

PACK'S DEFENSE SHOWING POSITIVE SIGNS

Unit has improved
since week 1 despite
missing key pieces

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Green Bay Packers defensive lineman Kenny Clark, left, and outside linebacker Rashan Gary rush Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff, right, during the team's game on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Team effort has defense trending up

Unit was stout in run game vs. San Francisco

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Coming into the season, the Green Bay Packers pretty much knew what they were going to have on the offensive side of the ball.

The defense, on the other hand, was an unknown after bringing in Joe Barry as defensive coordinator.

Through the first six quarters of the season, the Packers' defense looked like it might be a hindrance to the team's lofty aspirations. But the last six quarters, the defense has shown some positive signs and should only continue improving as the players get familiar with the new schemes and as the unit gets healthier.

The defense's debut against the New Orleans Saints didn't go according to plan, as the Saints scored on six of its eight possessions — of the scores, five were touchdowns, so even the unit's bend but don't approach that was a familiar sight in years past was absent.

After the game, the team announced that pass-rushing linebacker Za'Darius Smith would go on injured reserve, so improved play seemed bleak.

The Packers' defense continued to struggle in the first half of the Detroit Lions game, allowing scores on three of four possessions in the first half. The unit was able to turn things around in the second half though as it shut out the Lions and only allowed only 145 yards, caused two turnovers and made two stops on fourth down.

Against a more complete San Francisco 49ers offense, the Packers defense continued its strong play. It might have been one of its best defensive showings in years had the special teams unit not set the defense up deep in its own territory at the end of the first half and had several questionable calls not gone against the unit in the second half.

"I was proud of our defensive effort," said coach Matt LaFleur. "Certainly, there's things to clean up, just like there is every week, but I thought they battled and did a really nice job."

Green Bay's defense made it a focal point to try and slow San Francisco's



Green Bay Packers outside linebackers Chauncey Rivers (47) and Jonathan Garvin (53) try and bring down Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff, left, during the team's game on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' defense has shown some promising signs after a tough opening week to the season.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

running game, and were able to accomplish that.

The 49ers managed just 67 rushing yards in the contest and averaged just 3.2 yards per rush.

Defensive lineman Kenny Clark helped set the tone for the defense and was constantly in the 49ers' backfield. As the game continued and San Fran sent more bodies at Clark, defensive linemen Dean Lowry, Tyler Lancaster and T.J. Slaton all were able to make some plays and create some pressure on the quarterback.

Speaking of the pass rush, the Packers had their best game getting after the quarterback, which is a promising sign with Za'Darius Smith out of the lineup.

Green Bay was credited with 11 quarterback hits on the night, with outside linebacker Preston Smith leading the way with three. Fellow OLB Rashan Gary and Jonathan Garvin had two each while Clark, Lowry, Slaton and linebacker Oren Burks had one each.

Green Bay had four sacks in the contest and also forced the fumble from Jimmy Garoppolo on the backwards pass in the fourth quarter. The Packers other takeaway came early in the second quarter when cornerback

Jaire Alexander ran down a deep ball by Garoppolo.

"I thought, for the most part, our guys played pretty physical," said LaFleur. "We were playing together. I felt like just the effort, the overall effort on the defensive side of the ball was really good."

"I thought we were swarming to the football and just did a nice job tackling for the most part."

The stat sheet showed that.

Green Bay finished the night with six passes defended along with Alexander's interception. Alexander had three of the pass breakups.

The defense also was able to limit big plays. The longest San Fran run was 16 yards, with new middle linebacker De'Vondre Campbell and safeties Darnell Savage and Adrian Amos doing a nice job in run support.

Campbell led the team in tackles for a second-straight week with 11 combined. He also recovered the fumble by Garoppolo and showed off his speed with a couple open field tackles.

Along with missing Za'Darius Smith for the contest, the unit was also down cornerback Kevin King, who missed the game with an illness. That thrust rookie Eric Stokes into a starting role.

Stokes was whistled for a pair of

pass interference calls — although his second one was a highly questionable call where he barely made contact with the receiver — but otherwise held his own.

San Fran tried to attack Stokes, but he remained physical despite his couple PI calls. He finished with five total tackles and knocked down a pass.

"I thought he competed and did a really nice job," said LaFleur of Stokes.

The Packers also had Lancaster and middle linebacker Krys Barnes leave with injuries, which opened up some opportunities for Slaton and Burks.

While the Packers would of course rather be 100 percent healthy and have its best 11 starters on the field, building up the confidence of some of the backups should only help as the season continues on. It also gives the team some much-needed depth.

The next test for the Packers' defense comes against a Pittsburgh Steelers' offense that has underperformed so far this season. Pittsburgh has been sacked eight times through three games and ranks near the bottom of the league in total yards and rushing yards. The Steelers are averaging just 16.7 points per game, which is bottom five in the NFL.

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Rodgers rallies Packers past 49ers

Mason Crosby kicks game-winning field goal as time expires

By JOSH DUBOW

The Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers completed two deep passes to Davante Adams on a last-minute drive, setting up Mason Crosby's 51-yard field goal on the final play of the game that gave the Green Bay Packers a 30-28 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sept. 26 in Santa Clara, California.

"My first thoughts in devising how I wanted to get us into field-goal range was how could I get 17 (Adams) the ball," Rodgers said.

Rodgers delivered for the Packers after Jimmy Garoppolo gave San Francisco the lead on a 12-yard TD pass to Kyle Juszczyk with 37 seconds to play.

Green Bay had no timeouts, but Rodgers completed passes of 25 and 17 yards to Adams to set up the game-winning kick and a raucous celebration in the end zone.

Adams came back after taking a hard hit from Jimmie Ward that looked like it could knock him out of the game and finished with 12 catches for 132 yards.

"How can you not be romantic about football?" Rodgers said.

The comeback spoiled the first game for the 49ers with fans since beating Green Bay in the 2019 NFC title game. San Francisco had rallied from 17 points down to take the lead before getting crushed by Rodgers.

"Celebrating with the guys in the end zone, seeing that energy and feeling that juice, is what it's all about," Crosby said. "And then carrying on into the locker room and guys pouring water all over my head and everybody, that's what this game is all about. It was really special."

Rodgers threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Packers to back-to-back wins after a season-opening 38-3 loss to New Orleans. Rodgers had six TD passes and no interceptions in wins over San Francisco and Detroit.

The Niners returned home following back-to-back road wins back East but struggled to slow down Rodgers.

Rodgers connected on a 1-yard TD pass to Adams and a 12-yarder in the fourth quarter to Marquez Valdes-Scantling as he exploited a banged-up 49ers secondary that lost two more players to injuries.

Starting cornerback Jason Verrett went down with a season-ending knee



Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby (2) kicks the game-winning field goal from the hold of Corey Bojorquez during the second half of a game against the San Francisco 49ers on Sept. 26 in Santa Clara, California.

JED JACOBSON | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

injury in the opener, and K'Waun Williams (calf) and Josh Norman (chest) left this game in the first half with injuries.

The Packers were dealing with their own injury problems on the offensive line with their top linemen missing; Elton Jenkins is out with an ankle injury, and David Bakhtiari is on the physically unable to perform list with a knee injury.

Rodgers got rid of the ball quickly to neutralize Nick Bosa and the Niners pass rush and was only sacked once in the win.

Fast start

The Packers got off to a fast start with scores on their first two drives.

Rodgers connected on a 42-yard pass to Allen Lazard on the first drive

to set up a field goal by Mason Crosby.

Rodgers then hit Valdes-Scantling on a 47-yarder to set up the short TD pass to Adams. Rodgers was 9 for 9 for 127 yards in the quarter.

Double dip

The Niners avoided being shut out in the first half when they scored on the final play. After Garoppolo got away with an apparent intentional grounding that would have ended the half, Lance came in for his first snap since the opener. He ran behind a big block from Trent Williams for a 1-yard score that cut Green Bay's lead to 17-7.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur was angry about the lack of the intentional grounding call and gave referee Jerome Boger an earful on his way off

the field.

San Francisco then scored on the opening possession of the second half when Garoppolo hit Brandon Aiyuk on an 8-yard TD pass as the Niners scored 14 points without Rodgers touching the ball.

Injury report

Packers: Adams was down for a few minutes after taking a hard hit from Ward that didn't lead to a penalty. His teammates knelt near him as he was being treated but he was able to return after missing only one play.

LB Krys Barnes left the game in the first half with a concussion. DL Tyler Lancaster was evaluated for a concussion in the second half. WR Valdes-Scantling (hamstring) also left the game in the fourth quarter.

PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	36	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	24	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	21	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	22	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	23	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
43	Hunter Bradley	LS	6-3	241	27	4	Mississippi State
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan

77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	29	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	26	4	South Florida
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Marcedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	28	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	23	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	26	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	24	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	25	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	28	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	25	2	Arkansas

Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform

69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	29	9	Colorado
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Practice Squad

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
9	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	23	R	Alcorn State
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	24	4	Notre Dame
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	23	1	Iowa State
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
50	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	24	2	Colorado
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

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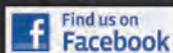
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STEELERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Rudolph	QB	6-5	235	26	4	Oklahoma State
3	Dwayne Haskins	QB	6-4	230	24	3	Ohio State
6	Pressley Harvin III	P	6-0	255	23	R	Georgia Tech
7	Ben Roethlisberger	QB	6-5	240	39	18	Miami (Ohio)
8	Melvin Ingram III	LB	6-2	247	32	10	South Carolina
9	Chris Boswell	K	6-2	185	30	7	Rice
11	Chase Claypool	WR	6-4	238	23	2	Notre Dame
13	James Washington	WR	5-11	213	25	4	Oklahoma State
14	Ray-Ray McCloud	WR	5-9	190	24	4	Clemson
15	Cody White	WR	6-3	215	22	1	Michigan State
18	Diontae Johnson	WR	5-10	183	25	3	Toledo
19	Julu Smith-Schuster	WR	6-1	215	24	5	USC
20	Cameron Sutton	CB	5-11	188	26	5	Tennessee
21	Tre Norwood	DB	6-0	194	22	R	Oklahoma
22	Najee Harris	RB	6-1	232	22	R	Alabama
23	Joe Haden	CB	5-11	195	32	12	Florida
24	Benny Snell Jr.	RB	5-10	224	23	3	Kentucky
25	Ahkello Witherspoon	CB	6-2	195	26	5	Colorado
27	Marcus Allen	LB	6-2	215	25	3	Penn State
28	Miles Killebrew	S	6-2	222	28	6	Southern Utah State
29	Kalen Ballage	RB	6-2	231	25	4	Arizona State
31	Justin Layne	CB	6-2	192	23	3	Michigan State
34	Terrell Edmunds	S	6-1	217	24	4	Virginia Tech
35	Arthur Maulet	CB	5-10	190	28	5	Memphis
39	Minkah Fitzpatrick	S	6-1	207	24	4	Alabama
40	Jamir Jones	OLB	6-3	255	23	1	Notre Dame
41	Robert Spillane	LB	6-1	229	25	3	Western Michigan
42	James Pierre	CB	6-2	185	25	2	Florida Atlantic
44	Derek Watt	FB	6-2	234	28	6	Wisconsin
45	Buddy Johnson	LB	6-2	240	22	R	Texas A&M
46	Christian Kuntz	LS	6-1	228	27	1	Duquesne
51	Trai Turner	G	6-3	315	28	8	LSU
53	Kendrick Green	C	6-4	315	22	R	Illinois
54	Ulysees Gilbert III	ILB	6-0	230	24	3	Akron
55	Devin Bush	LB	5-11	234	23	3	Michigan
56	Alex Highsmith	LB	6-4	242	24	2	Charlotte
60	J.C. Hassenauer	C	6-2	295	26	2	Alabama
65	Dan Moore Jr.	OT	6-5	315	23	R	Texas A&M
67	B.J. Finney	C/G	6-4	318	29	6	Kansas State

69	Kevin Dotson	OL	6-4	321	25	2	Louisiana
71	Joe Haeg	OT	6-6	298	28	6	North Dakota State
73	Carlos Davis	DT	6-2	320	25	2	Nebraska
76	Chukwuma Okorafor	OL	6-6	320	24	4	Western Michigan
79	Rashaad Coward	OL	6-5	319	26	4	Old Dominion
81	Zach Gentry	TE	6-8	265	25	3	Michigan
85	Eric Ebron	TE	6-4	253	28	8	North Carolina
88	Pat Freiermuth	TE	6-5	258	22	R	Penn State
90	T.J. Watt	LB	6-4	252	26	5	Wisconsin
92	Isaiahh Loudermilk	DE	6-7	240	23	R	Wisconsin
93	Joe Schobert	LB	6-1	240	27	6	Wisconsin
95	Chris Wormley	DL	6-5	300	27	5	Michigan
96	Isaiah Buggs	DE	6-3	295	25	3	Alabama
97	Cameron Heyward	DT	6-5	295	32	11	Ohio State
99	Henry Mondeaux	DE	6-4	280	26	2	Oregon

Reserve/Injured

5	Joshua Dobbs	QB	6-3	210	26	5	Tennessee
26	Anthony McFarland Jr.	RB	5-8	193	22	2	Maryland
72	Zach Banner	OT	6-8	335	27	5	USC
91	Stephon Tuitt	DE	6-6	303	28	8	Notre Dame
93	Demarcus Christman	DT	6-3	302	26	1	Florida State
94	Tyson Alualu	DE	6-3	304	34	12	California

Practice Squad

17	Mark Gilbert	CB	6-1	175	24	R	Duke
30	Karl Joseph	S	5-10	200	28	6	West Virginia
33	Trey Edmunds	RB	6-2	223	26	4	Maryland
37	Donovan Stiner	S	6-2	210	22	R	Florida
38	Jaylen Samuels	RB	6-0	225	25	4	North Carolina State
48	Derrek Tuszka	OLB	6-5	246	25	2	North Dakota State
50	Delontae Scott	LB	6-5	246	24	1	SMU
50	Tyler Vaughns	WR	6-2	184	24	R	USC
61	Daniel Archibong	DT	6-6	307	24	R	Temple
64	Malcolm Pridgeon	G	6-7	310	26	1	Ohio State
74	Chaz Green	OT	6-5	318	29	5	Florida
77	John Leglue	OT	6-7	310	25	1	Tulane
82	Steven Sims	WR	5-10	176	24	3	Kansas
87	Kevin Rader	TE	6-4	250	26	1	Youngstown State
98	Taco Charlton	DL	6-5	270	26	5	Michigan

Practice Squad/Injured

84	Rico Bussey	WR	6-2	190	23	R	Hawaii
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OFFENSE

FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Sept. 26, 11 p.m.

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Steelers
All-time, regular season: 18-16
All-time, postseason: 1-0
All-time, at Packers: 11-8
Streaks: Despite the Green Bay Packers lead in the series, the Pittsburgh Steelers have won five of the last six matchups. The one matchup over that timeframe that the Packers won was Super Bowl XLV, which Green Bay won 31-25. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers hasn't played the last two games against the Steelers, with his last meeting with Pittsburgh was the Super Bowl.
Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 26, 2017, Steelers won 31-28 at Heinz Field

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	noon	FOX
Oct. 17	at Chicago	noon	FOX
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	noon	FOX
Oct. 28	at Arizona	7:20	FOX
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	3:25 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	noon	FOX
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	FOX
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m.	FOX
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

DEFENSE

WR
Davante Adams
Allen Lazard

TE
Robert Tonyan

RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly

RG
Royce Newman
Jon Runyan

C
Josh Myers
Jake Hanson

LG
Lucas Patrick
Jon Runyan

LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman

TE
Marcedes Lewis
Josiah Deguara

WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Randall Cobb

CB
Jaire Alexander
Chandon Sullivan

DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster

NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin

CB
Kevin King
Eric Stokes

OLB
Preston Smith
Chauncey Rivers

ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks

ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers

OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin

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Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott

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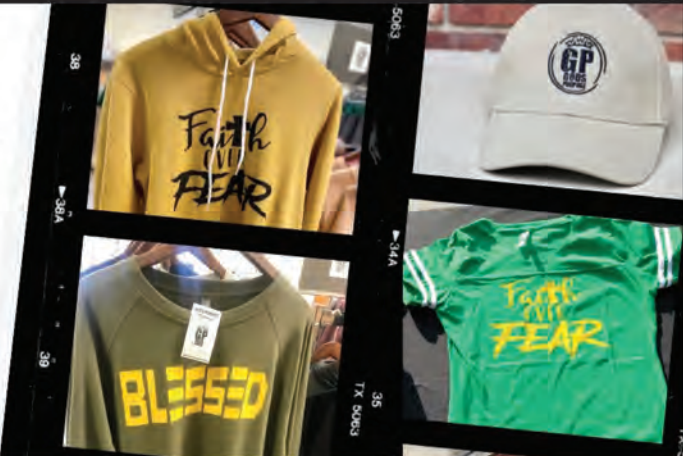
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Ray-Ray McCloud



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Benny Snell Jr.



QB
Ben Roethlisberger
Mason Rudolph



FB
Derek Watt



RT
Chukwuma Okorafor
Joe Haeg



RG
Trai Turner
B.J. Finney



C
Kendrick Green
J.C. Hassenauer



LG
Kevin Dotson
Rashaad Coward



LT
Dan Moore Jr.
Joe Haeg



TE
Eric Ebron
Pat Freiermuth



WR
Diontae Johnson
James Washington

DEFENSE



CB
Joe Haden
Justin Layne



DE
Chris Wormley
Carlos Davis



DT
Cameron Heyward
Isaiahh Loudermilk



NT
Isaiah Buggs
Henry Mondeaux



OLB
T.J. Watt
Melvin Ingram III



ILB
Devin Bush
Marcus Allen



ILB
Joe Schobert
Robert Spillane



OLB
Alex Highsmith
Melvin Ingram III



S
Terrell Edmunds
Miles Killebrew



S
Minkah Fitzpatrick
Tre Norwood

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games
Tennessee at N.Y. Jets, noon
Kansas City at Philadelphia, noon
Carolina at Dallas, noon
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans, noon
Cleveland at Minnesota, noon
Detroit at Chicago, noon
Houston at Buffalo, noon
Indianapolis at Miami, noon
Washington at Atlanta, noon
Seattle at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Rams, 3:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Baltimore at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New England, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

Thursday's Game
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East				AFC East			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Dallas	2	1	0	Buffalo	2	1	0
Washington	1	2	0	Miami	1	2	0
Philadelphia	1	2	0	New England	1	2	0
N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	N.Y. Jets	0	3	0
North				North			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	2	1	0	Cincinnati	2	1	0
Chicago	1	2	0	Baltimore	2	1	0
Minnesota	1	2	0	Cleveland	2	1	0
Detroit	0	3	0	Pittsburgh	1	2	0
South				South			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Carolina	3	0	0	Tennessee	2	1	0
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	Houston	1	2	0
New Orleans	2	1	0	Indianapolis	0	3	0
Atlanta	1	2	0	Jacksonville	0	3	0
West				West			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Arizona	3	0	0	Las Vegas	3	0	0
L.A. Rams	3	0	0	Denver	3	0	0
San Francisco	2	1	0	L.A. Chargers	2	1	0
Seattle	1	2	0	Kansas City	1	2	0



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NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Clutch Crosby

A 51-yard field goal to win the game?

With red-hot Mason Crosby, no doubt about it.

“Just said a quick prayer but, in my mind, the game was over,” receiver Davante Adams said.

Crosby was one of the heroes of the Green Bay Packers’ 30-28 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night. With three more field goals, Crosby extended his streak to 22 consecutive successful field goals — the second-longest in franchise history behind his 23-kick run a decade ago.

The game-winner, set up by completions of 25 and 17 yards from Aaron Rodgers to Adams in the final seconds, was the biggest of the bunch.

“As soon as I hit it, I was kind of leaning and then, as I was trying to get a visual on it to make sure it had the distance, nothing crazy happened and then I just kind of went blank,” Crosby said. “Took off running. Everybody else was watching. I was already going.”

Since the start of the 2016 season, Crosby is 7-of-8 on game-winning opportunities. That includes his go-ahead and winning kicks in the final two minutes against Dallas in the 2016 playoffs.

“Obviously, just knowing what those moments feel like, what kind of the end result and the celebration, you just kind of have that experience from past moments, so that was a big one,” he said. “It was a 51-yarder, so you’ve got to hit it true and hit it solid. Celebrating with the guys in the end zone, seeing that energy and feeling that juice is what it’s all about. And then carrying on into the locker room and guys pouring water all over my head and on everybody, that’s what this game is all about. It was really special.”

The kick was perfect. The protection was not. San Francisco defensive back Dontae Johnson almost blocked it; photos show the ball just missing his outstretched fingers.

“It was pretty close,” coach Matt LaFleur said on Monday. “I thought Bobby (Tonyan) did as well as he could have done on the edge, as well. (Johnson) just got a really good jump on the snap and he made it close. We talk all the time about protecting from inside out. I think over the course of last season, I want to say there was something like only four kicks blocked from the perimeter. Most of it comes from internal pressure. So, our guys were stout inside and the guy got a



Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby looks up during the team's game against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Crosby made the game-winning kick against the San Francisco 49ers in week two.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

really good jump on it and, thankfully, he missed it.”

During the game, Crosby passed Hall of Famer Jan Stenerud on the career scoring list and became the 18th player in NFL history with 1,700 career points. His field-goal streak is impressive but he’s barely halfway to the NFL-record streak of 44 consecutive field goals, set by Adam Vinatieri of the Indianapolis Colts from 2015 through 2016. New England’s Nick Folk has the longest active streak at 35.

“Mason just continuing from what he did last year,” Adams said. “He kicked the leather off the ball. It makes

it much more comforting knowing that we don’t have to go down there and score (a touchdown) because we have such a reliable kicker. In my mind, once we completed that second one and spiked it, we had that one pretty much knotted up.”

King for a day

Sunday’s game against the Pittsburgh Steelers could bring a painful reminder of what could have been for the Packers.

Entering the 2017 draft, the Packers had a big need at cornerback, with Damarious Randall and Quinten Rol-

ins underachieving and Micah Hyde having left in free agency. They also had a big need at outside linebacker, with Julius Peppers departing in free agency and Clay Matthews on the decline.

Armed with the 29th selection, the board fell then-general manager Ted Thompson’s way. Edge rusher T.J. Watt, who grew up in Pewaukee and starred at Wisconsin, surprisingly was still available. So was cornerback Kevin King. Thompson traded out of the first round in a deal with Cleveland, acquiring a fourth-round pick to move back to No. 33.

The Steelers selected Watt at No. 30. Thompson pounced on King a few picks later.

Watt has become one of the NFL's truly elite defenders. In his first four NFL seasons, he recorded 49 sacks and 17 forced fumbles. He led the league in sacks in 2020 and forced fumbles in 2019. He is a three-time Pro Bowler and two-time All-Pro. On the eve of the start of the 2021 season, he signed a four-year, \$112 million contract extension.

"This is a dream to play for an organization like this," Watt said after signing. "It's everything from on the field to off the field. On the field, it's a 3-4 defense. I'm an outside linebacker. That is a player's dream. To play for Blitzburgh, to play for this city, to play for the fans is also a dream. To play for the Rooney family is also a dream. It's incredible and I get chills talking about it, being a part of an organization that has such rich tradition and it's not some rich billionaire came in and bought a team and started it because he had all this money."

Almost all of those words could have been said about Green Bay. Instead, the Packers wound up with King, who has been injury-prone and inconsistent. With only two more career interceptions than Watt, he re-signed this offseason on a meager

one-year deal worth \$5 million. Making matters worse, general manager Brian Gutekunst had to use his first-round pick this year on a cornerback, Eric Stokes.

If that's not bad enough, Gutekunst had to open the vault to sign Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith and burn a first-round pick on Rashan Gary in 2019 to provide the pass rush that Watt has provided for the Steelers.

Watt missed last week's game against Cincinnati with a groin injury. In two games, he's got three sacks and two forced fumbles. With Za'Darius Smith on injured reserve with a back injury, all of Green Bay's outside linebackers combined have contributed two sacks and zero forced fumbles in three games.

In Yosh they trust

San Francisco defensive end Nick Bosa vs. Green Bay left tackle Yosh Nijman looked like a colossal mismatch last week.

Bosa, the No. 2 pick of the 2019 draft and the son of a former first-round pick, won Rookie of the Year honors with nine sacks. Nijman, an undrafted free agent in 2019 and the son of parents born in Suriname, had played zero meaningful offensive snaps in his first two-plus seasons.

Getting the start for injured Elgton Jenkins (ankle), Nijman survived a rocky start and played a key role in Green Bay's offensive success.

"I think I was a little bit crazy; my footwork and everything," Nijman said afterward. "I think I just needed the first drive to get the jitterbugs out. I think later on in the game, I kind of settled down a little bit, got in the flow of it and everything. With that mindset, I was trying to stay cool, calm and collected."

Green Bay's line was incredibly young. Four of the five starters had made five career starts: zero for Nijman, one for left guard Jon Runyan, two for rookie center Josh Myers and two for rookie right guard Royce Newman.

"Really, really proud of the boys," Adams said. "Yosh hasn't had a whole lot of opportunities, especially against teams like that. For him to be thrust into that position, really proud of him. I love that dude. When we switched sides of the field for the fourth quarter, he's waking by me and I'm turning everybody up, I'm going crazy. He looks me and he goes, 'It's just a blessing to play with you guys. I really enjoy this.' It kind of slowed me down for a second and I got real appreciative for having a teammate like that."

Back to work

Whether it's the thrill of victory (like beating San Francisco) or the agony of defeat (like getting crushed by New Orleans in the opener), LaFleur's message is always the same.

Hit the reset button and move onto the next game. So, while this was a huge victory, it's time to turn the page to Sunday's game against the Steelers. Pittsburgh is 1-2 and coming off back-to-back home losses.

"It's a confidence booster," LaFleur said of beating the 49ers. "Anytime you go into a team that is one of the premier teams in this league, into a hostile environment, that had a playoff-type atmosphere, that was 2-0, in their home opener, I think that definitely gives you confidence. But, ultimately, you've got to go back to work."

"We know we have a great team coming in here, a team that's going to be really hungry. I know they haven't started necessarily the way they've wanted to, but I've got so much respect for Mike Tomlin and just what he's been able to accomplish through the course of his career. We'll have our work cut out for us, and we're going to have to have a great week of preparation in order to defeat the Steelers."

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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 4 Games: Sunday, Oct. 3

Jacksonville @ Cincinnati Thurs, Sept 30
 Washington @ Atlanta
 Houston @ Buffalo
 Detroit @ Chicago
 Carolina @ Dallas
 Indianapolis @ Miami
 Cleveland @ Minnesota
 NY Giants @ New Orleans
 Tennessee @ NY Jets
 Arizona @ LA Rams
 Seattle @ San Francisco
 Baltimore @ Denver
 Pittsburgh @ Green Bay
 Tampa Bay @ New England
 Las Vegas @ LA Chargers Mon., Oct. 4

Tie Breaker Game:
 Kansas City @ Philadelphia

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Buss Automotive.....	11-5.....	33-15
Dennis Brei.....	12-4.....	33-15
God's Purpose Apparel.....	10-6.....	32-16
22 Shell.....	12-4.....	30-18
P & D Sales & service.....	10-6.....	30-18
B & C Auto Recycling.....	11-5.....	30-18
Tim Murphy.....	11-5.....	30-18
Tower Clock Eye Center.....	12-4.....	30-18
Hawkeye Hearth & Home.....	11-5.....	29-19

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	10-6.....	29-19
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	10-6.....	29-19
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	9-7.....	28-29
Idell Johnston State Farm Agent.....	10-6.....	28-20
Morgan Rode.....	11-5.....	27-21
Smokey Joe's.....	13-3.....	27-21
Senn Insurance.....	7-9.....	26-22
Gehm's Club 117.....	6-10.....	23-25
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone.....	10-6.....	24-24



This Week's Winner: Smokey Joe's



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Kansas City 31 @ Philadelphia 24



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Carolina	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 24 @ Philadelphia 17



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Detroit	LA Rams	
Carolina	San Francisco	
Miami	Denver	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 21 @ Philadelphia 14

FOLLOW YOUR FAVORITES!



Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	Las Vegas
Detroit	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 34 @ Philadelphia 20



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 28 @ Philadelphia 21



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Minnesota	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Detroit	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 28 @ Philadelphia 13



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Minnesota	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Detroit	LA Rams	
Carolina	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 35 @ Philadelphia 17



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Miami	Denver	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 31 @ Philadelphia 20



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 35 @ Philadelphia 17



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Minnesota	Green Bay
Atlanta	NY Giants	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	NY Jets	Las Vegas
Detroit	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Indianapolis	Denver	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 28 @ Philadelphia 17



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 42 @ Philadelphia 17



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	Las Vegas
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	San Francisco	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 38 @ Philadelphia 13



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Minnesota	Pittsburgh
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 34 @ Philadelphia 24



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Minnesota	Pittsburgh
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Carolina	San Francisco	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 24 @ Philadelphia 28



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	Las Vegas
Detroit	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 42 @ Philadelphia 13



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 31 @ Philadelphia 24



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Washington	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Chicago	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 35 @ Philadelphia 17



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	Cleveland	Green Bay
Atlanta	New Orleans	Tampa Bay
Buffalo	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Detroit	LA Rams	
Dallas	Seattle	
Miami	Baltimore	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Kansas City 27 @ Philadelphia 17

Follow The Pack With Us!

Green Bay Football 2021 Season			
SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	7:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Thursday, October 07	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:30 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	7:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	5:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	UNITED STATES	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

KEYS TO GAME

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (2-1) host the Pittsburgh Steelers (1-2) at 3:25 p.m. Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field. CBS will televise the game.

History

Green Bay leads the series 19-16, though Pittsburgh has won the last two and five of the last six. In their last matchup, the Steelers won 31-28 at Heinz Field on Nov. 26, 2017. Brett Hundley threw three touchdown passes and Jamaal Williams had two scores for the Packers, including a 4-yard run late in the fourth quarter to tie the score, but Chris Boswell made a 53-yard field goal on the final play to win the game.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 28-7, third season. Pittsburgh — Mike Tomlin, 146-80-1, 15th season. Tomlin is 3-1 against the Packers. He is 22nd in NFL history in wins; former Steelers coach Bill Cowher is 20th with 149.

When the Packers have the ball

Green Bay's three-point debacle in the opener against New Orleans is but a memory now that it's scored 30-plus points in each of its last two games.

With coordinator Keith Butler directing a 3-4 scheme, the Steelers

are 12th with 22 points allowed per game and 13th in total defense (354.7 yards per game). Throwing the ball is the path to success, with Pittsburgh ranking eighth with 3.58 yards allowed per carry but 22nd with 7.54 yards per pass attempt. Moreover, they're 24th in interception percentage and 26th in sack percentage.

It's a frustrating start given the high-profile talent on that side of the ball.

The defensive line is anchored by 11th-year pro Cameron Heyward, who is coming off his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl season. Like Green Bay's Kenny Clark, he's a three-down performer. Heyward had 29 sacks and 37 tackles for losses from 2017 through 2019 before falling back to four sacks and seven TFLs last season. He's got one sack and two TFLs to start this year but leads all interior defensive linemen with 15 pressures and has batted down three passes.

He's joined up front by Chris Wormley and Isaiah Buggs. Buggs is a tough customer against the run.

After the Packers successfully kept Nick Bosa and Arik Armstead at bay last week, they'll face another huge challenge this week against the Steelers' outside linebackers.

That group, of course, is led by former Wisconsin star T.J. Watt. He is one of the top defensive players in the NFL with his ability to change a game in one play. He had 13 sacks and six forced fumbles in 2018, 14.5

sacks and a league-leading eight forced fumbles in 2019 and a league-leading 15 sacks and two forced fumbles in 2020. In two games this season, he's got three sacks and two forced fumbles. He missed Sunday's game with a groin injury, so the injury report will be worth watching this week.

Alex Highsmith is the other starter, and Melvin Ingram packs a punch as the top backup. Ingram has one sack and is second on the team with 12 pressures. Without Watt and Highsmith last week, the Steelers' 75-game streak with a sack was snapped.

Devin Bush and another former Wisconsin star, Joe Schobert, are the inside linebackers. Schobert was acquired in a trade during training camp and leads the team with 21 tackles. Bush, who had 109 tackles as a rookie in 2019, brings a lot of speed to the party.

Joe Haden and Cameron Sutton are the starting cornerbacks, and James Pierre enters as the third corner. A 12th-year pro, Haden is a three-time Pro Bowler with 29 career interceptions. He is coming off three consecutive seasons with at least 12 pass breakups. In year five, Sutton is a full-time starter for the first time.

Minkah Fitzpatrick and Terrell Edmunds are the safeties. Fitzpatrick, the 11th pick of the 2018 draft by Miami, is coming off an All-Pro season in which he intercepted four passes. He has 11 interceptions in three-plus

seasons. Edmunds had 105 tackles in 2019.

When the Steelers have the ball

The Ben Roethlisberger-led offense is just 28th in the NFL in scoring with 16.7 points per game. In back-to-back home losses, it scored 17 against Las Vegas and 10 against Cincinnati. Roethlisberger completed 38-of-58 passes vs. the Bengals but for only 318 yards with two interceptions.

Pittsburgh, which hasn't scored a single point in the first quarter this season, is 25th in total offense, ranking last in rushing per game (53) and per play (3.18) and 24th in passing per attempt (5.89).

The 39-year-old Roethlisberger ranks seventh in NFL history in passing yards and eighth with 399 passing touchdowns. He's not the same player who was picked for Pro Bowls from 2014 through 2017, though. With a career average of 7.5 yards per attempt, he's averaged just 6.2 the past three seasons.

It's not as if there's a lack of weapons. Chase Claypool, JuJu Smith-Schuster and Diontae Johnson are the primary receivers and Eric Ebron is the tight end. Last year, those four players combined for 303 receptions, 3,158 yards and 31 touchdowns. They have one touchdown (by Johnson) in three games this season.

Ebron has just one catch. Johnson has missed the last two games with



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, center, prepares to pass the ball as the offensive line blocks during the game against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The offensive line held up well against the San Francisco 49ers pass rush and will face another tough test this week against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

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a knee injury and Smith-Schuster dropped out of the Cincinnati game with a rib injury. The limited production notwithstanding, the veteran Roethlisberger has the supporting cast to make the Packers pay for any mental errors in the secondary.

Green Bay's improved run defense will be tested by Najee Harris. This year's first-round pick is sputtering along with just 3.1 yards per carry. He's been dangerous as a receiver, though, with a 25-yard touchdown vs. Las Vegas and 14 receptions for 102 yards vs. Cincinnati.

The offensive line is the weak link. It consists of rookie left tackle Dan Moore, left guard Kevin Dotson, rookie center Kendrick Green, right guard Trai Turner and right tackle Chukwuma Okorafor. Green (two) and Dotson (one) were guilty of holding calls against the Bengals. Of Harris' meager rushing average, 2.8 yards have come after contact, according to Pro Football Focus. In other words, the blockers have given him 0.3 yards before contact.

Special teams

Ray-Ray McCloud handles both phases of returns for the Steelers, with a 22.8-yard average on kick-offs and a 10-yard average on punts. While he's never scored, he's been one of the top punt returners in the NFL.

He'll test a punt unit that has been given a shot in the arm by new punter Corey Bojorquez. Acquired after final cuts, he's fifth in the league with a 43.4-yard net average.

Like Green Bay, Pittsburgh has been victimized by one long kickoff return – a 75-yarder. On the other hand, Miles Killebrew's blocked punt and Ulysses Gilbert's recovery for a touchdown was the big play in the week one upset of Buffalo.

This game will feature two of the most accurate kickers in the NFL. Green Bay's Mason Crosby has made 22 consecutive field goals, the



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur looks on during the team's game against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. LaFleur will try and match wits with longtime Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin this week.

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second-longest streak in franchise history. Pittsburgh's Chris Boswell, who is 5-of-6 on field goals this sea-

son, made 48-of-51 attempts (94.1%) the previous two seasons.

Rookie seventh-round punter

Pressley Harvin has a 40.8-yard net average with six inside-the-20 punts vs. zero touchbacks.

Super Wild Card Weekend to include Monday game

The NFL has announced that beginning with the 2021 season, Super Wild Card Weekend (Jan. 15-17, 2022) will conclude with a game on Monday night.

The NFL expanded the playoffs last season for the first time since 1990, adding a third Wild Card team in each conference and in the process creating "Super Wild Card Weekend" – three Wild Card games

on Saturday and three games on Sunday.

With the addition of a Monday night game to the 2021 playoffs, Super Wild Card Weekend will now have two Wild Card games on Saturday (3:35 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.), three on Sunday (12:05 p.m., 3:40 p.m., and 7:15 p.m.), and one on Monday (7:15 p.m.)

For the 2021 season, CBS and NBC will both broadcast two Super Wild

Card Weekend games while FOX and ESPN/ABC will each have one. The broadcaster for the Monday night game of Super Wild Card Weekend is yet to be determined.

The 2020 playoff expansion ensured that two additional Wild Card teams – one each in the American and National Football Conferences – qualify for the playoffs. The No. 1 seed in each conference will receive

a bye in the Wild Card round. The remaining division champions in each conference will be seeded No. 2, 3, and 4 by record, followed by the next three teams per conference with the best records seeded No. 5, 6, and 7.

AFC and NFC Wild Card games will feature the No. 2 seed hosting the No. 7 seed, the No. 3 seed hosting the No. 6 seed and the No. 4 seed hosting the No. 5 seed.

Packers offer limited standing-room-only tickets

The Green Bay Packers have a limited amount of standing-room-only tickets available for the final four regular season contests at Lambeau Field this season.

The tickets, priced at \$87 each (plus applicable fees), allow fans to stand in the area behind sections 432s to 442s, on the fourth level of Lambeau Field's south end.

In addition to standing behind the seating sections in that area, game attendees can use the viewing platforms on either side of the sections.

Concession stands and restrooms are readily available in the concourse area. The south gate is the recommended stadium entrance gate for those with standing-room-only tickets.

Tickets currently are available online. To access the page to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.packers.com/tickets> and click on individual games to view available tickets. The tickets will be listed as "Standing Room Only." A limit of eight per household has been established. Additionally, the tickets are not able to be resold on NFL Ticket Exchange.



Green Bay Packers fan cheer during the team's first home game against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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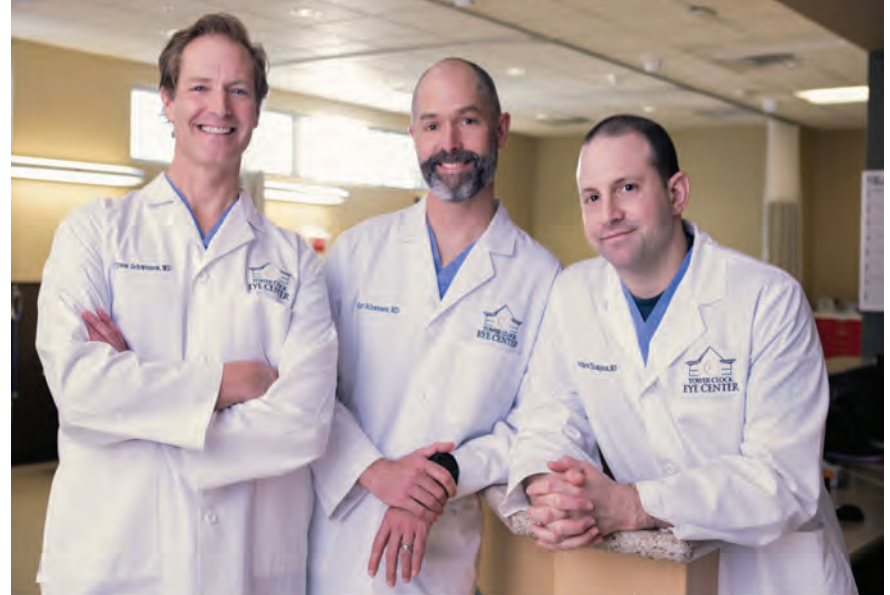
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