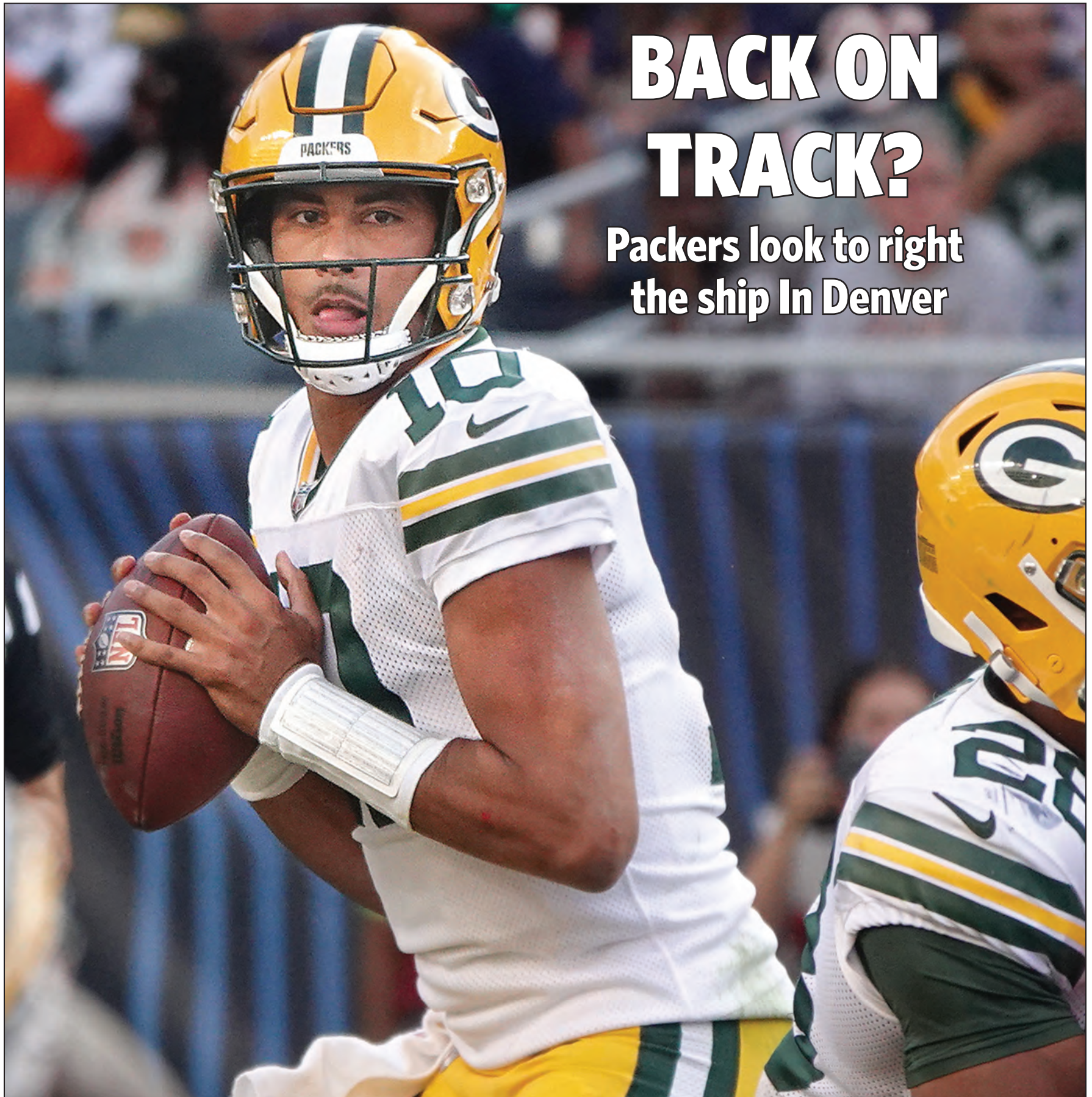




BACK ON TRACK?

Packers look to right the ship in Denver

Green Bay Packers quarterback has been less than stellar the past few weeks. Sunday's test against Denver marks a great opportunity to beat a quality opponent and build some confidence.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Still time for Packers to turn season around

Green Bay has variety of ways to come out on top of Denver

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

If nothing else, the Packers have had plenty of time to think about what has gone wrong over their last two games.

After a disappointing loss at home to the Detroit Lions, the Packers lost what can only be called the worst of the season when they were beaten by the Las Vegas Raiders.

The Raiders don't do anything well in particular. They did not play great when the two teams matched up.

Despite all of that, the Packers turned the ball over three times and were beaten 17-13.

They went into the bye week with that bitter taste in their mouths. At 2-3, they still have plenty of time to make the most out of their season.

They need to get back on the right track by beating the Denver Broncos.

Should they want to do that, here are the keys to snapping their two game skid.

Packers vs. Broncos run game

While the Broncos have not had much success this season, they have a talented pair of running backs. Javonte Williams and Jaleel McLaughlin have both been solid when asked to carry the ball. They're coming off a game where they both averaged more than four yards per carry against the Chiefs.

In addition to Williams and McLaughlin, former Cincinnati Bengal Samaje Perine serves as a solid pass catcher out of the backfield. That isn't a true run game, but it can be used as an extension.

That's something Sean Payton has liked to do in the past with running backs like Alvin Kamara at his disposal.

The Packers' run defense was better against the Raiders. They held Josh Jacobs to 69 yards on 20 carries. The defense was certainly good enough to win in Las Vegas.

One of Payton's strengths as a coach is finding a mismatch and exploiting it. The Packers' edge defenders were tested by Josh McDaniels. The Packers faced four end-arounds and gave up one run of 16 yards.



Linebacker Rashan Gary celebrates another big play. The quartet of Gary, Kenny Clark, Preston Smith and Devonte Wyatt have created pressure on 52.7% of the snaps they've played together. Those snaps have resulted in a sack 31.6% of the time.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Kenny Clark is off to an excellent start to the season. The path to victory against Denver will be another solid game from Clark and forcing Russell Wilson to beat them through the air.

Packers' passing game vs. Broncos' secondary

The Packers' passing game has been excruciatingly below average to start the season. Jordan Love has really struggled after a good first two games of the season.

They have surpassed 250 yards passing one time. They've not thrown for 300 yards on the season.

The leaders in their receiver room have hit a bit of a wall as well.

Christian Watson is working his way back into the lineup after a hamstring injury sidelined him for the

first three games of the season.

His 77-yard reception Oct. 9 accounted for more than half of the 182 yards passing on the night.

Romeo Doubs is coming off his worst game of the season. He had more drops (two) than receptions (one).

In addition, Love might be coming off the worst game of his season as well. He threw three interceptions, all of which the blame can be placed squarely on his shoulders.

That was against a Raiders secondary that was playing players from its practice squad.

The Broncos' secondary is a difference challenge. Patrick Surtain and Justin Simmons would both start for a vast majority of teams in the league. Surtain is one of the best players in the league at his posi-

tion. Simmons had another big night against Kansas City, picking off Patrick Mahomes for the fourth time in his career.

The Broncos have not had a lot go their way this season, but their talent in the secondary is something that should worry a Packers passing attack that has been underwhelming. If Green Bay cannot throw the ball consistently, their offensive woes are not going to get any better.

Sunday's test against Denver marks a great opportunity to beat a quality opponent and build some confidence.

Packers' pass rush vs. Russell Wilson

Green Bay's pass rush turned up the heat against Jimmy Garoppolo and the Las Vegas Raiders. They sacked him three times, all of which came on third down and forced punts.

Rashan Gary is back and playing a full compliment of snaps. Kenny Clark is off to a great start this season.

The quartet of Gary, Clark, Preston Smith and Devonte Wyatt have created pressure on 52.7% of the snaps they've played together. Those snaps have resulted in a sack 31.6% of the time.

Wilson has been sacked 11 times in five games this season. When he is pressured, he has been prone to mistakes.

The Packers have had success against Wilson at Lambeau Field, including a game in 2016 where he threw five interceptions.

They've had less luck on the road. They've never beaten Wilson when his team was at home but have still been able to force him into some mistakes.

Wilson was at the peak of his powers in Seattle. He is not now.

He's coming off the worst game of the season where he had a quarterback rating below 50 and threw two interceptions against a Chiefs team that is not going to be confused with the 1985 Chicago Bears.

When Wilson is pressured, his mistakes can come in bunches. He's willing on to the ball, which can lead to more sacks as well.

That could all be the recipe for a big day for a much-maligned Packers defense.

BEAT The Expert

Week 7 Games: Sunday, Oct. 22



Luke Reimer
New Media

Las Vegas @ Chicago

Arizona @ Seattle

Detroit @ Baltimore

San Francisco @ Minnesota...Mon., Oct. 23

Tie Breaker Game:

Green Bay @ Denver

**Week 6
Winner :**

**Staff of
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center	4-1	22-8
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	2-3	22-8
Tim Murphy, New Media	4-1	21-9
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	5-0	19-11
Kevin Passon, New Media	2-3	18-12
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	3-2	18-12
Luke Reimer, New Media	3-2	18-12
Staff, Shawano Health Services	2-3	17-13
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	4-1	17-13
Sue Moede, Moede & Sons Plumbing	4-1	16-14
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	4-1	15-15



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Denver 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Baltimore
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Denver 17



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Chicago
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Denver 23



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Denver 17



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Baltimore
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Denver 14



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Denver 10



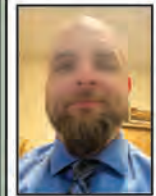
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Arizona
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Denver 17



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Chicago
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Denver 14



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Baltimore
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 17 @ Denver 10



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 12 @ Denver 21



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Las Vegas
Seattle
Detroit
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ Denver 14

The Vitals

DENVER BRONCOS VS. GREEN BAY PACKERS

TIME AND DATE: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22

LOCATION: Empower Field at Mile High

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

2023 RECORDS: Packers, 2-3. Broncos 1-5

HISTORY: The most famous meeting between these two teams came in Super Bowl XXXII. The Packers were a double-digit favorite led by three-time MVP Brett Favre coming into the game. It didn't matter. Terrell Davis gashed them for more than 150 yards and the Broncos won 31-24, giving John Elway his first Super Bowl championship.

In the regular season, the two teams have met 15 times, with each team winning seven times and tying once.

The most recent matchup came in 2019, when the Packers won 27-16 in Matt LaFleur's first season as the head coach.

COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 49-22). Broncos, Sean Payton (first season, 1-5)

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 at Chicago W 38-20

Sept. 17 at Atlanta L 25-24

Sept. 24 vs. New Orleans W 18-17

Sept. 28 vs. Detroit L 34-20

Oct. 9 at Las Vegas L 17-13

Oct. 15 BYE

Oct. 22 at Denver 3:25 p.m. CBS

Oct. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon FOX

Nov. 5 vs. LA Rams Noon FOX

Nov. 12 at Pittsburgh Noon CBS

Nov. 19 vs. LA Chargers Noon FOX

Nov. 23 at Detroit 11:30 a.m. FOX

Dec. 3 vs. Kansas City 7:20 p.m. NBC

Dec. 11 at NY Giants 7:15 p.m. ABC

Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay Noon FOX

Dec. 24 at Carolina Noon FOX

Dec. 31 at Minnesota 7:20 p.m. NBC

Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, TBD

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 19

Jaguars at Saints, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Falcons at Buccaneers, Noon

Raiders at Bears, Noon

Browns at Colts, Noon

Commanders at Giants, Noon

Lions at Ravens, Noon

Bills at Patriots, Noon

Cardinals at Seahawks, 3:05 p.m.

Steelers at Rams, 3:05 p.m.

Chargers at Chiefs, 3:25 p.m.

Packers at Broncos, 3:25 p.m.

Dolphins at Eagles, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 23

49ers at Vikings, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26

Buccaneers at Bills, 7:15 p.m.

Packers' offense needs to shine against Broncos

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Broncos' defense

The Packers' offense has struggled mightily since opening the season with two impressive games in Chicago and Atlanta.

They were held scoreless for three quarters before scoring 18 points in the fourth quarter against New Orleans to win their home opener.

Since then, the offense has scored six points in two first halves against Detroit and Las Vegas.

The team is coming off what is probably its worst performance of the season, only being able to muster 13 points against a depleted Raiders secondary Oct. 9.

Matt LaFleur said the team was searching for answers, and perhaps one of them will return on Sunday. Aaron Jones has played one full game this season and left in the third quarter of the season opener against the Chicago Bears.

If he is able to play, he could be in line for a big week. The Broncos are the worst team in the NFL against opposing run games. They allow nearly six yards per carry. They've allowed the most yards total against the run.

The Packers run game has been a shell of itself without Jones. AJ Dillon played better a week ago, but was still only able to muster 76 yards on 20 carries against a Raiders defense that isn't going to confuse anyone with the purple people eaters from the 1970s.

The secondary could be where the Broncos' strength lies. Patrick Surtain Jr. is one of the better players in football at his position. Justin Simmons is coming off a big night against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Taking care of the ball should be at a premium, and it is something Jordan Love has struggled with in the last three games. After not turning the ball over in his first two starts, Love has six interceptions in the last three games.

Sometimes, interception totals can be misleading, but of the six interceptions, only one can truly be



Packers running back Aaron Jones sprints with the ball against the Detroit Lions. If Jones is able to play Sunday, he could be in line for a big week. The Broncos are the worst team in the NFL against opposing run games. They allow nearly six yards per carry. They've allowed the most yards total against the run.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

chalked up as a miscommunication. Love's second interception against Detroit intended for Romeo Doubs probably was not his fault. The rest, however, have been including an egregious underthrow for the game-clinching interception last Monday against the Raiders.

The Packers' margin for error is low with an offense that struggles to put points on the scoreboard. They cannot compound that by turning the ball over.

The Broncos have four interceptions and six forced fumbles on the season, recovering two.

They're a defense that can take the ball away.

Packers' defense vs. Broncos' offense

For as much as the defense gets brought up as a problem surrounding the Packers, the defense has been relatively solid.

They are able to get pressure on opposing quarterbacks, and that ability should only get better with Rashan Gary receiving a full dose of snaps for the rest of the season.

Gary has been excellent to start

the year. He has a sack in every game he has played, except for the season opener against Chicago. In that game, Gary had a sack, but it was wiped away by a penalty.

The Packers' primary pass rush group of Gary, Kenny Clark, Preston Smith and Devonte Wyatt have sacked opposing quarterbacks on 31.7% of snaps they've played together.

The secondary has been relatively solid to start the year as well. Jaire Alexander returned against the Las Vegas Raiders after a two game absence. He was sound in coverage but can be exposed in the run game.

Rasul Douglas has had an excellent start to the year. He has one interception and a passer rating of 89.1 when he has been targeted. That mark is the best among Packers' cornerbacks.

Keisean Nixon is struggling and coming off a tough game against the Raiders.

Rudy Ford has been a bright spot. He leads the team in interceptions and has one in each of the last two games.

When the Denver Broncos traded for Russell Wilson, they thought they were adding one final piece to help get them over the top and into the Super Bowl.

Since that trade, they've gone backwards.

Wilson's first season in Denver did not go according to plan. Wilson struggled all year, and former Packers' offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett was fired.

He was replaced by Sean Payton. Wilson's production has been a bit better, but the Broncos are 1-5 and searching for answers.

Jerry Jeudy is a popular name in trade circles these days but will suit up on Sunday against the Packers along with Courtland Sutton. That duo is talented but has underwhelmed thus far in

2023. Specifically Jeudy. Jeudy was a former first round pick and thought to be a big piece for a Denver offense searching for another down-field weapon. His most recent game against the Chiefs he was limited to three catches for 14 yards.

He has yet to top 81 yards in a game this season or find the end zone.

Denver's running game is getting healthier with Javonte Williams returning from a gruesome injury. Wil-



Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said the team's inability to be successful offensively is due to negative plays and penalties. He said the Packers have not had success in second-and-10-plus situations and then are stuck in third-and-long. The Packers have to do a better job trying to avoid those situations.

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liams and Jaleel McLaughlin might be the players that Payton tries to lean on against the Packers.

Green Bay's run defense was better against the Raiders, but that is the norm for most defenses against them.

The Raiders are one of the worst rushing offenses in football.

Green Bay, conversely, has allowed more than 200 yards rushing twice on the young season.

In addition, they're allowing 4.3 yards per carry. One way for Denver to try and slow down Green Bay's pass rush, would be to run the ball at them. With their struggles in protection combined with Green Bay's struggles against the run, this feels like a safe bet.

Special teams

Green Bay's special teams has a bright spot for the team on it early in 2023. Anders Carlson has yet to miss a kick in 2023. He's been perfect on both PATs and field goals. He has a big leg, which could be a factor in a kicking-friendly environment such as Denver.

Daniel Whelan's big leg is something that could come into play in Denver's altitude as well. He has shown a big leg in the Midwest, including a long kick on the year of 68 yards.

After an electrifying year as a kickoff returner in 2022, Keisean Nixon has yet to find his footing in 2023.

Perhaps that is due to the weather

being warmer, which allows opposing kickers to boom the ball out of the back of the end zone.

There are times when Nixon looks to give the team a spark and will take the ball out of the shadow of the end line.

He has yet to break anything, however. His long return on the season is only 30 yards. He averages exactly 25 yards per return, which puts him in the same range as a touchback. With the 10 special teams penalties Rich Bisaccia's unit has amassed in the first five games, it begs the question why risk anything at all?

Denver's special teams is led by an electrifying returner of its own. Former Oklahoma Sooners Marvin Mims Jr. has one of the highlight plays of the season for the Broncos.

In an otherwise forgettable 70-20 loss to the Miami Dolphins, Mims returned a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown.

The Packers would be wise to keep the ball out of his hands at all costs.

Denver's kicker is former New Orleans Saints kicker Will Lutz. Lutz was acquired in a trade last August.

He's 8-for-9 on field goals this season, with his lone miss coming in the season opener against the Raiders.

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Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love prepares to release a pass against the Chicago Bears earlier this year. Despite some early success in 2023, the Packers have failed to continue their winning ways. A 1-5 Denver Broncos team may be just what the Packers need to get their third win of the season.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Luck has not been on Love's side

Margin for error in Green Bay is smaller than it has been in the last 30 years

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

"Offensively, we've got to find a way to score points, because I think any time you hold somebody to 17 points, I think that's enough to win football games in this league," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said.

He is right. The Oct. 9 loss to the Raiders is a game any functional NFL offense should have won.

The Packers, however, are not a functional NFL offense right now.

Through the first seven quarters of the season, they certainly looked like one.

They scored 38 points in the season opener against Chicago, sparking optimism around the team and its new quarterback.

They added another 24 against Atlanta before the wheels fell off in the fourth quarter.

Through the first two games,

Jordan Love led the NFL in passing touchdowns and quarterback rating.

It looked as if the Packers had struck gold again at the quarterback position.

Since then, the offense has fallen apart.

Love and the offense were shut out through three quarters in their home opener against the New Orleans Saints. A miraculous comeback helped overshadow the struggles the offense faced through most of the day.

They scored 17 points in the second half against the Detroit Lions four days later, but that all came after they fell behind 27-3. Any points that were put up came after the game was mostly decided.

The recent debacle in Las Vegas might have been rock bottom for a young offense.

With two starters on the inactive list, the Raiders were playing with

a patchwork secondary that had to elevate two defensive backs from the practice squad before the game started.

The Packers, on the other hand, had their full arsenal of pass catchers. Sure, running back Aaron Jones was inactive, but that should not have mattered against a Raiders defense that was playing left-handed.

Instead, it was the same old story for this Packers' offense.

It couldn't establish any semblance of a rhythm in the first half. It scored three points on its second drive of the night, but that was all it could muster in the opening 30 minutes.

Love finished the night with 182 passing yards against the Raiders. Of those, 77 came on one play in which Christian Watson confirmed the Raiders dropped him in coverage.

Watson would lament the lack of plays he made despite the op-

portunities he had, saying the team needed to make more plays, himself included.

Watson is right, the Packers' passing game has not made enough plays, and that's especially true after the first two games of the season.

Have teams simply figured out the Packers' offense? LaFleur has certainly earned the right to answer that question and try to correct what ails them.

One thing that has to be corrected first and foremost is the turnovers.

One of the big questions surrounding Love coming out of college was his propensity to turn the ball over.

That looked to be something he had progressed from in the first two games. He only put the ball in harm's way one time. AJ Terrell dropped a sure interception. Sometimes quarterbacks get lucky.

Luck has not been on Love's side

in the last three games.

He's thrown six interceptions in three games, one of which came on a play where there was a clear miscommunication between Love and his receiver, Romeo Doubs.

Other than that, the blame for all of his interceptions can be placed directly at his feet.

Nothing about Love's career has been fair since he stepped into Green Bay's quarterback room.

He was a draft choice that immediately infuriated his predecessor. He sat for three seasons, and is now being asked to replace a future Hall of Famer.

On top of it all, Love does not have a long time before the Packers have to make a decision about his future.

Love signed a contract extension that was clearly a compromise of picking up his fifth year option.

The contract was not representative of a team committing long term to its quarterback.

If Love were to play well, it would seem logical the Packers could look to extend his contract sooner rather than later.

That's exactly what they did with Aaron Rodgers in 2008. Rodgers

played eight games before signing a six-year extension.

Through five games, it's hard to envision the Packers making a decision like that one.

At the end of the year, however, will be the time that clock starts to tick, and loudly.

One of the complaints Rodgers had during the offseason before the 2021 regular season was that he did not want to be a lame duck quarterback.

It was a fair complaint to have. Teams typically are committed to their starters long before a contract year even comes into question.

The franchise tag has been used on quarterbacks in the past, but that is a rare practice. Add in the fact the Packers are loathe to use the franchise tag and it's logical to think Green Bay may make a decision on Love as the long-term quarterback as soon as this winter.

Thankfully they don't have to answer that question now, because it's hard to feel good about any of the possibilities.

It's clear that Love's teammates believe in him. Rashan Gary loudly offered his support following the team's 38-20 win over the Chicago

Bears.

LaFleur has praised him publicly.

What's happened on the field, however, does not necessarily equate to a franchise quarterback.

Through five games, Love has more downs than ups to this point. He's second in the league in interceptions behind only Las Vegas' Jimmy Garoppolo.

He's put the ball in harm's way too often in each of the last three games. The Packers are 1-2 in those games and appear to be lucky to have won even the one game they did.

While the focus has been on Green Bay's anemic run game after the first five weeks, the quickest way to scoring points is through the air.

Prior to Watson's 77-yard play on that Monday night, the Packers' receivers had two catches for 13 yards.

They have yet to have a 100-yard receiver in a single game this season. Love has topped 250 passing yards once.

Again, perhaps this isn't fair, but quarterbacks are asked to elevate the players around him.

Through five weeks, Love has yet to do that.

Taking care of the ball is what

LaFleur has called a quarterback's top priority.

That has to be an even bigger priority when the offense is searching for an identity.

The Packers don't run the ball well. They are in the bottom half of the league in passing yards per game.

Add it all together, and the Packers are averaging 25 points per game. That's a solid number.

However, if you remove the opener against Chicago which is, at this point, a clear outlier, that number shrinks to 18.7, putting them in the same area as the Zach Wilson-led New York Jets.

The margin for error in Green Bay is smaller than it has been in the last 30 years.

Again, that's not fair to Love, but those are the expectations at the quarterback position for the Green Bay Packers.

One touchdown and 13 points isn't going to win many games. The Packers need more from their offense, and it's up to their coach and new quarterback to find those answers.

If they can't find those answers, the Packers might be looking for another quarterback as soon as this April.



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Rasheed Walker making progress, learning from Bakhtiari



Green Bay Packers offensive tackle Rasheed Walker was drafted by the Packers in the seventh round of 2022 NFL Draft. He started his first NFL game on Sept. 17, during a Week 2 loss to the Atlanta Falcons, replacing an injured David Bakhtiari at left tackle.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

Green Bay Packers offensive tackle Rasheed Walker was drafted by the Packers in the seventh round of 2022 NFL Draft.

He saw his first NFL action on Dec. 25, 2022, playing four special teams snaps in a Week 16 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

He started his first NFL game on Sept. 17, 2023, during a Week 2 loss to the Atlanta Falcons, replacing an injured David Bakhtiari at left tackle.

What was your reaction to the Bakhtiari news?

I didn't really have a reaction.

Exciting for you though?

Honestly, all I was thinking about what was the moment I was in. When that news came out, I knew I had to start this game, and that's just how it's going to be until further notice.

Did you think about your progress to get to this point?

From when I got here last year, got used to practicing like a pro. Had a pretty tough offseason – pushing myself this offseason. Came into camp with a different mentality to dominate and try to be my best version of myself every day. And then try to make everything translate.

What did you learn from Bakhtiari?

Dave, he's a very smart player from, obviously, being in the league for so long. He'll give me a bunch of tips on how to influence defenders, how to really think about the run scheme that we're doing, different pass schemes. He helps me understand how to influence the defense. I feel like that's a big part of his game that helped him in his career.

What's the focus as an offense?

Got a bunch of football ahead. I feel like these next couple days, everyone's going to take time to decompress, catch up on rest, catch up on recovery. On Tuesday when we come back for practice, we're going to meet and we're going to learn from the loss and we're going to come back and compete even harder.

What's the biggest eye opener in the NFL as you're getting consistent reps?

In the NFL, you've got to be ready for everything. Stuff happens fast, stuff is coming at you fast. Everyone's pretty good. You've just got

to respond. It's really a chess match, I would say, every snap.

What did the offensive line learn about itself?

What we learned is we played a hard game but we fought all the way through. No one really surrendered, so that was real good. We've just got to execute better.

How do you feel like you're executing personally?

I feel like I've been holding my own, just trying to get better, learning more every play, every game.

Is every game a major learning experience?

Everything has been a learning experience.

What was the Atlanta game like compared to other?

It was in a dome, and it was very loud. It was very loud. It kind of threw me back to when we used to play Iowa when I was in college. With it being a dome, they had to have been pushing some type of crowd noise. It was loud as hell those first couple drives.

How long did it take for the jitters to go away?

I was always tell myself, 'Don't have butterflies.' But probably after like the first drive, after that I got comfortable.

You've been taking all the first team reps, but does it help to know that you're starting?

Every week, I prepare like I'm a starter, anyway. As y'all know, I've been taking all the first-team reps so I've been preparing like I was a starter, anyway. I'm very confident in my abilities, in my play.

Does it help you knowing Bakhtiari's status for sure each week now?

Yeah, it helps me. It helps me.

After what was essentially a redshirt, where have you gotten better?

I just feel like mentally, I have a better understanding of the offense, of the game in general. Situations, better technique, stronger. I feel like the biggest difference from last year to this year is I'm playing faster and more confident.

What have you gotten better at since your first season?

Pass blocking and run blocking. Some things I did over the offseason was really work on my core. The fact of keeping my head off of blocks, keeping my feet under me. I worked on my sets a lot. Stuff like that.



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GREEN BAY PACKERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jaire Alexander	23	CB	5-10	196	26	6	Louisville
Zayne Anderson	39	S	6-2	206	26	1	BYU
Karl Brooks	94	DL	6-3	296	23	R	Bowling Green
De'Vondre Campbell	59	LB	6-4	232	30	8	Minnesota
Anders Carlson	17	K	6-5	219	25	R	Auburn
Kenny Clark	97	DL	6-3	314	28	8	UCLA
Sean Clifford	8	QB	6-2	218	25	R	Penn State
Brenton Cox Jr.	57	LB	6-4	250	23	R	Florida
Josiah Deguara	81	TE	6-2	238	26	4	Cincinnati
AJ Dillon	28	RB	6-0	247	25	4	Boston College
Romeo Doubs	87	WR	6-2	204	23	2	Nevada
Rasul Douglas	29	CB	6-2	209	29	7	West Virginia
Kingsley Enagbare	55	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina
Rudy Ford	20	S	6-0	210	28	7	Auburn
Rashan Gary	52	LB	6-5	277	25	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
Justin Hollins	47	LB	6-5	248	27	5	Oregon
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	27	5	Mississippi State
Anthony Johnson Jr.	36	S	6-0	205	23	R	Iowa State
Aaron Jones	33	RB	5-9	208	28	7	Texas-El Paso
Caleb Jones	72	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	22	R	South Dakota State
Dallin Leavitt	6	S	5-10	195	29	5	Utah State
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	24	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State
Josh Myers	71	C/G	6-5	310	25	3	Ohio State
Royce Newman	70	G/T	6-5	310	26	3	Mississippi
Yosh Nijman	73	T	6-7	314	27	4	Virginia Tech
Keisean Nixon	25	CB	5-10	200	26	5	South Carolina
Matt Orzech	42	LS	6-3	245	28	4	Azusa Pacific
Jonathan Owens	34	S	5-11	210	28	5	Missouri Western
Jayden Reed	11	WR	5-11	187	23	R	Michigan State
Sean Rhyan	75	G	6-5	321	23	2	UCLA
Jon Runyan	76	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan
Darnell Savage	26	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	26	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	30	9	Mississippi State
Zach Tom	50	OL	6-4	304	24	2	Wake Forest
Samori Toure	83	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska
Carrington Valentine	37	CB	6-0	189	22	R	Kentucky
Lukas Van Ness	90	LB	6-5	272	22	R	Iowa
Quay Walker	7	LB	6-4	241	23	2	Georgia
Rasheed Walker	63	T	6-6	324	23	2	Penn State
Christian Watson	9	WR	6-4	208	24	2	North Dakota State
Kristian Welch	54	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Iowa
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	24	1	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	29	7	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	22	R	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia
Reserve/Injured							
David Bakhtiari	69	T	6-4	310	32	11	Colorado
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia

DENVER BRONCOS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Nate Adkins	45	TE	6-3	252	24	R	South Carolina
Zach Allen	99	DE	6-5	285	26	5	Boston College
Quinn Bailey	75	T	6-6	323	27	2	Arizona State
Garett Bolles	72	T	6-5	300	31	7	Utah
Nik Bonitto	42	OLB	6-3	240	24	2	Oklahoma
Michael Burton	20	FB	6-0	247	31	9	Rutgers
Jonathon Cooper	0	OLB	6-4	257	25	3	Ohio State
Lloyd Cushenberry III	79	C	6-4	315	25	4	LSU
Riley Dixon	9	P	6-4	221	30	8	Syracuse
Greg Dulcich	80	TE	6-4	245	23	2	UCLA
Cam Fleming	73	T	6-5	320	31	10	Stanford
Alex Forsyth	76	C	6-4	312	24	R	Oregon
Mitchell Fraboni	48	LS	6-2	223	26	2	Arizona State
Elijah Garcia	95	DL	6-5	302	25	1	Rice
Jonathan Harris	92	DL	6-5	295	27	3	Lindenwood
Matt Henningsen	91	DE	6-3	291	24	2	Wisconsin
Lil'Jordan Humphrey	17	WR	6-4	225	25	4	Texas
Thomas Incoom	59	OLB	6-2	265	24	R	Central Michigan
Kareem Jackson	22	S	5-10	183	35	14	Alabama
Jerry Jeudy	10	WR	6-1	193	24	4	Alabama
Josey Jewell	47	ILB	6-2	236	28	6	Iowa
Brandon Johnson	89	WR	6-2	195	25	2	UCF
D.J. Jones	93	DT	6-0	305	28	7	Mississippi
Tyler Lancaster	96	NT	6-3	313	28	5	Northwestern
P.J. Locke	6	S	5-10	202	26	4	Texas
Wil Lutz	16	K	5-11	184	29	8	Georgia State
Chris Manhertz	84	TE	6-6	235	31	8	Canisius College
Damarri Mathis	27	CB	5-11	195	24	2	Pittsburgh
Mike McGlinchey	69	T	6-8	315	28	6	Notre Dame
Jaleel McLaughlin	38	RB	5-7	187	23	R	Youngstown State
Ja'Quan McMillian	29	CB	5-10	183	23	1	East Carolina
Quinn Meinerz	77	G/C	6-3	320	24	3	UW-Whitewater
Marvin Mims Jr.	19	WR	5-11	182	21	R	Oklahoma
Fabian Moreau	23	CB	6-0	198	29	7	UCLA
Riley Moss	37	CB	6-0	193	23	R	Iowa
Samaje Perine	25	RB	5-10	236	28	7	Oklahoma
Ronnie Perkins	51	DE	6-3	253	24	3	Oklahoma
Ben Powers	74	G	6-4	310	26	5	Oklahoma
Mike Purcell	98	DL	6-3	328	32	8	Wyoming
Drew Sanders	41	ILB	6-5	233	22	R	Arkansas
Justin Simmons	31	S	6-2	202	29	8	Boston College
Alex Singleton	49	ILB	6-2	240	29	5	Montana State
JL Skinner	34	S	6-4	220	22	R	Boise State
Tremon Smith	1	CB	6-0	190	27	6	Central Arkansas
Jarrett Stidham	4	QB	6-3	215	27	4	Auburn
Justin Strnad	40	ILB	6-3	235	27	4	Wake Forest
Pat Surtain II	2	CB	6-2	202	23	3	Alabama
Courtland Sutton	14	WR	6-4	216	28	6	Southern Methodist
Adam Trautman	82	TE	6-5	253	26	4	Dayton
Delarrin Turner-Yell	32	S	5-11	200	23	2	Oklahoma
Dwayne Washington	39	RB	6-1	223	29	8	Washington
Luke Wattenberg	60	C	6-5	300	26	2	Washington
Javonte Williams	33	RB	5-10	220	23	3	North Carolina
Russell Wilson	3	QB	5-11	215	34	12	Wisconsin
Reserve/Injured							
Jonas Griffith	50	ILB	6-4	250	26	3	Indiana State
Alex Palczewski	63	T	6-6	314	24	R	Illinois
Tim Patrick	12	WR	6-4	212	29	6	Utah
Caden Sterns	30	S	6-1	207	23	3	Texas
Jalen Virgil	15	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Appalachian State
K'Waun Williams	8	CB	5-9	185	32	9	Pittsburgh
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
Baron Browning	56	OLB	6-3	240	24	3	Ohio State
Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner							
Eyioma Uwazurike	96	DL	6-6	320	25	2	Iowa State

Injuries continue to plague defense

Amid Joe Barry struggles, Packers 11th in total defense

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

Stop me if you have heard this one before: another year, another litany of injuries for an overhyped Green Bay Packers defense.

Currently, Green Bay is dealing with injuries to starters all over the defense. Jaire Alexander was banged up in practice a few weeks back with a back injury, De'Vondre Campbell has been forced to miss games with an ankle injury, Eric Stokes has yet to play this season, after suffering an ankle injury last year, Rashan Gary has still yet been able to play in a three-down role, due to an ACL injury last season, Lukas Van Ness has been forced to leave games, and both Quay Walker and Darnell Savage left the game against the Las Vegas Raiders

with knee and calf injuries.

That has led defensive coordinator Joe Barry to rely on backups to play in major spots, leaving little suspicion as to why the defense has seemingly underperformed this year. Now injuries are not the only thing holding the defense back this year, as timely misalignments or not capitalizing on opportunities have seemed to limit Green Bay's ability to become that top-five defense that everyone had hoped for. Given those injuries, it is hard to blame that on the players, so the one who probably needs to be blamed is Barry.

It is no secret that Barry is on the hot seat in Green Bay. He, along with his defense, has struggled. Barry made a name for himself based on his coaching style, which is very opportunistic.

In essence, Barry tells his guys to go make plays, as opposed to preventing plays. That includes corners jumping short routes, outside linebackers bailing on the run game to get after the quarterback and inside backers basically running wherever they feel necessary. And while that

style works to contain conservative offenses, it certainly makes the team vulnerable to big chunk plays if the opposing offense can react in time.

There have been pent up feelings from Packers fans regarding Barry's performance as a defensive coordinator during his tenure in Green Bay, but giving up 211 rushing yards to the Detroit Lions and allowing an 18-point comeback to the Atlanta Falcons have seemingly put fans over the edge. There have been conversations regarding the firing of Barry throughout the city of Green Bay, but one thing that there is to ask is what does firing Barry midseason do for the team?

If Barry were to be fired (which is understandable), that would create even more chaos in a coaching staff that needs to understand and support its young players. Rearranging the defensive scheme midseason rarely works, if ever, and to do so with a team as young as Green Bay is, can only stunt the much-needed development from players like Van Ness and Gary. It is also not that easy to replace someone when the team is

facing adversity.

According to Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, adversity can lead to that needed development that will, as a whole, benefit Barry's defense.

"There is a lot of good that can come out of adversity if you stay tough-minded and persistent and you don't let it bring you down," said LaFleur. "As long as we take that approach of, 'Hey, we are going to roll up our sleeves and get back to work,' then you get a chance to show some progress."

Overall, this defense has not really been playing that bad. It is understandable to be angry or upset at Barry, but once again, the defense has only given up more than 30 points once. Getting players back from injury will undoubtedly help this defense continue to reach its full potential.

Barry has not been great, but to blame the Packers' struggles as a whole on its defensive coordinator is wrong. Does something need to change on defense? Probably, but I am not so sure that action can be taken unless it becomes a catastrophic problem, which it hasn't, yet.

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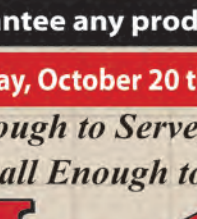
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