



SPREADING THE BALL AROUND

8 players record receptions
in win over Bears

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Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones, right, uses a stiff arm to get away from Chicago Bears linebacker Roquan Smith, center, on a run in the team's win on Sept. 18.

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Involving everyone is key for Pack's success

Green Bay hopes to continue featuring spread out passing attack

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

After the week one loss to the Minnesota Vikings, it became clear that the Green Bay Packers had to involve more players in their offense in order to be successful.

This came on the back of only giving running backs Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon 15 combined carries in that week one loss. Head coach Matt LaFleur and the Green Bay Packers reconciled that by giving Jones and Dillon 37 combined touches in the team's 27-10 victory over the Chicago Bears.

Those results immediately paid off, as the team rushed for 203 yards and Jones scored two touchdowns. With that being a step in the right direction for the Packers, getting all of the receivers involved is still a priority.

"Those are two good players and you are always trying to get your best players the ball," said LaFleur.

Without Davante Adams, Aaron Rodgers completed 19 passes to eight different receivers in week two. The biggest benefactor was Sammy Watkins, as he recorded three catches for 93 yards. Randall Cobb, Aaron Jones and Christian Watson also tied Watkins with the team lead in receptions with three.

With 19 pass completions spread out over eight receivers, that begs the question, is this what Packer fans can expect from the offense this year?

"The days of one guy getting 15 targets and the next guy getting four or five are kind of over," said Rodgers. "We are going to have to find ways to get different guys the football in different spots."

While that may be the case, it may not necessarily be a bad thing for Green Bay's offense. Becoming predictable has been a crutch for Packers teams in the past, so to have seven or eight guys who can serve one part of the offense may be better in the long run than what Packer fans saw with Adams' 28% target share in 2021.

"All of those guys made big plays," said LaFleur on the balanced passing attack against Chicago. "There's a lot of plays where (wide receiver coach Jason) Vrable does such a great job subbing those guys



Green Bay Packers rookie wide receiver Christian Watson (No. 9) takes a touch pass from quarterback Aaron Rodgers as he looks to make a move up field, down the left side of the field on Sept. 18 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

in and out that I don't even know who is going to be in the game necessarily and that is such a far cry from what we've done in the past here in terms of featuring a guy like Davante."

Allen Lazard, who seemingly took over the No. 1 receiving spot when Adams left, logged his first game of the season in 2022, in the win over the Bears. Though Lazard only had two catches, one of them came in the red zone for a 5-yard touchdown.

That should be a bright spot to Packer fans, as while Lazard is not the same player that Adams is, it became obvious that the Packers wanted to get Lazard involved in an area where he can use his 6-foot, 5-inch frame to succeed.

To go along with Lazard, guys

like Romeo Doubs, Cobb and Watson are being used in positions that play to their strengths, rather than the Packers asking the receivers to do more than they are accustomed to. Lazard in the red zone, Cobb on third down and Doubs catching screens were the major roles that those three respectfully served in Green Bay's week two win.

"There's a lot of different plays for specific guys," said Rodgers. "We had a package for Christian, we had a package for Romeo, obviously a lot of plays for Sammy and for Allen ... and then a couple of wrinkles for Cobby. We have had (Cobb) in the backfield on third down, so that is kind of the way it's going to go."

The most intriguing newcomer that Green Bay brought to town in the offseason though is Christian

Watson. The North Dakota State product started training camp with an injury, but worked his way to starting week one. The first play of his career, saw Watson drop a pass that would have been a 75-yard touchdown.

Continuing to get the ball to Watson seems to be a focal point for LaFleur's coaching staff. After Watson's drop early against the Vikings, the Packers have yet to try another deep shot to him, instead, the Packers have tried to get Watson out into space with sweeps and touch passes.

While Watson does have the makeup to be a deep threat in the NFL, getting him comfortable with the ball in his hands may be the first step to unlocking that potential.

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PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	38	16	Colorado
6	Dallin Leavitt	S	5-10	195	28	4	Utah State
7	Quay Walker	LB	6-4	241	22	R	Georgia
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	2	Clemson
9	Christian Watson	WR	6-5	208	23	R	North Dakota State
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	3	Utah State
11	Sammy Watkins	WR	6-1	211	29	9	Clemson
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	38	18	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	26	4	Iowa State
16	Pat O'Donnell	P	6-4	220	31	9	Miami
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	32	12	Kentucky
20	Rudy Ford	S	6-0	200	27	6	Auburn
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Appalachian State
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	25	5	Louisville
24	Tariq Carpenter	S	6-3	230	23	R	Georgia Tech
25	Keisean Nixon	CB	5-10	200	25	4	South Carolina
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	25	4	Maryland
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	24	3	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	27	6	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	29	8	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	27	6	Texas-El Paso
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	25	2	Utah State
50	Zach Tom	OL	6-4	304	23	R	Wake Forest
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	24	4	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	23	3	Miami
55	Kingsley Enagbare	LB	6-4	258	22	R	South Carolina
56	Jack Coco	LS	6-2	248	23	R	Georgia Tech
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	23	2	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	29	7	Minnesota
63	Rasheed Walker	T	6-6	324	22	R	Penn State
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	25	2	Oregon
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	10	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	25	2	Mississippi
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	24	2	Ohio State
72	Caleb Jones	T	6-9	370	23	R	Indiana

73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	26	3	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	26	4	Mississippi State
75	Sean Ryan	T/G	6-5	321	21	R	UCLA
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	25	3	Michigan
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	25	3	Cincinnati
83	Samori Toure	WR	6-1	191	24	R	Nebraska
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	25	3	Georgia Tech
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	240	28	5	Indiana State
87	Romeo Doubs	WR	6-2	204	22	R	Nevada
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	38	17	UCLA
90	Jarran Reed	DL	6-3	307	29	7	Alabama
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	29	8	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	2	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	28	7	Northwestern
95	Devonte Wyatt	DL	6-3	304	24	R	Georgia
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	7	UCLA
99	Jonathan Ford	DL	6-5	338	23	R	Miami

Reserve/Injured

51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	24	3	UCLA
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	24	2	Mississippi State

Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform

Practice Squad

19	Danny Etling	QB	6-3	222	28	1	LSU
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	24	2	Memphis
34	Micah Abernathy	S	6-0	195	25	1	Tennessee
35	Mike Brown	S	6-1	220	23	R	Miami (Ohio)
39	Tyler Goodson	RB	5-9	197	21	R	Iowa
41	Benjie Franklin	CB	6-0	172	25	R	Tarleton State
43	Kiondre Thomas	CB	6-0	186	24	1	Kansas State
45	Ramiz Ahmed	K	5-11	193	27	1	Nevada
49	Kobe Jones	LB	6-3	255	24	1	Mississippi State
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	24	2	North Texas
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	25	1	Ball State
80	Shaun Beyer	TE	6-5	250	25	1	Iowa
86	Travis Fulgham	WR	6-2	211	26	3	Old Dominion
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	26	3	Colorado
96	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	24	2	Iowa
98	Chris Slayton	DL	6-4	307	26	1	Syracuse

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Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Jaelon Darden	WR	5-8	174	23	2	North Texas
2	Kyle Trask	QB	6-5	236	24	2	Florida
3	Ryan Succop	K	6-2	218	36	14	South Carolina
5	Jake Camarda	P	6-1	193	23	R	Georgia
6	Julio Jones	WR	6-3	220	33	12	Alabama
7	Leonard Fournette	RB	6-0	228	27	6	LSU
8	Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-6	258	32	12	Notre Dame
9	Joe Tryon-Shoyinka	OLB	6-5	259	23	2	Washington
10	Scotty Miller	WR	5-9	174	25	4	Bowling Green
11	Blaine Gabbert	QB	6-5	235	32	12	Missouri
12	Tom Brady	QB	6-4	225	45	23	Michigan
14	Chris Godwin	WR	6-1	208	26	6	Penn State
16	Breshad Perriman	WR	6-2	215	29	8	Central Florida
17	Russell Gage	WR	6-0	185	26	5	LSU
21	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	RB	5-10	214	25	3	Vanderbilt
22	Keanu Neal	S	6-0	211	27	7	Florida
23	Sean Murphy-Bunting	CB	6-0	195	25	4	Central Michigan
24	Carlton Davis III	CB	6-1	206	25	5	Auburn
25	Giovani Bernard	RB	5-9	205	30	10	North Carolina
26	Logan Ryan	S	5-11	195	31	10	Rutgers
27	Zyon McCollum	CB	6-2	199	23	R	Sam Houston State
29	Rachaad White	RB	6-0	214	23	R	Arizona State
30	Dee Delaney	CB	5-11	200	27	2	Miami
31	Antoine Winfield Jr.	S	5-9	203	24	3	Minnesota
32	Mike Edwards	S	5-10	205	26	4	Kentucky
35	Jamel Dean	CB	6-1	206	25	4	Auburn
41	Ko Kieft	TE	6-5	265	24	R	Minnesota
45	Devin White	ILB	6-0	237	24	4	LSU
50	Vita Vea	DL	6-4	347	27	5	Washington
52	K.J. Britt	ILB	6-0	235	23	2	Auburn
53	Olakunle Fatukasi	ILB	6-2	240	23	R	Rutgers
54	Lavonte David	ILB	6-1	233	32	11	Nebraska
56	Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DL	6-2	307	29	8	Southern Mississippi
58	Shaquil Barrett	OLB	6-2	250	29	9	Colorado State
60	Nick Leverett	G	6-4	310	25	2	Rice
67	Luke Goedeke	G	6-5	312	23	R	Central Michigan
69	Shaq Mason	G	6-1	310	29	8	Georgia Tech
70	Robert Hainsey	OL	6-4	306	24	2	Notre Dame

72	Josh Wells	T	6-6	306	31	8	James Madison
73	Brandon Walton	T	6-5	300	24	1	Florida Atlantic
74	Fred Johnson	OL	6-7	326	25	4	Florida
76	Donovan Smith	T	6-6	338	29	8	Penn State
78	Tristan Wirfs	T	6-5	320	23	3	Iowa
79	Patrick O'Connor	DL	6-4	270	28	4	Eastern Michigan
84	Cameron Brate	TE	6-5	245	31	8	Harvard
88	Cade Otton	TE	6-5	247	23	R	Washington
90	Logan Hall	DL	6-6	283	22	R	Houston
92	William Gholston	DL	6-6	281	31	10	Michigan State
94	Carl Nassib	OLB	6-7	275	29	7	Penn State
96	Akiem Hicks	DL	6-5	324	32	11	Regina
97	Zach Triner	LS	6-3	245	31	4	Assumption
98	Anthony Nelson	OLB	6-7	271	25	4	Iowa

Reserve/Injured

38	Kenjon Barner	RB	5-9	195	33	8	Oregon
49	Cam Gill	OLB	6-3	240	24	3	Wagner
64	Aaron Stinnie	G	6-3	312	28	5	James Madison
66	Ryan Jensen	C	6-4	319	31	9	Colorado State-Pueblo

Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner

13	Mike Evans	WR	6-5	231	29	9	Texas A&M
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Practice Squad

4	Ryan Griffin	QB	6-4	218	32	8	Tulane
33	Kenny Young	ILB	6-1	234	27	5	UCLA
34	Nolan Turner	S	6-1	202	24	R	Clemson
36	Don Gardner	CB	6-1	180	24	R	South Dakota State
37	Anthony Chesley	CB	6-0	190	27	2	Coastal Carolina
43	Patrick Laird	RB	6-0	205	27	4	California
51	J.J. Russell	ILB	6-1	225	23	R	Memphis
59	Genard Avery	OLB	6-0	250	27	5	Memphis
65	Dylan Cook	T	6-6	305	24	R	Montana
75	John Molchon	G	6-5	309	25	3	Boise State
80	Kaylon Geiger	WR	5-10	180	24	R	Texas Tech
83	Deven Thompkins	WR	5-8	155	22	R	Utah State
89	David Wells	TE	6-6	260	27	3	San Diego State
91	Mike Greene	DL	6-3	293	23	R	James Madison
93	Willington Previlon	DL	6-5	287	25	1	Rutgers
95	Deadrin Senat	DL	6-1	305	28	4	University of South Florida



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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Buccaneers
All-time, regular season: 32-22-1
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Buccaneers: 13-15-1
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have lost their last two matchups to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Green Bay's last win in Tampa Bay came in 2014.
Last meeting, regular season: Jan. 24, 2021, Buccaneers won 31-26 in the NFC Championship Game at Lambeau Field. The Packers picked off Bucs' quarterback Tom Brady three times, but weren't able to capitalize. Green Bay settled for a 26-yard field goal with about two minutes left but the offense never got the ball back.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	Loss 23-7	
Sept. 18	vs. Chicago	Won 27-10	
Sept. 25	at Tampa Bay	3:25 p.m.	FOX
Oct. 2	vs. New England	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Oct. 9	vs. N.Y. Giants (London)	8:30 a.m.	NFL Net.
Oct. 16	vs. N.Y. Jets	noon	FOX
Oct. 23	at Washington	noon	FOX
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Nov. 6	at Detroit	noon	FOX
Nov. 13	vs. Dallas	3:25 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 17	vs. Tennessee	7:15 p.m.	Prime
Nov. 27	at Philadelphia	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 4	at Chicago	noon	FOX
Bye week			
Dec. 19	vs. L.A. Rams	7:15 p.m.	ESPN
Dec. 25	at Miami	noon	FOX
Jan. 1	vs. Minnesota	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Jan. 7/8	vs. Detroit	TBD	TBD

OFFENSE

WR

Sammy Watkins
Christian Watson

RB

Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB

Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

WR

Randall Cobb
Amari Rodgers

WR

Allen Lazard
Romeo Doubs

TE

Mercedes Lewis
Robert Tonyan

RT

Elgton Jenkins
Rasheed Walker

RG

Royce Newman
Sean Rhyan

C

Josh Myers
Jake Hanson

LG

Jon Runyan
Zach Tom

LT

David Bakhtiari
Yosh Nijman

DEFENSE

DE

Dean Lowry
Devonte Wyatt

NT

Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE

Jarran Reed
Devonte Wyatt

CB

Eric Stokes
Keisean Nixon

CB

Jaire Alexander
Rasul Douglas

OLB

Preston Smith
Jonathan Garvin

ILB

De'Vondre Campbell
Isaiah McDuffie

ILB

Quay Walker
Isaiah McDuffie

OLB

Rashan Gary
Kingsley Enagbare

S

Adrian Amos
Dallin Leavitt

S

Darnell Savage
Rudy Ford

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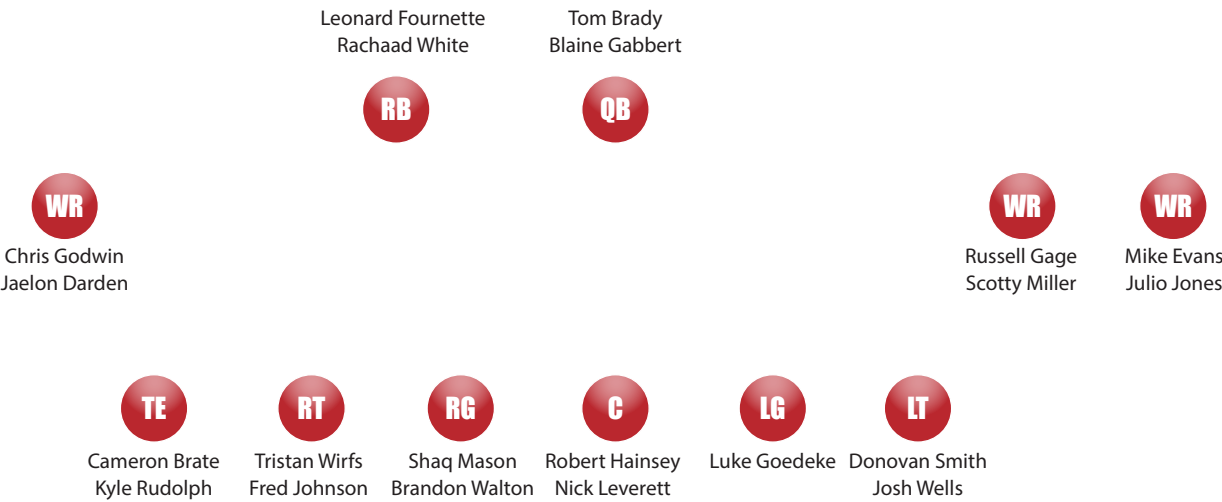


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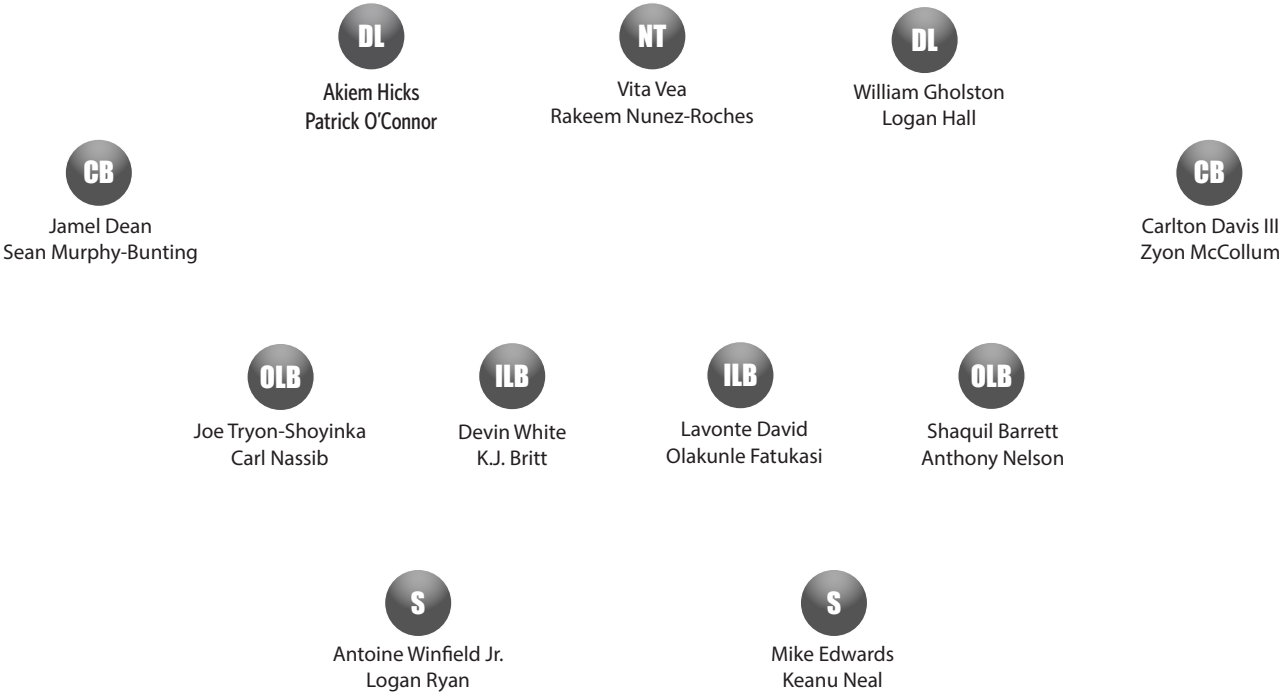
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BUCCANEERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE



DEFENSE



SCHEDULE

Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 7:15 p.m.

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

Monday's Games
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 7:15 p.m.

Next Thursday's Games
Miami at Cincinnati, 7:15 p.m.

STANDINGS

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

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NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Battle of legendary QBs

For just the fifth time, it will be Aaron Rodgers vs. Tom Brady when the Green Bay Packers travel to face the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a huge early-season showdown on Sunday.

Obviously, given the living-legend status of the quarterbacks, they will be the focus this week. The internal focus of the quarterbacks, though, will be elsewhere. The Rodgers-led Packers offense turned in a dismal opener at Minnesota and an incomplete performance on Sunday night against Chicago. The Brady-led Buccaneers offense has scored only 39 points in two games.

"I'm just trying to temper expectations," Rodgers said after throwing two touchdown passes vs. Chicago

but also misfiring on what should have been a first-drive touchdown to Allen Lazard and botching a handoff to AJ Dillon for an unforced turnover.

"Obviously, I'm going to enjoy the heck out of this one tonight, but we've got a big one next week, a tough road trip, and it's got to be better. This was better than week one but we've got to be better than this if we want to compete with Tampa."

A few hours earlier, Brady had a similar message after a 20-10 victory at New Orleans. The Buccaneers' offense has sputtered through two games. Brady has completed 59% of his passes and compiled an 82.8 passer rating, both marks far distant from his usual standard.

"It's always exciting to go up against the good teams, and I feel like we faced two good teams earlier in the year that we started with," Brady

said on the SiriusXM podcast Let's Go! with Tom Brady, Larry Fitzgerald and Jim Gray.

"We're facing a third one now and we've got to rise to the challenge. And we're playing at home for the first time; it's our home opener. I'm excited to be out there in front of our home crowd. But it's going to take better football on offense than what we've played. We've got to start playing the way that we're capable. And I've got to start doing a better job, and it starts this week."

Brady and Rodgers are two of the best in NFL history. A seven-time Super Bowl champion, the 45-year-old Brady is No. 1 all-time with 626 touchdown passes. That's 55 more than Drew Brees as he continues to rewrite the NFL record book.

Against Chicago, Rodgers became the fifth quarterback with 450 touchdown passes. He's at 451 while

throwing only 94 interceptions.

The quarterbacks, with their limited offenses, will face top defenses. The Buccaneers could be down their three top receivers; Mike Evans is appealing a suspension and Chris Godwin and Julio Jones were inactive last week. The Packers are still trying to find their way without Davante Adams. Injuries have impacted both offensive lines, too.

"It's a big challenge," Brady said. "It's a new defensive coordinator since the last time we played them and they have some really talented players on defense, really physical up front, some great edge rushers."

"Rashan Gary is a former Michigan guy that I love and he's a great player, rushes the quarterback so well. They have really athletic linebackers, first-round pick this year (Quay Walker joining All-Pro De'Vondre Campbell)."



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Sammy Watkins, right, takes a hit from a Bears player as he hauls in a reception during Green Bay's 27-10 victory over Chicago on Sept. 18.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Elgton Jenkins returns

Green Bay got better vs. Chicago with the return of offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins following last year's torn ACL.

A Pro Bowl guard in 2020 who played at a high level in place of David Bakhtiari at left tackle in 2021, he got the start at right tackle. It wasn't his finest performance but Rodgers was thrilled to get back one of the team's top players.

"Let me just say this about success," Rodgers said after the Chicago game, "and I would say the same thing to these guys and have said the same thing: The definition of success isn't always measured in stats. And for Elgton, I thought tonight was an absolutely success. I really do. He's been out for a long time, and he's battled in practice and he's battled in his rehab and he went out there and played an NFL football game. That to me is a successful night.

"A lot of times we get caught up in a definition of success that's never really attainable. So, we live in this feedback loop of negative self-talk and self-criticism that I don't think is good for a healthy ego or good for our own confidence. What I know the guys were telling him and what I feel about him is, that tonight was a huge success for Elgton. And I couldn't be prouder of Elgton Jenkins."

Slammin' Sammy

Without Adams, Green Bay's receiver corps is a work in progress. With rookies Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs not quite ready for primetime, the Packers leaned on veterans Lazard, Sammy Watkins and Randall Cobb against Chicago.

With Rodgers in spread-the-ball mode, Watkins caught three passes for 93 yards. He had a 14-yard catch on the opening scoring drive, a 24-yarder to set up the first touchdown and a 55-yarder on the clinch-



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur, center, inside linebacker Quay Walker, right, and cornerback Eric Stokes celebrate on their way off the field after the team's win over the Chicago Bears on Sept. 18 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ing drive.

"I definitely don't see him just as a possession-type receiver. I think that was pretty evident last night," coach Matt LaFleur said on Monday. "He still has an unbelievable acceleration. He's so strong. He can run through a ball. It was great to create some explosive plays with him. He just does such a great job of having aggressive hands and running through the football and it created an explosive play."

Watkins' value goes beyond his

ability to catch a few passes. He was an impact blocker to help fuel a Packers rushing attack that topped 200 yards. The blocking ability of Watkins and Lazard opens more possibilities for LaFleur.

"I love the run game," Watkins said. "It keeps you so involved with going down there, cracking safeties. The wideouts are involved the whole game, so you can't go out there and teeter around or take a play off. If you're not blocking, then you really

don't need to be out there, so it's fun.

"I've never been part of an offense that you had to block. In this offense, you have to go down there and crack the safety. You have to get your blocks and, honestly, I think that's fun. It keeps me going, keeps me in the game. And then the next play, they might do a play-action and you're wide open. That's the luxury of being in this offense, blocking and talking trash and hitting guys in the mouth."



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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 3 Games: Sunday, Sept. 25

Pittsburgh @ Cleveland Thurs. , Sept. 22
 New Orleans @ Carolina
 Houston @ Chicago
 Kansas City @ Indianapolis
 Buffalo @ Miami
 Detroit @ Minnesota
 Baltimore @ New England
 Cincinnati @ NY Jets
 Las Vegas @ Tennessee

Philadelphia @ Washington
 Jacksonville @ LA Chargers
 LA Rams @ Arizona
 Atlanta @ Seattle
 San Francisco @ Denver
 Dallas @ NY Giants..... Mon. , Sept. 26

Tie Breaker Game:
 Green Bay @ Tampa Bay



Morgan Rode
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	New England	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	Denver
Chicago	Las Vegas	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 20 @ Tampa Bay 27



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	San Francisco
Chicago	Tennessee	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 26 @ Tampa Bay 31



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	San Francisco
Houston	Las Vegas	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 13 @ Tampa Bay 24

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2022 PACKERS

REGULAR SEASON

1	Sunday, September 11	at Minnesota Vikings	12:25 p.m.	FOX
2	Sunday, September 18	at Chicago Bears	7:20 p.m.	FOX
3	Sunday, September 25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1:25 p.m.	FOX
4	Thursday, October 2	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	3:30 p.m.	SCBS
5	Sunday, October 9	at New York Giants (London)	8:00 a.m.	FOX
6	Sunday, October 16	NEW YORK JETS	12:00 p.m.	FOX
7	Sunday, October 23	at Washington Commanders	1:00 p.m.	FOX
8	Sunday, October 30	at Buffalo Bills	7:00 a.m.	FOX
9	Sunday, November 6	at Detroit Lions	12:00 p.m.	FOX
10	Sunday, November 13	DALLAS COWBOYS	1:00 p.m.	FOX
11	Monday, November 17	TENNESSEE TITANS	12:25 p.m.	FOX
12	Sunday, November 27	at Philadelphia Eagles	1:00 p.m.	FOX
13	Sunday, December 4	at Chicago Bears	12:00 p.m.	FOX
14		BYE WEEK		
15	Monday, December 19	LOS ANGELES RAMS	7:15 p.m.	ESPN
16	Sunday, December 25	at Miami Dolphins	1:00 p.m.	FOX
17	Sunday, January 1	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	12:25 p.m.	SCBS
18	January 7 or 8	DETROIT LIONS	7:00 p.m.	FOX

This Week's Winner: Iverson's Piggly Wiggly

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record	Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	12-4	21-11	Morgan Rode	9-7	18-14
Gene's Floor Covering	9-7	19-13	Tim Murphy	8-8	18-14
Luke Reimer	9-7	19-13	Charter Aarrowcast	9-7	17-15
22 Shell	8-8	18-14	Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	9-7	17-15
Bill Huber.....	10-6	18-14	Tower Clock Eye Center	9-7	17-15
Buss Autoitve	11-5	18-14	Senn Insurance	9-7	15-17



Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	Denver
Chicago	Tennessee	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Tampa Bay 21



Shane Senn
Senn Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	New England	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	Denver
Chicago	Las Vegas	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Tampa Bay 31



Charter
Aarrowcast
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	Denver
Chicago	Las Vegas	Dallas
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	
	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Tampa Bay 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	NY Jets	San Francisco
Chicago	Las Vegas	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Tampa Bay 35



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

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

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Tampa Bay 20



Gene Maas
Gene's Floor
Coverings

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	San Francisco
Chicago	Las Vegas	Dallas
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Miami	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Tampa Bay 17



Bill Huber
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	San Francisco
Chicago	Las Vegas	Dallas
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Detroit	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 13 @ Tampa Bay 24



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland	Baltimore	Seattle
New Orleans	Cincinnati	Denver
Chicago	Tennessee	NY Giants
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Tampa Bay 17



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Atlanta
New Orleans	Cincinnati	San Francisco
Houston	Las Vegas	Dallas
Kansas City	Philadelphia	
Buffalo	LA Chargers	
Minnesota	LA Rams	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Tampa Bay 20

KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers will travel to face the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at 3:25 p.m. on Sept. 25 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. FOX will televise the game.

History

The Packers lead the series 33-23-1. That includes a split of two playoff games. With Tom Brady at quarterback in 2020, Tampa Bay routed the Packers in the regular season and then came to Green Bay and won again in the NFC Championship Game.

Coaches

Green Bay — Matt LaFleur, 40-11, fourth season. Tampa Bay — Todd Bowles, 2-0, first season with Buccaneers; he was 24-40 with the New York Jets from 2015-18.

When the Packers have the ball

Another week, another new coach for the Packers. At least this time, there's continuity, with Bowles having served as the Bucs' defensive coordinator the last three seasons and basically staying in that role as head coach.

Statistically, this is the best unit in the NFL. Brady might be the star but the Bucs are 2-0 because their defense has given up just 13 points in two games. That's No. 1 in the NFL. They're No. 5 in total defense (276 yards per game) and in the top six in third down, passing yards per play, passer rating, sack percentage and interception percentage.

The Bucs run a 3-4 defense. On the line, Vita Vea is flanked by former Bears star Akiem Hicks and William Gholston. Vea, a first-time Pro Bowler last year who has excellent athleticism at 347 pounds, has 1½ sacks and three quarterback hits.

The Packers are excited about the potential impact of an inside linebacker pairing of De'Vondre Campbell and Quay Walker. That's because of the annual impact of the Bucs' inside linebackers, Devin White and Lavonte David. White is off to a red-hot start with 19 tackles, three sacks and two passes defended. He had nine sacks in 2020 and was picked for his first Pro Bowl in 2021.

David, in his 11th season with the Bucs, is good for about 120 tackles per season. Shaq Barrett and Joe Tryon are the outside linebackers. Barrett led the NFL with 19½ sacks in 2019 and added 10 sacks last season.

Jamel Dean and Carlton Davis form one of the best cornerback tandems in the NFL and Antoine



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, middle, looks for running back Aaron Jones, right, on a flat route during the Packers 27-10 victory over Chicago on Sept. 18.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Winfield and Mike Edwards are the safeties. In nickel situations, Winfield moves into the slot and veteran Logan Ryan enters at safety. Offenses have to attack someone and that someone has been Davis. Dean leads the way with two interceptions and three passes defended. Edwards had a pick-six last week. This group will be a huge test for the Packers' revamped receiver corps.

When the Buccaneers have the ball

Last season, the Buccaneers operated the most pass-happy offense in the NFL. They ran the ball 33.5% of the time, the lowest rate in the league. Through two games this year, they've run the ball 49.6% of the time, the sixth-highest rate.

The 45-year-old living legend that is Brady enters his third season as the Bucs' quarterback. In 35 starts, he's thrown 85 touchdown passes vs. 24 interceptions. Last season, he led the league in completions, attempts, yards, touchdowns and yards per game.

Through two games this season, he's thrown for 402 yards with two touchdowns, one interception and an 82.8 rating.

"He still looks pretty good to me," LaFleur said. "He's one of the greatest to ever do it."

Who will he throw the ball to on Sunday? The league suspended Mike Evans for his role in a fight against the Saints last week. Evans, who's topped 1,000 yards in each of his first eight seasons, is appealing. Tampa Bay's other star receiver, Chris Godwin, is back from last year's torn ACL but was inactive vs. the Saints with a hamstring injury. Veteran addition Julio Jones (knee) also was inactive.

The Bucs beat the Saints, anyway, with Breshad Perriman scoring a touchdown and Russell Gage catching five passes. Scotty Miller, who stunned the Packers just before halftime of the 2020 title game, added three catches. On Tuesday, they signed veteran slot Cole Beasley.

The running game runs almost exclusively through Leonard Fournette. "Playoff Lenny" has carried 45 times for 192 yards, a 4.3 average. The Saints stopped him cold last week, though.

The weak link is the offensive line with center Ryan Jensen on injured reserve and guard Ali Marpet's surprise retirement. Donovan Smith and Tristan Wirfs are the bookend tackles; Smith was inactive last week with an elbow injury. His backup, Josh Wells, is not good. Rookie Luke Goedeke, a native of Whitelaw, is the left guard.

Special teams

Ryan Succop, who just turned 36, is back for his third season as kicker. He's made 83.1% of his field goals in his career, including 6-of-7 to start this season. He does not have a big leg, which is why punter Jake Camarda handles the kickoff chores. A fourth-round pick this year, Camarda has punted nine times and allowed minus-3 return yards.

Second-year receiver Jaelon Darden handles punt returns (9-yard average) and veteran running back Gio Bernard returns kickoffs (one return, 14 yards).

LaFleur likes how Green Bay's units are trending under coordinator Rich Bisaccia.

"I thought that's as aggressive as we've been in my time here," LaFleur said. "I think there's a mentality brewing. Again, it's only one game and you've got to do it consistently and our guys know that. Hopefully, we'll see more improvement in this upcoming game."

"We know we've got a great challenge in front of us, too. Tampa Bay is loaded. They've obviously got great coaches but when you combine that with great players as well, it will be pretty significant task."

Q&A WITH ALLEN LAZARD

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Q: When did you start kicking a soccer ball as part of your pregame routine?

A: That's been a routine for this is my third year now. I warm up with a soccer ball every day — practice, game. It's always been my thing to clear my mind and be able to focus in on what's at hand. I know that mentally, physically, if I'm kicking a soccer ball, that's implicating to myself that I'm about to be playing football here in a little bit.

Kind of just goes hand in hand of being repetitive, doing the same thing every single day and getting in that mindset so, when I take the field, I'm in the right place mentally and physically to go out there and perform.

Q: Did you grow up playing soccer?

A: I didn't. I started to become a fan of soccer in college; I started playing FIFA a lot. A few years ago, I had just gotten really bored with warming up with high knees and jogging and stuff. So, a soccer ball's a little bit more fun and adds a little more flavor to it, I

AT A GLANCE

Number: 13

Age: 26

Season: 4

College: Iowa State

guess. I don't know, it's a fun hobby.

I think a lot of other guys have picked up on it, as well, just being able to kick the soccer ball around. Just venturing outside of our football norms in that sense, we have the hoop in the team room and we're playing knockout. Just because we're football players and being able to expand our horizons and be able to make ourselves more multifaceted.

Q: Why soccer?

A: I just wanted to start playing soccer, just wanted to start kicking the ball. I like juggling. I think juggling's really good for balance and control, understanding the body movements and everything puts you in very uncomfortable positions for us, at least, because we're not normally on one leg. Being able to balance while also trying to control a ball and do all the skills that it takes to be able to juggle.

Q: Can you really juggle?

A: Yeah.

Q: Three balls?

A: Three. Never really got to four.

Q: What do you juggle?

A: Whatever I want.

Q: Not knives or chainsaws?

A: Never know.

Q: Back to football. Do you feel any pressure?

A: Nope.

Q: On yourself? Because you've really embraced stepping into that No. 1 role.

A: I've always taken ownership in whatever work I've been doing. This is obviously my job, playing receiver here, and I've taken ownership for the room, so regardless of who we've had in the room the past few years, I've always taken complete ownership. Whether it was me out there on the field or not, those guys are a reflection of me because they're putting on the same uniform that I am, from that regard.

So, yeah, I just plan on going out there, playing to the best of my ability and doing what I can to help the team win.

Q: Did you always have that No. 1 mentality, even when the rest of the league didn't see it?

A: I mean, I've been a No. 1 receiver my whole life until I came into the NFL, so I don't know why I would change my mental view from that standpoint, just because I got to the league and there's other guys around here from that standpoint.

Now, from a depth chart standpoint, obviously it's been different and more clear, but that shouldn't change my mentality I feel like, as far as how I go about my business.

Q: So, even though you were undrafted (in 2018) and didn't make the Jaguars' roster — heck, you didn't make this roster a year later — your confidence never wavered?

A: No, because I feel like I've been doubted my whole life, whether it's been high school, college, here obviously, in different regards of life, as well. I don't take the outside noise and digest it from that sense. I've always just focused on myself and tried to develop to be the best version of myself.

Q: Is there extra satisfaction when the results follow?

A: Absolutely. I don't know why negative satisfaction or dissatisfaction would come from making things come to fruition.



Green Bay Packers receiver Allen Lazard, right, celebrates a touchdown with quarterback Aaron Rodgers during the win over the Chicago Bears on Sept. 18 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Pack rebounds from loss with win over Bears

Jones leads the way with 170 yards, 2 TDs

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Green Bay Packers bounced back from a division loss against the Minnesota Vikings with a 170-yard and two touchdown performance from Aaron Jones in a 27-10 victory over the Chicago Bears on Sept. 18 in Green Bay.

With 132 yards rushing and 38 yards receiving, Jones logged the first 100-yard rushing game by a Packer against the Bears since Ty Mont-

gomery did so on Dec. 18, 2016. In week one, Jones was limited to just five rushes and eight touches in total. With the lack of touches in week one, Jones still averaged 9.8 yards per carry. The University of Texas-El Paso alum didn't quite reach that 9.8 yards per carry this week, but rather recorded 8.8 yards per carry on 10 more rushes.

Jones was not the only running back that was busy, as A.J. Dillon recorded 61 rushing yards on 18 carries and six receiving yards on one reception. With an extra 10 yards rushing from Aaron Rodgers, the Packers totalled 203 yards rushing, 23 more than the Bears, who finished with 180.

While both running backs served well in their own right, Jones' second touchdown came when both players

were on the field together in the mid-second quarter. Motioning from the left side of the field to the right, Jones took a touch pass and with Dillon lead blocking, Jones hit the edge and converted an eight-yard touchdown down the right-side sideline.

The offensive disparity between the teams came from the quarterback position though, as Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers went 19-of-25 for 234 yards and two touchdowns, while Bears quarterback Justin Fields completed just seven passes for 70 yards and one interception. Fields' biggest impact came through direction of his legs though, as the 23-year old quarterback ran for 20 yards on eight carries, including a touchdown.

Green Bay jumped out to 3-0 lead on a 40-yard field goal, after a 13-play drive that included six combined

touches from Jones and Dillon. Getting the running backs involved early was a point of emphasis for the Packers as they prepared for the week after the two backs totaled only 15 rushing attempts against Minnesota.

"Coach came out and said that we are going to get you and A.J. the ball more and get you more involved," said Jones. "That naturally put a smile on my face and know that I had to show up when my number was called."

From there, the Bears immediately drove down the field and finished the drive with a three-yard touchdown run from Fields. Bears running back David Montgomery recorded 38 yards on the drive, with rushes of 4, 12, 13 and 9 yards. A majority of the yardage came though as Fields hit former Green Bay wide receiver



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, right, celebrates with teammates Elton Jenkins, left, and Allen Lazard after Lazard's five-yard touchdown catch in Green Bay's 27-10 victory over Chicago on Sept. 18.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Equanimous St. Brown for 30 yards on a flea flicker.

The second quarter was all Green Bay, as LaFleur's gameplan of getting Jones involved came to fruition. Jones scored on the first play of the second quarter, as he took a pitch to the right side of the field and ran in a 15-yard touchdown.

Three punts later, Jones found himself back in the end zone on the touch pass with Dillon lead blocking. The big play on that drive came from rookie wide receiver Romeo Doubs as he took a screen and picked up 20 yards on second-and-28. Veteran Randall Cobb then hauled in a nine-yard reception to pick up the first down to set up Jones' touchdown.

"You could argue that that might have been the most pivotal moment in the game," said LaFleur on Doubs' reception. "Our guys got out and did a great job blocking for him. The guy is electric with the ball in his hands and he is another guy that we have to try and find ways to get him the football."

A quick three-and-out from the Bears' offense gave Green Bay the ball back only one minute and 17 seconds later. A 20-yard reception from Cobb and a nine-yard reception from tight end Robert Tonyan set up a five-yard touchdown reception from Allen Lazard in his first game of

the season.

Seeing Lazard back on the field was a sound sight for Packers fans, as he was projected to be in the No. 1 receiver heading into the season.

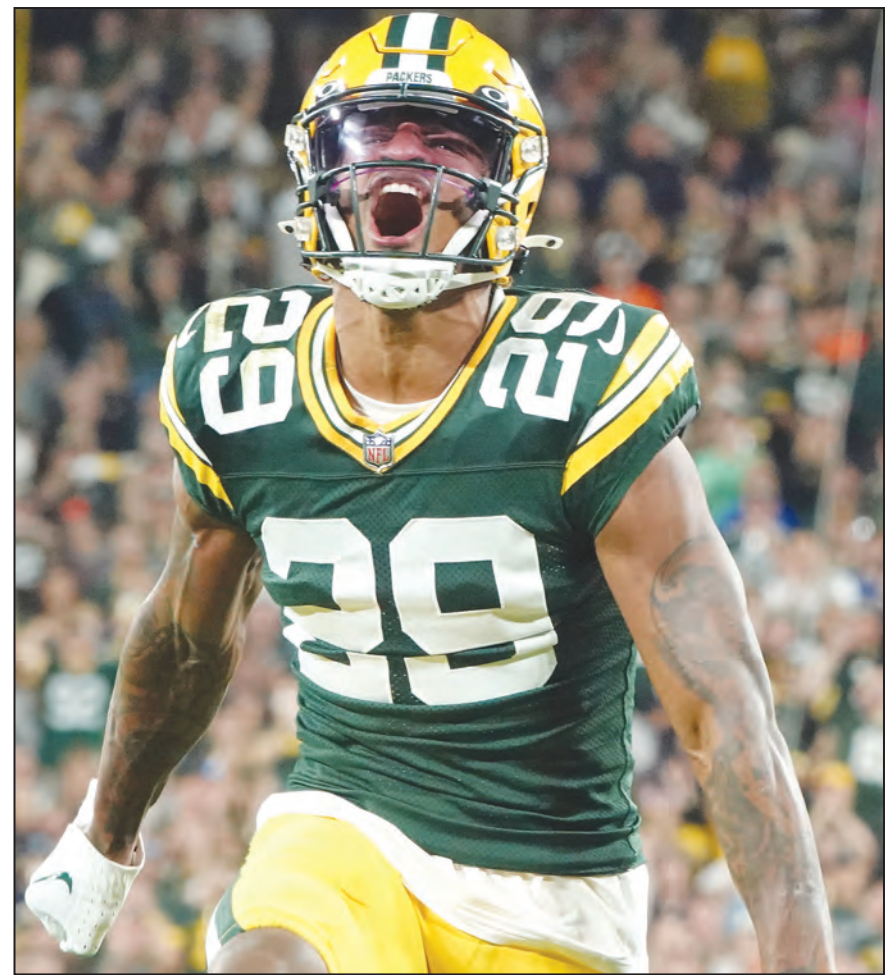
Another player who returned on Sunday was offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins. Jenkins tore his anterior cruciate ligament in November last year in a game against the Vikings.

"If he is not in the lineup, we don't win that game," said LaFleur. "It transcends his level of play — what he is able to bring to us. For his first night out, I thought he did a great job."

This win vaulted Green Bay to 783 wins in the franchise's history, which sets them one win back from the Bears at 784. Over the 203 games in the series between the two rivals, the Packers hold an 103-94-6 record, averaging 17.7 points per game to Chicago's 17.1. On top of that, LaFleur is in his fourth season in the NFL and still has not lost back-to-back regular season games.

"It was a hard fought, physical game — we know that every time we play the Chicago Bears," said LaFleur. "It is a great rivalry. It is a great NFC North opponent. I have a lot of respect for not only their players, but their coaches on that side."

lreimer@newmedia-wi.com



Green Bay Packers cornerback Rasul Douglas celebrates during the team's win over the Chicago Bears on Sept. 18 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



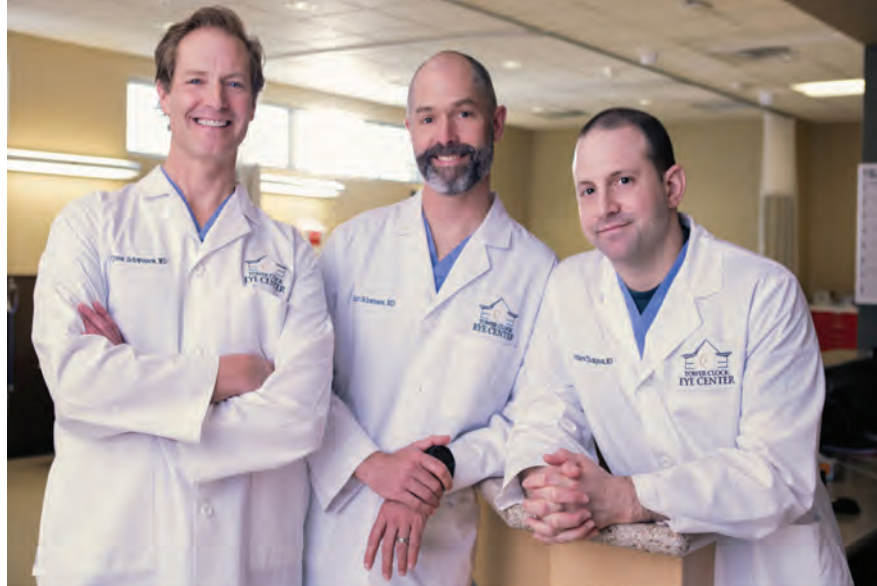
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