

## Futile offensive output dooms Packers

### Green Bay unable to successfully complete drives against the Panthers

**LUKE REIMER**  
*Green & Gold Express*

With tight end Tucker Kraft knocked out of the game with a knee injury, the Packers sat and watched as Carolina Panthers kicker Ryan Fitzgerald connected on a game-winning, 49-yard field goal to win the game 16-13 and give Green Bay its second loss of the season Nov. 2 at Lambeau Field.

Green Bay entered this game as 13.5-point favorites, meaning this loss was the biggest upset, based upon point spread, in the NFL since 2023.

While the loss to the Panthers certainly stings, as Green Bay is knocked down to the fourth seed in the NFC, things get much worse for the Packers, as Kraft's knee injury in the third quarter forced the star tight end out of the game and likely for the foreseeable future.

"It doesn't look good," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on Kraft's injury. "Its going to be tough (to overcome the injury). But it is football; the other guys are going to

have to step up."

The injury to Kraft seemed to be a microcosm of the Packers offense as a whole in this game. Carolina's defense held the Packers to just 13 points in Green Bay's second-lowest scoring output this season. The lack of points seemed to come from making mistakes when given chances to score.

Five of the Packers' first six drives saw the team march down to inside the Panthers' 35-yard line, but the team was only able to come away with six points.

"We have had penalties; we obviously had a fumble on the first drive. We had three possessions in the first half — a nine-play drive, a nine-play drive and a 10-play drive, and we had six points," said LaFleur. "It is going to be tough if we can't figure (things) out and score in the red area. It is just going to be tough to win football games like that."

Playcalling also seemed to be somewhat of an issue for Green Bay in this game.

**FUTILE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Jordan Love and the offense struggled throughout the day against Carolina. The epitome of the Packers offense struggle was the fourth quarter decision to go for it on a fourth-and-8 instead of attempting a field goal. At left, Josh Jacobs sneaks through the line scoring the only Green Bay touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The Packers challenged the original call, overturning the ruling on the field that Jacobs was short of the goal line.

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## Packers' elite status needs to show up Monday night



The Panthers effectively neutralized Micah Parsons, holding him without a single pressure for the first time in his career.

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### Team needs to put loss to Carolina behind them

**BY JACOB WESTENDORF**  
*Green & Gold Express*

Green Bay returns for another prime time game when the Packers host the Philadelphia Eagles on

Monday Night Football. **Packers' offense vs. Eagles' defense**

Philadelphia's defense has stars at all three levels and a legend coaching on that side of the ball.

Vic Fangio, a known Packers' nemesis, coordinates the defense. He was largely responsible for the San Francisco '49ers' defenses that tormented Aaron Rodgers in the early 2010s.

On the field, their defense is built around defensive tackle Jalen Carter.

Carter is immensely talented and fell to the Eagles in the first round of the 2023 NFL Draft.

He's a force in the middle of their defense, equally impactful against the run as he is the pass. He made arguably the biggest play in the Eagles' 28-22 win over the Los Angeles Rams in last year's Divisional Round game when he sacked Matthew Stafford as the Rams had driven deep into Eagles' territory.

Nolan Smith is on

injured reserve, but he's their best pass rusher. It's unclear if he'll be able to return for this game, but he is eligible to do so.

Outside of him, the Eagles have relied on a rush-by-committee approach on the edge.

Jalyx Hunt started to pay well prior to the team's bye week. The second level of their defense has Zach Baun, the former Wisconsin Badger who was a first-team all-pro a season ago.

**PREVIEW, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**FUTILE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

That came to a climax when the Packers faced a fourth-and-4, down 13-6 with 11 minutes left in the game. From the Panthers' 13-yard line, instead of attempting a field goal for with 11 minutes left in the game. From the Panthers' 13-yard line, instead of attempting a field goal for three points, Green Bay elected to send the offense out on the field. Not liking the setup before the play, the Packers called timeout to reevaluate.

After the timeout,

Green Bay sent the offense back out on the field. Jordan Love received the snap and, after running around out of the pocket, his jump ball intended for Romeo Doubs fell incomplete, forcing Green Bay to turn the ball over on downs.

"Matt (LaFleur) made a decision on that one to want to try to put up a touchdown, and obviously it didn't work out," said Love.

"Hindsight is 20/20. I wish we would have taken

the points. We didn't do that there," said LaFleur. "Yeah, bad decision."

As a whole, the Packers offense totaled 369 yards, outgaining the Panthers by 104 yards. The fact of the matter was that Green Bay made those mistakes to ruin drives, while Carolina didn't.

On his 27th birthday, Love finished this game completing 26-of-37 passes for 273 yards and no touchdown passes while throwing one interception. Doubs led the Packers

in receiving, catching seven passes for 91 yards. Christian Watson added 58 yards on two receptions, while Luke Musgrave totaled 34 yards on two receptions.

In the run game, Josh Jacobs churned out a hard-fought 87 yards and a 1-yard touchdown, the only touchdown for the Packers in this game, on 17 carries. Emanuel Wilson added 16 yards on six carries.

For Carolina, quarterback Bryce Young completed 11-of-20 passes for

102 yards and no touchdown passes while throwing for one interception. Tetairoa McMillan led the Panthers in receiving, catching four passes for 46 yards. Xavier Legette added 22 yards on one reception.

In the run game, Rico Dowdle saw the majority of the work, as the former Dallas Cowboy rushed 25 times for 130 yards and scored both of Carolina's touchdowns. Chuba Hubbard added another 17 yards on five carries.

While losing to an inferior opponent is never in the cards, the loss to Carolina only gives Green Bay its second loss on the season and moves its record to 5-2-1. With the Detroit Lions losing to the Minnesota Vikings this week, the Packers stay atop the division and sit at the fourth seed in the NFC playoff picture.

Green Bay will face the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night at Lambeau Field in the team's next game.

**PREVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

He's flanked by Nakobe Dean and Jihaad Campbell.

Campbell is a rookie who has made an impact in his first season and moves around both to the middle and the edge.

Dean just returned from injury.

In the secondary, Cooper DeJean was a former Packers' draft crush, and he's an impactful player in the slot. Quinyon Mitchell is the team's best boundary corner and has traveled with the opposing offense's best receiver.

It'll be interesting to see if Fangio has Mitchell follow anyone with the Packers' preferred method of spreading the ball around in the pass game.

The Eagles' secondary recently added an old friend in Jaire Alexander. Alexander was traded to Philadelphia for a late-round pick swap on Nov. 1. We'll see if he can acclimate quickly enough to the defense to be on the field, but there's little doubt he'll be motivated if he is able to play.

Green Bay's offense was not the well-oiled machine it showed to be against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first half against the Carolina Panthers.

A turnover by Savion Williams snuffed out their first drive and took points off the board.

Their second drive was a mistake-filled mess after a 51-yard catch by Christian Watson resulted in a field goal.

Their third series followed a familiar script from the first two. Penalties and mistakes piled up, costing them points.

Ultimately, the of-

fense scored six points and Green Bay trailed at halftime.

In the second half, tragedy struck with Tucker Kraft exiting the game with an injury. He was helped to the sideline with what looked like a knee injury.

If Kraft can play this week, it'd be a surprise. If he can't, he'll be replaced by committee with Luke Musgrave and John Fitzpatrick likely attempting to pick up the slack.

The more likely approach is heavier use of their receiver corps, which is a deeper, more talented unit than what they have at tight end without Kraft.

To add to a frustrating day, Jordan Love threw a terrible interception in the third quarter with the Packers trailing 7-6.

The Panthers would turn that interception into a touchdown, which put the Packers in a 13-6 hole late in the third quarter.

Musgrave would step up late in the game with three catches on a touchdown drive that pulled the Packers even at 13-13.

The second half was not any better. Jordan Love was sloppy. His pass catchers were either injured or unable to create separation.

Green Bay's first four red zone possessions resulted in six points thanks to a turnover and missed field goal.

Ultimately, the offense is not feeling good about itself going into a showdown with the defending champions.

**Packers' defense vs. Eagles' offense**

It's the moment everyone has been waiting for.



While the Green Bay defense held the Panthers to 16 points, running back Rico Dowdle blew past the defensive line for 130 yards and two touchdowns. He was the first rusher to gain more than 100 yards against the Green Bay defense in 2025.

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Green Bay's defense will be taking on the Philadelphia Eagles' tush push after trying to get it banned during the offseason.

Jokes aside, that is part of the Eagles' offense, and they are better at it than anyone, even when it is officiated properly.

When the Eagles are running a conventional offense, they are loaded.

Their pass catching trio of AJ Brown, Devonta Smith and Dallas Goedert make one of the best groups in all of football.

Brown has had some drama surrounding him thanks to some cryptic posts on social media but remains in Philadelphia and is an impact player.

Smith is a great receiver

in his own right, and Goedert bounced Carrington Valentine off the turf in Philadelphia the last time these two teams met.

The identity of their offense, however, surrounds their offensive line and Saquon Barkley.

Barkley was the best back in football a season ago but has taken a step back this year through the first eight games of the season.

Their offensive line has taken a step back with the loss of Mekhi Becton during the offseason, and the injuries to Landon Dickerson have lingered throughout the year as well.

At the controls of their offense, it's Jalen Hurts.

The reigning Super Bowl MVP is inconsistent

at times but a dynamic weapon both running and throwing the ball.

Xavier McKinney found his way back into the turnover column during Sunday's game. He almost forced two turnovers on one possession.

Carolina's second possession of the game saw him force a fumble from Bryce Young, but it was recovered by Carolina.

Two plays later, McKinney picked off a pass in the end zone, taking points off the board for the Panthers.

Apart from that, Green Bay's defense struggled to get off the field against Carolina in the first half.

They only gave up seven points in the process, but their inability to get off the field allowed their

offense only three possessions in the first half.

Against a team that is trying to shorten the game, that is a recipe for disaster.

As it turns out, it was a recipe for disaster.

The Packers defense was walked down the field by Bryce Young and Rico Dowdle to set up a game-winning field goal from rookie kicker Ryan Fitzgerald.

**Special Teams**

Philadelphia's special teams is led by its elder statesman Jake Elliott.

Elliott struggled last year, especially on longer field goals. He's 7-of-9 on the year this year and is taken out of the game to some degree with the Eagles' ability to convert in short yardage situations on fourth down.

Their return game is led by Will Shipley and Tank Bigsby, both of whom have a return of more than 30 yards this season.

Green Bay's special teams is in flux with one of its aces, Nick Niemann, being placed on injured reserve after suffering a pectoral injury against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Brandon McManus has kicked two games in a row, but for now at least, the Packers have kept two kickers on the roster.

Is that trying to make sure McManus is healthy? Is it a built-in competition for McManus? Was it just posturing for a trade before the deadline?

Did McManus missing a kick force Green Bay's hand?

Who knows at this point, but the instability on special teams is nothing new in Green Bay.

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES AT GREEN BAY PACKERS**

**TIME AND DATE:** 7:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10  
**LOCATION:** Lambeau Field

**TV:** ESPN  
**RADIO:** Flagship WRIT-FM Milwaukee — 95.7; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay — 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo — 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette — 95.1, and WSAU Wausau — 550 AM and 95.1 FM

**2025 RECORDS:** Packers, 5-2-1. Eagles, 6-2.

**HISTORY:** The Packers and Eagles have a host of memorable games since they started locking horns in 1933.

The two teams have met 48 times with the Packers holding a 28-20 advantage.

The Eagles and Packers met twice last season, with Philadelphia prevailing 34-29 in Brazil to open the season and then 22-10 in Philadelphia for the Wild Card round.

The last time the Eagles were at Lambeau Field came in 2020, where Jalen Hurts made his first appearance as a preferred quarterback for the Eagles, replacing Carson Wentz.

Aaron Rodgers threw the 400th touchdown pass of his Hall of Fame career that day,

and the Packers won 30-16.

**COACHES:** Packers, Matt LaFleur, seventh season, 72-34-1. Eagles, Nick Sirianni, fifth season, 54-22.

**PACKERS SCHEDULE**

Sunday, Sept. 7, vs. Detroit Lions, W 27-13

Thursday, Sept. 11, vs. Washington Commanders, W 27-18

Sunday, Sept. 21, at Cleveland Browns, L 10-13

Sunday, Sept. 28, at Dallas Cowboys, T 40-40

Bye Week

Sunday, Oct. 12, vs. Cincinnati Bengals, W 28-17

Sunday, Oct. 19, at Arizona

Cardinals, W 27-23

Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pittsburgh Steelers, W 35-25

Sunday, Nov. 2, vs. Carolina Panthers, L 13-16

Monday, Nov. 10, vs. Philadelphia Eagles, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 16, at New York Giants, noon

Sunday, Nov. 23, vs. Minnesota Vikings, noon

Thursday, Nov. 27, at Detroit Lions, noon

Sunday, Dec. 7, vs. Chicago Bears, noon

Sunday, Dec. 14, at Denver Broncos, 3:25 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20, at Chicago Bears, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 27, vs.

Baltimore Ravens, TBA

Sunday, Jan. 4, at Minnesota Vikings, TBA

**NFL SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, Nov. 6**  
Las Vegas at Denver, 7:15 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 9**  
Atlanta at Indianapolis, 8:30 a.m. (in Berlin, Germany)

Cleveland at NY Jets, noon

New Orleans at Carolina, noon

New England at Tampa Bay, noon

Baltimore at Minnesota, noon

Buffalo at Miami, noon

NY Giants at Chicago, noon

Jacksonville at Houston, noon

Arizona at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.

Detroit at Washington, 3:25 p.m.

LA Rams at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.

Pittsburgh at LA Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

**Monday, Nov. 10**  
Philadelphia at Green Bay, 7:15 p.m.

**Bye Teams:** Cincinnati, Dallas, Kansas City, Tennessee

# Alexander returns to Green Bay as a member of the Eagles

BY JACOB WESTENDORF  
Green & Gold Express

All eyes will be on the Green Bay Packers as they welcome the defending world champion Philadelphia Eagles to Lambeau Field on Monday night.

The Eagles are coming off their bye week but sit at the top of the NFC East and have the look of a team that can make another run at a Super Bowl title.

The Packers had won three in a row before a disappointing performance against the Carolina Panthers on Sunday, and are inching toward playing their best football.

This game is a clash of the titans, and it has the potential to be one of the best games of the year.

With a disappointing performance against Carolina, it's more important that Green Bay holds serve on its home field.

More on that in our weekly six pack.



## 1.) Alexander's Return

The Philadelphia Eagles got a boost in their secondary by making a move for a former Green Bay Packer. Jaire Alexander was released this offseason after several attempts to trade him and landed in Baltimore to play with his former college teammate, Lamar Jackson.

Things did not work out for Alexander in Baltimore. He was a healthy scratch for all but two games during his tenure and sent to the Eagles on Nov. 1 for a late-round pick swap.

Alexander was set to return to Green Bay in December as a member of the Ravens but instead will get a chance to catch on Monday with Philadelphia.

Alexander typically relished challenges and bright lights during his time in Green Bay, and there's no question he'll be motivated if he's able to acclimate to the Eagles' defense and get on the field.



## 2.) Familiarity

Micah Parsons was Green Bay's big trade acquisition this offseason, and he has some familiarity with this week's opponent.

Parsons, of course, formerly of the Dallas Cowboys, used to play the Eagles twice a year.

He's faced their stellar offensive tackles in Jordan Mailata and Lane Johnson.

He's played seven games against the Eagles in his career and has five sacks in those games.

After the Packers played the Lions to start the season, Parsons noted that he joked with Penei Sewell that he would be

Parsons' new rival now that he left the division with Johnson, but he didn't have to wait long for another crack at the future Hall of Famer.



## 3.) Revenge Game?

No, not a revenge game for a player but perhaps an organization.

Mark Murphy and the Packers proposed a ban of the infamous "Tush Push" play that the Eagles have perfected over the last three years.

The vote sounded like it would have support for a ban but did not receive enough votes.

While the play is trending toward getting banned this offseason, it's still legal.

Nick Sirianni is as good as anyone at creating slights as motivation for his team, and the Eagles' social media team mocked the Packers after the play was deemed legal for the 2025 season.

Don't be surprised if the Eagles run that play in an unconventional situation as a dig at the Packers.



## 4.) Clash of the Titans

The Packers had several chances to beat the top teams in the NFC a season ago and failed all six times.

That included two losses to the Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings in the regular season.

The Philadelphia Eagles beat the Packers to start the season and once again to finish it with a 22-10 win at Lincoln Financial Field.

This year is different.

The Packers have beaten the Detroit Lions at Lambeau Field. The Lions are the best team Green Bay has played to date. The Eagles could be a different challenge as a physical team coming off extended rest with their bye week coming last week.

The Packers fancy themselves as Super Bowl contenders. This game serves as a measuring stick to see how much they've improved from a year ago.



## 5.) MVP?

Jordan Love has been off to an excellent start this season. The best game of the year, and arguably the best of his career, came on Sunday Night Football against Aaron Rodgers and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Love's 360 yards and three touchdown passes got him a lot of national attention as he was named NFC Offensive Player of the Week.

He doesn't need to throw for 400 yards or anything crazy this week, but a big game in the na-



Chris Brooks has been a Packers' back of all trades this season. The third-year veteran is playing a pivotal role on offense and special teams.

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tional spotlight against the defending champs could be a game that vaults him into the MVP conversation as the season comes down the final stretch.



## 6.) Run Game

The Packers' run defense has been as good as they could have hoped for this season.

They entered play against the Carolina Panthers ranked third in the NFL.

The previous week, they were ranked at the top of the league.

That's a drastic change

from what has been the norm with Matt LaFleur as the head coach.

Coming into the 2024 season, Jeff Hafley's first as the defensive coordinator, the Packers were the worst team in the NFL during LaFleur's tenure at stopping the run.

Hafley has changed the culture on defense in Green Bay.

This week, they face a team that gets off the bus running the ball and has built their identity around physicality.

This is a different challenge, and one the Packers will need to meet.



0 Matthew Golden.....WR	-- Jaire Alexander.....CB
1 Micah Parsons.....DL	-- Michael Carter II.....CB
2 Malik Willis.....QB	0 Joshua Uche.....OLB
7 Quay Walker.....LB	1 Jalen Hurts.....QB
8 Josh Jacobs.....RB	2 Jahan Dotson.....WR
9 Christian Watson.....WR	4 Jake Elliott.....K
10 Jordan Love.....QB	6 DeVonta Smith.....WR
13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR	7 Kelee Ringo.....CB
16 Bo Melton.....CB	8 Adoreé Jackson.....CB
17 Brandon McManus.....K	10 Braden Mann.....P
18 Malik Heath.....WR	11 A.J. Brown.....WR
19 Daniel Whelan.....P	14 Sam Howell.....QB
20 Javon Bullard.....S	16 Tanner McKee.....QB
21 Nate Hobbs.....CB	17 Nakobe Dean.....LB
23 Emanuel Wilson.....RB	21 Sydney Brown.....S
24 Carrington Valentine....CB	22 Mac McWilliams.....CB
25 Keisean Nixon.....CB	24 Andrew Mukuba.....S
27 Kitan Oladapo.....S	26 Saquon Barkley.....RB
29 Xavier McKinney.....S	27 Quinyon Mitchell.....CB
30 Chris Brooks.....RB	28 Will Shipley.....RB
31 Nick Niemann.....LB	29 A.J. Dillon.....RB
33 Evan Williams.....S	30 Jihaad Campbell.....LB
35 Lucas Havrisik.....K	32 Reed Blankenship.....S
36 Kamal Hadden.....CB	33 Copper DeJean.....DB
39 Zayne Anderson.....S	36 Cameron Latu.....TE
42 Matt Orzech.....LS	37 Tank Bigsby.....RB/KR
50 Zach Tom.....OL	42 Smael Mondon Jr.....LB
52 Rashan Gary.....DL	48 Patrick Johnson.....OLB
55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL	51 Cam Jurgens.....C/G
56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB	53 Zack Baun.....LB
58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB	54 Jeremiah Trotter Jr.....LB
59 Ty Ron Hopper.....LB	56 Tyler Steen.....OL
62 Jacob Monk.....C/G	57 Cal Adomitis.....LS
63 Rasheed Walker.....T	58 Jalyx Hunt.....OLB
65 Aaron Banks.....G	64 Brett Toth.....T/G
67 Donovan Jennings.....G/T	65 Lane Johnson.....T
70 Darian Kennard.....T/G	66 Drew Kendall.....C/G
71 Anthony Belton.....T	68 Jordan Mailata.....T
74 Elgton Jenkins.....C/G	69 Landon Dickerson.....G
75 Sean Rhyan.....G	74 Fred Johnson.....T
77 Jordan Morgan.....T/G	79 Matt Pryor.....OL
83 Savion Williams.....WR	80 Darius Cooper.....WR
85 Tucker Kraft.....TE	81 Grant Calcaterra.....TE
86 John FitzPatrick.....TE	83 Kylan Granson.....TE
87 Romeo Doubs.....WR	87 Xavier Gipson.....WR
88 Luke Musgrave.....TE	88 Dallas Goedert.....TE
90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL	90 Jordan Davis.....DT
91 Warren Brinson.....DL	94 Byron Young.....DT
93 Nazir Stackhosue.....DL	95 Ty Robinson.....DT
94 Karl Brooks.....DL	97 Moro Ojomo.....DT
95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL	98 Jalen Carter.....DT
96 Colby Wooden.....DL	
99 Barryn Sorrell.....DL	

## GAME DAY PREDICTIONS

**Tina,**  
Meadowlands Resident

**Score Prediction**  
Packers 17  
vs Eagles 35

"It was hard to go against my team... but my favorite Packers memory was going to Lambeau Field while pregnant and just hoping the baby would stay in! My favorite player is number 0, Matt Golden—we share the same last name, so it feels extra special."

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## MOMENTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS 16, GREEN BAY PACKERS 13



Green Bay linebacker Edgerrin Cooper pushed Carolina quarterback Bryce Young out of bounds on a play that originally saw a penalty flag on Cooper for a late hit. The hit sparked immediate controversy and tension, leading to a brawl between both teams. However, after review, the flag was picked up. Carolina would go on to win 16-13.

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# COOPER VINDICATED ON HARD HIT

PUSHING OF CAROLINA QUARTERBACK SPARKS CONTROVERSY

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**HO-CHUNK**  **GAMING**  
**WITTENBERG**