



Green Bay Packers safety Evan Williams forces a fumble against Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Greg Dortch and cornerback Jaire Alexander recovers for the team's second straight fumble on back-to-back possessions. The Packers' finished the game with three takeaways on three consecutive possessions, the first time Green Bay posted takeaways on three straight possessions in a game since Dec. 25, 2022, at Miami (three interceptions). GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

PACKERS 1, 2, 3 PUNCH FOR THE WIN

Green Bay forces 3 second half fumbles, leads the league with 17 turnovers after 6 games

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers continue to dominate the turnover game this season, and with three fumble recoveries against the Cardinals on Sunday, it is up to 17 this season.

Those 17 forced turnovers lead the NFL, but more than that, Green Bay has almost matched its forced turnover of 18 from last season.

On top of the 17 forced turnovers, the Packers have done a good job of scoring off of those turnovers. Green Bay has scored 51 points off of those 17 turnovers.

"I think guys are flying around to the ball," said Packers defensive back Jaire Alexander. "Guys are getting to the ball, and I think that we are gelling very well as a defense."

While Jordan Love and the offense have seemed to have hit their stride and doing their part to win games, the defense forcing as many turnovers as it has gives the Packers that many more chances to score points.

What makes Green Bay's ability to force so



Jordan Love looks for an open receiver in the midst of the Cardinals defense. Green Bay has scored 51 points off its 17 forced turnovers this season. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

many turnovers more exciting to fans is that it is almost the exact opposite of what fans were accustomed to last season. With only 18 turnovers throughout last season, it seems the change from Joe Berry to Jeff Hafley at the defensive coordinator position has worked at least through the first third

of the season. "It is definitely a big point of emphasis in our meetings to attack the ball," said Alexander, on whether the defense is coached to go after the ball. While opportunistic defenses like Green Bay generate a lot of turnovers, more points are also

prone, due to the nature of "gambling" for the ball. Green Bay has somewhat done a good job in breaking that stereotype, as the defense has allowed 121 points this season, averaging 20.17 points given up per game. What is interesting to see about the forced turnovers from the Pack-

ers is that they are coming at an even rate between interceptions and turnovers. Green Bay has nine interceptions and eight fumble recoveries. Packers defensive back Xavier McKinney continues to lead the NFL with five interceptions, while eight players are tied for the lead in fumble recoveries

at one. That fumble recovery stat goes to show that everyone is involved in forcing turnovers. Seeing defensive players fly around to the ball is what seems to make this defense special. "We are just going to go 100 mph every play, and we will let everything figure itself out, but we are going to get after that ball," said Alexander. The Green Bay defense will continue to be tested in the coming weeks, as with the Houston Texans coming to town, so comes one of the best passing offenses in the NFL. Even though it will be without star wide receiver Nico Collins, the Texans still proved that it can score in bunches, putting up 41 points against the New England Patriots. While Green Bay's offense certainly can compete, being able to get those extra possessions through turnovers will be key to the Packers getting its third win in a row. "It is hard to win in this league, and to get two in a row is even better," said Alexander. "Now, let's try to get three."

Pack's A game needed to corral Texans

Kicking game continues to rest on shaky leg of Narveson

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers Offense vs. Texans Defense
Green Bay's offense got off to a much better start against the Arizona Cardinals than they were able to in either of Jordan Love's first two games. They scored 14 points on their first three possessions of the game, which were punctuated with touchdown passes by Love to Jayden Reed and Romeo Doubs.

Love finished 7-for-11 with a touchdown pass in the first quarter, and his first pass of the second quarter found the end zone as well. Coach Matt LaFluer did a much better job of getting his young quarterback into a rhythm than he did in previous weeks. If the offense has in fact found an extra gear, it did so at a good time. They'll play a really good Houston offense on Sunday, and then Detroit and Chicago in two of their next three games.

Those offenses are all dangerous. The Packers have been really inconsistent to this point in the season on this side of the ball. They could be finding their extra gear at just the right time.

Part of that equation could be the help that Love received when the inactive report came out. A week after not having Christian Watson or Romeo Doubs for various reasons, both returned to Sunday's game against the Cardinals. Doubs welcomed himself back to the lineup with a touchdown and appeared to be the steady presence he has been for the duration of his young career. Watson was excellent in the run game, as he usually is, and opened things up for his teammates. He also found the end zone on a 44-yard strike from Love.

Jordan Morgan has returned to the lineup, and as promised by Adam Stenavich, the rotation returned with him. Morgan and Sean Rhyhan rotated every other series in the



Fullback Andrew Beck (47) leads the way for wide receiver Bo Melton (80) on a catch and run against the Cardinals on Oct. 13. The victory marked the 60th regular-season win of head coach Matt LaFluer's career (60-29). Among active NFL head coaches, he becomes the second fastest (89 games) to reach 60 wins behind only Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin (88 games). Among Green Bay head coaches, LaFluer is the second fastest to 60 wins behind only Vince Lombardi (82 games).

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

first half, and both had some big moments. Morgan was part of an impressive combination block with Zach Tom to spring Josh Jacobs for a big gain. Coming into the game, Rhyhan had played his best three games consecutively, according to Stenavich. Speaking of Jacobs, he and Wilson continued to prove to be a solid duo behind Love. Wilson has been especially good in the passing game, while Jacobs appears to be a running back that gets stronger as the game goes on. They'll face a stiff test this weekend against the Texans. Houston's defense is led by their head coach, Demeco Ryans. Ryans is a familiar nemesis for the Packers. He was the defensive coordinator that drew up a masterful game plan to slow down Aaron Rodgers and the 2021 offense in the playoffs at Lambeau Field. His defense is complex and hard to attack. They can rush the passer, led by former Viking Danielle Hunter and last year's defensive rookie of the year, Will Anderson Jr. The secondary is led by former top pick Derek Stingley Jr. and Jalen Pitre. They both have good ball skills and will take it away if the opposing quarterback puts the ball in harm's way. **Packers Defense vs. Texans Offense** Green Bay's defense thrives on chaos. They rotate players in a manner that is typically only seen at the college level. They play four different linebackers and seven defensive backs during the

course of a game, regardless of who is healthy or not. Last week, Edgerrin Cooper continued to rotate in on passing downs at linebacker. Keisean Nixon and Jaire Alexander appear to be clear cut starters at cornerback, along with Xavier McKinney at safety. After that, Javon Bullard, Evan Williams, Carrington Valentine and Eric Stokes have all rotated in the secondary. The defensive line has typically rotated guys in and out of the lineup as well, which is pretty standard. When it comes to Houston's offense, the Packers have already caught a break. Nico Collins is one of the best receivers in the NFL. He's not going to play Sunday after being placed on injured reserve last week. That means the focus on defense will likely go to a familiar nemesis. Stefon Diggs used to have all-out wars with Alexander when Diggs was with the Vikings. Both Diggs and Alexander are fiery competitors, which should make for an entertaining matchup when the two lock horns on Sunday. Xavier Hutchinson and Tank Dell are the other two receivers attempting to pick up the slack in the absence of Collins. CJ Stroud reportedly asked for Dell during the 2022 NFL Draft. The two make for a good pairing, and Dell should primarily be matched up with Nixon, who has had a good season drawing compliments from his defensive coordinator a week ago. Joe Mixon is the primary running back, but

he's been in and out of the lineup. He's backed up by former Minnesota Viking and Los Angeles Rams running back Cam Akers. **Special Teams** The Packers still have not benefited from the new kickoff rules. Nixon had his first chance at a return since the season opener against the Eagles in Brazil but not much came of it. Maybe as the weather continues to turn, the ball won't be able to boom through the back of the end zone, and Nixon will get some opportunities. It's possible the Packers could give him an opportunity as a punt returner if they won't be able to get the ball in his hands on a kickoff. Jayden Reed continues to prove valuable to the offense, and perhaps the Packers could want to find more ways to take some hits off of Reed. Green Bay's kicking situation remains a mess. After a perfect week a week ago, Brayden Narveson missed another field goal against the Cardinals. This time, it was a 44-yarder that would have given them a 34-13 lead. It was inconsequential this week, but it's unclear how much more of this Brian Gutekunst and Matt LaFluer are going to be able to tolerate as the stakes get higher. Daniel Whelan has been excellent and rebounded from a tough game against the Los Angeles Rams with a nice punt to pin the Cardinals inside the 10 on their first possession of the game. The Texans were the winners of the Rick Gosse-lin special teams rankings for the second consecutive season. They're well coached, dynamic and rarely make mistakes in that phase of the game. Their kicker, Ka'imi Fairbairn, is one of the best in the NFL and is two weeks removed from making a 59-yard field goal to win a home game against the Buffalo Bills. The Packers' special teams have been better this season than they were last year, but they'll need to be on their A game to slow down this group for Houston.

HOUSTON TEXANS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

TIME AND DATE: Noon, Sunday, Oct. 20
LOCATION: Lambeau Field
TV: CBS
RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee — 97.3; 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
2024 RECORDS: Packers, 4-2, Texans 5-1
HISTORY: The Texans and Packers have met just five times since the Tex-

ans were established as an expansion franchise in 2002. Their most recent meeting was in 2020, where Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams tormented the Texans' defense for 35 points, as the Packers won 35-20. Their most recent meeting at Lambeau Field came in 2016 during the Packers' famous run-the-table stretch. Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb, as Green Bay's defense slowed down Houston's offense to win the second of what would six consecutive wins to

close out the regular season. **COACHES:** Packers — Matt LaFluer (fifth season, 60-29). Texans — DeMeco Ryans (second season 15-8). **PACKERS SCHEDULE** Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadelphia, L 29-34 Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis Noon W 16-10 Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee Noon W30-14 Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 29-31 Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m.

W 24-19 Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona Noon W 34-13 Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston Noon CBS Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville Noon FOX Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit 3:25 p.m. FOX Week 10 BYE Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago Noon FOX Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco 3:25 p.m. FOX Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami 7:20 p.m. NBC Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit 7:15 p.m.

Amazon Prime Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle 7:20 p.m. NBC Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans 7:15 p.m. ESPN Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota Noon FOX Week 18 vs. Chicago TBD **NFL SCHEDULE Thursday, Oct. 17** Denver at New Orleans, 7:15 p.m. **Sunday, Oct. 20** New England at Jacksonville (in London), 8:30 a.m.

Detroit at Minnesota, Noon Tennessee at Buffalo, Noon Miami at Indianapolis, Noon Seattle at Atlanta, Noon Houston at Green Bay, Noon Cincinnati at Cleveland, Noon Philadelphia at NY Giants, Noon Las Vegas at LA Rams, 3:05 p.m. Carolina at Washington, 3:05 p.m. Kansas City at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m. NY Jets at Pittsburgh, 7:20 p.m. **Monday, Oct. 21** Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m. LA Chargers at Arizona, 8 p.m.



Quarterback Jordan Love, at left, celebrates a touchdown with his wide receivers, while Romeo Doubs, right, presents the ball to a referee after scoring one of his two touchdowns.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Packers dominate in 34-13 win over Arizona

Doubs catches two touchdowns in his return to action

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

In his return from a one-game suspension, Packers wide receiver Romeo Doubs hauled in two touchdowns to help Green Bay to a 34-13 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Oct. 13.

Doubs' big game comes after a team suspension, which was due to missing practice the previous week. After being questioned, Doubs said he missed practice because he was dealing with some off-the-field issues. The Packers officially chalked up Doubs' suspension to "conduct detrimental to the team."

With the two touchdown receptions, Doubs finished the day with three catches for 49 yards. "Yeah, it's huge," Packers quarterback Jordan

Love said on having Doubs back in the lineup. "Just having (Doubs) back on the field was awesome; it was huge. He went out there and made some big-time plays with the two touchdown catches and some plays before that."

As for Love, he finished the game completing 22-of-32 passes for 258 yards, four touchdowns and one interception.

This marks back-to-back home games where Love passed for four touchdowns, the first Packers quarterback to do so since Brett Favre in the 1990s. Christian Watson and Jayden Reed helped complete the quartet of Love's touchdown passes.

Love's one interception came when he threw an out route that was intended for Bo Melton. In the rain, Melton slipped and Arizona defensive

back Sean Murphy-Bunting dove to take the ball away.

Watson's touchdown came at a crucial point in the game. Up 17-0 in the second quarter, the Packers were set to receive a punt on fourth down from the Cardinals. Reed caught the punt, and as he was being tackled, he fumbled. That fumble was recovered by Arizona, and it appeared the Cardinals were set up with a chance to cut the game to two scores, deep in Green Bay territory.

Due to a holding penalty on Green Bay and a horse collar tackle on Arizona, the play needed to be replayed.

Green Bay elected to put Keisean Nixon back to return, and the Arizona Western alum returned it 39 yards to the Arizona 44-yard line. On the very next play, Love found Watson

deep down the middle of the field for a 44-yard touchdown to go up 24-0.

"We tried to hit Tucker (Kraft) on what we call a sail route earlier and just noticed how the backside safety was playing it," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on why the deep shot to Watson was called. "It was a pretty cool adjustment, and those guys made the play come to life."

LaFleur went on to say how big of a play Watson's touchdown was in relation to where the game was.

"It was huge, I mean that whole sequence definitely could have allowed momentum to go the other way," said LaFleur. "That was a big turning point in the game. I would say that just kind of put the game in our hands."

As for Arizona, the Cardinals struggled on offense, as quarterback Kyler Mur-

ray and company could not seem to get anything going in the first half.

Murray finished the game completing 22-of-32 passes for 214 yards and one touchdown pass.

With star wide receiver Marvin Harrison leaving the game early with a concussion, it was tight end Trey McBride who led the Cardinals in receiving. He totaled 96 yards on eight receptions.

Wide receiver Michael Wilson was the benefactor of Murray's touchdown, as he finished with two catches for 21 yards and the touchdown.

As was the struggle with the passing game, the Cardinals also had difficulties running the ball. Arizona only mustered 89 yards on 23 carries. While the slow run game had to do with Arizona playing from behind for most of

the game, the team did not see one player gain over 26 yards on the ground.

To add insult to injury, the Cardinals turned the ball over three times. Those three turnovers, all of them fumbles, came on the Cardinals' last three drives of the game. Packers defensive linemen Karl Brooks and Kenny Clark and defensive back Jaire Alexander came away with the fumble recoveries.

"It was a slippery, slick field, so we knew that the ball was probably going to come out," said Alexander.

Green Bay now holds a 4-2 record and with the Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears winning the week, the Packers continue to hold its tie on the third spot in the division.

Green Bay will once again be at home this week, as the Houston Texans come to town.

My all time favorite
Green Bay Packer player is...

"Favorite player is Brett Favre; especially the game after his dad died and how fantastic he played."

Allen Lundt,
Golden Pond Tenant

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KEYS TO THE GAME

Texans are Packers biggest test to date

Two of the league's premier young quarterbacks will battle it out

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

It's a winter warning in Green Bay this weekend. The Green Bay Packers will be wearing their winter white-out uniforms that they debuted this summer. The opponent is the Houston Texans, in a battle between two of the league's premier young quarterbacks. Houston's trajectory is similar to that of Green Bay's. They were ahead of the curve last season and had a chance to beat the top seed in their confer-

ence before bowing out in the divisional round. They've been up and down to start the season. They've struggled against some inferior competition, winning by only two against the Indianapolis Colts, for example. They also beat the Buffalo Bills two weeks ago and held Josh Allen in check for most of the day. Their defense is fast, physical and ready to hunt the ball. This will be Green Bay's biggest test to date. They've been playing better football of late and have some stability now

that Jordan Love has been able to play multiple weeks in a row. This is a big game Sunday for the Packers as they attempt to start banking some wins and keep pace in a competitive NFC North Division as well as the NFC playoff race. Here are the keys to the Packers getting a big win in a possible Super Bowl preview. **Demeco Ryans vs. Matt LaFleur** The last time these two met, it was a win by TKO for Demeco Ryans and the



Rookie Jordan Morgan (77) blocks for running back Josh Jacobs (8) against the Cardinals on Oct. 13. Green Bay rushed for 179 yards, the fourth time this season that the Packers have rushed for 160-plus yards. The Packers' 1,003 rushing yards are their most in the first six games of a season since 1963 (1,041).
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

KEYS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

BEATThe Expert

2024-25

Week 7 Games: Sunday, Oct. 20
Detroit @ Minnesota
NY Jets @ Pittsburgh
Philadelphia @ NY Giants
Baltimore @ Tampa Bay - Mon., Oct. 21

Tie Breaker Game:
Houston @ Green Bay

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW MEDIA	5-0	23-7
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin	5-0	22-8
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	5-0	20-10
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	3-2	19-11
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	3-2	19-11
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Service	5-0	19-11
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	5-0	19-11
Gary Hansen, The Cottages at Meadowlands	3-2	18-12
Carol Brown, The Cottages on Golden Pond	3-2	17-13
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	3-2	14-16
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	4-1	13-17



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Tampa Bay

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 10 @ Green Bay 31

Week 6 Winner:
Tim Murphy
NEW Media



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 21 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 21 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
NY Jets
NY Giants
Tampa Bay

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 21 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Tampa Bay

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 14 @ Green Bay 24



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 24 @ Green Bay 27



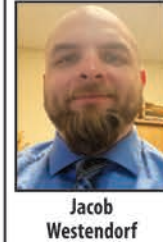
This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Tampa Bay

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 21 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
NY Jets
Philadelphia
Tampa Bay

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 10 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 21 @ Green Bay 27



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 27 @ Green Bay 20



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
NY Jets
Philadelphia
Baltimore

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Houston 27 @ Green Bay 24



Rashan Gary (52) and Karl Brooks (94) rush Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray. After the 34-13 loss, Murray said he didn't believe Arizona was ready to play the Packers. He noted the sloppy play, three turnovers, penalties and miscommunication. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

KEYS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

San Francisco 49ers.

The Green Bay Packers were riding high as a 13-win team and looking to win two home games to get back to the Super Bowl. The Packers' offense drove the length of the field on the first series of the game, and the drive was punctuated by a touchdown from AJ Dillon.

That was the last time the Packers would find the end zone that night.

Ryans was masterful in designing coverages to limit the impact of Davante Adams and forced Aaron Rodgers into some uncharacteristic mistakes that night.

For every punch by Matt LaFleur, Ryans had a counter that was much more powerful.

It's different this week. Rodgers is gone. Ryans does not have the same level of personnel that he had in San Francisco, but his group in Houston is still very good.

LaFleur has been masterful this season at scheming up matchups and big plays for his offense.

This, however, will be his toughest challenge to date. He'll need to be much better on Sunday than he was on that fateful day two years ago.

CJ Stroud vs. Packers' secondary

When discussing young quarterbacks in the NFL, CJ Stroud's name is typically one of the first that comes to mind. He's not on the same level as Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes or Baltimore's Lamar Jackson, but he's still very good.

He was a runaway winner of last year's offensive rookie of the year

award. He has a plethora of weapons that can help exploit any secondary that is across from him.

Green Bay's secondary should have its full group on Sunday, and they're getting better. Evan Williams has been on an upward trajectory. Keisean Nixon continues to receive praise from Jeff Hafley. Jaire Alexander is Jaire Alexander.

This battle could be the one that decides the game.

Offensive Tackles vs. Texans Edge Rushers

Offensively, there may be no bigger thing the Packers could do than slow

down the Texans' dynamic edge group of Will Anderson Jr. and Danielle Hunter.

They're familiar with Hunter; he's been with the Vikings for the duration of his career until he signed with the Texans this offseason.

Anderson Jr. is as dynamic of a young pass rusher as there is in the NFL. On the young season, he could be the best defensive player the Packers have had to play against so far. That's a lofty compliment, but there is potential for it to be true.

Zach Tom has become like David Bakhtiari in that his game starts, and you never hear his name the rest of the way.

His opponents are just silently eliminated.

After struggling with penalties, Rasheed Walker has put together a couple weeks of solid football. He's been up and down through this season and his young career. The Packers will need him to have one of his better games on Sunday to slow down this vicious Houston pass rush.



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- Manure Pumps
- Copper Sulfate Systems
- 2nd Use Systems

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Christian Watson celebrates with the fans after scoring on a 44-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love. He caught three passes for 68 yards against Arizona.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

One missed game is one too many for Watson

Wide receiver believes issues with Doubs will work themselves out

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Christian Watson was selected by the Green Bay Packers as the second pick of the second round (34th overall) in the 2022 NFL Draft.

Watson was the only wide receiver from North Dakota State University to be drafted in the past 37 years.

On July 20, 2022, he signed his rookie contract, a four-year deal with the Packers worth \$9,241,031.

Watson spent the offseason trying to correct his longstanding hamstring issues only to suffer an ankle injury on a freak play in Week 4. Watson's left leg was stuck underneath a Minnesota Vikings defender on a late-first-quarter interception of Jordan Love.

Watson was diagnosed with a medial sprain but returned to play against the Cardinals.

Health update?

I've been feeling better each and every day, so I've been kinda just been progressing along since it happened. It's obviously been progressing a lot quicker than I think everybody thought it was, but I mean I'm gonna keep on pushing it every single day if I feel like I can take another step, and it's been like that.

Initial injury?

I was definitely fearing the worst. It was an awkward position for me to be in, and I felt my leg going the wrong way, so I mean I've seen stuff like that happen before, and it's been pretty significant injuries and obviously the pain alongside it was definitely scary in the

moment, but I mean I was just hoping and praying for the best and definitely dodged a bullet. Obviously it's still something, so working through that, but definitely dodged a bullet with how bad it could've been.

When did you find out you dodged a bullet?

I mean really just kinda knew two days after. I mean right away when I heard nothing was broken, that was the first kinda bullet and then two, three days later, I was feeling significantly better already. I was able to walk out of the boot and everything, so I think it was just the progress I was making so quickly was kinda gave me that hope.

Romeo Doubs gotta earn your respect back?

I think that we all respect the way that Rome goes about his business in the building, and I think we have a tight-knit family. I mean everyone's gonna have their own opinions on the situation, but at the end of the day, I think two days isn't gonna ruin the three years of work and commitment he's put in for us. It'll definitely be a little weird right away, just because it was a pretty significant situation for him, but I mean he's Rome to us. I think it'll blow by pretty quick, and we'll all be right back to how we were.

This a surprise with 87?

It's definitely surprising, but it's a mentally taxing business. It's a lot going on.

We all have our own individual goals, so you really never truly know what somebody's thinking, and I'll never wanna

talk down and on anyone's mental health. I don't really still know the exact specifics of the situation, but whenever someone's going through something, they do things that you wouldn't really expect from them. Like I said, it is what it is, so it's behind us now. We just move on.

What was Thursday like for you?

It was tough. One, at that point, we didn't really know for sure what was going on with him, so it was definitely concerning for just me personally. Knowing him as a man and knowing he could possibly be going through whatever at this time - because we didn't really know what was going on. But it's tough just because you know that, I always want the best for Rome regardless of the situation, regardless of whether we're playing on the same team or playing on different teams in the future. I'm always going to want the best for Rome. Just knowing he's in that position is definitely, it's tough.

Tough being a wide receiver?

There's a lot of expectation. There's a lot of things that people expect you to do. They expect you to be a certain type of player, and there's guys on the other side of the ball that are getting paid a lot of money to play the game as well.

Things don't always go your way. It's tough to live up to it sometimes, but we all have goals for ourselves as well that we want to live up to, and I'm sure they exceed what everybody else is thinking about.

WATSON, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

WATSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

For me personally, I can only speak for myself. I'm always going to be harder than anybody out there. I'm always going to be harder on myself than anybody out there is gonna be on me. It is what it is. You just gotta keep on chopping and push for your personal goals.

How easy is it to put aside individual goals for team goals, especially one year out from a contract?

I wouldn't say it's easy at all to be honest. Everyone has different. Everyone's a different person. Everyone has their own views on everything. How I look at it is if I just keep on doing what I do and keep on striving to be the player that I'm going to be, at some point, whether it's tomorrow or five years from now, I'm gonna get what I deserve.

One way or another, whether it's \$1 million or \$50 million, it is what it is. I think everyone has their own views on it. It's definitely tough, because it's a business at the end of the day. Everyone's their own corporation, everyone's trying to provide for their families and whatnot. It's tough to go by when it seems like it's never going your way, but I don't really think that's been the case here for a lot of us. I think we've gotten opportunities, all of us would love to get more, but I think that the team goal will come first, and you gripe about the individual goals later.

How do you make this work with one ball and so many wide receivers?

You just move on. Obviously, that's pretty simple thing to say and doesn't really sound like much, but we got a new game plan this week, a new goal this week to win this football game. There will probably be a few bumps in



Christian Watson runs past Arizona safety Budda Baker for a touchdown that put the Packers up 24-0. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

the road, trying to get that togetherness and that family feeling back, but at the end of the day, he's back in the building, and I know that his goal is also to win a football game this week. So, we all have the same team goal. I think we're all pushing for that; it'll bring us back together.

Today feel awkward?

Honestly, it didn't feel that bad today. Obviously I wasn't taking part in a lot of the team reps and everything. From what I saw, it looked like it went pretty well. I think just from the little conversation I had with Rome this morning, I feel like he understands where he's at and obviously the ramifications of it. He's gonna do everything he can to earn his role back in this team and get right back to where we were.

Why was it important to have the conversation?

I just wanted to talk to him. I hadn't really talked to him much at all throughout the process, what he was going through. Honestly just seeing what's up and just letting him know that I'm here was enough (for me). Whether he feels like that's true in that moment or not, I just wanted to

make sure I got that off my chest and was able to say what's up to him and let him know we're here for him. I know there's some things he's not gonna hear in the moment but gonna say it anyways because we're a family regardless.

Was your season over?

It did come into my head. I think the only thing I was thinking was even missing one more game is tough for me. I just don't want to miss any games at this point in my career. That was really just the main thing. I don't want to miss next week. Obviously, not knowing what it could be, I was definitely thinking of what could be the outcome. But I was really just tunnel vision on the fact I don't want to miss a game.

How frustrating was the injury?

It's super frustrating. I try to look at the positives in everything. Maybe all the training I put in to get my body right for the season is the reason why I came out of it with not as bad an injury, not as significant an injury. That's just really how I'm looking at it. If I'm able to go out and play this week and

only miss one game, I feel that's a positive from the whole situation, for sure. I just try to look at it from a positive perspective.

Jordan Love said he felt bad for putting you in that situation. Could you tell as you were tracking the ball that this could end up being bad for you?

I definitely felt, I was kind of trying to shield him off. I was trying to let nobody get in my body so I'm able to shield them with my left side, but obviously the guy dove past, so it was a tough situation. That's just football. There's a lot of things I've done that put Jordan in a bad situation, whether that's an interception or doing some things I could have done better. So I'm not going to blame anybody. He came to me and said, 'Sorry for putting you in that situation.' But that's just football.

Assess this offense.

I think that we've seen what we're capable of doing. Not everything, but I think a lot of the things that have gone wrong for us have been self-inflicted wounds. I think we're exactly where we want to be. Obviously there are plays that we wish we could have back and stuff like that, but we're just looking forward. We know that we have the team to accomplish the goals we want to accomplish. We've just got to stop shooting ourselves in the foot. We can beat anybody if we do that.

State of the NFC North?

For me, I love this sport so much because I like to compete. Having more competition - higher-level competition - it only makes it more fun for me. And I'm sure that's how a lot of guys in here feel. We're competitors at heart, so in our minds, just bring it.



HOUSTON TEXANS

- 0 Azeez Al-Shaair.....LB
- 1 Stefon Diggs.....WR
- 2 Robert Woods.....WR
- 3 Tank Dell.....WR
- 4 Kamari Lassiter.....CB
- 5 Jalen Pitre.....S
- 6 Tommy Townsend.....P
- 7 C.J. Stroud.....QB
- 8 John Metchie III.....WR
- 10 Davis Mills.....QB
- 13 Del'Shawn Phillips.....LB
- 15 Ka'imi Fairbairn.....K
- 17 Kris Boyd.....CB
- 19 Xavier Hutchinson.....WR
- 20 Jimmie Ward.....S
- 21 Calen Bullock.....S
- 22 Cam Akers.....RB
- 23 Eric Murray.....S
- 24 Derek Stingley Jr.....CB
- 27 Myles Bryant.....CB
- 28 Joe Mixon.....RB
- 29 M.J. Stewart.....S
- 31 Dameon Pierce.....RB
- 32 Ka'dar Hollman.....CB
- 33 Dare Ogunbowale.....RB
- 35 Jake Hansen.....LB
- 37 D'Angelo Ross.....CB
- 39 Henry To'oTo'o.....LB
- 43 Neville Hewitt.....LB
- 46 Jon Weeks.....LS
- 51 Will Anderson Jr.....DE
- 53 Kendrick Green.....C/G
- 54 Jarrett Patterson.....C/G
- 55 Danielle Hunter.....DE
- 56 Jamal Hill.....LB
- 57 Blake Fisher.....T
- 64 Nick Broeker.....G
- 69 Shaq Mason.....G
- 70 Juice Scruggs.....C/G
- 71 Tytus Howard.....T
- 76 Kenyon Green.....G
- 78 Laremy Tunsil.....T
- 82 Steven Sims.....WR
- 85 Teagan Quitoriano.....TE
- 86 Dalton Schultz.....TE
- 87 Cade Stover.....TE
- 90 Rashad Weaver.....LB
- 91 Folorunso Fatukasi.....DT
- 92 Dylan Horton.....DE
- 94 Khalil Davis.....DT
- 95 Derek Barnett.....DE
- 97 Mario Edwards Jr.....DT
- 98 Tim Settle Jr.....DT



GREEN BAY PACKERS

- 2 Malik Willis.....QB
- 7 Quay Walker.....LB
- 8 Josh Jacobs.....RB
- 9 Christian Watson.....WR
- 10 Jordan Love.....QB
- 11 Jayden Reed.....WR
- 13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR
- 18 Malik Heath.....WR
- 19 Daniel Whelan.....P
- 20 Javon Bullard.....S
- 21 Eric Stokes.....CB
- 23 Jaire Alexander.....CB
- 24 Carrington Valentine.....CB
- 25 Keisean Nixon.....CB
- 26 Corey Ballentine.....CB
- 27 Kitan Oladapo.....S
- 29 Xavier McKinney.....S
- 30 Chris Brooks.....RB
- 31 Emanuel Wilson.....RB
- 33 Evan Williams.....S
- 39 Zayne Anderson.....S
- 42 Matt Orzech.....LS
- 44 Brayden Narveson.....K
- 45 Eric Wilson.....LB
- 50 Zach Tom.....OL
- 52 Rashan Gary.....DL
- 53 Arron Mosby.....DL
- 55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL
- 56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB
- 57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL
- 58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB
- 59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB
- 62 Jacob Monk.....C/G
- 63 Rasheed Walker.....T
- 71 Josh Myers.....C/G
- 73 Andre Dillard.....T
- 74 Elgton Jenkins.....G/T
- 75 Sean Rhyan.....G
- 76 Kadeem Telfort.....T
- 77 Jordan Morgan.....T/G
- 79 Travis Glover.....T
- 80 Bo Melton.....WR
- 85 Tucker Kraft.....TE
- 86 John FitzPatrick.....TE
- 87 Romeo Doubs.....WR
- 89 Ben Sims.....TE
- 90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL
- 91 Preston Smith.....DL
- 93 T.J. Slaton.....DL
- 94 Karl Brooks.....DL
- 95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL
- 96 Colby Wooden.....DL
- 97 Kenny Clark.....DL

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Nancy Tachick, Meadowlands Tenant

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WEEK 6 / SPECIAL TEAMS

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 34 VS CARDINALS 13



Packers cornerback Keisean Nixon returns a 39-yard punt in the second quarter against the Arizona Cardinals during the Week 6 game at Lambeau Field, marking the longest punt return for the Packers this season. On the next play, Jordan Love completed a 44-yard touchdown pass to Christian Watson to give the Packers a 24-0 lead. Packers coach Matt LaFleur described the Punt return as “huge” as the play helped flipped momentum. “I mean, that whole sequence definitely could have allowed a lot of momentum to go the other way,” LaFleur said. “I think the next play was the bomb to Christian Watson, so yeah, that was a big turning point in the game. I’d say that just kind of put the game in our hands.”

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

NIXON RETURNS PUNT 39 YARDS AGAINST CARDINALS

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