



RED ZONE WOES

Packers look to fare better
inside 20-yard line

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Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, left, yells out instructions to teammates during the team's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

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Pack's offense, defense struggling in red zone

Defense has yet to stop opposing offense inside 20

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers are riding a four-game winning streak, sit atop the NFC North standings and appear to be in the hunt for one of the top seeds in the conference again. But there's a common theme through the first five games that's cause for concern — red zone efficiency on both sides of the ball.

Through five games, the Packers' offense has made it to the red zone 20 times, a top-five mark in the NFL. Once Green Bay has reached the opponent's 20-yard line, things have slowed down, only scoring touchdown on 11 of those possessions.

The 55% touchdown rate is one of the worst in the league.

Like he does for most problems or issues on the team or inside the organization, coach Matt LaFleur took responsibility.

"Speaking from an offensive standpoint, I've got to do a much better job of putting our guys in a better position," said LaFleur. "I didn't like a couple of the sequences, just some of the play calls for the situations (against the Bengals)."

The 55% mark is a drastic dropoff from last year's league-leading mark of 80%, when the team scored touchdowns on 48 of its 60 red zone trips. That mark helped the Packers score the most points in the league.

The team's inability to finish off drives have kept the Packers from putting opponents away, and it has forced the defense to make some timely stops.

"It starts with me and then, you know, when the plays are there, then we have to execute a little bit better," said LaFleur.

What makes the offenses' red zone inefficiency a bit more puzzling is that many of the players who were part of last year's offense are still on the roster this year. The only noticeable changes are on the offensive line, and the makeshift line hasn't had any troubles moving the ball into the red zone.

LaFleur did note that when you are one of the best units in the league, that other teams study their tendencies and figure out what made them so successful. He added his next task is to have



Green Bay Packers defenders Adrian Amos, bottom, and Henry Black, left, try and take down Pittsburgh Steelers running back Najee Harris during the team's Oct. 3 game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' defense has yet to keep an opposing offense out of the end zone after it reached the red zone this season.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

counters to what's slowed the team down so far. He also believes the team had plays that would have gotten the job done but just didn't "dial them up."

The Packers' offense will look to improve in the red zone against one of the NFL's best red zone defense so far this season in the Chicago Bears. Sixteen times opposing offenses have reached the red zone against Chicago, and the Bears have only allowed six touchdowns.

For as strong as the Packers' defense has looked since week one, its red zone defense has been the farthest thing from strong. In fact, Green Bay's defense hasn't stopped an opponent once after they've reached the red zone, with scores on all 13 attempts.

"Defensively, it really comes down

to making sure that everybody is doing their job," said LaFleur. "I've got no issue with what we called down there, but we didn't execute."

"You can't have nine guys doing their job — if two guys aren't doing their job then it's going to be tough to stop anybody. So we need all 11 on the same page and make sure that communication is on point, and then we got to go out there and execute."

A year ago, it was a bend but don't break approach most weeks for the Packers' defense. Opponents made it to the red zone 52 times, but only scored touchdowns on 30 of those trips.

The 57.7% mark was a top-10 mark in the league.

The Packers' defense has made up

for some red zone troubles by forcing eight turnovers already, a top-10 ranking so far.

The defenses' red zone woes are a bit more understandable given all the injuries and new faces on that side of the ball. Without the likes of cornerback Jaire Alexander and pass-rushing linebacker Za'Darius Smith, it might take that side of the ball a bit longer to turn in results like the defense had a year ago.

The defense will next take on a Bears' offense that has been decent in the red zone so far this season. Chicago has scored touchdowns on eight of its 13 trips inside the 20.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

Crosby caps bad day with game-winner

Green Bay now 4-1 on the season

By **JEFF WALLNER**

The Associated Press

Talk about difficult decisions. Packers head coach Matt LaFleur had a huge one to make late in overtime of Sunday's game against the Bengals. He could have gone on fourth-and-inches to extend the drive, or allow Mason Crosby — who had missed three straight field goal attempts and an extra point in the game — to attempt a 49-yard field goal with 1:55 left in OT.

"It was just fourth-and-inches. I went over to Mason and I said, 'Hey, what do you think?' I saw the look in his eyes. There was zero flinch from him," LaFleur said. "If I felt anything different, we were going for it."

Not often have the Packers lacked confidence in their veteran kicker, but this was no ordinary day.

A total of five field goals were missed in the Packers' 25-22 win, three by Crosby and two by the Bengals' Evan McPherson. According to Elias, it was the first time three potential winning field goals were missed in the fourth quarter or overtime.

Crosby came in hot. He'd made 24 straight field goal attempts and 20 consecutive extra points dating to last season. He was 11 for 11 on PATs and 6 for 6 on field goals to start this season.

Crosby's last miss before Sunday came in the 2019 season finale against Detroit. But on a breezy Sunday at Paul Brown Stadium, those streaks came to an abrupt end.

"I have every confidence I'm going to make every kick," Crosby said. "I had a couple go bad there. I was really happy to hit that last one. There was a little bit of relief."

It was Crosby's worst game since a 2018 loss to Detroit when he missed four field goals and an extra point. The Packers were doing everything to change the karma prior to Crosby's last kick.

Receiver Davante Adams said he didn't watch. Aaron Rodgers said he stood at the end of the sideline rather than in the middle like he had for Crosby's misses.

"I was just trying to not be too superstitious," said LaFleur. "I just was holding my breath."

It also was a rough day for the rookie McPherson. He has two winning

field goals already this seasons, but missed both of his attempts Sunday.

"People think that when you're a kicker, you just make kicks. It's not an easy task doing that," Adams said.

McPherson believed so strongly in his 49-yard attempt to win the game in OT that he celebrated by leaping into holder Kevin Huber's arms, before realizing the kick sailed wide left.

"I mean, I honestly was celebrating before the ball, I guess, curved to the

left," McPherson said. "Maybe a gust of wind caught it at the last second. I struck it well. You know I'm upset about it but there's nothing I can do about it now, just kind of move on to Detroit and the next kick."

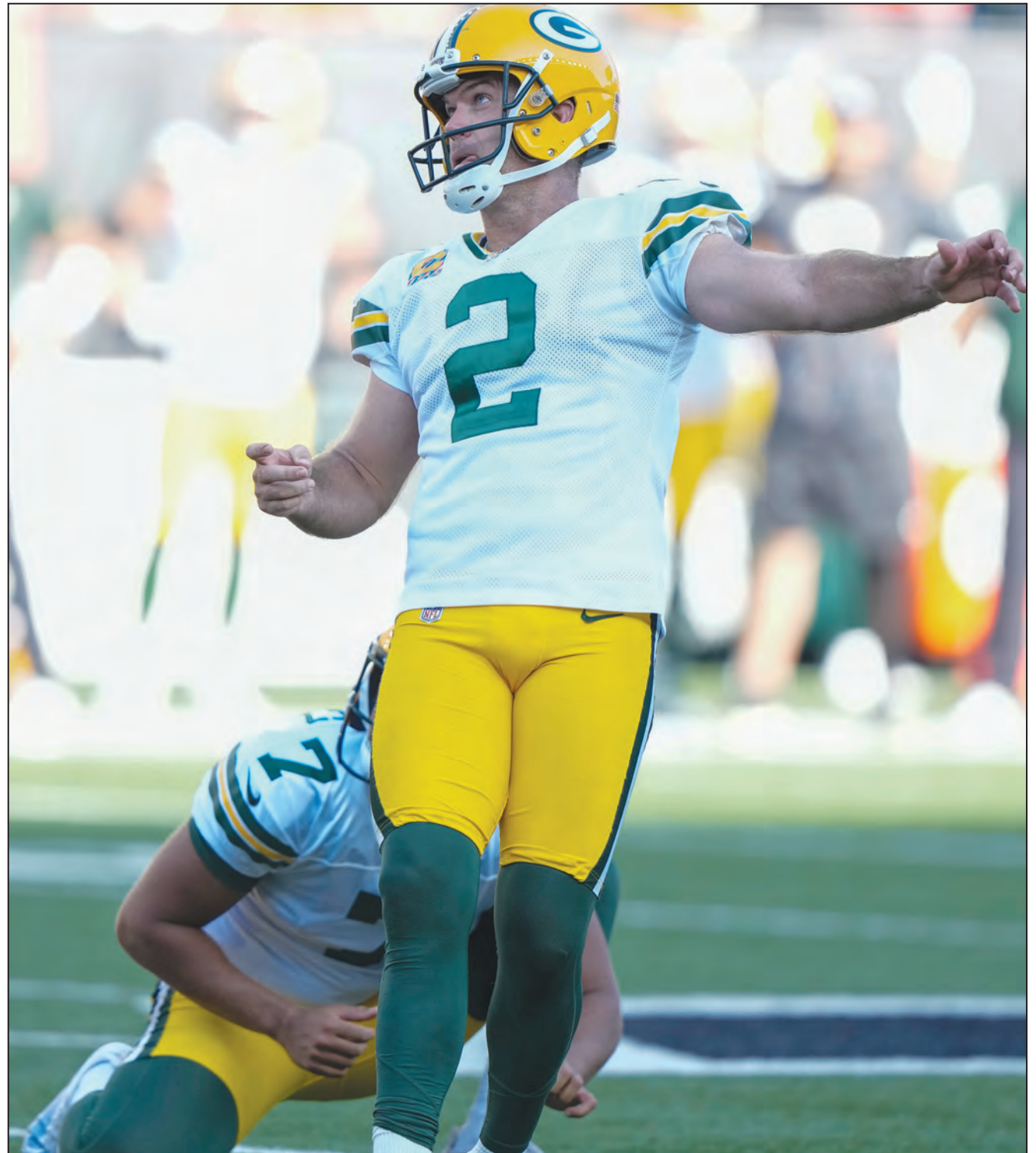
McPherson could have won the game in regulation, but his 57-yard attempt caromed off the right upright with 26 seconds left.

"We have a lot of faith in Evan," said Bengals head coach Zac Taylor.

"He's going to hit a lot of those."

Crosby and McPherson went a combined 4 for 9 on field goals Sunday. Crosby, who missed the PAT following the Packers' first touchdown, said he and McPherson met after the game to discuss their strange afternoon.

"You live, you learn," Crosby said. "We're going to look at the film like we do every time, make or miss. I need to find a line on those and knock them through."



Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby (2) kicks a winning field goal from the hold of Corey Bojorquez during overtime in a game against the Cincinnati Bengals on Oct. 10 in Cincinnati.

A.J. MAST | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACKERS ROSTER

Active						
#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP. COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15 Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4 New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R Clemson
9	Jaylon Smith	LB	6-2	235	26	5 Notre Dame
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
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
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5 West Virginia
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	24	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
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
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2 Georgia Tech
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	24	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	25	3 Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6 UCLA
Reserve/Injured						
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4 Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6 Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1 Mississippi State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1 Indiana State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7 Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2 Arkansas
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4 South Florida
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform						
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9 Colorado
Practice Squad						
6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2 Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1 UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R Alcorn State
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	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	24	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	25	2 Colorado
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4 Miami



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Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Justin Fields	QB	6-3	228	22	R	Ohio State
2	Cairo Santos	K	5-8	175	29	8	Tulane
4	Eddie Jackson	DB	6-0	206	27	5	Alabama
6	Danny Trevathan	LB	6-0	234	31	10	Kentucky
8	Damien Williams	RB	5-11	225	29	7	Oklahoma
9	Nick Foles	QB	6-6	262	32	10	Arizona
10	Damiere Byrd	WR	5-9	175	28	6	South Carolina
11	Darnell Mooney	WR	5-11	173	23	2	Tulane
12	Allen Robinson II	WR	6-2	220	28	8	Penn State
14	Andy Dalton	QB	6-2	219	33	11	TCU
16	Pat O'Donnell	P	6-4	223	30	8	Miami (Fla.)
17	Jakeem Grant Sr.	WR	5-7	172	28	6	Texas Tech
18	Jesse James	TE	6-7	251	27	7	Penn State
19	Breshad Perriman	WR	6-1	210	28	7	UCF
20	Duke Shelley	DB	5-9	176	25	3	Kansas State
21	Xavier Crawford	DB	5-11	185	25	3	Central Michigan
22	Kindle Vildor	DB	5-11	189	23	2	Georgia Southern
23	Marqui Christian	DB	5-11	195	26	5	Midwestern State
24	Khalil Herbert	RB	5-9	212	23	R	Virginia Tech
25	Artie Burns	DB	6-0	187	26	4	Miami (Fla.)
26	Deon Bush	DB	6-0	198	28	6	Miami (Fla.)
33	Jaylon Johnson	DB	6-0	196	22	2	Utah
36	DeAndre Houston-Carson	DB	6-0	202	28	6	William & Mary
38	Tashaun Gipson Sr.	DB	6-1	207	31	8	Wyoming
44	Alec Ogletree	LB	6-3	250	30	9	Georgia
45	Joel Iyiegbuniwe	LB	6-1	235	26	4	Western Kentucky
48	Patrick Scales	LS	6-3	226	33	6	Utah State
50	Jeremiah Attaochu	LB	6-3	262	28	8	Georgia Tech
52	Khalil Mack	LB	6-3	267	30	8	Buffalo
57	Christian Jones	LB	6-3	245	30	8	Florida State
58	Roquan Smith	LB	6-1	232	24	4	Georgia
64	Alex Bars	OL	6-5	334	26	3	Notre Dame
65	Cody Whitehair	OL	6-3	316	29	6	Kansas State
67	Sam Mustipher	OL	6-2	332	25	2	Notre Dame
68	James Daniels	OL	6-4	327	24	4	Iowa
70	Elijah Wilkinson	OL	6-6	322	26	5	Massachusetts
71	Jason Peters	OL	6-4	328	39	18	Arkansas
73	Lachavious Simmons	OL	6-5	319	25	2	Tennessee State

74	Germain Ifedi	OL	6-5	344	27	6	Texas A&M
80	Jimmy Graham	TE	6-7	259	34	12	Miami (Fla.)
81	J.P. Holtz	TE	6-3	246	28	3	Pittsburgh
84	Marquise Goodwin	WR	5-9	180	30	8	Texas
85	Cole Kmet	TE	6-6	260	22	2	Notre Dame
87	Jesper Horsted	TE	6-4	241	24	2	Princeton
90	Angelo Blackson	DL	6-4	315	28	7	Auburn
91	Eddie Goldman	DL	6-3	325	27	6	Florida State
92	Caleb Johnson	LB	6-2	227	23	R	Houston Baptist University
94	Robert Quinn	LB	6-4	245	31	11	North Carolina
95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-4	338	25	R	BYU
96	Akiem Hicks	DL	6-4	335	31	10	Regina (Canada)
97	Mario Edwards Jr.	DL	6-3	277	27	7	Florida State
98	Bilal Nichols	DL	6-4	302	25	4	Delaware
99	Trevis Gipson	LB	6-4	263	24	2	Tulsa

Active/Physically Unable to Perform

29	Tarik Cohen	RB	5-6	196	26	5	North Carolina A&T
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Reserve/Injured

32	David Montgomery	RB	5-11	224	24	3	Iowa State
75	Larry Borom	OL	6-5	333	22	R	Missouri
76	Teven Jenkins	OL	6-6	321	23	R	Oklahoma State

Practice Squad

13	Rodney Adams	WR	6-1	188	27	2	South Florida
15	Nsimba Webster	WR	5-10	180	25	3	Eastern Washington
17	Brian Johnson	K	6-1	182	23	R	Virginia Tech
27	Thomas Graham Jr.	DB	5-11	197	22	R	Oregon
31	Artavis Pierce	RB	5-11	208	25	2	Oregon State
35	Ryan Nall	RB	6-2	240	25	3	Oregon State
37	Teez Tabor	DB	6-0	193	25	3	Florida
49	Charles Snowden	LB	6-7	245	23	R	Virginia
53	Arlington Hambricht	OL	6-5	309	25	2	Colorado
60	Dieter Eiselen	OL	6-4	320	25	1	Yale
72	Tyrone Wheatley Jr.	OL	6-6	326	24	R	Stony Brook
78	Sam Kamara	LB	6-2	288	23	R	Stony Brook
82	Isaiah Coulter	WR	6-2	198	23	2	Rhode Island
83	Dazz Newsome	WR	5-10	184	22	R	North Carolina
86	Jon'Vea Johnson	WR	6-0	191	25	2	Toledo
93	Margus Hunt	DL	6-8	295	34	9	SMU



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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Bears
All-time, regular season: 100-94-6
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Bears: 51-53-2
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have dominated the Chicago Bears since 2009, winning 21 of the 25 matchups. Green Bay's last loss against Chicago came in 2018. In the team's 202 total matchups, the Packers have outscored the Bears 3,541-3,465. Chicago has outscored Green Bay 1,883-1,805 in the 106 matchups in Chicago.

Last meeting, regular season: Jan. 3, 2021, Packers won 35-16 in Chicago. Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdowns in the win as Green Bay rallied from an early deficit.

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	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
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

OFFENSE

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR
Davante Adams
Malik Taylor



TE
Robert Tonyan
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Josh Myers
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Marcedes Lewis
Josiah Deguara



WR
Allen Lazard
Randall Cobb



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Shemar Jean-Charles



DE
Dean Lowry
Jack Heflin



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Chandon Sullivan



OLB
Preston Smith



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Oct. 11, 9 p.m.



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BEARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR

Allen Robinson II
Breshad Perriman

WR

Marquise Goodwin
Jakeem Grant Sr.

RT

Germain Ifedi
Elijah Wilkinson

RG

James Daniels
Alex Bars

C

Sam Mustipher
Cody Whitehair

LG

Cody Whitehair
Alex Bars

LT

Jason Peters
Elijah Wilkinson

TE

Cole Kmet
Jimmy Graham

WR

Darnell Mooney
Damiere Byrd

RB

Damien Williams
Khalil Herbert

QB

Justin Fields
Andy Dalton

DEFENSE

CB

Jaylon Johnson
Artie Burns

DT

Akiem Hicks
Angelo Blackson

NT

Eddie Goldman
Khyiris Tonga

DE

Bilal Nichols
Mario Edwards Jr.

CB

Kindle Vildor
Duke Shelley

OLB

Khalil Mack
Trevis Gipson

ILB

Alec Ogletree
Christian Jones

ILB

Roquan Smith
Joel Iyegbuniwe

OLB

Robert Quinn
Jeremiah Attaochu

S

Tashaun Gipson Sr.
DeAndre Houston-Carson

S

Eddie Jackson
Deon Bush

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games
Miami at Jacksonville (in London), 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City at Washington, noon
L.A. Rams at N.Y. Giants, noon
Houston at Indianapolis, noon
Cincinnati at Detroit, noon
Green Bay at Chicago, noon
L.A. Chargers at Baltimore, noon
Minnesota at Carolina, noon
Arizona at Cleveland, 3:05 p.m.
Las Vegas at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Dallas at New England, 3:25 p.m.
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Buffalo at Tennessee, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Atlanta, New Orleans, N.Y. Jets, San Francisco

Thursday's Game
Denver at Cleveland, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East				AFC East			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Dallas	4	1	0	Buffalo	4	1	0
Washington	2	3	0	New England	2	3	0
Philadelphia	2	3	0	Miami	1	4	0
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	N.Y. Jets	1	4	0
North				North			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	4	1	0	Baltimore	4	1	0
Chicago	3	2	0	Cincinnati	3	2	0
Minnesota	2	3	0	Cleveland	3	2	0
Detroit	0	5	0	Pittsburgh	2	3	0
South				South			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	4	1	0	Tennessee	3	2	0
Carolina	3	2	0	Houston	1	4	0
New Orleans	3	2	0	Indianapolis	1	4	0
Atlanta	2	3	0	Jacksonville	0	5	0
West				West			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Arizona	5	0	0	L.A. Chargers	4	1	0
L.A. Rams	4	1	0	Las Vegas	3	2	0
Seattle	2	3	0	Denver	3	2	0
San Francisco	2	3	0	Kansas City	2	3	0

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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (4-1) travel to take on the Chicago Bears (3-2) at noon Oct. 17 at Soldier Field. FOX will televise the game.

History

Green Bay leads the series 100-94-6. The Packers are 4-0 under coach Matt LaFleur and have won nine of the last 10 and 13 of the last 15 overall. For his career, Aaron Rodgers has a 20-5 record against the Bears.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 30-7, third season. Chicago — Matt Nagy, 31-22, fifth season.

When the Packers have the ball

Green Bay had its best game of the season by posting 466 yards last week against Cincinnati but saw its point total decline for the third consecutive week. For the brilliance of Aaron Rodgers, Davante Adams and Aaron Jones, Green Bay's attack has been mediocre. It enters this week ranked 12th with 24 points per game. That's down almost eight points per game from last year's league-leading total.

Incredibly, Green Bay isn't in the top 10 in any of the major statistical categories, including total offense (21st), third down (11th) and the red zone (27th). The red-zone issues are confounding. The NFL has been tracking that stat since 1999. Last season, the Packers' 80% touchdown rate was No. 1 during that period.

The matchup against Chicago will mark the third time that Green Bay has faced a top-10 scoring defense. New Orleans is fourth, and Cincinnati and Chicago are tied for eighth. Unlike the Bengals, the Bears have a few elite players. That's why they're ninth in total defense (332.4 yards per game), eighth in yards allowed per carry (3.93) and third in the red zone (37.5% touchdowns). That unit crushed the high-flying Raiders offense in Chicago's 20-9 win Sunday.

First-year coordinator Sean Desai operates out of a 3-4 alignment. Many of the names are familiar.

The big names on the defensive line are Akiem Hicks and Eddie Goldman, but the stalwart is under-rated Bilal Nichols. The 31-year-old Hicks isn't quite the game-wrecker of yesteryear. He had 22½ sacks



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers runs with the ball during the team's win over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Rodgers and the Packers' offense will look to keep producing and utilizing all available weapons this weekend against the Chicago Bears.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

and 38 tackles for losses from 2016 through 2018 but only five sacks and nine tackles for losses the past two-plus seasons.

Khalil Mack and Robert Quinn are the quarterback-sacking outside linebackers. Mack has five sacks and Quinn has four-and-a-half as the Bears are No. 1 in the NFL in sack percentage. It's a blast-from-the-past season for the 30-year-old Mack, who had 12½ sacks and six forced fumbles in his first season with Chicago in 2018 but "only" nine sacks in 2020 to earn Pro Bowl honors for the sixth consecutive year.

Mack, who has at least one sack in four consecutive games, has rushed mostly from the defense's left side this season, meaning a steady diet of right tackle Billy Turner. Quinn had only two sacks last year, his first season with Chicago. He'll be a big test for whomever lines up at left tackle, Yosh Nijman or Elgton Jenkins. Trevis Gipson has two sacks off the bench.

Roquan Smith and Alec Ogletree have been the inside linebackers. Smith leads the team with 50 tackles. He is coming off a magnificent season of 139 tackles, four sacks, 18 tackles for losses, two interceptions

and seven passes defended. He is an all-around menace.

Ogletree, who is on his fourth team in five years, has 30 tackles. Smith's usual sidekick, Danny Trevathan, opened the season on injured reserve but returned last week. After playing 10 snaps, he figures to get more playing time this week.

Against Las Vegas, Jaylon Johnson and Kindle Vildor started at corner, Duke Shelley manned the slot, and Eddie Jackson and Tashaun Gipson were the safeties. A second-round pick last year, Johnson has one interception and a team-high six pass breakups. He is really good. According to Pro Football Focus, he's allowed just 9-of-23 passing. That 39.1% is fourth-best among corners.

If the Packers can protect Rodgers, there's plays to be made against the rest of this group.

There might not be a more dangerous defensive back in the NFL than Jackson because he's lethal if he gets the ball in his hands with 10 interceptions and six defensive touchdowns in his four-plus seasons.

When the Bears have the ball

Joe Barry's defense is coming off its best performance of the season in holding an impressive Cincinnati offense to just two touchdowns and 22 points. It coaxed second-year quarterback Joe Burrow into two interceptions. This week, it will face rookie first-round pick Justin Fields.

Of 32 qualifying quarterbacks, Fields is 31st in passer rating (64.5), 31st in yards per attempt (6.36) and 32nd in completion percentage (51.4). It's not that Fields is bad. The bottom four in passer rating are all rookies. He's got a rifle arm and excellent mobility.

Allen Robinson and Darnell Mooney are the primary receivers. Robinson is the big name. He had 98 receptions in 2019, when he topped 100 yards in both games against Green Bay, and 102 catches in 2020.

Mooney, though, is the budding standout. A fifth-round pick last year, Mooney leads the way with 20 receptions for 261 yards. Their 37 combined receptions represent half the team's total.

With standout running back David Montgomery on injured reserve and scatback Tarik Cohen on the physically unable to perform list, the Bears went with Damien

Williams and rookie sixth-round pick Khalil Herbert as the one-two punch against the Raiders. They combined for 139 yards on 34 carries. In his eighth season, Williams never has had to carry the load. In fact, he's got only 1,368 rushing yards in his career. He's got 10 catches.

At tight end, Cole Kmet has 10 catches for 81 yards. Former Packers tight end Jimmy Graham has just one catch for 11 yards.

The offensive line consists of left tackle Jason Peters, left guard Cody Whitehair, center Sam Mustipher, right guard James Daniels and right tackle Germain Ifedi.

At age 39, Peters is one of the oldest starters in the NFL and one of a league-high 14 players who are 30 or older. He is starting for injured first-round pick Teven Jenkins and might be the best player on the unit. It's been a jail break behind that wall. The Bears have the league's worst sack percentage by a wide margin.

With a rag-tag line and a rookie quarterback, Chicago is 30th in the NFL in scoring with 16.8 points per game. It's last in yards per game (240), yards per play (4.15), passing per game (113.2) and passing per play (4.64). It's 28th on third down

but 17th in the red zone. Green Bay is the only team to allow a touchdown on every red-zone possession.

Special teams

After a woeful performance at Cincinnati in which Mason Crosby missed four kicks, Corey Bojorquez shanked a punt and the kickoff coverage unit allowed a 44-yard return, the Packers will face a major challenge against Chicago.

The Bears recently acquired Jakeem Grant from Miami. The 5-foot-7, 171-pound speedster has career averages of 24.7 yards per kickoff return and 9.9 yards per punt return. In his Chicago debut last week, he had punt returns of 21 and 17 yards and a kickoff return of 32 yards. For perspective, the Packers haven't had a 20-yard punt return since 2018.

Cairo Santos has solved the Bears' long-standing issues at kicker. He is 7-of-7 on field goals after making 30-of-32 last year.

Veteran Pat O'Donnell ranks fourth with a lofty 49.8-yard average on punts.

He'll give Amari Rodgers some opportunities; 12 of his 20 punts have been returned for a 13-yard average.

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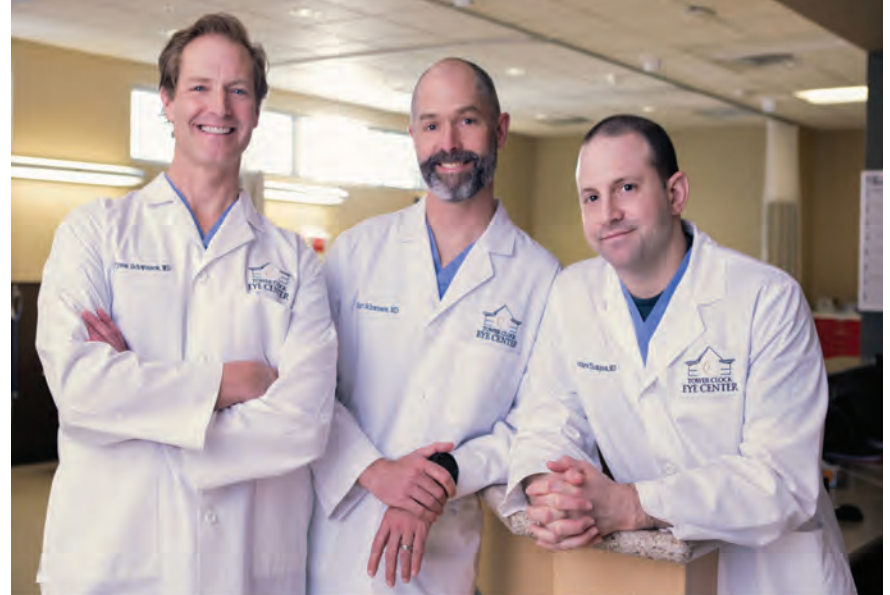
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Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 6 Games: Sunday, Oct. 17

Teams on bye:
Atlanta, New Orleans, NY Jets & San Francisco

Tampa Bay @ Philadelphia Thurs., Oct. 14
Miami @ Jacksonville (London)
LA Chargers @ Baltimore
Minnesota @ Carolina
Cincinnati @ Detroit
Houston @ Indianapolis
LA Rams @ NY Giants
Kansas City @ Washington
Arizona @ Cleveland
Las Vegas @ Denver
Dallas @ New England
Seattle @ Pittsburgh
Buffalo @ Tennessee Mon., Oct. 18

Tie Breaker Game: Green Bay @ Chicago

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	11-5.....	56-24
Buss Automotive.....	12-4.....	53-27
Morgan Rode	12-4.....	52-28
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	12-4.....	52-28
Tim Murphy	13-3.....	52-28
Tower Clock Eye Center.....	11-5.....	52-28
22 Shell.....	10-6.....	51-29
Dennis Brei.....	10-6.....	51-29
Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	10-6.....	51-29

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
B & C Auto Recycling.....	12-4.....	50-30
Hawkeye Hearty & Home	11-5.....	50-30
Idell Johnston State Farm Ins Agent.....	11-5.....	49-31
P & D Sales & Service	9-7	48-32
Smokey Joe's	12-4.....	47-33
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	7-9.....	45-35
Gehm's Club 117	10-6.....	44-36
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	10-6.....	43-37
Senn Insurance.....	11-5.....	43-37



This Week's Winner: Tim Murphy



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Cleveland	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	New England	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 24



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Arizona	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ Chicago 20



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Arizona	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Chicago 17

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Carolina	Denver	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 17



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	NY Giants	Tennessee
Miami	Washington	
LA Chargers	Arizona	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	New England	
Houston	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 35 @ Chicago 21



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Arizona	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	New England	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 17



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Arizona	
Carolina	Denver	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ Chicago 13



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 7



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Carolina	Denver	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Chicago 17



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 42 @ Chicago 17



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Arizona	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 17



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Tennessee
Miami	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Cleveland	
Minnesota	Denver	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Houston	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 33 @ Chicago 18



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Miami	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	New England	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 13



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Arizona	
Carolina	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 17



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
LA Chargers	Cleveland	
Carolina	Denver	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 17



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Tennessee
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Cleveland	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Detroit	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 33 @ Chicago 17



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	LA Rams	Buffalo
Jacksonville	Kansas City	
Baltimore	Arizona	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ Chicago 14

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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	12:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	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	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	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

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Thin secondary

That sound you hear might be an air raid siren.

With starting cornerbacks Jaire Alexander and Kevin King out with shoulder injuries, opposing offenses are sure to test the Green Bay Packers' defense through the air.

Already without Alexander, the cornerback corps suffered another blow on Sunday when King went down. His final play came during a fourth-quarter collision with Bengals receiver Tyler Boyd, who tried to hurdle King, but King initially was injured when he was bowled over by left tackle Jonah Williams on Adrian Amos' third-quarter interception.

"That was just the final straw," coach Matt LaFleur said of the play involving Boyd at the sideline.

Combined with All-Pro Alexander's injury, which has him on injured reserve with the potential of ending his season, Green Bay's cornerback corps is incredibly thin. It finished the game with Eric Stokes and Isaac Yiadom at corner and Chandon Sullivan in the slot. In reserve are fifth-round rookie Shemar Jean-Charles, who was embarrassed on Joe Mixon's fourth-quarter touchdown run, Rasul Douglas, who was plucked off Arizona's practice squad last week, and Kabion Ento, an undrafted free agent in 2019 who is on the practice squad.

"Anytime you're losing starters, that's never fun," LaFleur said.

The injuries could accelerate Douglas' push into the lineup. A third-round pick by Philadelphia in 2017, Douglas played in 46 games with 18 starts during three seasons with the Eagles. He failed to stick for a fourth season, though. Released at the end of training

camp, he was claimed off waivers by Carolina, for which he started a career-high 11 games last season.

A free agent this past offseason, Douglas signed with the Raiders but was released toward the end of training camp. He spent a few days with the Texans as nothing more than a camp body to get through the preseason finale. A few days later, he signed to the Cardinals' practice squad.

That makes Green Bay his fourth stop in less than two months.

"I think it's a great chance," Douglas said last week. "Just got to learn the defense and what my job is and all the plays. But I definitely think this is a great opportunity for me."

On Sunday, Stokes spent most of the game matched against young Bengals star Ja'Marr Chase. It's not ideal to have a rookie asked to be the stopper in the secondary, but such are the circumstances without Alexander.

Stokes battled Chase to a draw. Chase made three superb plays — a catch for 14 yards off Stokes' deflection in the third quarter, a 19-yard back-shoulder catch on the game-tying touchdown drive in the fourth quarter and a ballerina-style toe-tap for 21 yards in overtime. Stokes missed a tackle, which turned a short pass into a gain of 28, and had a potential interception slip through his hands.

"I thought Stokes competed at the highest level," LaFleur said. "I loved how he challenged Chase, and he was in great position really on every throw that he had on him. You've got to give Ja'Marr a lot of credit. That catch he made in overtime on the sidelines, there's very few guys that are going to make that play. I also think (Joe) Burrow did a nice job on one of the third downs where he threw a back-shoulder.

"I've always told our guys there's



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Davante Adams, left, makes a move with the football in the game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Adams will look to follow up his 200-plus yard performance against the Bengals with another big game against the Bears' stout defense.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

no defense for the perfect ball, and that was a perfect ball and the guy adjusted on the fly. Stokes, he just brings it every time he comes out on the field, every play. He's got a short memory, whether it's good or bad, and I just love how he's challenging these receivers. He's making the offense earn everything they get."

The pressure will be on Stokes and the last men standing, especially if Alexander's injury doesn't respond to rest and will require surgery. Starting in week eight, the Packers face a five-game stretch against Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (if healthy), Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins and Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford. Murray, Stafford and Tom Brady are among the quarterbacks that would loom in the playoffs.

"It is the next man up," LaFleur said, "and we're fortunate we've got other guys here we feel very, very confident in, and they're going to have to prove us right."

Dominating De'Vondre

There are three certainties in life: death, taxes and the Packers shopping for a veteran linebacker.

In 2018, it was Antonio Morrison. In 2019, it was B.J. Goodson. In 2020, it was Christian Kirksey. None of those three were asked back for a second season. This time, with the June addition of De'Vondre Campbell, general manager Brian Gutekunst landed a game-changing performer.

"I was talking on the sidelines today and said, 'How in the hell was this guy on the street?'" quarterback Aaron Rodgers said after the Cincinnati game. "It's a great pickup by our personnel folks. He can run; he's a great tackler. He's around the ball all the time; he's a great locker room guy. I mean, it's baffling to me. We're just so thankful to have him because I think as he continues to make plays, his leadership opportunities will continue to

grow. Guys listen to him, he's leading the defense as much as he feels comfortable and that's a guy we're really lucky to have."

A fourth-round pick by Atlanta in 2016, Campbell arrived in Green Bay having started 69 of a possible 80 games in his first five seasons. He started all 16 games for Arizona last season, recording 99 tackles with seven for losses, but there were no takers in free agency. Finally, he landed in Green Bay during the June minicamp.

Green Bay's every-down inside linebacker and defensive quarterback, Campbell has 47 tackles, two interceptions and three passes defended in the first five games. He is eighth in the NFL in tackles. Of the 25 players with at least 37 tackles, Campbell is one of only two with at least two interceptions. One of those came in overtime against the Bengals.

"Dre has been outstanding," LaFleur said. "He's been so consistent, making plays, being physical. He's going out there and he's playing at a really high level, and he's bringing a lot of energy and confidence to our defense. As good of a player he is, he's even a better person. We were talking about it as a staff earlier today, just how much fun he is to be around. We're lucky we have a guy like that."

Dominating Davante

Rodgers threw for 344 yards in the victory at Cincinnati. Adams accounted for 206 of those on 11 receptions. It was the first 200-yard day of Adams' career and the first 200-yard performance in the NFL this season.

Adams' dominating performance matched James Lofton for fourth on the team's all-time list. Had Rodgers and Adams connected for what might have been the winning touchdown late in regulation, Adams would have finished with 224 yards. That would have trailed only Billy Howton's 257 yards against the Rams in 1956.

Adams said he saw it coming.

"I told at least three people outside

the building, talking to family, one of my cousins, talking to my wife, I told her, 'I feel like this could be my career high this game,'" he said. "So, either I'm clairvoyant or I know what I'm talking about."

Adams is so good that even when everyone in the building knows where the ball is going, Adams delivers. Early in the fourth quarter, he split a double team by the Bengals' best defensive backs, cornerback Chidobe Awuzie and safety Jessie Bates, for a gain of 59. With Green Bay trying to attempt a last-second field goal at the end of regulation, he somehow got open over the middle for a gain of 20.

"He's just so talented," Rodgers said. "Even when you know that I'm probably going to him, he still finds a way to get open and makes a big catch and breaks a tackle. The guy is a special player."

Since the start of the 2020 season, Adams has seven games of 10-plus receptions for 100-plus yards. That's as many as the next two players, Kansas City's Tyreek Hill (four) and Las Vegas' Darren Waller (three), combined. Green Bay is 7-0 in those games.

Through five games, he leads the NFL with 42 receptions and 579 yards.

"I could feel him early and I could tell," LaFleur said. "He's a guy who's hungry for the football, and he shows

good reason why. He's got people draped all over him, and it doesn't matter. He finds a way to do it every time. There's a reason he's got that '99' rating in Madden. He is a baller. I don't think there's anybody better than him."

Unlikely targets

At running back, Aaron Jones is considered the do-it-all lightning to AJ Dillon's thunder. At tight end, Robert Tonyan is considered the playmaker and Mercedes Lewis the blocker.

Against the Bengals, Jones caught four passes for 6 yards while Dillon caught four balls for 49 yards and a touchdown; Tonyan caught one pass for 8 yards while Lewis had two receptions for 30 yards, including a 20-yarder to help set up the winning field goal.

"I think you can see how excited the guys get when he touches the football," LaFleur said of Lewis, the NFL's oldest tight end. "Every time we go to 'Cedes in the pass game, even though we don't do it a ton, he seems to deliver. That was a pretty big moment in the game, taking that screen pass 20 yards and his ability to be elusive. I always call him 'Sweet Feet' when he gets going like that. He made a guy miss and then broke two tackles and was physical. You could feel it, and it definitely brings a lot of juice to our sideline and to our team."



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Packers keep finding solutions as injuries pile up

O-line missing several starters

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
The Associated Press

They're missing their 2020 All-Pro left tackle, their best pass rusher and their top cornerback. They're not scoring as frequently or winning as decisively as they did last season.

Yet somehow and some way, the Green Bay Packers have made it through the first five games of the season with the same 4-1 record they owned a year ago.

They're just making their victories a little more suspenseful this year. Consider the Packers' 25-22 overtime victory at Cincinnati on Sunday a prime example.

"That just goes to show the type of men we have in our locker room," Packers linebacker De'Vondre Campbell said after the game. "Nobody flinched. Nobody complained. Nobody did anything but their job, and we were able to handle business and get the victory. That's what good football teams do. They find a way to get it done."

Twice in the last three weeks, the

Packers have nearly lost a game they controlled most of the way, only to find a way to win at the end. Mason Crosby has played a major role both times, for very different reasons.

Crosby kicked a 51-yarder as time expired to give the Packers a 30-28 victory at San Francisco after the 49ers scored a go-ahead touchdown with 37 seconds left. In the Bengals game, Crosby ended a franchise-record string of 27 consecutive successful field-goal attempts by missing three straight to keep the Packers from wrapping up the victory before he finally made a 49-yarder in overtime.

"We stuck together, and that's all that mattered at the end," running back Aaron Jones said. "We didn't blink or flinch. That's the testament of a good team."

So is the Packers' ability to withstand injuries.

David Bakhtiari, the 2020 All-Pro left tackle, hasn't played all season. Outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith and cornerback Zaire Alexander – both Pro Bowl picks last year – are on injured reserve and won't return anytime soon.

The Packers also played Sunday's game without 2020 Pro Bowl selec-

tion Elgton Jenkins and starting center Josh Myers on the offensive line. Wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling missed a second straight game.

"There are some guys in that locker room and guys that played, they weren't with this football team in August and weren't with this football team in June," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "A lot of big plays and high-volume play counts for guys who we didn't count on being important."

Those types of contributions have helped the Packers continue figuring out ways to win when they're not at full strength.

What's working

The top playmakers on offense – Rodgers, Jones and 2020 All-Pro receiver Davante Adams – are making plays.

This marked the first time in franchise history that the Packers had a 300-yard passer, 100-yard rusher and 200-yard receiver in the same game.

Stock up

Adams had 11 catches for a career-high 206 yards and one touchdown. He has 42 receptions for 579 yards this season to lead the NFL in both

categories.

Campbell continued his fast start to the season by intercepting a pass in overtime.

Stock down

Crosby had his worst day as a pro since Oct. 4, 2018, when he missed four field goals and an extra point in a 31-23 loss to the Detroit Lions. This time, Crosby missed three field goals and an extra point before making the winner in overtime.

Tight end Robert Tonyan, who had 11 touchdown catches last season, was held below 10 yards receiving for the fourth time in five games.

Injured

Cornerback Kevin King joined the long list of injured Packers when he hurt a shoulder Sunday.

"He was playing a lot of that game, or part of that game, with basically one arm," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said Monday. "So I thought he competed well and was playing really, really well."

Number

2 – number of field-goal attempts Crosby had missed since the start of the 2019 season heading into Sunday.



The Green Bay Packers offense huddles before a play against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers have overcome a slew of injuries, including several to offensive starters, during a 4-1 start to the season.

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