

ANOTHER SLOW START

Packers forced to fight from behind, fall short again



Linebacker Rashan Gary (52) is manhandled as he tries to reach Broncos' quarterback Russell Wilson. The Packers fell behind 9-0 in the first half, made an effort to come back in the second half and saw their hopes die with an interception from quarterback Jordan Love.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Packers disappoint again in 19-17 loss to the Broncos

Green Bay falls to 2-4 for first time since 2006

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

After starting the game down 9-0, a furious second-half comeback from the Green Bay Packers fell short as Jordan Love was intercepted late to seal a 19-17 loss to the Denver Broncos on Oct. 22.

The sixth game of the Jordan Love era proved to be the low point of the season so far, as Green Bay was held to under 20 points again — this time by a Denver team that surrendered 70 points to the Miami Dolphins in Week 3.

Down by two points with 3:50 left in the game, the Packers marched down the field before being upheld with a second-and-20 from their own 46-yard line, following a holding call on Elgton Jenkins. Love's second-down pass intended for Christian Watson fell incomplete. On the ensuing third down, Love attempted to take a deep shot to Samori Toure; the pass, thrown into double coverage, was intercepted by Broncos' safety P.J. Locke to essentially end the game.

This is the second straight game in which Green Bay's final offensive play resulted in an interception.

"I put that last one on me," said coach Matt LaFleur, referring to Love's interception. "Probably should have called a safer play, where you get half of it and try to set yourself up for a manageable situation on the next down. We took a shot, and obviously it didn't come through."

Love finished the game 21-of-31 for 180 yards and two touchdowns, while Aaron Jones (eight rushes for 35 yards) and A.J. Dillon (15 rushes for 61 yards) combined for 96 yards on the ground. Dillon also led the team in receiving, catching two passes for 34 yards.

For the Broncos, Russell Wilson went 20-of-29 for 194 yards and one touchdown. Javonte Williams led



AJ Dillon carried the ball 15 times for 61 yards against Denver. Despite teaming up again with Aaron Jones in the backfield, the Packers fell victim to their own mistakes and inexperience as they lost 19-17. Green Bay will host Minnesota on Sunday.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Denver in rushing, recording 82 yards on 15 carries.

Denver opened the game with a 12-play drive that resulted in a field goal. During that drive, Wilson connected with five receivers to march all the way down to the Packers' four yard line. On third-and-one from the four, Williams plunged into the end zone, but the play was wiped away due to a holding call, forcing Denver to settle for a field goal.

On its ensuing drive, Green Bay resorted back to how a majority of the season had gone in the first half and was forced to punt after a three-and-out.

Green Bay then held Denver to a three-and-out but followed that up with a punt on its next drive. From there, Denver settled for another field goal early in the second quarter.

In the mid-second quarter, the

Packers put together a competent 11-play drive before being faced with a third-and-nine from Denver's 30-yard line. A five-yard completion to Jayden Reed set up a field goal attempt from rookie kicker Anders Carlson.

Carlson came into the day as one of six kickers to not miss a kick all season. In a twist of fate, Carlson's kick sailed wide left, and Green Bay came away with no points on the drive.

From there, Denver quickly marched down the field and snuck in a field goal of its own to go up 9-0 at the break. Since the Atlanta Falcons game in Week 2, the Packers have combined for just six points in the first half of its last four games.

"Not starting the game fast, not putting up points quickly — it comes back to bite us in the end," said Love.

"We try to do everything that we can to fight and claw, and I think everyone does that. The effort is there, everyone is training, but like I said, not putting up points in the first half is coming back to bite us."

Green Bay came out of half-time strong with a 12-play drive that resulted in Carlson making up for his miss, hitting a 29-yard field goal to get Green Bay on the board. That was followed by Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton sneaking behind Packers' defensive back Rasul Douglas to score an 18-yard touchdown down the left sideline to put the Broncos up 16-3.

On Green Bay's next drive, Love opened with a 23-yard completion to Christian Watson. Riding on the backs of Dillon and Jones for the remaining majority of the drive, Green Bay found itself faced with a second-and-nine from the Broncos' 16-yard line.

On the second down play, Love dropped back and threw a floater to the end zone intended for Romeo Doubs. It appeared Broncos defensive back Pat Surtain intercepted the pass, but Doubs was able to get two hands on the ball as both players fell into the end zone simultaneously. After discussion, it was ruled that Doubs had possession, and Green Bay was awarded the touchdown, to bring the score to 16-10.

After holding Denver to a three-and-out, Green Bay once again marched down the field and on fourth-and-two from the Broncos' four-yard line, Love threw a slant to Doubs. The pass was behind the receiver and bounced through Doubs' hands. Luckily for Green Bay, the pass bounced right to rookie wide receiver Jayden Reed into the end zone to give the Packers a 17-16 lead with 8:31 left in the game.

That lead would quickly evaporate though as Denver once again sliced through the Green Bay defense to convert the game-winning field goal.

The 19-17 loss drops the Packers to 2-4 on the year. According to the New York Times playoff simulator, Green Bay has just a 23% chance to make the postseason.

BEAT The Expert

Week 8 Games: Sunday, Oct. 29



Luke Reimer
New Media

LA Rams @ Dallas
New York Jets @ NY Giants
Chicago @ LA Chargers
Las Vegas @ Detroit...Mon., Oct. 30

Tie Breaker Game:
Minnesota @ Green Bay

Week 7 Winner:

**Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance**

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	2-3	24-11
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center	1-4	23-12
Tim Murphy, New Media	2-3	23-12
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	2-3	20-15
Luke Reimer, New Media	2-3	20-15
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	3-2	20-15
Kevin Passon, New Media	1-4	19-16
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	0-5	19-16
Staff, Shawano Health Services	2-3	19-16
Sue Moede, Moede & Sons Plumbing	1-4	17-18
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	2-3	17-18



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 28 @ Green Bay 13



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

LA Rams
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 24



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 20 @ Green Bay 23



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Giants
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 0 @ Green Bay 41



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 28



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

LA Rams
NY Giants
LA Chargers
Las Vegas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 35 @ Green Bay 17



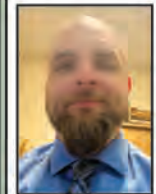
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 20 @ Green Bay 27



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 17 @ Green Bay 21



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Minnesota 24 @ Green Bay 13



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 20 @ Green Bay 17



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
New York Jets
LA Chargers
Detroit

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 13 @ Green Bay 20

NOTEBOOK

Injuries for Packers, Vikings could mean lackluster game

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Vikings' defense

Green Bay's offense is coming off another disappointing performance, scoring only 17 points against the Denver Broncos.

Coming into the game, Denver was the worst defense in football in almost any defensive category you can name.

That didn't seem to matter to the Packers. Jordan Love and company were shut out in the first half for the second time in four games.

Their last touchdown in the first half came Week 1 against the Chicago Bears. That came after the Packers' defense gave the offense a short field.

Otherwise they've been able to muster two field goals in the first half. One of them came after the offense went three and out, but was gifted another short field against Detroit.

Their offense does not appear to have a redeeming quality at this point.

Their passing attack continues to struggle. Whether it's growing pains or poor play, the passing offense is not nearly consistent enough to compete against a good defense.

Their run game found some traction against Denver, but the Broncos were allowing more than five yards per carry.

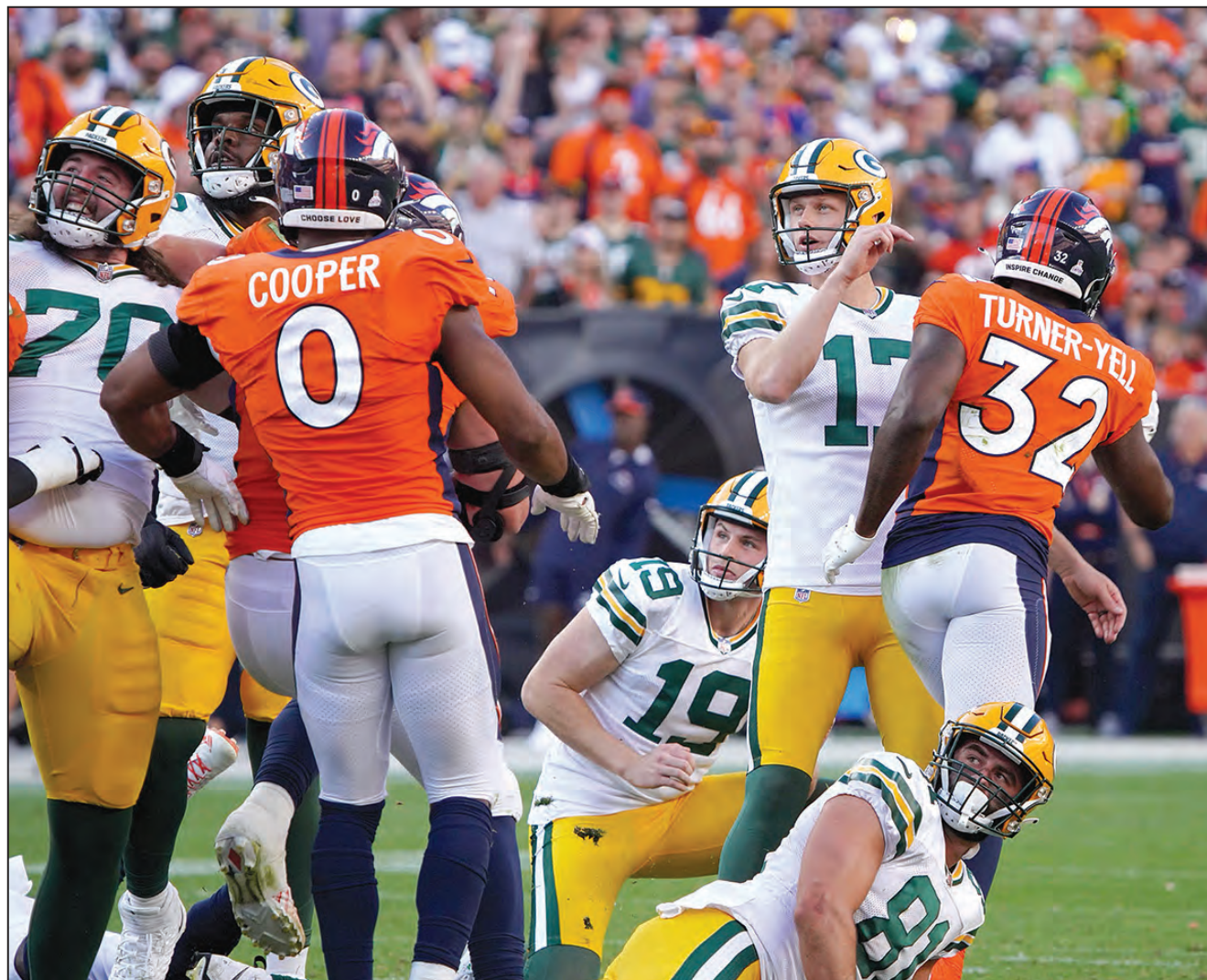
At this stage, it's hard to feel good about Green Bay's ability to execute at even a league average level.

Minnesota's defense is not the group that it was under Mike Zimmer that used to give Aaron Rodgers and company fits, but they have been better than expected to start the 2023 season.

Danielle Hunter is one of the top pass rushers in football. He led the NFL in sacks coming into Week 7.

Marcus Davenport, their second best pass rusher, will be on injured reserve for Sunday's game.

Harrison Smith is still around as a veteran presence as the team essentially breaks in an entirely new secondary.



The Packers' kicking game had been one of their lone bright spots going into Sunday's game against Denver. Anders Carlson had not missed a field goal or extra point going into the game. However, at one point in the game, he lined up for a 43-yard field goal that was pushed wide to the left. That miss would prove costly. It took three points off the board in a game they lost by two.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

The biggest chance on the Vikings' defense is their coordinator. Former Packers' defensive coordinator Ed Donatell was let go after last year's 13-4 season. He was replaced with Brian Flores. Flores has the Vikings in the middle of the pack defensively. If their entire offense were healthy, that would be good enough.

Unfortunately for Minnesota, injuries and turnovers have been their bugaboo this season on the offensive side of the ball.

With Green Bay's offense reeling coming into this matchup, the Vikings could really look to make a statement.

Packers' defense vs. Vikings' offense

Green Bay's run defense probably didn't get the attention it deserved after Sunday's loss in Denver. The Packers' offense took the brunt of the criticism, but to no surprise, Green Bay's run defense was gashed again.

The good news is Minnesota is one of the worst teams in the NFL in the run game. They average 75 yards per game on the ground. That is good for 30th in the NFL. The Packers are built to get after opposing teams in the passing game. Their pass rush has largely been an army of one. Rashan Gary leads the team in pressures and sacks. Coming into

Sunday's game, Gary had 17 pressures, and the rest of the edge group had 17 among the rest of them.

This game should have featured two of the very best at their positions going head-to-head.

Instead, Justin Jefferson is on injured reserve with a hamstring injury that will keep him out for at least the next two games.

Jaire Alexander continues to battle a back injury that has been a problem since he missed the home opener against New Orleans.

The Packers were thought to have some help on the way with Eric Stokes being activated from the PUP

list before Sunday's game.

Stokes' return was short-lived as he exited Sunday's game with a hamstring injury of a severity that was to be determined.

The secondary is down to Rasul Douglas, Carrington Valentine, and Keisean Nixon if Alexander cannot play.

Minnesota's receiving corps is wounded with Jefferson sitting on the sidelines, but still has some talent. Jordan Addison has had some nice moments as a former first-round pick.

TJ Hockenson is Kirk Cousins' go-to guy with Jefferson sidelined. KJ Osborn, the team's third receiver, has made some plays in Jefferson's absence as well.

There is no question that Jefferson's absence hurts, but Minnesota still has enough weapons to give Green Bay's defense some trouble.

Special teams

The Packers' kicking game had been one of their lone bright spots going into Sunday's game against Denver. Anders Carlson had not missed a field goal or extra point going into the game.

He lined up for a 43-yard field



Green Bay Packers' safety Darnell Savage could end up on the injured reserve list due to a calf injury he suffered during his team's Week 7 loss to the Denver Broncos.

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goal that was pushed wide to the left. That miss would prove costly. It took three points off the board in a game they lost by two.

That being said, the Packers have

to be pleased with Carlson to begin this season. One miss in six games is much better than his up-and-down training camp would have suggested he might have been at this point of

the season.

Keisean Nixon took punt return duties midway through the second quarter of the Denver game, with kickoffs continuously booming through the back of the end zone with the weather not able to knock the ball down.

The Packers are devoid of big plays on offense, and could use some help from their reigning All-Pro returner. One of the solutions could be having Nixon return punts, a job that has mostly belonged to rookie receiver Jayden Reed.

Reed hasn't done anything to lose the job, and is probably the safer option due to his experience at the position. The big plays, however, have come from Nixon.

Minnesota's special teams has Greg Joseph kicking for them. He's missed one kick in seven tries this year. Ty Chandler is their primary returner with a long return of 33 yards on the season.

Minnesota's special teams ranked right in the middle of the pack according to Rick Gosselin's special teams rankings in 2022.

Neither team should have a decided advantage in this phase of the game.

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The Vitals

MINNESOTA AT GREEN BAY

TIME AND DATE: Noon Sunday, Oct. 29

LOCATION: Lambeau Field

TV: Fox

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. Vikings 3-4

HISTORY: The Packers lead the all time series 65-57-3. While the Chicago Bears may be the Packers' biggest rival historically, Minnesota has been far more competitive since Brett Favre took over as the Packers' quarterback in 1992.

Matt LaFleur has never lost to the Bears since Green Bay hired him in 2019. His record against Minnesota is a much more modest 5-3.

The Packers have split the season series each of the last three years with the Vikings since sweeping them in 2019.

Last year, the Vikings won the season opener at US Bank Stadium 23-7. Green Bay followed that up by throttling the Vikings 41-17 in the penultimate game of the season at Lambeau Field.

COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 49-23). Vikings: Kevin O'Connell (second season 16-8)

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 at Chicago W 38-20

Sept. 17 at Atlanta L 25-24

Sept. 24 vs. New Orleans Noon W 18-17

Sept. 28 vs. Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-20

Oct. 9 at Las Vegas 7:15 p.m. L 17-13

Oct. 15 BYE

Oct. 22 at Denver 3:25 p.m. L 19-17

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. 26

Buccaneers at Bills, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Jets at Giants, Noon

Jaguars at Steelers, Noon

Eagles at Commanders, Noon

Rams at Cowboys, Noon

Vikings at Packers, Noon

Falcons at Titans, Noon

Patriots at Dolphins, Noon

Saints at Colts, Noon

Texans at Panthers, Noon

Browns at Seahawks, 3:05 p.m.

Bengals at 49ers, 3:25 p.m.

Chiefs at Broncos, 3:25 p.m.

Ravens at Cardinals, 3:25 p.m.

Bears at Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 30

Raiders at Lions, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Titans at Steelers, 7:15 p.m.

KEYS TO THE GAME

Turnovers could be deciding factor

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers losing streak reached three games after another embarrassing offensive performance dropped them to 2-4 on the season.

The Packers now return to Lambeau Field for the first time in over a month to take on the Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings are 2-4 on the season and look nothing like the team that won the NFC North a season ago.

Their best player, Justin Jefferson, will not play in Sunday's matchup as he is on injured reserve with a hamstring injury.

As if that wasn't problematic enough for Minnesota, they'll be coming to Lambeau Field on a short week after a Monday night game against a tough, physical San Francisco 49ers team.

The Packers started a big stretch of games when they traveled to Denver to take on the Broncos. Their next four games, in addition to Sunday's loss against Denver, will shape their season.

If they're going to win against Minnesota, here are three keys to victory.

Green Bay defense vs. TJ Hockenson

The Minnesota Vikings entered the season with hope their offense could carry them as their defense broke in a new defensive coordinator.

That wasn't too bad of a bet with an offense led by Justin Jefferson, arguably the best receiver in all of football.

It helped that Minnesota had him surrounded by a first-round pick in Jordan Addison, and at tight end they gave a big extension to in TJ Hockenson.

Hockenson is now the Vikings' go-to guy with Jefferson on the sideline.

He led the team in targets against the Bears two games ago.

The Packers have done well against opposing tight ends this season. They held Kyle Pitts to



Packers' quarterback Jordan Love attempted to take a deep shot to Samori Toure in the final minutes of the game, but the pass, thrown into double coverage, was intercepted by Broncos' safety P.J. Locke to essentially end the game. This is the second straight game in which Green Bay's final offensive play resulted in an interception.

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two catches for 15 yards when they played the Falcons.

Overall, tight ends have averaged three catches for 36 yards against the Packers.

Opposing tight ends have yet to find the end zone against Green Bay as well.

If Green Bay can slow Hockenson down like they have every other tight end they've faced this season, that will go a long way toward them winning the game.

Packers' tackles vs Danielle Hunter

The Packers' offensive line was one of the top pass blocking groups based on Pro Football Focus' grading

system after the first three games of the year.

Then they faced Aidan Hutchinson and Maxx Crosby, two of the top edge rushers in all of football.

Both might be in the defensive player of the year conversations.

Neither of them lead the league in sacks. Going into Sunday's action, that honor belonged to Danielle Hunter. The Vikings' star was the subject of trade rumors going into the regular season but reached a contract agreement to stay in Minnesota.

With the Vikings off to a slow start, speculation has begun that Hunter could be shopped again.

Assuming Hunter is still in Min-

nesota when Sunday's game kicks off, the Packers are going to have their hands full.

The group has held up well when they haven't played the league's best. Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans and Denver are all devoid of top-tier edge rushers.

Hutchinson and Crosby both wrecked the game against Green Bay.

Hunter's running mate, Marcus Davenport, was placed on injured reserve last week. The Vikings' pass rush is all centered around Hunter. The Packers cannot allow Hunter to wreck Sunday's game.

Packers' secondary vs. Kirk Cousins

Minnesota's fortune in terms of one-score games and turnover luck have hit a massive regression in 2023. The Vikings went 13-4 a season ago largely on the back of their ability to win close games.

Their first four games this season were all of the one-score variety, and they were 2-4.

One of the biggest reasons for that is their propensity to turn the ball over.

Through the first six games of the season, the Vikings are minus-7 in turnovers. Kirk Cousins has thrown four interceptions. The Vikings as a

team have lost an eye-popping nine fumbles.

The Packers, by contrast, have not been great at taking care of the ball but much better than Minnesota. They have thrown seven interceptions but not lost a fumble.

On defense, they have four interceptions and have recovered only one fumble.

That puts them at minus-1 in turnover differential. The turnover battle is always pivotal in the NFL, but that's especially true in division games.

That's even more true with the style the Vikings like to play, which seemingly has them in one-score games anytime they take the field.

One bounce here or there could decide Green Bay's fate on Sunday afternoon. If the ball is on the ground, they need to come up with it. If Cousins throws the ball to a defensive back, they need to catch it.

Conversely, Green Bay's backs and receivers haven't fumbled the ball all season.

They need to continue to remain sound in taking care of the ball. In addition, Jordan Love, guilty of seven interceptions in his last four starts, needs to keep the ball out of harm's way.



Jordan Love scrambles with the ball against the Broncos. Green Bay was forced to fight from behind again, and again came up short. The Packers will have their work cut out for them when they host the Vikings on Sunday, as Minnesota will have momentum coming off its Monday night victory over San Francisco.

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**NORTH SHORE
HEALTHCARE**

Bakhtiari stays in control of his future

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari has clarity on the knee problem that's been plaguing him for several years now, but fixing it has knocked him out for the remainder of the year.

Bakhtiari, who Green Bay placed on injured reserve on Sept. 28, will undergo surgery to repair a cartilage issue with his lateral femur.

It's the latest setback in a long line for Bakhtiari, who has played in just 13 games since his original injury, with just one appearance apiece in 2021 and 2023.

So what's going on?

I'll just go back to the beginning. December 31, 2020, tore my knee in practice. Ended up being an ACL, a little bit of my lateral meniscus – I think they took out 10-15%, nothing big on that. The issue came from my lateral femur, I took out some cartilage and that is where we're at today, dealing with that.

Now, going through the process, that's why I kept saying it's never

been about my ACL, it's never been about that, everything's always been good. It's been for all of us – myself included – trying to figure out is this an issue that needs to be addressed or no?

Every single time we could get out of the weeds with everything, because obviously you have to get over the ACL, we hit that and then other things came up. Scar tissue, so we had to go in and clean it out. And then there's atrophy with that. So the ability to truly assess, is that a problem, now fast forwards us to where we are today.

Because obviously I had a couple of clean outs, we couldn't tell. Now I'm at this point finally. My breather was in the offseason. I'm able to actually have strength. To give most people an idea, when you have surgery and there's atrophy and then when you have to compound multiple surgeries, there's multiple atrophy you have to get over. So that's why it was hard for any of us to really see, and if we didn't have to do it, great.

Then we don't have to address the point. Now we're at a point now

where it's clearly evident that that's the issue, and it's unfortunate. I hate it. I know the club hates it. It's just not a great situation for anyone to deal with. The human side of it took a little of stress, a lot of time on my end, but the clarity is to know we finally know what the problem is and we can address the problem. That's the, I guess, glass-half-full part of the scenario. So that's where we're at. That's the pill I have to swallow and what I have to do hence why when I had the last surgery.

That surgery did what?

Clean out and address what we're going to do moving forward.

Is this upcoming surgery to address lateral femoral issue?

The goal is to address the lateral femur, because how it's basically been is I've been dealing with a lot of fluid. And fluid is either there for instability and debris, and the constant debris, the lack of smoothness and grit. Because that's the crazy thing, that's why I kept sitting here (saying) if the doctor tells me, hey you can't do this, then you can't do it. But it's not bone on bone. It's just, I'm one of the people that's symptomatic, and that was the crystalizing point is we realized that I'm a symptomatic individual for this specific injury and I need to fix that, and it's just unfortunate.

In my knee, it's basically like sandpaper where it rubs, it's just not smooth, which is creating a lot of fluid.

How soon after Week 1 do you know this was an issue?

I've always had a problem. It was ignoring it, pushing through it and then when it kinda rears its head and is so blatantly there, I kind of hit a point where I was sitting there talking to doc working on some things preparing for Atlanta, and I just sat there with my options of what we were going to do, and I was like, this is not fixing the problem, it's going to just perpetuate and possibly make it worse and we have to address this at this point.

Is the latest surgery needed to play football or for everyday life?

A lot of this stuff is both. It's long term. It's immediate. Not trying to go get surgery if that's an easy way to summarize it.

But you want to play again?

Yeah. I have personal goals and aspirations that I want to do.

Recovery period?



My goal is to be ready for training camp next year. That's what I gotta do. I know I have one more year left and I think for me, I'm trying to make sure I attack this rehab like I've done with everything and just making sure that it's behind me.

Why put yourself through this?

Because I'm different. I have an unparalleled work ethic. I'm stubborn and I'm not gonna let someone else write my story. This is me just taking control of what I need to do.

When I want to look back, do I want to look at the guy who got injured and was like ah, that's good enough? If that's not me, then the future, older me is gonna be pissed at the younger me like, 'You quitter.' When times are tough, for sure. That's why you guys ask me and I'm like – I'm sure plenty of you guys don't want to come into work anymore. I'm sure there's been tough days at work, at home, where you're like screw it. But take that same mentality and you put it here, gravity can be different and it can weigh more but it just shows that's also what makes us human beings special is our ability to preserve and to push. And I want to do that.

Business side of this – are you open to doing something contractually to return?

We'll talk about it when we get there. I don't rule anything off the table, on both ends.

What's your role with this team this season?

I mean, anything I can to this team, but I also need to make sure that I have to take care of myself. That has to be the number one most important thing. Being a football player and being on the sideline doesn't really, it's not the role of a football player. So for me, the selfish and unselfish thing to do is just to make sure the health is the number one priority so every step I need to do is to make sure that we take care and put this issue that occurred on New Year's Eve 2020 officially behind us.

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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
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
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia
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

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jordan Addison	3	WR	5-11	175	23	R	USC
Hakeem Adeniji	78	OL	6-4	315	25	4	Kansas
Cam Akers	31	RB	5-10	217	24	3	Florida State
Brian Asamoah II	33	LB	6-0	226	23	2	Oklahoma
Mekhi Blackmon	5	CB	5-11	178	24	R	USC
Andrew Booth Jr.	23	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Clemson
Garrett Bradbury	56	C	6-3	300	28	5	North Carolina State
Blake Brandel	64	G	6-7	315	26	3	Oregon State
Jonathan Bullard	90	DL	6-3	290	30	8	Florida
Camryn Bynum	24	S	6-0	200	25	3	California
Andre Carter II	55	OLB	6-6	256	23	R	Army
Ty Chandler	32	RB	5-11	204	25	2	North Carolina
Lewis Cine	6	S	6-2	199	24	2	Georgia
Ezra Cleveland	72	G	6-6	312	25	4	Boise State
Kirk Cousins	8	QB	6-3	205	35	12	Michigan State
Christian Darrisaw	71	T	6-5	315	24	3	Virginia Tech
Andrew DePaola	42	LS	6-1	229	36	9	Rutgers
Troy Dye	45	LB	6-3	225	27	4	Oregon
Akayleb Evans	21	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Missouri
Jaren Hall	16	QB	6-0	207	25	R	BYU
C.J. Ham	30	FB	5-11	250	30	7	Augustana (S.D.)
N'Keal Harry	13	WR	6-4	225	25	5	Arizona State
Jordan Hicks	58	LB	6-1	236	31	9	Texas
T.J. Hockenson	87	TE	6-5	248	26	5	Iowa
Danielle Hunter	99	OLB	6-5	263	28	9	LSU
Ed Ingram	67	G	6-3	307	24	2	LSU
Theo Jackson	25	S	6-1	198	25	2	Tennessee
Pat Jones II	91	OLB	6-4	264	25	3	Pittsburgh
Greg Joseph	1	K	6-0	206	29	4	Florida Atlantic
Dean Lowry	94	DL	6-6	296	29	8	Northwestern
Alexander Mattison	2	RB	5-11	215	25	5	Boise State
Josh Metellus	44	S	5-11	207	25	4	Michigan
Johnny Mundt	86	TE	6-4	233	28	6	Oregon
Byron Murphy Jr.	7	CB	5-11	190	25	5	Washington
Nick Muse	34	TE	6-5	252	24	2	South Carolina
Kene Nwangwu	26	RB	6-1	210	25	3	Iowa State
Brian O'Neill	75	T	6-7	310	28	6	Pittsburgh
Josh Oliver	84	TE	6-5	259	26	5	San Jose State
K.J. Osborn	17	WR	5-11	203	26	4	Miami (Fla.)
Ivan Pace Jr.	40	LB	5-10	231	22	R	Cincinnati
Harrison Phillips	97	DL	6-3	307	27	6	Stanford
Brandon Powell	4	WR	5-8	181	28	6	Florida
David Quessenberry	76	OT	6-5	310	33	6	San Jose State
Dalton Risner	66	G	6-5	312	28	5	Kansas State
Jaquelin Roy	93	DL	6-3	305	23	R	LSU
Austin Schlottmann	65	C	6-6	300	28	5	TCU
Harrison Smith	22	S	6-2	211	34	12	Notre Dame
NaJee Thompson	11	CB	5-11	205	23	R	Georgia Southern
Khyiris Tonga	95	DL	6-4	338	27	3	BYU
Jay Ward	20	S	6-1	188	23	R	LSU
D.J. Wonnum	98	OLB	6-5	258	25	4	South Carolina
Ryan Wright	14	P	6-3	245	23	2	Tulane
Reserve/Injured							
Marcus Davenport	0	OLB	6-6	265	27	6	Texas-San Antonio
Justin Jefferson	18	WR	6-1	195	24	4	LSU
Malik Knowles	81	WR	6-2	196	23	R	Kansas State
William Kwenkeu	47	LB	6-1	235	26	2	Temple
James Lynch	92	DL	6-4	295	24	4	Baylor
Nick Mullens	12	QB	6-0	210	28	5	Southern Mississippi
Olisaemeka Udoh	74	OT	6-6	320	26	5	Elon
Reserve/Injured; Designated for Return							
Jalen Nailor	83	WR	6-0	190	24	2	Michigan State
Reserve/Non-Football Injury							
Chris Reed	62	G/C	6-3	314	31	8	Minnesota State

Packers outscored 78-26 in first half this season

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

From inexperience to lack of talent to costly penalties, there is a lot to be concerned about if you are a Packers fan, but the most concerning thing may be Green Bay's inability to score a touchdown in the first half of its games.

Throughout its six games this season, Green Bay has only scored two first-half touchdowns and, as a whole, has been outscored 78-26 in all six first halves combined.

Especially with how young the team is, avoiding adversity needs to be the No. 1 priority for this team to succeed. That simply has not happened. This year at halftime, Green Bay has found itself in deficits of 17-0, 27-3, 10-3 and 9-0. As any NFL player, coach or writer will tell you, it is really hard to win games in this league when faced with a two (or more) score deficit with 30 minutes of a game to make it up.

"I think we just have to have more urgency to start the game," said

Packers quarterback Jordan Love. "We just have to find a way to just put up points. We have just got to find a way to be better, honestly."

Coming out of the bye week, it seemed conceivable that Green Bay would put together a game plan that put Love and the offense in positions to succeed, especially against a Broncos team that gave up 70 points to the Miami Dolphins four weeks ago. That did not happen, and for Love to say that the team needs to have more urgency to start the game makes you wonder what happened at practice over the past 13 days.

It is glaringly obvious that Green Bay's lack of first-half points has severely limited the team's chances at winning games.

"Obviously zero," said head coach Matt LaFleur, when asked how much progress the team made during the bye week to improve on the slow starts to games.

Finding a solution to the first-half problems is not an easy thing to do, either. The early passing game has been nonexistent. While the running

game has seemingly improved over the last couple of weeks, it pales in comparison to how other teams start games.

A lot of that stems from Green Bay's inability to throw the ball to the middle of the field. Whether that is because of below-average play calling or Love's inability to make those throws, something drastic needs to change, because every week it is the same story.

Going back to Green Bay being outscored 78-26 in the first half, the team as a whole still only has a points differential of -2. While, yes, the team did beat the Bears by 18 points, it also lost to the Lions by 14 points, so those games basically wash each other out. So realistically, Green Bay is outscoring its opponents in the second half of its games. But since the team keeps digging itself into big holes in the first half, outscoring opponents in the second half is basically an empty stat at this point in the season.

"I think it is a true test to all of us," said LaFleur. "It is extremely

frustrating. I do believe in the guys in that locker room in terms of the character that we have, but it does test you. No question about it. You have to look internally and see what you can control."

LaFleur is right. It is extremely frustrating to see each game start as slowly as it does. As anyone who has played sports knows, it is very demoralizing to have to play from behind early in games, and this Packers team has done so the previous four weeks. Energy and morale is almost instantly lost, and when you don't have energy, you don't have results. The test now, is finding someone to step up and keep the energy strong so that this team does not give up on the season, which seems very possible given the lack of leadership.

"The urgency is starting the game fast and going to put up points to start the game much faster," said Love. "There are just too many critical errors right now on offense, and we all have to do a better job. We all just have to lock in and do a better job of making plays."



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