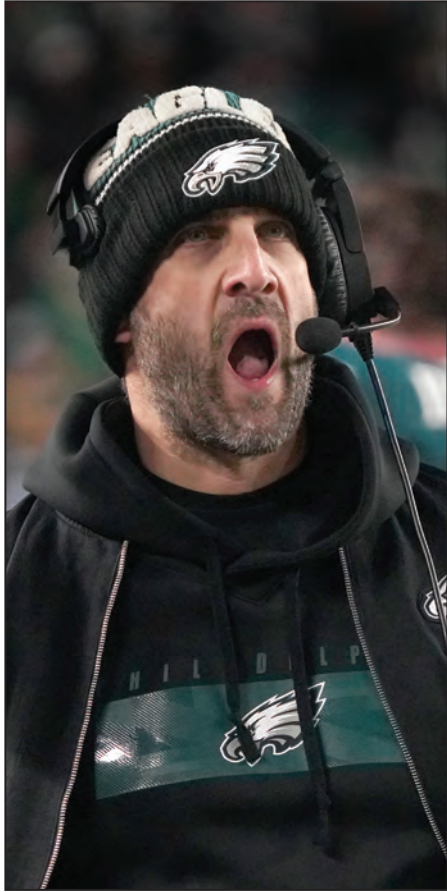


INSULT TO INJURY



There were a lot of dejected looks on the faces of the Packers in their 22-10 loss to Philadelphia in the Wild Card Round. Above at right, coach Matt LaFleur and players watch the training staff after wide receiver Romeo Dobbs slammed his head to the ground in the end zone. Above at right, Eagles coach Nick Sirianni shouts to his players to keep the pressure on the Packers.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BAD DECISIONS, MISTAKES HURT PACKERS AS THEY DROP PLAYOFF GAME TO EAGLES

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers' offense struggled to find any footing all afternoon long, as it dropped its wild card matchup with the Philadelphia Eagles 22-10 in Philadelphia on Jan. 12.

Green Bay's demise began immediately on the opening kickoff. Keisean Nixon took the opening kick back from the end zone but fumbled when being tackled. In the ensuing scrum, it appeared that Nixon had recovered his fumble, but it was ruled Philadelphia's ball.

From there, Saquon Barkley picked up 17 yards in two plays, before quarterback Jalen Hurts connected with wide receiver Jahan Dotson in the back of the end zone for an 11-yard touchdown.

Green Bay was unable to make up the early swing as it entered halftime scoring no points and finding itself down 10-0.

"When you come into someone else's house against a really good football team, you can't start the way that we did," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "To fumble the opening kick and then them turn it into a touchdown and be down seven nothing from the jump —



Above, Jordan Love has a tight window to throw into for Tucker Kraft. Love threw three interceptions on the day. At right, coach Matt LaFleur struggled to get his team to execute properly in the Wild Card game. Below, kicker Brandon McManus missed a field goal, only his second since joining the team this season.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

it was obviously too much to overcome."

Green Bay was finally able to get on the scoreboard in the middle of the third quarter.

After holding Philadelphia to a punt after five plays to open the half, Green Bay took over on its own 16-yard line. Between two runs and a pass reception, running back Josh Jacobs picked up 19 yards, before quarterback Jordan Love connected with Tucker Kraft for a 4-yard completion. Two plays later, Dontayvion Wicks hauled in a 29-yard

reception to bring Green Bay down to Philadelphia's 30-yard line. After Green Bay worked inside the 10-yard line, the drive eventually stalled, setting up a Brandon McManus 26-yard field goal.

Philadelphia immediately responded with a five-play drive. The big play on the drive was Hurts connecting with wide receiver DeVonta Smith for a 28-yard gain on third-and-three. Two plays later, Hurts completed a short bubble route to tight end Dallas Goedert, who took the pass down the



right sideline, stiff-arming Packers defensive back Carrington Valentine three times before finding the end zone.

Green Bay's last productive drive came in response to the touchdown, as down 16-3, Jacobs was not ready to give up yet. He put the offense on his back, picking up 23 yards on the drive before Green Bay was faced with a second-and-10 from the Eagles' 32-yard line. Jacobs carried the ball on the next for play 32 yards, breaking

ENDING, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



WILD CARD/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 10 vs. EAGLES 22



Philadelphia's Zack Baun reaches out to tackle Packers quarterback Jordan Love during the Jan. 12 Wild Card Weekend game. Baun also intercepted a pass by Love before halftime, ending a Green Bay scoring threat. Had Baun not snared that pass just before halftime and had the Packers scored there to cut the Eagles' lead to three before the break, who knows what might have happened in the second half?

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BAUN DISRUPTS LOVE'S PLAY

EAGLES' DEFENSE HELPED KEEP PACKERS FROM REACHING OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL

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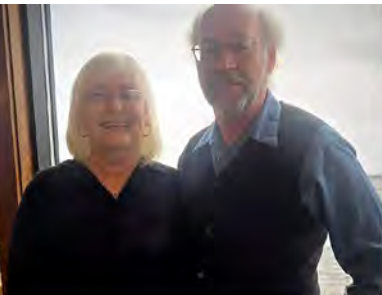
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Another long offseason on the horizon

Packers will look to rehab and retool for another playoff run next season

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers' season ended with a sight that has become very familiar for fans — a loss in the playoffs. As opposed to going down to the San Francisco 49ers this season, it was the Philadelphia Eagles who ended Green Bay's Super Bowl hopes. While the Super Bowl was and is always the vision for the Packers, it seemed like the 2024-25 team was good enough to make the play-

offs but not good enough to make a deep playoff run. The major story throughout the Packers' season was its inability to play up to the level of the better tier teams in the NFC. The Packers end the season having lost seven games. One loss to the Chicago Bears and two losses each to the Minnesota Vikings, Detroit Lions and Philadelphia Eagles. While the silver lining is that the Packers still employ the youngest team in the NFL, there seems to be a lot more questions to answer

after this season than last season. "We have a really tough division, and I am hoping that our guys use that for fuel this offseason," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "To dig a little bit deeper and come back a little bit better each individually, because collectively, that will make a huge difference." So where does it start? Green Bay does have strong young pieces on its team to work around like Xavier McKinney, Josh Jacobs, Jordan Love and

Edgerrin Cooper, but as the season progressed, it became glaringly obvious that as things change, things stay the same. The Packers have a major hole when it comes to the cornerback position. Given Jaire Alexander's injury history and contract status, his future in Green Bay looks to be up in the air. Eric Stokes has not progressed to the level that Green Bay would like to see, and Keisean Nixon continues to play inconsistently. Another problem that

Green Bay continues to see is the lack of production from the pass rush. Lukas Van Ness is taking longer to progress than many would like, and Rashan Gary has seemingly hit his peak as a professional. On offense, as always, it comes down to offensive line play. Elgton Jenkins is only getting older, and with Josh Myers hitting free agency in the off season, the center position all of a sudden becomes a need. Given what we saw when Jenkins went down in the playoff game, offensive line depth is needed

as well. The other position that may need some looking at in the offseason is wide receiver. After Christian Watson went down with a knee injury, Green Bay was missing its big-play threat. Romeo Doubs and Jayden Reed will continue to develop, but outside of those two, Dontayvion Wicks certainly needs to make a big step next season to become an every day starter. While there are holes to fill, it does not take away

**OFFSEASON,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Kenneth Gainwell holds on to Keisean Nixon during a Packers kick return Jan. 12. He fumbled the opening kickoff, which the Eagles turned into seven points. After the game, Nixon told ESPN he was no longer interested in returning kicks, as he wanted to focus on his cornerback duties. Nixon was never a fan of the new kickoff return rules implemented before this season. He had only 18 return attempts this season after getting 65 the previous two seasons combined. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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Tight end Tucker Kraft recorded five receptions on five targets for 26 yards in Sunday's 22-10 loss to the Eagles. He added two rushes for 10 yards. The Packers dealt with a rash of injuries among their pass catchers, and Kraft was able to lead the team in receptions as a result. For the 2024 regular season, he caught 50 passes on 70 targets for 707 yards and an average of 14.1 yards. He also caught seven touchdowns. According to packers.com, of the various emotions players expressed as they cleaned out their lockers Monday - from motivation and hunger heading into the offseason, to anticipation for the future, to gratitude for their teammates and opportunities - one was more palpable than all the others. Profound disappointment. "Well, we certainly didn't win anything," Kraft said. The postseason defeat capped a three-game losing streak that saw the offense hit the skids, the defense hang tough but lose its discipline at times, and the special teams stumble into game-changing mistakes.

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ENDING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

six tackles in the process down to the 1-yard line. He finished off the drive with

a 1-yard touchdown rush. Scoring just 10 points in the game, Love finished the afternoon completing 20-of-33 passes for 212 yards and no touchdown passes, but threw for three interceptions. Without Christian Watson in the lineup due to a knee injury against the Bears in Week 18, Jayden Reed led the team in receiving, catching four passes for 46 yards. Wicks added another 39 yards on two receptions, and Kraft recorded 26

yards on five receptions.

With an already depleted wide receiver room, things did not get any better for Love and company, as Reed, Romeo Doubs, who finished the game with 13 yards on two receptions, and Jacobs all left the game with injuries. On top of those three play-makers leaving the game, offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins left early with a neck injury. Even though the pass game looked off kilter, Ja-

cobs and the run game did find some success before the injuries hit. Jacobs carried the ball 18 times, picking up 81 yards and one touchdown.

"There is definitely stuff we weren't able to get to that maybe we wish we could have, but at the same time, it is kind of the flow of the game," said Love. "You know, you get down a couple scores, and I don't think they respect some stuff when you are doing play action, so it is something that we will look at."

Just as Green Bay's offense struggled in the game, Philadelphia's offense was not that great, either. Hurts finished the game completing 13-of-21 passes for 131 yards and two touchdowns.

Smith was the leading receiver for the Eagles, catching four passes for 55 yards. Goedert recorded 47 yards and a touchdown on four receptions, while Dotson caught one pass for 11 yards and a touchdown. Superstar wide receiver A.J. Brown was held to just 10 yards on one reception.

After leading the NFL in rushing with 2,005 yards, Barkley picked up where he left off in the regular season, rushing the ball 25 times for 119 yards. He added another four yards on two receptions in the passing game.

"You have to be able to overcome things," said LaFleur. "Bad things happen in games, and you just have to be able to be resilient and bounce back and we just didn't do enough."

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Playoffs - Wild Card Round

Sat., Jan. 11, Sun., Jan. 12 & Mon. Jan. 13

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Luke Reimer, NEW Media

Wild Card Playoffs	Wild Card Record	Playoff Record
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Mike Worachek, Card & Coin.....	4-2	4-2
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	4-2	4-2
Kevin Passon, NEW Media.....	4-2	4-2
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-2	4-2
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive.....	3-3	3-3
Tim Murphy, NEW Media.....	3-3	3-3
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Services.....	3-3	3-3
Tenants, The Cottages at Meadowlands	2-4	2-4
Staff, Walsh Dental.....	2-4	2-4
Dorothy Martin, The Cottages on Golden Pond.....	1-5	1-5

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WILD CARD/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 10 vs. EAGLES 22



Green Bay running back Josh Jacobs amassed 40 reception yards on three catches, 81 yards on the ground on 18 rushes and a rushing touchdown in a 22-10 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Wild Card Weekend. The Packers' season ends, while the Eagles advance to the Divisional Round.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

JACOBS IS NOT ENOUGH

RUNNING BACK RUSHES FOR 81 YARDS AND A TOUCHDOWN AGAINST EAGLES



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OFFSEASON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the fact the Packers have made the playoffs in both seasons that Love has started at quarterback. Jeff Hafley more than impressed in his first season as defensive coordinator, and the offseason gives all of the youth on the roster one more summer to develop.

Green Bay should enjoy the time off to rehab before things ramp back up with the draft in April and the start of training camp in July.

"I am not making excuses or anything like that. We have a young football team," said LaFleur. "Unfortunately, this is a tough lesson along the way, and hopefully, we can use this as fuel to get better and learn and be a better team come next year."

NFL
PLAYOFFS

NFL SCHEDULE
Wild Card Round
Saturday, Jan. 11
Houston 32, LA Chargers 12
Baltimore 28, Pittsburgh 14
Sunday, Jan. 12
Buffalo, 31, Denver 7
Philadelphia 22, Green Bay 10
Washington 23, Tampa Bay 20
Monday, Jan. 13
LA Rams 27, Minnesota 9
Divisional Round
Saturday, Jan. 18
Houston at Kansas City, 3:30 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 19
LA Rams at Philadelphia, 2 p.m.
Baltimore at Buffalo, 5:30 p.m.
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 26
TBD at TBD, 2 p.m.
TBD at TBD, 5:30 p.m.
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 9
TBD at TBD, 5:30 p.m.

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WILD CARD/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 10 vs. EAGLES 22



Green Bay linebacker Edgerrin Cooper kept up the pressure on Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts in the Wild Card Round of the NFL playoffs. Hurts was 13-of-21 for 131 yards and two touchdowns. In the regular season, Cooper played in 14 games, recorded 57 tackles (including 50 solo tackles) and assisted on 30 others. He also recorded one interception.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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WILD CARD/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 10 vs. EAGLES 22



Tight end Tucker Kraft kneels near the goal line as the Packers lose to the Philadelphia Eagles 22-10 in Wild Card Round action Jan. 12. With the season over, next up for the Packers is the 2025 NFL Draft on April 24-26 in Green Bay. The festivities will include several days of activities throughout Green Bay and will feature the NFL Draft Experience – a massive free football festival – near Lambeau Field to allow fans of all teams to enjoy games, interactive exhibits, player appearances, sponsor experiences, youth-focused activities and opportunities for fans of all ages to test their football skills.

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END OF THE LINE

AFTER LOSS TO EAGLES, PACKERS' NEXT STOP IS THE DRAFT



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