



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, top, falls forward after being tripped up during the team's game against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Green Bay likes where it stands at bye

NFL bye weeks are a time for teams to take a break from the long season and recharge their batteries.



MORGAN RODE

The Green Bay Packers bye week didn't arrive until this week, but the team is happy to have reached it.

"I think we're at a point where everybody is pretty exhausted, but it definitely feels

good going into the bye week on a win," said coach Matt LaFleur after the win over the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday.

Of course, with their bye week coming this late in the season, Green Bay has a pretty good idea of what kind of team it is and what lies ahead.

The Packers have dealt with several injuries to key players this year, yet the team still owns a 9-3 record through 12 weeks.

Green Bay's nine wins are tied with the Arizona Cardinals for the most in the NFL, but the Packers do have another loss on their resume. The green and gold knocked off the Cardinals earlier this season, so Green Bay would win a tiebreaker should the teams own identical marks at the end of the year.

"It's been a lot of adversity for sure, so I'm proud of the guys," said quarterback Aaron Rodgers of the team's injury woes.

Speaking of injuries and Rodgers, the bye week will also allow players to rest and heal up before the final stretch run.

Rodgers has been dealing with a broken pinkie toe. It was reported on Monday that Rodgers planned to forgo surgery on the toe and instead use the off week to heal up and get closer to 100%.

"I'm going to get treatment every single day," said Rodgers after the Rams' game.

He added that he will be doing some reading this week, but that "the most important thing is healing and taking care of myself."

Rodgers isn't the only Packer who needs some rest to heal up an injury.

Offensive tackle David Bakhtiari is still working his way back from a torn ACL he suffered late last season. He had surgery to clean up his knee recently and is expected to



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon, left, catches a touchdown pass during the team's game against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. After another big win, the Packers will enjoy their bye week boasting a 9-3 record to this point of the season. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

return to the field at some point in December.

Then there's cornerback Jaire Alexander, who hasn't played since early October after sustaining a shoulder injury. He's expected back before the end of the regular season.

Outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith is also expected back before the end of the regular season. He hasn't played since week one because of a back injury.

There are some additional players who recently returned to the field that also will enjoy a week of healing. Running back Aaron Jones and outside linebacker Rashan Gary both returned to the field against Los Angeles after missing the previous game.

With the addition of some of its currently injured players and nudg-

ing its roster closer to 100%, there's reason for optimism as the season winds down and playoffs near.

Green Bay has a commanding 3½-game lead in the NFC North at the bye week, so it's possible the Packers could lock up the division well before the final week of the regular season.

"There is still a lot to figure out in the conference, but I like where we are at and I like our football team," said Rodgers.

The team has its second round of division play remaining during the final five weeks, plus games against the Baltimore Ravens and Cleveland Browns.

Another thing working in the team's favor is where those games will be played. Green Bay has just two remaining road games — and

one is against the winless Lions.

Even with one of the NFL's best records, there's still more out there for the Packers.

"There's room for improvement in all three phases, which is always exciting, and we know there's a lot of challenges left in front of us," said LaFleur.

"When we're back in this building, we need to attack it on a daily basis, which I think our guys embrace and they take that to heart. We never look too far in front of us. We always try to focus on and stay as present as possible and our guys have that mentality, and I think that's the mentality that it takes to win games in this league."

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.

Packers take down Rams in NFC showdown

Rodgers accounts for 3 TDs

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers earned their ninth victory of the season in a 36-28 win over the Los Angeles Rams in a battle of NFC contenders on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers accounted for all three of the Packers' offensive touchdowns. He connected with receiver Randall Cobb and running back A.J. Dillon on passing scores and ran for another score.

Green Bay also got some timely plays from its defense and special teams. The Packers had three take-aways, with cornerback Rasul Douglas intercepting a pass and returning it for a score for the team's other touchdown.

Green Bay dominated the time of possession (39:40-20:20) and forced Los Angeles to be one-dimensional for most of the game after shutting down the visitor's run attack.

"Really proud of our guys tonight, just staying focused with what we know we have in front of us with the bye," said coach Matt LaFleur of the team's win. "It's been a long year to go this far without a bye week, but our guys did exactly what we asked them to do."

Green Bay scored the game's first 10 points, with the defense setting up the offense on both scores.

Outside linebacker Rashaan Gary sacked and stripped Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford, and fellow outside linebacker Preston Smith was able to scoop up the loose ball and set the Packers' offense up at the Los Angeles 6 yard-line.

Three plays later, Rodgers — nursing a broken pinky toe — beat All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey to the pylon for a 1-yard rushing score.

"That was not the play at all. The play was hand the ball off or throw it, probably to Cobby on the left side," said Rodgers.

"Thankfully, he went for the pump fake, and I was able to get around the edge."

The offense got the ball back a couple minutes later after safety Adrian Amos made a tackle for no gain on a fourth-and-1 run by the Rams. The Packers settled for a 45-yard field goal from kicker Mason Crosby to go up 10-0.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers reaches the ball out during a touchdown run against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

After Los Angeles got on the scoreboard with a 79-yard touchdown pass, Green Bay's offense put together another scoring drive that was capped by a Crosby field goal, this time from 28 yards. Rodgers connected with Cobb on a 54-yard pass on a third-down play to jump-start the drive.

Cobb was at the center of several more critical plays in the first half before leaving with an injury.

The veteran wide receiver muffed a punt, allowing Los Angeles to kick a field goal and make it a three-point game.

Cobb then caught a 27-yard pass on the first play of a touchdown drive. Rodgers also connected with receiver Davante Adams on a 43-yard pass before finding Cobb for a 7-yard touchdown.

"Randall is a special talent, and it definitely hurt us losing him at half-time," said LaFleur. "I thought he did a hell of a job in that first half when he was playing and made a lot of key plays that helped us get that lead going into the half."

The Rams had the final points in the wild back-and-forth first half, which left the Packers with a 20-17 lead.

Green Bay created some separation by scoring the first 17 points in the second half.

On the first drive, the Pack leaned on Dillon on a 13-play, 75-yard drive. Rodgers found Dillon on a 5-yard pass to cap the drive.

The teams then traded punts, but Green Bay tight end Dominique Dafney forced a fumble on the Rams' punt return, and linebacker Krys Barnes grabbed the loose ball to set the team's offense up at the Los Angeles 27-yard line. Six plays later, Crosby connected on a 29-yard field goal.

On the third play of the ensuing drive, Douglas jumped a Stafford pass, intercepted the ball and returned it 33 yards to make it 36-17 with under two minutes to play in the third quarter.

Green Bay's offense had several chances to put the game away — including a missed field goal by Crosby — but the defense made enough stops to hold on to the lead.

Rodgers finished with 307 passing yards and completed 28 of his 45 attempts.

Dillon led the Pack with 69 rushing yards on 20 attempts as the team limited the touches for the banged-up Aaron Jones.

Adams hauled in eight passes for 104 yards, while Cobb went for 95 yards on four catches in the first half. Receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling had four grabs for 50 yards.

Barnes led the defense with nine total tackles, while defensive lineman Kenny Clark had six, including a sack. Douglas had five tackles and four pass breakups to go along with his pick-six.

"Like how was this guy on the practice squad (of the Arizona Cardinals)? I mean the dude has made so many plays for us," said Rodgers of Douglas.

The win moved the Packers to 9-0 in games following a loss under LaFleur. Green Bay finished 4-0 against NFC West teams for the first time since 2009.

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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
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	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
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
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
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
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
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
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
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
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	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	27	4	South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
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	29	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	27	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
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State

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
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
43	Nate Orchard	OLB	6-3	255	28	6	Utah
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
61	Jon Dietzen	G/T	6-5	312	24	R	Wisconsin
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

Reserve/COVID-19

53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
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PACKERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR
Davante Adams
Randall Cobb

TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis

RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly

RG
Royce Newman
Ben Braden

C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson

LG
Jon Runyan
Ben Braden

LT
Yosh Nijman
Dennis Kelly

TE
Marcedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard

FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 29, 1:15 p.m.

DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan

DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster

NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin

CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas

OLB
Preston Smith
Tipa Galeai

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

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games

N.Y. Giants at Miami, noon
Indianapolis at Houston, noon
Minnesota at Detroit, noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, noon
Arizona at Chicago, noon
L.A. Chargers at Cincinnati, noon
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, noon
Jacksonville at L.A. Rams, 3:05 p.m.
Washington at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 3:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

New England at Buffalo, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Carolina, Cleveland, Green Bay, Tennessee

Thursday's Game

Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East				AFC East			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Dallas	7	4	0	New England	8	4	0
Washington	5	6	0	Buffalo	7	4	0
Philadelphia	5	7	0	Miami	5	7	0
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	N.Y. Jets	3	8	0
North				North			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	9	3	0	Baltimore	8	3	0
Minnesota	5	6	0	Cincinnati	7	4	0
Chicago	4	7	0	Cleveland	6	6	0
Detroit	0	10	1	Pittsburgh	5	5	1
South				South			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	8	3	0	Tennessee	8	4	0
Atlanta	5	6	0	Indianapolis	6	6	0
New Orleans	5	6	0	Houston	2	9	0
Carolina	5	7	0	Jacksonville	2	9	0
West				West			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Arizona	9	2	0	Kansas City	7	4	0
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	L.A. Chargers	6	5	0
San Francisco	6	5	0	Denver	6	5	0
Seattle	3	8	0	Las Vegas	6	5	0

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PACKERS OUTLOOK: OFFENSE

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers survived a 12-game gauntlet of games and injuries with a 9-3 record. They're just a half-game behind the Arizona Cardinals for the No. 1 seed in the NFC. What's gone right? What's gone wrong? And what are the keys for a drive to the Super Bowl? Here's a unit-by-unit look at the Packers.

Quarterbacks

What went right: Rather quietly, Aaron Rodgers is second in the NFL in passer rating. He's thrown 23 touchdowns vs. four interceptions – and that's after tossing two picks in a 38-3 loss in the opener. He returned to his MVP form of last season during the second-half comeback at Minnesota and the victory over Los Angeles.

What went wrong: Rodgers tested positive for COVID-19, which kept him out of a winnable game at Kansas City. Adding injury to insult, he suffered a broken pinkie toe at some point during his 10-day isolation. He practiced only on Friday before facing the Vikings and didn't practice at all before beating the Rams. The hope is the bye-week rest will get him on the road to recovery.

Key to rest of season: Rodgers has to be great. This is a diverse team, with its ability to run the football on offense and keep teams out of the end zone on defense, but it's also a team with a lot of injuries. As always, as Rodgers goes, so go the Packers. His last six quarters before the bye were encouraging. He picked apart the Rams with patience and precision.



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams reaches out to catch a pass during the team's win over the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Adams has been the team's only consistent weapon in the passing game to this point in the season.

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Running backs

What went right: AJ Dillon showed he could catch the football. Dillon wasn't asked to do that during his collegiate career at Boston College, and he was thrown the ball only twice during his rookie season.

The coaches swore Dillon had good hands, and they were right. He's caught 27-of-29 passes for 261 yards and two touchdowns. His

93.1% catch rate is third in the NFL. In the last four games, he caught all 17 passes for 171 yards and one score.

What went wrong: The Packers, having navigated their salary-cap problems, surprisingly re-signed Aaron Jones in free agency. He entered the season with a career average of 5.16 yards per carry. That was fifth-best in NFL history among running backs. This year, he's aver-

aging only 4.24 yards per carry.

Key to rest of season: Jones has averaged less than 4 yards per carry in four of his last five games. Moreover, his 5.1 yards per touch lags well behind last year's 5.9. As one of the team's few game-breaking threats, the Packers have to get him going — whether it's runs, screens or true receiver routes.

Receivers

What went right: Davante Adams is doing typical Davante Adams things. He's caught 80 passes for 1,083 yards and five touchdowns. He's caught at least six passes in five consecutive games and entered the bye by catching 15-of-17 targets for 219 yards and two touchdowns vs. the Vikings and Rams.

Rodgers was right to convince general manager Brian Gutekunst to acquire Randall Cobb at the start of training camp. He's been a reliable complementary piece, and 20 of his 28 receptions have been for first downs.

Back from a hamstring injury, Marquez Valdes-Scantling had a 41-yard catch vs. Seattle, four catches for 123 yards and one touchdown vs. Minnesota and four catches for 50 yards vs. the Rams.

What went wrong: After a strong training camp, Valdes-Scantling and Allen Lazard appeared ready to be reliable options alongside Adams. That hasn't happened, though.

The injury kept Valdes-Scantling out for five games. Lazard has handled the dirty work with his usual aplomb but has as many incomplete targets this year (19 catches out of 32 targets) as last year (33 catches out of 46 targets). That includes 3-of-10 the past two games with two drops.



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Key to rest of season: Defenses are going to continue to gang up on Adams. Somebody must step to the forefront. It doesn't have to be one player being that reliable No. 2 option. It could be Valdes-Scantling one game, Lazard the next and Cobb after that. As offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett said on Monday, "When your number's called, you've got to do the right thing."

Tight ends

What went right: Marcedes Lewis continues to block at a high level at the point of attack, Josiah Deguara caught a touchdown pass on a scramble drill at Minnesota and Dominique Dafney has blocked well and stripped the ball on punt coverage vs. the Rams. Otherwise, not much has gone right.

What went wrong: Robert Tonyan was one of the NFL's breakout standouts last season, when he led all NFL tight ends in touchdowns, catch percentage and drop percentage. Asked to contribute more as a blocker to start this season due to injuries on the offensive line, he wasn't nearly as impactful as a receiver. But he caught four passes for 63 yards vs. Washington in week seven and had a 33-yard catch at

Arizona in week eight.

Right when it looked like Tonyan was ready to reprise his role as big-play receiver, he suffered a torn ACL at the end of that play. The injury was a huge blow to the offense. Moreover, Tonyan will be an unrestricted free agent at the end of the season. He might be ready at some point in training camp, but there's no doubt the injury will impact his next contract.

Key to rest of season: Tonyan was irreplaceable. No tight end on the roster could match his combination of height, athleticism, catching ability and connection with the quarterback. At 6-foot-2, Deguara is more a jack-of-all-trades player than a true tight end. Still, he's the one player with some dynamic receiving ability. He's not going to catch 25 passes and score five touchdowns during the final five games of the regular season but anything he could produce would be a bonus.

Offensive line

What went right: With David Bakhtiari returning from last year's torn ACL, Elgton Jenkins showed he was much more than one of the best guards in the NFL. By moving to left tackle, he showed he was

one of the best linemen in the NFL, period. With Jenkins sidelined by injuries, Yosh Nijman showed he could play winning football at left tackle, too. A lot of teams don't have one left tackle. The Packers have three.

What went wrong: Injuries, injuries and more injuries. Just when it looked like Bakhtiari was ready to return to starting the lineup, his comeback hit a snag and he had clean-up procedure on his reconstructed left knee. Maybe he'll return to practice after the bye. Jenkins missed three early-season games with a sprained ankle, then suffered a torn ACL.

Rookie center Josh Myers also is out with a knee injury that required surgery, though he might return for the stretch run. So, instead of a starting wall of Bakhtiari at left tackle, Jenkins at left guard, Myers at center, rookie Royce Newman at right guard and veteran Billy Turner at right tackle, the Packers lined up vs. the Rams with Nijman at left tackle, Jon Runyan at left guard, Lucas Patrick at center, Newman at right guard and Turner at right tackle.

Key to rest of season: Bakhtiari's return might be the biggest key for any team at any position. With

FYI

An outlook on the defense and special teams can be found on pages 12-13.

a healthy Bakhtiari, the Packers probably would have gone to last year's Super Bowl. After all, with Bakhtiari at left tackle and Turner at right tackle instead of Turner at left tackle and Rick Wagner at right tackle, it's almost impossible to believe the Buccaneers would have recorded five sacks.

If Bakhtiari can return to his All-Pro form for the playoffs, it would allow coach Matt LaFleur to open up the offense.

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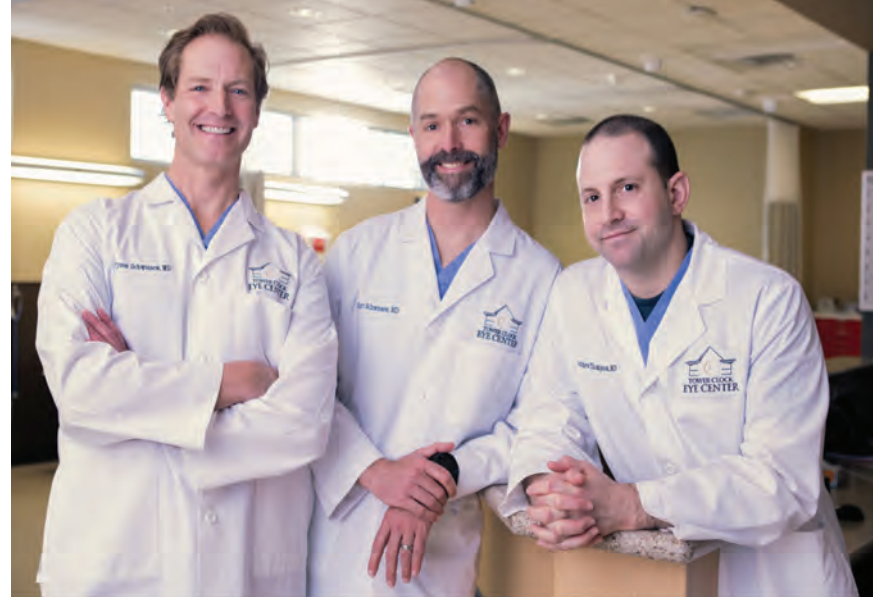
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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 13 Games: Sunday, Dec. 5

Teams on bye:
Carolina, Cleveland, Green Bay & Tennessee

Tampa Bay @ Atlanta
Arizona @ Chicago
LA Chargers @ Cincinnati
Minnesota @ Detroit
Indianapolis @ Houston
Denver @ Kansas City
NY Giants @ Miami
Philadelphia @ NY Jets
Washington @ Las Vegas
Jacksonville @ LA Rams
Baltimore @ Pittsburgh
San Francisco @ Seattle
New England @ Buffalo Mon., Dec. 6

Tie Breaker Game:
Dallas @ New Orleans....Thursday, December 2

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record	Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose	7-8.....	119-60-1	Shawan Place Assisted Living	8-7	108-71-1
Tim Murphy	10-5.....	113-66-1	Smokey Joes.....	10-5.....	108-71-1
Buss Automotive.....	10-5.....	111-68-1	State Farm-Idell Johnston	8-7	108-71-1
Dennis Brei.....	11-4.....	111-68-1	B&C Auto Recycling	9-6	105-74-1
Shawano Season's Restaurant	9-6.....	111-68-1	P & D Sales & Service	8-7	103-76-1
22 Shell.....	10-5.....	110-69-1	Gehm's Club 117	8-7	102-77-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	7-8.....	110-69-1	Cirrinty /Wittenberg Telephone	10-5.....	96-83-1
Hawkeye Hearth & Home	9-6.....	109-70-1	Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-7	94-85-1
Morgan Rode	9-6.....	108-71-1	Senn Insurance.....	5-10.....	90-89-1



This Week's Winners:
God's Purpose Apparel - Week 11
Buss Automotive - Week 12



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay NY Giants Buffalo
Arizona Philadelphia
Cincinnati Las Vegas
Minnesota LA Rams
Indianapolis Pittsburgh
Kansas City San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 28



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay Miami Buffalo
Arizona Philadelphia
Cincinnati Las Vegas
Minnesota LA Rams
Indianapolis Baltimore
Kansas City San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 27 @ New Orleans 20



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay Miami Buffalo
Arizona Philadelphia
Cincinnati Las Vegas
Minnesota LA Rams
Indianapolis Baltimore
Kansas City Seattle

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 28 @ New Orleans 20

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 36 @ New Orleans 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
LA Chargers	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 13



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 21 @ New Orleans 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 23



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 17



Sophie
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	NY Giants	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 17



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	NY Jets	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 28 @ New Orleans 14



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	
Kansas City	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 28 @ New Orleans 17



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 35 @ New Orleans 13



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	NY Giants	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
LA Chargers	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 27 @ New Orleans 20



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	New England
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 27 @ New Orleans 24



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
Cincinnati	Washington	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 22



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
LA Chargers	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 27 @ New Orleans 21



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	Philadelphia	
LA Chargers	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 37 @ New Orleans 27



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Tampa Bay	Miami	Buffalo
Arizona	NY Jets	
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	
Minnesota	LA Rams	
Indianapolis	Baltimore	
Kansas City	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Dallas 31 @ New Orleans 21

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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	7:20 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	7:00 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 07	1:25 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 RAMS (GOLD)	FOX

DECEMBER

BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:50 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX

JANUARY

Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

PACKERS OUTLOOK: DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers survived a 12-game gauntlet of games and injuries with a 9-3 record. They're just a half-game behind the Arizona Cardinals for the No. 1 seed in the NFC. What's gone right? What's gone wrong? And what are the keys for a drive to the Super Bowl? Here's a unit-by-unit look at the Packers.

Defensive line

What went right: A healthy Kenny Clark is a dominant Kenny Clark. In 2019, he was the only defensive tackle in the NFL to finish in the top 10 of Pro Football Focus' top pass-rushing and run-stopping metrics. Last year's groin injury took the explosion out of Clark's game, and the rest of the defense suffered. He's been healthy this season and returned to form.

He is second among all interior defenders with 47 pressures. The Packers could have released Dean Lowry to save money against the cap. Instead, he returned on a restructured deal and is having his best season.

What went wrong: As a whole, this group needs to be stronger against the run. Tyler Lancaster dominated against Minnesota, and rookie TJ Slaton flashed vs. Kansas City. The Packers need more of that.

Key to rest of season: Along with a healthy Clark, Kingsley Keke was the great hope for an improved defensive line. In his first eight games, he recorded only nine pressures. Then, he missed two games with a concussion. However, he returned for the final two games before the bye and recorded seven pressures. If that's a sign of things to come, look out.

Outside linebackers

What went right: With 6½ sacks in 12 games, Rashan Gary isn't even among the top 20 in the NFL in sacks. Sacks mean accolades, so chances are Gary will be ignored for the Pro Bowl. That's too bad, because Gary has been tremendous.

According to Pro Football Focus, he's seventh among edge defenders with 50 pressures. More than just a pass rusher, his brute force and relentless style make him an asset vs. the run. He is a dominating player, which is why he was taken with the 12th pick in 2019. Preston



Green Bay Packers receiver Amari Rodgers, center, returns a punt during the team's game against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers will need to clean up several aspects of special teams in the final stretch of the season.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Smith, back on a revamped contract after a dismal 2020 season, already has more pressures this season (36) than last season (29). He's terrific against the run, too.

What went wrong: Za'Darius Smith had 26 sacks in his first two seasons with the Packers. He led the NFL in pressures in 2019 and had a career-high four forced fumbles in 2020. He's been a non-factor this season, though, due to a back injury that limited him to one practice in training camp and 18 snaps in the opener.

Smith, veteran addition Whitney Mercilus, Chauncey Rivers and special-teams ace Randy Ramsey are on injured reserve. Against the Rams, the backups were Tipa Galeai (promoted from the practice squad) and La'Darius Hamilton (game day elevation from the practice squad).

Key to rest of season: The Packers are hoping Za'Darius Smith will return, but they're not counting on it. At this point, a positive scenario would be Gary and Preston Smith staying off the injury report.

Inside linebackers

What went right: Nobody signed

veteran starter De'Vondre Campbell through the first few waves of free agency. So, the Packers snatched him up in mid-June. He's been a savior.

Campbell is the best inside linebacker the Packers have had since Desmond Bishop a decade ago. He is eighth in the NFL with 98 tackles. Of the top 10 in tackles, Campbell is the only player with at least one sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and one interception. He is smart, physical and a sure-tackler. In the passing game, his length is a major factor.

What went wrong: It took far too long to settle on Krys Barnes as the other starter. In early October, the Packers signed Jaylon Smith. Against Chicago, Smith played 17 snaps in his debut and Barnes was relegated to scraps. The Smith recitation project didn't pan out and Barnes has been the beneficiary. The past five games, he's averaged about 35 snaps and recorded 32 tackles.

Key to rest of season: The Packers have their duo. Campbell has been consistently excellent. If Barnes can play like he did against the Rams, when he had nine tackles,

one pass breakup and one quarterback pressure, this will be a difference-making tandem. That's something that hasn't been said about a set of Packers inside linebackers in years.

Cornerbacks

What went right: Gutekunst made two critically important moves. First, he used his No. 1 draft pick on Eric Stokes – a combination of size, speed and untapped potential. Second, he signed Rasul Douglas off Arizona's practice squad. Those two have been mostly excellent.

Stokes got torched at Minnesota in week 11 but pitched a shutout vs. Seattle in week 10 and gave up only three trivial completions in week 12 against the Rams. He's frequently been matched against the opponents' top receiver and lived to tell the tale. Douglas, on his fourth team this season, saved the victory over Arizona with his end-zone interception and had a pick-six against the Rams.

What went wrong: All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander delivered a wicked shot to bruising Steelers running back Najee Harris in week

four. Alexander made the play but suffered a shoulder injury that's kept him out the past eight games. With Kevin King in and out of the lineup with his usual assortment of injuries, Green Bay's starting duo has combined to play in 10 games while missing 14.

Key to rest of season: If Alexander can return, the Packers' Super Bowl hopes will get a huge shot in the arm. Stokes has been battle-tested against the likes of Cincinnati's Ja'Marr Chase, Seattle's D.K. Metcalf and Tyler Lockett and Minnesota's Justin Jefferson. Stokes hasn't won every rep but he's won enough of them.

Now, imagine the potential of a cornerback group of Alexander, Stokes, Douglas, King and Chandon Sullivan. In a quarterback-driven league, the Packers will have the horses in the secondary to match up with anyone.

Safeties

What went right: Injuries have plagued the team but the starting tandem of Adrian Amos and Darnell Savage have stayed healthy. They are the glue to the defense. Amos is having a tremendous season. He's made big plays vs. the pass (one interception and three

passes defended vs. Seattle) and the run (fourth-and-inches stop of Rams running back Darrell Henderson). He's one of the best tacklers in the NFL.

What went wrong: Savage has one interception but has dropped three, second-most in the league, according to Sports Info Solutions. One of those could have won the game at Minnesota.

Key to rest of season: Amos and Savage are generally in the right place at the right time. They just need to make the plays when they've got the chance. That's not just the flashy things like interceptions but tackling. Amos has missed only three all season, and Savage is on a five-game streak without a miss.

Special teams

What went right: The Packers acquired Corey Bojorquez from the Rams at the end of training camp. JK Scott, a fifth-round pick in 2018, had net averages of 38.8 yards as a rookie (26th), 39.9 yards in 2019 (24th) and 37 yards in 2020 (28th). Bojorquez is second in the league with a 43-yard net.

He pinned the Rams inside the 15 three times last week, including one that was downed at the 1. He has

FYI

An outlook on the offense can be found on pages 6-7.

only two touchbacks; one of those was his league-high 81-yard punt at Chicago.

What went wrong: Just about everything else. Green Bay is 31st in punt-return average (5.9), 30th in kickoff-return average (18.2) and 27th in kickoff-coverage average (25.9). Simply fielding the ball has been an adventure for rookie returner Amari Rodgers. So, the Packers put Cobb back deep vs. the Rams, and he promptly dropped the ball.

Of course, the Packers could deal with the lousy returns so long as Mason Crosby was kicking the ball between the uprights. He missed only two field-goal attempts in 2019 and zero in 2020. This year, he's missed a league-high nine and made a league-worst 66.7%. He has a miss in four consecutive games, the second-longest streak of his career, and has drilled an upright the past two weeks. Bad holds by Bojorquez, bad snaps by Steven Wirtel and bad protection have had a role, but Crosby's not without blame.

Key to rest of season: On kicks,

ONLINE

More Green Bay Packers news and roster moves can be found online at www.newmedia-wi.com.

the protection, snaps and holds have improved. It's time to start making kicks. The Packers are 9-3 and legitimate Super Bowl contenders, but they're not so dominant that they can afford to leave points on the field every week. Maybe the one-week break will clear Crosby's head.

So long as Crosby rounds into form, punts are caught and returners are tackled, any other positive contributions will be a bonus.



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