Green Bay hit back with Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Bubba Franks.

Overall, Detroit did a good job of containing Brett Favre. They pressured him all afternoon, and they sacked him four times, twice in the critical fourth quarter. They stopped the running game as well, allowing Ahman Green just 57 yards on 13 carries.

Late in the third quarter, the Packers went in front 14-13 on Favre's 45-yard touchdown strike to wideout Javon Walker. But the Packers stumbled on their own mistakes in the fourth quarter. Turnovers by Brett Favre (2) and Javon Walker became three Detroit field goals for the win. Jason Hanson's kicks came from 42, 28, 49, 46, and 32 yards away! After the game, Favre commented, "We certainly haven't helped ourselves by the up and down way we've played this year. It's upsetting. It's frustrating. We're running out of chances."¹

Green Bay 0 7 7 0 14
Detroit 10 3 0 9 22
62,123

This was Favre's 187th straight game, tying Forrest Gregg's club record.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/03, Dougherty, p. 20

12.7.2003

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

PACKERS 34

Chicago grabbed a 14-0 lead, but five turnovers ultimately cost them the game. They took a 14-0 lead behind quarterback Kordell Stewart's 61-yard pass to wideout Marty Booker for six. Three plays later, a pick-six by linebacker Lance Briggs made it 14-0 Bears.

Back-to-back field goals by Ryan Longwell got the Packers moving. Before halftime, quarterback Brett Favre went five-for-five on a drive to Chicago's 22-yard line. He completed his sixth straight pass for a 22-yard touchdown to Javon Walker that made it 14-13 before the half.

Two third-quarter field goals put Green Bay in front 19-14. The second field goal came directly after a Bears' fumble. Having been burned earlier in the game by Marty Booker's touchdown, cornerback Mike McKenzie redeemed himself. A 90-yard pick-six, with 9:16 left, gave Green Bay a 27-14 lead. Both teams finished with late touchdowns, and the Packers prevailed.

Chicago 14 0 0 7 21

Green Bay 0 13 6 15 34

70,458

GB intercepted three passes.

"A few years ago, there was a commercial (in Green Bay) where a family was saying a tearful goodbye to someone leaving the area. As soon as the family was out of sight, everyone hopped in their cars and bikes and scooters and rushed to the ticket office to see if they could get the family's tickets."¹

1 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 139

12.14.2003

PACKERS 38

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 21

It was a record-smashing day all around for the Packers as Brett Favre led a fourth-quarter comeback with three touchdown passes! In the process, Favre surpassed a team record by throwing a touchdown pass in his 22nd consecutive game. The record was previously held by quarterback Cecil Isbell. Furthermore, running back Ahman Green broke Jim Taylor's single-season rushing record, and kicker Ryan Longwell passed Don Hutson as the team's all-time leading scorer!!

Dueling quarterbacks made this a special brew. Brett Favre threw for 278 yards and four

touchdowns (23-33-278-4-1), and Drew Brees lit up the sky for 363 yards and two scores (28-48-363-2-1). Overall, the Chargers outgained the Packers 424-361.

With Green Bay in front 17-10 after 45 minutes, an exhilarating 15 minutes began. Brees and LaDainian Tomlinson connected twice in the quarter to take a 24-17 lead. The first came after Favre tossed a pick. After Tomlinson's second score, Favre and Ferguson connected for the first of two touchdowns to tie it at 24.

Grady Jackson's sack of Drew Brees caused a fumble that the Packers recovered on San Diego's 1-yard line. Ahman Green scored, and after Robert Ferguson's second touchdown catch, the Chargers were done.

Green Bay 7 10 0 21 38

San Diego 3 0 3 15 21

64,978

GB scored 17 points after SD turnovers.

"There were an estimated 20,000 or more Packer-backers in the crowd of 64,978."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Levin, 12/15/03, p. 18

12.22.2003

PACKERS 41

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 7

The day after his father passed away, Brett Favre decided to play in this game. He believed it's what his dad would have wanted. After an emotional speech before the game, Favre lit up the Oakland Coliseum.

On a Monday night, in one of the greatest games of his career, Favre played through a rollercoaster of emotions and led the Packers to an astounding victory. The rough-and-tough fans of the Oakland Raiders understood his sorrow and, "after booing heartedly during the introduction of the first ten Green Bay offensive starters, the Oakland fans gave Favre a standing ovation."¹

Favre's play was phenomenal. He began the night with nine straight completions and 12 of his first 13. He threw for 311 yards and four touchdowns... in the first half! The touchdowns were caught by Wesley Walls, Javon Walker (2), and tight end David Martin for a 31-7 lead.

In the second half, the Raiders were held scoreless while Ahman Green and Ryan Longwell made it 41-7. The defense contributed three forced fumbles and delivered five sacks. The offense was unstoppable (548 total yards), and Favre finished with 399 and four touchdowns!

Al Michaels of Monday Night Football reflected on the game with, "You bring this script to a studio, and they throw it out. I mean, this is like a fantasy."² After the game, Favre shared his thoughts. "I knew my dad would want me to play. I love him so much and love this game; it's meant a great deal to me, to my dad, and to my family. I didn't expect this type of performance, but I know he was watching tonight."³

Green Bay 14 17 3 7 41
Oakland 7 0 0 0 7
62,298

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/03, Tomlinson, p. 16

2 Gunslinger, Pearlman, p. 276

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/23/03, p. 1

12.28.2003

DENVER

BRONCOS 3
PACKERS 31

A complete blowout for the unstoppable Packers in the Rocky Mountains! Ahman Green gave Denver the most trouble when he broke his own single-game rushing record set in early November at 192 yards. He broke it by rushing for 218 yards!

The Packers began the rout on the opening drive with quarterback Brett Favre's touchdown to Bubba Franks. They extended it to 10-0 with a field goal before half.

Ahman Green scored twice after the break. The first was a 2-yard scamper around left end. The second came after a goal-line stand by the Packers. On first down, Green burst into the open behind right guard and went 98 yards for six and a new Packer record. It put the Packers in front 24-3, and with Denver resting starters for the postseason, it was over. The victory, coupled with Minnesota's last second-loss to Arizona, clinched a wild card berth for Green Bay!

Denver 0 0 3 0 3
Green Bay 7 3 7 14 31
70,299

*"The sale of decorative bricks and tiles at Lambeau Field has generated more than \$1 million in its first year, helping to reduce the debt amassed by the \$295 million stadium renovation. The brown bricks form the walkway around the outside of the north side of the stadium. The tiles are displayed on the walls of the Lambeau Field Atrium."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/29/03, p. 5

1.4.2004

2003 NFC Wild Card Game

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 27

PACKERS 33 (OT)

For the second time this season, the Packers faced their former coach Mike Holmgren and former backup quarterback Matt Hasselbeck. The Seahawks were eager for revenge after being beaten badly by Brett Favre and company in October.

Nine lead changes helped define this exciting game. In the first half, Seattle was held to two field goals. Quarterback Brett Favre had another strong game, and his touchdown pass to Bubba Franks and Ryan Longwell's field goals made it 13-6 Packers at intermission.

In the third quarter, both teams scored twice on 1-yard touchdown runs. Shaun Alexander and Ahman Green did the damage, all after long drives by their teams. On both Green Bay drives, fourth-and-one calls by Mike Sherman were successful. He would later comment, "we had to be aggressive because in playoff games you have to go out and get them. They don't come to you. You have to take them."¹

With Green Bay leading 27-20 with three minutes left, the Packers couldn't slow down Hasselbeck. He drove Seattle 67 yards, and Alexander scored again from the 1-yard line to force overtime.

After winning the coin toss, Matt Hasselbeck, Brett Favre's former backup, boasted, "We want the ball, and we're going to score."² On Seattle's second series, Packers' cornerback Al Harris stepped in front of Hasselbeck's pass and went 52 yards for victory! Describing the play, a jubilant Harris said, "It's every cornerback's dream. You hope they call the coverage. You hope the pressure gets there, and the quarterback calls that check."³

Seattle 3 3 14 7 0 27

Green Bay 0 13 0 14 6 33

71,457

Favre: 26-38-319-1-0

This was the season's last home game. Packer President, Bob Harlan, was optimistic about the future with the newly renovated stadium. "The newness might wear off, but history and tradition continue. I think the people love the building as much as they do the team."⁴

"Here's your chance to run onto Lambeau Field without getting busted. Doing so after a game costs each lawbreaker \$844. But on May 23, runners in the Cell-Com Green Bay Marathon will be able to lap the field, legally."⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Woods, 1/5/04, p. 41

2 Packer Insider, 1/5/04, p. F-2

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/04, Demovsky, p. 42

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/6/04, Anderson, p. 1

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/04, p. 12

1.11.2004

2003 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 17
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES 20 (OT)

In November, the Eagles beat the Packers 17-14 in Green Bay. They went on to win the NFC East, and they looked forward to hosting their first NFL playoff game at the new Lincoln Financial Field.

The Packers took command early. Brett Favre (15-28-180-2-1) ignited the offense with two touchdown passes to Robert Ferguson. The first, a 40-yard strike, came after an Eagles fumble. The second was a 17-yard touchdown at the end of the first quarter. Philadelphia quarterback, Donovan McNabb, threw a first-half touchdown pass to Duce Staley, but the Packers led 14-7 at halftime.

At the end of a scoreless third quarter, Donovan McNabb got hot. He completed five consecutive passes leading to Todd Pinkston's touchdown catch for a 14-14 tie. Four minutes later, Ryan Longwell's field goal put Green Bay back in front 17-14.

With 2:30 left in the game, the Packers faced a fourth-and-one on Philadelphia's 41-yard line. Mike Sherman elected to punt and rely on his defense to stop the Eagles. He did so despite having the second-leading rusher in the league who also ran for 156 yards in this game. In doing so, one reporter felt, "Mike Sherman stepped so far out of character you thought he'd pulled a hamstring."¹

The Eagles took over on their 20-yard line with 2:21 left. On fourth-and-26, McNabb found Freddie Mitchell for a 28-yard completion to keep the drive alive. Philadelphia drove 61 yards before David Akers kicked a 37-yard field goal that forced the overtime.

On Green Bay's first play in overtime, Brett Favre overthrew Javon Walker and was intercepted by Brian Dawkins. McNabb (21-39-248-2-0) and the Eagles moved into field goal range, where David Akers sent Philadelphia to the NFC Championship Game.

Green Bay 14 0 0 3 0 17
Philadelphia 0 7 0 10 3 20
67,707

*Bob Harlan, Former Packer President: "I was as devastated as I've ever been at a football game. That (loss) ranked right up there with watching Steve Young throw for the final touchdown to Terrell Owens and losing the Super Bowl in 1998."*²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/11/04, Hoffman

² Green & Gold Moments, Bob Harlan, p. 221

2003

NFC NORTH

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

TEAM LEADERS

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

ALL-PRO

Green	Running Back
Longwell	Kicker
Rivera	Guard
Wahle	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Nick Barnett (1, LB)
Kenny Peterson (3, DT)
Hunter Hillenmeyer (5b, LB)



2004
Record: 10-6-0, 1st Place
Coach: Mike Sherman

- Lee Rummel was named the team's historian.
- With a renovated Lambeau Field, a record-profit of \$20.8 million was made in fiscal year 2003-04. The reserve fund increased to \$84.5 million.
- Brett Favre: "I still think I'm the best. And that keeps me kicking myself in the butt and not being ready to leave yet."¹

- The team’s top-five offense kept them afloat. The defense finished in the bottom quarter of the league, and stopping the pass was a significant issue.
- Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila signed a seven-year contract extension and delivered 13.5 sacks.
- Reggie White passed away suddenly on December 26th.

“On Sunday, we got up, went to the stadium, and ended up spending most of the day there. We took a tour of the stadium and got to walk out the tunnel where the players come out. My wife got a little choked up at that point. They had the original bricks from the old stadium there, with a sign that said, ‘You’re walking across bricks where champions have walked a record 12 times before.’ It was kind of eerie... a hallowed-ground kind of thing. We got a little choked up just walking over that, even though there wasn’t even a game, and the players weren’t practicing yet—it was still July.”²

¹ Brett Favre: A Packer Fan’s Tribute, Kertscher, p. 152 (USA Today, 2/20/04)

² For Packers Fan Only!, Wolfe, p. 40

9.13.2004

PACKERS 24

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 14

An impressive opening win on the road against the defending NFC Champion Panthers! On a Monday night, Carolina got out to a 7-3 lead midway through the second quarter. But after that, the game belonged to Ahman Green and the Packers!

“Going toe-to-toe with the NFL’s best defensive line,”¹ the Packers opened holes for Green all game. He ran for 119 yards and scored Green Bay’s three touchdowns. His first trip to the end zone put the Packers up 10-7 three minutes before halftime.

On Carolina’s first drive of the second half, fullback Brad Hoover fumbled. Eight plays later, Ahman Green scored again on a 3-yard run. Next came an interception by rookie linebacker Nick Barnett. Favre turned the miscue into a bullet that Green caught in the back of the end zone, making the score 24-7.

The defense did its job with one interception, two sacks, and they held the Panthers to 38 yards rushing. They easily won the time of possession battle by 17 minutes. It was a big upset over last year’s NFC Champion, but coach Sherman reminded everyone, “It’s one game. You keep an even keel through this thing. We don’t get too high or too low.”²

Green Bay 3 7 14 0 24

Carolina 0 7 0 7 14

73,656

*Statue Honors Bart Starr: "No doubt, the statue honors Starr for his major contributions during the Packers' run of five championships. It is also a tribute to his nine years as head coach. But we also think this accolade is a testament to the man who has always personified class, dignity, and dedication to the Packers and this community. Although he lives elsewhere, Bart Starr will always be this area's favorite son."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/04, Dougherty, p. 31

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/04, p. 35

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/04, p. 5

9.19.2004

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

PACKERS 10

New Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith, the former defensive coordinator of the Rams, pulled no punches. At his introductory press conference, he announced that beating the Packers was his team's number one priority.

Shockingly, the Bears defeated Green Bay the first time they met with Lovie Smith at the helm. In a rare bad game against the Bears, quarterback Brett Favre threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions (24-42-252-1-2).

After a key block by Brett Favre helped set up Ryan Longwell's field goal, the Packers led briefly. The Bears roared back and scored the next 21 points. Mistakes by Green Bay showed the way. Bhawoh Jue's illegal contact penalty kept a Chicago drive going and enabled them to take a 7-3 lead. That was followed by Ahman Green's fumble on Chicago's 5-yard line. Safety Mike Brown scooped it up and went 95 yards for a 14-3 halftime lead.

It took only three minutes into the third quarter for the Bears to put it away. Their new running back, Thomas Jones, scored from the 1-yard line. For the game, he ran for 152 yards.

Favre lost to the Bears for the first time since 2000. He threw only one touchdown pass to Robert Ferguson. On the loss, center Mike Flanagan had this to say: "We didn't buy Super Bowl rings last week, and we're not looking for the first hole we can find to jump in this week. It's tough, and it hurts. But, it's a 16 game season."¹

Chicago 0 14 7 0 21

Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10

70,688

Total Yards: GB 404 CHI 307

Regarding the return of cornerback Mike McKenzie from his 46-day holdout, Packer fan John Smith of Milwaukee said, "I think that's the reason why we lost... all the distractions. There's no

room for that in Green Bay.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/04, p. 36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/20/04, De Jesus, p. 4

9.26.2004

PACKERS 31

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 45

The Colts prevailed in an electrifying shootout between Peyton Manning and Brett Favre. There were 84 passes for 753 yards, nine touchdowns, and no interceptions between these two future Hall of Famers!

Green Bay’s defense collapsed in front of a blistering, no-huddle attack by the Colts. Manning threw all five of his touchdowns in the first half, and he didn’t handoff to a running back until the second quarter. Green Bay’s secondary was under constant assault, and for the game, Manning finished 28-40-393-5-0.

Favre countered in the first half with two touchdown strikes to Javon Walker from 36 and 79 yards away. The Colts led 35-17 at intermission. In the second half, Favre tossed two more touchdown passes, one each to Javon Walker and Donald Driver, to cut the lead to 38-31 Colts.

With Indy’s defense back on its heels, Javon Walkers’ spectacular day (11-200-3) came to an end. With six minutes left near midfield, rookie cornerback Jason David of the Colts stripped Walker of the football, and the Colts sealed the deal. “I’d give everything back if we could have won the game,”¹ said a disappointed Walker.

Green Bay 14 3 7 7 31

Indianapolis 21 14 0 10 45

57,280

Penalties: GB 11-84 IND 9-70

The Packers were on the road, “but they were not alone. Packer fans sat in pairs and in pockets, perhaps, 5,000 to 7,000 of them.”²

Quarterback Archie Manning of the Saints was Brett Favre’s favorite player. Brett Favre of the Packers was Peyton Manning’s favorite player!

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/04, Tomlinson, p. 36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/27/04, p. 36

10.3.2004

NEW YORK

GIANTS 14

PACKERS 7

The Packers were 1-3 for the first time since 1993. After the game, though, they were more concerned about their quarterback Brett Favre. Favre suffered a concussion in the third quarter when defensive lineman William Joseph landed on him. Favre left the game for two plays and returned "without the team doctor's consent."¹ He managed to throw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Javon Walker for a 7-0 Green Bay lead!

The Giants answered in two plays. Five minutes into the second half, Tiki Barber took a handoff and dashed 52 yards to the house. The game stayed 7-7 until early in the fourth quarter when New York quarterback Kurt Warner connected with Jeremy Shockey for what proved to be the winner.

This was the first three-game losing streak for Coach Mike Sherman, and speculation ramped up about his job security. Ignoring those concerns, Sherman reported on Favre's condition on Tuesday. "He's been looked at by the doctors, and they feel pretty confident he's OK to go."²

New York 0 0 7 7 14

Green Bay 0 0 7 0 7

70,623

Rushing Yards: GB 81 NY 245

"We hope fans of all ages can take the defeats with grace and focus on more important matters. So, lighten up, take a walk, forget about the game. Until the next game."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/04, Dougherty, p 38

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/04, Demovsky, p. 17

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/04, p. 7

10.11.2004

TENNESSEE

TITANS 48

PACKERS 27

The Packers lost their fourth straight and their third game at home. On this Monday night, they turned the ball over six times, including three picks of quarterback Brett Favre.

Green Bay was never in this one. Tennessee scored on five of its first six possessions. Touchdown runs of 37 and 29 yards by big Chris Brown gave them a 17-0 lead. By halftime, both quarterbacks, Steve McNair and Brett Favre, had thrown touchdowns, and the Titans led 27-13.

In the second half, Tennessee poured it on. Favre was intercepted, and McNair's second touchdown pass went to Eddie Berlin, making the score 34-13. The fourth quarter became academic as the Packers couldn't run the ball (35 yards), and they forced Favre to throw 52 times (24-44-338-2-3).

Tennessee 17 10 7 14 48

Green Bay 3 10 0 14 27

70,420

Total Yards: GB 437 TENN 456

10.17.2004

PACKERS 38

DETROIT

LIONS 10

After a rousing pre-game speech by Coach Sherman, Brett Favre set a new Green Bay record by playing in his 197th straight game! He surpassed Bart Starr and played a fantastic game (25-38-257-2-0).

Mike Sherman took over play-calling duties due to the medical leave of offensive coordinator Tom Rossley. The offense and the defense overwhelmed the Lions. They were outgained 434-125, and the defense turned in the game-changing performance. For the game, Detroit managed only five first downs, 33 yards rushing, and 125 total yards.

In the second half, Green Bay broke it open with Darren Sharper's pick-six and a touchdown run by Najeh Davenport. Ahman Green threw a halfback option pass to Donald Driver in the fourth quarter for icing on the cake. The win was the first of six straight!

Green Bay 7 10 14 7 38

Detroit 7 3 0 0 10

62,938

Total Yards: GB 434 DET 125

10.24.2004

DALLAS

COWBOYS 20

PACKERS 41

Green Bay's first win at home for 2004 was a blowout. After Dallas led 6-3 in the first quarter, the Packers scored the next 24 points.

Ahman Green's first touchdown run made it 10-6, and by halftime, Javon Walker also

scored on a short pass from Brett Favre for a 20-6 lead. Green Bay's assault continued in the second half. Bubba Franks caught a touchdown pass from running back Tony Fisher to make it 27-6.

Following Jason Whitten's touchdown for Dallas, two big plays by Green Bay did the rest of the damage. Favre and Donald Driver connected for a 33-yard touchdown, and Ahman Green broke off a 90-yard touchdown run. Green's run made him just the second person in NFL history, at that time, to run for two touchdowns of over 90 yards... the other being Bo Jackson. Green Bay pounded the ball 31 times for 220 yards.

Brett Favre outdueled Vinnie Testaverde despite a swollen throwing hand that he hurt in the first half. The offense put up a season-high 480 yards, and Dallas coach Bill Parcells had this to say about the blowout, "We just really stunk."¹

Dallas	6	0	7	7	20
Green Bay	3	17	21	0	41
70,679					

Total Yards: GB 480 DALL 362

*"Tyler Kershek is no longer on the fence, so to speak. He popped the question to his girlfriend, Jessica Savino, in front of a well-known Lambeau Field landmark Sunday afternoon: the fan fence across from the stadium. Kershek's family arranged to have fence painter Christopher Handler unfurl a banner saying, 'Jessica Savino, Will You Marry Me-Tyler,' as the couple walked down Lombardi Avenue before Sunday's game between the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys."*²

"Tyronne Williams (now with Dallas), who played cornerback for the Packers for seven seasons through the 2002 season, still feels the Lambeau Field mystique. 'It's a tough place to play in, and it's rowdy. You have to be almost perfect to win in this stadium.'" ³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/04, Dougherty, p. 40

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/04, Hoelt, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/25/04, Knapinski, p. 37

10.31.2004

PACKERS 28

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 14

The Packers got back to .500 with a third straight win. Brett Favre again faced his former backup quarterback, Mark Brunell, now with the Redskins.

Green Bay jumped in front 7-0 on touchdowns by Ahman Green and Javon Walker. With 1:50 left in the half, Brunell's touchdown pass to wide receiver Rod Gardner cut the lead to 17-7. The third quarter began with a surprise onside kick by Washington. Bhawoh Jue recovered for the Packers, and a field goal quickly followed.

In the fourth quarter, Brett Favre threw two interceptions that almost gave the game away. Shawn Springs' interception and Mark Brunell cut the lead to seven. Three plays later, Favre was picked-off again, this time by Fred Smoot. Brunell capitalized with another touchdown pass, but the play was called back on an illegal motion penalty. Redskins' coach Joe Gibbs disputed the call. On the next play, Mark Brunell was intercepted by cornerback Al Harris, who ran it back 29 yards. Favre gave it to Ahman Green four straight times. He scored his second touchdown from the 11-yard line that sealed the deal.

On getting back to .500, kicker Ryan Longwell had this to say. "They're not fitting us for our (Super Bowl) rings, that's for sure. But from where we were, it gives us a chance now. That's all you can hope for."¹

Green Bay 3 14 3 8 28
Washington 0 7 0 7 14
89,295

QBRs: Favre 61.3 Brunell 66.3

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/04, Demovsky, p. 41

11.14.2004

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

PACKERS 34

After their bye week, the Packers won their fourth consecutive game in a tight battle. Green Bay led from start to finish in a riveting display of offense that totaled 858 total yards. It was "the most yardage gained since the two teams began playing in 1961."¹

Before the game, the Packers caught the biggest break of all. Minnesota receiver Randy Moss was ruled out with an injury. That did not deter quarterback Daunte Culpepper, who still threw four touchdown passes to match Brett Favre blow-by-blow.

Favre's first touchdown was a 50-yard bomb to Javon Walker. Before halftime, Tony Fisher and Bubba Franks had also caught touchdowns for a 24-10 halftime lead. In the second half, Minnesota's offense got untracked on their first series with Culpepper's touchdown pass to Nate Burleson. Favre appeared to put it out of reach with a touchdown pass to William Henderson for a 31-17 lead in the fourth quarter.

But with 8:59 left in the game, Culpepper engineered a dramatic comeback with two touchdown drives to tie the game at 31. The first, a 16-play march, took six minutes off the clock. After a three-and-out by Green Bay, a short punt gave the Vikings the ball on their 34-yard line. It took only three plays, and a 17-yard touchdown pass to Moe Williams tied it with 1:29 left.

Robert Ferguson returned the kickoff 37 yards before fumbling. Though the Vikings emerged from the pile with the football, possession was awarded to the Packers and former Viking Ben Steele. Five plays later, Ryan Longwell won it from the 33 with three seconds left. With Green Bay's win, both teams were 5-4 in first place in the NFC North.

Minnesota 7 3 7 14 31
Green Bay 7 17 0 10 34
70,671

Letter to Editor from Tom Thorson: "I think the Packers are America's Team. Isn't it about time someone did a national survey to confirm it? I run into loads of Packer fans wherever I go. Let's prove it!"²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/04, Goska, p.36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/18/04, p. 8

11.21.2004

PACKERS 16
HOUSTON
TEXANS 13

Though they were on the road and trailing most of the game, Ryan Longwell won it again. His 46-yard boot, as time expired, won their fifth straight!

It started poorly for Green Bay as Ahman Green was hurt on the first play from scrimmage. He carried just five times in the game for 15 yards. With fullback Najeh Davenport also out injured, the Packers had a weak ground game and difficult first half. They trailed at halftime 13-3.

The defense rose to the challenge in the second half and kept the Texans off the scoreboard. Quarterback Brett Favre led a fourth-quarter comeback that began with an 81-yard drive and a 24-yard touchdown pass to Houston native Donald Driver (10-148-1). Favre directed two more drives that put the Packers in field goal range. On both of them, catches by Driver were critically important. Longwell tied it from the 39 and won it from the 46! "That last drive was a great example of guys making plays,"¹ said a happy Favre who went six-for-six on the final drive. Overall, he completed 33 of 50 passes for 383 yards and one touchdown!

Green Bay 0 3 0 13 16
Houston 0 13 0 0 13
70,769

Total Yards: GB 473 HOU 251

Andrew Brandt, Green Bay Vice-President 1999-2008: "There were times where we returned from a game either after or in the midst of a snowstorm. When we came to the area where our cars were parked at the airport, we noticed that the snow and ice had been brushed off our cars. When

*I asked who had done that, I was told, 'Fans. They do it all the time.' One can only imagine that happening in any other NFL market."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/04, Demovsky, p. 35

2 My Time in Packerland, Sports Illustrated, 12/8/16, Brandt

11.29.2004

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 17

PACKERS 45

It was *Brett Favre Day* in Wisconsin, and it was a relatively easy win for the Packers on a Monday Night. Favre started his 200th consecutive game, and he celebrated "by being his brilliant self"² (18-27-215-3-0). It was also his 132nd win as Green Bay's starting quarterback.

The scoring started on the first of two fumbles by Rams receiver Issac Bruce. It was recovered by rookie Ahmad Carroll and returned 40 yards for a touchdown. Later in the game, Carroll made an interception in the end zone to thwart another St. Louis drive.

Favre threw three touchdown passes to cap off drives of 75, 83, and 71 yards. Bubba Franks and Javon Walker caught first-half touchdown passes that built the 21-10 lead. At the end of the third quarter, Donald Driver's touchdown catch made it 28-10. Najeh Davenport, playing in Ahman Green's place, ran for 178 yards, and kept the offense rolling!

St. Louis quarterback, Marc Bulger, was also unstoppable. With his ground game going nowhere (47 yards), Bulger threw 53 times and completed 35 for 458 yards and two touchdowns. He was also sacked four times and threw one interception.

St. Louis 0 10 0 7 17

Green Bay 7 14 7 17 45

70,385

Total Plays: GB 55 STL 80

*Fan Robert Hamen, on Favre: "I think you are looking at the Lou Gehrig of football."*³

*Adam Timmerman, Guard, Former Packer: "The fans were still great to me when I was playing with the Rams. They were always good sports about it. It was all good things, and that just kind of reinforced the way I felt when I played there. I really didn't want to leave, but football was a business, and you do what's best for your family. But even being an Iowa kid, Green Bay was always home to me."*⁴

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/04, Havel, p. 13

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/04, De Jesus, p. 1

3 Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 116

12.4.2004

PACKERS 17

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 47

After needing to convert on “fourth-and-26” the previous year, the Eagles didn’t have nearly as much trouble with the Packers this time around. The Packers were never really in the game as Donovan McNabb outplayed Brett Favre with 464 passing yards and five touchdown passes. Brett Favre helped out by tossing two first-half picks that led to Philly’s first two touchdowns.

The Eagles led 35-0 before Ryan Longwell’s field goal. They stretched it to 47-3 before two touchdown passes in the final 10 minutes by Green Bay back up quarterback Craig Nall. After the game, coach Mike Sherman remarked, “We’re certainly not as bad as we looked. We’re a lot better than we played.”¹

Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17

Philadelphia 7 28 9 3 47

67,723

Total Yards: GB 249 PHI 542

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/36/04, p. 36

12.12.2004

DETROIT

LIONS 13

PACKERS 16

While “the wind was howling, the snow was falling, and the tundra was freezing,”¹ the Packers beat the Lions for the 14th consecutive time in Wisconsin! The last time Detroit won in Green Bay was in 1991!

The Lions got off to a great start. They took a 13-0 lead in the first half with a Jason Hanson field goal and a 24-yard touchdown run by Kevin Jones. Green Bay fans, shocked by the fast start of the 5-7 Lions, booed the Packers at halftime.

Mike Sherman’s stern lecture at halftime fired up the Packers for the final 30 minutes. Brett Favre put together a strong second half, completing 16 of 21 passes. His lone touchdown pass to Donald Driver completed a 90-yard drive.

Early in the fourth quarter, Longwell tied it 13-13. With just over three minutes left in the game, a short punt gave the Packers the ball on Detroit’s 42. With two seconds left, Longwell booted his third game-winning kick through the biting wind!

The Lions completed just five passes. "That was the worst (conditions) I have ever played in. All I could do is go out there and chuck it. It was hard, just really hard,"² said Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington. The win moved Green Bay into sole position of first place.

Detroit **3 10 0 0 13**
Green Bay **0 0 10 6 16**
70,497

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/04, p. 1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/19, p. 35

12.19.2004

JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS **28**

PACKERS **25**

In a bitterly cold game with minus 18-degree wind chills in the fourth quarter, the Jaguars persevered through the wind and cold to score in every quarter. Jacksonville quarterback Bryon Leftwich threw two touchdown passes to outplay Brett Favre. Jacksonville ran the ball at will with a shocking 197 yards on 36 carries.

The Packers scored on Favre's touchdowns to Donald Driver and Antonio Chatman. Both came in the second half, with Chatman's coming in the fourth quarter with 1:08 left. Favre turned it over four times in the game with a fumble and three interceptions. Two of the thefts came in the end zone. "I hope I never do that again,"¹ he said. Fortunately, the Bears, Giants, Panthers, and Cowboys lost, which clinched a playoff berth for the Packers!

Jacksonville **7 7 7 7 28**
Green Bay **0 10 7 8 25**
70,437

Turnovers: GB 5 JACK 2

*"Beer-freezing cold, nor bone-chilling winds, nor an unfriendly scoreboard could drive fans away from the game too long. 'We just stepped out for some hot chocolate and to warm-up,' said Chris Selley of Port Washington. Mike Erickson of Appleton added, 'In this kind of weather when you have to use the bathroom, you have to plan ahead. It takes a long time to unzip all the additional layers. We're talking layers and layers of buttons and zippers.'"*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/04, p. 36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/04, Reinsch, p. 1

12.24.2004

PACKERS 34

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

The Packers beat Minnesota by the same score as six weeks earlier! In doing so, they clinched the NFC North. Merry Christmas, Green Bay.

The Vikings surged in front in the second quarter. Daunte Culpepper fired three touchdown passes to Randy Moss, Nate Burleson, and Michael Bennett. After touchdowns by Ahman Green and Bubba Franks, the Packers stayed within striking distance at halftime 21-17.

In the second half, Green Bay pulled in front 24-21 on Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Javon Walker. The Vikings took it back 31-24 on a field goal and a pick-six thrown by Favre with eight minutes remaining.

The Packers had eight minutes left to salvage Christmas. An 80-yard march ate up four minutes on the clock. On a fourth-and-goal from the 3, Favre and Driver made it count, 31-31. The tying touchdown pass topped off Driver's impressive performance (11-162-1).

After stopping Minnesota on its next series, the Packers got the ball back with 1:35 left. They drove to Minnesota's 7-yard line, where Favre took a knee on three straight snaps to leave it to Longwell as time expired. It was Longwell's fourth winning kick and his second against the Vikings!

Green Bay 0 17 7 10 34

Minnesota 0 21 0 10 31

71,075

"As far as Packers fans were concerned, the game was the best way to celebrate Christmas Eve. 'It was close all the way,' said (Lori) Connors, 'as long as the Packers won, it's perfect.'"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/04, Kauh, p. 1

1.2.2005

PACKERS 31

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

After being upset by the Bears in September, the Packers delivered some payback as the regular-season ended.

After 7-7 first quarter, Green Bay put up the next 21. Since they had already clinched a

playoff berth, quarterback Brett Favre left the game after his second touchdown pass in the second quarter. Favre threw for 196 yards. Craig Nall replaced him, and Nall threw one touchdown pass to Javon Walker.

The defense held the Bears to 246 yards, and they sacked quarterback Chad Hutchinson nine times. The Packers finished the regular season by winning nine of their final 11 games. Regarding a potential third game against the Vikings in the postseason, coach Mike Sherman said, "It's exciting. Not only are we playing a playoff game at home, but it's against a divisional rival. Every time we play them, it's a great ballgame."¹

Green Bay 7 21 3 0 31
Chicago 7 0 7 0 14
69,197

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/4/05, Tomlinson, p. 15

1.9.2005

2004 NFC Wild Card Game

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

PACKERS 17

Three times wasn't a charm for the Packers. After two regular season wins over the Vikings, the border rivals met for the first time in the postseason.

The Vikings jumped out in front 17-0 in the first quarter and were never seriously threatened. Brett Favre (22-33-216-1-4) stumbled badly in their third meeting with four interceptions. The Vikings capitalized with 13 points. Wideout Randy Moss dominated the Packers' secondary with eight receptions for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

After the game, when Favre asked if he was planning on playing a 15th season, he responded that "he would decide about his future sometime prior to the NFL Draft, which is in April. Favre didn't rule out coming back, but he also didn't rule out retirement."¹

Minnesota 17 7 0 7 31
Green Bay 3 7 0 7 17
71,075

Total Yards: GB 306 MINN 384

Favre's Retirement:

*"The thought of his retirement forces us to admit,
A profound fear we try hard to shield:
Will we ever care this much again?
When he's no longer on the field?"²*

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

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

2004

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	6	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Detroit	6	10	0
Chicago	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

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

ALL-PRO

Henderson	Running Back
Longwell	Kicker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Ahmad Carroll (1, CB)

Joey Thomas (3a, CB)

Corey Williams (6, DT)

Scott Wells (7, C)



1919-2019

2005

Record: 4-12-0, 4th Place, Last

Coach: Mike Sherman

- Ted Thompson was brought back to the organization from Seattle by President Bob Harlan to be the new General Manager. Mike Sherman remained as the 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 the first game and was lost for the season. After Game number five, Ahman Green was lost for the season, and Najeh Davenport went down

in the next game. Undrafted rookie Samkon Gado was the team's leading rusher.

- As the season slipped away, Brett Favre tried to do it all. He finished with 20 touchdown passes and 29 interceptions.
- The Packers finished last for the first time since 1988, and Mike Sherman was fired after the season. His six-year record was 59-43-0.

9.11.2005

PACKERS 3

DETROIT

LIONS 17

A disastrous opener for the Packers as quarterback Brett Favre turned the ball over three times, and the Lions capitalized with 10 points. Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington fared much better with two touchdown passes that opened and closed the game. The second touchdown came after Favre was intercepted late in the game.

Detroit's defense smothered Green Bay and gave up only one field goal. They mauled Brett Favre with four sacks, recovered his fumble, and intercepted two of his passes in the fourth quarter. The Packers couldn't run the ball (46 yards), and they didn't pick up a first down in the third quarter. Green Bay was also penalized 14 times for 100 yards. "That will not work this season if we have that many penalties. Playing stupid like that does not bode well,"¹ said Mike Sherman.

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

9.18.2005

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 26

PACKERS 24

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 Green Bay crowd.

The two opposing quarterbacks took over this game. Brett Favre and Trent Dilfer each threw three touchdown passes. Favre's first went 42 yards to Donald Driver. Dilfer found paydirt twice. The first tied it 7-7. Favre's fumble led to Dilfer's 80-yard touchdown bomb to wideout Braylon Edwards for a 19-7 late in the third. Favre rallied the Packers with two touchdown passes in the final four minutes. In between, however, Dilfer countered with his third touchdown of the game, a 62-yard bomb to Steve Heiden, to lock up the win.

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

9.25.2005

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 17

PACKERS 16

The Packers fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1988. In a defensive battle, critical mistakes doomed Green Bay. The Buccaneers turned an interception thrown by Brett Favre and a fumble by William Henderson into a decisive 10 points. All of 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 the Bucs went back in front with a second touchdown pass to Joey Galloway. A touchdown to Antonio Chatman from Favre kept the score close, 17-13.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Ryan Longwell's field goal brought the Packers to within one. With 5:15 left, Favre threw his third interception, and Tampa ran out the clock. As Favre acknowledged, "we're not good enough yet to overcome mistakes."¹

Tampa Bay 7 10 0 0 17
Green Bay 6 7 0 3 16

70,518

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

10.3.2005

PACKERS 29

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 32

In the first half, a fumble and an interception thrown by Brett Favre led to a 10-0 Carolina lead. Panthers' quarterback Jake Delhomme starred in a dominant first half by the Panthers with two touchdown passes for a commanding 23-7 lead at half.

It wasn't over as the Packers came back. 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 by Mark Roman, who was covering Julius Peppers! It put the ball at the 1-yard line, and Carolina made it 32-13 after the two-point conversion failed. On their next series, KGB's hit on Jake Delhomme caused a fumble. Defensive tackle Cullen Jenkins recovered on Carolina's 13. On the first play, Favre found Donald Lee for six, and the two-point conversion was successful, making the score 32-21.

When the defense stopped the Panthers with 7:15 left, Favre took the Packers 90 yards in 13 plays. He went 8-12 on the drive for 86 yards and his fourth touchdown to Antonio Chatman. When Carolina went three-and-out, the Packers got it back with 1:58 left on the clock. After a first down, they were forced to punt. Game over.

Tackle Mark Tauscher spoke for many when he said, "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

73,657

Total Yards: GB 352 CAR 286

Letter to Editor: "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 Mark Krell, Packers Fan

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

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

10.9.2005
NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS **3**
PACKERS **52**

On a beautiful, sunny day at Lambeau Field, the Packers won their first game! It was no contest as quarterback Brett Favre completed 20 of 28 passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns. He did not throw an interception.

The game was over by halftime. Green Bay's Najeh Davenport ran for two touchdowns, and cornerback Al Harris added a 22-yard pick-six for an early 21-3 lead. Brett Favre wrapped it up—not just the first half, but the game—with touchdown passes to Robert Ferguson and David Martin. At halftime, it was 35-3!

After intermission, Favre and tight end Donald Lee hooked up for his third touchdown pass. A 90-yard pick-six by linebacker Nick Barnett finished Green Bay's scoring. In the fourth quarter, Favre was replaced by rookie Aaron Rodgers, who completed his first NFL pass to fullback Vonta Leach. After the game, Rodgers said, "It's hard to be nervous when it's 45-3 when you go in."¹

New Orleans **3 0 0 0 3**
Green Bay **14 21 10 7 52**
70,580

Turnovers: GB 0 NO 5

"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." ²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/05, Demovsky/Dougherty, p. 34

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/05, Hoeft, p. 4

10.23.2005

PACKERS **20**
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS **23**

After the bye week, the Packers came out ready for the quarterback duel between Brett Favre and Daunte Culpepper. In the first half, it was all Favre (28-36-315-2-0), and the Packers jumped in front 17-0. His first touchdown, a 22-yard pass to Donald Driver, finished a 96-yard drive. Favre's second touchdown pass went to wideout Antonio Chatman to complete a good first half.

The Packers outgained the Vikings (373-363), but their offense got bogged down in the second half after Najeh Davenport broke his ankle. Minnesota took full advantage by getting back into the game with 20 unanswered points. Quarterback Daunte Culpepper (23-31-280-2-0) threw touchdowns to Marcus Robinson and Mewelde Moore. Paul Edinger added two field goals, and with 3:10 left, the Vikings led 20-17.

With 28 seconds left, Ryan Longwell's 39-yard field goal pulled Green Bay even, 20-20. The Vikings came back quickly with clutch catches by Mewelde Moore and Marcus Robinson. Paul Edinger then delivered his third field goal of the afternoon for the win.

Green Bay 0 17 0 3 20

Minnesota 0 0 10 13 23

64,278

Sacks: GB 5 MINN 0

10.30.2005

PACKERS 14

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 21

The Packers dropped to 1-6 and the season looked lost. Two critical statistics summed it up. Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer threw three touchdown passes, and Brett Favre threw five interceptions. Though the Packers didn't give up any points after four of the picks, the fifth one was another matter.

To give the Bengals a late 14-7 lead, quarterback Carson Palmer threw a touchdown pass to Chris Perry on the game's opening drive. In the second quarter, he threw a touchdown pass to T. J. Houshmandzadeh. Green Bay's points came on a Tony Fischer touchdown run.

Late in the third quarter, Favre threw his fifth interception, and Cincinnati took over on Green Bay's 27. On the first play, Palmer made it a two-touchdown lead with a 27-yard touchdown to fullback Jeremi Johnson. When the Bengals got the ball back, they drove to Green Bay's 12-yard line before Ahmad Carroll's interception stopped the drive! After the turnover, Favre went nine-for-12, with a touchdown pass to Bubba Franks. With 3:18 left, it was 21-14.

After one first down, the Bengals punted, and the Packers were 90 yards away with 56 seconds left and no timeouts. They got as far as Cincinnati's 30-yard line before time ran out. In the locker room, Favre vented. "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

Green Bay 0 7 0 7 14

Cincinnati 7 7 0 7 21

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

11.6.2005

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 20

PACKERS 10

Brett Favre did not throw a touchdown pass in a home game for the first time in 27 games. He was inconsistent (20-35-214-0-1), and Pittsburgh's defense held the upper hand most of the game.

The first quarter saw three field goals, two by Josh Reed and one by Ryan Longwell. The turning point came early in the second quarter. A blitz by the Steelers got to Favre for a strip-sack. Safety Troy Polamalu picked up the ball and sprinted 77 yards for a touchdown and a 13-3 lead at the break.

The Packers charged out of the locker room, and rookie Samkon Gado scored on the fifth play of the drive for Green Bay's only touchdown. Midway through the fourth quarter, a Brett Favre pass bounced off Donald Driver's hands and was intercepted by safety Tyrone Carter. From Green Bay's 20, it took three plays before running back Duce Staley scored with 6:20 left. "If I make that catch, we win the game,"¹ said, an upset Donald Driver.

Pittsburgh 6 7 0 7 20

Green Bay 3 0 7 0 10

70, 607

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

11.13.2005

PACKERS 33

ATLANTA

FALCONS 25

The 1-7 Packers upset the 6-2 Falcons on the road. Green Bay was 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 ran “hard, found openings, and made solid decisions.”¹ In the first quarter, he scored on a 9-yard run and a 1-yard touchdown pass from Brett Favre. Then, after Atlanta tied it on Michael Vick’s touchdown, three more field goals by Ryan Longwell kept the Packers in front.

Green Bay enjoyed a 26-17 lead well into the fourth quarter when the Falcons fumbled. The Packers put it away with Gado’s third touchdown with three minutes remaining. Green Bay’s defense did its share by forcing three fumbles, containing Michael Vick (20 yards rushing), and sacking him three times.

Green Bay	14	3	6	10	33
Atlanta	0	14	0	11	25

70,001

Favre: 26-39-252-1-1

Vick: 20-30-209-2-0

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/14/05, p. 30

11.21.2005

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS	20
PACKERS	17

Green Bay struggled offensively, and Paul Edinger kicked another game-winning field goal for the Vikings as time ran out. The Packers were held to 236 yards, and they fell to 2-8.

Green Bay scored two touchdowns, both 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.

In the second half, the Vikings continued to control the line of scrimmage, and the Packers ran for 21 yards all game. They also managed just one field goal while the Vikings moved the ball behind backup quarterback Brad Johnson and Mewelde Moore. On Minnesota’s second possession of the half, they took nine minutes off the clock with a 14-play touchdown drive to tie it. They were helped by two critical penalties by Green Bay—illegal contact and pass interference—that kept the drive alive.

After Ryan Longwell’s field goal tied it 20-20 with 3:03 left, Moore’s running and Koren Robinson’s key catch for 35 yards, put Minnesota on Green Bay’s 9-yard line. Paul Edinger beat Green Bay again, and Minnesota swept the season series for the first time since 1998.

Minnesota 0 7 7 6 20

Green Bay 7 7 0 3 17

70,610

Sacks: GB 5 MINN 2

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

11.27.2005

PACKERS 14

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 19

A real low-point of the 2005 season arrived when 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. They also didn't have receiver Terrell Owens.

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 found tight end David Martin for a 13-yard score and a 14-10 lead.

In the second half, Philadelphia shut down Green Bay's offense, and David Akers kicked three field goals. The loss handed Green Bay its first losing season since 1991, and the anti-Sherman crowd began to become more vocal. For only the sixth time in 87 seasons, the Packers were 2-9.

Green Bay 7 7 0 0 14

Philadelphia 10 0 3 6 19

67,665

12.4.2005

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 19

For the first time since 1993, the Bears beat quarterback Brett Favre and the Packers in Chicago. With the wind chill at zero degrees, Favre still threw 58 passes in the rivalry game, and the two that were intercepted cost Green Bay 10 points.

Though the Packers turned it over four times, they still outgained the Bears 358-190. Samkon Gado ran for 75 yards and 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 sealed the deal in the fourth quarter. Gould's fourth field goal with 8:27 remaining made it 12-7. On the next four possessions, the Bears punted and missed a field goal, while Brett Favre fumbled the ball away twice! With three minutes left, a pass intended for Donald Driver was intercepted by cornerback Nathan Vasher and returned 47 yards for the clincher.

"This is pretty sweet. They've kicked our butts here a lot of times,"¹ said Chicago linebacker Lance Briggs. Briggs, who recovered Brett Favre's second fumble, also had nine solo tackles and "assisted" on 13 others.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Chicago 0 9 0 10 19
62,177

Passing Yards: GB 277 CHI 68

*"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

12.11.2005

DETROIT

LIONS 13
PACKERS 16 (OT)

The Lions weren't used to winning in Green Bay, but they led most of this game. Leading 3-0, the Lions recovered a Brett Favre fumble on Green Bay's 18-yard line. After a second field goal, a 73-yard kickoff return by R. J. Mc Quarters a bit later, gave them a 13-3 lead. Before halftime, Samkon Gado's 64-yard touchdown run off right tackle narrowed it to 13-10. Gado ran for 171 yards in the game, still the seventh most in team history.

In the second half, the Lions couldn't move the ball, and they went scoreless. Early in the fourth quarter, Ryan Longwell's 39-yard field goal tied it 13-13. It stayed knotted until overtime. Green Bay won the coin toss, and a 33-yard kickoff return by Antonio Chatman set up the Packers at the 35-yard line. In ten plays, Favre and Gado took it down to Detroit's 9-yard line, and Longwell's third field goal was the winner!

Detroit 13 0 0 0 0 13
Green Bay 3 7 0 3 3 16
70,019

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

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

12.19.2005

PACKERS 3

BALTIMORE

RAVENS 48

On Monday Night Football, the Packers suffered their worst defeat since 1980. Baltimore quarterback Kyle Boller threw three touchdown passes, and the Ravens crushed the visitors. They beat the Packers through the air (253 yards) and on the ground (182 yards). Compared to Green Bay's 288 total yards, the Ravens were unstoppable.

Quarterback Brett Favre did not throw a touchdown, but he did throw two interceptions. He played into the third quarter before being replaced by rookie quarterback Aaron Rodgers. 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. Enough said.

Green Bay 3 0 0 0 3

Baltimore 14 10 10 14 48

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

12.25.2005

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

PACKERS 17

The Bears swept the season series for the first time since 1991. They were led by rookie quarterback Rex Grossman, who was making his first NFL start.

Chicago led 7-0 early, and 14-7 at halftime. On their first possession of the game, Rex Grossman threw a touchdown to Muhsin Muhammad. After the Packers tied it 7-7, Chicago led the rest of the way. Quarterback Brett Favre threw four interceptions, including a 10-yard pick-six by linebacker Lance Briggs. The theft stretched Chicago's lead to 24-7 in the third quarter.

Those points made the difference when Antonio Chatman returned a punt for a touchdown, and a field goal cut it to a seven-point game. After a three-and-out by the Bears, Green Bay's final drive started with 1:26 left. It began with a 56-yard completion from Favre to Donald Driver. It fizzled from there as Favre was sacked twice, and he threw another interception on the game's final play. Favre finished the season with 29 interceptions. All in all, 2005 "will go down as the worst of Favre's Hall of Fall-worthy career."¹

Chicago 7 7 10 0 24
Green Bay 0 7 0 10 17
69,757

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

1.1.2006

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 17

PACKERS 23

The Packers defeated Seattle as the playoff-bound Seahawks rested their starters in the second half. This was also Brett Favre's 221st consecutive start for the Packers, and speculation swirled about whether it was his last.

Two Ryan Longwell field goals and a touchdown run by Noah Herron put Green Bay in front 13-7 after 30 minutes. Brett Favre (21-37-259-1-1) played the entire game, and his third-quarter touchdown pass to Antonio Chatman put the Packers in front to stay 20-14. It was Favre's first touchdown pass since November 27th against the Eagles (221 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 (Packer fans) and think he's going to come back."¹ Favre did not stick around after the game to answer questions.

As far as the 4-12 season, the team performed poorly in most areas. The pressure increased on new General Manager Ted Thomson to fire coach Mike Sherman. He did so on January 2, 2006.

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

Favre's 29 interceptions tied Lynn Dickey's club record.

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

2005

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
Receiving	Driver
Rushing	Gado
Scoring	Longwell
Interceptions	Harris
Sacks	KGB

ALL-PRO

Kampman	Defensive End
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NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

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



2006

Record: 8-8-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- On January 12, 2006, Mike McCarthy was hired as the 14th coach in team history.
- John Jones was named to succeed President Bob Harlan in May.
- Reggie White was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- Major free agent acquisitions were cornerback Charles Woodson and defensive tackle Ryan Pickett. Kicker Ryan Longwell left for the Vikings in free agency.
- Brett Favre, who turned 37 in October, threw 18 touchdown passes and 18 interceptions. Ahman Green bounced back and ran for over 1,000 yards.
- The Packers gave up 65 more points than they scored. They won their last four games to finish 8-8.

9.10.2006

CHICAGO

BEARS 26

PACKERS 0

Mike McCarthy's coaching debut did not go well. Quarterback Brett Favre threw two interceptions, and he was sacked three times. The Packers were shut out for the first time since 1991 (against the Bears), and it was also the first time that Brett Favre was blanked.

Chicago's two touchdowns were long-distance strikes. On their opening drive, quarterback Rex Grossman hit Bernard Berrian for a 45-yard score that got everyone's attention. Early in the fourth quarter, Devin Hester's 84-yard punt return for six finished off Green Bay. In between, Robbie Gould's four field goals helped the Bears pull away.

As the Packers grew desperate in the fourth quarter, Favre (15-29-170-0-2) threw two interceptions. The only bright spot for Green Bay was Ahman Green's return. Green led the ground game with 110 yards on 20 carries.

Chicago 7 9 3 7 26

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

70,918

*"The Packers commemorated the 10th anniversary of their Super Bowl XXXI-winning season with a pre-game ceremony. More than 35 players were introduced on the field. The ceremony ended with the unveiling of the name of the late Reggie White on the southeast façade of Lambeau Field. White's widow, Sara, and their son, Jeremy, were on hand."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/2006, Dougherty/Demovsky, p. 34

9.17.2006

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 34

PACKERS 27

Drew Brees and Brett Favre hooked up in a wild one. Between the two great quarterbacks, there were 96 passes for 693 yards and five touchdowns!

Two fumbles by Drew Brees in the first quarter helped Green Bay grab the lead. It opened the door for Favre's first touchdown pass to Greg Jennings and 10-0 lead. The Saints came back in the second quarter and took a 14-13 lead into the locker room.

Two field goals by New Orleans made it 20-13. At the start of the fourth quarter, Brett Favre and Robert Ferguson hooked up to tie it 20-20. Brees broke the tie with a 35-yard bomb to Marquez Colston with 8:26 left. Trailing 27-20, Ahman Green fumbled moments

later on Green Bay's next series. The Saints and running back Deuce McAllister capitalized for a 34-20 lead with seven minutes remaining.

Favre threw his third touchdown pass to Noah Herron with 4:23 left. But after a three-and-out by New Orleans, Favre cooled off with four straight incompletions, and the Packers fell to 0-2 at home.

New Orleans 0 14 6 14 34
Green Bay 13 0 0 14 27
70,602

*"A sign at Lambeau Field read, 'No. 4 for Prez in 2008.' My first thought: Hasn't Favre suffered enough? My second thought: Only if Donald Driver was his choice for vice president."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/06, Havel, p. 36

9.24.2006

PACKERS 31
DETROIT
LIONS 24

This was Mike McCarthy's first win as Green Bay's coach. In an exciting first half of 45 points, Brett Favre became only the second quarterback in NFL history to throw 400 touchdown passes—Dan Marino was the other. The pass was a 75-yard bomb to rookie Greg Jennings to start the scoring! After Detroit tied it, a pick-six by safety Marquand Manual kept the Packers a step ahead 14-7. But, another touchdown pass from quarterback John Kitna of the Lions tied it.

Before halftime, Green Bay took the lead on a field goal. In the third quarter, Favre polished off an 80-yard drive with a touchdown pass to Donald Driver to push the edge to 24-14. Detroit matched it on their next series with Kevin Jones' touchdown to bring the lead back to three. In the fourth quarter, the game went to Green Bay. Favre's third touchdown pass to Ahman Green, and a defense that held the Lions to a field goal, wrapped it up! "Happy the way they scrapped and fought for 60 minutes. It's great to get the first one,"¹ said coach Mike McCarthy.

Green Bay 14 3 7 7 31
Detroit 14 0 7 3 24
61,095

Total Yards: GB 400 DET 424

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/06, Dougherty. P. 31

10.2.2006

PACKERS 9

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 31

The Packers returned to the scene of "4th-and-26," and they were blown out. They managed only three field goals, all in the first half, for a 9-7 halftime lead. Eagles' quarterback Donovan McNabb owned the second half, and he crushed the Green Bay. He kept drives alive with his scrambling, and he threw two touchdowns to wideout Greg Lewis and ran for two others himself. His 288 yards passing and 57 yards rushing accounted for 345 of the Eagles 398! "Give the guy credit,"¹ Packers' defensive end Aaron Kampman said.

Brett Favre was pulled from the game before Green Bay's final possession. He suffered a head-shoulder injury, and Aaron Rodgers came in. "I think he's going to be fine,"² said McCarthy.

Green Bay 3 6 0 0 9
Philadelphia 0 7 17 7 31
69,222

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/06, Dougherty. P. 31

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/06, Dougherty. P. 33

10.8.2006

St. LOUIS

RAMS 23

PACKERS 20

Green Bay fell to 1-4 with this tough loss. In the first five minutes, the Rams capitalized immediately on a fumble. It set up the first of two touchdown passes by quarterback Marc Bulger. Torry Holt caught it, and St. Louis would lead at halftime 14-13.

The Packers came back with stingy defense in the final 30 minutes that yielded just three field goals. Trailing 23-13 with six minutes left, Favre and rookie Greg Jennings connected for a 46-yard score that cut it to 23-20. With 2:46 left, "Favre indeed took them to the brink of victory"¹ with a 68-yard drive. With 44 seconds to go at the Rams 11-yard line, Favre tried to avoid a sack, and Leonard Little poked the ball from his grasp. The Rams recovered it. Game over.

St. Louis 7 7 3 6 23
Green Bay 7 6 0 7 20
70,804

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/06, Dougherty, p. 33

10.22.2006

PACKERS 34

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 24

Though the Packers were outgained 448-346, they persevered in a strong second half. In the first 30 minutes, they generated only two Dave Rayner field goals to trail 10-6. They took control in the second half when "Charles got us all started,"¹ said Ahman Green. Charles Woodson's pick-six came 50 seconds into the second half! It was Woodson's first pick-six since 1999, and it gave Green Bay the lead. Later in the quarter, a spectacular touchdown catch by Donald Driver made it 20-10.

Green Bay didn't let up in the fourth quarter. Ahman Green's 70-yard run made it 27-16. The teams traded touchdowns in the final minutes, and Favre's touchdown to David Martin closed the scoring. Donald Driver led all receivers with 10 catches for 93 yards and one touchdown.

Green Bay 0 6 14 14 34

Miami 7 3 3 11 24

73,548

Sacks: GB 4 DET 2

The Green Bay Optimist Club sponsored a Packer party for the PALS Program of Brown County. "The children in the program and their mentors or parents will come dressed in their Packer attire, eat pizza and treats, and participate in activities including the Packer Experience obstacle course, passing and kicking contests, and other games. Green Bay Packer players will run plays, play games with the children and sign autographs."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/06, Tomlinson, p. 36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/06, p. 5

10.29.2006

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 14

PACKERS 31

The Packers won two straight, dominating this old rivalry against the 1-6 Cardinals. They enjoyed a 21-0 lead behind Ahman Green's two rushing touchdowns and a Brett Favre touchdown pass to David Martin.

Favre ran for a touchdown in the second half, and he followed it with his first Lambeau Leap... only after encouragement from Donald Driver! "I don't think I've ever done one, but I hope that's the last one. I should have found a lower spot. I'm not real savvy in the stands-jumping department."¹ It was also Favre's first rushing touchdown since 2001!

The Packers' backfield was unstoppable. If it wasn't Ahman Green's 106 yards, it was Vernand Morency's 101! "That means we're executing our assignments," said center Scott Wells. Green Bay's defense held Arizona to 218 yards, and they sacked rookie quarterback Matt Leinart four times.

Arizona 0 7 7 0 14
Green Bay 7 14 7 3 31
73,548

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/06, Dougherty/Demovsky, p. 36

11.5.2006

PACKERS 10
BUFFALO
BILLS 24

The Bills defeated the Packers despite being outgained 427-184. A field goal by Rian Lindell and London Fletcher's pick-six gave Buffalo a 10-0 lead. In the second half, the Packers came back to tie it on Brett Favre's touchdown to Donald Driver and Dave Rayner's 49-yard field goal.

Buffalo hit back with two touchdown drives in the final eight minutes. After a three-and-out by the Packers, the Bills took back the lead 17-10 after a mixup in Green Bay's secondary. Wideout Lee Evans took advantage and broke loose for a 43-yard score. The Bills struck again with three minutes left when Favre was intercepted on Buffalo's 1-yard line by safety Ko Simpson. Simpson took it back to Green Bay's 27-yard line with 4:33 left. Three plays later, Anthony Thomas' touchdown run seemed to seal the deal.

On Green Bay's final drive, Favre started with four straight completions that put the Packers on Buffalo's 39. After a timeout, a red-hot Favre cooled off. Coach McCarthy mentioned later, "It's getting too late in the year to let those type of opportunities slip away."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 3 10
Buffalo 7 3 0 14 24
72,205

Total Yards: GB 427 BUFF 184

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/06, p. 42

11.12.2006

PACKERS 23

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 17

In a big game for the new coach, the Packers won in the Metrodome! Quarterback Brett Favre threw for 347 yards and two touchdowns (without an interception). Donald Driver starred with six catches for 191 yards and one touchdown.

After Green Bay took a 10-0 lead, Minnesota came back with two long touchdown drives to pull ahead 14-10. Green Bay retook the lead 48 seconds before halftime on an 82-yard Favre to Driver connection. Favre hit Driver with a bullet over the middle, and he went untouched for a 17-14 halftime lead.

The second half was a field goal battle between Dave Rayner, who kicked two, and former Green Bay Packer Ryan Longwell, who booted one. The Packer defense more than held its own with four sacks overall, and they gave up just three points in the second half.

Green Bay 10 7 3 3 23

Minnesota 0 14 0 3 17

63,924

Total Yards: GB 394 MINN 312

11.19.2006

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 35

PACKERS 0

After the win over the Vikings in the Metrodome, this was an embarrassing loss!

The Packers generated a dismal 120 yards. Brett Favre, who made his 251st consecutive start, including playoff games, threw for only 73 yards before injuring his elbow in the second quarter. He landed on his throwing arm when he was sacked by linebacker Teddy Bruschi. Aaron Rodgers finished the game (4-12-32-0-0), and did not play well.

New England quarterback Tom Brady threw for 244 yards and four touchdowns.

New England 7 14 7 7 35

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0

70,753

GB was now 4-6.

"The players are more accessible here than in other towns. One time, my two young grandsons, probably four or five years old at the time, went to Brett Favre's TV show. They had a little rubber

*football with them, and for about five minutes, Brett Favre was out there playing catch with these two boys. I had my camera snapping pictures left and right, and I know they'll cherish those someday. They really treat kids right."*¹

¹ For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 35

11.27.2006

PACKERS 24

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 34

On a snowy Monday night, four turnovers by Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck paved the way for an early Green Bay lead. Charles Woodson's interception led to a touchdown, and a fumble recovery by Abdul Hodge made it 14-12. Green Bay couldn't convert on two other picks, but they held Seattle to four Josh Brown field goals.

On the first drive of the second half, Brett Favre's 48-yard touchdown strike to Donald Driver made it 21-12. Green Bay's defense could not hold up as former Packer Matt Hasselbeck threw three touchdowns to three different receivers in under 15 minutes. Shaun Alexander punished Green Bay with 40 carries for 201 yards—the most against Green Bay in 17 years.

After Driver's touchdown, the Packers produced only one field goal. They didn't "capitalize enough on the turnover windfall (in the first half) to beat a superior team."¹

Green Bay 7 7 7 3 24

Seattle 3 9 7 15 34

68,256

Total Yards: GB 316 SEA 382

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/06, Dougherty, p. 32

12.3.2006

NEW YORK

JETS 38

PACKERS 10

After getting shut out by the Patriots in their last home game two weeks earlier, the Packers were slaughtered by the Jets. Before the game, New York coach Eric Mangini showed his team a video of the Ice Bowl. The motivator worked, and the playoff-bound Jets pounded away.

The Jets used a no-huddle offense to confuse the Packers and outgained them 441-351. Two touchdown passes in the first half by quarterback Chad Pennington led them to a

blowout 31-0 lead at halftime. The Packers were booed on the way to the locker room. The second half wasn't much different except that Green Bay actually scored on a Favre to Driver touchdown pass. After the blowout, McCarthy said, "to play like that at home, it infuriates everyone involved."¹

New York 10 21 0 7 38
Green Bay 0 0 10 0 10
70,527

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/06, Dougherty, p. 31

12.10.2006

PACKERS 30
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 19

This was Mike McCarthy's first game against his former team. Riding a three-game losing streak, the Packers made changes on both sides of the ball. "Sometimes you've got to shake things up in order to get the most out of players,"¹ observed cornerback Charles Woodson.

Two long touchdown passes from Brett Favre also sparked the win. A 38-yard strike to Revell Martin put Green Bay in front to stay 7-3. Woodson recovered a 49ers fumble that added a field goal and, in the third quarter, two plays after a Nick Collins interception, Favre and Donald Diver connected on a 68-yard bomb and a 23-14 lead.

Dave Rayner's two field goals and a late touchdown by San Francisco finished the scoring. With seven minutes left in the game, rookie linebacker A. J. Hawk made his first interception. "I was just glad to get it when I did, and keep the momentum in our favor,"² he said later.

Favre's strong game (22-34-293-2-0) included the 413th touchdown pass of his career to Donald Driver. Favre was in sight of Dan Marino's all-time record of 420.

Green Bay 7 10 7 6 30
San Francisco 3 3 7 6 19
68,539

For an NFL record 15th time, Brett Favre threw for over 3,000 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/06, Demovsky, p. 29

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/06, Demovsky, p. 29

12.17.2006

DETROIT

LIONS **9**

PACKERS **17**

The Packers held the last place Lions to 142 yards and three field goals. Brett Favre had an inconsistent game (20-37-274-0-3). Though his three interceptions were costly, his two touchdown drives saved the day.

After Detroit took a 3-0 lead, Brett Favre's fumble was recovered by the Lions but returned promptly. Quarterback John Kitna was intercepted two plays later by Al Harris, and the Packers tied it. Two possessions later, the Packers took the lead and never let go. A nine-play drive was finished by Vernand Morency's touchdown run for a 10-3 halftime lead.

A second field goal by the Lions started the second-half action, and it stayed 10-6 into the fourth quarter. Detroit crept to within 10-9 when cornerback Dre' Bly intercepted Favre on Green Bay's 12-yard line. Jason Hanson's third field goal made it 10-9 Packers with nine minutes left. Green Bay's next possession lasted seven minutes and covered 78 yards in 12 plays! On Detroit's 21-yard line, Morency cut back over right tackle and went the distance with 2:48 left.

A strong defensive effort backed up the offense. In the fourth quarter, the Packers allowed minus-11 yards passing, the second-best total since 1978. Overall, the defense held Detroit to 10 first downs and 142 total yards. They sacked Jon Kitna six times and kept the Lions out of the end zone! The Packers were now 6-8 and striving for a .500 season.

Detroit **3 0 3 3 9**
Green Bay **3 7 0 7 17**
70,472

12.21.2006

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **7**

PACKERS **9**

Four days later, the Packers got closer to .500 in a tough, defensive battle with their northern rival. Neither team gave a riveting performance on the Thursday night telecast, but the Packers came away with the win.

The Vikings were held to an astonishingly low 104 yards of offense and only three first downs! In the cold rain, Dave Rayner's two first-half field goals gave Green Bay a 6-0 lead that they took to the locker room at halftime.

Late in the third quarter, an underthrown pass by Brett Favre was picked off by Fred Smoot. The veteran cornerback took it back 47 yards for a touchdown, and Minnesota led 7-6. It stayed 7-6 for nearly 20 minutes! With five minutes left in the game, the Packers went 41 yards in seven plays. Favre's two long completions to Ruvell Martin and Ahman Green set the stage for Rayner's 44-yard winner with 1:34 left!

Minnesota 0 0 7 0 7
Green Bay 3 0 3 3 9
70,864

*Was this Brett Favre's last game at Lambeau Field? Fans had to wonder as they watched Packer President Bob Harlan being honored in a brief video presentation in the first quarter. Harlan, who brought the franchise back to respectability beginning in June 1989, led the Packers back to the Super Bowl and completed the renovation of Lambeau Field. He retired in May and was greeted warmly by fans. The tribute ended with a long embrace between Harlan and Favre on the field."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/06, Tomlinson, p. 40

12.31.2006

PACKERS 26

CHICAGO

BEARS 7

The Packers won their last four games to finish 8-8, and set a positive tone for 2007. Against the postseason-bound, 13-2 Bears on a Sunday night at Soldier Field, Brett Favre had a good game (21-42-285-1-1) while speculation was rampant about his possible retirement after the season.

The Packers scored on the game's opening drive with Favre's touchdown pass to Donald Driver. A pick-six by safety Nick Collins made it 13-0 Packers. Another pick by cornerback Patrick Dendy went for a 30-yard touchdown and a 23-0 lead!

Overall, the Packers stole five passes and held the Bears to one touchdown late in the third quarter. After the game, on the field, Favre was emotional. "If this is my last game, I want to remember it," he said, his voice cracking and tears streaming from his eyes. "It's tough. I love these guys. I love this game. What a great way to go out against a great football team. I couldn't ask for a better way to get out."¹

Green Bay 13 10 0 3 26
Chicago 0 0 7 0 7
62,287

Total Yards: GB 373 CHI 316

"He'll be back. He needs to break Dan Marino's record,"² said fan Bill Winterrowd of Janesville.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/07, Srubas, p. 1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/1/07, Srubas, p. 1

2006

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	13	3	0
Green Bay	8	8	0
Minnesota	6	10	0
Detroit	3	13	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Driver
Rushing	Green
Scoring	Rayner
Interceptions	Woodson
Sacks	Kampman

ALL-PRO

Kampman Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

A. J. Hawk (1, LB)

Daryn Colledge (2a, G-T)

Greg Jennings (2b, WR)

Abdul Hodge (3a, LB)

Jason Spitz (3b, G-C)

Johnny Jolly (6a, DT)



2007

Record: 13-3-0, 1st Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- On February 2nd, Brett Favre said he would return for his 16th season. It would be his last in Green Bay.
- The Packers celebrated Lambeau Field's 50th anniversary! During the preseason, practice was held at Old City Stadium for the first time since 1961.
- Packer President John Jones unexpectedly resigned in July.
- Ahman Green left as a free agent, and fullback William Henderson was released. Ryan

Grant, acquired from the Giants, led the team in rushing with 956 yards.

- Favre completed 66.5% of passes, and he set numerous NFL passing records. Donald Driver led the receivers.
- In a magical season, they scored 30 points or more 10 times, and they won the NFC North. In the postseason, they advanced to the NFC Championship Game but lost to the Giants.

9.9.2007

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **13**

PACKERS **16**

The defense led the way. Green Bay took control in the first six minutes by capitalizing on two Philadelphia turnovers. A fumbled punt in the end zone by Greg Lewis was recovered by Tracy White of the Packers! Donovan McNabb was intercepted by Nick Barnett, and rookie Mason Crosby's field goal made it 10-0.

The Eagles tied it before halftime. They moved ahead 13-10 in the third quarter on a 10-play drive and a David Akers field goal. Mason Crosby tied it for Green Bay at the end of the quarter. In the fourth quarter of a tie game, the defenses dug in. With 4:26 left, Brett Favre fumbled after a hit by Trent Cole. When Favre left the field after the fumble, linebacker Nick Barnett told him, "We are going get it back for you."¹ They did!

With one minute left, the Packers punted the ball back to the Eagles. J. R. Reed inexplicably dove for the football and fumbled it away. Jarrett Bush recovered it on Philadelphia's 31-yard line with 59 seconds left. Three plays later, rookie Mason Crosby nailed the winner from the 42!

Philadelphia **0 10 3 0 13**

Green Bay **10 0 3 3 16**

70,598

GB ran for just 46 yards

In pre-game ceremonies, the Packers honored "sixty-five of the 109 living recipients of the Medal of Honor."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/07, Demovsky, p. 36

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/07, Jagannathan, p. 3

9.16.200

PACKERS 35

NEW YORK

GIANTS 13

The two old rivals got going in the second quarter when they traded touchdowns. Quarterback Eli Manning's 26-yard touchdown to Plaxico Burress gave New York a 10-7 edge at half.

Quarterback Brett Favre (29-39-286-3-1) rallied the Packers in the final 30 minutes. He completed 18 of 21 passes for 147 yards and three touchdowns! Without an established ground game, Favre neutralized New York's defense with a short passing attack reminiscent of the original West Coast offense. His first touchdown went to Bubba Franks on the opening drive of the second half. In the fourth quarter, Donald Lee and Donald Driver caught Favre's other touchdowns. Driver's came following a fumble, and he caught a rope from Favre in the back of the end zone to put it beyond reach.

Green Bay's 2-0 start had everyone feeling very positive. It was also a nice road win. "We've got six in a row now*. Our guys, their confidence is building,"¹ said, McCarthy.

Green Bay 0 7 7 21 35

New York 0 10 3 0 13

78,701

* The Packers won their last four games in 2006.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/17/07, Dougherty, p. 35

9.23.2007

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 24

PACKERS 31

The 3-0 Packers are for real! A red-hot Brett Favre continued to put up the points in a rare head-to-head meeting with San Diego quarterback Phillip Rivers.

Midway through the first quarter, the Chargers started the scoring with a 27-yard Rivers to Vincent Jackson connection. They led 7-3 until back-to-back touchdown drives into the second quarter. Favre threw touchdowns to Donald Driver and Bubba Franks for a 17-7 lead. With just under three minutes left in the half, the Chargers weren't finished. With 32 seconds left, Rivers threw his second score to rookie Craig Davis to cut to 17-14.

In the third quarter, a double play-action pass from Rivers to LaDainian Tomlinson gave San Diego in the lead. With under six minutes left and down by four, the Packers went for it on fourth down at San Diego's 1-yard line. They were stopped. But when they got the

ball back with 2:27 left, a 57-yard bomb from Favre to Greg Jennings took back the lead 24-21. Linebacker Nick Barnett then picked off Rivers, and Green Bay capitalized to push it beyond reach, 31-21. "I think nationally we're going to get more attention. Now it's going to be how are we going to handle it?" said tackle, Mark Tauscher.

San Diego 7 7 7 3 24

Green Bay 7 10 0 14 31

70,733

Favre 28-45-369-3-0 / Rivers 27-36-306-3-1

*It was Alumni Day at Lambeau Field, and "Bart Starr received, by far the loudest ovation during halftime introductions. Fans fondly remember Starr as the quarterback, not the head coach."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/07, Vandermause, p. 30

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/07, Vandermause, p. 35

9.30.2007

PACKERS 23

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 16

Brett Favre broke Dan Marino's record for the most touchdown passes in NFL history—421. It came on a bullet to Greg Jennings that gave the Packers a 7-0 lead.

From Favre's record-breaking touchdown at 5:56 of the first quarter, until they reached the end zone again with 4:46 left in the game, it was all field goals! Kickers Mason Crosby and former Packer Ryan Longwell dueled back-and-forth, and both kicked three! With Green Bay leading 16-9 early in the final quarter, a Brett Favre to James Jones pass went for a 33-yard touchdown to put it away. Though the Vikings cut the lead to six with just under two minutes left, the Packers prevailed.

Terry Bradshaw had this to say about Favre after he broke the record: "Brett Favre is the best I've ever seen, and I've never said that about anybody. He's simply the best. He's got the strongest arm, the athleticism, field presence, leadership, poise, and tenaciousness. He plays hurt, he's fun, he's infectious. He has everything I want to see, including the game-time decisions, the strengths, and all the intangibles."¹ Favre appreciated the comments. "It's flattering. Those are the types of things I think mean more than any trophies you have in your trophy cabinet."²

Green Bay 7 3 3 10 23

Minnesota 0 6 3 7 16

63,779

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/07, Vandermause, p. 32

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/07, Vandermause, p. 32

10.7.2007

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

PACKERS 20

In light of Chicago's 1-3 record coming in, the faithful were stunned when the Packers gave it away in the second half.

In the first 30 minutes, the Packers were impressive. They overwhelmed the Bears with 341 yards of offense. Touchdowns by DeShawn Wynn and Greg Jennings put them in front 17-7. But turnovers changed things quickly.

After trading field goals in the third quarter, linebacker Brian Urlacher's interception set up Brian Griese's touchdown to Greg Olsen. Then, early in the fourth quarter on a punt, Charles Woodson was stripped of the football, and the Bears tied it on Robbie Gould's field goal. Green Bay completed the collapse in the game's final five minutes. The defense couldn't stop them, and the Bears went 45 yards for a Griese to Desmond Clark touchdown for the win.

Chicago 0 7 10 10 27

Green Bay 7 10 3 0 20

70,904

GB has 11 turnovers in 5 games!

"Even though we are over 200 hundred miles away, we still make it to games. I took my son to his first game when he was six. He was so tiny, he had to sit on my lap for the whole game. As he got older, I gave up my seat so he could go with his father. Now he's a cadet at West Point. Last year, he watched the first game of the season on computer because they don't have TVs at West Point. He was watching on his computer with a 15-second delay, and the rest of the family was watching at home on TV. We were talking back and forth on the phone, and of course, we knew what was happening before him!"¹

1 For Packers Fans Only! Wolfe, p. 103 (Leanne Burch)

10.14.2007

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 14

PACKERS 17

It was ugly, but the final score is what counts, and Green Bay embraced the W!

In a ragged game for Green Bay's offense, the defense played a big role in preserving the victory. After a Packer touchdown by DeShawn Wynn, quarterback Jason Campbell of the Redskins knotted it with a 6-yard touchdown run. One minute before halftime, Washington took the lead on Campbell's 14-yard toss to Chris Cooley.

In the second half, Green Bay's defense shut down Washington. They held the Redskins to four first downs, and Washington never got to within field goal range. For Green Bay, without a ground game (56 yards), the offense struggled. Late in the third quarter, they trimmed the lead to four, 14-10, on Mason Crosby's 37-yard field goal. One minute later, Charles Woodson picked up a fumble by Santana Moss and went 57 yards for six more! Green Bay led 17-14.

The Packers held on and went into the bye 5-1. The Press-Gazette summed up the first six games: "Three times this season, the Packers have won because of Brett Favre. Twice, they've won in spite of him... it's hard to call them anything other than a good team. They're not great, but they're no fluke, either."¹

Washington 7 7 0 0 14

Green Bay 7 0 10 0 17

70,761

Mason Crosby missed 2 of 3 field goals.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/07, p. 33

10.29.2007

PACKERS 19

DENVER

BRONCOS 13 (OT)

After the bye week, it's Monday Night Football in the Rockies! The lighter air did them good, as Brett Favre unloaded for two long distance-strikes, the second of which won it!

Late in the first quarter, Denver quarterback Jay Cutler grabbed the lead with a touchdown pass to Tony Scheffler. Twenty-three seconds later, Favre retaliated with a 79-yard missile to James Jones! After the touchdowns, it was a field goal contest. Mason Crosby nailed two field goals before halftime for a 13-7 lead. After intermission, kicker Jason Elam matched Crosby's two field goals, and the second kick forced the overtime.

In a spectacular finish, Favre went for it all immediately. On first down, he read the defense perfectly and hit Jennings in stride for an 82-yard winner! Happy defensive end Aaron Kampman said, "Who's going to think about taking a shot on the first play of overtime? Great play, great call, great execution. Great everything."¹

Green Bay 7 6 0 0 6 19

Denver 7 0 3 3 0 13

77,160

Ryan Grant 29-104

"How can a stadium made up of supposed rabid Bronco fans not be full at the scheduled 6:30 pm kickoff? If it's an indication of fan support, Lambeau field is usually packed a half-hour prior to

kickoff.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/07, Dougherty, 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/07, Vandermause, p. 38

11.4.2007

PACKERS 33

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 22

The points came very slowly in this game! After a 0-0 first quarter, two field goals by Mason Crosby put the Packers ahead 6-0. Fifteen seconds before halftime, quarterback Brett Favre dropped back to pass, and his arm was hit as he released the football. The ball floated and was intercepted by cornerback Benny Sapp at Green Bay’s 30. The Chiefs scored on the next play to lead at intermission 7-6.

Late in the third quarter, A. J. Hawk’s interception set up a Brett Favre touchdown pass to Greg Jennings. After his catch, Jennings “shimmied past two defenders and powered through cornerback Patrick Surtain’s high tackle”¹ and gave Green Bay a 13-7 advantage.

In a busy fourth quarter, K.C. quarterback Damon Huard threw two touchdown passes. The second to Tony Gonzalez put the Chiefs in front 22-16. Two minutes later, Favre and Jennings hooked up again—this time from 60 yards out—for a 23-22 lead. Mason Crosby and Charles Woodson finished the scoring with a 45-yard field goal by Crosby and a 46-yard pick-six by Sir Charles! Woodson’s theft came with 59 seconds left.

Green Bay 0 6 7 20 33

Kansas City 0 7 0 15 22

78,988

Sacks: GB 5 KC 1

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/07, Pelissero, p. 36

11.11.2007

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 0

PACKERS 34

It was all smiles as the Packers whipped the Vikings in front of the largest regular-season crowd in Lambeau Field history to date—70,945. Green Bay’s balanced attack put up 488 yards. Running back, Ryan Grant ran for 119 yards on 25 carries. He began the onslaught with a 30-yard dash around right end for a 7-0 lead. Brett Favre had another outstanding game completing 33 of 46 passes for 351 yards. He tossed three touchdowns in the second half to Donald Lee and Ruvell Martin (2), and he did not throw an interception in

the game.

Green Bay's defense was outstanding, with its first shutout since 2002. They "held an opponent without a third or fourth-down conversion,"¹ for only the fifth time in the last 55 years! They delivered three sacks, one interception, and they held the Vikings to 247 yards. The win was Green Bay's fourth straight over Minnesota!

Minnesota 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 7 6 14 7 34
70,945

Total Yards: GB 488 MINN 247

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, Goska, p. 35

11.18.2007

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 17
PACKERS 31

With another easy win, the Packers were now 9-1 and enjoying the team's best start since 1962! "I could not be more pleased with our start,"¹ said Brett Favre.

Green Bay took the lead in this blowout midway through the first quarter when Tramon Williams returned a punt 94-yards for six. After a Carolina field goal, Brett Favre began his three-touchdown bombardment that lasted into the second half! Touchdowns went to Greg Jennings and Donald Lee (2), with Lee's second catch giving Green Bay a 28-3 lead early in the second half. Offensively, a balanced attack featured a rejuvenated ground game from Ryan Grant's 88 yards.

Quarterback Vinnie Testaverde threw touchdowns at the end of the third and fourth quarters. It wasn't nearly enough as Favre's game was too much to overcome (22-30-218-3-0). "Same old guy, slingin' it like he always does. He's just got more weapons now,"² said guard Mike Wahl.

Carolina 3 0 7 7 17
Green Bay 7 14 7 3 31
70,805

Donald Driver's foundation to help the homeless "seeks to raise local and national awareness." Driver has partnered with "local marketing and communications agency Infusion Inc. to help in his fight against homelessness."³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/07, Vandermause, p. 30

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/07, Dougherty, p. 31

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/07, p. 5

11.22.2007

PACKERS 37

DETROIT

LIONS 26

The Packers dispatched the Lions fairly easily. They allowed four field goals and kept them out of the end zone until the fourth quarter.

Another spectacular performance by Brett Favre led Green Bay. At one point, Favre (31-41-381-3-0) threw 20 straight completions, which remains a Green Bay record. His three touchdown passes moved him past Dan Marino for the most games with three or more touchdowns (63). Greg Jennings caught two, and Ruvell Martin's catch ended all doubt.

The defense played another strong game. Detroit quarterback Jon Kitna was sacked four times, and an interception by Aaron Rouse set up Favre's first touchdown pass to Greg Jennings. After Favre's third touchdown pass, Green Bay led 31-12. Detroit scored twice in the fourth quarter, but Mason Crosby's two field goals kept the Lions at bay.

Green Bay 0 17 14 6 37

Detroit 6 3 3 14 26

63,257

Ryan Grant ran for 101 yards and one touchdown.

11.29.2007

PACKERS 27

DALLAS

COWBOYS 37

Green Bay's six-game winning streak ended in Texas. More significantly, Brett Favre injured his right elbow after he was hit in the second quarter. He left the game and was replaced by Aaron Rodgers.

Dallas quarterback Tony Romo, who got to play against his childhood hero only briefly, dissected the Packers' secondary for three touchdown passes in the first half. He threw a final touchdown in the fourth quarter and passed for 309 yards overall.

Before Brett Favre was hurt, Green Bay scored on Ryan Grant's 62-yard sprint up the middle. Favre threw two interceptions that led to Dallas touchdowns. On the second pick, he was hit from the blindside and sacked by Nathan Jones. Favre injured his right elbow and separated his left shoulder. The Cowboys capitalized on the turnover with Romo's second touchdown pass and a 20-10 lead.

Before the half, Terrell Owens and Greg Jennings caught touchdown passes, and the

Cowboys led at the break 27-17. The 11-yard touchdown to Jennings was the first of Aaron Rodgers' career (18-26-201-1-0). In the second half, Rodgers led two scoring drives. The first went 12 plays and culminated in Ryan Grant's second touchdown run and a 27-24 game. That's as close as the Packers came, as Tony Romo's fourth touchdown pass restored their 10-point lead.

After the game, Favre described the injury. "If anyone has ever hit their funny bone, imagine hitting it ten times as hard as with a hammer,"¹ he said. The big question, of course, was would it end his streak? Would it stop at 269 regular and postseason games?

Green Bay 10 7 7 3 27
Dallas 13 14 0 10 37
64,167

*"An impressive number of Packer fans showed up at Texas Stadium wearing green and gold and the requisite cheesehead hats."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/07, Vandermause, p. 34

2 Green Bay-Press Gazette, 11/30/07, Vandermause, p. 41

12.9.2007

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 7
PACKERS 38

With an injured elbow and shoulder, Brett Favre (15-23-266-2-1) made his 250th regular-season start and helped the Packers clinch the NFC North. Green Bay was going back to the postseason. In a 14-7 first half, touchdowns were scored by Ryan Grant and Will Blackmon. Blackmon had a special day with a punt return for a touchdown and a fumble recovery in the end zone for another six!

Though Favre wasn't sacked, he did get hit often by the Raiders. But the "Gunslinger" took command in the second half with touchdown strikes of 80 yards to Greg Jennings and 46 yards to Donald Lee. The ground game continued to be productive with Ryan Grant's 156 yards.

The Packers' defense handcuffed Oakland, allowing just 233 total yards. The Raiders completed only 12 passes, and they turned it over three times. Mike McCarthy praised his team, but he wasn't ready to celebrate. "I'm proud of the fact that this is our first division championship, and we've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go."¹

Oakland 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 14 17 7 38
70,828

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/07, p. 33

12.16.2007

PACKERS 33

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 14

After a close 30 minutes, the Packers pulled away and clinched a first-round bye in the postseason.

Ryan Grant's touchdown run gave Green Bay the early lead. His fumble a short time later helped the Rams tie it up. Favre rebounded and found tight end Donald Lee for a 14-7 lead. Then, after Stephen Jackson romped through the Packer defense for a 46-yard touchdown, Mason Crosby's field goal made it 17-14 Packers at half.

The second half belonged to the Packers. The Rams were shut out, and Mason Crosby kicked three more field goals from 50, 25, and 46 yards out. Near the end of the third quarter, and leading 20-14, quarterback Brett Favre gave the Packers some breathing room with a 44-yard touchdown strike to Greg Jennings for a 27-14 lead. The pass to Jennings also moved Favre closer to Dan Marino's all-time record for passing yards. Favre broke the record in the second half on a pass to Donald Driver!

Green Bay 7 10 10 6 33

St. Louis 7 7 0 0 14

66,008

Nearly half of the fans cheered for the Packers! "Their fans are traveling to see their guys do something great, just like today,"¹ said Rams linebacker, Will Weatherspoon.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/07, Dougherty, p. 33

12.23.2007

PACKERS 7

CHICAGO

BEARS 35

"The theory that the Packers always play well in cold, windy, and wintry weather was blown away" by this loss. Quarterback Brett Favre, who mastered playing in freezing temperatures throughout his career, finally began to feel the cold like the rest of humanity.

On a chilly day along Lake Michigan, wind chills reached 18 degrees below zero, with wind gusts of up to 40 miles per hour. The Packers didn't look like the cold weather warriors fans were accustomed to watching.

Ryan Grant's touchdown run put the Packers ahead 7-6, but Chicago scored the next 29 points. Adrian N. Peterson (not to be confused with the Minnesota Viking's running back

Adrian L. Peterson) scored on the ground and ran for 106 yards. Brett Favre (17-32-153-0-2) threw two interceptions that gave away the game. The first by defensive end, Alex Brown set up the Bears at Green Bay's 28-yard line. Then, in nine plays, quarterback Kyle Orton made it count with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Desmond Clark. The second pick by linebacker Brian Urlacher early in the fourth quarter went 85 yards for a touchdown. Game over.

The brutal conditions appeared, uncharacteristically, to bother Favre. He looked stiff and uncomfortable, and he had trouble executing all game. His poor play in the cold (QBR 40.2) alarmed several coaches and team management which complicated the off season.

Green Bay 0 7 0 0 7
Chicago 3 10 15 7 35
62,272

The Bears blocked two punts and held GB to 274 yards.

12.30.2007

DETROIT

LIONS 13

PACKERS 34

"Bring on the playoffs,"¹ read the headline. Brett Favre did just that as he bounced back and played well in an abbreviated appearance. Before turning the game over to Craig Nall in the second quarter, Favre led three scoring drives and threw two touchdown passes.

The Packers scored on their first three possessions. On the fourth play of their first drive, Ryan Grant broke free around right end for a 27-yard touchdown. Favre's first touchdown pass to Koren Robinson completed a 97-yard drive for a 14-0 lead. On Detroit's next play from scrimmage, quarterback Jon Kitna was intercepted by safety Atari Bigby. Forty-one seconds later, Favre's second touchdown went to Bubba Franks.

Brett Favre (9-11-99-2-0) was pulled from the game after his touchdown pass to Franks. The Packers had little trouble the rest of the way. Quarterback Craig Nall threw one touchdown pass, and Green Bay turned the ball over just once. By holding the Lions to 47 yards rushing, Detroit was one-dimensional, and the Packers walked away with a win.

Detroit 3 7 3 0 13
Green Bay 14 7 10 3 34
70,869

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/31/07, p. 1

1.2.2008

2007 NFC Divisional Playoff

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 20

PACKERS 42

Shrouded in a picturesque snowfall, the Packers overcame early turnovers to advance to the NFC Championship Game. Even broadcaster Kenny Albert gushed at the scene, "Is there any better setting for postseason football than Green Bay, Wisconsin?"¹

It certainly didn't start well for the Packers and running back Ryan Grant. Acquired from the Giants for a sixth-round draft choice earlier in the season, Grant became Green Bay's primary back at midseason. Against the Seahawks, he fumbled twice in the first five minutes, and the Packers fell behind quickly 14-0.

Green Bay shook off the miscues and controlled the next 55 minutes. Favre dismissed Grant's miscues on the sideline and encouraged the rookie with, "Who gives a bleep? We're going to keep handing it to you."² And hand it to Grant they did! He carried the ball 27 times for a postseason record of 201 yards. He scored twice in the first half to redeem himself, and he added another touchdown at the start of the final quarter. Regarding the record, Grant said, "It's something special. It says we did it across the board up front. I didn't get touched until the second level."³

Beyond Grant and Favre, wideout Greg Jennings starred with six catches and two first-half touchdowns. His first touchdown catch helped steady the ship after the terrible start.

On their first possession in the second half, Favre threw his third touchdown pass to running back Brandon Jackson. On their next series, Ryan Grant scored his third touchdown. The defense did a great job against Seattle. Other than the points scored off the two early turnovers, they were held to 28 yards rushing, 200 yards overall, and two field goals.

Seattle 14 3 3 0 20

Green Bay 14 14 7 7 42

72,168

Shaun Alexander of Seattle was held to 20 yards.

Packer beer vendor, Allan Hale, is considering retirement after 45 years. The 35 steps up and down his section are getting a little steep. Asked if he was coming back for one more year, he said, "If Favre really does come back, I may come back one more year. If he can do it. I can do it."⁴

This week, the Packers and NFL Charities honored 15 groups and individuals with grants totaling \$25,000. The Community Quarterbacks Awards Program recognizes "volunteers who demonstrate leadership, dedication, and commitment to their communities."⁵

- 1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/08, Gerds, p. 129
- 2 Sports Illustrated 1/21/08, King, p. 38
- 3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/08, Demovsky, p. 120
- 4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/08, Fly, p. 2
- 5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/08, p. 7

1.20.2008

2007 NFC Championship Game

NEW YORK

GIANTS **23**

PACKERS **20**

This was the fourth coldest game in NFL history to date. At kickoff, it was minus four degrees with wind chills of minus 24. Fittingly, Bart Starr served as honorary captain for the Packers.

The New York Giants faced a huge challenge taking on the Packers at Lambeau Field for the right to go to the Super Bowl. Other than the playing conditions, the Packers had already beaten the Giants during the regular season (35-13), and were eight-point favorites. So many fans and players were expecting Green Bay's magical season to continue.

In the first quarter, the Giants took an early lead with two field goals. The Packers did not have much success moving the ball early, but they came to life in the second quarter for one huge play. On first down at Green Bay's 10-yard line, Favre dropped back and found Donald Driver deep down the right sideline for a 90-yard touchdown! Mason Crosby's field goal gave Green Bay a 10-6 halftime lead.

Conditions worsened in the third quarter, and it seemed to affect the Packers more than the Giants. Green Bay continued to have trouble running the football, and they produced just 28 yards all game.

On the first drive out of the locker room, quarterback Eli Manning marched the Giants to the 1-yard line where Brandon Jacobs plowed over for a 13-10 New York lead. Tramon Williams brought the kickoff back to New York's 39, and Favre found Donald Lee for a touchdown and a 17-13 lead.

Three passes by Eli Manning led a 57-yard touchdown drive, and Ahmad Bradshaw scored with 2:19 left in the third quarter. Trailing 20-17, Favre was intercepted by R. W. McQuarters. Fortunately, Ryan Grant stripped the ball from McQuarters, and the Packers maintained possession. Mason Crosby's 37-yard field goal tied it with 11:46 left.

During the second half of the season for Green Bay, "You just have to believe. It's falling into place"¹ was the feeling many fans had. But as the cold continued unopposed, Favre

looked frozen and out of sync in the final seven minutes. On Green Bay's last two drives, they went three-and-out, and Favre completed just two of his six passes for 12 yards.

New York kicker, Lawrence Tynes, missed two fourth-quarter field goals. After his first miss from the 43, the Packers went three-and-out. The second came with four seconds left and forced overtime.

After winning the coin toss, Favre's first pass intended for Donald Driver was intercepted by Corey Webster. Lawrence Tynes redeemed himself with a 47-yard winner. "I'm disappointed that the last pass I threw gave them a chance to win. I am going to try and enjoy this season and block this game out as best I can,"² Favre said later. It was indeed his last pass.....as a Green Bay Packer.

New York 3 3 14 0 3 23
Green Bay 0 10 7 3 0 20
72,168

GB ran for 28 yards.

Press-Gazette Editorial on the season: "We grew closer together. Generations of fans shared with each other their passion for the moment and a reverence for the past. Even people who don't care about football that much could feel the contagious happiness."³

"My whole family is crying. We feel like we were watching a different team play, not the Green Bay Packers."⁴ Barry Family, Dubuque, Iowa

Thank You! "On December 28, we attended the Walk of Legends dedication to Max McGee and Fuzzy Thurston. We would be remiss if we did not thank the many people who worked endlessly to bring this to fruition. While our father was not with us that day, we know he was proud to have a permanent place of honor, to be chosen a 'Legend' in Green Bay. There is truly no other place on earth like Green Bay. To the community we say: You will always be No. 1."⁵ Maria McGee, Mona McGee Olson

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/21/08, Woods, p. 35

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/21/08, Walter, p. 2

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/21/08, p. 7

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/21/08, p. 2

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/22/08, p. 5

2007

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	3	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Detroit	7	9	0
Chicago	7	9	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Favre
Receiving	Driver
Rushing	Grant
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Bigby
Sacks	Kampman

ALL-PRO

Barnett	Linebacker
Favre	Quarterback
Harris	Cornerback
Kampman	Defensive End

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Justin Harrell (1, DT)
Brandon Jackson (2, RB)
James Jones (3a, WR)
Aaron Rouse (3b, S)
Mason Crosby (6c, K)
Desmond Bishop (6b, LB)
DeShawn Wynn (7a, RB)



2008
Record: 6-10-0, 4th Place
Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In March, Brett Favre announced his retirement. Tensions mounted when he changed his mind just before training. The Packers wanted to move forward with Aaron Rodgers.
- In one of the most controversial and emotional trades in franchise history, GM Ted Thomson traded Favre to the Jets on August 7, 2008, for a third-round draft choice.
- Green Bay started 2-0 before losing five of seven. After beating Chicago in November, they lost five straight.
- In his first season as the starter, Aaron Rodgers passed for over 4,000 yards. But, as expected, the team slipped offensively. Ryan Grant led the ground game, and Greg Jennings led receivers.
- On defense, they gave up nearly 100 more points than in 2007.

- *Oh, somewhere in this confusing mess,
Could someone shed some light.
Brett wants to play again somewhere,
And it's causing quite a fight.*

*Now, somewhere could be Lambeau.
But somewhere else won't do.
And there won't be joy in Titledown,
If those colors are purple or blue.* ¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Heller, p.6

9.9.2008

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 19

PACKERS 24

The post-Brett Favre Era began on Monday Night Football. It was quite a debut for Aaron Rodgers, who played very well (18-22-178-1-0). Eighteen of his 22 passes were on target, and he scored the winner with six minutes left in the game. Not bad!

After a field goal by former Packer Ryan Longwell, the Packers led the rest of the way. A touchdown pass from Rodgers to fullback Korey Hall made it 7-3, and Mason Crosby matched Longwell for a 10-3 lead at halftime.

Will Blackmon's 76-yard punt return gave Green Bay some breathing room, 17-6. But at the start of the fourth quarter, Minnesota quarterback Tarvaris Jackson threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Sidney Rice. With the Vikings closing in at 17-12, Rodgers would be tested for the first time.

Starting on his 28-yard line with under nine minutes left, Aaron Rodgers gave it to Ryan Grant, who broke through the Vikings' front seven for a 57-yard gain to the 2-yard line! On his second try at a quarterback sneak, Rodgers scored for a 24-12 lead with six minutes left. The defense had trouble holding off the Vikings, and Adrian Peterson's touchdown made it 24-19 with 2:43 left.

Three running plays with Brandon Jackson lost yardage, and the Vikings had another shot with 1:51 left. After they picked up a quick first down, safety Atari Bigby intercepted Tarvaris Jackson to put it away! After the game, Rodgers said, "It's just one win; you've got to keep it in that context, but it's an important win. It's a new team with a lot of changes, but there's still a lot of confidence in that locker room."¹

Minnesota 0 3 3 13 19

Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24

71,004

Ryan Grant injured a hamstring.

Rodgers took his first Lambeau Leap after his touchdown run. "I've been dreaming about that for four years."²

"A midday luncheon served up a feel-good menu. The Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay and the Miracle League of Green Bay we honored for their youth fitness initiatives. Recognition came from the Packers, NFL, ESPN, and national sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods. The invitation-only event was not broadcast. It was attended by Packers, ESPN officials, sponsors, and representatives of community organizations and businesses."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Dougherty, p. 36

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Walter, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/08, Gerds, p. 35

9.14.2008

PACKERS 48

DETROIT

LIONS 25

After shedding the pressure of winning his first game at Lambeau Field, Rodgers exploded in his first road game with three first-half touchdown passes against the Lions. He threw touchdowns to James Jones, Donald Driver, and Jordy Nelson for a 21-3 first-half lead.

In the second half, Jason Hanson's two field goals, Calvin Johnson's two touchdown catches, and a team safety brought the Lions back. Johnson's second touchdown in the fourth quarter gave them a 25-24 lead with seven minutes left.

The final seven minutes were ferocious! It started with a six-play, 59-yard drive, and Mason Crosby's field goal that put the Packers back on top 27-25. The defense then closed the deal with three interceptions. Charles Woodson's pick led to Brandon Jackson's 19-yard touchdown sprint with 3:31 left. Woodson followed with a 41-yard pick-six, and safety Nick Collins did the same from the 42-yard line! "I think it showed the character of our football team the way we responded,"¹ said, McCarthy.

Green Bay 7 14 3 24 48

Detroit 0 3 6 16 25

60,285

Greg Jennings caught six passes for 167 yards.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/15/08, Vandermause, p. 32

9.21.2008

COWBOYS 27

PACKERS 16

The Dallas Cowboys won their first game at Lambeau Field. They took control right after the teams traded turnovers and field goals in the first 18 minutes!

With the Packers leading 6-3 in the second quarter, rookie Felix Jones hit the left side of the line and went 60-yards for a 10-6 Dallas lead. After trading two more field goals, the Cowboys broke away behind two touchdown passes by quarterback Tony Romo. His 52-yard touchdown pass to Miles Austin with nine minutes left in the game put it away 27-9.

Romo and the Cowboys put up 453 yards. Running back Marion Barber, led the ground game with one touchdown and 142 of its 217 yards!

The Packers were never in it. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was sacked five times, and they ran the ball for only 84 yards. With 2:11 left, they scored when Rodgers ran it in from the 1-yard line. The Packers never got the ball back, and the Cowboys were 3-0.

Dallas 3 10 7 7 27

Green Bay 3 3 3 7 16

71,113

*Herbert Barnes, fan: "You should see my den. It is full of Packer memorabilia. I've got my stock, a letter from Bob Harlan, my Super Bowl ticket stubs—it's a shrine. My wife passed away in 1996, the year the Packers won the championship. Years before, she bought me a mug that had the front page of the Green Bay paper on it. It was the picture of Max McGee catching a ball, and it was titled 'Max McGee's Swan Song.' When she passed away, Lee Rummel (Packers' historian) asked me if my wife had given me anything that I'd like to give to the Packer Hall of Fame, and I gave them the cup. Now it's in the Hall, in memory of my wife. She was a great lady and a real fan."*¹

1 For Packers Fans Only!, Wolfe, p. 67

9.28.2008

PACKERS 21

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 30

Beyond the two touchdown passes to Greg Jennings, the offense struggled. Jennings caught six passes for 109 yards, but the entire offense produced only 181 yards.

The disaster started on the ground. Ryan Grant was held to 20 yards, and the entire ground game managed only 28. Tampa's defense was led by veteran Derrick Brooks, who

forced a fumble that was returned for a touchdown by Jermain Phillips. He also intercepted a pass. The defense pressured Rodgers often and sacked him three times. Green Bay was held to eight first downs, with only one in the second half.

After digging a 20-7 hole, the Packers capitalized on an interception by safety, Nick Collins. On the ensuing drive, though it resulted in a Rodgers to Jennings 48-yard touchdown, it came at a cost as Rodgers suffered "an apparent dislocated throwing shoulder"¹ when he was tackled from behind by Elbert Mack. Rodgers left the game and was replaced by Matt Flynn.

On the Bucs' next possession, a 62-yard pick-six by Charles Woodson gave Green Bay a 21-20 lead with 13 minutes to go. Green Bay protected the one-point lead until Matt Bryant's third field goal made it 23-21 Bucs with 2:28 left. Aaron Rodgers returned only to throw an interception that led to Tampa's final touchdown.

Green Bay 7 0 7 7 21
Tampa Bay 0 13 7 10 30
64,122

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/29/08, Dougherty, p. 29

10.5.2008

ATLANTA

FALCONS 27

PACKERS 24

Rookie quarterback Matt Ryan led the Falcons to this road victory.

With a sprained shoulder, Aaron Rodgers practiced very little during the week, but he insisted on playing. He did not want to sit out of his fifth game as a starter after replacing Brett Favre! Some people wondered, would Rodgers "miss more games in his first season as the starter than Favre missed in 16 years under center for the Packers?"¹

Rodgers played hurt, and the Packers lost a third straight. The Falcons took a 10-0 lead on quarterback Matt Ryan's touchdown pass and Jason Elam's field goal. Rodgers and the offense found a groove in the second quarter with a 44-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver, which cut the lead to 10-7. Ryan and Roddy White hit back with a touchdown, and Atlanta led 17-7 at the break.

Other than Mason Crosby's field goal, all of the scoring in the second half occurred in the fourth quarter. It started with an interception in the end zone by Tramon Williams. The pick not only stopped Atlanta, but it ignited an 80-yard scoring drive for Green Bay. Rodgers tied it at 17 with a 25-yard touchdown to Greg Jennings.

After a Falcons field goal, they intercepted Brett Favre. Atlanta capitalized with a touchdown run by back Micheal Turner for a 10 point lead with 3:35 left. Rodgers threw his third touchdown pass to Donald Lee, but it wasn't enough.

Atlanta **10 7 0 10 27**
Green Bay **0 7 3 14 24**
70,610

Penalties: GB 9-97 ATL 2-15

1 If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee/Reischel, p. 138

10.12.2008

PACKERS **27**

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS **17**

The Packers defeated their former coach, Mike Holmgren, and 1-3 Seahawks to end their three-game skid. They took advantage of an injured Seattle team that played without its starting quarterback, former Packer Matt Hasselbeck.

After a fumble by Aaron Rodgers, Seattle scored its first touchdown. They enjoyed an early 10-3 lead, but they didn't score again until there were three minutes left in the game. The Packers tied it before halftime on a 70-yard drive and 1-yard sneak by Rodgers!

On Green Bay's third possession of the second half, Rodgers and Greg Jennings connected for a 17-10 lead. When the Packers got the ball back after a three-and-out by Seattle, Rodgers (21-30-208-2-0) led a 15-play drive that stretched the lead to 24-10. John Kuhn took it in from the 1-yard line. A healthy Ryan Grant (90 yards) helped the Packers control the football, and the defense held the Seahawks to 177 total yards.

Green Bay **3 7 7 10 27**
Seattle **0 10 0 7 17**
68,302

Total Yards: GB 313 SEA 177

10.19.2008

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS **14**

PACKERS **34**

This was a convincing win over Peyton Manning and the Colts. Indianapolis' only lead came in the first quarter on a 3-yard touchdown run by Dominic Rhodes. It completed an 80-yard drive in 10 plays, and a Manning to Reggie Wayne completion kept the drive alive. The Packers came back with a Rodgers touchdown pass to Donald Lee. Before

halftime, Ryan Grant's 11-yard touchdown run put Green Bay in charge 17-7.

Green Bay's defense took control "by dominating one of the NFL's all-time great quarterbacks."¹ Manning completed just 21 of 41 passes, and in the second half, he was intercepted twice. Both were returned for touchdowns. Safety Nick Collins brought one back 62 yards in the third quarter, and Aaron Rouse finished off the Colts with a 99-yard pick-six late in the fourth.

Green Bay shut down receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne, who caught just four passes for 35 yards. The Packers were physical with them and disrupted their timing. "We were able to get our hands on their receivers,"² said linebacker Nick Barnett. The win put Green Bay at 4-3 entering the bye week..

Indianapolis 7 0 0 7 14
Green Bay 3 14 10 7 34
71,010

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/08, Dougherty, p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, p. 31

11.2.2008

PACKERS 16
TENNESSEE
TITANS 19 (OT)

Seven field goals decided this contest. Unfortunately for Green Bay, the seventh came from the undefeated Titans to win it in overtime. Other than field goals by Mason Crosby and Rob Bironas, the only touchdowns came on back-to-back drives in the second quarter. Green Bay took a 10-6 lead on a Rodgers to Donald Driver touchdown. The Titans hit right back with LenDale White's 54-yard dash into Green Bay territory. It set up Chris Johnson's touchdown run that retook the lead 13-10.

In the second half, it was all defense and field goals. A fumble by Rodgers led to Bironas' third field goal and a 16-10 lead. Crosby tied it with two more kicks, and Bironas sent it to overtime after missing from the 47. The Titans won the coin toss and marched into Green Bay territory. On the 10th play of overtime, Bironas won it from the 41-yard line.

"The Packers missed a chance to make a major statement. Taking down the league's last unbeaten team—in its stadium no less—would have sent a message the Packers are for real."¹

Green Bay 0 10 3 3 0 16
Tennessee 3 10 3 0 3 19
71,010

Rodgers was sacked four times.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/08, Demovsky, p. 32

11.9.2008

PACKERS 27

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 28

The Vikings had the upper hand for most of the game. They led until late in the third quarter as the defense held Green Bay to 12 first downs and 184 yards for the game. They also sacked Aaron Rodgers four times.

Minnesota took a first-half lead on a touchdown pass, a field goal, and two safeties. The safeties came when Rodgers was flagged for intentional grounding in the end zone and when he was sacked in the end zone by Jared Allen. At halftime, the Vikings led 14-10.

Trailing 21-10 after another Minnesota touchdown, two long-distance strikes by the Packers reclaimed the lead. On defense, a 59-yard pick-six by Nick Collins, and on special teams, Will Blackmon's 65-yard punt return put Green Bay back in control, 24-21. When Adrian Peterson fumbled on Minnesota's 41-yard line with eight minutes left, the Packers missed an opportunity to put the game away. They were stopped short of a touchdown and had to settle for a field goal and a six-point lead, 27-21, with six minutes left.

The Vikings drove 69 yards for the winning touchdown behind Adrian Peterson. A. P. gained 64 of the 69 yards, and he finished the drive with a 29-yard touchdown run with 2:22 left. It topped off his incredible day of 192 yards rushing and another 33 receiving. Minnesota ran the ball for 220 yards, and they outgained Green Bay 361-184.

Green Bay 7 3 14 3 27

Minnesota 7 7 7 7 28

63,845

Linebacker Nick Barnett was injured and lost for the season.

"Packers fans came out of the woodwork in the second quarter with chants of 'Go Pack Go!' drawing boos from the home crowd. It's a credit that even in a hostile environment, cheeseheads can't be ignored."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/10/08, Vandermause, p. 41

11.16.2008

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

PACKERS 37

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame*

On the way into this game, Steve heard a Packers fan yell to a group of fans who were wearing Chicago Bears jerseys, "Hey, Bear Fans!" Schumer couldn't believe what he heard next! After the

Bears fans turned around to see who shouted at them, the same Packers fan said, "Just wanted to welcome you to Lambeau Field. We're glad you came, and we wish you guys a great experience. Have a great game!"

After being roughed up in Minnesota, Aaron Rodgers was kept clean in his first game against the archrival Bears! The blowout snapped the Packers' two-game losing streak. Ryan Grant led a potent ground game with 145 yards and a touchdown. It's "the best I've felt all season,"¹ he said, and the offense looked unstoppable with 427 yards.

Green Bay took a 7-0 lead at the end of the first quarter with a Rodgers to Jennings touchdown. A few minutes later, the Bears scored their only points on Robbie Gould's field goal. Thirty unanswered points began with Ryan Grant's touchdown run.

Aaron Rodgers threw a second touchdown pass to Donald Lee, and he picked the Bears apart all game (22-30-227-2-1). The defense played very well, holding the Bears to nine first downs and 234 yards. In the fourth quarter, defensive end Jason Hunter recovered a fumble and rumbled 54 yards for Green Bay's final points.

Chicago 0 3 0 0 3
Green Bay 7 10 7 13 37
71,040

GB moved into first-place with the Bears and Vikings.

* Interview: 1/9/17

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/17/08, Demovsky, p. 35

11.24.2008

PACKERS **29**

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS **51**

Drew Brees outplayed Aaron Rodgers, and the Saints rolled over Green Bay's defense for 416 yards. After not scoring the first time they had the football, the Saints tore right through Green Bay's defense and scored on their next six possessions. Drew Brees threw for 323 yards and four touchdowns in the 80 point battle.

Brees' first touchdown went to Lance Moore. He found Moore again later in the game for a 21-14 lead. Rodgers, who had thrown a touchdown pass to Greg Jennings earlier, scored on a 10-yard run that tied the score at 21. New Orleans led at halftime, 24-21.

The Saints controlled the rest of the game, and they opened the second half with an 80-yard scoring drive. On Green Bay's next series, cornerback Jason David intercepted Rodgers and returned it to the 3-yard line. Deuce McAllister scored for a 38-21 lead. Five minutes later, the Saints added one for good measure with a 70-yard bomb from Brees to Marques Colston.

Green Bay 7 14 0 8 29
New Orleans 14 10 21 6 51
70,668

11.30.2008

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 35

PACKERS 31

The Packers lost to another NFC South powerhouse. The 8-3 Panthers were led by running back DeAngelo Williams, who would have an outstanding game with four, 1-yard touchdown runs.

Green Bay's defense had trouble slowing down the balanced attack of the Panthers. Quarterback Jake Delhomme threw for 177 yards, and the ground game added 128 yards and five touchdowns.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 298 yards and three scores. With the score tied at 28, Rodgers went six-for-six on a 79-yard drive, and Mason Crosby kicked his third field goal for the lead 31-28. With two minutes left, Steve Smith "got inside position"² on Charles Woodson and made a circus catch for a 54-yard gain to the 1-yard line. Williams scored his fourth touchdown on the next play.

With a poor defense, Green Bay's postseason chances were slipping away. "The math says the Packers have a chance to win the division if they win out and finish 9-7."¹

Carolina 7 14 0 14 35
Green Bay 0 10 11 10 31
70,297

The Packers were 5-7.

DeAngelo Williams on his touchdowns at Lambeau Field: "I was looking up at the names like Bart Starr and Reggie White that ring the stadium. The snow was falling. You could see your breath. It was unbelievable. Just to hear the words 'frozen tundra' gives me the chills."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Dougherty, p. 29

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Pelissero, p. 33

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/08, Fowler, p. 37

12.7.2008
HOUSTON

TEXANS 24
PACKERS 21

Green Bay's offense put up 387 yards, but the Texans racked up 513. That's the story of this game and pretty much the entire season. With the loss, Green Bay's playoff chances took another blow.

Houston quarterback Matt Schaub started for the first time in three weeks after an MCL injury. He torched Green Bay's secondary for 414 yards and two touchdowns. Houston's offense was balanced and hard to handle with a ground game that churned out 141 yards. But turnovers plagued the Texans, and four was almost too much to overcome.

In the first quarter, an interception by Tramon Williams led to a tying touchdown. With six minutes left in the game and the Texans leading 21-14, a muffed punt by Jacoby Jones was recovered by Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers and Jordy Nelson cashed in with a 9-yard touchdown to tie the game, 21-21.

With 4:37 left, and the Packers deep in Houston territory, a 59-yard pass from Rodgers to Donald Driver resulted in a penalty and a sack forced them to punt. Schaub's arm sliced and diced the defense one more time, and Kris Browns' kick won it from the 40 as time expired. A dejected Mike McCarthy said later, "We had some breakdowns, and unfortunately, that's why we're sitting here again with a loss."¹

Houston 7 3 0 14 24
Green Bay 0 7 0 14 21
70,245

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/08, Vandermause, p. 33

12.14.2008

PACKERS 16
JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS 20

The loss eliminated Green Bay from the postseason.

Jacksonville scored on their opening drive with a pass right down the middle from quarterback David Garrard to wideout Dennis Northcut. Two field goals and an Aaron Rodgers touchdown pass to Greg Jennings gave Green Bay a 13-7 edge at the break.

In the fourth quarter, running back Maurice Jones-Drew scored two touchdowns—one through the air and one on the ground. A 14-yard pass from Garrard, beat a blitz by the

Packers, and the Jaguars went back in front, 14-13.

After Mason Crosby's third field goal made it 16-14 Green Bay, Garrard marched the Jaguars downfield with a series of big plays. His 41-yard completion to Dennis Northcutt got them rolling. Five plays later, Jones-Drew took it in from the 3-yard line with 1:56 left. On Green Bay's final drive, Rodgers was intercepted to end it.

Green Bay 3 10 0 3 16

Jacksonville 7 0 0 13 20

65,457

GB made four trips inside the red zone, but they scored just once.

"Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver will sign his new children's book, Quickie Makes the Team from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Suamico Shopko."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/08, p. 5

12.22.2008

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 20 (OT)

On another Lake Michigan winter day with minus 13 degrees wind chill, the Bears won and split the season series with the Packers.

As has happened too frequently this season, Green Bay got off to a good start and faded in the second half. They took a 14-3 lead into the locker room after back-to-back touchdown drives late in the second quarter. Aaron Rodgers connected with Greg Jennings and Ryan Grant for the lead.

On Chicago's first drive of the second half, they punted. The punt bounced off Jarrett Bush, and it was recovered by the Bears keeping their opening drive alive. A 3-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Kyle Orton to tight end Greg Olsen trimmed the lead to 14-10.

In the fourth quarter, Green Bay managed only a field goal after an interception by Charles Woodson, which left the door open for the Bears with 13 minutes left. The Packers couldn't stop them. Kyle Orton gave it to Matt Forte seven times on an 8-play drive, including the tying touchdown run with 3:11 left. The Packers drove back into field goal range, but with 25 seconds left, Mason Crosby's kick was blocked by Alex Brown to force overtime. In the overtime's first possession, Robbie Gould won it for Chicago from the 38-yard line.

Green Bay 3 14 0 3 0 17

Chicago 0 3 7 7 3 20

62,151

“Shovelers are needed to clear Lambeau Field today in preparation for Sunday’s game against the Detroit Lions. Recent snowfall has left the stadium under a blanket of white—enough to warrant removal. If there’s more snow during the week, there could be another round of shoveling before Sunday’s game. The Packers need about 350 people and will provide shovels for all who come. Shovelers must be at least 15-years old and will receive \$8 an hour.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/08, p. 3

12.28.2008

DETROIT

LIONS 21

PACKERS 31

Green Bay finished 6-10 after defeating the winless Lions. Detroit (0-16) became the first team since the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers to play a full season without a win. In this finale, Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, and they outgained the Lions 484-316. Two touchdowns came in the fourth quarter to John Kuhn and Donald Driver. The Lions never enjoyed the lead, but they did tie it early in the second half 14-14. After that, they were outscored 17-7.

Detroit 0 7 7 7 21

Green Bay 14 0 0 17 31

70,141

2008

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	10	6	0
Chicago	9	7	0
Green Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	0	16	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Jennings
Rushing	Grant
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Collins, Woodson w/ 7
Sacks	Kampman

ALL-PRO

Collins	Safety
Woodson	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jordy Nelson (2a, WR)

Pat Lee (2c, RCB)

Jermichael Finley (3, TE)

Jeremy Thompson (4a, DE)

Josh Sitton (4b, G)

Breno Giacomini (5, T)

Matt Flynn (7a, QB)

Brett Swain (7b, WR)



2009

Record: 11-5-0, 2nd Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- Mike McCarthy hired veteran coach Dom Capers as his Defensive Coordinator. Capers installed a new 3-4 defense with complex blitz and coverage packages. The defense improved significantly.
- In his second season, Aaron Rodgers led the Packers back to the postseason. McCarthy emphasized the short passing game of the West Coast offense.
- After a 4-4 start, they made adjustments and finished by winning seven of eight.
- The Packers re-signed Ahman Green in October and Mark Tauscher in November.
- The offense and defense were both ranked in the league's Top 10.

9.13.2009

CHICAGO

BEARS 15

PACKERS 21

The Packers successfully debuted their new 3-4 defense. Mason Crosby and Ryan Grant started the scoring for Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers, meanwhile, scored Chicago's only points on a safety. At halftime, the Packers led 10-2!

In the second half, the Bears took a 10-9 lead when their new quarterback Jay Cutler connected with Devin Hester for a 36-yard touchdown. After Robbie Gould's field goal, it was 12-10 Bears. Packer fans were anxious as the last 15 minutes began.

The Bears tried a fake punt deep in their territory. It backfired, and Mason Crosby's 39-yard field goal put the Packers in front, 13-12, with ten minutes left. Cutler and the Bears ate up the next seven minutes driving to Green Bay's 5-yard line. A goal-line-stand by Green Bay forced a field goal, and the Bears led 15-13 with 2:35 left.

Starting on the 28, Rodgers "finally delivered that come from behind victory that he could never quite pull off during his first season as a starter."¹ The Packers marched 72 yards in five plays. Then, on third-and-one from the 50-yard line, Rodgers used a play-action fake to hit Jennings, streaking down the left sideline for the winner with 1:18 left!

Chicago 0 2 10 3 15
Green Bay 0 10 0 11 21
70,920

GB's record in season openers 49-36-3

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/09, Demovsky, p. 28

9.20.2009

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 31
PACKERS 24

In an exciting 21-21 first half, quarterback Carson Palmer threw two touchdown passes. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers (21-39-261-1-0) threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions by cornerback Charles Woodson, one a pick-six, brought the Packers back.

In the second half, the game fell apart for Green Bay. Left tackle Chad Clifton suffered a badly sprained right ankle in the third quarter. The injury threw the offensive line into a tailspin. Rodgers was sacked four times in the second half, six times overall, and the Packers managed only one field goal the rest of the way.

Cincinnati took the lead for good, 28-21 late in the third quarter on Palmer's third touchdown pass to Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson. With 1:56 left in the game, they added a field goal for a 10-point lead. With Cincinnati in a prevent defense, the Packers moved quickly into field goal range, and Crosby nailed one from the 45 to cut it to 31-24.

With 49 seconds remaining, the Packers were successful with an onside kick. Then, two long passes from Rodgers to Jermichael Finley and Donald Driver put them on the 10-yard line with one second left. Rodgers took the snap, but a whistle blew the play dead as guard Jason Spitz had not been set. The automatic 10-second runoff applied, and the game was over. Tramon Williams, explaining the upset, said, "I don't know what it was. The intensity level, whatever it was, we didn't have it today."¹

Cincinnati 7 14 7 3 31
Green Bay 14 7 0 3 24

70,678

Penalties: GB 11-76 CIN 13-100

“When he was introduced at halftime during the ceremony honoring Packers alumni, Paul Hornung held up a No. 85 jersey in honor of the late Max McGee. Bart Starr, as usual, received the loudest ovation.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/09, Vandermause, p. 24

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/09, Vandermause, p. 26

9.27.2009

PACKERS 36

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 17

The Packers moved to 2-1 while the Rams started 0-3 for the third straight year. The teams began scoring from the get-go with 37 points in the first half. Three Mason Crosby field goals gave Green Bay a 9-0 lead. Two of the field goals came after the Rams fumbled. Rodgers then led an 80-yard drive that fullback John Kuhn took over from the 1-yard line for a 16-0 advantage.

Quarterback Kyle Boller brought the Rams back with two touchdown passes to tight end Daniel Fells. In between those scores, Rodgers and Donald Driver put the Packers ahead, 23-7. With a 53-yard field goal by Josh Brown, the Rams drew closer, but the Packers responded with a Rodgers' touchdown run and John Kuhn's touchdown catch! After the game, "Favre-mania" began in full as the Packers prepared for their first visit to Minnesota.

Green Bay 9 14 0 13 36

St. Louis 0 14 3 0 17

60,234

Both Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers “donated a signed jersey to be auctioned off” to support fundraising for the new Children’s Museum of Green Bay.”¹

“A&W presented Greg Jennings with a \$10,000 donation to The Greg Jennings Foundation, which is focused on helping underprivileged children and families and charities that work with those individuals.”²

“Halftime entertainment at a western Wisconsin sports bar and grill during the upcoming Green Bay Packers-Minnesota Vikings game involves a flaming burn barrel and Brett Favre gear. The bar plans to donate \$10 to an unspecified charity for each piece burned.”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/09, p. 5

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/2/09, Avila, p. 5

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/09, p. 5

10.5.2009

PACKERS 23

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 30

In one of the most anticipated games in recent franchise history, the Packers headed North to face the undefeated Vikings and Brett Favre. They prepared for the Vikings, but they couldn't avoid all the distractions. Brett Favre started his 273rd straight game against the Packers. In doing so, he became the first quarterback in NFL history to beat all 32 teams.

In the first quarter, Favre and Rodgers wasted little time. Favre struck first with a 1-yard toss to Visanthe Shiancoe to take a 7-0 lead. Three plays later, Aaron Rodgers responded with a 62-yard touchdown strike to tight end Jermichael Finley!

The Packers were able to keep Adrian Peterson under control (55 yards), but not Favre. In the second quarter, he threw a second touchdown pass to Sidney Rice. Green Bay's defense then came up big when Clay Matthews ripped the ball out of Adrian Peterson's arms and sprinted 42-yards for a touchdown! Undeterred, Favre led an 84-yard drive back to Green Bay's one-yard line. He then gave it to Peterson for 21-14 halftime edge.

Minnesota's defense stepped it up in the second half. They kept the lid on Aaron Rodgers until the last four minutes of the game. By that point, they had sacked him eight times, forced one fumble, recorded a safety, and grabbed an interception. Jared Allen had 4.5 sacks and a safety. "He (Favre) stuck to us pretty good," said Charles Woodson. "We had a lot of things we were supposed to throw at him during the game and for whatever reason did not. You let Brett sit back there and pat the ball, run around, he's going to beat a lot of people."¹

Green Bay 7 7 0 9 23

Minnesota 7 14 7 2 30

63,846

Rodgers has now been sacked 20 times in 4 games.

"The game had a 15.3 rating, a record for ESPN."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/6/09, Dougherty, p. 27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/09, p. 1

10.18.2009

DETROIT

LIONS **0**

PACKERS **26**

After the bye week, the Packers came out swinging and quickly downed the lowly Lions. Detroit's new coach, Jim Schwartz, played without his rookie quarterback Matthew Stafford and all-pro receiver Calvin Johnson.

The Packers relied on a short passing game featuring quick slants and hitches. Rodgers threw two touchdown passes in the first quarter, and the rest of the points came on four field goals by Mason Crosby. Touchdown passes went to James Jones (47 yards) and to John Kuhn (1 yard). With seven catches for 107 yards, Donald Driver became Green Bay's all-time receptions leader!

Green Bay's defense was impressive, allowing just ten first downs and 149 total yards. They sacked Daunte Culpepper and Drew Stanton five times, while Al Harris, Atari Bigby, and Cullen Jenkins picked off passes.

Detroit **0 0 0 0 0**
Green Bay **14 9 3 0 26**
70,801

10.25.2009

PACKERS **31**

CLEVELAND

BROWNS **3**

After Billy Cundiff's field goal gave the Browns a 3-0 lead, the rest of the day belonged to Green Bay.

The blowout began in the second quarter with quarterback Aaron Rodgers setting the pace. He threw touchdown passes to Spencer Havner and Donald Driver four minutes apart! The touchdown to Driver was a 71-yard strike that made 14-3 Green Bay. Before the half, an interception by Charles Woodson set up Ryan Grant's touchdown run. Grant, who ran for 148 yards, made it 21-3 at intermission.

The second half didn't get any better for Cleveland. Rodgers tossed a third touchdown pass, this one to James Jones, to complete a 99-yard drive to end it. "It's now officially Favre week."¹

Green Bay **0 21 3 7 31**
Cleveland **0 3 0 0 3**

69,797

Total Yards: GB 460 CLEV 139

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/26/09, Walter, p. 1

11.1.2009

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 38

PACKERS 26

*On the way to the stadium, a sign was spotted that read, 'Welcome back, Ryan Longwell.' Seeing the sign, Longwell told Favre, "Just think, time heals all wounds. You'll get a sign in four years."*¹

Brett Favre returned to the stadium he "owned" for 16 incredible seasons. After spending a year with the Jets and winning his first encounter against his former team in Minnesota, Favre's visit to Lambeau in a Minnesota uniform was his return's final act.

Most Packer fans saw Favre as either (1) the prodigal son returning home or (2) a traitor looking to inflict further damage on the Packers. Regardless, the "Gunslinger" was at the top of his game coming in, and he had a spectacular late afternoon (17-28-244-4-0).

The Packers were overmatched. After Mason Crosby's field goal, Minnesota scored 24 unanswered points. The Packers trailed 17-3 at halftime, with Favre warming up with one touchdown pass to tight end Visanthe Shiancoe.

Three of Favre's touchdowns came in the second half. The first came on the fifth play from scrimmage on a 51-yard strike to Percy Harvin to lead 24-3. Harvin had a fantastic game with one touchdown catch and kickoff returns of 77 yards and 48 yards. Both set up touchdowns.

Touchdown passes from Rodgers to Spencer Havner narrowed Minnesota's lead to 24-20. The first resulted from a forced fumble by Desmond Bishop that Nick Collins recovered. Favre would not be denied. His two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Jeff Dugan and Bernard Berrian put them in control. In between, Rodgers and Jennings connected for Green Bay's final points.

After two games against his old team, Favre said, "he was glad the coming home experience was over and didn't seem fazed by the boos."²

Minnesota 7 10 7 14 38

Green Bay 3 0 17 6 26

71,213

Sacks: GB 0 MINN 6

Daryn Colledge, Packer guard: "I thought the fans were excellent. We played like crap the first

half, and they were still there as loud as ever. My hat's off to them."³

Kate Graves, fan: "I wish him the best, but two years from now he'll be retired, and we still have Rodgers."⁴

A steak fry honoring Packers Hall of Famer Johnnie Gray will be held on Nov. 2. Proceeds will benefit My Brother's Keeper, which "provides mentoring services to young boys and men who lack the necessary life-coping skills and may be considered at risk by the courts, educators and social service agencies."⁴

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/09, Demovsky, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/09, Walter, p. 1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/09, p. 27

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/09, Walter, p. 2

5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/09, p. 7

11.8.2009

PACKERS 28

TAMPS BAY

BUCCANEERS 38

The winless Bucs intercepted three passes and sacked quarterback Aaron Rodgers six times. Two of the interceptions led to touchdowns in this huge upset.

It wasn't that the Packers couldn't move the ball (404 total yards, 177 yards rushing), but their inability to protect their quarterback was costly. On Green Bay's second play from scrimmage, Aaron Rodgers unloaded a 74-yard touchdown to James Jones. Minutes later, Rodgers was intercepted by Elbert Mack, and the Bucs tied it. Ryan Grant's touchdown made it 14-7 Green Bay.

Rhonde Barber of the Bucs picked up a blocked punt and returned it 31-yards to tie the score at 14-14. Rodgers and Driver came back with a 32-yard touchdown play, and at halftime, it was 21-17 Packers.

On the first possession of the second half, Rodgers was nearly sacked for a safety. On Green Bay's next series, he threw an interception, but the Bucs went three-and-out. Tampa turned up the pressure on Rodgers, and he was sacked six times in a rough 30 minutes. "It has to stop. You can't sit here and keep taking sacks,"¹ said a dejected McCarthy.

In a drive from the third quarter into the fourth, the Packers stretched the lead to 28-17 on a 12-yard run by Aaron Rodgers. In the final 13 minutes, Green Bay collapsed and gave away the 11-point lead. An 83-yard kickoff return by Tampa Bay led to quarterback Josh Freeman's touchdown pass to tight end Kellen Winslow. Trailing 28-24 with four minutes left, they won it, 31-28, on Freeman's third touchdown pass. The Packers couldn't match it, and a pick-six by safety Tanard Jackson wrapped up the road defeat.

Green Bay 14 7 0 7 28

Tampa Bay 7 10 0 21 38

62,994

Ahman Green passed Jim Taylor as GB's all-time leading rusher.

11.15.2009

DALLAS

COWBOYS 7

PACKERS 17

When Dallas won for the first time in 2008 on the "Frozen Tundra," you wouldn't expect the Cowboys to win again the next year, right? But with Wisconsin's own Tony Romo at the helm, anything was possible.

The defenses of both teams ruled the day. The Packers led 3-0 after 45 minutes, and quarterbacks on both teams faced heavy pressure the entire game. The Packers blitzed often, sacking Tony Romo five times while Aaron Rodgers was dropped four times.

Rodgers rallied the Packers with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. The first was an eight-minute drive that started in the third quarter. On the 15th play of the march, Rodgers dove in from the 1-yard line for a 10-0 lead. Less than three minutes later, Clay Matthews recovered a fumble on Dallas' 3-yard line. The Packers capitalized with Rodgers' 2-yard touchdown pass to Spencer Havner.

The shutout was spoiled with 38 seconds left on a Tony Romo to Roy Williams touchdown pass. Before visiting Lambeau Field, Romo had been 13-0 lifetime in November. Not anymore.

Dallas 0 0 0 7 7

Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17

70,894

Steve Schumer, Member, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

Steve attended the game and felt, "it was the turning point of the season, and it just might have been Charles Woodson's best game as a Packer." Woodson had one sack, an interception, two forced fumbles, and eight tackles.

* Interview: 2/18/17

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/09, Pelissero, p. 27

11.22.2009
SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **24**
PACKERS **30**

The Packers got out to a 23-3 lead and then held off a strong San Francisco comeback.

Aaron Rodgers and Mason Crosby put up Green Bay's first-half points. Green Bay's offense found a rhythm with a short, crisp passing game. Rodgers threw for 274 yards in the first half alone, and the touchdowns went to Greg Jennings and Jordy Nelson. "Our strength is getting the ball out of Aaron's hands quickly and letting us make plays,"¹ Jennings said later.

In the first half, the 49ers managed just one first down and one Joe Nedney field goal. After regrouping at halftime, Alex Smith fired three touchdown passes to Michael Crabtree, Vernon Davis, and Frank Gore. Green Bay's only touchdown in the second half came after an interception by safety Nick Collins. The touchdown run by Ryan Grant made it 30-10, which proved to be the difference.

Rodgers completed 32 of 45 passes for 344 yards and two touchdowns. He was sacked twice. Ryan Grant pounded the 49ers for 129 yards. The defense was strong, giving up just 284 and 11 first downs. Cornerback Tramon Williams spoke for many when he said, "it was a win, but deep down we know it wasn't a winning performance."²

San Francisco **3** **0** **7** **14** **24**
Green Bay **6** **17** **0** **7** **30**
70,445

Al Harris & Aaron Lampman suffered season-ending injuries.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/09, Dougherty, p. 23

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/09, p. 24

11.26.2009

PACKERS **34**
DETROIT
LIONS **12**

The Packers won their third straight game and improved to 7-4. This blowout was Detroit's sixth straight loss on Thanksgiving Day.

Aaron Rodgers carved up the Lions for 348 yards and three touchdowns. Stafford, on the other hand, threw four interceptions in a five-turnover game. The turnovers led to 14 points on Green Bay's first and last touchdowns.

The Lions led 7-0 on Stafford's touchdown pass to Calvin Johnson. Rodgers and Mason Crosby took it from there with 27 unanswered points that stretched into the fourth quarter! A field goal and safety were all the Lions could muster, and Charles Woodson closed out the Packers' scoring with his second interception, a 38-yard pick-six! Woodson also had a strip-sack and a fumble recovery. As defensive coordinator, Dom Capers pointed out, "If there's a defensive player in the league right now playing better than Charles Woodson, I'd like to know who it is."¹

Green Bay 0 13 14 7 34
Detroit 7 0 0 5 12
57,383

"Green Bay Packers wide receiver, Donald Driver, will sign copies of his new children's book Quickie Handles A Loss from 11:30-1:00pm at the Packers Pro Shop"² on Wednesday.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/09, Dougherty, p. 33

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/28/09, p. 3

12.7.2009

BALTIMORE

RAVENS 14
PACKERS 27

This was a penalty-filled battle with 23 infractions for 310 yards! Eleven of the penalties were called on the Packers for 175 yards. Green Bay took the lead in the first half on two short touchdown passes from Aaron Rodgers to Jermichael Finley and Donald Driver. Finley led the team with seven catches in the game (7-79-2).

Near the end of the third quarter, the Ravens scored twice in 30 seconds. A 71-yard touchdown drive engineered by quarterback Joe Flacco was followed by an interception of Rodgers by linebacker Jarrett Johnson. A pass interference penalty on Tramon Williams put the football on the Packer's 1-yard line. Will McGahee's touchdown cut the lead to 17-14.

Rodgers then threw his third touchdown pass, the second to Finley, which put Green Bay back in front by ten and secured a fourth straight win.

Baltimore 0 0 14 0 14
Green Bay 3 14 0 10 27
70,286

"The families of four Army service members got a big surprise Monday night as they received greetings from loved ones stationed overseas during halftime. The Green Bay Packers, the Wisconsin National Guard, and Oshkosh Corporation co-sponsored the event as part of Military Appreciation Night. The wife of Army Lt. Col. David Murray smiled as her husband appeared on the Tundra Vision telling his wife and four daughters how much he missed them."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/8/09, Davis, p. 3

12.12.2009

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

The Packers swept the Bears for the first time since 2003! Green Bay won its fifth straight as Aaron Rodgers, and the defense handled the Bears easily. Green Bay started on its first play from scrimmage when Ryan Grant bolted over left guard for a 62-yard race to the end zone for a 7-0 lead. After two Mason Crosby field goals, wideout Johnny Knox beat Tramon Williams for a 19-yard touchdown pass to trim the lead to 13-7.

Quarterback Jay Cutler put Chicago in front 14-13 in the third quarter. They scored six plays after Aaron Rodgers fumbled at midfield. The Packers hit back behind their defense and Aaron Rodgers. An interception by Nick Collins in the fourth quarter put the Packers at Chicago's 11-yard line. Ryan Grant scored his second touchdown to take back the lead 21-14 with 12 minutes left.

The Packers shut down Chicago's offense with a variety of personnel packages and blitzes. "I can't say enough about our defense," McCarthy said. "I thought the game started with our defense, and I thought it ended with our defense."¹ Ryan Grant's touchdowns also bookended it!

Green Bay 10 3 0 8 21

Chicago 0 7 7 0 14

62,214

Woodson's 8th interception tied his career-high.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/09, Dougherty, p. 30

12.20.2009

PACKERS 36

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 37

This was an exciting game of eight lead changes, with the winning points coming as time expired. Unfortunately, it was an embarrassing game for Green Bay's secondary as quarterback Ben Roethlisberger threw for 503 yards.

The aerial assault began immediately. Pittsburgh scored on its first offensive play with a 60-yard strike from Roethlisberger to Mike Wallace. Four minutes later, quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw an 80-yard bomb to Greg Jennings. By halftime, "Big Ben" Roethlisberger threw for another touchdown, and they led at intermission 21-14.

The second half, and the fourth quarter more specifically, was riveting. The Packers held the Steelers to three field goals. Rodgers continued the comeback with touchdowns to Jermichael Finley and James Jones. Between the two touchdowns, Ryan Grant scored on a 24-yard run.

With 2:06 left, the Packers led 36-30. "Big Ben" delivered the winning drive in the final two minutes. His passing accounted for 71 of the drive's 86 yards. He threw the dramatic winner to Wallace with 0:00 left on the clock.

Green Bay 7 7 0 22 36
Pittsburgh 14 7 3 13 37
57,452

Rodgers and Roethlisberger threw 94 passes for 886 yards, six touchdowns, and no interceptions!

12.27.2009

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 10
PACKERS 48

The Packers clinched a wild card berth in the postseason! They scored five touchdowns, all on the ground, to defeat the struggling Seahawks (5-9).

Aaron Rodgers threw for 237 yards and one touchdown. He opened the scoring with a touchdown pass to Brandon Jackson. A trio of running backs kicked in with 156 yards and five touchdown runs! Ryan Grant and Brandon Jackson scored twice, and Ahman Green scored on a fourth-quarter run. They were able to "make things happen even when things broke down in front."¹

Seattle trailed 48-3 when they scored with four minutes left. They were outgained 417-291, and former Packer Matt Hasselbeck threw four interceptions. "I'm searching for answers," he said later. "You've got to look at each interception separately. I'm searching for answers."²

Seattle 0 3 0 7 10
Green Bay 14 10 14 10 48
70,429

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/09. Pelissero, p. 29

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/09. Kelley, p. 31

1.3.2010

PACKERS 33

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 7

Before the game, both teams knew that regardless of the outcome, they would face each other the following week in the postseason.

When the Cardinals learned they would not clinch the 2-seed in the postseason with a win, they pulled starters early in the first half. The Packers kept their starters in the game through the third quarter, McCarthy explained, "to stay on course"¹ with a young team.

Green Bay scored the first 33 points! Their first two touchdowns came on the ground from Ryan Grant and Aaron Rodgers. Charles Woodson's pick-six in the second quarter and a Rodgers touchdown to Jermichael Finley in the second half finished the scoring. The Cardinals scored with 2:59 left after intercepting backup quarterback Matt Flynn.

Green Bay 14 12 7 0 33

Arizona 0 0 0 7 7

67,597

*"Packer-backers have a reputation of traveling well, and there was a large contingent of green-and-go-clad fans in attendance. They could be heard chanting 'Go Pack Go' in the fourth quarter when the home crowd was streaming to the exits."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/4/10, Dougherty, p.27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/4/10, Vandermause, p. 28

1.10.2010

2009 NFC Wild Card Game

PACKERS 45

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 51(OT)

The rematch with Arizona marked the first postseason game for quarterback Aaron Rodgers. The game set the record, at the time, for the most points scored in a postseason game. The record has since been surpassed.

In a riveting contest, Green Bay started very slowly. They were confident coming in, but the Cardinals came out swinging. Aaron Rodgers' first pass was deflected and intercepted by Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. On their next possession, Donald Driver was stripped of the football by linebacker Karlos Dansby. Two plays later, it was 14-0.

Quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Kurt Warner threw 75 passes for 802 yards and nine

touchdowns! Warner—a former practice squad player for the Packers—threw five, and by halftime, he had thrown two for a 24-10 lead.

Despite a 31-10 blowout in the third quarter, Mike McCarthy never lost faith. “I had no doubt in my mind that we would fight back and win the football game.”¹ Rodgers settled down and listened to his coach, and the Packers began the long road back. Late in the third quarter, the Packers went 80 yards for the first touchdown pass to Jennings. They followed the touchdown with an onside kick that was recovered by Brandon Underwood. Rodgers to Jordy Nelson made it 31-23.

Another touchdown by Larry Fitzgerald preceded a fourth-quarter touchdown pass from Rodgers to James Jones. Five plays later, they had the ball back, and John Kuhn scored on a three-play drive to tie it at 38! Warner and Rodgers traded touchdowns on the next two drives. Warner’s fifth touchdown pass went to Steve Breaston with five minutes left. Rodgers responded with a four-for-five performance on a 71-yard drive that tied it on a pass to Spencer Havner with 1:52 left!

With nine seconds left in regulation, Neil Rackers missed a 34-yard kick to force overtime. The Packers won the toss. On third down from their 24, Rodgers dropped back. As he pumped for a second time, he was sacked by cornerback Michael Adams. When Rodgers was hit, the football came out and bounced off his right foot right to linebacker Karlos Dansby. Dansby caught it in stride and went 17 yards for the win.

“It’s kind of embarrassing how our defense played. We couldn’t stop nothing,”² said nose tackle Ryan Pickett. For many, including Rodgers, 2009 was their first taste of the postseason. They would return.

Green Bay 0 10 14 21 0 45
Arizona 17 7 14 7 6 51
61,926

Total Yards: GB 493 AZ 531

“And as the youngest team in the NFL, this edition of the Green Bay Packers clearly has its brightest days still ahead.”³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/11/10, Dougherty/Demovsky, p 29

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/11/10, Dougherty, p. 25

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/11/10, p. 7

2009

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	12	4	0
Green Bay	11	5	0
Chicago	7	9	0
Detroit	2	14	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Driver
Rushing	Grant
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Woodson
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Collins	Safety
Woodson	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

B. J. Raji (1a, NT)

Clay Matthews (1b, LB)

T. J. Lang (4, G)

Quinn Johnson (5a, FB)

Jarius Wynn (6a, DE)

Brad Jones (LB)

2010s





2010
Record: 10-6-0, NFL Champions
Coach: Mike McCarthy

- Before the season, in the locker room, McCarthy placed an empty frame next to the photos of Green Bay's 12 championship teams!
- By season's end, 15 players were placed on the Injured Reserve, including Nick Barnett, Morgan Burnett, Jermichael Finley, Ryan Grant, Al Harris, and Mark Tauscher.
- The team's leaders Charles Woodson, Ryan Pickett, Donald Driver, and Aaron Rodgers, kept the team moving through the injuries with outstanding play. The defense ranked in the top five, and the offense in the top 10.
- Ryan Grant's injury decimated the ground game until the emergence of James Starks in December.
- Aaron Rodgers suffered a concussion in Week 14 against Detroit. He missed the next game. He returned to defeat the Giants and Bears to clinch a postseason berth.
- The 6th seeded NFC Packers won Super Bowl XLV over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

9.12.2010

PACKERS 27

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 20

The teams wore throwback uniforms for the 50th anniversary of the 1960 championship team. That game, won by the Eagles 17-13, was Green Bay's first championship game under Lombardi and their only postseason loss from 1959-1967.

In their first victory in the *City of Brotherly Love* since 1962, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, and the Packers held on. In the first half, he connected with Donald Driver for six, and Mason Crosby drilled field goals of 49 and 56 yards. After a second-half touchdown run by John Kuhn for a 20-3 lead, the Eagles made their move.

Near the end of the first half, Michael Vick replaced quarterback Kevin Kolb, who suffered a concussion on Clay Matthews' sack. Vick brought "instant offense," and the Eagles came alive. Vick dominated the second half with 103 yards rushing. He also was impressive in the passing game with 175 yards and one touchdown. LeSean McCoy's touchdown run

and Vick's touchdown pass to Jeremy Macklin closed the gap. But they couldn't overcome a 32-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Greg Jennings that proved to be the difference.

Green Bay 0 13 14 0 27
Philadelphia 3 0 7 10 20
69,141

GB running back Ryan Grant was lost for the season.

9.19.2010

BUFFALO

BILLS 7
PACKERS 34

The Packers won their home opener for the fourth straight year. It was an easy victory, with the Packers scoring on their first three possessions for a 13-0 lead. The Bills cut the lead to six on Fred Jackson's touchdown run, but it that would be it for Buffalo's offense.

The second half was all Packers! An interception by linebacker Brandon Chillar set up quarterback Aaron Rodgers' touchdown pass to Donald Driver. On Green Bay's next series, Rodgers took it around right end for a 9-yard touchdown. Without running back Ryan Grant, who was out for the season, "running back by committee"¹ produced 91 yards.

Early in the fourth, the Packers capitalized on an interception by safety Morgan Burnett. A 30-yard connection between Rodgers and James Jones clinched it 34-7. Green Bay's defense was stubborn all afternoon. Four sacks, three by Clay Matthews, and two interceptions stopped quarterback Tent Edwards and the Bills' offense. Overall, Buffalo gained just 186 yards.

Buffalo 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 13 0 14 7 34
70,741

At halftime, Bart Starr was introduced and welcomed home to Lambeau Field!

¹ Return to Titledown, p. 32

9.27.2010

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 20

The Packers set a team record for the most penalties in a single game—18! The previous record, 17, stood for 65 years. Their poor play cost them 152 yards, and they gave the

game away “haphazardly, with green gift wrap and a big yellow bow.”¹

The Packers got off to a great start with a 60-yard drive and an Aaron Rodgers to Greg Jennings touchdown pass. Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler matched it with a touchdown toss to tight end Greg Olsen. At halftime, it was 10-7 Green Bay.

It remained 10-7 until the fourth quarter when Devin Hester’s 62-yard punt return put Chicago up 14-10. With 6:59 remaining, an Aaron Rodgers touchdown run took the lead back 17-14. Roughing penalties on linebacker Frank Zombo and safety Nick Collins helped the Bears to a tying field goal with 4:03 left.

With the Packers looking to run down the clock and gain field position, James Jones fumbled at midfield after a hit by linebackers Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs. Chicago recovered at the Packer 46-yard line. A few plays later, Robbie Gould won it from the 19 with four seconds left.

Green Bay	7	3	0	7	17
Chicago	0	7	0	13	20
	62				179

1 One: Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 26

10.3.2010

DETROIT

LIONS **26**

PACKERS **28**

Though the Lions pounded the Packers for 461 yards, three Aaron Rodgers touchdown passes in the first half outdid four second-half field goals by Detroit’s Jason Hansen. Rodgers threw touchdowns to Donald Driver, Jermichael Finley, and Greg Jennings. But with eight seconds left in the first half, Calvin Johnson’s second touchdown of the game kept the Lions within striking distance 21-14.

The Packers’ only second-half points came early on Charles Woodson’s 48-yard pick-six of backup quarterback Shaun Hill. With the Packers in control 28-14, the defense did a lot of bending, but it did not break. It gave up the yards but only four field goals. Rodgers threw two interceptions, yet the defense kept the Lions out of the end zone. The Packers closed it out with a six-minute, 87-yard drive that ate up the clock. Fullback John Kuhn carried seven times on the drive for 34 yards.

Detroit	0	14	6	6	26
Green Bay	7	14	7	0	28
	70				729

Out for the season: Mark Tauscher (T), Nick Barnett (MLB), and Morgan Burnett (S)

10.10.2010

PACKERS 13

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 16 (OT)

A new coaching staff in the nation's capital led by an old nemesis, Mike Shanahan, pulled off the upset. They were able to keep Green Bay's offense under control, including a four-play goal-line stand.

It was 13-3 Packers in the fourth quarter. An Aaron Rodgers touchdown pass to Donald Lee in the first quarter was backed up by the ground game (157 yards) and Mason Crosby's field goals. But injuries continued to take their toll as Michael Finley (TE), Mike Neal (DL), and Derrick Martin (DB) were lost for the season.

The Redskins mounted a fourth-quarter comeback. A 48-yard touchdown from quarterback Donovan McNabb to Anthony Armstrong came with 11:35 left. It narrowed the lead to 13-10. The Packers held on, but they couldn't put up any points on six drives in the fourth quarter and overtime period.

With 67 seconds left in regulation, Redskin rookie Graham Gano hit a 45-yard field goal to tie the game. With one second left, Mason Crosby missed from the 53 when he hit the left upright. In the overtime, Rodgers was intercepted by LaRon Landry on Green Bay's second series. With the help of two defensive penalties on the Packers, Gano booted the winner from the 33-yard line.

After the game, McCarthy addressed the increasing number of injuries, including the concussion suffered by Rodgers on the interception in overtime. "You can't control the injuries, and we're not going to spend a whole lot of time discussing those types of things or worrying about them."¹

Green Bay 7 3 3 0 0 13
Washington 0 3 0 10 3 16
87,760

Jim Becker, Green Bay Packer FAN Hall of Famer *

*Jim and Pat Becker attended this game as part of Jim's induction into the Packers FAN Hall of Fame. They enjoyed a nice trip to the nation's capital. Their seats at FedEx Field "were pretty high up there," and unbeknownst to them beforehand, their granddaughter was sitting in a section very close to them! Crosby's field goal would have made it a perfect day. **

* Interview 2/13/2017

¹ One: Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 34

10.17.2010

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 23
PACKERS 20 (OT)

Aaron Rodgers was cleared to play. He threw for 313 yards while being chased and sacked five times. With injuries taking their toll, Green Bay lost its second in a row in overtime.

An 86-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Greg Jennings gave the Packers an exciting 10-7 lead in the first quarter. Miami crept back in front with two field goals, but Mason Crosby's fourth-quarter field goal tied it 13-13 with 10 minutes left. A 22-yard touchdown pass from Chad Henne to Anthony Fasano put Miami in control 20-13 with 5:20 left.

Rodgers marched the Packers 69-yards for the tying touchdown that he scored on a quarterback sneak with 13 seconds left in regulation. In overtime, a 37-yard punt by Tim Masthay gave the Dolphins the ball at midfield. It took six plays before Dan Carpenter nailed his third field goal of the game to leave the Packers floundering at 3-3.

Miami 7 3 7 3 3 23
Green Bay 10 0 0 10 0 20
70,781

Sacks: GB 0 MIA 5

10.24.2010

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 24
PACKERS 28

With their season on the brink, the Packers faced their old quarterback again. After losing twice two to Brett Favre the previous year, this win was more than sweet!

It did not come easy nor without great tension, however. But as Steve Schumer, a member of the Packer Hall of Fame, put it, "The season was teetering. It was like a playoff game at midseason with one dramatic ending."*

Aaron Rodgers bounced back from an early interception by Jared Allen and marched Green Bay 76 yards in four plays to take a 7-0 lead. The Vikings tied it on Percy Harvin's 17-yard run right up the middle of the Green Bay defense. The Packers took the lead right back on a touchdown pass to Andrew Quarless. Adrian Peterson's touchdown run tied it at 14, and a field goal by another former Packer, Ryan Longwell, gave the Vikings the halftime lead.

In the second half, Favre threw three interceptions that gave the game away. "For me, it's

devastating. I don't know how else to put it,"¹ he later said. After Favre was intercepted by linebacker A. J. Hawk, Aaron Rodgers took over and spotted Greg Jennings. A 14-yard strike gave Green Bay a lead it never relinquished. On Minnesota's next series, as Favre was being sacked, his desperate pass was intercepted by linebacker Desmond Bishop, who took it to the house for a 28-17 Packer lead! Three minutes later, Favre struck right back with a touchdown pass to Randy Moss, cutting the Packer lead to 28-24.

With a four-point lead with four minutes left, could the Packers' defense contain Favre? It started well with an interception by Nick Collins and outstanding play by their young and injury-riddled defensive line. On Minnesota's final drive from the Green Bay 35, Favre dropped back and threw a first-down bullet to Percy Harvin in the back of the end zone for a touchdown. "The crowd gasped as one, too. Thinking he had done it again."² The play was reviewed and reversed by the replay official as one of Harvin's feet had landed out of bounds. Whew!

Three plays later, on fourth down, Favre overthrew Moss and Green Bay's season was back on track! Wayne Larrivee, the radio voice of the Packers, put it perfectly, "I felt that Green Bay, and certainly Packers Nation, needed this game for closure."³

Minnesota 7 10 7 0 24
Green Bay 7 7 14 0 28
71,107

GB moved into a first-place tie in the division.

For Packer fans, "even with all the rage and debate over the last two years, it's still jarring to see Brett Favre at Lambeau Field in a Minnesota Vikings jersey."⁴

* Interview 2/8/17

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/25/10, D'Amato, p. 3c

2 Packer Plus, 10/28/10, Hart, p. 4

3 These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 158

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/25/10, Steele, p. 2c

10.31.2010

PACKERS 9
NEW YORK
JETS 0

Against one of the strongest teams in the AFC, Mason Crosby's three field goals provided all the scoring. Aaron Rodgers, who was held in check by New York's defense, completed just 15 of 34 passes for 170 yards. Quarterback Mark Sanchez of the Jets was less effective, completing 16 of 38 passes for 256 yards and two interceptions.

Mason Crosby provided all the offense with field goals from 20, 41, and 40 yards away. Green Bay's defense featured former New York Jet Howard Green. Green, a big defensive tackle, pitched in impressively against the Jets' strong ground game. In a field position

game, Packer punter Tim Masthay tilted the field in Green Bay's favor with eight punts averaging 44 yards per kick, and he was named Special Teams Player of the Week!

Green Bay 3 0 0 6 9
New York 0 0 0 0 0
78,484

First shutout on the road for GB since 1991.

11.7.2010
DALLAS

COWBOYS 7
PACKERS 45

For Green Bay, what a difference a week makes! In this game, the Packers "outplayed, then overwhelmed, and finally embarrassed"¹ the Cowboys.

In Green Bay's best game of the season, Aaron Rodgers threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns. The defense tacked on two more scores, a 62-yard pick-six by Clay Mathews and a fumble recovered in mid-air by Nick Collins and returned for six more! The sixth touchdown was Brandon Jackson's 2-yard run that finished an 80-yard drive.

It was 28-7 Packers after 30 minutes. The defense played well despite the loss of Ryan Pickett to an ankle injury in the second quarter. The Cowboys were held to 39 yards on the ground and 205 overall. After the game, a pleased Mike McCarthy said, "The defense just swarmed all over them, kept them out of the end zone, and the offense got into a rhythm. We played a complete football game."²

Dallas 0 7 0 0 7
Green Bay 0 28 7 10 45
70,913

¹ Return to Titledown, Carlson, p. 64

² One: Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 50

11.21.2010

PACKERS 31
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 3

Three weeks after their previous meeting and after Green Bay's bye week, it was no contest! One headline even described it as a "Viking funeral."¹

The Packers played "three of the most sensational quarters of football"² in years. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes, and the defense kept Brett

Favre under control (17-38-208-0-1) to secure the win.

Though Rodgers was sacked three times, he had an outstanding afternoon (22-31-301-4-0). Before halftime, he threw two touchdown passes to Greg Jennings and James Jones for a 17-3 Packer advantage. The touchdown to Jones came after Tramon Williams' interception of Favre with 1:13 left in the first half.

In the second half, Rodgers tossed two more to Greg Jennings to put the game away. Jennings had a strong game with seven catches for 152 yards and three touchdowns! Favre was erratic (17-38-208-0-1). Both in and out of the pocket, he was off target, and his interception led to a Green Bay touchdown. The win for Rodgers and the Packers made it 2-2 against their former quarterback, and that's the way it would remain.

Green Bay **0 17 7 7 31**
Minnesota **3 0 0 0 3**
64,120

*"Was Brett Favre pumped up? When the Vikings took the field for warm-ups, he ran up behind third-string quarterback Joe Webb and smacked him so hard on the butt that Webb's knees buckled and he reached back with his right hand to grab his stinging backside."*³

1 packershistory.net/2010

2 The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 49

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/22/10, D'Amato, p. 4c

11.28.2010

PACKERS 17

ATLANTA

FALCONS 20

A very competitive and well-played game between the 8-2 Falcons and the 7-3 Packers. Though Green Bay put on a great show (418 total yards), they came up short.

In a 3-3 game midway through the second quarter, nine straight completions by Aaron Rodgers put the Packers on Atlanta's 2-yard line. On his second try at a quarterback sneak, Rodgers fumbled, and Mike Peterson of the Falcons recovered it. The play would haunt Green Bay as Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan capitalized with a touchdown to Tony Gonzalez for a 10-3 lead.

Green Bay came back after halftime. Rodgers scored from the 1-yard line to tie it, and for the game, he ran for 51 yards on 12 carries. Atlanta running back Michael Turner put them back on top 17-10 early in the fourth quarter. With six minutes left, the Packers marched 90 yards in 16 plays. After a penalty set them back five yards, Rodgers threw a bullet to Jordy Nelson for the tying touchdown with 1:06 left. On the kickoff, Eric Weems took it

back 36 yards. After with a facemask penalty on the Packers, Atlanta took over on Green Bay's 49-yard line. In six plays, Matt Bryant kicked the winner.

Green Bay 3 0 7 7 17

Atlanta 3 7 0 10 20

68,204

GB ran for just 77 yards.

12.5.2010

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 16

PACKERS 34

The Packers wore 1929 throwback jerseys for this game, and they had an easy time outscoring and outgaining the 49ers! Rodgers threw for 298 yards and three touchdowns. Two of the touchdowns were long ones to Greg Jennings (57 yards) and Donald Driver (61 yards). The Jennings touchdown came on a free-play after Rodgers drew linebacker Ahmad Brooks offside! Quarterback Alex Smith countered with a 66-yard touchdown pass to Vernon Davis to cut the lead before halftime to 14-13.

After struggling to run the ball since Ryan Grant's injury, the offense got a boost from the debut of running back James Starks, a sixth-round draft pick. Starks contributed 73 yards on 18 carries.

The Packers owned the last 30 minutes, and the defense gave up just one field goal. On offense, Rodgers and Donald Driver connected on the first drive of the second half for a 61-yard touchdown. It was an amazing play by Driver as seven 49ers could not bring him down on his way to the end zone, giving Green Bay the lead, 21-13. "I don't know what happened," a smiling Driver said later. "All I know is that when I caught it, I just started making moves."¹

In the third quarter, Rodgers threw a final touchdown pass to Jennings, and Mason Crosby's fourth-quarter field goal ended it.

San Francisco 3 10 3 0 16

Green Bay 0 14 14 6 34

70,575

Total Yards: 410-269

¹ Return to Titledown, Carlson, p. 82

12.12.2010

PACKERS 3

DETROIT

LIONS 7

A shocking upset. Near the end of a scoreless first half, Aaron Rodgers suffered a concussion diving headfirst trying to get a first down. He was replaced by Matt Flynn.

Third-string quarterback Drew Stanton led the Lions. They kept the ball on the ground most of the game with 41 carries for 190 yards. After a quiet first half on the scoreboard, Mason Crosby's field goal in the third quarter looked like it might be enough. But with eight minutes left, Stanton threw a touchdown pass to Will Heller for a 7-3 Detroit lead.

Green Bay could not score, and they suffered a disappointing loss. Rodgers' medical condition after the game was not clear. In that light, McCarthy reminded his team that "everything we want to accomplish is still in front of us."¹ As everyone knew, that depended on whether or not they had Aaron Rodgers.

Green Bay 0 0 3 0 3

Detroit 0 0 0 7 7

57,659

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 63

12.19.2010

PACKERS 27

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 31

Aaron Rodgers was in the concussion protocol, and Matt Flynn started against the heavily-favored Patriots. After the game, McCarthy snapped back at the idea that it was a moral victory and that no one expected the Packers to win. "We came here to win. We're nobody's underdog!"¹ he said proudly.

The Packers took the game right to the Patriots with an onside kick to start the game. Nick Collins recovered it, and Mason Crosby's field goal made it 3-0. Flynn played extremely well with two first-half touchdown passes. His 66-yard connection with James Jones stunned the Foxboro faithful, and his second touchdown was a one-yard toss to Greg Jennings. The Packers led 17-14 at the break!

Early in the third quarter, Kyle Arrington's pick-six gave the lead back to New England. Flynn responded with a 69-yard drive, and he fired his third touchdown of the game to John Kuhn to make it 24-21. After trading field goals in the fourth, Green Bay led 27-24

with 11:05 left.

Tom Brady's second touchdown pass with 7:14 left proved to be the eventual winner. Green Bay's final drive made it to New England's 15-yard line before Flynn was sacked for the fifth and final time. Donald Driver remarked later, "We didn't win the game. But after that game, we knew we could play with anybody again."²

Green Bay **3 14 7 3 27**
New England **7 7 7 10 31**
68,756

Total Yards: GB 369 NE 249

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 67

² If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 166

12.26.2010

NEW YORK

GIANTS **17**
PACKERS **45**

To make the postseason, Green Bay needed to defeat both the Giants and the Bears on the road. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was cleared to play in this all-or-nothing battle. The Giants also needed to win to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Green Bay never trailed, and the Giants "were swept right off their feet."¹ Aaron Rodgers had a career day with 404 yards passing, and four touchdown passes. Two first-quarter touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson and James Jones started the onslaught. New York quarterback Eli Manning matched Rodgers in the second quarter. Before halftime, the Packers took back the lead 21-14 on fullback John Kuhn's 8-yard touchdown.

Green Bay's defense shut down the Giants with four picks and two fumble recoveries. They outscored New York 24-3 in the second half, with Rodgers throwing touchdowns to Donald Lee and John Kuhn. Kuhn also scored on the ground, and Green Bay won going away. The sensational performance by Aaron Rodgers moved the Packers one step closer to the postseason.

The longest winning streak in franchise history, 19 games, began with this victory and extended through the first 13 games of 2011!

New York **0 14 3 0 17**
Green Bay **14 7 10 14 45**
70,649

GB gained 515 yards.

¹ The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 73

1.2.2011

CHICAGO

BEARS 3

PACKERS 10

The Bears wanted to keep the Packers out of the postseason, and Coach Lovie Smith played his starters all game.

In the lowest-scoring game between the rivals in nearly 20 years, defenses dictated the action. Neither team generated more than 300 yards, and the Packers couldn't move the ball on the ground (60 yards). The Bears couldn't protect quarterback Jay Cutler, who was sacked six times. Linebacker Erik Walden had three of the six, and the defense also intercepted two passes.

Late in the second quarter and late in the third, field goals by Robbie Gould and Mason Crosby made it a 3-3 game. After Crosby's kick, the game's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter. Rodgers drove the Packers 75 yards in five plays. Passes to Donald Driver and Greg Jennings covered 67 yards and put them at the doorstep. Tight end Donald Lee caught the short touchdown pass for a 10-7 lead with 12:42 to go.

On Chicago's final drive, they reached Green Bay's 32-yard line before a Nick Collins interception closed it out.

Chicago 0 3 0 0 3
Green Bay 0 0 3 7 10
70,833

The Bears gained just 227 yards.

1.9.2011

2010 NFC Wild Card Game

PACKERS 21

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 16

Winning two games in Philadelphia in the same year was a challenge. The third-seeded Eagles were favored slightly, but Green Bay's defense prevailed.

The Packers did not let quarterback Michael Vick get untracked. He was sacked on the first play from scrimmage by linebacker Desmond Bishop, and for the game, he ran for only 32 yards. For most of the late afternoon, Green Bay kept Philadelphia guessing by disguising their defense.

The Packers were tough to slow down on offense. Rookie James Starks continued his

surprising performance in the backfield with 123 yards. Aaron Rodgers threw for three touchdowns, with the first two going to Tom Crabtree and James Jones for a 14-3 halftime lead. For the game, Rodgers was fantastic (18-27-180-3-0).

The second half started ominously for Green Bay when Rodgers fumbled on the third play. Michael Vick converted with a 24-yard touchdown pass to wideout Janson Avant. It trimmed Green Bay's advantage to four, 14-10. The Packers responded with a 70-yard drive and a Rodgers touchdown to running back Brandon Jackson.

With eight minutes left, Vick led a 75-yard drive to Green Bay's 1-yard line. On fourth down, he dove over center for 21-16 game with 4:08 remaining. The Eagles got the ball back with 1:45 left. They moved quickly from their 34 to the Packers' 27-yard line. On first down with 44 seconds left, Vick threw to Riley Cooper in the end zone. In a play "that will stick in the memories of Eagles' fans just like fourth-and-26"¹ does for Packers' fans, cornerback Tramon Williams leaped in front of Cooper to steal it for the win!

Green Bay 7 7 7 0 21
Philadelphia 0 3 7 6 16
69,144

*Commenting on the win, broadcaster Troy Aikman said, "This thing that has impressed me is (the Packers) have never used injuries as an excuse. They have never done it. I have never heard the coaches use it as an excuse. I have never heard the players use it as an excuse. And that's rare. That comes from Mike McCarthy."*²

*"The little boy who loved his Green Bay Packers died on December 29 from leukemia. Ryan Luxem, 11, of Union Grove, Wisconsin, had been battling T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia since 2006. He was undergoing treatment once again when he was surprised with a visit from Packer running back Ryan Grant in November."*³

*Erik Walden: "I didn't really have a favorite team. As I grew up in the dorms in college, we were fans of Madden (video game). It used to be the Green Bay Packers, believe it or not because the colors were the same as my high school. How ironic it is that I'm playing for the Packers. I'm just happy to be here."*⁴

1 The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 81

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wolfley, p. 2c

3 Packer Plus, 1/13/2011, Nickel, p. 2

4 Packer Plus, 1/13/2011, p. 18

1.15.2011

2010 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 48

ATLANTA

FALCONS 21

The Packers returned to the Georgia Dome for a rematch with the one-seed Falcons, who

finished the regular season 13-3. In November, the Falcons defeated the Packers 20-17 on a 47-yard field goal by Matt Bryant with nine seconds left.

In one of the greatest games of Aaron Rodgers' young career, this upset of top-seeded Atlanta established the sixth-seeded Packers as the hottest team in the Super Bowl chase. Their defense held the high-flying Falcons to 194 total yards, and they forced four turnovers and delivered five sacks.

But it didn't start that way as Greg Jennings' fumble near midfield led to Michael Turner's 12-yard touchdown run. The Packers came back with an 81-yard drive and a Jordy Nelson touchdown catch to tie it. On the ensuing kickoff, Eric Weems got the Atlanta crowd off its feet with a 102-yard kickoff return to retake the lead 14-7.

Green Bay answered with a touchdown run by John Kuhn. Kuhn followed big defensive tackle B. J. Raji over right tackle and into the end zone. This touchdown began an impressive run of five straight Green Bay touchdowns against the number one-seeded Falcons. "It starts up front. We were in control of the line of scrimmage,"¹ said Mike McCarthy. Rodgers picked apart the Atlanta secondary "like a possessed man,"² said backup Matt Flynn.

With 2:30 left before halftime, Tramon Williams made the first of two interceptions. The pick came in the end zone to stop the Falcons. The Packers went 80 yards the other way, and with 48 seconds left, a Rodgers to James Jones touchdown made it 21-14 Green Bay. The Falcons drove right back into Green Bay territory. On a second and 19 from Green Bay's 35, Tramon Williams stepped in front of another Matt Ryan pass and went 70 yards for the decisive blow. It gave Green Bay a 28-14 lead at the break, and it quieted the dome so much, you could easily hear the "Go Pack Go!" chants!

On the opening drive of the new half, the Packers went 80 yards for another score. A 7-yard run by Rodgers made it an insurmountable 35-14 lead. Green Bay generated 442 total yards, and Rodgers played magnificently (31-36-366-3-0-1). "His performance against Atlanta was arguably the greatest postseason game ever by a Packers quarterback and one of the finest in NFL history."³

Green Bay	0	28	14	6	48
Atlanta	7	7	0	7	21
69,210					

GB never punted!

"Next Week Is For All The Cheese"⁴ said a sign spotted in the stands of the Bears-Seahawks playoff game.

1 The Pack is Back, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, p. 91

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/16/2011, McGinn, p. 7c

3 If These Walls Could Talk, Larrivee & Reischel, p. 173

4 Packers Plus, 1/20/19

1.23.2010

2010 NFC Championship Game

PACKERS **21**

CHICAGO

BEARS **14**

For only the second time in their history, the Packers and Bears met in the postseason. The previous time was 1941, one week after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. That outcome went Chicago's way, but this time, the Packers got the best of the Bears!

With a Super Bowl berth riding on the outcome, the Packers opened the game confidently. They picked up right where they left off in Atlanta as Rodgers went four-for-four on the 84-yard drive, and he also scored the touchdown! Then, in the second quarter, on a short 44-yard drive, late-blooming rookie James Starks scored for a 14-0 lead.

After halftime and trailing 14-0, Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler injured his knee and left the game. He was replaced by Todd Collins, who threw four incomplete passes before being replaced with third-string quarterback Caleb Hanie.

On the first drive of the second half, the Packers were on the verge of putting the game out of reach. But on Chicago's 6-yard line, Rodgers was intercepted by Brian Urlacher. Urlacher headed down the sideline with only one person between him and the end zone—Aaron Rodgers. Urlacher made a move inside, and Rodgers made a clutch tackle on Chicago's 45-yard line. The defense forced a three-and-out after Urlacher's interception, but Green Bay's offense lost the momentum it had been riding since the Atlanta game.

In the second half, the Packers couldn't run the ball (16 yards), and Rodgers completed just seven of 18 passes for 90 yards. He did not throw a touchdown pass, and he was intercepted once.

In the fourth quarter, the Bears made it 14-7 with 12:05 left. Rodgers went cold on the next two drives with only two completions on six attempts. With seven minutes left, the Bears took over on their 10-yard line. On third and five from his 15, Caleb Hanie was picked off by defensive tackle B. J. Raji, who went 18 yards to the end zone with 6:12 left. There, Raji did a memorable dance after restoring Green Bay's 14-point lead, 21-7.

The Bears didn't go into hibernation! Just over one minute later, Hanie threw a 35-yard touchdown to Earl Bennett that kept them close, 21-14. The Packers went three-and-out, the Bears took over again with 2:53 left. Three first downs took them to Green Bay's 29-yard line. On fourth-and-five with 47 seconds left, Hanie's pass to Johnny Knox was intercepted by Sam Shields. Game over!

At Soldier Field, the Packers proudly accepted the George Halas Trophy as the NFC

Champion. "Now we have a chance to claim greatness and bring the Lombardi Trophy back home,"² said a jubilant Mike McCarthy.

Green Bay 7 7 0 7 21
Chicago 0 0 0 14 14
62,377

*Steve Newman, a Wisconsin native, and his son David probably traveled the farthest, coming in from Wasilla, Alaska. The tickets cost \$3,300 for the pair. He didn't care. He wanted to show his son what it's like to root for the Packers. 'It was his first pro game. It was worth every penny, every second of it. To watch his face, that's what the Packers are about, a family experience.'*³

*"To come into enemy territory and win is beyond words; to hear 'Go Pack Go' is beyond description"*⁴ Jeff Roznowski of Wauwatosa.

*"Mike Scaminaci, an airline pilot from Chicago, proudly wore his green and gold jersey. 'I fly, and I am closer to God, and God is a Packer fan,' Scaminaci said with a grin."*⁵

*Packer Fan Tours: "It's unbelievable, it's overwhelming. We're selling out airlines and properties as we speak and adding more."*⁶

*From Lambeau⁶¹: "Living in Chicago, words do not describe the feeling I have. I have been here for seven years. This is bragging rights forever, not only for me but for the wonderful state of Wisconsin, along with the franchise. Unreal! Now a Super Bowl victory would put the icing on the cake."*⁷

*Bill Brye: "I have lived in Knoxville for 21 years, having moved here from Wisconsin. It's hard to explain to people here what it is like being a Packer fan. UT football is great, but there's nothing like Packer football; as a child growing up in the La Crosse area, on Sundays after church, you gathered in front of the television with your family, ate lunch, listened to Ray Scott, and watched Packer football."*⁸

Cheesehead Inventor! "Milwaukee's, Ralph Bruno, 49, told the Los Angeles Times the idea dawned on him in 1987 when Chicagoans were calling Wisconsinites cheeseheads. He made the first one out of foam from his mother's couch. His wedges have blossomed into Foamation Inc, and he is the big cheese in the industry thanks to the taunts from flatlanders. 'Don't get me wrong, I don't dislike Bear fans. I hate to say it, but I guess I've made a living off them.'" ⁹

*Mike McCarthy on the plane arriving in Green Bay and going through the terminal: "It was awesome running the 'gauntlet.' It was incredible. You could hear the fans when you were getting off the plane. It was something I'll never forget; it was unbelievable."*¹⁰

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, D'Amato, p. 5a

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Hunt, p. 8c

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 6a

4 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 1

5 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Glauber, p. 6a

6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, Jones, p. 6a

7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, p. 9c

8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/24/11, p. 9c

9 Packer Plus, 1/27/11, Hart, p. 26

10 Packer Plus, p. 22

2.6.2011

Super Bowl XLV

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 25

PACKERS 31

Green Bay became the first sixth-seeded team from the NFC to reach the big game. A great matchup pitted two of the most decorated franchises in NFL history, and the game lived up to its name!

The young and confident Packers squared-off against a veteran Pittsburgh team that had recently won Super Bowls XL and XLIII. Twenty-five Steelers had Super Bowl experience, while the Packers had just two. The Steelers were a five-point favorites.

Super Bowl XLV belonged to Aaron Rodgers! He started fast on Green Bay's second series with a beautiful 29-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. On Pittsburgh's next play from scrimmage, defensive tackle Howard Green hit Ben Roethlisberger's arm as he released his pass. Nick Collins caught the wounded duck and went 37 yards for a 14-0 lead with just 11 minutes gone in the game! In the first quarter, the Packers' defense also did well, allowing just one first down.

Just before the half, the Packers threatened to blow the game open. Jarrett Bush picked off Roethlisberger, and four plays later, Rodgers found Greg Jennings for a 21-yard touchdown and a stunning 21-3 Packers' lead. But the Steelers snapped out of their slumber, and five plays after Charles Woodson broke his collarbone, Roethlisberger tossed an 8-yard touchdown to Hines Ward, 21-10.

Par for the course, the Packers didn't escape the first half without injuries. Charles Woodson (collarbone) and Donald Driver (ankle) were both lost for the game, while Sam Shields and Nick Collins missed stretches in the second half. At halftime, an emotional Green Bay locker room eventually refocused for a pressure-packed second half. Charles Woodson fired up the team with a passionate speech, and off they went to lay claim to the Lombardi Trophy!

As expected, the Steelers regrouped. On their first drive that started at the 50-yard line, they ran the ball on five straight plays, including Rashard Mendenhall's 8-yard touchdown run to cut the lead to 21-17.

The Packers' offense struggled in the third quarter with two three-and-outs and one four-play drive. But the game turned their way on the first play of the fourth quarter. "It is time,"¹ coach Kevin Greene (former Steelers great) told linebacker Clay Matthews. With the Steelers driving for the go-ahead touchdown, Clay Matthews and Ryan Pickett hit Mendenhall and forced a fumble. Desmond Bishop recovered on Green Bay's 45-yard line,

and Rodgers wasted no time. He threw seven straight passes and found Jennings open in the end zone for a 28-17 lead!

Roethlisberger stormed back with a touchdown, and Randle El's two-point conversion made it 28-25. With 7:29 left, the Packers drove 70 yards to Pittsburgh's 5-yard line. The key play was the drive's first third down when "Rodgers rifled a throw so hard that even though it grazed the fingertips of cornerback Ike Taylor, it stayed on course for Jennings to haul it in."² The 31-yard bullet to Jennings led to Mason Cosby's 23-yard field goal that made it a six-point game with 2:10 left.

After the kickoff, Ben Roethlisberger had 1:59 to go 87 yards. After he completed two passes, he missed the next three to send the Lombardi Trophy back home!

Pittsburgh	0	10	7	8	25
Green Bay	14	7	0	10	31
91,060					

Aaron Rodgers (24-39-304-3-0) was voted the game's MVP.

To get ready for the Super Bowl, fans had prepared all week. "They had purchased big-screen TVs and recliners. They had donned their colors early Sunday and hurried through such pre-Super Bowl warm-ups as walking the dog, cleaning the garage, and shopping for green and gold party plates to go with the cold beer, cheddar brats, and chicken wings. They wrapped their newborns in Tiletown towels. They prayed—hard—and had even lit candles after Sunday Mass. Many resorted to their superstitions, sporting the same sweatshirts, jerseys, and beads they have been wearing since the Packers elbowed their way into the playoffs and started their Super Bowl run."³

"We're a community-owned football team, so you can see all the fingerprints on our trophy. It was passed around. Everybody had a lot of fun with it."⁴

Alison Struve of DePere: "Just to be surrounded by so many people who care about this team. It's more than a game. It seems bigger than that."⁵

Packer Fan Tim: "The last six games were incredible. My friends and I met at a bar every week to watch and had a lot of fun cheering on the Packers. We all have families, and it is hard to get away on Sundays, but it was well worth it."⁶

GB Fan: "Cried like a baby... got online to read the posts and started cryin' again."⁷

Who needs a ticket? "The Baier family, transplants from Wisconsin, held a reunion on a patch of grass at an apartment complex across the street (from AT&T Stadium). Philip Baier, his wife, Jeannie, and a couple of their kids drove from Florida, picked up a few more family members in Georgia, and made it to Texas a few hours before kickoff. It was 23 hours door to door because of the icy roads. They cooked brats on the grill, drank beer, and watched the game with other fans on television sets perched on tables."⁸

Aaron Rodgers on Charles Woodson: "You know all week he talked about the one thing he wanted to do was celebrate with his little son, Charles, in the, you know, in the confetti here."⁹

Running back Brandon Jackson: "That jersey (#32) will not be washed. It will be hung up, framed."¹⁰

*Rev. Susan Paterson-Sumwalt: "Somewhere in the world, the loser of the Super Bowl will be the winner. She meant the losing team's pre-printed incorrect, official shirts, done in anticipation of a victory, will go to a good cause. Through a long-standing partnership between the NFL and World Vision, millions of dollars of Super Bowl paraphernalia and other championship shirts are sent to poor countries. Which means a lot of Steelers Super Bowl Champion T-shirts will soon end up overseas."*¹¹

- 1 DVD: Super Bowl XLV Champions, NFL Properties, 2011
- 2 One, Green Bay Packers, 2011, p. 109
- 3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/8/11, D'Amato, p. 3c
- 4 Post-Crescent, 2/7/11, Walsh -Nufer, p. A -4
- 5 Post-Crescent, 2/7/11, Woods. P. A-3
- 6 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Victory Tour, 2/13/11, p. 25
- 7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, p. 21s
- 8 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, Glauber, p. 9s
- 9 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/8/11, Walker, p. 2c
- 10 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/9/11, p. 1c
- 11 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/7/11, Herzog/Carey, p, 18s

2010

NFC NORTH

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Jackson
Receiving	Jennings
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Williams
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Collins	Safety
Matthews	Linebacker
Woodson	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

- Bryan Bulaga (1, OT)
- Mike Neal (2, DE)
- Morgan Burnett (3, S)
- Andrew Quarless (5a, TE)
- Marshall Newhouse (5b, G)
- James Starks (6, RB)
- C. J. Wilson (7, DE)



2011
Record: 15-1-0, 1st Place
Coach: Mike McCarthy

- The off-season news was dominated by a lockout of the players by the owners from March 12 to July 25. A new 10-year collective bargaining agreement was eventually signed.
- Ted Thompson and Mike McCarthy signed contract extensions.
- The Packers went undefeated through 13 games. They set a franchise record with a 15-1 regular season. Along with their six wins at the end of 2010, the 19 straight wins is the second-longest streak in NFL history.
- Aaron Rodgers won his first NFL MVP Award. He threw 45 touchdowns and only six interceptions. He broke Lynn Dickey's record for the most yards passing in a single-season set in 1983.
- The team had the #1 offense in the league scoring 560 points, the third-most in league history at the time. Defensively, they ranked 32nd (last) in yards allowed and 19th in points allowed.
- Ryan Grant returned to the lineup after being injured in 2010. He and James Starks led the ground game.
- On November 7th, Rodgers and his receiving corps were on the cover of Sports Illustrated as "The Perfect Pack."
- In December, the franchise announced a 5th stock sale. Shares would cost \$250.00.

9.8.2011

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 34

PACKERS 42

What a grand opening night for the NFL! A nationally televised game on Thursday Night matched the last two Super Bowl Champions, who slugged it out for 76 total points!

The Packers used a no-huddle offense to start the game, and they scored in nine plays. In the first 13 minutes of the game, Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to Greg

Jennings, Jordy Nelson, and Randall Cobb. New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees countered with one touchdown, and the first quarter ended 21-7 Packers.

In the second quarter, the teams traded touchdowns, and the Saints added a field goal. The Packers led at the break, 28-17. In the second half, the teams scorched the “frozen tundra” with 28 points! It continued to be quite a debut for Green Bay rookie Randall Cobb. Cobb added a record-tying 108-yard kickoff return to his first-quarter touchdown! Drew Brees kept it close (35-27) with a touchdown pass to Devery Henderson.

In the fourth quarter, Rodgers led a 93-yard drive in 12 plays that John Kuhn finished with a 1-yard run. Undaunted, Brees hooked up with his tight end Jimmy Graham to make the score 42-34, keeping it within eight with 2:15 to go.

In a heart-stopping final drive, the Saints went 70 yards to Green Bay’s 9-yard line. With no time left on the clock, a pass interference penalty in the end zone on A. J. Hawk of the Packers put the ball at the one-yard line. With no time on the clock and one play to run, rookie Mark Ingram got the ball. Somehow “the Packers’ defense that allowed the Saints to pile up 477 total net yards of offense wouldn’t allow one more.”¹ Ingram was stuffed by B. J. Raji and Ryan Pickett and the Packers won this opening battle of two NFC heavyweights!

New Orleans	7	10	10	7	34
Green Bay	21	7	7	7	42
70,555					

Packer fan Steve Tate: “It’s in our blood. Green and gold. It’s a big community with a long tradition that means a lot to a lot of us.”²

“We’re an hour before game time, and the place is almost full,”³ observed season ticket-holder Joel Hermann.

“The NFL’s pre-game spectacle was impressive. There was a Super Bowl-type buzz in the air. Which is exactly what the league wanted.”⁴

“Green Bay is like Las Vegas. It shouldn’t exist, but it does,” said Blair Daoust, of North Bay, Ontario. ⁵

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Demovsky, p. 33
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 1
3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 4
4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Vandermause, p. 34
5 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/11, Morrell, p. 4

9.18.11

PACKERS 30

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 23

This was the first meeting between Aaron Rodgers and rookie quarterback Cam Newton. Rodgers got the best of Newton in this meeting, as the rookie threw three interceptions and was sacked four times!

In his first game in front of the home crowd, Newton threw 46 times for 432 yards and one touchdown! On his first series, Newton completed six passes on a 10-play drive that went for a touchdown. When the Packers fumbled the ensuing kickoff, it led to the first of two Carolina field goals. Before halftime, John Kuhn's touchdown run cut Carolina's edge to 10-7.

After the break, Green Bay came out of the locker room to take over the game. In five plays, Rodgers connected with Greg Jennings on a 49-yard strike to take the lead. On Carolina's next series, the first of Charles Woodson's two interceptions set up Mason Crosby's field goal. Woodson also recovered a fumble that led to Crosby's third field goal! By the fourth quarter, it was 23-13 Green Bay. "Got my hands on the ball a couple of times, which is great,"¹ Woodson said later.

With under three minutes left, the Packers stretched it to 30-16. An 84-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson completed an excellent game for Aaron Rodgers (19-30-308-2-0).

Green Bay 0 7 16 7 30

Carolina 10 3 0 10 23

73,167

Donald Driver became GB's all-time leader in receiving yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/11, Demovsky, p. 27

9.25.11

PACKERS 27

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

The Packers returned to the scene of the previous year's NFC Championship Game victory that put them in the Super Bowl!

Unlike the previous meeting, the game was no contest. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to tight end Jermichael Finley. On the first two touchdowns, Rodgers completed eight of 11 passes on the drives. Quarterback Jay Cutler came back

with a touchdown pass, and after trading field goals, Green Bay led 17-10 at intermission.

The Packers controlled the final 30 minutes. They extended their advantage to 27-10 with another Mason Crosby field goal and a third touchdown pass to Finley. Ryan Grant (95 yards) and Greg Jennings (110 yards) put up the big yards, and the defense held the Bears in check with two interceptions and three sacks.

Chicago ran the ball for just 13 yards, and Matt Forte managed just two! "We just completely stuffed them. We just did a good job up front, the linebackers coming up made them one-dimensional,"¹ said Ryan Pickett. With 13 minutes left, the Bears cut it to 27-17 after a Green Bay fumble, but that was as close as they came.

Green Bay 7 10 3 7 27
Chicago 0 10 0 7 17
62,339

"Family Services will host its 23rd annual Green-and-Gold Gala fundraiser with the Green Bay Packers at 6:00 p.m. Thursday in the

*Lambeau Field Atrium. More than 20 former players—including Lynn Dickey, Paul Coffman, Zeke Bratkowski, and Frank Winters—will join guests for dinner and auctions to benefit Family Services' child and youth programs. Tickets cost \$150 or \$1500 for a business table sponsorship."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/11, Dougherty, p. 29

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/11, p. 3

10.2.2011

DENVER

BRONCOS 23

PACKERS 49

An amazing game by Mr. Rodgers! Green Bay trailed 3-0 in the first quarter when they scored three touchdowns in four minutes! The bombardment opened with a 50-yard strike from Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. On Denver's next series, a pick-six by cornerback Charles Woodson made it 14-3. The Packers then surprised Denver with an onside kick. Jordy Nelson recovered it, and they cashed in with a touchdown run by Rodgers, 21-3.

Denver quarterback Kyle Orton tried to keep pace with two touchdown passes to Eric Decker, but Rodgers kept the pressure on. With 24 seconds before halftime, he connected with Greg Jennings for a 28-17 lead!

The Packers locked up the game in the second half. Rodgers led three scoring drives for a 49-17 lead. He scored his second touchdown on the ground, while Denver's turnovers led to touchdown passes to James Jones and Donald Driver. "He (Brett Favre) had a lot of weapons, but he never had this many weapons, I can promise you that,"¹ said Driver.

Denver **3 14 0 6 23**
Green Bay **14 14 14 7 49**
70,29

“Four touchdowns passing, two touchdowns running, and 400-plus yards through the air. No NFL quarterback in history had pulled off that trifecta, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/11, Dougherty, p. 28

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 10/3/11, p. 27

10.9.2011

PACKERS **25**

ATLANTA

FALCONS **14**

The Falcons jumped out to a 14-0 lead, and their chances to exact some revenge for the previous year’s postseason looked promising. After a 14-6 first half, the Packers slowed down Atlanta’s ground game. They held Michael Turner to 65 yards overall, and the game turned into a quarterback duel between Matt Ryan and Aaron Rodgers!

Mason Crosby’s third field goal made it 14-9 in the third quarter. On Green Bay’s third series, James Jones caught “a perfect strike from Rodgers on a post pattern”¹ and went 70 yards for six points late in the third quarter. Early in the fourth, Greg Jennings made a fantastic catch for a 29-yard touchdown and the knockout blow.

Atlanta did not have an answer. The Packers sealed the deal with a six-minute drive and Crosby’s fourth field goal with just over a minute left. The 5-0 Packers outgained the Falcons 426-251.

Green Bay **0 6 9 10 25**
Atlanta **7 7 0 0 14**
69,576

Cosby kicked a 56-yard FG to tie his franchise record.

“The sizable contingent of Packers fans could be heard above the din of the crowd shouting “Go Pack Go!” throughout the game.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 10/10/11, p. 27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/11, Vandermause, p. 28

10.16.11

ST. LOUIS

RAMS

3

PACKERS

24

Green Bay's offensive juggernaut continued in their blue and gold throwback jerseys!

Aaron Rodgers put away the Rams in the second quarter with three touchdown passes. He torched them with scoring strikes of 35 yards to James Jones, 93 yards to Jordy Nelson, and seven yards to Donald Driver! The ground game produced only 90 yards, but it was enough.

The Packer defense gave up a lot of yards but no touchdowns. The Rams were three-for-13 on third downs, and quarterback Sam Bradford threw one interception, and he was sacked three times. While the outcome was never in doubt, Green Bay's struggles to score in the second half raised a few eyebrows. "We're 6-0, and we still have a lot of room for improvement,"¹ said Aaron Rodgers.

St. Louis **0 3 0 0 3**
Green Bay **3 21 0 0 24**
70,604

In six games, Rodgers has thrown 15 touchdowns and three picks.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/11, Vandermause, p. 29

10.23.11

PACKERS

33

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

27

The Vikings set the pace in the first half while the Packers stayed close. Touchdown passes from both quarterbacks, Christian Ponder and Aaron Rodgers, got the scoring started. After a muffed punt by Randall Cobb, Adrian Peterson scored on the ground, and the Vikings led at the half, 17-13.

Rodgers lit up the second half immediately. In the first five minutes, he threw two touchdowns. On the second play from scrimmage, Rodgers and Greg Jennings connected. "Rodgers threw on a flat line while rolling to his right, and Jennings was so wide open that he jogged in from the 40."¹ The touchdown went for 79 yards. A great punt return by Randall Cobb set up Rodgers' third touchdown to Jermichael Finley. Rodgers and his receivers were confident, and after the game, Greg Jennings said, "it really doesn't matter who's on the opposing team. We have the mindset we are going to beat our guy."²

In the second half of the third quarter, Charles Woodson took over. His two interceptions led to two of Mason Crosby's four field goals. Crosby's second, from the 58, broke his own team record. With a 33-17 lead, the Packers went into their bye week 7-0.

Green Bay 7 6 20 0 33
Minnesota 7 10 0 10 27
63,946

1 Sports Illustrated, Layden, 11/7/12, p. 62

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Copeland, 10/24/11, p. 27

11.6.2011

PACKERS 45
SAN DIEGO
CHARGERS 38

The Packers were 8-0 for the first time since 1962! They took this game convincingly, but not before a late rally by the Chargers.

Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes without an interception (21-26-247-4-0), and he also ran for 52 yards! After trading first-quarter touchdown passes with quarterback Phillip Rivers of the Chargers, the Packers' defense stepped in. On back-to-back possessions, Rivers was intercepted. Charlie Peprah and Tramon Williams made the picks, and both were returned for touchdowns!

The Packers didn't let up. Jordy Nelson caught a 16-yard touchdown pass right before halftime for a 28-17 lead. The Rodgers and Rivers duel heated up after halftime. After Mason Crosby's field goal for a 31-17 lead, Rivers brought San Diego to within seven, 31-24, on his 11-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates.

The fourth quarter brought more offense as Rodgers threw touchdowns to James Jones and Greg Jennings to make it 45-24. Then, with over 10 minutes remaining, Phillip Rivers came back with two more touchdown passes, but safety Charlie Peprah's interception with 33 seconds left ended it!

Speculation had already started regarding a possible MVP for Aaron Rodgers. McCarthy had no doubt it would be deserved if his strong play continued. "His decision-making is clearly at the highest level that I've personally been part of."¹

Green Bay 21 7 3 14 45
San Diego 7 10 7 14 38
69,908

Total Yards: GB 368 SD 460

"The Green Bay Packers have teamed with the American Red Cross for a blood drive from 7:00am

to 3:00pm Tuesday at Lambeau Field. All blood types are needed. Visitors can also sign pre-printed holiday cards donated by Oshkosh-based Miles Kimberly Company, which sends messages to service members.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/11, Copeland, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/11, Davis, p. 3

11.14.11

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 7

PACKERS 45

In a Monday Night blowout of the Vikings, there was never any doubt as Aaron Rodgers threw for four more touchdowns without an interception!

Less than two minutes into the game, Randall Cobb started the rout with an 80-yard punt return! Rodgers threw a touchdown to Greg Jennings, and with a field goal, it was 17-0 Packers at half.

An eight-play march to start the second half culminated on a short Rodgers to Jordy Nelson pass that went 17 yards to paydirt! After Adrian Peterson scored Minnesota’s only points, a Rodgers to John Kuhn touchdown pass made it 31-7.

Green Bay held Adrian Peterson to 51 yards rushing and the Vikings to 266 total yards. Aaron Rodgers (23-30-250-4-0) outplayed Christian Ponder (16-34-190-0-1), and the Packers remained undefeated. The win was the franchise’s 15th in a row dating back to December 26, 2010!

Minnesota 0 0 7 0 7
Green Bay 14 3 14 14 45
70,519

11.20.11

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 26

PACKERS 35

The Packers matched the best start in franchise history, 10-0. They were 14-point favorites at home, but they didn’t put this game away until late.

The Packers scored on their opening drive when defensive tackle B. J. Raji bulled his way into the end zone to finish off the 88-yard drive. They stretched it to 14-0 when Rodgers and tight end Tom Crabtree connected. After Tampa Bay cut it to 14-10, an unexpected onside kick was recovered by Green Bay on Tampa’s 38-yard line! Four plays later, Rodgers

to Jordy Nelson made it 21-10 at the break.

After an eight-minute march, the Bucs booted a field goal. In the fourth quarter, they narrowed it to 21-19. A touchdown run by John Kuhn got the touchdown back 28-19. With five minutes remaining, Rodgers was picked off by Ebert Mack, and the Bucs capitalized in five plays to make it 28-26. Green Bay recovered another onside kick, and Rodgers and Nelson hooked up again, this time for a 40-yard strike. Tramon Williams closed it out with his second interception.

"It doesn't look pretty. We make plays at the end. We definitely do not like giving up that many yards (342)," said defensive tackle Ryan Pickett.

Tampa Bay 0 10 3 13 26

Green Bay 7 14 0 14 35

70,498

This was the 298th straight sellout at Lambeau Field.

"The annual appearance of the University of Wisconsin Marching Band is always a treat for Packer fans."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/11, Vandermause, p. 26

11.24.11

PACKERS 27

DETROIT

LIONS 15

The Packers avoided the misstep of the undefeated 1962 Packers, who stumbled on Thanksgiving Day in Detroit. The 2011 team defeated the Lions soundly and moved to 11-0.

The Packers were never threatened. Aaron Rodgers threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns. The scoring started after a Clay Matthews interception set up a Rodgers to Greg Jennings touchdown. Leading 7-0 at half, the Packers exploded in the third quarter.

Detroit tackle Ndamukong Suh was flagged for a personal foul, and he was ejected for stomping on Packers' center Evan Dietrich-Smith. The penalty gave the Packers a first down, and John Kuhn scored two plays later. The second pick of Stafford by linebacker Robert Francois led to a 65-yard touchdown from Rodgers to James Jones. "We take the football away, and we take care of it. We do (it) as good or better than anyone in the league,"¹ McCarthy said later.

Charles Woodson's interception of Matt Stafford set up a field goal for a 24-0 lead after 45 minutes. In the fourth quarter, Stafford's two touchdown passes made the final tally more respectable.

Green Bay 0 7 17 3 27
Detroit 0 0 0 15 15
66,263

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/11, Dougherty, p. 34

12.4.2011

PACKERS 38
NEW YORK
GIANTS 35

With no time left on the clock, Mason Crosby's 30-yard field goal won the game and clinched the NFC North for the Packers!

The game had five lead changes, and Green Bay's porous defense gave up 447 yards. The offense overcame the defense this time around with two first-half touchdown passes from quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Donald Driver's touchdown catch gave Green Bay the lead just before halftime. Linebacker Clay Matthews also pitched in with a 38-yard pick-six! "I was able to bait him (Manning) and make a good break on the ball,"¹ Matthews said later, describing the big play.

With the Packers leading 21-17, Rodgers (28-46-369-4-1) and Manning each threw two second-half touchdown passes, back-to-back, right after halftime. At the start of the fourth quarter, New York's Lawrence Tynes kicked a 50-yard field goal for a one-point game, 28-27, Green Bay.

With just under four minutes left, Aaron Rodgers and Donald Driver made it 35-27. The Giants came back in nine plays with a touchdown pass from Manning to Hakeem Nicks with 1:02 left. A two-point conversion tied it, 35-35. With 58 seconds left, Rodgers retaliated with four straight completions, including a spectacular 27-yard back-shoulder catch by Jordy Nelson along the sideline. After an 18-yard completion to Greg Jennings, enter Mason Crosby and "just like that, the Packers were 12-0 on a day when they weren't as sharp as they've been most weeks."²

Green Bay 7 14 7 10 38
New York 10 7 0 18 35
80,634

*"The Green Bay Packers could not have arranged a better time to sell shares in the team. They are selling shares to help pay for the \$143 million in expansion and improvement projects at Lambeau Field. The Packers allotted 250,000 shares, which will cost \$250 each."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/11, Demovsky, p. 27

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/11, Dougherty, p. 28

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/6/11, Ryman, p. 1

12.11.2011

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 16

PACKERS 46

The Packers won their 13th straight and 19th in a row since last December. They dominated from start to finish, scoring on their first five possessions. Aaron Rodgers used the no-huddle effectively and threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns. Oakland didn't score until it was 34-0 Packers.

Rodgers (17-30-281-2-1) led an offense that rolled over Oakland from the start. The defense got it rolling with two first-half interceptions of quarterback Carson Palmer. The picks by D. J. Smith and Robert Francois led to touchdown runs by Ryan Grant that opened and closed the first half! In between Grant's touchdowns, Rodgers threw his two touchdown passes to Ryan Taylor and Jordy Nelson for a 31-0 halftime lead.

After the Raiders made it 34-7, two more Mason Crosby field goals and a fumble recovery for a touchdown by linebacker Eric Walden ended all doubt. For the first time all season, Rodgers finished with a QBR under 100 (96.7).

Oakland 0 0 7 9 16

Green Bay 14 17 12 3 46

70,524

Greg Jennings injured his left knee and did not return.

12.18.2011

PACKERS 14

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 19

Green Bay suffered its first loss since December 19, 2010, as the Kansas City defense dominated the game and corralled Green Bay's potent offense.

K.C.'s new interim coach, Romeo Crennel, started Kyle Orton at quarterback for the 5-8 Chiefs. The first half was especially quiet, with the only points coming on two field goals by K.C.'s Ryan Succop. The Packers got on the board in the third quarter on an Aaron Rodgers to Donald Driver touchdown for a 7-6 lead.

Injuries on the offensive line—to tackles Chad Clifton and Bryan Bulaga—also left Rodgers vulnerable, and he was sacked four times. The offense had trouble moving the ball without Greg Jennings, and they failed to convert consistently on third downs (6 for 14). Not surprisingly, the Chiefs led in the time of possession by more than 13 minutes.

It was the first game this season that the defense, which gave up 438 yards, did not produce a turnover. Without that help, the offense couldn't win it alone. Many fans thought it came down to the Packers being "outhustled, outcoached, and outplayed."¹

Green Bay 0 0 7 7 14

Kansas City 6 0 3 10 19

74,093

Total Yards: GB 315 KC 438

"Packers fans showed up in force at Arrowhead Stadium, making this almost a neutral site. 'Go Pack Go' chants could be heard throughout the game."²

"About 80 children with cancer got to spend Monday night outside the hospital hanging out with their heroes. Eight members of the Green Bay Packers played games and took photos with about 300 people during the annual Families of Children with Cancer Holiday Party."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/11, Vandermause, p. 25

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/11, Vandermause, p. 26

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/13/11, O'Brien, p. 3

12.25.2011

CHICAGO

BEARS 21

PACKERS 35

A mild night of 37 degrees wasn't the best gift Green Bay fans received this Christmas! The weather was topped by a nice bounce-back win by the Packers that secured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs!

The Bears still outgained the Packers (441-363), but they couldn't outscore them. Aaron Rodgers had another spectacular game that not only locked up the team as a number one-seed, but it may have also secured him an NFL MVP Award! Rodgers was 21 of 29 for 283 yards and no interceptions. He threw five touchdown passes, and his passer rating of 142.7 was his third-highest of the season.

After the previous week's loss to the Chiefs, and with Greg Jennings lost to injury, the Packers made adjustments on offense. On their first drive, Rodgers went eight-for-eight, and Jermichael Finley caught the first touchdown. After the Bears trimmed the lead to 14-10 early in the third quarter, the Packers put the game away with three more touchdown drives. Rodgers threw five touchdown passes in a game for the first time in his career! He connected with Jermichael Finley, James Jones (2x), and Jordy Nelson (2x). "We just wanted to come back and make a statement about last week,"¹ said Randall Cobb.

Chicago 0 3 7 11 21

Green Bay 7 7 14 7 35

70,574

1.1.2012

DETROIT

LIONS 41

PACKERS 45

This slugfest still holds the Green Bay record for the most yards gained in a single game by both teams—1,125. It surpassed by 100 yards the Green Bay-Washington game in 1983. Green Bay gave up 575 yards, while the offense put up 550!

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers did not play in the game, and Matt Flynn threw a team-record six touchdown passes! Quarterback Matthew Stafford of the Lions threw another five. Like most games in 2011, the offense didn't miss a beat. The defense was another matter.

Detroit	9	10	15	7	41
Green Bay	10	14	7	14	45
70,294					

1.15.2011

2011 NFC Divisional Playoff

NEW YORK

GIANTS 37

PACKERS 20

This defeat ranks with the most disappointing losses in recent Packer history. It stands alongside Super Bowl XXXII, the "4th-and-26" game, and Brett Favre's last game.

This shocking upset of the 15-1 Packers by the 9-5 Giants was a devastating end to a great season. The Giants came in as the NFC East Champions and winner of a wild card game against the Falcons 24-2. The Packers remained an eight-point favorite.

The teams traded field goals and a touchdown pass early. A 66-yard bomb from quarterback Eli Manning to Hakeem Nicks gave New York a 10-3 lead. After a controversial first-down catch by Greg Jennings, Green Bay evened the score when fullback John Kuhn scored on an 8-yard pass from Rodgers.

With the Giants leading 17-14 with 15 seconds left in the first half, Ahmad Bradshaw broke off a 23-yard run to set up a final play. Quarterback Eli Manning went for it all and launched a Hail Mary pass from Green Bay's 37. Hakeem Nicks pulled it down in the end zone, and the Packers walked to the locker room shell-shocked and trailing by 24-10.

The only points in the third quarter came on a field goal by Mason Crosby. Lawrence Tynes got the three points back with 7:48 left in the game. On Green Bay's next series,

Ryan Grant fumbled, and middle linebacker Chase Blackburn took it 40 yards to Green Bay's four-yard line. On the next play, Manning and Mario Manningham made it 30-13.

The Packers played uninspired football. The Giants pulled off the stunning road upset by keeping "the Packers from dominating offensively... by prying (away) four turnovers."¹

New York 10 10 0 17 37

Green Bay 3 7 3 7 20

72,080

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/12, Dougherty, p. 21

2011

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	15	1	0
Detroit	10	6	0
Chicago	8	8	0
Minnesota	3	13	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Nelson
Rushing	Starks
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Woodson
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Kuhn	Fullback
Rodgers	Quarterback
Wells	Center
Woodson	Cornerback

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

David Sherrod (1, OT)

Randall Cobb (2, WR)

Devon House (4, CB)

D. J. Smith (6a, LB)

Ryan Taylor (7a, TE)



2012
Record: 11-5-0, 1st Place
Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In February, Aaron Rodgers received his first NFL MVP Award.
- The stock sale ended in March. The sale netted \$67 million of \$143 million needed for the expansion of the south end zone.
- The Packers Foundation distributed \$6 million in charitable grants.
- The NFL's lockout of game officials ended on September 26th, two days after the "Fail Mary" game in Seattle. The call ultimately cost the Packers a home playoff game.
- Aaron Rodgers had another fantastic season. He threw for over 4,000 yards with 40 touchdowns and six interceptions!
- After starting the season 2-3, the Packers went a 9-1 as they got healthier and stronger. The offense wasn't as potent as 2011, but the defense improved.

* In 2012, Newspapers.com began using the Green Bay Press-Gazette's page numbering system.

9.9.2012
SAN FRANCISCO

49ers	30
PACKERS	22

Former first round draft choices Aaron Rodgers and Alex Smith met for the second time in their careers. In an early NFC battle, Smith came out on top.

The 49ers defeated Green Bay for the first time since 1998. Green Bay's powerful offense struggled most of the game against San Francisco's highly regarded defense. Green Bay's no-huddle offense had little success, and it was abandoned in the second half.

The Niners had the advantage in the first half, and David Akers' 63-yard field goal tied an NFL record. Both quarterbacks threw touchdown passes, and the Niners led at halftime 16-7. Randy Moss caught the touchdown pass from Alex Smith.

In the second half, the 49ers pulled away 23-7 on a Smith's touchdown pass to tight end

Vernon Davis. After a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown by Randall Cobb, Rodgers ran into trouble. His first pass after Cobb's touchdown was his second interception of the game. On the next play, running back Frank Gore took it 23 yards to the house, and the Niners led 30-15.

Though Rodgers came back with a second touchdown pass a short time later, the Niners prevailed. He was Green Bay's leading rusher (23 yards), and he was sacked three times. "They've got a great defense. You've got to give them credit,"¹ Rodgers said.

San Francisco 6 10 14 5 30
Green Bay 7 0 0 15 22
70,523

*"City officials closed the Ray Nitschke Memorial Bridge to vehicular and pedestrian traffic Monday for a project that is scheduled to continue until mid-November."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/12, Dougherty p. F1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/12, Williams, p. A1

9.13.2012

CHICAGO

BEARS 10
PACKERS 23

On four days' rest, the Packers bounced back to beat the Bears convincingly. The defense led the way as "it rose up, and all but shut down"¹ the Bears with four interceptions and seven sacks of Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler.

Green Bay owned the first half, and the Bears were scoreless. The highlight of the half was Green Bay's fake field goal attempt on a fourth-and-26 in the second quarter. Holder Tim Masthay took the snap and flipped a shovel pass to tight end Tom Crabtree, who went 27 yards for six!

After Chicago got on the scoreboard with a field goal in the third quarter, Mason Crosby kicked his third three-pointer. His 54-yard kick was the longest to date by a Packer at Lambeau Field! Green Bay kept up the pressure with a second interception by Tramon Williams. His first set up a field goal, and the second led to Rodgers' touchdown to Donald Driver to put the Bears away.

Chicago 0 0 3 7 10
Green Bay 0 13 0 10 23
70,543

In two games, Clay Matthews had 5 sacks.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/12, Vandermause, p. 28

9.24.2012

PACKERS 12

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 14

It was called the *Fail Mary*. Mike McCarthy described it as “the most unusual football game I have ever been a part of.”¹ That’s one way of characterizing what happened in Seattle on this Monday night.

In one of the most infamous games in franchise history, the outcome not only affected Green Bay, but it had implications for the entire NFL. The controversial call made by a replacement official quickly brought to an end the NFL’s lockout of the officials.

For all the controversy at its conclusion, the game started quietly. The Seahawks broke the ice after a pass interference on Green Bay linebacker D. J. Smith kept a drive going. They capitalized with the first of two Russell Wilson touchdown passes to Golden Tate for a 7-0 lead at halftime.

Green Bay had an atrocious first half as Aaron Rodgers was sacked eight times, and the offense generated just 87 yards. They turned it around with points on their first three possessions of the second half. Two field goals by Mason Crosby made it 7-6 at the start of the fourth quarter. The Packers then marched 81 yards in 16 plays to go in front 12-7 on a touchdown run by Cedric Benson.

On their next possession, Seattle drove into Green Bay territory before being stopped. With 1:54 left, Green Bay needed a first down to put the game away, but Seattle’s defense rose up and stopped the Packers on three straight running plays.

Seattle took over at the Packer 46-yard line with 46 seconds left. Six plays later, Wilson threw a 24-yard *Hail Mary* to the left corner of the end zone. Tate pushed cornerback Sam Shields away before going up for the ball. M. D. Jennings of the Packers appeared to have caught it first, and he fought with Golden Tate for possession. When they hit the ground, one official ruled it a touchdown, the other an interception. The play was reviewed, and the touchdown was confirmed.

Controversy swirled after the teams reached the locker room. “The ball was pinned to my chest the whole time, even when we were on the pile,”² said Jennings. “The game was taken from us,”³ said a frustrated defensive tackle, Ryan Pickett. For many Packers fans, the debate continued all season. Ultimately, the call cost Green Bay a first-round bye and a home playoff game against the 49ers.

Green Bay 0 0 6 6 12
Seattle 0 7 0 7 14
68,218

1 packershistory.net/2012Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 9/25/12, p. F2

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Demovsky, 9/25/12, p. F2

9.30.2012

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 27

PACKERS 28

An aerial bombardment by quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees entertained everyone. They threw 95 passes between them and completed 66, still the second most in Packer history! The passes went for 748 net yards and five touchdowns. Fortunately, the Packers “sidestepped a big early season hole with a winning fourth-quarter performance.”¹

In the first half, Green Bay’s offense looked sharp. Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to James Jones (2) and Greg Jennings. Cedric Benson also led a ground game that put up over 100 yards. Drew Brees nearly matched Rodgers with two touchdown strikes to Marques Colston and Darren Sproles. After a 21-14 first half, the momentum shifted to New Orleans.

Two field goals wrapped around an 80-yard touchdown bomb from Brees to rookie Joseph Morgan gave the Saints a 27-21 edge early in the fourth quarter. The Packers came back with the winner with eight minutes left. Rodgers connected for his fourth touchdown of the game with Jordy Nelson. The Packers’ defense backed it up with two big stops on the Saints’ last two drives.

New Orleans	7	7	10	3	27
Green Bay	7	14	0	7	28

70,571

“Halftime should be extended to allow the University of Wisconsin band to play longer.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Dougherty, 10/1/12, p. F1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, Vandermause, 10/1/12, p. F3

10.7.2012

PACKERS 27

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 30

A very emotional game for Indianapolis as their coach Chuck Pagano had been hospitalized with leukemia. Offensive coordinator Bruce Arians guided the Colts, who played inspired football.

The Packers got off to a nice start. In the first half, Aaron Rodgers threw touchdowns to James Jones and Randall Cobb. Along with John Kuhn's touchdown, McCarthy commented, "When you're 21-3 at halftime, you expect to keep that thing going."¹

Green Bay's 18-point collapse in the second half was one of the biggest in the team's history. It began on the opening drive when Jeraud Powers intercepted Rodgers. Indy's rookie quarterback Andrew Luck capitalized with an eight-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-10. In between field goals by Adam Vinatieri, Andrew Luck also scored on the ground. By the time the Packers looked up with eight minutes left in the game, it was 21-20 Colts.

Green Bay grabbed the lead back 27-22 on a second touchdown pass to James Jones. But on the game's final drive, the Colts could not be stopped. They went 80 yards behind five catches by Reggie Wayne, including the winning touchdown with 35 seconds left.

Green Bay 7 14 0 6 27
Indianapolis 0 3 16 11 30
67,020

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/8/12, Dougherty, F1

10.14.2012

PACKERS **42**
HOUSTON
TEXANS **24**

On the road, the Packers pounded the undefeated Texans! Aaron Rodgers threw six touchdown passes which tied a franchise record set last January by Matt Flynn.

The offense wanted this game. Rodgers "sliced and diced"¹ the Texans, and the Packers outgained them 427-321. Rodgers (24-37-338-6-0) threw touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson (3), James Jones (2), and tight end Tom Crabtree (1).

He threw three in each half, and his first touchdown pass in the second half came after a penalty by Houston on a successful Green Bay field goal. The Packers took the points off the board and marched on to complete a 16-play drive with a third Rodgers-to-Nelson touchdown. It stretched the lead to 28-10, which ended up being the winning points!

After a Texans touchdown by Arian Foster, Rodgers wrapped it up with two touchdown passes in the first 3:38 of the fourth quarter! The second came after an interception by Sam Shields. The defense did its part to contain Houston with three interceptions and three sacks of quarterbacks Matt Schaub and T. J. Yates.

Green Bay 14 7 7 14 42
Houston 0 10 7 7 24
71,702

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/15/12, Vandermause, p. F3

10.21.2012

PACKERS 30

ST. LOUIS

RAMS 20

Aaron Rodgers' hot hand continued as he rang up three more touchdown passes without an interception.

After a field goal by Greg Zuerlein, the Packers responded with ten quick points. A short touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson was followed by a successful onside kick and a field goal for a 10-6 lead at halftime.

To open the new half, Rodgers and Randall Cobb connected for a touchdown, and another Crosby field goal made it 20-6! Without a strong ground game (70 yards), on their next drive, Rodgers took exclusively to the air. He went seven for seven on the flight, with a 39-yard strike to Randall Cobb in the back of the end zone for the points! Crosby's third field goal made it an insurmountable 30-13 lead with 1:54 left.

Green Bay 10 0 7 13 30

St. Louis 3 3 0 14 20

64,359

Charles Woodson broke his collarbone.

In St. Louis, there were so many Packers fans that Mike McCarthy commented on his way into the city, "you thought you were walking down Oneida street."¹

"Go Pack Go! could be heard throughout the game. Some players thought there were more Packers fans than Rams fans at the game."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/12, Vandermause, p. F3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/22/12, Vandermause, p. F3

10.28.2012

JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS 15

PACKERS 24

The Packers won their third straight game even though they were outgained (341-238) and weren't particularly impressive. For Jacksonville, quarterback Blaine Gabbert had no trouble moving the team, but they had trouble getting into the end zone.

Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to Randall Cobb and Donald Driver, and he looked in MVP form (22-35-186-2-0). The special teams pitched in with Devon House's blocked punt even though the Packers had only 10 men on the field! The block went into

the end zone, and linebacker Desman Moses recovered it for a 14-3 Green Bay lead.

With under a minute left in the half, the Jaguars got the points back when Rodgers fumbled on Green Bay's 13-yard line. Gabbert took advantage with a 1-yard touchdown pass to tackle-eligible Guy Whimper. In the second half, Green Bay made it 21-12 with a "pass-heavy,"¹ drive, and Rodgers' 4-yard touchdown toss to Driver. From there, the teams traded field goals, until the game ended and the Packers were 5-3.

Jacksonville 3 9 0 3 15
Green Bay 7 7 0 10 24
70,464

*"A record 440 coats and \$12,688 in cash were collected Sunday for the 'Coats for Kids' campaign at Lambeau Field."*²

*Clay Matthews: "You saw the fans out there today. They had a lack of energy. We had a lack of energy."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/12, Hodkiewicz, p. F4

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/12, Davis, p. A3

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/12, Demovsky/Dougherty, p. F5

11.4.2012

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 17
PACKERS 31

After a 4-0 start, Aaron Rodgers threw three first-half touchdown passes to send Arizona to its fifth straight defeat. The rout started after a Mason Crosby field goal with Rodgers' first touchdown pass to Randall Cobb on a slant pattern.

After Rodgers threw an interception that the Cardinals converted into a touchdown, Rodgers and Cobb came right back with another connection to make it 14-7. Along with the most potent ground attack of the year (176 yards), the Packers led at halftime 21-7.

In the second half, Eric Walden's first career interception led to a Mason Crosby field goal that pushed the advantage to 24-7. The Cardinals weren't finished, and they struck back with the next ten points. Leading by just seven, Rodgers and tight end Tom Crabtree connected over the middle for a 72-yard touchdown to finish the scoring.

The game was costly for Green Bay. Jordy Nelson, Clay Matthews, and Brian Bulaga all left with injuries. So, the bye week was a welcome sight for the Packers.

Arizona 0 7 10 0 17
Green Bay 7 14 10 0 31
70,504

*Press-Gazette Headline: "Expanded Lambeau Events sought, Board members say community expects more."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/12, Ryman, p. A

11.18.2012

PACKERS 24

DETROIT

LIONS 20

Green Bay finally clinched its fifth straight win after five lead changes. The Lions put up a tough battle before falling to 0-4 in the NFC North.

The difference in the game was the quarterbacks. Aaron Rodgers led Green Bay with two touchdown passes and one interception. Matt Stafford of the Lions threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions. He also fumbled once. Midway through the third quarter, with Detroit leading 10-7, Stafford threw his second interception. M. D. Jennings had a 72-yard pick-six for a 14-10 Green Bay lead.

At the start of the second half, Detroit took the lead back on an 11-play drive and Stafford's 25-yard touchdown pass to big Calvin Johnson. On their next series, Green Bay stopped the Lions on the 10-yard line. Detroit settled for a field goal and a 20-14 lead with 4:25 to go.

With their backs against the wall on the road, Rodgers (19-27-236-2-1) marched the Packers 82 yards in six plays. "We went out there we had the mindset that we couldn't be stopped,"¹ was Randall Cobb's assessment. A 22-yard touchdown pass to Cobb put the Packers in control 21-20 with 1:55 left! The defense secured the win forcing four straight incompletions, and Mason Crosby added some insurance with a 39-yarder.

Green Bay 0 7 7 10 24

Detroit 3 7 7 3 20

63,716

Clay Matthews did not play.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/19/12, Vandermause, F3

11.25.2012

PACKERS 10

NEW YORK

GIANTS 38

The Packers fell behind the Bears in the NFC North after this Sunday night loss. New York

quarterback Eli Manning continued his spell over Green Bay, and he directed an explosive first half. He threw two touchdown passes to Rueben Randle and Victor Cruz. Running backs Andre Brown and Ahmad Bradshaw also scored on the ground before halftime.

After a touchdown to Jordy Nelson to tie it 7-7, Green Bay never stood a chance. Rodgers was inconsistent, and the offense struggled. He was sacked five times and intercepted by Corey Webster. The Giants ran the ball for 147 yards!

New York's strong pass harassed Rodgers and the offense. He was sacked five times and held in check with 201 net passing yards. This was the second-worst defeat of the Mike McCarthy Era. "I've never been part of a loss like this. It's not what we do. We're too good to be putting that out there,"¹ said guard Josh Sitton.

Green Bay 7 3 0 0 10
New York 17 14 7 0 38
80,365

*"Jim Temp, former Green Bay Packer defensive end who remained active in the community for years after his playing days, has died. He was 79. In the 1980s, he led a \$2.5 million fundraising drive for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and was honored with the university's naming of James A. Temp Hall, a student dormitory that opened on 1989."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/12, Vandermause, p. F3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/12, Williams, p. A3

12.2.2012

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 14

PACKERS 23

Each team's marquee star led the way. Minnesota's Adrian Peterson ran the ball 21 times for 210 yards! Quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 27 of 35 passes for 286 yards. He threw one touchdown and one interception.

It was a nice bounce-back win for Green Bay, and they defeated Minnesota for the sixth straight time! They took the lead on the opening drive with a 32-yard Rodgers to James Jones touchdown. The Vikings got on the board with a Christian Ponder touchdown pass, and they went ahead 14-10 when Peterson broke five tackles for an 82-yard touchdown run.

After intermission, "it was time to put up or shut up."¹ The Packers did not allow another point, and Rodgers moved the team easily on the ground and through the air. James Starks led a strong ground game (152 yards) with a 22-yard touchdown run to put Green Bay ahead to stay. In the fourth quarter, the Packers ate up 11 minutes of the clock with an 18-play drive. Crosby kicked a third field goal with four minutes left, and the Packers

owned a key tie-breaker in the NFC North.

Minnesota 0 14 0 0 14
Green Bay 10 0 10 3 23
70,567

Woodson, Matthews, Driver, and Shields did not play.

This week, a number of Packers participated in Ryan Pickett's Christmas 'Shop with a Jock' Program and a holiday party for families with children with cancer.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/12, Vandermause, p. F3

12.9.2012

DETROIT

LIONS 20
PACKERS 27

The Lions were looking to win for the first time in Green Bay since 1991!

Early on, things were looking up for the Lions on a Sunday night. They took a 14-10 lead behind the running and passing of quarterback Matt Stafford. The opening drive went 80 yards, and Stafford's bootleg around left end was clear sailing into the end zone. Their second scoring drive went 79 yards, and Stafford had Green Bay back on its heels.

The Packers righted the ship before halftime. After Mason Crosby's field goal, Stafford's fumble was picked up and returned 43 yards for a touchdown by rookie defensive tackle Mike Daniels! The play "was the momentum shift we needed,"¹ McCarthy said later.

Though they trailed 14-10 at the break, the momentum stayed with Green Bay. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers led a quick drive into Detroit territory with four straight completions. Then, on a third down from the 27-yard line, he escaped the pocket, rolled right, and took off for a 27-yard touchdown sprint! The Lions tied it with a field goal, and the Packers hit back hard. McCarthy called seven straight running plays to bulldoze the Lions down the field. On play number seven, newly acquired DuJuan Harris ran 14 yards up the middle for a 24-13 lead that the Packers protected.

Detroit 7 7 3 3 20
Green Bay 0 10 7 10 27
70,382

DET outgained GB 386-288

"Some fans waited more than five hours to snag close up seats for Rodgers' appearance on 'Clubhouse Live,' a Gannett Wisconsin Media weekly sports talk show."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/12, Dougherty, p. F1

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/12, Daly, p. A1

12.16.2012

PACKERS 21

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

The Bears couldn't move the ball, and the Packers clinched the NFC North!

The Bears took a 7-0 lead, but two touchdowns from Rodgers to Jones made it 14-7. The second touchdown came after Casey Hayward intercepted Jay Cutler. In the second half, Rodgers and Jones also connected on a back-shoulder pass for a third touchdown and a 21-7 lead.

After a quiet first quarter, the Packers had no trouble moving the football, and Rodgers guided the offense to nearly 400 total yards. Rodgers ended up completing 23 passes for 291 yards and three touchdowns. All three touchdowns went to James Jones!

The defense performed well, holding the Bears to 190 total yards, and quarterback Jay Cutler was also sacked four times. Trying not to sound overconfident, McCarthy said, "We fully expected to come in here and win this thing."¹

Green Bay 0 14 7 0 21

Chicago 0 7 3 3 13

62,534

Clay Matthews returned and had 2 sacks.

"A trail of historic sites highlighting the early years of the Green Bay Packers (Packers Heritage Trail) could soon feature a goalpost-shaped monument that lights up at night."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/12, Dougherty, p. F1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/12, Williams, p. A3

12.23.2012

TENNESSEE

TITANS 7

PACKERS 55

The Packers finished the home schedule on a Saturday with a bang! They clobbered the 5-9 Titans for their fourth straight win and eight out of their last nine!

Tennessee never had a chance. On Green Bay's second possession Aaron Rodgers ran for a touchdown to start the scoring. Three minutes later, his first touchdown pass went to Randall Cobb. Two field goals by Mason Crosby made it 20-0.

In the final 30 minutes, the Packers completed the beat down. Rodgers threw his second

and third touchdown passes to Greg Jennings and James Jones. Ryan Grant, who returned in December, scored twice as well. Green Bay's defense delivered seven sacks, and they held the Titans to 180 total yards.

Tennessee 0 0 0 7 7
Green Bay 14 6 14 21 55
70,508

Charles Woodson was ready to return from a broken collarbone.

Anna Walentowski's battle with a rare genetic disorder (Alexander's Disease) was shared with Meghan Parkansky in "Extreme, Loyal Victorious: The Packers' Fan Experience." Anna became close friends with Brett & Deanna Favre during this effort and beyond.

12.30.2012

PACKERS 34

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 37

With a first-round bye at stake for Green Bay and a playoff berth on the line for the Vikings, this game had everything you could ask for offensively. Minnesota's victory split the season series, and set up a postseason rematch in the NFC Wild Card Game.

With so much on the line, both teams held nothing back. They threw a combined 68 passes, completed 44 for 849 yards and seven touchdowns! The Vikings' Adrian Peterson did further damage with a career-high 199 yards rushing and two touchdowns. He finished only nine yards short of Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record.

The Vikings set the pace, and the Packers never led in the game. Playing much better than three weeks earlier, quarterback Christian Ponder connected for three touchdown passes without an interception. After the Vikings led 20-7, the Packers made a game of it.

Overall, quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 365 yards and four scores! Two touchdowns went to Greg Jennings while James Jones and Jordy Nelson caught one each. Nelson's touchdown tied the score at 34 with three minutes left. Kicker Blair Walsh nailed one from the 29 to set up a postseason rematch in Green Bay.

Green Bay 0 10 14 10 34
Minnesota 10 10 7 10 37
64,134

Rodgers was sacked 5 times.

The Sunday Best Company sells Packer apparel in the Twin Cities. "I think there's a lot of displaced Packer fans around here. Even when you walk down the streets (in Minneapolis), you just have this special friendship that doesn't really exist, but you feel like it should because you both cheer for the same team."

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/13, Meinert, p. D1

1.5.2013

2012 NFC Wild Card Game

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 24

Unlike 2004, the Packers won the big one between the border rivals. With quarterback Christian Ponder out of the game with a sore elbow, the Vikings were at a serious disadvantage.

Backup quarterback Joe Webb was no match for Aaron Rodgers. Webb completed 11 of 30 passes for 180 yards, including a touchdown and one pick. Without Ponder, Adrian Peterson's effectiveness was diminished. He ran for 99 yards, down 100 from the previous week!

After Blair Walsh's field goal on Minnesota's opening drive, the next time the Vikings scored came with 3:39 left in the game. Minnesota had trouble slowing down the Packers. For the game, "so effective was Green Bay's offense that only once did it face a third down."¹ Rodgers completed 23 passes to 10 different receivers, with a lone touchdown pass going to fullback John Kuhn in the third quarter. Kuhn and DuJuan Harris also ran for touchdowns in the first half.

Late in the third quarter, Clay Matthews leveled the decisive defensive blow when he "sacked Joe Webb, forced a fumble, and recovered the loose ball all in the same motion"²

Minnesota 3 0 0 7 10

Green Bay 7 10 7 0 24

71,548

A healthy Donald Driver did not play in GB's last home game.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/6/13, Gozka, p. F4

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/6/13, Demovsky, p. F3

1.12.2013

2012 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 31

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 45

The Packers came up short. They were defeated by a talented young man born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who grew up rooting for the Packers. Second-year quarterback Colin Kaepernick dissected Green Bay's defense with the read-option offense and derailed

their hopes for another Super Bowl run.

After throwing a pick-six on their first drive, Kaepernick settled down and exploded on the NFL scene with a record-setting postseason performance. He ran through Green Bay's defense for 181 yards and two touchdowns. He also cut up the secondary with 263 yards and two touchdowns. His two touchdown runs were from the 20 and 56-yard lines.

The Packers did not have an answer for the read-option. As Charles Woodson put it, "We expected them to get him out on the perimeter. But we didn't expect (them) to let him do what he did. Give him credit."¹ After Sam Shields' 52-yard pick-six, the Packers stayed close. An 18-yard touchdown run by DuJuan Harris and a 20-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to James Jones made it 24-21 Niners at the half.

Mason Crosby opened the second half with a tying field goal. The Niners took command when Kaepernick ran right through the Packers for a 56-yard touchdown. A touchdown run by Frank Gore, who ran for 119 yards, completed a 93-yard drive for a 38-24 lead. The fourth quarter was academic as the Packers could not slow down San Francisco and their young quarterback. The defense gave up 579 yards. Case closed.

Green Bay 14 7 3 7 31
San Francisco 7 17 7 14 45
69,732

GB gave up 579 yards.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/12, Demovsky, p. F2

2012

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	11	5	0
Minnesota	10	6	0
Chicago	10	6	0
Detroit	4	12	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Green
Receiving	Cobb
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Hayward
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Rodgers	Quarterback
Matthews	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Nick Perry (1, LB)

Jerel Worthy (2a, DT)

Casey Hayward (2b, CB)

Mike Daniels (4a, DT)

Jerron McMillian (4b, S)

Terrell Manning (5, LB)



2013

Record: 8-7-1, 1st Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- Lambeau Field's renovation was underway in the Pro Shop, the Hall of Fame, and the Oneida Gate. In August, the south end zone expansion was completed as well as video and sound system upgrades.
- Donald Driver retired as the teams' all-time leading receiver. Greg Jennings signed with the Vikings, while Johnny Jolly returned after a three-year absence.
- Aaron Rodgers broke his left collarbone on the first series against the Bears on November 4th. Including this game, the Packers were 2-5-1 without him.
- Though Matt Flynn was a fairly capable backup, the offense wasn't the same without Rodgers. The defense ranked in the lower third in points allowed and yards allowed.
- The Packers won three of their last four games, and they clinched a postseason berth against the Bears in classic fashion!

9.8.2013

PACKERS 28

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 34

A rematch of the previous year's divisional playoff game didn't provide any measure of revenge for Green Bay. In last year's postseason divisional matchup, quarterback Colin Kaepernick embarrassed the Packers by rushing for a record of 181 yards. He scored two touchdowns and threw for two more. This time, he did all the damage with his arm. He completed 27 of 39 passes for 412 yards and three touchdowns.

In a rivalry growing more chippy by the game, an early roughing the passer penalty on

Clay Matthews led to a 49ers' touchdown. San Francisco also capitalized on a fumble by rookie Eddie Lacy for seven points.

In a 14-14 first half, both Kaepernick and Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes. While Kaepernick stayed in the pocket more frequently, the Packers couldn't stop his passing. He began the third quarter with his second touchdown pass to big Vernon Davis.

The Packers came back with touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson and Eddie Lacy, and they enjoyed a 28-24 lead with 8:26 left. With all eyes on Green Bay's defense, Kaepernick and Anquan Boldin hooked up for his 13th catch of the game. Boldin raced 43 yards, and Frank Gore scored three plays later to reclaim the lead 31-28.

After the game, McCarthy was not pleased with the team's performance and with one reporter's question. "We came here to win the game. I don't know who the hell you think we are. We lost a game we were capable of winning today. We are in the mindset of feeling the pain of losing."¹

Green Bay **7 7 7 7 28**
San Francisco **7 7 7 13 34**
69,732

Total Yards: GB 385 SF 494

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/9/13, Vandermause, p. A3

9.15.2013

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS **20**

PACKERS **38**

Green Bay won the home opener with an impressive performance by Aaron Rodgers and the offense. But it began ominously with rookie Eddie Lacy's concussion on the first play from scrimmage.

The Packers pounded the Redskins for 580 overall yards, still the second-most in franchise history. Rodgers also tied a franchise record with 480 yards passing! "What really makes him good is the synch and synergy that he has with his receivers, and that was on display today, unfortunately,"¹ said Redskins' linebacker, Ryan Kerrigan.

The game got away from Washington quickly. In the first 30 minutes, Rodgers threw for 335 yards and three touchdowns. Touchdowns were caught by Randall Cobb, Jermichael Finley, and Jordy Nelson. For the game, Cobb and receiver James Jones caught 20 passes for 306 yards! Green Bay led 31-0 before quarterback Robert Griffin III connected with Pierre Garcon for six. A touchdown run by James Starks finished the scoring and topped off his fine game of 132 yards rushing.

Washington 0 0 7 13 20

Green Bay 10 14 14 0 38

70,020

Bart Starr and many other former players returned for Alumni Day!

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/16/13, Vandermause, p. A3

9.22.2013

PACKERS 30

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 34

The shifts of momentum were clear. Cincinnati scored the first 14 points, and Green Bay put up the next 30. The Bengals added the final 20, and the loss left the Packers at 1-2, going into an early bye.

Cincinnati took the lead in the first quarter with the help of a fumbled kickoff by Green Bay's Jeremy Ross. Ross gave it back to the Bengals at the Packers' 2-yard line. After scoring, the Bengals went up 14-0 before Green Bay got going.

Green Bay scored 30 unanswered points, with 13 coming after Cincinnati turnovers, including Green Bay's first touchdown on a fumble return by M. D. Jennings! In the second half, after a 51-yard dash around left end by rookie Johnathan Franklin, Aaron Rodgers found James Jones to cut the lead to 30-14.

"The Packers turned in another uninspiring fourth-quarter performance."¹ Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton came back with two touchdown passes to A. J. Green and Marvin Jones to trim it to 30-27. The Packers completed their collapse when Johnathan Franklin had the ball punched from his arms by Michael Johnson. After Reggie Nelson fumbled it away, cornerback Terrance Newman picked it up and went 58 yards for a 34-30 lead with 3:47 left. Starting from his 20 and trying to salvage the game, Rodgers marched Green Bay to Cincy's 25. But, on third and fourth down, his passes were knocked down to end a painful loss.

Green Bay 0 16 14 0 30

Cincinnati 14 0 7 13 34

64,633

GB cut Jeremy Ross.

In DePere, "a handful of Packer players, past and present, worked together with Humana Insurance on Tuesday to build a playground at Braisher Park."² Gerald "Dad" Braisher was the Packers' equipment manager.

"Have an old cellphone? The Green Bay Packers, Verizon Wireless, and Bellin Health say they'll take it. The organizations are working together to collect the old phones and monetary donations to support groups that fight domestic violence and advocate for victims. 'Part of that starting over

is making sure they can keep connected to their supports and also call for help if something were to happen.’ ”³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/13, Gozka, p. A5

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/13, p. A3

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/13, Phelps, p. A3

10.6.2013

DETROIT

LIONS **9**
PACKERS **22**

After the bye, Mason Crosby led the Packers to victory with five field goals! He kicked one in each quarter, with two coming in the final 15 minutes.

Green Bay’s ground game was led by Eddie Lacy’s return. He and Randall Cobb moved the ball easily (180 yards), but they couldn’t get it into the end zone. After first-half field goals, Green Bay made the end zone on an 83-yard bomb from quarterback Aaron Rodgers to James Jones! They led 16-3 in the third quarter.

Without injured wide receivers Calvin Johnson and Nate Burleson, the Lions were toothless. They ran for just 64 yards, and the Packers sacked quarterback Matthew Stafford five times. Detroit’s touchdown came with 2:06 left, and they lost in Wisconsin for the 23rd consecutive time!

Detroit **0 3 0 6 9**
Green Bay **3 3 10 6 22**
78,200 *

Clay Matthews broke his thumb.

Detroit center Dominic Raiola admitted to ‘jawing a bit’ with a member of the Wisconsin Marching Band before the game. He issued an apology and said, “he would make ‘a significant contribution’ to the band.”¹

“The Green Bay Packers will pay the University of Wisconsin \$3 million to host the Badgers’ 2016 home opener against LSU at Lambeau Field.”²

* New Lambeau Field record

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/13, Vandermause, p. B3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/13, p. A1

10.13.2013

PACKERS **19**
BALTIMORE
RAVENS **17**

The Packers upset the defending Super Bowl Champions on the road. They handed Baltimore just its fourth home loss in the last 30 games.

A quiet first half with two Mason Crosby field goals (he kicked four) and a goal-line stand by the Packers gave them a 6-0 edge at intermission. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers struggled a bit as both James Jones and Randall Cobb left with injuries. The running game picked up the slack with 120 yards from Eddie Lacy, his best performance of the season. McCarthy praised his rookie fullback. "I'm very proud of Eddie. I thought Eddie did an excellent job of staying patient and driving his back foot and falling forward."¹

After he threw an interception in the second half, Rodgers settled down and completed six of his final nine passes. That included a 64-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson for a 16-3 lead. Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Jacoby Jones and Dallas Clark. Between the touchdowns, Mason Crosby's third field goal proved to be the difference! Green Bay's defense was led by A. J. Hawk's three sacks and 10 tackles. Ray Rice and the ground game were held to 47 yards.

Green Bay 3 3 10 3 19
Baltimore 0 0 3 14 17
71,319

Sacks: GB 5 BAL 21

Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/13, Zizzo, p. A4

10.20.2013
CLEVELAND

BROWNS 13
PACKERS 31

Coming into this game, Green Bay's thin receiving corps had many concerned. Backup Jared Boykin relieved some of those concerns with eight catches for 103 yards and a touchdown!

The outcome was never in doubt as the Packers jumped in front quickly. Two touchdowns in the first quarter by Jermichael Finley and Eddie Lacy made it 17-3 lead at the break. Midway through the fourth quarter and still leading (17-6), quarterback Aaron Rodgers (25-36-260-3-0) lit up the Cleveland secondary to put the game away. He threw touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson and Jared Boykin to complete a nice comeback and put the Packers at 4-2-0.

Cleveland 0 3 3 7 13
Green Bay 14 3 0 14 31
77,804

Randall Cobb broke his leg.

“Fans at Lambeau Field on Sunday can donate food or cash for the Packers Women’s Association and United Health Care’s 27th Annual Food Drive for Paul’s Pantry.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/18/13, A5

10.27.2013

PACKERS 44

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 31

In Green Bay’s last game in the Metrodome, the offense dominated the Vikings with 66 plays from scrimmage compared to Minnesota’s 19. On the opening kickoff, Cordelle Patterson’s 109-yard return gave Minnesota the lead.

The Packers’ offense clicked from the start, going 90 yards on their first series. Rodgers “beat the Vikings’ defense like a drum”¹ all night, completing 24 of 29 passes for 285 yards. He threw two first-half touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson, and the second put the Packers in the lead to stay 17-10!

Just before halftime, Micah Hyde of the Packers returned a punt 93 yards for six more. Four seconds before the break, the Vikings countered with an Adrian Peterson touchdown run, and the Packers went to the locker room in front 24-17.

Green Bay pulled away in the second half as the productive running game balanced the offense (182 yards). Eddie Lacy scored on the opening drive that took seven minutes. On the Packers’ next series, which stretched into the final quarter, James Starks ran for a 25-yard touchdown for a 38-17 lead. Two Minnesota touchdowns in the final minutes didn’t threaten the outcome, and the Packers headed home 5-2 riding a four-game winning streak.

Green Bay 7 17 7 13 44

Minnesota 7 10 0 14 31

64,134

Greg Jennings caught one pass for nine yards

“Packers fans take over Minneapolis” was the headline above 22 Packer fans from Sheboygan partying their way to the Twin Cities on a chartered bus!

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/28/13, Vandermause, A3

11.4.2013

CHICAGO

BEARS 27

PACKERS 20

A devastating game for Green Bay as Aaron Rodgers went down. He broke his left collarbone on the last play of Green Bay's first series. Rodgers was sacked by Bears' linebacker Shea McClellin who landed on him on the Bears' 9-yard line. Lambeau Field was silenced, and Rodgers was replaced by Seneca Wallace.

Wallace did not do well. He finished 11 of 19 for 114 yards. He threw one interception and was sacked four times. For Chicago, quarterback Josh McCown, Jay Cutler's backup, was at the helm. He played well and threw for 272 yards and two touchdowns.

First-half touchdowns by Brandon Marshall and Matt Forte gave Chicago a 17-10 lead. Green Bay's only touchdown came on a beautiful 32-yard run by James Starks. In the second half, Eddie Lacy's touchdown run tied the score, and Mason Crosby's kick gave the Packers a 20-17 third-quarter lead.

From that point on, the game went Chicago's way. A touchdown pass from McCown to wideout Alshon Jeffery put them back in front for good 24-20 with 2:41 left. Asked how the team would keep going without Rodgers, center Evan Dietrich-Smith said, "Go out there and cram it down peoples' throats, that's how we keep going."¹ The injury derailed the season as Rodgers missed eight games. Including this loss, the Packers were 2-5-1 in his absence.

Chicago	7	10	7	3	27
Green Bay	10	0	10	0	20
78,122					

Total Yards: GB 312 CHI 442

*"The Packers are looking for the newest inductee to the Packers FAN Hall of Fame. The nomination phase for the 16th inductee runs through November 30th."*²

Receivers Jordy Nelson, James Jones, and Randall Cobb partnered with Bellin Health in The Best Hands Competition. This competition pairs a receiver and a surgeon to highlight robot-assisted surgery machines. Charities that benefited from the event were Blessings in a Backpack, Love Jones 4 Kids, and Nelson's Landing Golf Tournament, Poker Run, and Auctions.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/5/13, Woods, p. A5

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/13, p. A3

11.10.2013

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES **27**

PACKERS **13**

Without Aaron Rodgers, this was an easy win for the Eagles. Green Bay backup quarterback Seneca Wallace played one series before leaving with a groin injury. Third-string quarterback Scott Tolzien replaced him.

Philadelphia led the entire game. Quarterback Nick Foles threw three touchdown passes, and halfback LeSean McCoy ran for 155 yards. The two also connected for a 55-yard strike in the first quarter for a 7-0 lead. Philadelphia led 20-3 before the teams traded touchdowns late in the third quarter.

Tolzien showed some promise (24-39-289-1-2) as he directed the offense for 396 yards. His first career touchdown pass went to Brandon Bostick, but his two interceptions were costly. One ended a touchdown drive in the end zone, and the other led to a Philadelphia field goal. "I thought Scott did a hell of a job. He's running plays he hasn't even practiced yet,"¹ said, McCarthy.

Philadelphia	7	3	17	0	27
Green Bay	0	3	7	3	13

78,011

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/13, Dougherty, p. A7

11.17.2013

PACKERS 13

NEW YORK

GIANTS 27

A third straight loss for the Packers dropped them to 5-5, and fans were in full panic mode.

While the Packers continued to move the ball through the air (339 yards), they gave it away too many times. Quarterback Scott Tolzien tossed three interceptions, and the ground game produced just 55 yards.

Eli Manning had another strong game against Green Bay, and his touchdown to Reuben Randle grabbed the early lead. Mason Crosby's two field goals were all the Packers could muster in the first half. The Giants led at half 10-6.

In the second half, New York took a 20-6 lead into the fourth quarter. Eddie Lacy's touchdown narrowed it to 20-13. After they stopped the Giants on their next possession, Tolzien's pass in the flat was intercepted by Jason Pierre-Paul, who went 24-yards for the pick-six to close out the scoring.

Without Aaron Rodgers, the Packers looked lost.

Green Bay	0	6	0	7	13
New York	7	3	10	7	27

79,144

A lack of turnovers on defense has hurt GB.

The Packers Heritage Trail dedicated statues of Bart Starr and Clarke Hinkle.

11.24.2013

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 26

PACKERS 26

The Packers came closer to beating the Vikings than they did with Aaron Rodgers. On Green Bay's second possession, his replacement, Scott Tolzien, got them on the scoreboard first with a 6-yard run.

The Vikings responded with 23 unanswered points. Blair Walsh booted three field goals, and touchdowns by Adrian Peterson, and Rhett Ellison made it 20-7 in the fourth quarter. Peterson finished with 146 yards rushing.

Newly reacquired quarterback Matt Flynn replaced Scott Tolzien in the third quarter. The Packers went to the no-huddle offense, and Flynn brought the Packers back to life! Overall, he threw for 218 yards while the defense contained Minnesota.

He led a 16-point comeback during regulation time on the Packers' last three possessions. The offense felt a spark. While his arm strength kept the throws short, Eddie Lacy caught several passes for key gains. Lacy eventually scored on the ground, and Flynn also connected with Jared Boykin for a touchdown. "I am just so comfortable in this offense, comfortable with the guys here. It did seem like old times a little bit,"¹ Flynn said.

With 3:30 to go, Minnesota led 23-20. Green Bay marched to Minnesota's 10-yard line before turning to Mason Crosby to tie it from the 27!

In overtime, the Packers drove deep into the Vikings' territory. The offense stalled, and Crosby's 20-yard field goal gave them a 26-23 lead. Twelve plays later, Blair Walsh's kick knotted it again. It remained that way for the final 6:36 of the overtime. The last tie for the Packers was in 1987.

Minnesota 3 10 7 3 3 26

Green Bay 7 0 0 16 3 26

77,871

Josephine Rainone, Packer fan: "My sister's husband died in March 2013. In November, we took a road trip to sprinkle his ashes at Lambeau and attend the game. It was an awesome game on a very, very cold day. R. I. P. Wayne."

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/13, Dougherty, p. A2

11.28.2013

PACKERS 10

DETROIT

LIONS 40

This was only the fifth time that the Lions have beaten the Packers since 2000. All the victories have come in the Motor City.

The game was no contest. After the Packers went ahead 10-3, the Lions scored the next 37 points. Quarterback Matt Stafford threw for 330 yards and three touchdowns. Reggie Bush ran for 117 yards, and the Lions gained 241 yards on the ground.

Overall, the Packers ran for just 24 yards and were outgained 561-126. With five three-and-outs, their offense couldn't sustain drives, and the Lions easily won the time of possession battle (40:26-19:34). Quarterback Matt Flynn was sacked seven times. "They smacked us today. There's no doubt about it,"¹ said guard Josh Sitton.

Green Bay 0 10 0 0 10

Detroit 0 17 9 14 40

64,934

*"Packers Ring Bells For Salvation Army"*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/13, Vandermause, p. A3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/30/13, p. A3

12.8.2013

ATLANTA

FALCONS 21

PACKERS 22

Green Bay kept its postseason hopes alive! The win belonged to quarterback Matt Flynn, fullback Eddie Lacy, and the whole defense.

The Packers had renewed hope for the postseason. An early Eddie Lacy touchdown run gave them the lead. The Falcons hit back in the second quarter with 21 points. Their third touchdown came on a 71-yard pick-six by linebacker Sean Weatherspoon. On the way to the locker room and trailing 21-10 at halftime, the Packers heard the boos.

Green Bay shook off the rust at halftime and battled back. With Eddie Lacy pounding the ball on the ground, McCarthy hoped that "the ability to run the football, the body blows"¹ would wear down Atlanta's defense. It did.

The offense chipped away at the Falcons' 11-point lead. Two Mason Crosby field goals got it going, and the Packers took back the lead early in the fourth quarter. Matt Flynn

found tight end Andrew Quarless for what would be the winner. With 12 minutes left, the defense came through with two stops (one interception), and they held Atlanta to three points. The first win without quarterback Aaron Rodgers put the Packers at 7-6-1, one-half game behind Detroit for the division lead.

Atlanta **0 21 0 0 21**
Green Bay **7 3 6 6 22**
77,550

“The Brown County United Way remains in need of volunteers for the concession stand at Packer home games.”²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/13, p. A3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/13, p. A3

12.15.2013

PACKERS **37**

DALLAS

COWBOYS **36**

In one of the more amazing road games in recent franchise history, quarterback Matt Flynn threw for 299 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Packers to an upset of the 7-6 Cowboys!

When Dallas took a 6-3 lead near the end of the first quarter, they held on to it until there was a minute left in the game. Five first-half field goals by Dan Bailey and a Tony Romo touchdown pass to tight end Jason Whitten gave them a 26-3 halftime. Running back, DeMarco Murray had no trouble running on the Packers (134 yards), and in the first half alone, Green Bay gave up 332 yards.

With Dallas leading 29-10 with six minutes left in the third quarter, the Cowboys Dallas fell apart. Matt Flynn threw touchdown passes to Andrew Quarless and James Starks. After Tony Romo countered with a touchdown pass to Dez Bryant, Dallas led 36-24 with 7:55 left.

With plenty of time, Flynn drove Green Bay 80 yards in 10 plays, and his touchdown pass to James Jones cut it to 36-31 with four minutes left! With the Dallas driving, cornerback Sam Shields stunned the crowd and picked off a Tony Romo pass to Miles Austin with 2:58 remaining.

Then, starting on the 50-yard line, Flynn gave it to Eddie Lacy five times for 24 of the 50 yards. He took it in from the 1-yard line with 1:31 left. An interception by cornerback Tramon Williams ended what Dallas owner Jerry Jones called “one of the hardest losses I’ve experienced.”¹ The win put the Packers back in the postseason hunt, and an emotional Mike McCarthy said, “It took everything not to cry.”²

Green Bay 3 0 14 20 37

Dallas 13 13 3 7 36

91,054

GB's last 23-point comeback was on 9/12/82 vs. Rams in Milwaukee.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/13, Dougherty, p. A2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/16/13, Dougherty, p. A2

12.22.2013

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 38

PACKERS 31

Though speculation was rampant before the game, Aaron Rodgers did not return to action at snowy Lambeau Field.

There were seven lead changes in the game, and the Packers came up short in the final minutes. Matt Flynn's touchdown to Jared Boykin started the scoring and Eddie Lacy's 14-yard run made it 14-7. It was 14-10 at halftime, and the final 30 minutes went down to the wire.

On the second half's opening drive, "Big Ben" ran it 13 yards up the middle for six. On the first play of their next possession, rookie Le'Veon Bell fumbled on the 3-yard line. Eddie Lacy plowed it in from the 2-yard line to give the Packers a 21-17 lead. A quick touchdown drive by Roethlisberger was followed, seconds later, by a pick-six by cornerback Cortez Allen, when Flynn and Andrew Quarless collided in the backfield, 31-21 Steelers.

In the final 15 minutes, Mason Crosby's field goal and John Kuhn's touchdown run tied it 31-31. With under two minutes left, Matt Flynn was stripped of the football by Steelers' safety Troy Polamalu on Green Bay's 17-yard line. With 1:25 left, Le'Veon Bell scored the winning touchdown. Later that evening, the Bears lost to Philadelphia to set up a final game for the ages in Chicago for the NFC North title!

Pittsburgh 7 3 21 7 38

Green Bay 7 7 7 10 31

77,999

12.29.2013

PACKERS 33

CHICAGO

BEARS 28

This was the first time since 1932 that the Packers and Bears played on the final day of the season for a championship. The winner would be the NFC North Champion, and the loser would go home for the postseason.

The long-awaited return of Aaron Rodgers and Randall Cobb injected a level of drama and energy into an extremely important game. After all, the Bears broke Rodgers' collarbone in November, and Cobb had been out since October with a broken foot. Rodgers played well in his first game back, but he looked a little rusty at the start. Nevertheless, he bounced back from two early interceptions to throw for 318 yards and two touchdowns.

But the Bears capitalized on their first interception with an 80-yard drive and Matt Forte's touchdown. Then, in the second quarter, with the Bears leading 7-3, an unusual play occurred. As Rodgers dropped back to pass, defensive end Julius Peppers knocked the football from his hands. The ball laid on the ground for a few seconds without a whistle. Packers' wideout Jared Boykin finally picked it up and ran 15 yards for a touchdown and a 10-7 lead! Crosby's second field goal closed the first half.

Matt Forte continued to dominate on the ground, and he scored two more touchdowns in the second half. The first, a 5-yard run, put Chicago back in control 14-13. Aaron Rodgers, getting more comfortable in the second half, reclaimed the lead with an 84-yard drive and a 7-yard touchdown pass to Randall Cobb. In three plays, Forte scored for the third time, and Chicago led 21-20.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, quarterback Jay Cutler and wideout Brandon Marshall stretched their lead to 28-20. Facing "the worst defense in Bears history,"¹ the Packers pushed back without much resistance, and Eddie Lacy scored around left end with 11:38 remaining! When the Bears punted back to Green Bay, Rodgers and company took over on the 13, trailing 28-27 with 6:24 left.

Rodgers delivered. He converted two fourth-down plays on the drive and faced a fourth-and-eight from Chicago's 48. With 46 seconds left, Rodgers dropped back to pass and moved left to avoid pressure from a seven-man blitz. He picked up John Kuhn's crucial block of Julius Peppers. It gave Rodgers the seconds he needed to throw a historic pass! "I felt Julius was coming free, was going to try to elude him, which the chances of that are pretty slim. John comes out of nowhere and cuts him. I was able to get the edge and saw Randall running wide open."² Rodgers lofted a beautiful pass from his 42-yard line to Cobb, who caught it in stride at the 10. Touchdown!

McCarthy, who improved his record against the Bears to 11-6, acknowledged the moment. "Those two guys making that great, great play will be running on the highlight reel for the rest of my time on this earth."³ The win clinched the NFC North and brought the postseason to Lambeau Field for a wild card match up against the 49ers!

Green Bay 0 13 7 13 33

Chicago 7 0 14 7 28

A62,708

Total Yards: GB 473 CHI 345

At the Fox Harbor Pub & Grill in Green Bay, "the crowd exploded in cheers when Randall Cobb caught Rodgers' pass and streaked into the end zone. When the game ended a few minutes later, smiling fans joined in a rousing chorus of the 'We Are the Champions' stadium anthem."⁴

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/30/13, Haugh, p. A8

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/30/13, Zizzo, p. A4

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/30/13, McGinn, p. 4C

4 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/30/13, Williams, p. B5

1.5.2014

2013 NFC Wild Card Game

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 23

PACKERS 20

Last year, it was in San Francisco, this year Green Bay. With a game-time temperature of five degrees, the visiting 49ers took it all the way down to the final second and defeated the Packers on the "Frozen Tundra."

For the second straight season, the Niners eliminated the Packers from the postseason. They did it by containing Aaron Rodgers (177 yards passing) and sacking him four times. Rodgers threw only one touchdown.

In a 13-10 first half, the 49ers scored behind Frank Gore's touchdown run and two Phil Dawson field goals. The Packers capitalized on Tramon Williams' interception with a touchdown pass from Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. A field goal by Mason Crosby made it a three-point game at halftime.

In a scoreless third quarter, Green Bay's first two drives produced a total of zero yards. Back-to-back sacks by Aldon Smith and Ahmad Brooks stopped the second drive. Early in the fourth quarter, the Packers followed Eddie Lacy and James Starks downfield and took the lead behind John Kuhn's 1-yard run 17-13. The 49ers took the lead back 20-17 on a 28-yard touchdown from quarterback Colin Kaepernick to Vernon Davis.

Mason Crosby's field goal tied it with 5:09 left. On the 49ers' next series, Kaepernick ate up all but three seconds of the time remaining. On third and eight from Green Bay's 35, a pump-fake by Kaepernick allowed him to escape around the left end for a key first down. It set up Phil Dawson's third field goal for the win.

San Francisco 6 7 0 10 23

Green Bay 0 10 0 10 20

77,525

Total Yards: GB 281 SF 381

2013

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	8	7	1
Chicago	8	8	0
Detroit	7	9	0
Minnesota	5	10	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Lacy
Receiving	Nelson
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Shields
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Lacy	Fullback
Sitton	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Datone Jones (1, DE)
Eddie Lacy (2, RB)
David Bakhtiari (4a, T)
J. C. Tretter (4b, T)
Johnathan Franklin (4c, RB)
Micah Hyde (5a, CB)



2014

Record: 12-4-0, 1st Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- The new Bob Harlan Plaza in front of Lambeau Field was dedicated, and the new Pro Shop opened.

- At the annual Shareholder’s Meeting in July, a profit of \$25.3 million was announced for fiscal 2013-14. Ted Thompson and Mike McCarthy also signed contract extensions.
- After three games and a 1-2 record, Rodgers delivered his RELAX message. The team improved as the season progressed. They were one of four teams that won 12 games.
- Rodgers had his second MVP season. He threw for 4,381 yards, 38 touchdowns, and five interceptions. The offense lead the league in points scored.
- The defense wasn’t as strong against the run, especially early in the season.
- The Packers made the postseason for the 6th straight season. They defeated Dallas and then lost to Seattle in the NFC Championship Game.

9.4.2014

PACKERS 16

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 36

The defending Super Bowl Champions raised their championship flag and then hammered 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.”¹

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, Seattle led 17-10, and it didn’t get any better for Green Bay.

As expected, Seattle’s defense was disruptive. Rodgers’ first pass of the second half was intercepted and returned to the 8-yard line. But the defense held for a field goal! When they stopped Seattle again, the Packers got the ball back on the 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 won going away.

Green Bay 7 3 0 6 16

Seattle 3 14 5 14 36

68,424

Total Yards: GB 255 SEA 398

“If you noticed a lot of fans taking selfies in Packers’ jerseys, it was part of the Back to Football Campaign.”²

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

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

9.14.2014
NEW YORK

JETS **24**
PACKERS **31**

An exciting home opener featured 37 first-half points! The Jets were on fire from the start, scoring 21 of the game's first 24 points. Second-year quarterback Geno Smith looked sharp early. His touchdown run was set up by a fumble by Aaron Rodgers on Green Bay's first play. A bit later, Smith's 29-yard touchdown to Eric Decker and Chris Ivory's touchdown run made it 21-3.

Late in the first half, Green Bay's offense consisted of three field goals. Trailing 21-9, an interception by Tramon Williams, helped turn the tide. Aaron Rodgers and Randall Cobb cashed in on the turnover with eight seconds left in the half!

Cobb and Rodgers hooked up again early in the third quarter. Along with a two-point conversion, the Packers took the lead 24-21. After a field goal tied it, Jordy Nelson caught Rodgers' third touchdown pass an 80-yard connection late in the third quarter. The Packers overcame a slow start to win their opener.

New York **14 7 3 0 24**
Green Bay **3 13 15 0 31**
78,041

Rodgers was sacked four times.

"Titletown Brewing Company which was founded as a brewpub, is now adding bottling to its business, thus the need to rebrand."¹

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

9.21.2014

PACKERS **7**
DETROIT
LIONS **19**

At 1-1, the going was supposed to get a bit easier against the Lions. That wasn't the case, and Packer fans were alarmed even in victory.

Both quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers and Matthew Stafford, had mediocre games. Detroit's defense contained Rodgers (16-27-162-1-0), and the Lions grabbed the early lead. A

fumble by Eddie Lacy was returned 40 yards for a touchdown by safety Don Carey. Green Bay came back with an interception by safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, and Rodgers capitalized with a 10-yard toss to tight end Andrew Quarless.

On Detroit's next possession, safety Devon House saved a touchdown with an interception of quarterback Matt Stafford on Green Bay's 1-yard line! But on Green Bay's first play, Eddie Lacy was leveled in the end zone by linebacker DeAndre Levy. The safety and a field goal gave the Lions a 12-7 halftime lead.

Detroit's defense squelched Green Bay's offense all game. The Packers ran the ball for just 76 yards, and they held Rodgers to 162 yards passing. Then, in the fourth quarter, Detroit sealed the deal on Reggie Bush's 26-yard romp around left end with 10:40 remaining. "We just have to figure out better ways to run the ball"¹ said Eddie Lacy, who ran for 36 yards on 11 carries.

Green Bay	7	0	0	0	7
Detroit	7	5	0	7	19

62,418
Total Plays: GB 51 DET 74

*"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."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/14, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/14, p. A3

9.28.2014

PACKERS 38

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

With a 1-2 start, including a loss to the Lions, Green Bay Nation was panicking. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, on his radio show had this message for all Packer fans: "R-E-L-A-X."¹ Indeed.

The Packers used a no-huddle offense to quicken tempo, and they enjoyed a breakout game. It came down to the quarterbacks as neither team punted! "Aaron was Aaron today,"¹ said guard Josh Sitton. Rodgers threw four touchdown passes (22-28-302-4-0), and the Bears did not have an answer.

Chicago's scoring started with 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 the Packers took the lead on a Rodgers to Jordy Nelson touchdown.

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

After a Packers' field goal, Jay Cutler was intercepted by Clay Matthews, who returned the theft to Chicago's 35-yard line. Rodgers found Nelson again for a 31-17 advantage. After another interception of Cutler by Sam Shields on the Bears' next possession, Rodgers threw his fourth touchdown to Cobb to finish off Chicago.

While Rodgers excelled, Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb combined for 17 catches for 221 yards and four touchdowns. With a smile, Rodgers said, "It sure is nice when people start doubting us to go out and have a performance like this,"² It was time to relax!

Green Bay 7 14 10 7 38
Chicago 7 10 0 0 17
61,736

Rodgers' 151.2 QBR was GB's 4th highest all-time.

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

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

10.2.2014

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10
PACKERS 42

The Packers completed their swing through the NFC North at 2-1! In this dismantling of the Vikings, quarterback Aaron Rodgers stayed hot with three touchdown passes to three different receivers—Randall Cobb, Jordy Nelson, and Davante Adams. Also, "for the first time this season, Green Bay ran for more yards than an opponent (156-111)."¹ Eddie Lacy pounded Minnesota for 110 yards and two touchdowns!

The defense also played very well, as the Vikings didn't score until Green Bay led 42-0 in the fourth quarter! Their quarterback Christian Ponder was sacked six times and intercepted twice. The interceptions came on back-to-back possessions in the second quarter. Julius Peppers went 49 yards with his pick for the fifth touchdown of his career. Linebacker Jamari Lattimore's interception led to the first career touchdown catch for Davante Adams. It was also the 200th touchdown pass of Aaron Rodgers' career!

Minnesota 0 0 0 10 10
Green Bay 14 14 14 0 42
78,054

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/3/14, Goska, p. A5

10.12.2014

PACKERS 27

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 24

The Packers faced their former offensive coordinator, Joe Philbin, who was now the head coach of Miami. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who worked closely with Philbin, spun his magic and defeated his former coach on a hot, steamy day in South Florida.

Rodgers put on another excellent, three-touchdown performance. He opened and closed the game with touchdowns to Jordy Nelson and Andrew Quarless. In between, his touchdown pass to Randall Cobb made it 10-3 Packers at halftime!

Miami's offense got rolling in the second half, and they took the lead with quarterback Ryan Tannehill's touchdowns to Jarvis Landry and Mike Wallace. The touchdown to Landry tied the score at 10. After a second Cobb touchdown catch made it 17-10, Miami scored twice for a 24-17 lead with nine minutes to go.

A Mason Crosby field goal narrowed it to four. The defense forced a punt, and Green Bay got it back on the 40-yard line with 2:04 to play. Rodgers went six-for-nine on the drive, and at Miami's 16-yard line, he faked a spike of the football and threw a 12-yard completion to Devante Adams! Adams got out of bounds at the 4-yard line to stop the clock with three seconds left. The winner came on the next play to Andrew Quarless!

Green Bay 7 3 7 10 27

Miami 3 0 7 14 24

70,875

Turnovers: GB 0 MIA 3

10.19.2014

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 17

PACKERS 38

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

"A normal football game lasts 60 minutes. This one was over after 13,"¹ said Monday's newspaper. In the first quarter, the Packers pummeled the Panthers and got out to a 21-0 lead. They outgained them 173-5! 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! By halftime, it was 28-3 Packers.

In the second half, Rodgers threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Devante Adams. The defense shut down Cam Newton and held him to one touchdown and 41 yards rushing. Carolina's fourth-quarter touchdowns were window dressing, and the Packers won their fourth straight.

Carolina	0	3	0	14	17
Green Bay	21	7	10	0	38
78,106					

*"The Packers Women's Association held its 28th annual food drive around Lambeau Field before Sunday's game."*²

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

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

10.26.2014

PACKERS 23

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 44

This was a riveting Sunday night game in New Orleans with two pass-oriented offenses. Together, they produced 1,019 total yards, with quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers (426) and Drew Brees (311) doing the damage.

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 16-16.

The second half belonged to the Saints. Brees heated up and threw three touchdowns by "throwing mostly darts over the middle and mixing in a few deep balls."¹ New Orleans bolted in front 37-16, and Rodgers strained a hamstring early in the second half, which slowed down the Packers.

Green Bay didn't score again until there were five minutes left in the game. Ironically, it was Rodgers who scored on a 14-yard run! Two minutes later, Mark Ingram's touchdown run finished the scoring. Ingram ran for 172 of the team's 193 rushing yards!

Green Bay	10	6	0	7	23
New Orleans	10	6	14	14	44
73,146					

At the bye, the Packers were 5-3 and one game behind the Lions.

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

11.9.2014

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

PACKERS 55

Though this wasn't the largest margin of victory over the Bears, it certainly was among the most shocking. In the first 30 minutes alone, Aaron Rodgers lit up the night sky with six touchdown passes to tie an NFL record set by Daryl Lamonica of the Oakland Raiders in 1969.

As the Bears invaded Lambeau Field, Green Bay's offense hit its stride. The first half was all Rodgers as his six touchdown passes tied Daryle Lamonica's NFL record. Rodgers' touchdowns went to Jordy Nelson (2), 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 QBR of 156.3 (18-27-315-6-0). "It's tough to execute like that, but that's what happens when everybody works together and believes in each other,"¹ he said. Green Bay's 42 points in the first half were also the most the Bears had ever given up in their history!!

Green Bay's defense, in a desperate effort to stop the bleeding against the run, moved Clay Matthews to inside linebacker. It was successful as running back Matt Forte was held to 54 yards on 17 carries. The Bears scored in the third and fourth quarters. But Casey Hayward's 82-yard pick-six of Jay Cutler finished Green Bay's scoring with 10:41 left. The 55-14 loss to Green Bay was the headline in Monday's *Chicago Tribune*. It read "Lambeau Bleep."²

Chicago 0 0 7 7 14

Green Bay 14 28 6 7 55

78,292

Rodgers is 13-1 against the Bears.

"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 (Friday). The event is free."³

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

11.16.2014

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 20

PACKERS 53

Green Bay wore throwback jerseys to honor their first championship team in 1929. The undefeated 1929 squad had the second most powerful offense in the league, and the best defense. They outscored opponents 198-22!

For the first time in franchise history, the Packers scored more than 50 points in back-to-back games! Aaron Rodgers tossed three more touchdown passes to lead the blowout.

Green Bay jumped out to a 17-0 first-quarter lead with a field goal, a Rodgers to Davante Adams touchdown, and a 75-yard punt return by Micah Hyde. Rodgers continued with a 27-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson, who tipped-toed down the sideline for the score. Eddie Lacy topped off the 30-6 first half with a 1-yard touchdown run.

The second half was academic. The Packer defense stepped up with 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 their ninth game of over 200 yards in combined receiving. They surpassed Paul Coffman and James Lofton, as well as Donald Driver and Greg Jennings, who did it eight times.

Philadelphia 0 6 7 7 20

Green Bay 17 13 9 14 53

78,270

A lighted, 50-foot Lombardi Trophy was unveiled at Lambeau Field.

11.23.2014

PACKERS 24

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 21

At brand new TCF Bank Stadium, Green Bay won its third straight. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers and running back Eddie Lacy starred in this tight border battle, and the Vikings fell to 4-7.

Eddie Lacy started the game with a touchdown run and closed it with a touchdown catch. Even though he wasn't feeling well, Lacy also ran for 125 yards! With Green Bay leading 7-0, Rodgers and Teddy Bridgewater of the Vikings traded touchdown passes. Green Bay's touchdown came after Micah Hyde intercepted Bridgewater. The touchdown was the first for rookie tight end Richard Rodgers. "It felt like it took forever,"¹ he said of the Rodgers-to-Rodgers connection! Seconds before halftime, though, Blair Walsh's field goal cut the lead to 14-10.

After intermission, the Vikings crept closer, 14-13, on a 51-yard kick by Walsh. Mason Crosby returned fire with a 48-yard field goal. Then, in the fourth quarter, with eight minutes left, Green Bay drove 87 yards and scored on a 10-yard shovel pass from Rodgers to Lacy! It made all the difference after Greg Jennings scored for Minnesota with 3:23 left.

Since the "Relax" statement by Rodgers, the Packers are 7-1! To date, he's thrown 30 touchdown passes and three interceptions. It was also the 90th regular-season win for Mike McCarthy!

Green Bay	7	7	3	7	24
Minnesota	0	10	3	8	21

52,386

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/24/14, Wood/Zizzo, p. A4

11.30.2014

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 21

PACKERS 26

"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 Aaron Rodgers vs. Tom Brady and Mike McCarthy vs. Bill Belichick. The Packers won both!

Green Bay led the entire game. They took a 13-0 lead on two Mason Crosby field goals and a touchdown from Rodgers-to-Rodgers. The second quarter had most of the action, and New England scored twice. After the Rodgers touchdown, the Patriots took five plays to make it 13-7. Tom Brady's second touchdown pass went to Brandon LaFell with 1:09 left in the half. Not to be outdone, Rodgers struck right back. With 14 seconds left, he hit Jordy Nelson on a slant pattern. Nelson sprinted 45 yards, and he beat cornerback Darrelle Revis to the end zone for a 45-yard touchdown! At halftime, it was 23-14 Packers.

After a quiet third quarter, Brandon LaFell caught his second touchdown pass from Brady

23-21. For Green Bay, after Crosby's fourth field goal with 8:41 left, the defense held. They forced a field goal try after a six-minute, 12-play drive that Steve Gostkowski missed from the 47! 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 they won the time of possession battle by 13:10. The defense had proved its mettle against the best. The win moved Green Bay into first place, and they stayed undefeated at home. Tramon Williams put it in perspective, however, "We've still got quality opponents to play."¹

New England 0 14 0 7 21
Green Bay 13 10 0 3 26
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."*²

*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."*³

* 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

12.8.2014

ATLANTA

FALCONS 37
PACKERS 43

The final score made the game looked closer than it was. On a Monday night, 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 with James Starks and Eddie Lacy pounded Atlanta for 179 yards. Both backs scored on the ground, and they each caught a touchdown pass. Rodgers threw his third touchdown in the fourth quarter to Jordy Nelson for a 40-24 lead. After the Packers had a 31-7 lead at halftime, their 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 two minutes left, the Falcons closed to within six. The Packers clinched it with seven running plays and 43 yards from James Starks!

Atlanta 7 0 10 20 37
Green Bay 7 24 3 9 43

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."*¹

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

12.14.2014

PACKERS 13

BUFFALO

BILLS 21

"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,"¹ said McCarthy after the game.

Here was a huge loss for the Packers that had postseason implications. While the blame for this shocking defeat 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. He did not throw a touchdown pass, but he did throw two interceptions. His QBR was 35.3.

Buffalo, on the other hand, played very well. After a Green Bay field goal, Marcus Thigpen of the Bills returned a punt 75 yards for a touchdown. The Packers countered with a touchdown on their next series, and the first half ended 10-10.

Three more field goals by Dan Carpenter gave Buffalo a 19-10 lead. Carpenter's fourth came after Bacarri Rambo's pick of Aaron Rodgers. After a Mason Crosby field goal, Green Bay had one more opportunity with under two minutes left. Starting from his 10-yard line, Rodgers dropped back to pass. The football was knocked from his hands by Mario Williams, and Eddie Lacy fell on it in the end zone for a safety. Game over. "You've got to show up every week, and we didn't show up today,"² was Jordy Nelson's assessment.

Green Bay 3 7 0 3 13

Buffalo 7 3 6 5 21

70,214

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

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

12.21.2014

PACKERS 20

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 3

The defense led the charge, and the Packers clinched a postseason berth! The Bucs managed just six first downs and 253 total yards. Tampa had the ball for only 21 minutes and managed one field goal. Quarterback Josh McCown was sacked seven times with pressure all game from Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers.

The Packers moved the ball for over 400 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 okay from the medical staff, he continued playing. At halftime, McCarthy made changes to protect Rodgers.

In the first quarter, Eddie Lacy's 44-yard rumble to the end zone started the scoring! Two Mason Crosby field goals added insurance, and Rodgers, now limping, slammed the door closed in the fourth quarter with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. "We're proud of making the playoffs six years in a row," said McCarthy.

Green Bay 7 3 0 10 20

Tampa Bay 0 3 0 0 3

64,247

Randall Cobb: 11-131

"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."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/14, Dougherty, p. A3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/22/14

12.28.2014

DETROIT

LIONS 20

PACKERS 30

A lot was riding on the season's final game. The Packers faced the same situation they faced last year against the Bears... the winner takes the NFC North, and the loser goes home for the postseason.

The Packers faced the streaking Lions, who were riding a four-game winning streak. It didn't bother 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. 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."¹ He had aggravated his left calf injury.

As Rodgers left the game, a quiet Lambeau crowd stayed hopeful as they watched Matthew Stafford rally the Lions with two touchdown passes to big Calvin Johnson. The first score came with 24 seconds left in the first half. The second, which tied the score 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,"² he said about going back into the game. With the blessing of the medical staff, he returned after the first series of the third quarter to the deafening roars of the Packer faithful and to chants of "MVP, MVP, MVP."

Playing out of the pistol and shotgun, Rodgers engineered a 60-yard touchdown drive. Cobb's second touchdown catch stoked the Lambeau crowd further as the Packers retook the lead 21-14! In the fourth quarter, Matt Stafford's fumble was recovered by safety Morgan Burnett. Four minutes later, Rodgers carried it in from the 1-yard line. Stafford's safety for intentional grounding in the end zone made it 30-14 with 2:32 to go.

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

Detroit **0 7 7 6 20**
Green Bay **7 7 7 9 30**
78,408

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

1.11.2015

2014 NFC Divisional Playoff

DALLAS

COWBOYS **21**

PACKERS **26**

For the first time since the 1967 Ice Bowl, the Packers and the Cowboys met at Lambeau Field in the postseason. With the temperature 24 degrees ABOVE zero, Green Bay defeated Dallas 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 Bryant on fourth down on Green Bay's 1-yard line. The reversal gave the Packers the ball on their 32-yard line, and they ran out the clock!

Touchdowns were traded in the first quarter. After a three-and-out by Dallas, Aaron Rodgers found tight end Andrew Quarless for a 7-0 lead. The Cowboys took the lead on two Tony Romo touchdown passes. They came on back-to-back drives, and Dallas led at halftime 14-10.

Green Bay's defense played well, 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 saved a sure touchdown run by DeMarco Murray. Green Bay capitalized with a field goal.

Later in the third quarter, DeMarco Murray and Aaron Rodgers both came up big. DeMarco Murray's touchdown made it 21-13. For Green Bay, McCarthy emptied the backfield and spread out the Cowboys. With Rodgers moving carefully in and out of the pocket, the Packers found a rhythm. After a few completions, Rodgers stayed in the pocket and launched "a pinpoint throw to Davante Adams, who ran 20 yards after the catch to get in the end zone."¹ The 46-yard strike cut it to one, 21-20 Dallas.

In the final quarter, with nine minutes left, Green Bay marched 80 yards, and Rodgers found Richard Rodgers open for a 13-yard touchdown. After 13 unanswered points and the call on Dez Bryant, the Packers had a date in Seattle!

Dallas	7	7	7	0	21
Green Bay	7	3	10	6	26
79,704					

Total Yards: GB 454 DAL 357

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

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

1.18.2015

2014 NFC Championship Game

PACKERS 22

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 28

An onside kick derailed Green Bay's chances for a Super Bowl. In a crushing loss, the Packers let a 12-point lead (19-7) get away in the final five minutes. Fans of both teams were stunned by the game's sudden about-face.

After Richard Sherman intercepted Aaron Rodgers on Green Bay's first drive, the first quarter was all Packers. They scored on three straight possessions, two as a result of Seattle turnovers. On back-to-back drives, an interception by Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and a fumble recovery by Morgan Burnett brought six points, not 14. The Packers finally reached the end zone with six seconds in the first quarter on a Rodgers to Randall Cobb touchdown for a 13-0 lead. In the first half, the Packers outgained the Seahawks 178-59.

Late in the third quarter, things began to unravel for Green Bay. On a fake field goal attempt, holder Jon Ryan took advantage of an aggressive A. J. Hawk. As Hawk charged after him, Ryan lofted a pass over his head for a 19-yard touchdown to Gary Gilliam. After Crosby's field goal pushed the lead to 19-7, Morgan Burnett's interception with 5:13 left seemingly clinched it. Burnett went down voluntarily right after the pick to protect the football.

To keep the clock moving, McCarthy called three straight running plays, and Eddie Lacy lost four yards. With 3:52 left, Seattle got the ball back, and they scored in seven plays. Marshawn Lynch and quarterback Russell Wilson led the charge. Wilson scored from the 1-yard line with 2:13 left, and the Seahawks trailed 19-14.

When Brandon Bostick of the Packers misplayed the onside kick, Seattle got the ball back at the 50-yard line. Their touchdown came on Marshawn Lynch's 24-yard run. On the two-point conversion, when the Packers did not protect the backside, Russell Wilson threw back to Chris Matthews for a 22-19 lead with 1:33 left.

As shell-shocked as the Packers must have been, Rodgers kept it together and they drove downfield. They tied it on a 48-yard field goal by Mason Crosby. Overtime. The Seahawks won the toss. On the sixth play from scrimmage, Wilson fired a 35-yard touchdown to Jermaine Kearse for a trip to Super Bowl XLIX. "We squandered away every opportunity there was to put that game away, and there is no excuse."¹ said Tramon Williams.

Green Bay 13 3 0 6 0 22
Seattle 0 0 7 15 6 28
68,358

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/19/15, Hodkiewicz, p. V1

2014 **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
Rushing	Lacy
Receiving	Nelson
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Hayward, Williams
Sacks	Matthews

ALL-PRO

Nelson	Receiver
Rodgers	Quarterback
Sitton	Guard

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

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



2015
Record: 10-6-0, 2nd Place
Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In July, Brett Favre was inducted into the Packer Hall of Fame. During the special weekend, he was warmly received. He spoke to fans inside Lambeau Field. In November, Bart Starr returned to celebrate the unveiling of #4 on the Lambeau Field façade.
- Ron Wolf was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.
- Many critics did not think the Packers would recover from the last season's collapse in Seattle. In response, McCarthy gave play-calling duties to Assistant Coach Tom Clements.
- They opened the season 6-0 but finished 4-6. If 2014 was the year of RELAX, then 2015 was the year of the HAIL MARY!

- In the preseason, Jordy Nelson was lost for the season with a torn ACL, and the offense wasn't the same. On defense, they could not stop the run.
- The team announced formal plans to develop the area immediately west of Lambeau Field. It would be called the Tiletown District.

9.13.2015

PACKERS 31

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

The season opened on a Sunday afternoon in Chicago with a new coach prowling the sideline for the Bears—John Fox.

After Chicago went up 3-0, the Packers came back with an Aaron Rodgers to James Jones touchdown. A Matt Forte touchdown put the Bears back on top, and after trading field goals, Chicago led at halftime 13-10.

Three minutes into the second half, Rodgers threw a second touchdown to James Jones. "I'm just going to say that I'm playing with a chip on my shoulder,"¹ Jones said later. He had been cut by the Giants (Raiders before that), and the Packers reclaimed him to help replace Jordy Nelson.

A field goal cut their lead to 17-16, the Packers reasserted control in the fourth quarter. Rodgers threw his third touchdown pass of the game to Randall Cobb. With under four minutes left and the Bears driving, Clay Matthews intercepted quarterback Jay Cutler, and Eddie Lacy took it home (31-16). "Aside from the last drive, we still held them to one touchdown,"² said defensive tackle Mike Daniels.

Green Bay 7 3 7 14 31

Chicago 3 10 3 7 23

62,442

"Kevin Lipson, who has been a Packers fan since he was six-years-old, has been to Lambeau Field 71 times and 41 road games. He said he's not a good father because his two sons are 49ers fans!"³

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/17, Wood, p. A3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/17, Hodkiewicz, p. A7

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/14/17, Siegle, p. C3

9.20.2015

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 17

PACKERS 27

In a rematch of the previous year's NFC Championship Game, the anticipation was off the charts. Steve Schumer, Packer FAN Hall of Fame Member, recalls, "The emotion around this game was throughout the stadium. We wanted to beat them so bad. It was a white-hot hate."¹

Aaron Rodgers was the difference (25-33-249-2-0), and the Packers were 2-0. On the game's opening drive, James Jones and Rodgers continued to get reacquainted with a 29-yard touchdown! Though running back Eddie Lacy injured his ankle in the first quarter and did not return, the Packers still led at the break 13-3.

Seattle held the advantage in the third quarter with touchdowns on their first two possessions. With a three-and-out by Green Bay sandwiched between the touchdowns, the Seahawks led 17-13 halfway through the quarter. Mason Crosby's 44-yard field goal made it a 1-point game.

In the fourth quarter, the defense played well, and the offense continued to move the ball. The Packers went 80 yards in 10 plays, and tight end Richard Rodgers caught a touchdown for a 24-17 lead. On Seattle's next series, a one-handed interception by linebacker Jayrone Elliot followed by Mason Crosby's fourth field goal put it away with two minutes left. "We did a good job on Priority No. 1, Marshawn Lynch. You sleep better when you win,"¹ commented McCarthy.

Seattle 3 0 14 0 17
Green Bay 10 3 3 11 27
78,433

James Starks outgained Marshawn Lynch 95-41.

Steve Schumer, Member, Packer FAN Hall of Fame *

On the day before this game, Steve, his son Adam and two friends ran into the great Jerry Kramer near Brett Favre's Steakhouse. Kramer was very personable. After a few minutes of conversation, they all shook hands and parted ways. While shaking his hand, Steve remembers how big Kramer's hand was. When we shook hands, his hand "engulfed mine" very easily!

"A regular-season record crowd did its best to emulate the Seahawks' '12th Man' fervor. Driven by scoreboard to 'Get Loud Lambeau' (pushed by the Packers all week, including tee-shirts), the fans were roaring from the start, particularly when the Packers were on defense."²

* Interview: 2/14/2017

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/15, Dougherty, A3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/21/15, Courtney, p. A5

9.28.2015

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 28

PACKERS 38

The rival quarterbacks from the 2005 NFL draft met again, and the Packers put it away early. The Chiefs tried to make it interesting with a valiant comeback, but they fell short. Monday Night Football fans were treated to a five-touchdown performance by Aaron Rodgers (24-35-333-5-0). It was his fourth, five-touchdown performance which surpassed Brett Favre's franchise record of three. Randall Cobb caught three of the touchdowns, and the Packers led 14-0 after the first quarter and 24-7 at halftime. The Chiefs' only points in the first half came on a Jamaal Charles touchdown.

The Packers' defense controlled the line of scrimmage, and they sacked Alex Smith seven times! Smith threw one interception in K.C. territory, and Sam Shields returned it to the 4-yard line. The second Rodgers to Cobb touchdown came on the next play for a 31-7 lead. Rodgers threw another touchdown to Cobb (24-35-333-5-0), and the Chiefs scored twice in the final 10 minutes to make it respectable.

On Rodgers' spectacular play, Julius Peppers had this to say, "I played on some teams where I wished I had a guy like him. I think everybody takes it for granted."¹

Kansas City 0 7 7 14 28
Green Bay 14 10 7 7 38
78,218

GB receiver Davante Adams was injured.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/15, Hodkiewicz, p. C3

10.4.2015

PACKERS 17
SAN FRANCISCO
49ers 3

Green Bay took on the 1-3 Niners in beautiful Levi's Stadium.

The Packers scored the winning points on their opening drive! The touchdown was a 9-yard pass from Aaron Rodgers to tight end Richard Rodgers. The 49ers scored their only points of the game in the second quarter, and it was 7-3 Packers at halftime.

While Green Bay contained 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, the Packers couldn't move the ball against San Francisco's defense. According to Steve Schumer, it was "shockingly strong, and we might be just one play away from an upset."* Rodgers threw for only 160 yards and no touchdowns.

Unlike his three previous wins over the Packers, two in the postseason, Kaepernick "didn't change the game with his running or make any big plays."¹ The Packers held him to 57 yards rushing, and they sacked him six times. He threw several passes both in the dirt and over the heads of his receivers. The 49ers produced eight first downs and 77 yards rushing.

On Green Bay's first series of the second half, they marched 61 yards, and a 17-yard run by Aaron Rodgers put them at the 1-yard line. Fullback John Kuhn took it home. After a three-and-out by San Francisco, a 31-yard field goal by Mason Crosby made it 17-3. The two-touchdown advantage provided breathing room. For the game, the Packers outgained the 49ers 386-237, and they dominated the time of possession by more than 13 minutes.

Green Bay **7 0 10 0 17**
San Francisco **0 3 0 0 3**
70,799

*"Plenty of Cheesehead-wearing Packers fans made themselves heard in a crowd of 70,799 that featured a surprising number of empty seats. A 'Go Pack Go' chant even broke out in the fourth quarter."*²

* Interview: 2/14/17

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/15, Dougherty p. A3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/5/15, Courtney, p. A5

10.11.2015

ST. LOUIS

RAMS **10**
PACKERS **24**

In a second straight game where quarterback Aaron Rodgers was not his best (19-30-241-2-2), the defense stepped up. Green Bay took an early lead on a Rodgers touchdown to rookie receiver Ty Montgomery. At the end of the first quarter, a 45-yard pick-six by rookie cornerback Quinten Rollins made it 14-0!

Also, in the first quarter, Rodgers' streak of "587 pass attempts and 49 touchdown passes at home without an interception"¹ ended on a pick by James Laurinaitis. Rodgers would go on to throw a second interception, and he lost a fumble in this game.

St. Louis came back with 10 points before halftime, but that would be all for their offense. Throughout the game, Green Bay's defense kept the pressure on Rams' quarterback Nick Foles. They hit him 12 times on 30 pass attempts. They sacked him four times and intercepted four passes.

In the second half, Rodgers threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to James Jones. Mason Crosby's field goal wrapped up the scoring. In their previous three games, the Packers had given up only 41 points. After the game, reporters wondered if they were now more of a defensive team? Clay Matthews didn't think so. We're "still an offensive team, but it's nice when the defense can hold their own."²

St. Louis **0 10 0 0 10**
Green Bay **14 0 7 3 24**
78,432

1 packershistory.net/2015Packers

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/12/15, Hodkiewicz, p. A7

10.18.2015

SAN DIEGO

CHARGERS 20

PACKERS 27

A last-second play by rookie cornerback Damarious Randall saved the day! With the Packers leading 27-20, the Chargers faced a fourth down on Green Bay's 3-yard line with 20 seconds left. A pass from quarterback Philip Rivers to tight end Antonio Gates was knocked away by Randall to end the threat.

Before Randall's heroics, Aaron Rodgers had a great afternoon (16-29-255-2-0). He opened the game with an 87-yard drive and a touchdown pass to James Starks. Later in the quarter, Starks went around right end for a 65-yard touchdown! A Philip Rivers touchdown pass before halftime made it 17-10 Packers.

The Chargers ran for only 60 yards, and their offense revolved around Rivers and the passing game. Rivers threw 65 passes, completed 43 for 503 yards and two touchdowns. He did not throw a pick.

In the third quarter, a touchdown from Rivers to Ladarius Green tied the score at 17. Rodgers and James Jones matched it two drives later to retake the lead 24-17. From there, the teams traded field goals, and the Packers prevailed. Green Bay was 6-0 despite giving up 548 yards.

San Diego 3 7 7 3 20

Green Bay 14 3 7 3 27

78,434

"Fans who bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation for Ben's Wish will have an opportunity to meet Green Bay Packers John Kuhn and receive an autographed photo."¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/20/15, p. A3

11.1.2015

PACKERS 10

DENVER

BRONCOS 29

After the bye week, the undefeated Packers lost for the first time to the undefeated Broncos. Peyton Manning outplayed Aaron Rodgers, and while neither quarterback threw a touchdown, Rodgers was sacked three times while Manning stayed upright.

It took 27 minutes for the Packers to score, and they never caught up. Denver built a 17-0 lead on back-to-back drives, with running back Ronnie Hillman scoring both touchdowns on back-to-back drives in the first half. The Packers scored with three minutes left in the half on an Eddie Lacy touchdown run.

Mason Crosby's 56-yard field goal was all the Packers could do in the second half. The Broncos scored the final 12 points on C.J. Anderson's 28-yard touchdown run, a field goal, and a safety when Rodgers was sacked and fumbled into the end zone. "That's a humbling loss. I haven't had my ass kicked like that for a long time,"¹ Mike McCarthy said.

Green Bay 0 7 3 0 10

Denver 7 10 7 5 29

77,075

Manning: 21-29-340-0-1

Rodgers: 14-22-77-0-0

*'The Wisconsin State Assembly has passed a resolution honoring quarterback Bart Starr.'*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/2/15, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/15, p. A7

11.8.2015

PACKERS 29

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 37

The Packers faced another unbeaten team, and they got walloped. Carolina quarterback Cam Newton not only beat the Packers, but before the game he ripped down two Green Bay banners on the sidelines of Bank of America Stadium!

Carolina jumped in front 27-7 in the first half. Two touchdown passes and a touchdown run by Cam Newton put the Packers in trouble. The Panthers gained 285 yards in the first half, while the defense kept Green Bay in check with constant pressure on Rodgers. On the Packers' first six possessions, they generated 49 yards. For the game, Rodgers was sacked five times and hit 14 times.

Green Bay rallied in the second half. On the opening drive, it took just 50 seconds for a Rodgers and Cobb pass went 53 yards for six! In the fourth quarter, Rodgers threw two more touchdown passes, including a 3-yard Rodgers-to-Richard Rodgers connection.

On Carolina's first play after the Rodgers touchdown, Cam Newton was intercepted by Damarious Randall on Carolina's 26. The Packers got as close as the 4-yard line, when Rodgers, facing pressure, was intercepted by linebacker Thomas Davis to end the threat and the game.

Green Bay 7 0 7 15 29
Carolina 3 24 3 7 37
74,461

11.15.2015

DETROIT

LIONS 18

PACKERS 16

In "perhaps the worst performance in Mike McCarthy's 10 years as head coach,"¹ the Lions defeated the Packers in Wisconsin for the first time since 1991! The Lions were 0-24 during that time.

After a 3-3 first half, Detroit scored its first touchdown on quarterback Matt Stafford's pass to Brandon Pettigrew. They pushed it to 12-3 on Matt Prater's 51-yard field goal.

Green Bay's ground game produced just 47 yards, and Aaron Rodgers threw 61 passes (35-61-333-2-0). Trailing 12-3 in the fourth quarter, Green Bay found a rhythm. A Rodgers to Richard Rodgers touchdown cut Detroit's lead to 12-10. Matt Stafford's second touchdown pass made it 18-10 (the extra point was missed).

With the door left slightly open, Rodgers marched the Packers 73 yards in eight plays. He completed six of eight passes, including a touchdown to tight end Justin Perillo to cut the lead to two. The two-point conversion was unsuccessful. Green Bay recovered the onside kick with 31 seconds left. After two completions to Davante Adams, Mason Crosby missed a 52-yard field goal.

Detroit 0 3 6 9 18

Green Bay 3 0 0 13 16

75,526

Rodgers has been sacked 14 times in the last four games.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/15, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

11.22.2015

PACKERS 30

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 13

After three straight losses, this win moved the Packers back into a first-place tie. Aaron Rodgers returned to form, and with Mason Crosby's five field goals, he provided all the offense.

The Vikings took an early 6-3 lead on quarterback Teddy Bridgewater's touchdown to Kyle Rudolph. Just before the half and after Crosby's third field goal, a pass interference penalty against Terrance Newman of the Vikings gave Green Bay the ball at Minnesota's 35-yard line. An illegal contact penalty on the Vikings followed, and the Packers had a first down at the 10. On Rodgers' third try, he found Cobb for six and a 16-6 halftime lead.

Crosby's fourth field goal started the second half. Bridgewater answered with three

straight completions that put Minnesota on the 6-yard line. Adrian Peterson (45 yards rushing) scored to close the lead to 19-13. The defense stood tall and kept the Vikings at bay. Seven plays later, Rodgers threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to James Jones wearing his green hoodie to clinch it!

Green Bay 6 10 3 11 30

Minnesota 6 0 7 0 13

52,529

Mason Crosby's 5th FG was from the 52-yard line.

"Cobb and Bakhtiari to fight hunger on Festival Foods PACK the Pantry"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/23/15, p. A2

11.26.2015

CHICAGO

BEARS 17

PACKERS 13

"One legendary quarterback attended his first game at Lambeau Field since his final retirement. The other attended his last."¹

Even the pouring rain couldn't derail one of the most special moments in Green Bay Packers' history. At halftime, former quarterbacks Brett Favre and Bart Starr returned to Titletown for the unveiling of #4 on the Lambeau Field façade. It would be Starr's last visit to Lambeau Field, and it was a very touching moment when Favre helped Starr from the golf cart to join the celebration at midfield.

The current team stumbled badly against its chief rival. For the first time since 2008, the Packers lost back-to-back home games. They got out to a 7-0 lead when Rodgers threw the 250th touchdown pass of his career to Eddie Lacy. But in the second quarter, Lacy's fumble led to Jay Cutler's touchdown and a 7-7 game. Then, in the last six minutes of the half, the Packers added two field goals and the Bears scored a touchdown for a 14-13 halftime lead.

In the second half, Green Bay's offense continued to sputter. They had the ball just four times, and on the first three possessions, they generated 91 yards, and Rodgers was intercepted. They didn't get close to Chicago's end zone until their final drive. But after marching 72 yards to the Bears' 8-yard line, Rodgers threw four straight incompletions to end it. After the game, he said, "When you miss throws, when I'm throwing at a certain depth when receivers are running at a certain depth, we're obviously on different pages."²

Chicago **0 14 0 3 17**
Green Bay **7 6 0 0 13**
78,488

*Brett Favre: "There's no place like Green Bay. There's no place like Lambeau Field."*³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/15, Wood, p. A3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/15, Hodkiewicz, p. A7

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/27/15, Wood, p. A3

12.3.2015

PACKERS **27**

DETROIT

LIONS **23**

Even though the Lions scored the first 20 points on this Thursday night, a penalty that gave Aaron Rodgers one final play ended the game perfectly for Green Bay!

The Lions started like they would run away from Green Bay in an explosive first quarter. After Matt Prater's field goal, two touchdown passes by quarterback Matt Stafford set the pace. Thirty-one seconds after Stafford's first touchdown pass, Rodgers was intercepted, and big Calvin Johnson caught Stafford's second touchdown for a 17-0 lead.

After an awful first half of 78 yards and no points, the Packers got lucky. On the first drive of the new half, James Starks' fumble was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown by Randall Cobb! On Detroit's next play from scrimmage, Stafford was sacked by Julius Peppers and stripped of the football. Rookie linebacker Jake Ryan recovered for Green Bay, and three plays later, Rodgers threw over the middle to Davante Adams for six more. It was 23-14 Detroit with seven minutes left.

On their next series, Rodgers finished an 84-yard drive with a 17-yard run around left end to creep closer, 23-21. With 3:04 left, the Lions picked up one first down before punting with 29 seconds left. On Green Bay's third down from the 21-yard line, a facemask penalty on Detroit's Devin Taylor handed the Packers one more play. From his 39-yard line, Aaron Rodgers rolled right and unleashed a towering 61-yard "Hail Mary," and tight end Richard Rodgers caught it for the stunning finish!

Afterward, Richard Rodgers explained the play. "We practiced a little bit in pre-game. Aaron was throwing up really high balls, and I was catching them. It's my job to box-out, and Davante's supposed to jump and I'm supposed to wait for the tip. I might get a MA (Missed Assignment) for that. I'll take it, I guess."¹

Green Bay	0	0	14	13	27
Detroit	17	0	3	3	23
63,207					

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/15, Hodkiewicz, p. A2

12.13.2015

DALLAS

COWBOYS	7
PACKERS	28

Mike McCarthy took back the play-calling duties from Tom Clements, and the Packers responded with an easy win over the 4-8 Cowboys.

"There was no mistaking, the Packers looked different, and by different, I mean better."¹ With a more upbeat tempo, Green Bay got going quickly with two first-quarter touchdown passes from Aaron Rodgers to James Starks and Richard Rodgers. The defense pitched in with a first-half shutout!

In the third quarter, Dallas got on the board with a touchdown run by Robert Turbin. Green Bay pulled away on back-to-back drives in the fourth quarter. Starks scored again on a 30-yard burst up the middle with 4:50 left! The Packers took over on downs with 3:11 remaining, and Eddie Lacy scored from the 1-yard line.

Green Bay outgained Dallas 435-270 with a balanced attack (205 passing, 230 rushing). While fans blamed play-calling for the offense's recent bout of inconsistency, Rodgers thought it was more about the execution. Either way, were the Packers back?

Dallas	0	0	7	0	7
Green Bay	0	14	0	14	28
78,369					

Time of Possession: GB 37:48 DAL 22:12

Tailgating before the game, Packer fan Justin Sipla held up a large Tony Romo doll. The doll was broken in half!

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

12.20.2015

PACKERS 30

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 20

The Packers clinched a seventh consecutive postseason berth with this victory! Green Bay took the lead, let it get away, and regained control in the last quarter.

Early in the game, the Packers' defense led the way while the offense struggled to get in gear. After two first-quarter interceptions of Oakland quarterback Derek Carr, the Packers took a 14-0 lead. Micah Hyde grabbed the first pick deep in Raiders' territory to set up John Kuhn's 5-yard touchdown run. Rookie cornerback Damarious Randall stole the second and went 36 yards for six more! The Raiders bounced back before the half. Two field goals and a touchdown from David Carr to wideout Amari Cooper (after a fumble by James Starks) narrowed the lead to 14-13.

The second half started with the first of three Mason Crosby field goals. Late in the third quarter, Rodgers fired a strike to James Jones for a 30-yard touchdown. Raider fans began heading to the exits with four minutes left in the *third quarter*. Green Bay's next possession, a 20-play drive, led only to a field goal, the first of two more from Crosby that ended the scoring.

Green Bay 14 0 10 6 30

Oakland 0 13 7 0 20

55,087

Julius Peppers had 2.5 sacks.

12.27.2015

PACKERS 8

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 38

Green Bay's offense dried up in the desert. Their only points of the game came in the third quarter on a touchdown pass to Eddie Lacy. In net yards, Arizona rolled over Green Bay 381-178.

The Cardinals enjoyed chasing down Aaron Rodgers. With injuries plaguing both of his

starting tackles, Rodgers was sacked eight times for a loss of 70 yards. The interception he threw in the first half led to an Arizona touchdown and a 17-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Rodgers had trouble holding on to the football. He fumbled three times in the game, and twice in the second half, his fumbles were returned for touchdowns. His bad day ended with a 66.2 QBR (15-28-151-1-1). "We had a chance there early, and then I threw the pick, and things kinda went downhill from there."¹ The Packers found themselves tied for first place with following week's opponent, the Vikings!

Green Bay 0 0 8 0 8
Arizona 0 17 21 0 38
64,878

*"The Green Bay Packers donated \$23,000 to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. The Packers raised the money through bell ringing, matching donations, and autograph-signing sessions at Lambeau Field."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/28/15, Zizzo, p. A4

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/15, Ryman, p. A5

1.3.2016

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 20
PACKERS 13

On a Sunday night with the division title on the line, the Vikings won their first game at Lambeau Field since 2009. They clinched the NFC North and ended the Packers' four-year hold on the division.

Green Bay's offense remained inconsistent. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was sacked five times, and the Packers ran the football for just 76 yards. In the first half, they kicked one field goal, and the Vikings kicked two.

After a 3-0 lead, the Vikings scored the next 17 points. They took over in the opening minutes of the third quarter after a short punt by Tim Masthay gave them great field position. In six plays, Adrian Peterson scored. Five minutes later, Aaron Rodgers was sacked by Everson Griffen, and he fumbled. Captain Munnerlyn returned it 55 yards to make it 20-3 Vikings.

Minnesota's "defense stifled Green Bay's dysfunctional offense at nearly every turn until the frantic fourth quarter."¹ Green Bay scored ten points, but the Vikings held on, and the Packers entered the postseason as a wild card.

Minnesota 3 3 14 0 20
Green Bay 3 0 0 10 13

74,412

For the first time since 1968, GB did not win a division game at home.

*Press-Gazette Headline: "Lost home playoff game delivers \$14M blow to local economy."*²

1 packershistory.net/2015Packers (Associated Press)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/5/16, Ryman, p. 4A

1.10.2016

2015 NFC Wild Card Game

PACKERS 35

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 18

The Packers took on the NFC East Champion Washington Redskins. The first quarter was all Washington, and the second was all Green Bay. The scoring began when quarterback Aaron Rodgers was tackled in the end zone by rookie linebacker Preston Smith. After receiving the punt from the safety, the Redskins drove to Green Bay's 1-yard line. A goal-line stand, however, forced a field goal for a 5-0 edge.

The Redskins scored in the second quarter, but they missed the extra point to make it 11-0. Aaron Rodgers owned the rest of the quarter with touchdowns to Randall Cobb and Davante Adams. On Adams' score, Rodgers "looked like the Rodgers of old in directing a nine-play, 60-yard drive"¹ that gave them the halftime lead 17-11.

On the opening drive of the second half, the Redskins went 73 yards, and quarterback Kirk Cousins ran it in for an 18-17 lead. Rodgers and the offense then hit its stride with two straight touchdown drives. The touchdowns by James Starks and Eddie Lacy finished off Washington. It was off to Arizona for the Packers!

Green Bay 0 17 7 11 35

Washington 5 6 7 0 18

81,367

Sacks: GB 6 WASH 1

*"Fans without NFL Network as part of their home TV lineup have other options to watch the broadcast Friday of Super Bowl I: The Lost Game. A number of bars and restaurants in the Green Bay area plan to show the three-hour program, which begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday."*¹

Party Houses: Green Bay alderman will review the city's existing policy regarding short-term rentals of homes near Lambeau Field.

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/11/16, Courtney, p. A5

2.Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/14/16, Ryman, p. A10

1.16.2016

2015 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 20

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 26 (OT)

Green Bay returned to Arizona, and the Cardinals took the lead on Carson Palmer's first touchdown pass for a 7-0 lead. Green Bay's offense started slowly, and when Randall Cobb left the game early in the second quarter with a chest injury, it spelled trouble.

In the first half, they put together two long drives, but both ended with field goals. The Packers got a huge break before halftime when a penalty on Arizona brought back a 100-yard pick-six of Rodgers. The Cardinals still led at the half 7-6.

On the first two drive of the second half, Aaron Rodgers and Carson Palmer threw back-to-back interceptions. After Palmer's turnover, Green Bay went 81 yards on a Rodgers to Jeff Janis touchdown pass. Arizona came back with a field goal, but the fourth quarter began with Green Bay in charge 13-10.

When the Packers failed to capitalize on a pick by rookie cornerback Damarious Randall, the Cardinals scored when they got the ball back to go up 17-13. After a three-and-out by Green Bay, a field goal put Arizona up by seven.

With 1:50 left in the game, Rodgers unloaded two spectacular missiles to Jeff Janis to tie it. The first, from the end zone, went for 61 yards. The second went for a 41-yard touchdown to Janis, though Rodgers let the pass fly from his 45-yard line. "That may be one of the great throws ever made, moving to his left, falling away, and launching a perfect throw,"¹ said Chris Collinsworth on NBC. Overtime!

The Cardinals won the toss. On the first play from scrimmage, Palmer threw a short pass to his left across the field to Larry Fitzgerald, who sprinted through Green Bay's defense to the 5-yard line. The next play, a 5-yard pass to Fitzgerald, won it, and the Packers suffered another difficult postseason loss.

Green Bay 0 6 7 7 0 20

Arizona 7 0 3 10 6 26

65,089

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjE1B6VcZE>

2015

NFC NORTH

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

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Lacy
Receiving	Cobb
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Randall, Hyde & Sheilds w/3
Sacks	Peppers

ALL-PRO

Sitton	Guard
--------	-------

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Damarious Randall (1, CB)

Quinten Rollins (2, CB)

Ty Montgomery (3, WR)

Jake Ryan (4, LB)

Brett Hundley (5a, QB)

Aaron Ripkowski (6a, FB)



2016

Record: 10-6-0, 1st Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- In August, Brett Favre was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. He became the 24th Green Bay Packer enshrined in Canton.
- Just west of Lambeau Field, the Tiletown District opened the Bellin Health Sports Medicine Clinic and the Hinterland Brewery.
- At the end of training camp, the Packers cut guard Josh Sitton.

- After getting off to a 4-6 start, Rodgers said the Packers could “Run the Table” and make the postseason.
- Across the NFL, controversy erupted when players decide to kneel to protest the treatment of African-American citizens by the police.
- The Packers celebrated the 20th anniversary of Super Bowl XXXI!
- Offensively, the Packers were in the top five in points scored. On defense, they ranked in the bottom 10, with pass defense a major weakness.

9.11.2016

PACKERS 27
 JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS 23

A hot and humid day in Florida could not take down the Packers. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers got Green Bay off on the right foot with two touchdown passes and a touchdown on the ground.

The scoring started on Green Bay’s first drive after they intercepted Jaguars’ quarterback Blake Bortles. Later in the first quarter, Jacksonville tied it on running back T. J. Yeldon’s touchdown run. In the second quarter, Rodgers heated up with two touchdown passes. The first went to Jordy Nelson, who returned after missing 2015 with a torn ACL. With 20 seconds left in the half, Davante Adams caught the second touchdown for a 21-17 lead.

The second half was all field goals, with each team kicking two. But with 3:17 left, a short punt by Green Bay gave the home team one more opportunity. Quarterback Blake Bortles marched Jacksonville to Green Bay’s 14-yard line. However, the 12-play drive ran out of gas on a fourth-and-one with 23 seconds left. A tackle for a loss on the 14-yard line by Damarious Randall sealed the deal!

Green Bay 7 14 3 3 27
Jacksonville 7 10 3 3 23
63,179

Fans of the Packers travel well. “Jean Yurk of Sheboygan wears her heavily decorated cheesehead complete with old game tickets and a Santa Claus train as she chants, ‘Go Pack Go!’ at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/16, p. 3C

9.18.2016

PACKERS 14

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 17

The last time the Packers opened the season with two games on the road was 1924!

The border rivals met for the first time at the new U.S. Bank Stadium. On Green Bay's second series, they christened the stadium with the first touchdown, a 1-yard toss from Aaron Rodgers to Jordy Nelson. The Vikings tied it on Kyle Rudolf's touchdown catch, and they led at halftime 10-7.

In the second half, Minnesota's goal-line stand made the Packers regret not going for a short field goal. The Vikings capitalized and drove 87 yards in six plays. Newly acquired quarterback Sam Bradford connected with Stefon Diggs to extend the lead to 17-7. In the fourth quarter with 12:50 left, Green Bay stayed close with a 10-yard touchdown run by Rodgers. But on their last two drives, Rodgers fumbled, and he threw his first interception of the season. "We're not going to over-react. It's been two weeks. We haven't found our rhythm yet,"¹ Rodgers said.

Green Bay 7 0 0 7 14

Minnesota 0 10 7 0 17

66,813

Sacks: GB 4 MINN 5

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/19/16, Silverstein, p. A7

9.25.2016

DETROIT

LIONS 27

PACKERS 34

A nice home opener. The Packers jumped out to a 31-10 first-half lead and held on in the second half. They entered their early bye week, 2-1.

Aaron Rodgers threw four short touchdown passes in the first half! Jordy Nelson felt right at home with two, while Davante Adams and Richard Rodgers settled for one each. Green Bay scored the first three times they had the ball, and for the game, Nelson caught six passes for 101 yards. The ground game held its own with Eddie Lacy's 103 yards.

With Green Bay ahead 31-3, Detroit scored on a 73-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Matt Stafford to wideout Marvin Jones. The Lions put 24 of the next 27 points as Stafford found Anquan Boldin for a touchdown to start the second half. In the fourth quarter, after two sacks by linebacker Nick Perry slowed down the Lions, Marvin Jones

caught his second touchdown pass. The Packers took over with 3:34 left and ran out the clock!

Detroit 3 7 7 10 27
Green Bay 14 17 3 0 34
78,411

Rodgers: 15-24-205-4-0

“Lois Morris, 84, from Adrian, Michigan (but born in Manistique) is a longtime Green Bay Packers fan who was last at a Packers game 50 years ago. She completed a ‘bucket list’ wish by attending the Packers-Lions game Sunday in Green Bay.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/16, p. 3C

10.9.2016
NEW YORK

GIANTS 16
PACKERS 23

After the bye, the Packers overcame an inconsistent performance in the passing game to defeat New York. They were kept afloat with a solid ground game led by Eddie Lacy and a strong performance by the defense. The Giants’ offense was held to three Josh Brown field goals until the fourth quarter.

Green Bay took the lead on the game’s opening drive. They went 75 yards in 16 plays and kept New York’s offense off the field for almost nine minutes! The touchdown went to Jordy Nelson, his 50th from Aaron Rodgers. In the first quarter, the Giants were outgained 141-18. Midway through the second quarter, Rodgers found Davante Adams for a 29-yard score.

At halftime, it was 17-6 Packers. Green Bay’s ground game led by Eddie Lacy’s 81 yards rolled over New York for 147 yards. “Guys just kind of just bounce off him (Lacy). The crowd enjoyed it too, a little too much sometimes when we’re on offense, they start chanting his name,”¹ Rodgers noted.

The second half was all field goals until the Giants finally found the end zone on Eli Manning’s pass to Odell Beckham with three minutes left. But the defense held and finished a strong game. They delivered four sacks, allowed just 47 yards on the ground, and held the Giants to 221 yards overall.

New York 0 6 3 7 16
Green Bay 7 10 0 6 23
78,401

Total Yards: GB 406 NY 221

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/10/16, Dougherty, p. A3

10.16.2016

DALLAS

COWBOYS 30

PACKERS 16

The 4-1 Cowboys had no trouble with the Packers. Dallas was led by rookie quarterback Dak Prescott who replaced Tony Romo after a preseason back injury shelved the Wisconsin native.

In the first half, Prescott threw two touchdown passes. The Dallas ground game had the advantage over Green Bay's run defense with 191 yards. Ezekiel Elliot led the charge with 157 yards. Green Bay also turned the ball over four times, leading to 10 Dallas points.

With an offense that looked "flat and musty"¹, the Packers managed two field goals in the first half. At halftime, the Cowboys led 17-6. In the second half, Dallas extended the lead on Prescott's third touchdown of the day. It was his second touchdown to Cole Beasley, and it put the game out of reach 27-9.

This was Green Bay's worst defeat at home since the 2011 season. The crowd was restless throughout, and Rodgers heard the occasional booing. "Look. We're upset, they're upset, it's part of it,"² he said.

Dallas 7 10 3 10 30

Green Bay 3 3 0 10 16

78,481

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/16, McGinn p. A2

² packershistory.net/2016 Packers

10.20.2016

CHICAGO

BEARS 10

PACKERS 26

In a three-game stretch against the Giants, Cowboys, and Bears, the Packers went 2-1. They beat their oldest rival with a second-half comeback led by the arm of Aaron Rodgers.

In front of a national audience on a Thursday night, the first half was all field goals. It was 3-0 Green Bay until the last two minutes of the half when they traded field goals for a 6-3 halftime lead.

Twenty seconds into the second half, the Bears took the lead. Defensive tackle Leonard Floyd pulled off the trifecta. He sacked Rodgers in the end zone, stripped him of the

football, and recovered the ball for a touchdown. The Bears led 10-6, and the play was the turning point of the game, but not in the way most expected.

Rather than igniting the Bears, the touchdown woke up Green Bay. Rodgers threw touchdown passes on three straight drives (39-56-326-3-0). Davante Adams caught the first two, and Randall Cobb the other. Cobb's touchdown came with 5:39 left in the game, and it was his 11th catch for 95 yards.

The Packers prevailed without the services of Eddie Lacy (injured reserve, ankle) and James Stark (knee surgery). Aaron Rodgers set a new team record with 39 completions that topped Brett Favre's 36 in 1993, also against the Bears.

Chicago 0 3 7 0 10

Green Bay 3 3 7 13 26

78,217

Time of Possession: GB 39:36 CHI 20:24

"Packers back 'Stock the Shelves' campaign"¹ to fight hunger in Green Bay.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/16, p. A4

10.30.2016

PACKERS 32

ATLANTA

FALCONS 33

The final statistics were as close as the score. On a Monday night in the Georgia Dome, quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Matt Ryan directed an aerial circus of 73 passes. Each quarterback completed 28 passes, with Rodgers throwing four touchdowns and Matt Ryan tossing three. Rodgers also led Green Bay's ground game with 60 yards.

The second quarter had most of the action. After throwing one touchdown to Jordy Nelson, Rodgers threw two more before intermission to Geronimo Allison and Trevor Davis. Matt Ryan threw one touchdown to Devonta Freeman, and the Packers led at the break 24-19.

Atlanta scored on their first possession of the second half. They went 80 yards in 15 plays, and Matt Ryan completed five of six passes. Devonta Freeman took it in from the 1-yard line, and the Falcons led 26-24. In the fourth quarter, consecutive sacks by Mike Daniels and Julius Peppers gave Green Bay the ball with 12:31 left in the fourth quarter. Rodgers directed a 14-play drive and threw his fourth touchdown pass to Jeff Janis to retake the lead 32-26 with 4:04 left.

A red-hot Matt Ryan won the shootout with a final march that was nearly flawless. Ryan

went 9-11 for all 85 yards of the drive. The winner went to Mohamed Sanu with 36 seconds left.

Green Bay 3 17 0 8 32
Atlanta 10 9 7 7 33
70,165

“Packer wives kick off Give-A-Kid-A-Book Campaign featuring Molly Crosby, Jessica McCarthy, and Monica Goode”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/1/16, p. A3

11.6.2016
INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 31
PACKERS 26

Though Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, the Packers appeared out of sync most of the game. Indianapolis started fast when Jordan Todman opened the game with a 99-yard kickoff return. Frank Gore also scored on the ground in the first quarter.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers got the Packers going with a 26-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. The Colts came back just before halftime with quarterback Andrew Luck’s eight-yard touchdown pass to Donte Moncrief for a 24-10 lead.

Green Bay started the second half with an 11-play drive that fizzled with an interception of Aaron Rodgers by cornerback Darius Butler. The Colts couldn’t capitalize, and on Green Bay’s next possession, Mason Crosby kicked a field goal to trim the advantage to 24-13. It would be the closest the Packers came.

Any thoughts of a comeback were quickly squashed in the fourth quarter. The Colts went 71 yards in six plays, and Frank Gore’s second touchdown run made it 31-13 Indianapolis. The lead withstood two more touchdown passes by Rodgers in the final eight minutes. After the game, Aaron Rodgers expressed some concern. “This is what we get paid to do, to bring it every week. We didn’t have the same enthusiasm. So, we’ve got to look deep in the mirror.”¹

Indianapolis 14 10 0 7 31
Green Bay 10 0 3 13 26
78,437

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/7/16, Dougherty, p. A3

11.13.2016

PACKERS 25

TENNESSEE

TITANS 47

Green Bay fell to 4-5. Tennessee took a 21-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Titans' quarterback Marcus Mariota threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns. DeMarco Murray led their ground game with 123 yards and one touchdown.

Tennessee opened the game with an onside kick that the Packers recovered at midfield. Green Bay went three-and-out, and when Tennessee got the ball back, it didn't take long. DeMarco Murray's touchdown run came on Tennessee's first play from scrimmage. He went 75 yards over left tackle for a 7-0 lead, and the blowout was underway.

In the first half, Tennessee quarterback Marcus Mariota threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers. Demarco Murray also threw a touchdown pass in the first half, and the Titans led at the break 35-16.

Green Bay's offense struggled all game. Unable to run the ball (69 yards), Rodgers threw it 55 times (32-55-333-2-2). He threw two touchdown passes in the second quarter, and he scored the Packers' only touchdown in the second half with a 20-yard run up the middle. Otherwise, the offense went nowhere, and Rodgers was sacked five times.

Green Bay	0	16	9	0	25
Tennessee	21	14	6	6	47

69,116

11.20.2016

PACKERS 24

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 42

Green Bay lost its fourth straight game as quarterback Kurt Cousins tore the Packers' secondary to pieces. He threw for 395 yards, and the Redskins totaled 515. The loss left the 4-6 Packers in the "worst position after ten games since McCarthy's first season."¹

Aaron Rodgers and Kurt Cousins traded touchdowns in the first half, and the Redskins led at halftime 13-10. The third quarter made the difference in the game as Washington scored nine unanswered points. A field goal and a 44-yard touchdown bomb from Cousins to Jamison Crowder made it 22-10.

In the fourth quarter, Rodgers threw a 31-yard touchdown to James Starks, but two plays later, Cousins and Pierre Garcon got the points back with a 70-yard touchdown that fooled

the Packers and made it 29-17. Four minutes later, the Packers marched 82 yards, and Rodgers threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Jared Cook that cut it to 29-24. In the final four minutes, Washington didn't panic. They scored twice on touchdown runs by Robert Kelley. Kelley's second score came after Jared's Cook fumble.

On the Wednesday after the loss, and with Green Bay at 4-6, Aaron Rodgers felt confident enough to say, "I feel like we can run the table, I really do. We've really been clicking at times in the past two games. You've got to take it one at a time."²

Green Bay **0 10 0 14 24**
Washington **7 6 9 20 42**
77,137

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/21/16, McGinn, p. A2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/25/16, Wood/Silverstein, p. C3

11.28.2016

PACKERS **27**
PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES **13**

Five days after telling Packer Nation that they could *run the table* and make the postseason, Rodgers began delivering. They defeated the 5-6 Eagles on the road for Philadelphia's first home loss in 2016.

The Packers took off right from the start with touchdowns on their first two drives. Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to Davante Adams, the second of which was a pinpoint pass to the back of the end zone. The Packers led at halftime 14-10.

Green Bay dominated in the second half, holding the Eagles to one field goal. After a Mason Crosby field goal, the Packers went on a 15-play touchdown drive that extended into the fourth quarter. Fullback Aaron Ripkowski scored from the 1-yard line for a 24-13 lead. Later in the quarter, a 19-play drive by the Packers took eight minutes off the clock, and Crosby's second field goal put it away. With the losing streak snapped at four, a happy Mike McCarthy said, "Winning is very difficult in this league, and we haven't had the feeling in five weeks. We missed it. It felt good."¹

Green Bay **7 7 3 10 27**
Philadelphia **7 3 3 0 13**
69,596

*"The Green Bay Packers are hosting 'The Green Bay Packers Community Blood Drive' at the Lambeau Field Legends Club at 7:00pm."*²

1 packershistory.net/2016 (Associated Press)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/16, McGinn, p. C3

12.4.2016
HOUSTON

TEXANS 13
PACKERS 21

"This is our time of year,"¹ proclaimed McCarthy on a snowy Sunday afternoon at Lambeau. Though the snow and cold are indeed old friends of the Packers, the Texans almost pulled off the upset.

The only points in the first half came on a touchdown from quarterback Aaron Rodgers to Randall Cobb. Rodgers went five-for-five on the drive, and the touchdown to Cobb came from the 8-yard line. Cobb celebrated with a snow angle!

On the first drive of the second half, Houston tied it on quarterback Brock Osweiler's touchdown pass to Ryan Griffin. In the fourth quarter, the Packers took the lead back on a Rodgers to Jordy Nelson touchdown. On their next possession, they scored again after long completions to both Jordy Nelson and Jeff Janis. Rookie fullback Aaron Ripkowski scored from the three with 4:18 left.

With two minutes left, Osweiler uncorked a 44-yard touchdown bomb to DeAndre Hopkins. But when Davante Adams recovered the onside kick, the Packers ran out the clock. Aaron Rodgers noted progress. "All three phases are making some plays. We've committed to doing a little bit more. It's showing."²

Houston 0 0 7 6 13
Green Bay 0 7 0 14 21
77,867

Rodgers played with a sore left hamstring.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/16, McGinn, p. A2

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/16, McGinn, p. A2

12.11.2016
SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 10
PACKERS 38

No contest here as the Packers scored on the third play from scrimmage and never looked back. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams hooked up for a 66-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead, a lead they'd never surrender!

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson had a tough game. He threw five picks, and safety Morgan Burnett grabbed the first. The Packers cashed in four plays later with Ty Montgomery's 1-yard run. After a three-and-out by the Seahawks, Rodgers and company

struck again in five plays when Jordy Nelson caught a 9-yard touchdown, and the Packers led, 21-3, at half.

The injury-riddled Packer defense surprisingly had no problem with Russell Wilson. Besides the interceptions, they sacked the elusive signal-caller three times. He also scrambled four times for only 19 yards. Late in the first half and early in the second, Wilson threw straight interceptions. Cornerback Damarious Randall picked off two, with the second leading to a second Rodgers to Nelson hook up.

With Green Bay in front 31-3, the fourth quarter was academic. Rodgers had a spectacular game completing 18 of 23 passes for 246 yards and three touchdowns. He did not throw an interception, and the Packers were 3-0 since he predicted they could "run the table."

Seattle 3 0 0 7 10
Green Bay 7 14 10 7 38
78,057

Turnovers: SEA 6 GB 0

"The Green Bay City Council will weigh in on recommendations for awarding stadium tax money. The Council had earmarked \$1 million of its \$5.5 million in excess Lambeau Field stadium tax money for economic development projects."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/5/16, Rodewald p. C3

12.18.2016

PACKERS 30
CHICAGO
BEARS 27

With this win, the Packers tied their all-time series with the Bears at 94-94-6! The last time Green Bay led the rivalry was in 1932!! "This is a game we needed, and we got it done,"¹ said a relieved Mike McCarthy after the game. After 60 minutes of football, it all came down to Mason Crosby's kick as time expired.

On Green Bay's first possession, Ty Montgomery scored on the ground. It stood 7-3 until quarterback Matt Barkley's 10-yard touchdown pass to Joshua Bellamy. It put Bears in front 10-7. At halftime, it was 10-10.

The Packers stepped up in the third quarter. A strip-sack and a fumble recovery by Julius Peppers set up the second of Mason Crosby's three field goals. It gave Green Bay the lead 13-10, and they poured it on. Two interceptions by Ha Ha Clinton-Dix led to touchdowns by Ty Montgomery and Christine Michael for a 27-10 lead.

The Bears roared back with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. With 1:19 left in the game and Green Bay's defense reeling from the touchdowns, Connor Barth's 22-yard kick

tyed it at 27. With one final opportunity with 31 seconds left, Rodgers hit Jordy Nelson deep down the middle for a 60-yard gain! "That last play from Aaron to Jordy. I'm just standing there watching it, like, 'Go get it, Jordy!' And he came down with it, and it was awesome,"² said Ty Montgomery. On the next play, as time expired, Crosby kicked the 32-yard winner!

Green Bay 3 7 17 3 30
Chicago 0 10 0 17 27
61,137

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/16, McGinn, p. A2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/19/16, Wood/Cohen, p. A4

12.24.2016
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 25
PACKERS 38

The Packers won their fifth straight to stay in the hunt for the division title. With "Aaron Rodgers playing like an MVP again,"¹ the Packers had no trouble with the Vikings, who had lost eight of their previous 10 games.

Aaron Rodgers dominated the game with 347 passing yards and four touchdowns. On Green Bay's second possession, Rodgers threw five straight completions, including a 21-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson. Rodgers and Nelson hooked up again on a 48-yard bomb that put the ball on the 26-yard line. Three plays later, Davante Adams caught the touchdown.

In the second quarter, Rodgers came back to Nelson for touchdown number three, and he finished a spectacular first half with a 6-yard touchdown run. He tossed his fourth touchdown to Richard Rodgers in the fourth quarter, after a short punt by the Vikings. By the time Minnesota scored two touchdowns in the final four minutes, Green Bay led 38-13. After the game, Rodgers described his performance, "I was for whatever reason, at a heightened awareness and focus, and I was seeing things better."²

Minnesota 3 10 0 12 25
Green Bay 14 14 0 10 38
77,856

Rodgers' TD to Jordy Nelson was their 58th – breaking the team's record of Favre and Freeman.

Photo Caption: Before the game, "Haley Hodek, 14 of Neenah, puts the hat on a snowman dressed as Jordy Nelson outside the stadium."³

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/16, Dougherty, p. A3

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/25/16, Dougherty, p. A3

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, p. AA3

1.1.2017

PACKERS 31

DETROIT

LIONS 24

It all came down to this. With the division title on the line, the Packers met the Lions on the road. A red-hot Aaron Rodgers came up big once again with four touchdown passes!

After the Packers punted twice and the Lions missed a field goal, Rodgers started the scoring with a touchdown pass to Aaron Ripkowski. The Lions hit back with touchdowns on their next series, and late in the second quarter, for a 14-7 lead. Green Bay shaved it to four with Mason Crosby's 53-yard boot!

The Packers took control after halftime. Rodgers and Davante Adams connected in the third quarter for a touchdown. In the final 15 minutes, Rodgers put the Lions out of their misery with a touchdown to Geronimo Allison and another to Davante Adams. The Lions scored with 22 seconds left, but Richard Rodgers secured the onside kick to clinch the NFC North for Green Bay!

Reflecting on his *run the table* prediction in November, Rodgers said, "That's what you have to do sometimes as a leader. You have to exude confidence. I believed in myself and my abilities, but I also believed in this team."¹ Happy New Year!

Green Bay 0 10 7 14 31

Detroit 0 14 0 10 24

66,345

Rodgers also ran it 10 times for 42 yards!

1.8.2017

2016 Wild Card Game

NEW YORK

GIANTS 13

PACKERS 38

The thought of the New York Giants coming to Lambeau for a postseason game isn't exactly a happy one. But, with 2007 and 2011 in the distance, this time it was different.

The Monday before the game (on a day-off) four receivers on the Giants flew to Miami for some clubbing and a cruise. No meetings or practices were missed, but it was a distraction for the Giants during their week of preparation for the Packers.

Green Bay got off to a slow start. New York kicked two field goals for an early 6-0 lead, but late in the first half, Julius Peppers sacked quarterback Eli Manning on third down. A short punt followed, and the Packers took over on the Giants' 38. Three plays later, Rodgers to Davante Adams gave them a 7-6 lead. The Giants went three-and-out, and the Packers got the ball back with 1:38 left in the half. With the clock down to six seconds, on New York's 42-yard line, Rodgers heaved a "Hail Mary" to the end zone that Randall Cobb caught! The prayer to Cobb, "killed our momentum and it gave them all the momentum,"² said New York linebacker Jonathan Casillas.

In the third quarter, on New York's second series, Eli Manning threw a 41-yard touchdown pass. But that was it for the Giants, as Green Bay ran off the next 24 points. They did it without Jordy Nelson, who left in the second quarter with a rib injury. Rodgers threw touchdown passes to Cobb and fullback Aaron Ripkowski. After the game, a happy Datone Jones said of his teammates, "Guys are willing to die for each other in this locker room."² The number one-seeded Dallas Cowboys awaited.

New York	3	3	7	0	13
Green Bay	0	14	10	14	38
					77,549

Rodgers was sacked 5 times.

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/9/17, McGinn p. 3B

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/9/17, McGinn p. 1B

1.15.2017

2016 NFC Divisional Playoff

PACKERS 34

DALLAS

COWBOYS 31

The game's final play from scrimmage was one of the most remarkable in Packer history. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers found Jared Cook with a spectacular pass that enabled Mason Crosby to save the day for the Packers on the next play. But let's back up.

The Packers started quickly. A touchdown pass to Richard Rodgers and two touchdown runs by Ty Montgomery gave Green Bay a 21-3 lead midway through the second quarter. A Dallas field goal and a touchdown pass to Dez Bryant made it 21-13 at halftime.

The third quarter was relatively quiet with a Rodgers to Jared Cook touchdown pass. Then, late in the third quarter, Rodgers was picked off by safety Jeff Heath. Dallas capitalized with Dak Prescott's pass to Jason Whitten. Leading 28-20, the Packers were forced to punt after one first down. The Cowboys marched 80 yards in 11 plays and scored on a second touchdown pass to Dez Bryant. The two-point conversion made it 28-28 with 4:08 left.

After trading field goals, Green Bay had the football last with 35 seconds left. Starting on the 25-yard line, Rodgers threw a 17-yard pass to Ty Montgomery for a first down. After a sack and an incomplete pass, Rodgers faced a third-and-20 on his 32-yard line. With 12 seconds left, he scrambled out of the pocket to his left and threw a 36-yard bullet to tight end, Jared Cook. Cook caught the pass at the sideline with both feet inbounds. He dropped to his knees to secure it. This pass play was "one of the most spectacular plays in this franchise's rich history."¹ It set up the Packers at the Dallas 32-yard line. With three seconds left, Mason Crosby nailed a 52-yard boot for the win. Thanks to a Dallas timeout, he made the kick twice!!

Green Bay 7 14 7 6 34
Dallas 3 10 0 18 31
93,396

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/16/17, Dougherty p. A3

1.22.2017

2016 NFC Championship Game

PACKERS 21

ATLANTA

FALCONS 44

The Packers were playing to go to the Super Bowl for the second time in three years. They had "run the table" as Rodgers predicted, but they were stopped one game shy.

Back on October 30th, the Packers lost to the Falcons by one point. Atlanta won it on a last-minute touchdown pass from Matt Ryan to Mohamed Sanu. In the rematch, unfortunately, the number one-seeded Falcons had no trouble scoring.

In the first half, Matt Ryan threw touchdowns to Mohamed Sanu and Julio Jones. Ryan also scored on a 14-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Two of the touchdowns came after Green Bay turnovers, and the Packers generated only 115 yards of offense in the first half. The Falcons led at the break 24-0.

Rodgers opened the second half with three consecutive incomplete passes, and the Packers punted. It took just two plays for Matt Ryan to unload a 73-yard touchdown pass to Julio Jones, 31-0. When the Packers finally made it to the end zone, the Falcons scored again. With Atlanta in a prevent defense, the Packers continued to move the ball, and Rodgers threw two more touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson and Jared Cook. But the defense had been torn apart for 493 yards, and the Packers' winning streak and season came to an end.

Green Bay 0 0 15 6 21
Atlanta 10 14 13 7 44
71,127

2016

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	10	6	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Minnesota	8	8	0
Chicago	3	13	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Montgomery
Receiving	Nelson
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Clinton-Dix
Sacks	Perry

ALL-PRO

Bakhtiari	Tackle
Clinton-Dix	Safety

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Kenny Clark (1, DT)
Jason Spriggs (2, T)
Kyler Fackrell (3, LB)
Blake Martinez (4a, LB)
Dean Lowery (4b, DE)
Trevor Davis (5, WR)



2017

Record: 7-9-0, 3rd Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy

- Titletown Park opened on the west side of Lambeau Field. The team also announced a new partnership with Microsoft.
- The Packers Foundation gave grants totaling \$800,000 to community groups, charitable organizations, and the Green Bay Public Schools.
- Many NFL players knelt during the national anthem to call attention to the continued mistreatment of African-Americans by the police.

- The Packers were 4-1 before Rodgers broke his collarbone in Game six against the Vikings. Brett Hundley replaced him.
- Green Bay lost three straight before beating the Bears. Rodgers missed seven games and returned in December with postseason hopes still alive. He returned against Carolina, but after they lost, he went back on Injured Reserve.
- The Packers were one of the weaker teams in the league on both sides of the ball. The injury to Aaron Rodgers and the defense's inability to stop the pass contributed significantly.

9.10.2017

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 9

PACKERS 17

An excellent start for the Packers against the always tough Seahawks. Green Bay controlled the line of scrimmage most of the game, and they outgained Seattle 370-225. The first quarter was quiet except for an interception thrown by Aaron Rodgers, his first in his previous 251 attempts! Other than that, Seattle took a 3-0 lead into halftime.

Green Bay charged out of the locker room and took control in the third quarter. On Seattle's first series, quarterback Russell Wilson had the ball knocked out of his hand by Mike Daniels. It was recovered by Kyler Fackrell on Seattle's 6-yard line! Running back, Ty Montgomery scored on Green Bay's first play. "It was definitely the momentum-turning point,"¹ said McCarthy of the play by Mike Daniels.

Seattle came back and drove to Green Bay's 3-yard line, but they were held to a field goal. On Green Bay's next possession, Rodgers went six-for-eight on a 65-yard drive. At Seattle's 32-yard line, he caught the Seahawks with too many on the field. He took the free play and hit Jordy Nelson for a 32-yard touchdown for a 14-6 advantage with 17 seconds left in the third quarter!

With eight minutes left, Mason Crosby made it 17-6, and the Packers held on for the win. Defensively, they gave up only 225 yards and three field goals. They also shut down former fullback Eddie Lacy, who had just three yards on five carries.

Seattle 0 3 3 3 9
Green Bay 0 0 14 3 17
78,381

Jordy Nelson joined Donald Driver, Sterling Sharpe, and James Lofton as the only Packers with 500 catches!

Photo Caption: "Everclear performs on Saturday outside Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Everclear opened for Blues Traveler for a free concert the night before the Packers season opener."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/17, Wood/Cohen, p. A4

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/17, p. A3

9.17.2017

PACKERS 23

ATLANTA

FALCONS 34

In a rematch of the previous year's NFC Championship Game, the Falcons got out to another fast start, and the Packers never stood a chance. After short touchdown runs by Atlanta's Devonte Freeman and Green Bay's Ty Montgomery, the Falcons demonstrated their superiority by scoring the next 17 points. Freeman's second touchdown run and a 51-yard field goal made it 17-7. Quarterback Matt Ryan finished the first-half scoring with his lone touchdown pass. It came 24 seconds before halftime and right after Desmond Trufant intercepted Aaron Rodgers.

On the second play of the third quarter, Rodgers dropped back and was hit hard by Vince Beasley as he threw. The pass went in a backward direction and was ruled a fumble. Desmond Trufant returned it 15 yards for a score and a 31-7 lead. After exchanging field goals, Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, but the game was over.

Green Bay 7 0 3 13 23

Atlanta 7 17 10 0 34

70,826

Turnovers: GB 2 ATL 0

*On September 15th, the new **Titletown District** formally opened.*

9.10.2017

CINCINNATI

BENGALS 24

PACKERS 27 (OT)

The winless Bengals took the Packers to overtime. They held Green Bay to 64 yards on the ground, and they sacked quarterback Aaron Rodgers six times.

The Packers never led in regulation-time. Their only points in the first half came on a short Rodgers to Lance Kendricks touchdown, which that tied the score, 7-7. Two touchdown passes by quarterback Andy Dalton and a 75-yard pick-six by William Jackson, gave the Bengals a 21-7 halftime lead.

The Packers came to life in the second half. They scored on their opening series with a nine-play drive, and a Rodgers touchdown to Jordy Nelson. Still trailing 21-14 into the fourth quarter, a Mason Crosby field goal cut it to four, but Cincinnati got three right back with under four minutes left. Then, on the Packers' next series, Rodgers took them 75-yards, drive going nine for 12 on the drive. Pass number 12 went to Jordy Nelson to

tie it with 21 seconds left!

In overtime, the Bengals went three and out. On Green Bay's first series, Rodgers took advantage of another free play as the Bengals jumped offside. He threw deep down the left sideline to Geronimo Allison for a 72-yard gain to the 7-yard line. On second down, with 6:26 left in the extra session, the Packers turned to the clutch Mason Crosby to finish it. He did. "We needed to get this win at home,"¹ said Crosby, Green Bay's all-time leading scorer!

Cincinnati 7 14 0 3 0 24
Green Bay 7 0 7 10 3 27
78,323

This was the hottest game to date at Lambeau Field with the temperature at kickoff 89 degrees.

"The Japanese Packers Cheering Team, after partying at the Green Bay Distillery, braved the scorching heat and walked into Lambeau Field. It was the highly anticipated final step of a more than 6,000-mile journey from Tokyo to Green Bay, all to watch their favorite NFL team. The group of 24 Japanese Packers fans filed into the stadium. 'How beautiful,' Omi Uchida said, standing on the bleachers, his arms out wide. 'Finally, we're here.'"²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/17, Cohen, p. A4

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/25/17, Le Duc, p. C1

9.28.2017

CHICAGO

BEARS 14
PACKERS 35

A Thursday night national audience watched the Packers defeat the Bears for the 13th time in the last 15 games. They also watched as Green Bay took the all-time lead in the rivalry with Chicago for the first time since 1932, 95-94-6!

Though the Bears outgained the Packers (308-260), turnovers and four touchdowns by Aaron Rodgers made the difference. Despite not having their starting offensive tackles, the Packers took control of the game in the first seven minutes. On the game's opening drive, they marched 75 yards for a Rodgers to Davante Adams touchdown. On Chicago's first play from scrimmage, quarterback Mike Glennon fumbled after being hit by Clay Mathews. Jake Ryan recovered it on the 3-yard line, and a Rodgers to Randall Cobb touchdown pass made it 14-0.

Late in the first half, a 45-minute lightning delay interrupted the action. When play resumed, Ha Ha Clinton Dix's interception led to a touchdown by rookie running back Aaron Jones. Before the break, the Bears scored to make it a 21-7.

Near the end of the third quarter, Danny Trevathan's hit on Davante Adams sent him to

the hospital with a concussion. "I just regret the level I hit him at. I was trying to make a play. Nothing intentional,"¹ explained Trevathan later. On the next play, Rodgers and Jordy Nelson found the end zone. If there was any doubt, after another pick by the Packers, Rodgers connected with Nelson again to make it 35-7!

Chicago 0 7 0 7 14

Green Bay 14 7 7 7 35

78,362

The sack was number 75 for Matthews to move him past KGB as GB's all-time sack leader.

In 2017, Lambeau Field celebrated its 60th anniversary. "It's more than football. It's the cultural epicenter of Titledown. A museum. A banquet hall. A wedding chapel."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/17, Wood, p. A3

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/1/17, Wood, p. C5

10.8.2017

PACKERS **35**

DALLAS

COWBOYS **31**

Aaron Rodgers beats the Cowboys again. Like their win over Dallas in the divisional round last season, Rodgers tore the hearts out of Cowboys' fans.

Dallas led the entire first half as quarterback Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Cole Beasley to set the pace. In between, Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams hooked up to stay close. Prescott threw a third touchdown to Dez Bryant to stretch it to 21-6. With a minute left in the half, rookie Aaron Jones in his first start, ran it in from the 7-yard line to cut the lead to 21-12. "I have zero worries about him back there,"¹ Rodgers said of the rookie, who ran for 125 yards.

After a third-quarter field goal, the Packers erupted with a 20-point fourth quarter! A 15-play drive that began in the third quarter ended with a Rodgers to Jordy Nelson touchdown pass in the fourth. Green Bay had its first lead 22-21.

Dallas took it back with a field goal, but a pick-six by Damarious Randall put Green Bay back in front 28-24. Dallas wasn't finished and Dak Prescott's touchdown run gave them a 31-28 edge with 1:13 left. Rodgers led a last-minute drive with an 18-yard scramble for a first down with 21 seconds left. From the 12-yard line, after an incomplete pass to Davante Adams, Rodgers went right back to Adams again for the win. "He ends up doing what he does best, going and finishing out the game, and winning the ballgame,"² said Ezekiel Elliott of the Cowboys.

Green Bay 6 6 3 20 35

Dallas 7 14 0 10 31

93,329

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/17, Silverstein, p. A2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/9/17, Dougherty, p. A3

10.15.2017

PACKERS 10

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 23

Eight minutes into the game and on the eighth play from scrimmage for Green Bay, Aaron Rodgers suffered a broken right collarbone and was lost for the season. On the play, Rodgers scrambled to his right, and just after releasing a pass, he was knocked down and landed on by Minnesota's Anthony Barr.

Second-year backup quarterback Brett Hundley came in for Rodgers. His first pass was intercepted, and the Vikings took a 7-0 lead two plays later. Green Bay struck back on a fumble recovery by Clay Matthews that he returned 63-yards. Hundley capitalized with a 14-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams to tie it. Minnesota matched the touchdown, but a Damarious Randall interception set up Mason Crosby's field goal before halftime.

That would be it for Green Bay offensively, and the Vikings managed just three more field goals. The Packers were outgained 351-227, and Hundley was sacked four times. He also threw three interceptions, with two coming in the fourth quarter. The Press-Gazette headline the next day said what many Packers fan had been thinking: "Unless Rodgers returns, Packers are finished."¹

Green Bay 0 0 10 0 10

Minnesota 0 14 3 6 23

66,848

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/16/17, p. A3

10.22.2017

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 26

PACKERS 17

The Saints had no trouble with the Packers. Drew Brees threw his 500th career touchdown pass, and he picked apart Green Bay's secondary for 331 yards. New Orleans outgained Green Bay 485-260, and they took control in the second half.

In quarterback Brett Hundley's first start, the Packers scored on the seventh play of the game. Aaron Jones slipped through right guard for a 46-yard sprint to the end zone. With Hundley's 14-yard touchdown run, the Packers led at halftime 14-6.

After intermission, the Packers came out flat in the second half, and “Hundley didn't make any big mistakes—his lone interception came with the Packers trailing by nine points in the final minutes—but he also didn't make any big plays.”¹ The Saints didn't waste any time dominating the final 30 minutes. They scored the first two times they had the ball. In the third quarter, Drew Brees threw a touchdown to Brandon Coleman, and then ran for another in the fourth to wrap things up 26-17.

New Orleans 0 7 9 10 26
Green Bay 7 7 0 3 17
78,380

Brett Hundley: 12-25-87-01

The 1967 NFL Championship Team was honored between the first and second quarters. Bart Starr and several other players were on hand. While visiting Green Bay, Starr donated several items to the Packers Hall of Fame, “including his favorite (1967) championship ring.”² Bart Starr Jr. explained, “These items have all along belonged to the Packers and to the city and to the fans. This is just sort of the final chapter in getting there.”²

¹ packershistory.net/2017, Associated Press

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/17, Ryman, p. A2, A4

11.6.2017

DETROIT

LIONS 30
PACKERS 17

After their bye week, the Packers got smoked by the Lions in Green Bay for the second time in three years. The right arm of Matt Stafford carried the day with 361 yards passing and no interceptions. Detroit outgained the Rodgers-less Packers 417-311.

The Lions jumped in front 14-0 with two first-half touchdowns. Stafford opened the scoring with a 25-yard strike to wideout Marvin Jones. The Packers managed only one field goal, and at halftime, they trailed 14-3. In the second half, kicker Matt Prater kicked three field goals, and Stafford connected with Marvin Jones again for six. Green Bay scored on touchdown runs by Hundley and Jamal Williams in the final 10 minutes. Both teams were now 4-4.

Detroit 7 7 3 13 30
Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17
77,575

“The Green Bay Packers hosted a flag football tournament for members of all five branches of the Armed Forces on Saturday—part of the Packers’ Salute to Service Program.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/8/17, Matthews, p. A3

11.12.2017

PACKERS 23

CHICAGO

BEARS 16

The Packers and quarterback Brett Hundley won their first game without Rodgers in dramatic fashion. After trading field goals, a 44-yard punt return by Trevor Davis set up Green Bay. Running back, Ty Montgomery broke off left tackle for a 37-yard sprint and a 10-6 Packers lead at halftime.

Mason Crosby led the scoring early in the second half with two field goals. Trailing 16-6 in the fourth quarter, Chicago quarterback Mitch Trubisky and wideout Josh Bellamy connected to cut the Green Bay lead to 16-13 with ten minutes left.

Hundley's passing (18-25-212-0-0) and scrambling kept Green Bay's next drive alive. He finished it with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams for a 10-point lead with five minutes left! "I think it gives us a boost of confidence, especially getting the first one,"¹ said a victorious Brett Hundley.

Green Bay 3 7 3 10 23

Chicago 3 3 0 10 16

61,285

Sacks: GB 5 CHI 3

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/13/17, Silverstein, p. A2

11.19.2017

BALTIMORE

RAVENS 23

PACKERS 0

This was the first of two shutouts suffered by the Packers in the final seven weeks. Quarterback Brett Hundley was sacked six times, and the Packers turned the ball over five times. Interceptions stopped Green Bay's first two drives, and a fumble stopped the third. "The first three drives ending in turnovers were probably the biggest factor in the game,"¹ McCarthy said.

Kicker Justin Tucker's two field goals in the first half gave the Ravens a halftime lead. Then, with just two minutes gone in the second half, Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco hit wideout Mike Wallace for a 21-yard touchdown. In the fourth quarter, another field goal and a third interception by the Ravens set up the final touchdown run by Alex Collins.

In the second half, Green Bay's offense stumbled further, and the turnovers continued. Three of Green Bay's five turnovers led to 13 points for Baltimore. Fans became very

frustrated, and “there were several times throughout the Packers’ first shutout loss in 11 years when fans inside Lambeau Field let the offense know how they felt.”²

Baltimore 0 6 7 10 23
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
77,945

Sacks: GB 3 BAL 6

¹ packershistory.net/2017

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/20/17, Wood, Cohen, Silverstein, p. A4

11.26.2017

PACKERS 28

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 31

In a back-and-forth battle with seven lead changes, the Steelers finally prevailed with a field goal as time ran out.

Despite getting sacked four times and hit hard all game, this was a good game for quarterback Brett Hundley. He threw for 245 yards and three touchdowns to lead Green Bay. In the first half, Randall Cobb and Jamaal Williams caught the touchdowns. His favorite target, Davante Adams, caught five passes, including a 55-yard touchdown bomb early in the second half to put Green Bay back on top 21-14.

The Steelers, who turned the ball over four times, persevered. With a strong defense that contained the Packers in the second half, their offense took over. For the rest of the game, the Steelers outscored the Packers 17-7. Antonio Brown led all receivers with two touchdown catches in the second half and 169 yards overall. Le’Veon Bell led the ground game with 95 yards as well as 12 catches for 88 more.

With Pittsburgh leading 28-21, Hundley directed a game-tying touchdown drive with just over two minutes left. The Packers went 77 yards in 12 plays to tie it 28-28. Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger came back with two completions to Antonio Brown to put them in field goal position. From the 35, Chris Boswell nailed a 53-yard field goal to win it.

Green Bay 14 0 7 7 28
Pittsburgh 6 8 7 10 31
61,147

On Thursday, “The Green Bay Packers Organization is sponsoring a blood drive from 7am to 7pm at Lambeau Field’s Legends Club.”¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/29/17, p. A3

12.3.2017

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 20
PACKERS 26 (OT)

The Packers got back to .500 with this overtime victory.

The Bucs scored on their opening drive with the first of two touchdown passes by Jameis Winston. Green Bay took over with the next 17 points, and a field goal by Mason Crosby started it. After Packers' linebacker, Kyler Fackrell "got his hand on a punt attempt,"¹ running back Jamaal Williams carried four times on a short, six-play drive for a touchdown and a 10-7 lead. Tampa's next series ended when Jameis Winston was sacked and stripped of the football by Kenny Clark. Defensive end Dean Lowry recovered it and ran 62 yards for a 17-7 lead. "I saw myself on the big screen. Lambeau Leap right here. So, I got up there and did it. I was definitely gassed afterward,"¹ Lowery said.

Two field goals by Tampa's Patrick Murray cut it to 17-13. In the fourth quarter, with six minutes left, the Buccaneers retook the lead 20-17. Quarterback Jameis Winston led a 13-play drive, and he threw his second touchdown pass of the game to tight end Cameron Brate. The Packers responded with a 75-yard drive and Mason Crosby's game-tying field goal with 2:03 left! After that, both teams had one more shot in regulation-time without success.

After winning the overtime toss, the Packers scored on their eighth play. Rookie running back Aaron Jones sent everyone home happy with a 20-yard touchdown around left end!

Tampa Bay 7 3 0 10 0 20
Green Bay 3 14 0 3 6 26
77,684

Sacks: GB 7 TB 2

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/17, Courtney, p. A5

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/17, Wood, p. A4

12.10.2017

PACKERS 27
CLEVELAND
BROWNS 21 (OT)

The Packers won their third overtime game of the season, but they were pushed to the limit by the winless Browns.

Green Bay took a first-quarter lead on quarterback Brett Hundley's 30-yard touchdown pass to Jamaal Williams. The Browns responded with the next 21 points, and quarterback

DeShone Kizer threw three touchdown passes.

In the final quarter, the Packers found traction. Hundley (35-46-265-3-0) finished a good game with a strong fourth quarter and overtime. Jamaal Williams (118 yards) scored his second touchdown of the game, this one on the ground. Late in the game, after stopping Cleveland, Trevor Davis returned a punt 65 yards to Cleveland's 25 with 2:37 remaining. Hundley tied it with a 1-yard pass to Davante Adams with 17 seconds left!

On Cleveland's third play of the overtime, pressure from Clay Matthews hurried Kizer into an interception by safety Josh Jones on the 42-yard line. Six plays later, on third down, Hundley tossed a screen pass to Davante Adams that exploded into the 25-yard winner!

Green Bay 7 0 0 14 6 27
Cleveland 7 7 7 0 0 21
67,431

12.17.17

PACKERS 24

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 31

Aaron Rodgers returned from a broken collarbone he suffered in mid-October against the Vikings. Unfortunately, he couldn't pull off a win against 9-4 Carolina. Rodgers was inconsistent (26-45-290-3-3) with three touchdown passes and three interceptions. Green Bay led at halftime 14-10 on touchdown passes to Davante Adams and Randall Cobb.

In the second half, Carolina rallied. Quarterback Cam Newton (20-31-242-4-0) went over and around Green Bay as the Panthers pulled away. His touchdown passes went to tight end Greg Olsen and wideout Damiere Byrd (2x), and Newton ran for 58 more. For Green Bay, a 24-yard touchdown pass to tight end Richard Rodgers narrowed Carolina's lead to seven with 2:48 left. It ended there for the Packers, and the loss eliminated them from the postseason. The next day, Aaron Rodgers went back on Injured Reserve.

Green Bay 7 7 3 7 24
Carolina 7 3 14 7 31
74,447

Turnovers: GB 4 CAR 0

12.23.2017
MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 16
PACKERS 0

A Sunday Night game at Lambeau Field wasn't the showdown that Green Bay fans had hoped for when they first looked at the schedule.

Since Green Bay was eliminated from postseason consideration, the game was about playing spoiler. The first-place Vikings (11-3) were trying to secure a home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. They had no trouble doing so, and they swept the season series with the Packers for the first time since 2009. They won it behind a Casey Keenum touchdown pass and three field goals. With quarterback Aaron Rodgers on the sidelines, Brett Hundley "sputtered through a forgettable performance"¹ throwing two interceptions. The second came with 2:04 left in the game.

Minnesota 10 0 3 3 16
Green Bay 0 0 0 0 0
78,092

*"Catch a Star" helps make wishes come true for Wisconsin children this holiday season. Quarterback Brett Hundley is a sponsor."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/17, Cohen, p. C1
² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/17, p. E4

12.31.2017

PACKERS 11
DETROIT
LIONS 35

For the first time since 1991, the Packers were swept by the Lions. After Green Bay took a 3-0 lead, Detroit blew it open with the next 20 points. They led at halftime 20-3. Quarterback Matt Stafford passed for 323 yards and three touchdowns. Touchdown passes went to Golden Tate, Marvin Jones, and Kenny Golladay. Detroit also outgained Green Bay 356-256. This was Green Bay's first losing season in nine years.

Green Bay 3 0 0 8 11
Detroit 3 17 7 8 35
62,501

Mark Murphy, Packers' President: "There's something wholesome about a small-market team being able to compete within the big NFL. There's a purity involved with the Packers that's just refreshing. My predecessor—Bob Harlan—called the Packers the greatest story in sports, and

I agree with that.”¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 78

2017

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Minnesota	13	3	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Green Bay	7	9	0
Chicago	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Hundley
Rushing	Williams
Receiving	Adams
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Randall
Sacks	Mathews

ALL-PRO

Bakhtiari Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Kevin King (2a, DB)

Josh Jones (2b, S)

Montravius Adams (3, DT)

Vince Biegel (4a, LB)

Jamaal Williams (4b, RB)

Aaron Jones (5b, RB)

Devante Mays (7a, RB)



PACKERS CENTURY

1919-2019

2018

Record: 6-9-1, 4th Place

Coach: Mike McCarthy/Joe Philbin

- The Packers celebrated their 100th season! Special activities and celebrations were planned leading up to their 100th birthday on August 11, 2019!
- Phase II of the Titledown District was announced. The project included 220 residences, an office building, and many retail/entertainment spots.

- Brian Gutekunst replaced Ted Thompson as General Manager.
- In July, Jerry Kramer was finally inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame!
- Aaron Rodgers signed a contract extension before the season.
- This was Green Bay's second straight losing season and just their fourth since 1992. After losing to Arizona in game number 12, Mike McCarthy was fired.
- The Packers Foundation awarded \$800,000 in community-based charitable grants.

9.9.2018

CHICAGO

BEARS 23

PACKERS 24

Green Bay's centennial season began with the *greatest* fourth-quarter comeback in franchise history! Quarterback Aaron Rodgers brought the Packers back from 17 points down in the fourth quarter for a thrilling win.

On a perfect night for football, the Bears stunned everyone by getting out to a 20-0 lead. Quarterback Mitchell Trubisky scored the first points on a 2-yard run after an 86-yard drive. After a field goal gave Chicago a 10-0 lead, Aaron Rodgers was sacked and injured. He "was carted off the field in the second quarter"¹ with an injured left knee and was replaced by DeShone Kizer. Kizer fumbled the ball on his first series (recovered by linebacker Kahlil Mack) and threw a pick-six to Mack on his second. Mack took it back 37 yards to the house for a 17-0 halftime lead.

With 9:10 left in the third quarter and trailing 20-0, Aaron Rodgers returned to the cheers of the crowd. Immediately, the offense heated up. Rodgers went five-for-seven on their first series, which ended with a field goal. Trailing by 17 at the start of the fourth quarter, Rodgers turned red-hot. On their next possession, he went six-for-seven, including a 39-yard touchdown pass to Geronimo Allison. In his third season, Allison made a spectacular catch in the end zone and "looked like a seasoned pro."²

After Chicago went three-and-out, Rodgers threw five straight completions and his second touchdown pass to Davante Adams to make it a three-point game, 20-17, with nine minutes left. The Bears took the next six minutes off the clock, and with 2:42 remaining, Cody Parkey's field goal stretched it 23-17. Three plays later, Aaron Rodgers found Randall Cobb over the middle on a short pass, and Cobb outran Khalil Mack for a 75-yard touchdown and a 24-23 lead!

With 2:08 left, all eyes were on the defense. Mitch Trubisky's nine straight completions

kept moving the sticks. On play number 10, he was sacked and stripped of the football by linebacker Nick Perry. Kenny Clark recovered. Game over!

Chicago 7 10 3 3 23

Green Bay 0 0 3 21 24

78,282

In the second half, Rodgers' QBR was 152.7.

The 100th Season Party outside Lambeau Field drew an estimated 20,000 people. "Steve Miller gets Packers party started."³

1 packershistory.net/2018Packers (Associated Press)

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/11/18, Baranczyk/Dougherty, p. D1

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/10/18, Meinert, p. C2

9.16.2018

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 29

PACKERS 29 (OT)

In a quarterback duel, Kirk Cousins (35-48-425-4-1) outdueled Aaron Rodgers (30-42-281-1-0). With 90 drop-backs between them, Cousins was sacked twice, while Rodgers went down four times.

The Packers started the scoring in the first quarter with a blocked punt by Geronimo Allison that was returned for a quick lead by Josh Jackson! Kirk Cousins came back with his first touchdown pass, and Aaron Rodgers countered with a 12-play drive and a touchdown to Davante Adams. A field goal before halftime made it 17-7 Green Bay.

After Crosby's third-quarter field goal, the Vikings made their stand. In the game's final 20 minutes, they outscored the Packers 22-9. Green Bay kicked field goals while Minnesota's offense caught fire. Cousins threw two touchdowns to Stefan Diggs that made it a two-point game, 23-21 Packers.

Two more field goals by Mason Crosby gave the Packers a cushion 29-21. With 1:45 left in regulation, the Vikings took over on the 25. An interception by the Packers was reversed by a roughing-the-passer penalty on Clay Mathews. The disputed call, part of the new guidelines on hitting quarterbacks, gave the ball back to the Vikings, who tied it with a pass to Adam Thielen.

In the overtime, Minnesota's Daniel Carlson missed two field goals. In between, Green Bay picked up one first down before Rodgers was sacked to take them out of field goal range. This was the Packers' first tie since 2013, also against the Vikings!

Minnesota 7 0 0 22 0 29

Green Bay 7 10 3 9 0 29

78,461

*"The Packers on Tuesday announced five \$50,000 donations to Wisconsin organizations chosen by players."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/12/18, Ryman, p. A2

9.23.2018

PACKERS 17

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 31

The Packers were never in it. In a battle of first round draft choices in 2005, Aaron Rodgers and Alex Smith, penalties (11-115), and four sacks played a huge role in Green Bay's demise.

Washington got off to a fast start. On their fourth play from scrimmage, Alex Smith threw a 46-yard touchdown pass to wideout Paul Richardson. Running back, Adrian Peterson scored twice in the first half, and Smith tossed another touchdown late in the second quarter. Green Bay's lone touchdown came on a Rodgers to Geronimo Allison connection with two minutes left.

The final 30 minutes were academic, though Rodgers and Davante Adams kept matters interesting with a third-quarter touchdown. In the final 22 minutes, Green Bay didn't get closer than Washington's 43-yard line. With an injured knee, Rodgers was far less mobile and, "it was painful watching him trying to elude pass rushers while dragging his leg."¹

Green Bay 0 10 7 0 17

Washington 14 14 0 3 31

82,000

Clay Matthews was flagged for another roughing-the-passer penalty.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/24/18, Dougherty, p. A3

9.30.2018

BUFFALO

BILLS 0

PACKERS 22

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers wore a protective brace on his left knee, and the Packers defeated the Bills. Rodgers had a good game, and his touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham started the scoring. Overall, Rodgers passed for 298 yards with one interception. Early in the second quarter, Aaron Jones sparked a touchdown drive by accounting for 50 of the drive's 83-yards! Green Bay led at halftime.

The rest of the points came from Mason Crosby from 52, 36, and 52 yards away. On the defensive end, Green Bay was strong. They held the Bills to 145 total yards, and rookie quarterback Josh Allen was sacked seven times. The Bills managed to reach Green Bay's 20-yard line just once all game.

Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	6	10	3	3	22

78,312

*Bill Curry, former Packers' Center: "We took our grandsons back there (Lambeau Field). I get goosebumps thinking about it now. You think about all that history and all the great players who had been there. It is a religious experience in the minds of many people."*¹

¹ Facing the Green Bay Packers, Carlson, p. 18

10.7.2018

PACKERS	23
DETROIT	
LIONS	31

Green Bay won the statistical battle. Besides never having to punt, the Packers outgained the Lions 521-264, and they generated 30 first downs to Detroit's 18. But the home team was intent on extending their two-game winning streak over Green Bay. They came out strong and dominated the first 30 minutes. A muffed punt by Kevin King of the Packers gave Detroit the ball on the 1-yard line. They followed that with the first of two touchdown runs by LeGarrette Blount. In the second quarter, a strip-sack of Aaron Rodgers led to a 24-0 halftime lead.

Green Bay woke up after halftime and got back in the game.....momentarily. On back-to-back drives, Rodgers went 13 for 18 with two touchdowns to rookie Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Lance Kendricks to trim the deficit to 24-14. In the fourth quarter, Matt Stafford threw another touchdown pass before Rodgers and Adams connected to trim it to 31-20 with nine minutes left. But that was it for Green Bay as the Lions gave up only a field goal the rest of the way.

Green Bay	0	0	14	9	23
Detroit	14	10	0	7	31

63,405

Rodgers: 32-52-442-3-0

10.15.2018
SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **30**
PACKERS **33**

Here was an exciting Monday Night Football Game with a 44-point first half! Both offenses moved the ball up and down Lambeau Field easily. The 49ers (1-4) managed 401 yards, and the Packers produced 521.

San Francisco scored on the opening drive, and Green Bay retaliated with the next 17. Ty Montgomery scored on the ground, and Aaron Rodgers finished a quick, five-play drive with a touchdown pass to Davante Adams. But quarterback C. J. Beathard threw two first-half touchdown passes of his own to Marquise Goodwin for a 24-20 lead at halftime.

Field goals dominated the second half. San Francisco kicked three, and Mason Crosby kicked two more. After the Packers passed on a 4-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, Rodgers and Adams connected again for a 30-30 tie.

With 1:13 left, cornerback Kevin King stopped the Niners with an interception on Green Bay's 10-yard line. Rodgers marched 90 yards in 11 plays for the win. The drive was kept alive by an illegal contact penalty on cornerback Richard Sherman. With three seconds left, Crosby put another in the win column from the 27!

San Francisco **14 10 3 3 30**
Green Bay **17 3 3 10 33**
77,642

Total Yards: GB 521 SF 401

Kevin Harlan, son of former Packers' President Bob Harlan, worked the game as the radio voice of Westwood One. His daughter, Olivia Dekker, reported from the sidelines. It was the first time a father and daughter worked together on an NFL broadcast!

Joseph Kay, Packer fan: "A few months ago (Fall 2018), the 'Majik Man' was doing a private signing, and I figured I would drop off something to get a signature. I have this Packers' helmet lamp that is, well, unique. So, I figured that it would be a fun piece to have signed, so I just needed an idea for the inscription. After checking Wikipedia, I saw that Majik and the Cardiac Pack beat Joe Montana and the 49ers in 1989 (21-17 on 11/19/89). So, I requested that Don sign the lamp, 'I beat Joe Montana.' And he did. And according to the guy running the signing, Joe Cool himself was at the same event and apparently got a look at the lamp while making some small talk with Majik!"

10.28.2018

PACKERS 27

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 29

Coming off their bye week, the Packers were well-rested for this highly-anticipated matchup. A win against the undefeated Rams would get the season fully back on track.

The Packers took a 7-0 after two long completions from Rodgers to Davante Adams and Jimmy Graham. Jamaal Williams scored the points from the 1-yard line. After a field goal for a 10-0 lead, running back Aaron Jones was tackled in the end zone for a safety. On the punt after the safety, the Rams capitalized with a touchdown. At half, they trailed 10-8.

The second half started with a 53-yard boot by Mason Crosby! The Rams reclaimed the lead on two more touchdown passes by quarterback Jared Goff. Now trailing 23-13, the Packers came back with a 33-yard touchdown run by Aaron Jones. A field goal by Greg Zuerlein put the Rams up, 26-20.

A 40-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to rookie speedster Marquez Valdes-Scantling gave Green Bay the lead 27-26 with nine minutes left. Big sacks by Clay Matthews and Aaron Donald stopped the next two drives. But with five minutes to go, a 25-yard punt by Green Bay's J.K. Scott set up L.A. at midfield. The Rams were held to a field goal, and a 29-27 lead. With 2:05 left, Green Bay's Ty Montgomery was told not to bring a kick out of the end zone. He ignored the plan, ran it out, and fumbled on the 21-yard line. Game over. Montgomery was traded two days later.

Green Bay 7 3 10 7 27

Los Angeles 0 8 15 6 29

75,822

*Packer "fans flooded the Coliseum. The Rams had to go to a silent count at home."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/29/18, Courtney/Owczarski, p. A5

11.4.2018

PACKERS 17

NEW ENGLAND

PATRIOTS 31

The second half of the season began with a matchup of two of the league's best quarterbacks—Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers. In fine games by both, Brady prevailed.

New England's opening drive was fast. Brady snapped the ball every 20 seconds! He hit

on five of six passes, and James White bolted around left end untouched into the end zone. In the second quarter, with Green Bay trailing 10-3, Aaron Rodgers to Davante Adams hooked up for a touchdown, 10-10. Right before halftime, the Pats regained the lead 17-10 behind the running of Cordarrelle Patterson.

On the third play after halftime, a 51-yard pass from Rodgers to Marquez Valdes-Scantling set up a touchdown pass to tight end Jimmy Graham a few plays later. On defense, a goal-line stand held off the Patriots until the fourth quarter. But these “flashes of brilliance were too infrequent for the Packers to defeat Brady.”¹ The fatal blow came on the first play of the fourth quarter when Aaron Jones fumbled on New England’s 24-yard line. New England put it out of reach with Brady’s 55-yard touchdown to Josh Gordon.

Green Bay 3 7 7 0 17

New England 7 10 0 14 31

65,878

Rodgers 24-43-259-2-0

Brady 22-35-294-1-0

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/18, Baranczyk/Dougherty, p. 1

11.11.2018

MIAMI

DOLPHINS 12

PACKERS 31

This win kept the Packers in the postseason conversation for another week. Green Bay controlled the game from start to finish. They held Miami to four field goals, and their balanced offense carried the day. The speedy Aaron Jones starred with 145 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

On the game’s opening drive, the Dolphins fumbled deep in Green Bay territory. Aaron Rodgers turned it around the other way for a touchdown pass to Davante Adams. In the second quarter, Green Bay went 71 yards in three plays for six more. Aaron Jones gained all of those yards, starting with his 67-yard dash right up the middle!

With the Dolphins behind 14-9 in the second half, they blocked J.K. Scott’s punt. Miami kicked a field goal that narrowed the lead to two. That was it for the Dolphins as the Packers hit back hard with 17 more to pull away. Jones and Adams scored their second touchdowns, and Rodgers finished with 199 yards passing, two touchdowns, and no interceptions!

Miami 3 6 3 0 12

Green Bay 7 7 14 3 31

78,076

Total Yards: GB 377 MIA 294

“Green Bay Packers’ Titletown District opens its skating pond. The annual Winter Jubilee will kick off winter and holiday programming in the district.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/18, Ryman, p. A1

11.15.2018

PACKERS 24

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 27

The Packers took charge early, but they couldn’t hold off Seattle. On the game’s first play from scrimmage, the Seahawks fumbled the ball away. Green Bay had a short drive to the end zone, and Aaron Jones scored the first points. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers then hooked up with tight end Robert Tonyan for a 54-yard score to make it 14-3.

In the second quarter, the Seahawks struck back with two scoring drives. Their second touchdown came after a 48-yard pass interference penalty on Packer safety Raven Greene. With Green Bay now trailing 17-14, they put together a quick, five-play drive. Rodgers’ five straight completions included a 24-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Jones for a 21-17 halftime lead.

After they traded field goals in the fourth quarter, quarterback Russell Wilson took back the lead with a 15-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ed Dickson. With five minutes left, the Packers went three-and-out.

Green Bay 14 7 0 3 24

Seattle 3 14 0 10 27

69,007

Sacks: GB 3 SEA 5

“The Packers announced the kickoff of the annual Salvation Army fundraiser that includes player autograph sessions on Mondays. Aaron Rodgers again pledged to match up to \$50,000 in donations.”¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/15/18, Ryman, p. A12

11.25.2018

PACKERS 17

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 24

The game was close throughout. In the first half, all the scoring came on four consecutive touchdowns drives! Green Bay broke the ice with an Aaron Rodgers to Davante Adams touchdown. Quarterback Kirk Cousins matched it with a touchdown to Dalvin Cook.

Rodgers went five-for-five on Green Bay's next series, and Aaron Jones cashed in around left end for a 14-7 edge. The Vikings followed with a quick, three-minute drive to even it up at halftime.

The Vikings took control after halftime with a field goal and a third Kirk Cousins touchdown pass. They held on in the fourth quarter with an eight-minute drive that did not produce any points! Green Bay's offense was "stagnant for the bulk of the second half,"¹ and Mason Crosby's field goal ended the scoring with 2:20 left.

Green Bay 7 7 0 3 17

Minnesota 7 7 10 0 24

66,872

Total Yards: GB 254 MINN 456

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/18, Owczarski, p. A1

12.2.2018

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 20

PACKERS 17

This was Mike McCarthy's last game as coach of the Green Bay Packers. Mike Murphy, Packers' President, fired McCarthy after this loss.

Despite being 14-point favorites at home, the defeat put an end to any remaining postseason hopes for the Packers. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was uncharacteristically off target most of the game (31-50-233-1-0). "He threw balls high; he threw them low; he threw them too far, he threw them too short."¹ Green Bay scored in the first quarter on a Rodgers to Davante Adams 13-yard touchdown. The Cardinals answered on their drive, and Mason Crosby's field goal was the difference in a 10-7 first half.

Four straight punts started things off after the break. A field goal then lifted the Cardinals into a 10-10 tie. After a three-and-out by Green Bay, a short punt gave the ball back to Arizona at the 35. Quarterback Josh Rosen took it himself right up the middle of the defense for 33 yards to the Packers' 32. Three plays later, it was 17-10 Cardinals.

The Packers tied the score on an 11-play drive that Aaron Jones finished with an 8-yard touchdown run. Knotted 17-17 with 5:31 left, Arizona completed the comeback after a critical third-down catch early in the drive by veteran Larry Fitzgerald. With David Johnson's running, the Cardinals marched into field goal range, and newly acquired kicker Zane Gonzalez delivered. The Packers had 1:41 left, but Crosby missed from the 49.

Arizona 0 7 10 3 20

Green Bay 0 10 0 7 17

77,234

*Packer President Mark Murphy: "In evaluating the season, I really felt that change was needed and kind of Mike's tenure had run its course."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/3/18, Silverstein, p. A1

12.9.2018

ATLANTA

FALCONS 20

PACKERS 34

Joe Philbin replaced Mike McCarthy as interim coach for the team's final four games. As expected, the players looked excited by the change. Rodgers played well, and "maybe he felt more energized or engaged, or something after McCarthy's firing."¹ He matched quarterback Matt Ryan's opening touchdown pass with one of his own to Davante Adams. In the last 7:45 of the first half, Green Bay took control with 13 points. Between field goals of 48 and 50 yards by Mason Crosby, a pick-six by Bashaud Breeland made it 20-7 at halftime.

Green Bay put it away in the third quarter. A second touchdown pass from Rodgers and a 29-yard touchdown sprint by Aaron Jones made it 34-7. Matt Ryan's touchdown passes in the fourth quarter meant little.

Atlanta 7 0 0 13 20

Green Bay 7 13 14 0 34

77,329

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/10/18, Dougherty, p. A1

12.16.2018

PACKERS 17

CHICAGO

BEARS 24

The Packers suffered a rare loss to their archrival. With the loss, the Packers were 27-12 against the Bears since 2000, including the 2010 NFC Championship Game.

In the first 30 minutes, the 9-4 Bears scored on Jordan Howard's touchdown run and quarterback Mitchell Trubisky's pass to speedy Tarik Cohen for a 14-3 lead. Surprisingly, the Packers couldn't make it to the end zone, and Mason Crosby's two field goals accounted for all of their scoring until midway through the third quarter.

Trailing 14-6, Jamaal Williams' touchdown run and a two-point conversion tied it. The

Bears answered with the next 10 points for a 24-14 lead. With seven minutes left, Rodgers drove the Packers to Chicago's 9-yard line, but he was intercepted by Eddie Jackson. The pick proved fatal, and unlike their big comeback in the opener, the Packers "failed to make plays that win games."¹

Green Bay 0 3 11 3 17
Chicago 7 7 0 10 24
62,372

Sacks: GB 1 Chi 5

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/17/18, Dougherty, p. A1

12.23.2018

PACKERS 44
NEW YORK
JETS 38 (OT)

Playing from behind most of the game, the Packers rallied in the final 23 minutes with a quarterback that would not be denied.

After the Jets took a 14-0 lead, the Packers played catch-up. After a 99-yard kickoff return by New York's Andre Roberts made it 21-7, Rodgers went four-for-five on the way to Jamaal Williams' touchdown run. At halftime, it was 21-17 Jets.

Two touchdown passes from quarterback Sam Darnold made it 35-20. In the fourth quarter, the Packers put up 18 unanswered points behind two touchdown runs by Rodgers and Crosby's third field goal. Rodgers' first touchdown that cut the deficit to 35-30 came with the help of back-to-back pass interference penalties against the Jets. He scored from the one with 6:37 left in the game. The second touchdown run and his two-point conversion run gave the Packers the lead 38-35. The two-point conversion was successful on the second try after a Jets interception on the first attempt was called back for defensive holding.

A field goal by Jason Myers forced overtime. Green Bay won the toss, and after a critical, 33-yard pass interference call against Trumaine Johnson, Rodgers found Davante Adams for the 16-yard winner! When asked about the team playing better late in games vs. early, Rodgers responded, "It's hard to really figure out. The urgency level is so high. It's hard to replicate that in the first quarter because you've got more opportunities, and there will be more possessions."¹

Green Bay 0 17 13 18 6 44
New York 7 14 14 3 0 38
77,982

Total Yards: GB 413 NYJ 323

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/24/18, Dougherty, p. A1

12.30.2018

DETROIT

LIONS **31**
PACKERS **0**

The last time the Lions shut out the Packers was 1973!

The perseverance that Green Bay displayed against the Jets last week had disappeared before they played the Lions. After the first quarter, Aaron Rodgers gave way to backup quarterback Deshaun Kizer. The Packers couldn't run the ball, and Kizer completed just 16 passes for 132 yards. They were easily outgained (402-175), and they finished 6-9-1.

Detroit **7 14 3 7 31**
Green Bay **0 0 0 0 0**
77,341

2018

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Chicago	12	4	0
Minnesota	8	7	1
Green Bay	6	9	1
Detroit	6	10	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Rushing	Jones
Receiving	Adams
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Clinton-Dix
Sacks	Fackrell

ALL-PRO

Bakhtiari Tackle

NOTABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Jaire Alexander (1, CB)

Josh Jackson (2, CB)

Oren Burks (3, LB)

J'Mon Moore (4, WR)

J.K. Scott (5b, P)

Marquez Valdes-Scantling (5c, WR)

Equanimeous St. Brown (6, WR)



2019
Record: 13-3-0, 1st Place
Coach: Matt LaFleur

- On January 8th, Matt LaFleur was hired as the head coach of the Packers. LaFleur was the offensive coordinator for Tennessee, and he became Green Bay's youngest head coach since Curly Lambeau.
- In free agency, General Manager Brian Gutekunst focused on defense and signed linebackers Za'Darius Smith, Preston Smith, and safety Adrian Amos. The unit improved in "points allowed" from 22nd in 2018 to 9th in 2019.
- Matt LaFleur brought a new emphasis on the running game. Similar formations would conceal the running and passing games. Aaron Rodgers did not play in the preseason.
- The franchise turned **100** on August 11, 2019!
- The Packers and the Bears met for the 199th and 200th time. Green Bay won both games to lead the rivalry 99-95-6.
- A 13-3 season was an unqualified success. The Packers defeated Seattle in the divisional round of the postseason before losing to San Francisco.

9.5.2019

PACKERS **10**
CHICAGO
BEARS **3**

The NFL opened its centennial season with the 199th game between the rivals. The Packers, in their 101st season, continued their dominance over the Bears with an aggressive defense that kept them guessing.

It was a close game, statistically. The Bears ran for 46 yards while the Packers managed 47. Each team committed ten penalties and delivered five sacks. In total yards, Chicago held a slight edge 254-213. The Bears ran more plays, 91-77, but the Packers led in the time of possession by just over two minutes.

After falling behind 3-0, Rodgers and the offense began to shake off some rust. They marched 74 yards in four plays, with Rodgers four-for-four on the drive. A 47-yard

completion to Marquez Valdes-Scantling set up the touchdown to Jimmy Graham. It stayed 7-3 until Mason Crosby's 39-yard field goal with 5:20 left in the game.

In a contest "that more often resembled rugby"¹, Green Bay's defense set the tone. They stopped nine of Chicago's 10 third-down attempts. Quarterback Mitch Trubisky was inconsistent, and Green Bay's three new defenders (Z. Smith, P. Smith, A. Amos) collectively had 2.5 sacks, 13 tackles, one interception, and one batted-down pass! It was a solid debut for the defense and new coach Matt LaFleur, who received the game ball from Aaron Rodgers.

Green Bay **0 7 0 3 10**
Chicago **3 0 0 0 3**
62,435

*"The Green Bay Packers will show five recent movies and one classic in the Tiletown District during three weekends in September. The movies are free."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/6/19, Wood, p. B1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/6/19, Ryman, p.

9.15.2019

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS **16**

PACKERS **21**

The Packers began the season with back-to-back wins against their biggest rivals. Against the Norsemen, the Packers didn't wait long to grab the lead!

On the game's opening drive, they marched 75 yards in just over two minutes and quarterback Aaron Rodgers found running back Jamaal Williams for six. On their next series, Rodgers and Geronimo Allison connected for a 14-0 lead. On Green Bay's first two possessions, Rodgers went eight-for-nine with two touchdown passes!

A fumble by Minnesota quarterback Kurt Cousins gave the ball to Green Bay on Minnesota's 33-yard line. It took three plays before Aaron Jones took it in from the 3-yard line. Jones led a strong ground game with 116 yards on 23 carries.

The Vikings rallied. Trailing 21-0 start, rookie running back Dalvin Cook broke through left tackle for a 75-yard touchdown run. Just before the half, a field goal made it 21-10. Then, early in the second half, Rodgers fumbled a snap from center. Cousins answered with a 45-yard touchdown bomb to Stefon Diggs that stunned the Green Bay crowd.

With nine minutes left in a 21-16 game, both of the defenses dug in. In the second half, the Packers gained just 71 yards. While the Vikings ran 198 yards overall, a standout play in Green Bay's secondary was the difference. With five minutes left, Cousins tried for Diggs

again, but cornerback Kevin King intercepted.

Minnesota 0 10 6 0 16
Green Bay 14 7 0 0 21
78,416

At halftime, the Packers honored Bart Starr, who passed away on May 26. Starr's wife, Cherry, was escorted into the stadium by Brett Favre.

9.22.2019

DENVER

BRONCOS 16

PACKERS 27

Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur became the first new coach since Vince Lombardi to start the season 3-0!

The Packer assault began with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers to Marquez Valdes-Scantling. In the second quarter leading 10-7, a sack by Za'Darius Smith held the Broncos to a field goal. Linebacker Preston Smith then followed with a strip-sack that was recovered by rookie Rashan Gary. The Packers capitalized with an Aaron Jones 7-yard touchdown run.

After the half, Green Bay pulled away. When cornerback Jaire Alexander knocked the ball loose from tight end Noah Fant, the Packers capitalized with a second touchdown run by Aaron Jones to take command, 24-10. Denver smacked back with Phillip Lindsay's second touchdown run to cut the Packer lead back to seven. With five minutes left, a 41-yard field goal by Mason Crosby put it away.

Green Bay's new defense played very well. They held Joe Flacco to 79 yards passing in the first half, and they sacked him six times in the game. They also forced three turnovers. Despite the solid performance, they still had trouble stopping the run again. They gave up 149 yards on the ground, and the Press-Gazette noted, "at some point, they are going to have to stop a good offense from running the ball."¹

Denver 0 10 6 0 16
Green Bay 7 10 7 3 27
78,078

Time of Possession: GB 24:26 Den 35:34

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/19, Dougherty, p. B3

9.26.2019

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 34

PACKERS 27

For the third straight week, the Packers scored on their first series. A 58-yard completion to Davante Adams set up a touchdown run by the elusive Aaron Jones. But in an explosive second quarter, the Eagles scored 21 straight points. Quarterback Carson Wentz threw two touchdown passes, and a fumble by Aaron Rodgers led to Jordan Howard's touchdown run for a 21-13 lead. With 14 seconds left before the half, a leaping catch in the end zone by Geronimo Allison cut it to 21-20

After intermission, the Eagles marched 76-yards and Jordan Howard's touchdown catch made it 27-20 when a two-point conversion failed. Aaron Rodgers seized the opening and hooked up with tight end Jimmy Graham to tie it.

In the final quarter, Green Bay controlled the ball for more than 10 minutes, but they did not score. On their first drive, Rodgers threw four straight incompletions from the one-yard line. When LaFleur was asked about that later, he responded, "Good question."¹ The second drive ended at the three-yard line when Rodgers threw his first pick of the season. But the Packers couldn't stop the Eagles. On Philadelphia's winning drive, they ran for 53 of the drive's 65 yards, and Jordan Howard took it in for the win.

Overall, Philadelphia ran for 176 yards. The Packers outgained the Eagles 499-336, but their inability to slow down the run was costly.

Philadelphia 0 21 6 7 34

Green Bay 7 13 7 0 27

77,509

*"Join Aaron Jones as he co-hosts Clubhouse Live, Wisconsin's lively weekly Packers show, Monday at 6:30pm."*²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/23/19, Wood, p. 7B

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/19, p. B3

10.6.2019

PACKERS 34

DALLAS

COWBOYS 24

Even without their top receiver Davante Adams, who suffered a turf-toe injury against the Eagles, the Packers prevailed and moved to 4-1. Green Bay took the lead on Jaire Alexander's interception that he returned 37 yards to the Dallas 47-yard line. On the fourth

play, Aaron Jones sprinted 18 yards to the end zone. After stopping Dallas on the next drive, the Packers went 89 yards, and Jones scored from the 3-yard line. It was 17-0 at half.

The second half was more competitive, but the Packers kept the pressure on by scoring the first time they had the ball. Touchdown number three for Aaron Jones came on a 5-yard run. Dallas scored with a field goal, but on Green Bay's next series, Jones wrapped it up with his fourth touchdown run! Though you wouldn't know it from the score, the Cowboys outgained the Packers 563-335. But three interceptions and Aaron Jones were enough to go 4-1.

Green Bay 14 3 14 3 34
Dallas 0 0 10 14 24
93,024

The Cowboys had never allowed an opposing player to score four touchdowns in one game!

Green Bay had lots of support on the road from "plenty of Packer fans, who frequently broke out in 'Go Pack Go' cheers."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/7/19, Wood, p. B1

10.14.2019

DETROIT

LIONS 22

PACKERS 23

It's Monday Night Football at Lambeau, but the Packers didn't enjoy the lead until the final play! Detroit controlled the early going with field goals and a 74-yard scoring drive that Kerryon Johnson finished with a 1-yard run.

A touchdown pass from quarterback Aaron Rodgers to Jamaal Williams and a field goal narrowed the gap before halftime to 13-10. On the touchdown drive, three penalties by the Lions gave Green Bay too many chances, and they took full advantage!

After intermission, two field goals by Matt Prater and one by Mason Crosby kept Detroit in front, 19-13. After a 54-yard boot by Prater made it 22-13 early in the fourth quarter, the Packers took over the final 12 minutes. A hands-to-the-face penalty on Lions' defensive end Trey Flowers allowed the Packers to capitalize three plays later. A Rodgers touchdown to rookie Alan Lazard made it 22-20. With 6:43 left, Green Bay went 82 yards in 14 plays. On the critical drive, Rodgers completed five of his six passes for 41 yards. With two seconds left, Mason Crosby won it from the 23!

Detroit 10 3 6 3 22
Green Bay 0 10 3 10 23
79,947

A home pep rally for the Packers was “part of the NFL’s ‘Fantennial’ Initiative celebrating the league’s 100th year.”¹ Many former Packers took part, including LeRoy Butler, Gilbert Brown, Vonta Leach, David Whitehurst, Earl Dotson, and Santana Dotson.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/19, Ryman, p. A11

10.20.2019

OAKLAND

RAIDERS 24

PACKERS 42

Aaron Rodgers was perfect! His QBR was 158.3 with a stat line of: 25-31-429-5-0!

After a field goal by Oakland, the Packers scored on a beautiful Aaron-to-Aaron touchdown! Aaron Jones made a beautiful adjustment on a pass in the end zone from Aaron Rodgers to make it 7-3 Packers. An 86-yard touchdown drive by Oakland took the lead back, but a second touchdown pass by Rodgers gave Green Bay the lead for good, 14-10. Late in the half, Oakland quarterback Derek Carr fumbled while trying for the end zone. Rodgers cashed in with 20 seconds left with a 37-yard touchdown to Jake Kumerow! On the Packers’ first series in the second half, Rodgers went four-for-four and scored on a 3-yard run to lead 28-10. The Raiders had no difficulty moving the football either with 484 yards, but three turnovers in the red zone hurt.

The Packers put the game away on an interception by Kevin King after a deflection by safety Adrian Amos. Green Bay flew downfield as Rodgers heaved a 74-yard missile for touchdown number five to Marquez Valdes-Scantling! After the game, commenting on the win, Rodgers said, “that’s the beauty in the way the plan came together this week. There were a lot of things you saw early on that you felt good about coming back to.”¹ Indeed.

Oakland 3 7 7 7 24

Green Bay 7 14 14 7 42

78,160

Total Yards: GB 481 OAK 484

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/21/19, Silverstein, p. B1

10.27.2019

PACKERS 31

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS 24

Davante Adams missed his fourth straight game Sunday night at Arrowhead. The Packers caught a huge break themselves when K.C. quarterback Patrick Mahomes was ruled out

with a knee injury. In a back-and-forth battle of six lead changes, the Packers won their fifth game, decided by one possession.

The scoring began with a 4-yard shovel pass from Aaron Rodgers to Aaron Jones. After K.C. missed a field goal, Green Bay made it 14-0. Two touchdown passes by K.C. quarterback Matt Moore tied the score before a field goal gave them a 17-14 edge at halftime.

After Mason Crosby tied it late in the third quarter, the Packers got the ball right back on Tyler Lancaster's fumble recovery. A second touchdown by Jamaal Williams came on an incredible catch in the back-right corner of the end zone. Rodgers threw a more remarkable pinpoint pass to the back end of the end zone as he was backpedaling like a fall-away jump shot. With two linemen about to grab him, he let it go. Williams dove and pulled it in right next to the back pylon. It was 24-17 Packers, and after the season, the team chose it as their Play of the Year.

A 67-yard sprint to the end zone by Aaron Jones was the icing on the Packers' cake! He produced 226 total yards (159 receiving). Rodgers, who had a perfect QBR last week, slipped to a more human-like 129.0!

Green Bay 14 0 3 14 31
Kansas City 0 17 0 7 24
73,558

11.3.2019

PACKERS 11

LOS ANGELES

CHARGERS 26

The first West Coast trip for the Packers went *south* quickly. The 3-5 Chargers spanked the Packers, who didn't score until Mason Crosby's field goal with 50 seconds left in the third quarter. Their lone touchdown came with six minutes left in the game.

Green Bay's defense couldn't stop the Chargers' potent ground game. Melvin Gordon led them with 80 of the team's 159 yards. Near the end of the third quarter, with the Chargers leading by four field goals, Melvin Gordon scored the first of his two touchdowns. Like a one-two punch, Gordon scored again early in the fourth quarter for a 26-3 lead.

Green Bay was a "no show in all three phases."¹ They were outgained 442-184, with Aaron Rodgers throwing for just 161 yards. They ran for 45 yards, went 2-10 on third downs, and trailed in time of possession by almost 12 minutes.

Green Bay 0 0 3 8 11
Los Angeles 6 3 10 7 26
25,435

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/4/19, Wood, p. B1

11.10.2019

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 16

PACKERS 24

Ten points from Carolina turnovers made all the difference. After the Packers defeated the Panthers, they welcomed the bye week to prepare for the undefeated 49ers.

But before the Packers began celebrating, the Panthers had other ideas. They scored first and held a 10-7 lead in the first half. Midway through the second quarter, a Carolina fumble was recovered by Montravius Adams. The Packers took the lead on a second touchdown run by Aaron Jones.

Five plays after the half, Green Bay stretched the lead 21-10 when Jones scored again! His third touchdown was a 13-yard run that finished a five-play scoring drive. Jones led the Packers' ground game with 93 yards. At the start of the fourth, after an interception by Tramon Williams in the end zone, Green Bay drove 80 yards for a field goal.

The Panthers hit back with Christian McCaffery's touchdown run, but their two-point conversion failed. In front 24-16, Green Bay's defense held up for the final 12 minutes. On Carolina's final drive, Kyle Allen's aerial assault of 16 passes pushed Green Bay back to its 4-yard line with 13 seconds left. An offsides call on Preston Smith put the ball at the 2-yard line. On the game's final play, McCaffery was stopped by Preston Smith for redemption and victory!

Carolina 7 3 0 6 16

Green Bay 7 7 10 0 24

78,090

*At halftime: "One of the parachutists has missed the stadium. He is OK on Valley View (Road)."*¹

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/11/19, Owczarski, p. B4

11.24.2019

PACKERS 8

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 37

There's not much to say, except this was an easy blowout for the 49ers and a huge disappointment for the Packers. The game started poorly for Green Bay, and it got worse as it moved along. On the sixth play of the game, a fumble by Aaron Rodgers was recovered by Nick Bosa on the 2-yard line. With just 1:53 gone, San Francisco led 7-0.

The ominous beginning continued as the 49ers' defense held the upper hand. In the first 30 minutes, the Packers gained 60 total yards. At the half, San Francisco led comfortably 23-0. Green Bay's only points came with four minutes left in the third quarter. After they scored, the Niners hit back 50 seconds later with a 61-yard touchdown pass to George Kittle for a 30-8 lead.

San Francisco outgained Green Bay 339-198. The 8-2 Packers were never in the game, and the defense was overmatched. After the game, LaFleur was realistic. "I still have a lot of confidence in our guys. But we've got to be critical of ourselves, and everybody involved (has) to figure out how this happened."¹

Green Bay 0 0 8 0 8
San Francisco 10 13 7 7 37
71,500

Sacks: GB 3 SF 5

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/26/19, Dougherty, p. B1

12.1.2019

PACKERS 31

NEW YORK

GIANTS 13

Green Bay fans were right at home at MetLife Stadium. The temperatures were in the low 30s, with rain and snow alternating throughout the first half. The Giants were very gracious hosts with three turnovers that Green Bay turned into 10 points!

Aaron Rodgers also felt right at home with four touchdown passes, two in each half. The first two went to Davante Adams and Allen Lazard. On those scoring drives, Rodgers went a combined six for seven for 103 yards and two touchdown passes. At halftime, the Packers led 17-10.

After the break, the Giants added a field goal before the Packers owned the fourth quarter.

Two more touchdowns from Rodgers made it look easy. Adams caught his second, and number four went to Mercedes Lewis. "It was a little something special throwing a touchdown to Mercedes," Rodgers explained. "He's a pro's pro. A rock in the run game."¹

Green Bay 14 3 0 14 31
New York 7 3 3 0 13
75,950

*"The Packers are seeking shovelers to clean off Lambeau Field's bleachers. Shovelers need to be at least 18 years old and will receive \$12 per hour. The Packers will provide the shovels. The team said it could use 600 shovelers."*²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/2/19, Wood/Silverstein, p. B4

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/4/19, Ryman, p. 2A

12.8.2019

WASHINGTON

REDSKINS 15
PACKERS 20

Green Bay fans now had two Aarons to applaud each week. Though quarterback Aaron Rodgers rightfully got most of the attention, a new Aaron—Aaron Jones—had also been in the spotlight. He'd become a durable and explosive threat out the backfield in the run game and passing game. Against the Redskins, Jones produced 192 total yards!

In the first quarter, Jones scored on a 4-yard run. Two possessions later, the Packers got their best punt return of the season (18 yards) from newly acquired Tyler Ervin. Then, on the fifth play of the drive, Rodgers hooked up with tight end Robert Tonyan to lead 14-0. A touchdown run by Adrian Peterson made it 14-6.

Just before halftime, a pair of turnovers made it interesting. A strip-sack of Rodgers gave the Redskins the ball on the 40-yard line. They advanced to Green Bay's 41 before safety Adrian Amos intercepted rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins to close out the first half.

Two field goals by Mason Crosby proved to be enough in the second half. The defense did its job by holding the Redskins to 262 total yards, and they sacked Haskins four times.

Washington 0 6 3 6 15
Green Bay 14 0 3 3 20
77,296

12.15.2019

CHICAGO

BEARS 13

PACKERS 21

This was the 200th game between the rivals, including the two postseason games in 1941 and 2010. The win in Game 200 for Green Bay was doubly sweet as it also clinched a postseason berth!

Early on, a short punt by the Bears coupled with a penalty against them set up Green Bay on Chicago's 35-yard line! Tramon Williams, who was hit hard on the punt, left the game with a concussion. Four plays later, Aaron Rodgers hit Davante Adams from 29 yards out for six. A field goal by the Bears just before halftime made it 7-3.

The third quarter belonged to Green Bay's other Aaron—Aaron Jones. Jones scored both Green Bay touchdowns in the third quarter. Midway through the third quarter, with a 21-3 lead, the defense was showing no signs of trouble with the Bears. Most of Chicago's yardage came late against a prevent defense. But when the lead was cut to 21-13 with eight minutes left, the Packers dug in. A pick by defensive end Dean Lowry ended one drive, and the Bears came up short on the others. Green Bay now led the rivalry 99-95-6.

Chicago 0 3 0 10 13

Green Bay 7 0 14 0 21

78,266

*"The (Packers) foundation this year awarded a record \$1 million to organizations throughout Wisconsin."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/20/19, Ryman/Soellner/Heim, p. A3

12.23.2019

PACKERS 23

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

An impressive performance by the defense helped Green Bay win its first game at U. S. Bank Stadium. The win also clinched the NFC North title!

Without their star running back, Dalvin Cook, the Vikings struggled. Green Bay's defense had no trouble handling quarterback Kurt Cousins, allowing only seven first downs and 139 total yards.

A good start for the Packers came off the table quickly. With less than a minute gone, a fumble by Aaron Jones gave the Vikings the ball at Green Bay's 10. But they didn't fully

capitalize when Cousins overthrew a receiver on third down and settled for three.

After Rodgers threw an interception, the Vikings cashed in three plays later on a Cousins to Stefon Diggs touchdown. Fortunately for most of the game, Minnesota's offense didn't come through when it counted. They managed only seven first downs! Cousins was sacked five times (3.5 by Za'Darius Smith), and they had possession of the football for only 22 minutes!

Aaron Rodgers also had a dismal game (QBR 68.3). But late in the third quarter, the defense and Aaron Jones stepped up. When Cousins looked for Stefon Diggs again, he was intercepted by cornerback Kevin King. Eight plays later, Jones scored on a 12-yard run. On his fourth quarter touchdown run, Jones sprinted 56 yards to seal the deal! Jones finished with 154 yards rushing on 23 carries.

Green Bay 3 6 8 6 23
Minnesota 3 7 0 0 10
67,157

12.29.2019

PACKERS 23

DETROIT

LIONS 10

It wasn't easy, but Mason Crosby beat Detroit for the second time this season with a last-second field goal. The win clinched the second-seed in the postseason for Green Bay which came with a first-round bye!

The Lions took a 14-0 lead before trading field goals late in the first half. Trailing 17-3 near the end of the third quarter, Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers (27-55-323-2-1) threw a 20-yard touchdown to Davante Adams. After the Lions went three-and-out, Green Bay marched 73 yards for a field goal to cut the score to 17-13. Matt Prater of the Lions got the points back when he nailed a 56-yarder with 11 minutes left.

An interception by linebacker Blake Martinez was a game-changer, and Aaron Rodgers did not disappoint. On a third-and-10 from Detroit's 28, he threw the tying touchdown pass to rookie Allen Lazard. Lazard "made a phenomenal move and catch"¹ with 5:24 remaining. On Green Bay's next series, Rodgers was picked off by Amani Oruwariye. The Packers held, and they had a final chance starting at their 17 with 1:20 left.

Rodgers went three-for-three. His third pass went for 31 yards to Aaron Jones for a first down on Detroit's 20. With 33 seconds left, they ran down the clock to three seconds. Crosby's third field goal beat the Lions again this season. Both victories came without the Packers leading in either game until the very end.

Rodgers, who wasn't pleased with his own game, commented, "Too many missed throws. But when we had to make some plays, we made some plays."²

Green Bay	0	3	7	13	23
Detroit	7	10	0	3	20

62,840

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/30/19, Silverstein, p. B2

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/30/19, Dougherty, p. B3

1.12.2020

2019 NFC Divisional Playoff

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 23

PACKERS 28

With a heated-rivalry between them, the Packers hosted the Seahawks after they beat Philadelphia on the road in the Divisional Round.

The Packers struck in eight plays to grab the lead. Rodgers was five-for-six on the drive, and the touchdown came on a 20-yard pass to Davante Adams. They scored again in the second quarter on a 75-yard march that Aaron Jones finished from the 1-yard line. After Seattle missed a field goal, the Packers topped off the first half with another 1-yard plunge by Jones to lead 21-3.

The second half was a different story. The Seahawks and quarterback Russell Wilson began to scramble and deliver consistently on off-schedule plays. The confidence and swagger returned, and they scored on their first possession. The Packers shook off Seattle's touchdown and came right back. In two minutes, they struck again on a 40-yard missile from Rodgers to Adams.

With a 28-10 lead, prospects looked bright for Green Bay. But Seattle struck back with an 84-yard drive that Wilson willed into the end zone with 26 yards rushing and 48 yards passing. The touchdown went to Tyler Lockett. When the Packers were forced to punt on their next series, Seattle had 14 minutes to overcome an 11-point deficit. Wilson stayed red-hot and completed four straight passes between 14-19 yards. On the ninth play of the drive, Marshawn Lynch scored to make it 28-23. The Packers ran ten plays and took nearly five minutes off the clock before they were forced to punt.

Seattle took over on the 23-yard line with 4:54 left. On a third-and-five near midfield, Russell Wilson was sacked by linebacker Preston Smith, and the Seahawks punted back.

Green Bay ran out the clock, and in his first season, Coach LaFleur won his first postseason game! Afterward, he praised his team's performance. "Our defense stepped up and was

able to get that sack on Russell, and then there's no better way to close out a football game than in four-minute mode."¹

Seattle **3 0 14 6 23**
Green Bay **7 14 7 0 28**
78,998

Sacks: GB 5 Sea 2

Before the game, fans lined up as early as 2:00a.m. to help shovel snow off the seats and walkways at Lambeau Field. One Packers fan Brian Fenske, said, "It's our love of the Packers. I feel like I'm part of history doing this."²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/20, Wood, p. A1

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/13/20, Bollier/Mathew, p. B1

1.19.2020

2019 NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

PACKERS **20**

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers **37**

A complete annihilation for a second time this season. Some of the problems that plagued the Packers in November hadn't been fixed. They weren't able slow down the 49ers ground game and they racked up 285 yards and four rushing touchdowns.

Aaron Rodgers was sacked three more times for a total of eight in two games against San Francisco this season. While he had success throwing the ball (31-39-326-2-2), his two interceptions and one fumble led to 10 points for the 49ers.

Green Bay **0 0 7 13 20**
San Francisco **7 20 7 3 37**
72,211

2019

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	3	0
Minnesota	10	6	0
Chicago	8	8	0
Detroit	3	12	0

Team Leaders

Passing Rodgers
Receiving Adams

Rushing	Jones
Scoring	Jones
Interceptions	King
Sacks	Z. Smith

All-Pro

Adams	Receiver
Clark	Defensive Tackle
Rodgers	Quarterback
Z. Smith	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Jace Sternberger (3, TE)

Kingsley Keke (5, DE)

Ty Summers (7, LB)

2020s





2020
Record: 13-3-0, 1st Place
Coach: Matt LaFleur

- The Covid-19 Pandemic derailed the typical NFL season. Players were allowed to opt out of the season without violating their contracts. Preseason and international games were cancelled. During the season, there were very small crowds or no crowds at all.
- Washington Redskins retired the Redskin name. They would be known throughout the season as the Washington Football Team.
- The Packers went 13-3 in back-to-back seasons. The last time that happened was in 1996 and 1997.
- Rodgers won his third NFL MVP Award with 48 touchdown passes and five interceptions. Adams set a team record with 115 catches and tied Sterling Sharpe's team record with 18 touchdowns. Aaron Jones led a very productive ground game.
- Green Bay led the league in points scored. The defense improved over 2019, but it was not yet championship caliber.
- In the NFC Championship Game, the Packers lost at home to Tampa Bay.

9.13.2020

PACKERS 43

Minnesota

VIKINGS 34

Green Bay's 101st season began against the Norsemen. It also commenced with them staying in their locker room during the national anthem to protest the treatment of African-Americans by the police.

The second season of Matt LaFleur's offense was impressive as the Packers led the league in scoring! First impressions included Rodgers looking more comfortable and snapping the ball long before the clock wound down. Rodgers looked comfortable in the pocket, and he did not have to deal with a loud road crowd in the dome.

This was the first of many fantastic games in 2020 for Rodgers. The Packers generated 523 yards of offense, and receiver Davante Adams tied Don Hutson's club record with 14

catches! Rodgers was pleased. "There wasn't a lot of need for extended plays. I'm feeling good about the tempo that we had,"¹ he said.

With Minnesota leading 7-3 after 15 minutes, the second quarter belonged to the Packers. Cornerback Jaire Alexander tackled quarterback Kirk Cousins in the end zone for a safety. The Packers followed that with a Mason Crosby field goal and two touchdown passes from Rodgers. The touchdowns were 25 seconds apart, thanks to an interception by Alexander. Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling caught the touchdowns for a 22-10 halftime advantage!

Late in the third quarter, the Packers topped the Vikings on fourth down on Green Bay's 39-yard line. In eight plays, Rodgers and Adams hooked up for another touchdown. Cousins matched it with a touchdown to Adam Thielen, and their two-point conversion made it 29-18. Four minutes later, Rodgers threw his fourth touchdown pass to wideout Allen Lazard that stretched it to 36-16. When the Vikings cut it to 10, Rodgers went 4-for-4 on the ensuing drive, and Aaron Jones took it home to provide the insurance.

Green Bay 3 19 7 14 43
Minnesota 7 3 0 24 34

Total Yards: GB 523 MINN 382

¹ Packer Plus, 9/17/20, Dougherty, p. 5

9.20.2020

DETROIT

LIONS 21

PACKERS 42

The home opener featured a strong Green Bay offense, but unfortunately, there were no fans to see it.

The pace of the offense quickened, with the Packers making a concerted effort to get in and out of the huddle quickly. They rolled to another 488 total yards, with Rodgers throwing two touchdown passes and running back Aaron Jones running for 168 and three touchdowns—two on the ground and one touchdown catch.

With two touchdown passes from quarterback Matt Stafford, Detroit got out to a 14-3 lead. The Packers woke up and scored the next 31 points. Touchdown passes from Rodgers to Aaron Jones, and Robert Tonyan made it 17-14 Packers at the break.

On the first play of the second half, Aaron Jones broke free off the right side of the line for a 75-yard touchdown! On Detroit's next series, a pick-six by cornerback Chandon Sullivan made it a foregone conclusion at 31-14. The Lions never mounted a serious

comeback, and Aaron Jones scored Green Bay's final points with his third touchdown. For the game, Jones put up a sensational 236 total yards! In an offense that used misdirection frequently, his quickness was a premium asset. "It's his ability to make plays as both a runner and receiver"¹ that truly sets him apart.

Detroit **14 0 0 7 21**
Green Bay **3 14 17 8 42**

*President Mike Murphy reported that "along with the opening the Johnsonville Tailgate Village as a polling place in November, the team is working with Green Bay, Ashwaubenon and Brown County police departments to help purchase body cameras."*²

1 Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 1/21/2020, Dougherty, p. 5B

2 Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 1/21/2020, Owczarski, p. 4B

9.27.2020

PACKERS **37**

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS **30**

"I feel much more comfortable in the offense this year,"¹ was quarterback Aaron Rodgers' assessment after three games. With 30 or more points in three straight games, his comfort level had the Packers at 3-0 in the Mercedes Benz Superdome.

In a game of eight lead changes, New Orleans won the first half 17-13 behind touchdown passes from quarterback Drew Brees to Alvin Kamara and Emmanuel Sanders. The all-pro Kamara starred for New Orleans with 197 total yards and two touchdowns.

Rodgers led the way for the Packers even though Davante Adams was out with a hamstring injury. Alan Lazard and Robert Tonyan stepped up. Rodgers found Lazard for a 48-yard completion, before a 5-yard pass to him rang-up the points. At the break, the Saints had a four-point edge, 17-13.

The Packers drove right to the end zone on the opening drive of the second half. Rodgers' lone completion on the drive was a long, 72-yard completion to Lazard to put them on the 3-yard line! Aaron Jones scored on fourth down for the lead, 20-17. While a field goal tied it, the Packers struck back with a Rodgers to Mercedes Lewis touchdown.

In the third quarter, all-pro back Alvin Kamara caught a short pass from quarterback Drew Brees and made it count with a 52-yard dash to the end zone. With the game tied, 27-27, early in the fourth quarter, the decisive play arrived! A forced fumble and a recovery by linebacker Za'Darius Smith of quarterback Taysom Hill, former Packer, gave Green Bay the ball at the 43-yard line. Mason Crosby's field goal then put Green Bay back in the lead.

When the defense came through with a big three-and-out, Green Bay put it away. At the

two-minute warning, Rodgers and Robert Tonyan hooked up for six and the Packers held on for the win!

Green Bay 3 10 14 10 37
New Orleans 7 10 10 3 30
758

Mike Flanagan: "You're part of the Packer family. The history, tradition, the fans, a close-knit town and organization. I was spoiled to play with some amazing guys. And special talents like Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, hall of famers who can do things most players just can't. Not too many people can say that."³

¹ packershistory.net/2020Packers

² Packer Plus, 5/13/2020, Hendricks, p. 17

10.5.2020

ATLANTA

FALCONS 16
PACKERS 30

Atlanta's struggles continued as the Packers won, going away. Green Bay was 4-0, which topped the previous year's start of 3-0. Amazingly, they did it without injured receivers Davante Adams and Allen Lazard.

Passing, however, still ruled in this contest with 72 attempts for 612 yards. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers continued his hot streak with four touchdown passes, and Green Bay never trailed. Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to tight end Robert Tonyan and one to Aaron Jones. The Jones touchdown opened the scoring, and the Falcons followed it with a field goal. Rodgers then directed two drives in the final 2:28 of the first half. On both, he went to Tonyan to lead 20-3 at half. The happy tight end said, "When plays come to me, I've got to make them. Aaron had a nice little look in his eye tonight, so I was just trying to roll with that."¹

The Packers outgained the Falcons 403-327. Defensively, they held their own despite not having Kenny Clark (DT), Rashan Gary (LB), and Christian Kirksey (LB). Linebacker Za'Darius Smith offset the losses with three of the defense's four sacks. Green Bay went into the bye week 4-0!

Atlanta 0 3 6 7 16
Green Bay 7 13 7 3 30

GB set a team record with 30+ points in four straight games.

¹ packershistory.net/2020 (Associated Press)

10.18.2020

PACKERS 10

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 38

The long-awaited game between Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady arrived. These two greats had met just two times before, and it stood 1-1. The anticipation for this game was sky high for Packer fans.

Thirty-eight points were scored in the first half. In a tale of two different quarters, the Packers took a quick 10-0 lead. On their first series, they marched to Tampa's 8-yard line before settling for a field goal. On their next possession, they went the length of the field, and Aaron Jones scored a 10-0 lead.

The second quarter was a complete disaster. Aaron Rodgers threw back-to-back interceptions to start the quarter, and one was a pick-six. "That pick-six changed the entire ballgame,"¹ said Tampa coach Bruce Arians. After the picks, Brady drove the Bucs 65 yards to extend the advantage to 21-10. Another three-and-out by Green Bay, and Brady hooked up with tight end Rob Gronkowski to top off a stellar first 30 minutes, 28-10.

The Packers didn't score after the first quarter; they were shell-shocked in the second. Tampa Bay's speed and pressure on defense began to dominate. "Nothing seemed to be working,"² said LaFleur. The Packers were held to 201 yards, and Rodgers was sacked five times and pressured all game. For the Buccaneers, Brady (17-27-166-2-0) threw two touchdown passes and outdueled Rodgers (16-35-160-0-2). Ronald Jones led the Tampa ground game with 113 yards and two touchdowns. A disappointing loss.

Green Bay 10 0 0 0 10

Tampa Bay 0 28 10 0 38

15,540

¹ packershistory.net/2020Packers (Associated Press)

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/19/2020, Silverstein, p. 4B

10.25.2020

PACKERS 35

HOUSTON

TEXANS 20

The Packers controlled this one from start to finish. After an embarrassing first loss in Tampa, Green Bay bounced back. They did it, however, without running back Aaron Jones, cornerback Kevin King, and left tackle David Bakhtiari. Billy Turner moved to left tackle for

Bakhtiari, and Rick Wagner stepped in at right tackle. Rodgers was not sacked, though one sack was called back on a penalty.

In the first half, the Texans were shut out and held to 135 yards. Green Bay got out to a 21-0 lead with quarterback Aaron Rodgers who threw for 197 yards, and three touchdown passes to Davante Adams, Jace Sternberger, and Malik Taylor. Taylor's touchdown came under three minutes left in the half after Houston missed field goal.

The Texans regrouped at halftime and scored the first time they had the ball. Using the Run-Pass-Option (RPO) more often, they went 75 yards in 11 plays for quarterback DeShaun Watson's touchdown to running back David Johnson. Rodgers matched it on Green Bay's next possession. With Houston in press coverage, Adams used his quickness to escape the press, and without safety help, Rodgers connected for number four. Adams finished with a career-high 196 yards on 13 catches. Two field goals by Houston trimmed the lead to 28-13 with ten minutes left. The Packers then put it to bed with a touchdown by Jamaal Williams.

Green Bay	7	14	7	7	35
Houston	0	0	7	13	20

15,540

Sacks: GB 3 TEX 0

11.1.2020

Minnesota

VIKINGS	28
PACKERS	22

The Packers lost to the 1-5 Vikings on a windy day in Green Bay. Running back Dalvin Cook and receiver Davante Adams were the stars of this border battle. Cook turned in a four-touchdown performance while Adams scored three! Both players put on a show, but "Cook dominated as the Vikings scored touchdowns on long drives on their first four possessions!"¹

The Packers scored on the game's opening drive with an Aaron Rodgers to Davante Adams touchdown. Rodgers was six-for-six on the drive. On their next possession, Rodgers found Adams again on play number 15 for a 14-7 lead. On the drive, rookie A. J. Dillon carried for 14 yards, and he caught one pass for another 16. Minnesota tied it before halftime, 14-14.

The third quarter was all Dalvin Cook, who struck twice inside of five minutes. His first score came on the opening drive with a 1-yard run. After the Packers were forced to punt, Cousins threw a short screen at the 50-yard line to Cook, who scored for a 28-14 game. With 2:47 left, Rodgers and Adams connected for a third touchdown. Minnesota ate up most of the time remaining, and Green Bay was 5-2, one game ahead of the Bears.

Minnesota 7 7 14 0 28
Green Bay 7 7 0 8 22

*Former Packer Blaise Winter: "Being a football player with the Packers was nothing but electrifying because, like the Packers-Vikings, it makes you realize how tough you must be to play the game."*²

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/2/2020, Dougherty, p. 5B

2 Cold Wars, Mishler, p. vii

11.5.2020

PACKERS 34

San Francisco

49ers 17

A Thursday night game wasn't the NFC rematch that the league had hoped. San Francisco "had all its best players on injured reserve,"¹ and Green Bay's win was not quite as satisfying.

Eleven of San Francisco's 22 starters were out. Among them were quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, running back Raheem Mostert, tight end George Kittle, defensive tackle Nick Bosa, defensive end Dee Ford, and cornerback Richard Sherman. Their absences were evident, and Rodgers took full advantage. He dominated with four touchdown passes, and Green Bay's versatile offensive line kept him upright (one sack). Rodgers threw for 305 yards with touchdowns to Davante Adams, Mercedes "Big Dog" Lewis, and Marquez Valdes-Scantling (2). His QBR was 147.2.

The Niners were a shell of the team that dominated Green Bay in the previous year's NFL Championship Game. They ran for only 55 yards, and the Packers dominated the time of possession by 13 minutes. Running back, Aaron Jones returned to action for Green Bay, and his presence kept the defense honest. The 49ers had trouble on both sides of the ball, and with 6:15 left, Mason Crosby's field goal made it 34-3. No contest.

Green Bay 7 14 10 3 34
San Francisco 3 0 0 14 17
15,540

Total Yards: GB 405 SF 337

*"The team will accept nominations for the 23rd member of the Packers FAN Hall of Fame through November 30, 2020."*²

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/6/2020, Wood, p. 1B

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/6/2020, Ryman, p. A3

11.15.2020
JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS 20
PACKERS 24

The 1-8 Jaguars stymied the experts by taking the Packers into the fourth quarter, 17-17. Fans blamed the 40mph wind gust that occasionally complicated the passing game.

Trailing 3-0, quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw a 78-yard touchdown to Marquez Valdes-Scantling. Valdes-Scantling led all receivers with 149 yards! Rodgers ran for a touchdown near the end of the quarter, and Mason Crosby's field goal made it 17-10.

After halftime, Davante Adams fumbled a pass from Rodgers, and linebacker Miles Jack returned it to Green Bay's 16-yard line. After a holding penalty against Jacksonville, on a third-and-six from the 12, rookie quarterback Jake Lutton found wideout Keelan Cole to knot it at 17.

Four lead changes came before the fourth quarter. Sidney Jones picked off Aaron Rodgers at the end of the third quarter, which resulted in a field goal that put Jacksonville in front, 20-17. On the ensuing drive, a Rodgers touchdown to Davante Adams made it 24-20 with nine minutes left.

Jacksonville got the ball back for a final time with 2:25 left. Back-to-back sacks, however, by Rashan Gary and Preston Smith, took care of the threat. After the game, Coach LaFleur commented on the 7-2 season without fans: "It's a strange year. Certainly, we're used to having fans. We've got to do a better job of supplying that juice internally."¹

Jacksonville 3 7 7 3 20
Green Bay 0 17 0 7 24

Davante Adams moved past Don Hutson into 5th place for the most catches in team history.

"Join Green Bay Packers wide receiver Allen Lazard as he co-hosts Clubhouse Live at 6:30pm today. Lazard's guest will be running back Jamaal Williams. Viewers can ask questions in real time."²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/16/2020, Silverstein, p. 5B

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/16/2020, p. B2

11.22.2020

PACKERS 31

INDIANAPOLIS

COLTS 34

A fumble on their third play from scrimmage didn't bode well for the Packers. But that turned around quickly with an awesome first half by quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

The Colts couldn't take advantage of that early fumble when they fumbled it back! It was recovered by safety Darnell Savage Jr., and Aaron Rodgers made it count with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Robert Tonyan. Indianapolis quarterback Phillip Rivers took only five plays to tie it with a 45-yard touchdown pass. When the Colts didn't capitalize after intercepting Rodgers, an Aaron Jones touchdown made it 14-7.

On Indy's next series, the first pass by Rivers was intercepted by linebacker Christian Kirksey. On their fourth play, Rodgers found Davante Adams for a 5-yard touchdown and a 21-7 lead. The teams traded touchdowns in the final two minutes of the first half as Rivers threw his second touchdown and Rodgers followed with his third and a 28-14 halftime lead.

The Packers turned victory into defeat in the second half. The Colts used the no-huddle offense more frequently, and Rivers hooked up with Jack Doyle for six. Rodrigo Blankenship also kicked three field goals. The Colts outscored the Packers 17-3 to force overtime. On Green Bay's second play of the overtime, a fumble by Marquez Valdes-Scantling gave the ball to the Colts. Blankenship converted from the 39 for his fourth field goal and the win. About MVS' fumble, Coach LaFleur said, "I can live with MVS. I've got more confidence in him now than probably ever. I think he continues to get better each and every day."¹

Green Bay 7 21 3 0 0 31

Indianapolis 7 7 11 6 3 34

12,495

Total Yards: GB 367 IN 420

"The Packers said Monday, they are hopeful they can host ticketed fans in the coming weeks."²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/23/2029, Wood, p. 3B

² Green Bay Pres-Gazette, 11/24/2020, Ryman, A1

11.29.2020

CHICAGO

BEARS 25

PACKERS 41

This was the 100th win for the Packers over the Bears, including the 1941 playoff game. It was a tight contest until the third quarter when Green Bay pulled away and moved their record to 8-3.

On their first series, the Packers went 75 yards in 14 plays, with Rodgers and Adams connecting for six. The touchdown was the 500th career catch for Adams, and he became just the fifth Packer to catch over 500 passes, following Donald Driver, Sterling Sharpe, Jordy Nelson, and James Lofton.

After a Chicago field goal (7-3), Green Bay put up 21 points in the second quarter. Rodgers' second touchdown went to Mercedes "Big Dog" Lewis. Then, quarterback Mitchell Trubisky was intercepted in the end zone by Darnell Savage. A third touchdown pass followed to Allen Lazard made it 20-3. A few minutes before halftime, linebackers Za'Darius and Preston teamed up. As Za'Darius sacked Trubisky, he forced a fumble that Preston took 16 yards for a touchdown! Packers extended their lead to 27-3.

Green Bay pulled away in the third quarter after a second interception by safety Darnell Savage. "He's young, he's athletic, he can make plays on the ball,"¹ his position coach Jerry Gray said. The turnover led to a fourth touchdown from Rodgers, a 39-yard bomb to tight end Robert Tonyan (34-10) to completed another MVP performance (21-29-211-4-0).

Chicago 3 7 0 15 25

Green Bay 6 21 14 0 41

Turnovers: GB 0 CHI 3

*"The Packers are typically network darlings, and spiced by a prolific offense, they are now playing four of their final five scheduled games in front of a national audience."*²

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/2020, Owczarski, p. B2

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/1/2020, Silverstein/ Owczarski, p. B3

12.6.2020

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES 16

PACKERS 30

This late afternoon game at Lambeau Field went well for the Packers. They defeated the 3-7-1 Eagles with a potent offense and a strong defense. Philadelphia scored on their

opening drive and then faded, not scoring again until the fourth quarter. They turned it over only once, but quarterbacks Carson Wentz and Jalen Hurts were sacked seven times.

On Green Bay's second possession, Rodgers went 7-for-8 with a touchdown pass to Davante Adams. Later in the quarter, he and tight end Robert Tonyan hooked up from the 25 for a 14-3 halftime lead. In the first half, Rodgers was 13-14-161-2-0.

Midway through the third quarter, the Packers began a drive from their 1-yard line. On the first play, Rodgers hit Adams for a 42-yard gain. Six plays later, he and Adams finished it with a 9-yard toss to make it 20-3 after 45 minutes. "Aaron and my connection (is) continuing to grow,"¹ said Adams. The touchdown was also number 400 for Rodgers!

In the final minutes, the Packers were outscored 13-3. Then, with 2:36 left in the game, a 77-yard sprint to the end zone by Aaron Jones made sure it didn't matter.

Philadelphia	3	0	0	13	16
Green Bay	0	14	6	10	30

Total Yards: GB 437 PHI 278

"In 2007, prior to leaving for our European honeymoon, my wife forbade me from wearing Packers (or any other) logos in Europe. Roughly 12 minutes into our first day in Germany, at Oktoberfest in Munich, we run into a guy wearing a Brett Favre jersey. I looked at my wife and she said, 'He's got a nicer wife than you do.'"²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/7/2020, Reiner, p. 4B

² Packers.com, Inbox 7/7/2021, Inbox, Hodkiewicz

12.13.2020

PACKERS	31
DETROIT	
LIONS	24

The Packers started fast in this divisional battle.

Detroit scored first for a 7-0 lead. The Packers hit back with touchdowns on their first two possessions. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was eight-for-eight on the two drives with touchdowns to Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling. The 56-yard touchdown to Adams broke Don Hutson's team record of seven straight games with a touchdown. The Lions weren't impressed, and at halftime, the score was tied 14-14.

The Packers came out of the locker room and again scored the first two times they had the football. The opening drive took 9:49 minutes with Rodgers going 8-for-11. He ran for the 6-yard touchdown. Early in the fourth quarter, after the Lions punted, Rodgers then found Robert Tonyan for a 28-14 lead.

Though Detroit brought it back to a seven-point game with six minutes left, the teams traded field goals the rest of the way. The Green Bay defense delivered four sacks, and the Packers outgained the Lions 410-293.

Green Bay 7 7 7 10 31
Detroit 7 7 0 10 24

Time of Possession: GB 35:30 DET 24:30

*Green Bay identified a need for a youth-sports complex thanks to a "\$54,500 study (that) was paid for by the Green Bay/Brown County Professional Football Stadium District."*¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/14/2020, Ryman A7

12.19.2020

CAROLINA

PANTHERS 16

PACKERS 24

Once again, the Packers got out of the gate quickly. They scored the first two times they had the ball, and they put together a third scoring drive before halftime. The highlight of their first drive was a 46-yard run off right tackle by Aaron Jones. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers went 4-for-5 and tight end Robert Tonyan caught the touchdown. After a field goal by Carolina, Rodgers scored on a 6-yard run that finished a 75-yard march.

Then, with Carolina threatening at the 1-yard line, linebacker Kris Byrnes punched the ball out of Teddy Bridgewater's hands as he attempted to jump over the line for the end zone. Cornerback Kevin King picked it up and went 48 yards to the Carolina 47. After a completion to Adams, the Packers called six straight running plays and Aaron Jones took it in from the eight.

After the break, the Packers fired blanks, and the Panthers clawed back. "As fun as the first couple of quarters were, it's not going to be the easiest night of sleep thinking about the second half,"¹ said Rodgers. Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, Teddy Bridgewater's touchdown run and a field goal cut the lead to 21-16. Then, a timely sack by Za'Darius Smith helped force a field goal with 2:08 left. When Green Bay went three-and-out, the defense withstood Bridgewater's aerial assault on the final four plays.

Carolina 3 0 7 6 16
Green Bay 7 14 0 3 24

Sacks: GB 3 CAR 5

¹ Packer Plus, 12/24/2020, Dougherty, p. 5

12.19.2020
TENNESSEE

TITANS 14
PACKERS 40

In the falling snow on a Sunday night, the Packers completed their most impressive game to date. Facing a strong Titan team (10-3), Green Bay put up points on the opening drive with a balanced attack of four runs and four passes. Davante Adams caught the touchdown. After Tennessee punted, rookie running back A. J. Dillon showed promise, and another rookie Equanimeous St. Brown caught the touchdown pass. Later, the second quarter after Darnell Savage's interception, the Packers stretched the lead to 21-3 with a second Rodgers to Adams connection.

Before the half, the Titans got on the board with quarterback Ryan Tannehill's touchdown pass to Jonnu Smith. Though they kept up the pressure in the third quarter on a 45-yard touchdown run by Tannehill, that was it. Three of their final four drives were unproductive, with one interception and two three-and-outs. Green Bay's defense played well and held fullback Derrick Henry to 98 yards on 23 carries. Packer rookie A. J. Dillon led the ground game with 124 yards on 21 carries.

"It is a different deal when you come in here and play, and there's snow. We wouldn't want it any other way."¹

Tennessee 0 7 7 0 14
Green Bay 6 13 14 7 40

Total Yards: GB 448 TENN 260

A photo of a couple on eBay showed a man who looked very much like Aaron Rodgers. "The photo said to be from the late 1800s or early 1900s" was purchased by Troy Woitas in Iowa, who said, "Being sports fan, I recognized the resemblance to Aaron Rodgers."²

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/29/2020, Silverstein, p. 4B

² Packer Plus, 12/17/2020, Ryman, p. 31

1.3.2020

PACKERS 35
CHICAGO
BEARS 16

Despite a season ending injury during the week to all-pro left tackle David Bakhtiari, the Packers prevailed. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers put together another dominant performance against the Bears to clinch the top seed in the NFC North.

The Bears needed a win to make the postseason. They took an early 7-0 lead, but only produced three field goals the rest of the way. Aaron Rodgers (19-24-240-4-0) seized control of the game in the second quarter with three touchdown passes. Receivers Robert Tonyan, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and Dominique Dafney caught the aerials. "In the first half, Rodgers was 10-for-10 for 155 yards, three touchdowns, and a 158.3 QBR."¹

The Packers held serve in the second half. The best the Bears could do was a third-quarter field goal to top out at 16. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay pulled away with touchdowns by Aaron Jones and Davante Adams. The touchdown to Adams followed an interception by former Chicago safety Adrian Amos.

In 2020, Rodgers "did almost everything right."² He completed 71% of his 526 passes. His 48 touchdown passes were a career best, and he threw just five interceptions. It was his third MVP season!

Green Bay 0 21 0 14 35
Chicago 7 6 3 0 16

*Jamie Bernhardt, Packers Fan: "The whole experience of Lambeau is amazing. But now, when a player scores a touchdown, he does the Lambeau Leap into no one. The whole season kind of sucks. Things aren't the same without fans."*³

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/4/2021, Courtney, p. 4B

² Packer Plus, 12/17/2020, Ryman, p. 31

³ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/4/2021, Schneider, p. 12A

1.16.2021

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 18

PACKERS 32

Seven thousand fans attended this game following the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control. They witnessed quite a clash as the highest-scoring team in the league, the Packers, took on the league's best defense. In an impressive outing, Green Bay "controlled the line of scrimmage all game and gained the most yards of any Rams opponent this season (484)."¹

The teams traded field goals before Green Bay's 14-play scoring drive. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers went 4-for-5, and his touchdown pass went to Davante Adams. After L.A. went three-and-out, Rodgers was 5-for-5 with a touchdown run on the Green Bay's next series.

Trailing 16-3, the Rams put together a 75-yard scoring drive and quarterback Jared Goff found rookie back Cam Akers for a touchdown. On Green Bay's next series, when

defensive backs Troy Hill and John Johnson dropped interceptions in the end zone, Mason Crosby delivered from the 39-yard line for a 19-10 lead.

On the first play of the second half, Aaron Jones went 60 yards up the middle. He then made it 25-10 on a 1-yard run. Jared Goff hit back with six straight completions before Cam Akers took it the rest of the way to cut it back to seven, with a two-point conversion 25-18. A quiet final quarter scoring-wise was interrupted broken with seven minutes left with a 58-yard touchdown bomb from Rodgers to wideout Allen Lazard. That was it for the scoring.

Green Bay moved the ball easily, partly because L.A.'s star defensive tackle Aaron Donald was not at full strength. They ran for 188 yards on 36 attempts. "Aaron was playing through an injury but their whole defense has a lot of good guys. They're the No. 1 scoring defense for a reason."²

Los Angeles 3 7 8 0 18

Green Bay 3 16 6 7 32

7,439

Total Yards: GB 484 LA 244

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/17/2021, Silverstein, p. 1C

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/17/2021, Silverstein, p. 4C

1.16.2021

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

TAMPA BAY

BUCCANEERS 31

PACKERS 26

The Packers lost the NFC Championship Game at home to Tampa Bay's fast and aggressive defense. The Bucs sacked quarterback Aaron Rodgers five times, and the Packers ran for only 67 yards.

With seconds left in first half and Tampa Bay on Green Bay's 39-yard line, Tom Brady spotted Packers' cornerback Kevin King in man-to-man coverage. Brady wasted no time and hit the speedy Scotty Miller for a shocking score and a 21-10 halftime lead. Hall of Fame coach and current analyst Tony Dungy was shocked. "I'm not sure how you play inside technique man-to-man and not just play zone and protect the sideline and end zone? Amazing."¹

In the second half, the Packers missed several opportunities. In the third quarter, Brady threw the first of three consecutive interceptions... yes, three straight! The Packers cashed-in with a Rodgers touchdown to Adams and trailed 28-23. After the next two picks, the Packers did little. "Rodgers dropped back to pass on three straight plays. On both series,

the Packers went three-and-out.”² Scoring only seven points after three straight turnovers by Tom Brady was the killer.

After a Bucs’ field goal, the Packers’ drove to Tampa’s 8-yard line. With 4:33 remaining, Rodgers threw three straight incomplete passes. On fourth down from the 8-yard line with 2:09 left, rather than giving Rodgers another shot at the end zone, LaFleur elected for the field goal. He hoped the defense would stop Brady and get the ball back. It didn’t happen, and “anyone who thought it was a lock that the Packers would score a touchdown and a two-point conversion on fourth and eight, hadn’t seen the last three plays.”³

Tampa Bay 7 14 7 3 31

Green Bay 0 10 13 3 26

7,439

Time of Possession: GB 34:37 TB 25:23

After the game, Packer fan, Aaron Prebelski, said this: “I’m from Green Bay and I bleed green and gold. Every year I think Super Bowl.”⁴

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/25/2021, Courtney, p. 4B

² Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/27/2021, Bananczyk/Dougherty, p. 3C

³ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/25/2021, Silverstein, p. A2

⁴ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 1/25/2021, Ryman, P. A5

2020

NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	3	0
Chicago	8	8	0
Minnesota	7	9	0
Detroit	5	11	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Adams
Rushing	Jones
Scoring	Adams
Interceptions	Savage Jr.
Sacks	Z. Smith

ALL-PRO

Adams	Receiver
Bakhtiari	Tackle
Linsley	Center
Rodgers	Quarterback

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Jordan Love (1, QB)	Kamal Martin (5, LB)
A.J. Dillon (2, FB)	Jon Runyan (6, G)



2021
Record: 13-4-0, 1st Place
Coach: Matt LaFleur

- On January 20th, former General Manager Ted Thompson died. Thompson worked for the Packers for 21 years, beginning in 1992. He drafted Aaron Rodgers and built the 2010 Super Bowl XLV Champions.
- The Packers' Foundation awarded four \$125,000 grants to non-profits in Milwaukee.
- Aaron Rodgers no longer wanted to play for Green Bay. He didn't attend voluntary workouts, and during training camp, he negotiated a release from his contract after 2021. The Packers also agreed to trade for Randall Cobb. Upon his return, Cobb said, "I can breathe again because I have seen the other side, and I am excited to be back."¹
- Joe Barry of the Rams replaced Defensive coordinator Mike Pettine.
- 2021 was the NFL's first 17-game season. After losing the opener, the Packers won seven straight and eventually captured the NFC's lone #1 seed. GM Brian Gutekunst acquired more in-season talent to replace injured starters. Two of the biggest were cornerback Rasul Douglas and tackle Dennis Kelly.
- In November, Rodgers was criticized for lack of transparency about his vaccination status. He was sidelined with Covid-19, and the Packers lost to the Chiefs, 13-7.
- In November, the team began its 6th stock sale for improvements to Lambeau Field.
- The Packers finished the 13-4. The defense improved significantly, but the offense wasn't as sharp. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers won his 4th NFL MVP Award with 37 touchdown passes, four interceptions, and a completion percentage of 68.9. Davante Adams broke team records for receptions and receiving yards.

¹Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/30/2021, Wood, p. 1B

9.12.2021

PACKERS 3

NEW ORLEANS

SAINTS 38

Is this what happens when the starters don't play in the preseason? The Saints' ground game could not be stopped (171 yards), and the defense intercepted quarterback Aaron Rodgers twice. The writing was on the wall by halftime as the teams went into their locker rooms with New Orleans up 17-3.

Though the game was originally scheduled to be played in New Orleans, lingering effects of Hurricane Ida caused it to be played at a neutral site, Jacksonville, Florida. The Saints felt right at home and no trouble with the Packers.

New Saints quarterback Jameis Winston, who had replaced Drew Brees, threw five touchdown passes for a spectacular start. Their first points, however, came on the ground as Alvin Kamara and the Saints were off and running for 171 yards. Packer quarterback Aaron Rodgers struggled with back-to-back interceptions. Marcus Williams returned the second pick 53 yards setting up New Orleans to score three plays later, extending the lead to 24-3.

The Packers could not slow down the Saints, and their offense "did whatever it wanted."¹ Rodgers was ineffective (15-28-133-0-2,) and the poor debut was shocking. When Coach Matt LaFleur was asked if he would reevaluate his future preseason plans for starters, he commented, "I think you're right to question everything that we decided to do."²

Green Bay 0 3 0 0 3
New Orleans 3 14 7 14 38
35,242

Turnovers: GB 3 NO 0

"On Sunday, the Packers clearly won the tailgating contest and the crowd support."³

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/15/2021, p. 4c

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/13.2021, Wood, p. 3b

3 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/13/2021, Smits, p. B6

9.20.2021

DETROIT

LIONS 17
PACKERS 35

Is there a better way for the Packers to bounce back than to face the Lions in front of a big home crowd that hasn't been to a game since 2019? Quarterback Aaron Rodgers started the rebound with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Jones. It was the first of four touchdowns for Jones, who was playing his first game at Lambeau Field since his dad passed away.

After Detroit retook the lead 14-7, Rodgers marched the Packers downfield in 10 plays, and tied the score with a touchdown pass to Aaron Jones. The Lions enjoyed a 17-14 halftime lead, but their offense disappeared in the second half. The Packers put up 21 unanswered points to pull away. Rodgers (22-27-255-4-0) threw touchdowns to Robert Tonyan and Aaron Jones. Trailing 28-17, Detroit quarterback Jared Goff fumbled a snap that linebacker Krys Barnes recovered on the Lions' 23. Four plays later, Jones scored on a 1-yard run. An interception by Packer linebacker De'Vondre Campbell wrapped it up.

Detroit 7 10 0 0 17
Green Bay 7 7 14 7 35
77,240

At the half, the Packers honored their former general manager, Ted Thompson, who died in January. His name was unveiled in Lambeau's ring of honor, and the team wore T T on their helmets.

The necklace that Aaron Jones wore contained his father's ashes. Jones lost track of it right after his second touchdown. The grounds crew eventually found it in the end zone, but not before Jones said, "If there was any place to lose it, that's where my dad would've wanted me to lose it. So, I know he's smiling." ¹

¹ Packer Plus, 9/23/2021, Wood, p. 9

9.26.2021

PACKERS 30

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 28

Without your left tackle, the game plan gets tweaked. To compensate for the absence of David Bakhtiari and Elgton Jenkins, Coach Matt LaFleur called for mostly quick, short passes to neutralize San Francisco's pass rush. A steady ground game of 100 yards also kept the defense honest. Third-string left tackle Yosh Nijman held up very well and did not give up a sack.

The Packers took an early lead and held on until there were 37 seconds left in the game! They led 10-0 behind Mason Crosby's 54-yard field goal and Davante Adams' touchdown catch. On the touchdown, quarterback Rodgers was 5-for-5 on the drive. Rodgers and Davante Adams accounted for 66 yards of their next touchdown drive that Aaron Jones finished off with a 3-yard run. It was 17-0, but it quickly became "a fight to the finish."¹

With 62 seconds left in the half, the Niners regrouped for a quick march to Green Bay's 1-yard line. Rookie quarterback Trey Lance took it around left end to put San Francisco on the board. On the opening drive of the second half, the Niners continued to chip away at Green Bay's lead when quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo's touchdown to rookie receiver Brandon Aiyuk put the score at 17-14. Late in the third quarter, a pass interference penalty on linebacker Fred Warner set up Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers found Marquez Valdes-Scantling—MVS—for a 12-yard touchdown to extend Green Bay's lead to 24-14.

A touchdown cut it back to a three-point lead, 24-21, with 8 minutes left. After a three-and-out by the Packers, Garoppolo was sacked by Kenny Clark. He desperately tried to pass as he went down, but it went backward! New middle linebacker De'Vondre Campbell recovered the fumble on San Francisco's 38. The Niners held again, and Crosby's field goal made it 27-21.

With the game winding down, Garoppolo came back with eight straight passes. Pass #8 was a 12-yard scoring toss to fullback Kyle Juszczyk. With just 37 seconds left, and trailing for the first time, 28-27, Rodgers connected with Davante Adams twice after Adams returned from “a brutal blow from 49ers safety Jimmie Ward.”¹ Rodgers and everyone else were shocked Adams returned so quickly. Fortunately, the hit was to the chest, not the head.

Later, when asked about the quick return, Adams said, “I’m different. I’ve dealt with a lot of stuff like that... and it wasn’t a concussion.”² He returned to catch two passes for 25 and 17 yards to take the Packers to San Francisco’s 33-yard line. From the 51 yards out, Crosby’s third field goal won it!

Green Bay	10	7	0	13	30
San Francisco	0	7	7	14	28

1 Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 9/28/2021, Wood, p. 1B

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/28/2021, Wood, p. 4B

10.4.2021

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS 17

PACKERS 27

Photo Caption: “The Green Bay Packers Tailgaters Band performs Sunday at Lambeau Field.”¹

The Packers won their third straight game with a balanced offense. The ground game produced 131 yards, and the passing game racked up 236 yards. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, both to his old friend Randall Cobb.

The game started with a 75-yard scoring drive by the Steelers to lead 7-0. Minutes later, a Packers’ drive was capped off by an Aaron Rodgers 4-yard touchdown run. Big Ben fumbled, and Kenny Clark recovered on Pittsburgh’s 23-yard line. Three plays later, Cobb caught his touchdown pass from Rodgers since 2019. After the score, Cobb flexed his muscles and “raced to the stands, leaping for the first time since December 23, 2017.”¹ With the Packers leading 14-10 just before halftime, a Mason Crosby field goal attempt was blocked and returned for a touchdown. But an offsides penalty on the Steelers gave Crosby another chance that he nailed for a 17-10 lead.

The Packers put the game away on their first two possessions of the second half. Crosby booted his second field goal, and Cobb caught his second touchdown pass to put the Packers comfortably ahead, 27-10. The touchdown to Cobb was the 420th touchdown pass of Rodgers’ career, tying him with Dan Marino for 6th all-time. Coach LaFleur was pleased. “He (Cobb) knows how to run routes. I know there’s great chemistry with him and Aaron.”² The defense held Pittsburgh to 62 yards rushing, and rookie Eric Stokes’ late interception finished it off with a late pick.

Pittsburgh 7 3 0 7 17
Green Bay 0 17 10 0 27
78,281

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/4/2021, p. A1

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/4/2021, Wood, p. 4B

10.10.2021

PACKERS 25
CINCINNATI
BENGALS 22 (OT)

"You can't take a win for granted no matter how it comes,"¹ said Matt LaFleur about this agonizing victory witnessed by hundreds of Packer fans. The win was especially hard on kicker Mason Crosby, who missed four of seven field-goal attempts, including three in a row in the final minutes of regulation and overtime.

The Bengals played the good host. They didn't capitalize on an early interception thrown by Aaron Rodgers, but they did score after a short, 31-yard punt by new punter Cory Bojorquez. Rookie quarterback Joe Burrows started the drive at the 49-yard line, and his first touchdown pass gave the Bengals the lead. The Packers answered in seven plays as Rodgers and running back A. J. Dillon hooked up for six, but the extra point was missed. Davante Adams then caught touchdown pass number 422 for Rodgers. At halftime, it was 16-14 Green Bay.

The Packers couldn't get into the end zone in the second half, but two Crosby field goals extended their lead to 22-14. In the fourth quarter, the Bengals hit back with an eight-minute march and a Joe Mixon touchdown run. A two-point conversion tied the score at 22-22. With 2:15 left, Crosby's field goal try from the 36 went wide left. With 26 seconds remaining, Cincinnati's kicker, Evan McPherson, "doinked the right upright"² and missed from 57 yards away. With 21 seconds left, Rodgers found Adams for 20 yards. It put Green Bay on the 33, but Crosby missed from 51 yards out to force the overtime.

The Bengals won the toss, but linebacker De'Vondre Campbell intercepted Joe Burrow's first pass. Mason Crosby then missed from the 40-yard line. Cincinnati's McPherson did the same from the 49. The next time the Packers had the ball, Crosby nailed the winner from the 49 for Green Bay's first win in the Queen City since 1998.

Green Bay 0 16 3 3 3 25
Cincinnati 7 7 0 8 0 22
78,281

Total Yards: GB 466 CIN 367

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/2021, Silverstein, p. 1B

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/11/2021, Wood, p. B3

10.17.2021

PACKERS 24

CHICAGO

BEARS 14

It was a good sign for Green Bay that the Bears wanted to wear their alternate white uniforms, which allowed Green Bay to wear their home green and gold. The game was decided by another brilliant performance by Aaron Rodgers (17-23-195-2-0). Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third to improve his record vs. the Bears to 22-5!

On the game's opening drive, Chicago took a 7-0 lead behind rookie quarterback Justin Fields. The Packers came back when Fields was intercepted by safety Darnell Savage. Aaron Rodgers and Aaron Jones led the drive, and a 1-yard flip pass to wideout Allen Lazard tied it up. It was 10-7 Packers at halftime.

For the Bears, the second 30 minutes started with one first down and a punt. The Packers went 90 yards behind the versatility of Aaron Jones, who ran for 39 yards and caught two passes, including the touchdown, for another 22! The Bears hung tough and narrowed it to 17-14 on a Fields touchdown to Darnell Mooney.

A short Rodgers to Adams pass went 41-yards, and three plays later, Rodgers scored on a 6-yard scramble for a 24-14 lead with 4:30 remaining. As Rodgers scored, he says he immediately reacted to "a woman giving me the double bird."¹ In response, Rodgers let out an exuberant, "I still own you!"² On Chicago's final drive, defensive tackle Kenny Clark delivered two big sacks. Overall, Fields was sacked four times, and the Bears were held to 277 total yards.

Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24

Chicago 7 0 0 7 14

62,332

Packer fans were curious about Rodgers' Halloween costume. He mentioned to fans that the "long hair he's been sporting has been a year in the making for his Halloween costume."³ He was later seen dressed as John Wick from the Keanu Reeves action film franchise.

1. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/18/2021, Silverstein, p. 6B

2. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/18/2021, Dougherty, p. 3B

3. Packer Plus, 10/21/2021, Meinert, p. 31

10.24.2021

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM 10 (OT)

PACKERS 24

Washington's quarterback Taylor Heinicke wore #4 for his idol, Brett Favre, but the Packers

still prevailed. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was hot right from the start. On Green Bay's first possession, he completed 7 of 8 passes, including a touchdown to Davante Adams. Washington tied it on a 40-yard strike by Taylor Heinicke. After Mason Crosby missed a field goal, Rodgers went 8 for 8 on a 72-yard drive including a touchdown to Allen Lazard.

The turning point came on the second play of the second half. Outside linebacker Rashan Gary sacked Heinicke, who fumbled the football. Defensive tackle Dean Lowry fell on it on Washington's 23-yard line. Rodgers and Robert Tonyan hooked up for a 20-yard strike and a 21-7 lead. Washington was ready to steady the ship when Heinicke fumbled on the 1-yard line. Five minutes later, Washington was stopped in the red zone again on a fine defensive play and interception by Adrian Amos.

With 11 minutes left in the game, a 39-yard field goal made it 24-7 Packers. After trading turnovers—a pick by the Packers' Chandon Sullivan in the red zone was followed two plays later by a fumble by A. J. Dillon—Washington added a field goal with two minutes left, and the Packers were 6-1.

Washington 7 0 0 3 10
Green Bay 7 7 7 3 24
78,219

10.28.2021

ARIZONA

CARDINALS 21

PACKERS 24

On a Thursday night, the Packers beat the undefeated Cardinals in Arizona to get an early leg up on the postseason. Davante Adams, Allen Lazard, and Marquez Valdes-Scantling were unable to play, and tight end Robert Tonyan was lost during the game. Despite it all, the Packers still heard the cheers from a very large and vocal group of fans!

Arizona scored on its third series when Green Bay looked confused on defense. Quarterback Kyler Murray was a perfect 4-for-4 for 73 yards and a touchdown pass. The Packers evened it on a touchdown run by Aaron Jones. When the Cardinals muffed a punt, Ty Summers recovered on the 3-yard line, and Mason Crosby's boot made it 10-7.

The second half started very poorly for Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray. Dean Lowery sacked the Cardinals quarterback on the second play from scrimmage, and safety Henry Black snagged an interception on the next play. The Packers took full advantage with a touchdown from Rodgers to Randall Cobb. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Cobb caught his second touchdown pass on what Rodgers called "a great call by Matt."¹ It completed a 91-yard drive for a 24-14 lead. The pesky Cardinals closed it to three again, and the Packers retaliated with a 13-play drive that fizzled on Arizona's 1-yard line with nothing to show for it.

With 3:23 left, the sensational Murray went 5-for-7, and the Cardinals landed on Green Bay's 5-yard line. With 20 seconds left, Murray threw to Arizona wideout A. J. Green, who wasn't anticipating the pass. The ball was tipped and intercepted by cornerback Rasul Douglas for the win! Ironically, Douglas had been claimed off Arizona's practice squad in September. "That's the first time I've won a game like that,"² he said with a smile.

Green Bay 0 10 7 7 24
Arizona 7 0 7 7 21
78,219

Turnovers: GB 0 AZ 3

*The Green Bay Packers **FAN** Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through November 30th.*

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/30/2021, Silverstein, p. 4B

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/30/2021, Wood, p. 6B

11.7.2021

PACKERS 7
KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS 13

With quarterback Aaron Rodgers sidelined with Covid, second-year backup Jordan Love started at quarterback.

The Chiefs got off to a fast start and scored on their first series. On their first drive, quarterback Patrick Mahomes completed 6 of 8 passes, and the touchdown pass went to tight end Travis Kelce. With four minutes left in the half, an interception by the Packers was called back for defensive offside by linebacker Oren Burks. Kicker Harrison Butker then gave the Chiefs a 10-0 lead with 1:51 left in the half. But when Green Bay gave it back quickly on downs, another Mahomes-to-Kelce completion put it down on Green Bay's 37-yard line. Butker boomed a second field goal from 55 yards out for a 13-0 first-half lead.

Green Bay's young quarterback, Jordan Love, was under-whelming (19-34-190-1-1). He eventually found a rhythm in the fourth quarter, and he threw his first NFL touchdown to Allen Lazard. With five minutes left, the Chiefs ran out the clock.

While Green Bay's offense struggled, their defense was superb. They held the Chiefs to 14 first downs and 77 yards rushing. K.C. generated just 247 yards, the lowest total since Patrick Mahomes arrived. The defense "gave us a lot of chances, and I think what's most disappointing is I wasn't able to execute,"¹ said the battered Love, who was knocked down six times and under pressure the entire game.

Green Bay 0 0 0 0 7
Kansas City 7 6 0 0 13
73,476

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/8/2021, Wood, p. 6B

11.14.2021

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS 0
PACKERS 17

Both teams had their starting quarterback back under center. Russell Wilson had been out since October 7th due to surgery on his right middle finger. Aaron Rodgers returned after his Covid-19 quarantine with a broken pinky toe that bothered him until January.

The Packers controlled the first half. They dominated Seattle in yards gained (201-86) and in the time of possession (20:14-9:46). Quarterback Aaron Rodgers came back slowly, and he was sacked on the first drive. Mason Crosby then missed a 42-yard field goal, but in the second quarter, he nailed one from the 27. It stayed 3-0 until there were five minutes left in the game.

Interceptions by Kevin King and Jamal Adams kept the third quarter scoreless. But, late in the quarter, Rodgers directed an 11-play drive that showcased running back A. J. Dillon. The powerful running back known as *Quadzilla* "bullied his way into the end zone for a 10-0 lead that proved insurmountable."¹ Five plays later, safety Adrian Amos intercepted Russell Wilson in the end zone! Rodgers then tossed a short pass to Dillon, who broke free for 50 yards and completely reversed the field on Seattle. He scored on a 2-yard run with 1:56 left to end it!

Seattle 0 0 0 0 0
Green Bay 0 3 0 14 17
78,235

Russell Wilson was shut out for the first time in his pro career. He's never won at Lambeau Field.

*The franchise's 6th stock sale began. Shares sold for \$300. "I would love to buy a share for my father. I've been a Packers fan since I was a child because of my father's love for the Packers."*²

*"The Packers got to bask in the adulation of the home crowd."*³

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/15/2021, Staff Reports, p. 3B

2 Packer Plus, 11/18/2021, Ryman, Wood, Hill, p. 12

3 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/15/2021, Staff Reports, p. 3B

11.21.2021

PACKERS 31
MINNESOTA
VIKINGS 34

Nine hundred yards of offense kept this border battle from getting boring. Aaron Rodgers had another very productive game (23-33-385-2-0), and the excitement started with his first pass, a 37-yard completion from Rodgers to Davante Adams. The drive stalled, but a

54-yard field by Mason Crosby started the scoring.

After a field goal, the Vikings took the lead right after a 56-yard completion from quarterback Kirk Cousins to Justin Jefferson. Trailing 10-3, Crosby missed a field goal, and a penalty negated an interception by Darnell Savage. The Vikings added on for a 16-3 lead as halftime approached. But Rodgers struck before halftime when he rolled to his left and threw an amazing pass back across his body to tight end Josiah Deguara. The 25-yard touchdown narrowed it to 16-10, and Rodgers was heating up.

Minnesota opened the second half with a 75-yard scoring drive. The Packers responded with Rodgers' touchdown to Davante Adams. Still trailing 23-17 on the final play of the third quarter, Preston Smith sacked quarterback Kirk Cousins to force a punt. Green Bay came back with another Rodgers to Adams touchdown that took back the lead, 24-23. Cousins matched Rodgers with a 23-yard scoring strike to Justin Jefferson, and Dalvin Cook's two-point conversion made it 31-24 Vikings.

With 2:17 left, Rodgers uncorked a 75-yard touchdown to Marquez Valdes-Scantling that tied it. A second interception by Savage was overturned on review. "You'd love to survive the ground there,"¹ said LaFleur about the call. Cousins then completed three straight to get to Green Bay's 19-yard line, and Greg Joseph kicked the winner.

Green Bay 3 7 7 14 31

Minnesota 9 7 7 11 34

66,959

Mason Crosby has missed 8 of his last 14 field goal attempts.

"Just to have the fans back and some sense of normalness has been amazing,"² said Bill Tressler, owner of Hinterland Brewery.

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/21, Wood, 3B

² Green Bay Press-Gazette, 11/22/21, Ryman, 8A

11.28.2021

LOS ANGELES

RAMS 28

PACKERS 36

Old friends meet again—Coaches Matt LaFleur and Sean McVey. The last time they clashed was in 2020's postseason, with Green Bay winning 32-18.

On the Rams' first series, Rashan Gary sacked quarterback Matt Stafford and knocked the ball loose. It was recovered by Preston Smith, who finally secured the ball on L.A.'s 6-yard line. Aaron Rodgers ran it in. After Mason Crosby's field goal, quarterback Matt Stafford rallied his team with a 79-yard touchdown to Van Jefferson. Later in the half, the Packers made it 20-17 after a Rodgers to Randall Cobb hook up. Matt Stafford came right back

and went 5-for-5, including a touchdown pass to Darrell Henderson.

The Packers opened the third quarter with an 8-minute, tone-setting drive. Rodgers and the power of A. J. Dillon couldn't be stopped. Dillon's short touchdown run extended the lead to 27-17. Late in the third quarter, the defense sealed the deal with a 32-yard pick-six by cornerback Rasul Douglas. Regarding his amazing rise from Arizona's practice squad to the interception leader for the Packers, Douglas said, "They just give me opportunities to keep making plays, keep putting me in those situations."¹

The Rams trailed 36-17, but they scored the final 11 points to make it more respectable. The Packers made it to the bye week, but with backup left tackle Elgton Jenkins out for the season, they would have to depend on the third left tackle on the depth chart, Yosh Nijman.

Los Angeles 0 17 0 11 28
Green Bay 7 13 16 0 36
77,948

Aaron Rodgers completed passes to 8 different receivers.

For Packer fans who "take no pleasure in heading to the mall and fighting the crowds just to shop... there are plenty of presents on (eBay) that deserve to be under a tree:"² Here are three:

- Green Bay Packers NFL Adult MVP Toothbrush, \$7.29
- Green Bay Packers autographed hat—player unknown, \$9.99
- Green Bay Packers NFL Flask, 7oz. w/Funnel, \$15.99

¹ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/29/2021, Silverstein, 3B

² Packer Plus, 12/9/2021, Hart, p. 4

12.12.2021

CHICAGO

BEARS 30

PACKERS 45

This was the 400th NFL game at Lambeau Field, which opened in 1957. It was also the 204th game between the rivals, and Aaron Rodgers welcomed the team he *owns* back to Lambeau Field!

The Bears got out to a 3-0 lead before the teams put up 45 points in the second quarter. In non-stop action, "it was haymaker after wild haymaker, the scores coming in all directions."¹ For Chicago, rookie quarterback Justin Fields connected for touchdowns of 46 and 54 yards. In between, he was intercepted by Rasul Douglas, who returned it 33 yards for his second pick-six in as many games! A 97-yard punt return by Jakeem Grant gave the Bears the halftime lead, 27-21.

Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay owned the second half. A. J. Dillon led the opening drive

with 36 yards on five carries, and Aaron Jones scored on a 3-yard run. After his two second-quarter touchdown passes, Rodgers continued his assault with two more touchdowns to Aaron Jones and Davante Adams. Before the touchdown pass to Jones, a strip-sack of Justin Fields by Preston Smith knocked the football loose. It was recovered by defensive end, Rashan Gary. On the next play, a short pass from Rodgers to Aaron Jones went for 23 yards and a 35-27 lead. In the third quarter, with 8 minutes left, the Bears punted three straight times.

The Packers put up 10 more points behind a second Rodgers touchdown to Adams, who caught 10 passes for 121 yards and two touchdowns. For Aaron Rodgers, it boosted his record against the Bears to 23-5, and backed-up his "ownership" claim.

Bears 3 24 0 3 30
Packers 0 21 17 7 45
78,273

*"The Green Bay Packers stock sale raised 54 million (to date).....165,000 of the 300,000 shares sold... sale ends on February 25... 2,361 purchases were made from Canada."*²

Regarding the Aaron Rodgers look-alike in the stands Sunday night... he is from Germany, and he was at the game as part of a surprise gift from his father and sister!

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/13/2021, Wood, p. 1B
2 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/11/2021, Ryman, p. A7

12.19.2021

PACKERS 31

BALTIMORE

RAVENS 30

For a third straight year, Matt LaFleur and the Packers clinched the NFC North. Green Bay came in with a record of 9-3, and they were fortunate not to face Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson. Baltimore was also without all-pro nose tackle Kenny Clark, but Jackson's replacement, Tyler Huntley, did very well.

An early mistake by Green Bay—running into the punt returner on a fair catch—was costly. In seven plays, tight end Mark Andrews was in the end zone with a pass from Murray for a 7-0 lead. Red-hot Rodgers (5-5-72) and relentless running back A. J. Dillon led Green Bay's next series. Dillon scored from the 2-yard line. Baltimore came right back with a 73-yard touchdown drive, and Rodgers matched it with Davante Adams catching another touchdown pass to tie the score, 14-14.

The second half was riveting. The Packers' opening series was powerful as Dillon and Aaron Jones kept Baltimore's run defense off balance. Rodgers (23-31-268-3-0) made it count with a short touchdown pass to Jones. After a field goal, Marquez Valdes-Scantling

caught three passes on the next drive, including an 11-yard touchdown pass. The touchdown pass tied Rodgers with Brett Favre for the most in franchise history—442!

Mason Crosby then booted a 29-yard field goal for a comfortable, 31-17, Green Bay lead. The Packers could not slow down the Ravens, and Huntley directed two more touchdown drives in the final nine minutes. He scored both of the touchdowns, and the second touchdown narrowed the Pack's lead to 31-30. With 47 seconds left, Coach John Harbaugh gambled and went for two points and the win. Huntley's pass fell incomplete.

Green Bay 0 14 7 10 31
Baltimore 7 7 3 13 30
70,815

Rushing: GB 96 BAL 143

12.25.2021

CLEVELAND

BROWNS 22

PACKERS 24

Cleveland quarterback Baker Mayfield threw four interceptions to give the Packers a very Merry Christmas. Aaron Rodgers cashed in on three of the picks with touchdown passes, and the final pick came with 50 seconds left in the game.

Cleveland grabbed a quick lead in five plays culminating in a 1-yard plunge by Nick Chubb. The Browns ran the ball effectively all game (219 yards) as the Packers struggled to hold the edge. For the game, they outgained the Packers, 408-311.

But Baker Mayfield struggled, and he was sacked five times. He threw four interceptions, starting with Darnell Savage's pick that brought the Packers back. It set up touchdown pass #443 from Aaron Rodgers to Allen Lazard. Lazard made a great stretch to reach the pylon, and the touchdown moved Rodgers past Brett Favre as Green Bay's all-time touchdown leader. "Rodgers' offensive line swarmed him. (Lucas) Patrick hoisted Rodgers in the air, carrying him toward the goal line."¹

A pick by cornerback Chandon Sullivan followed, which gave Rodgers the opportunity to connect with his favorite target Davante Adams. In addition to giving the Packers a 14-7 lead, this touchdown set a new Packers' record for the most touchdowns by a quarterback and a receiver—66—surpassing Rodgers and Jordy Nelson. Near the end of the first half, cornerback Rasul Douglas picked off Mayfield near midfield. Rodgers converted again, going six-for-seven with another touchdown to Adams for a 21-12 lead.

The Browns threatened late in the game. They scored on a Mayfield touchdown pass to trail by only two, 24-22, with 4:31 left. They stopped the Packers and got the ball back with 2:05 left. Nick Chubb, who ran for 126 yards, led the Browns to midfield. A third-

down pass intended for wideout Donovan Peoples-Jones was intercepted by Rasul Douglas. Game over. After the game, Douglas, who has five interceptions, was called a star by Aaron Rodgers!

Cleveland 6 6 3 7 22

Green Bay 7 14 3 0 24

77,901

Rodgers has thrown 33 touchdown passes and four interceptions.

*Brett Favre to Aaron Rodgers: "Hey 12. Congratulations, man, on passing my touchdown record. I have one request: Go get us another Super Bowl. Congrats."*²

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/26/2021, Wood, p. 3C

2 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/26/2021, Wood, p. 3C

1.2.2022

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS 10

PACKERS 37

This easy win clinched the lone postseason bye in the NFC. It also secured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Minnesota played without quarterback Kirk Cousins, due to Covid-19. Backup Sean Mannion led the Vikings.

Early on, Mason Crosby made two field goals to get back on track. The Packers then reeled off three touchdown drives in a row. On the first two, Rodgers was 10-for-10, and he connected for touchdowns with Allen Lazard and Davante Adams. On the third drive, it was all A. J. Dillon for a 27-3 lead!

The second half got out of hand quickly for Minnesota. They committed a penalty on a punt that gave Green Bay the ball on Minnesota's 37. A. J. Dillon carried the load from there and scored. Crosby added a field goal to lead, 30-3. When the Vikings finally awoke for a touchdown, the Packers matched it with a 90-yard drive and Dillon's second touchdown run. With seven minutes left, quarterback Jordan Love finished the game for Rodgers, who completed another MVP-like performance, 29-38-288-2-0.

Minnesota 0 3 7 0 10

Green Bay 3 17 10 7 37

77,832

Adams (11-136-1) broke his own team record with his 116th catch.

*Hall of Fame Coach and Announcer John Madden passed away on December 28, 2021. Of the many kind of things he has said over the years about the Packers, these words from a 2004 visit are special. "I always said if they ever built a shrine to pro football, it should be Lambeau Field. It should be Green Bay. That's the history, that's the foundation, that's who we are, that's what we are, that's where we came from."*¹

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/16/2022, Meinert, p. 8E

1.9.2022

PACKERS 30

DETROIT

LIONS 37

With a postseason bye secured, the Packers lost to the Lions. Some players rested, but Aaron Rodgers played the first half and gave way to Jordan Love after halftime. Left tackle Dave Bakhtiari of the Packers played for 27 plays, but he suffered a setback that would keep him out of the postseason.

Overall, Rodgers was sharp with two first-half touchdown passes to Allen Lazard. The Lions pressured Rodgers often and sacked him three times. At halftime, Detroit led 17-13. On the opening drive of the second half, the Lions made it 24-13.

Quarterback Jordan Love struggled with one touchdown pass and two interceptions. He led two touchdown drives. He was sacked once and ran for -1 yards. His lone touchdown pass to Josiah Deguara put the Packers up, 30-27, with 4:49 remaining. The Lions came back with 10 points in the final minutes to put it away. The Packers looked forward to their bye week and playing at home in the Divisional Round.

Green Bay 7 6 3 14 30

Detroit 7 10 7 13 37

56,735

Headline: "Packers, AmFam give \$40,000 in rent relief to Sherman Phoenix businesses"¹

Lay's Potato Chips "is providing fans a chance to win a bag of specialty potato chips fashioned from potatoes grown in Lambeau Field soil."²

1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/4/2022, Luthern, p. 12A

2 Packer Plus, 1/20/2022, p. 9

1.22.2022

2021 NFC Divisional Playoff

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers 13

PACKERS 10

The Packers missed a third straight opportunity to play for the Lombardi Trophy as they were beaten by the 49ers and themselves. The defeat came on a cold day when Green Bay's defense rose to the occasion, shutting out the 49ers in the first half and giving up just 212 yards all game. They were betrayed, however, by a poor offensive showing and the play of their special teams.

The Packers were dominant on the game's opening drive. It took them just five minutes to find the end zone! On their next series, however, a fumble by Mercedes Lewis started a subtle shift in momentum that the Packers seemingly could not avert. Green Bay went three-and-out on their next two drives. Just prior to halftime, Packer safety Adrian Amos intercepted quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo on Green Bay's 4-yard line. Rodgers missed a sure touchdown on third down by under throwing a wide-open Aaron Jones along the sideline. Jones had to completely turn around to catch the pass, and he was tackled on San Francisco's 14-yard line. San Francisco's defense held, and a 39-yard field goal try by Mason Crosby was blocked by Jimmie Ward.

The Packers led 7-0 lead at halftime, but after their opening drive, their offense did little. The 49ers finally got on the board with a third-quarter field goal. Mason Crosby matched it for the Packers early in the fourth quarter for a 10-3 game. With five minutes left in the game and the Packers punting from their 12-yard line, Jordan Willis of the Niners rushed right through the middle of the line and blocked Corey Bojorquez's punt. It was recovered by rookie safety Talanoa Hufanga, who ran six yards to the end zone. It was all even at 10 with 4:41 left.

Green Bay's offense did not meet the moment. They committed two penalties to set them back 10 yards. They ran three plays, all passes, with two falling incomplete. They took only 68 seconds off the clock and punted it back. San Francisco had plenty of time (3:20) to work with, and they ran the ball six times. Garoppolo went two-for-two, and Robbie Gould's 45-yard field goal sent the Niners to the NFC Championship Game.

San Francisco 0 0 3 10 13
Green Bay 7 0 0 3 10
79,132

2021
NFC NORTH

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Green Bay	13	4	0
Minnesota	8	9	0
Chicago	6	11	0
Detroit	3	13	1

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Rodgers
Receiving	Adams
Rushing	AJ Dillon
Scoring	Crosby
Interceptions	Douglas
Sacks	Gary

ALL-PRO

Adams	Receiver
Rodgers	Quarterback
De’Vondre Campbell	Linebacker

NOTABLE DRAFT CHOICES (Round, Position)

Eric Stokes (1, CB)
Josh Myers (2, C)
Amari Rodgers (3, WR)
Royce Newman (4, G)
T.J. Slaton (5, DT)

Other Books by Jim Rice

PackersCentury.com

Giant Cheeseheads!

The Giant-Packer Rivalry 1928-2014*

* Games Thru 2019

Great Games of the Gridiron

The NFL Championship Game 1933-1965

92 Years!

The Bears-Packers Rivalry 1921-2014*

* Games Thru 2019

Green Bay's 13 Championship Seasons