



**1995**

**Record: 11-5-0, 1<sup>st</sup> 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,"<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup> said Any Hansen of Algoma.*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/4/95, Havel, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> 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,"<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>1</sup>

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."<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/18/95, Havel, p. 17

<sup>2</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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,"<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Detroit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>60,302</b>					

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!"<sup>1</sup>*

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,"<sup>1</sup> 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"<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup>

<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>62,839</b>					

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."<sup>1</sup>

"Reggie White says a knee injury won't sideline him, but the Packers are preparing Matt LaBounty just in case."<sup>2</sup>

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,"<sup>3</sup> 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."<sup>4</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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."<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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,"<sup>1</sup> 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**

<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>1</sup>

**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!*

<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>1</sup> 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"<sup>2</sup>, 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,"<sup>3</sup> 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’.’<sup>1</sup>*

*“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.”<sup>2</sup>*

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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.”<sup>2</sup> 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!"<sup>3</sup>*

*"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."<sup>4</sup>*

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."<sup>1</sup>*

*"There were also Texans that wore blue Cowboy hats and cheered for the Packers. And they nicknamed themselves The Blue Cheeseheads."<sup>2</sup>*

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."<sup>3</sup>

**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**

	<b><u>W</u></b>	<b><u>L</u></b>	<b><u>T</u></b>
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)