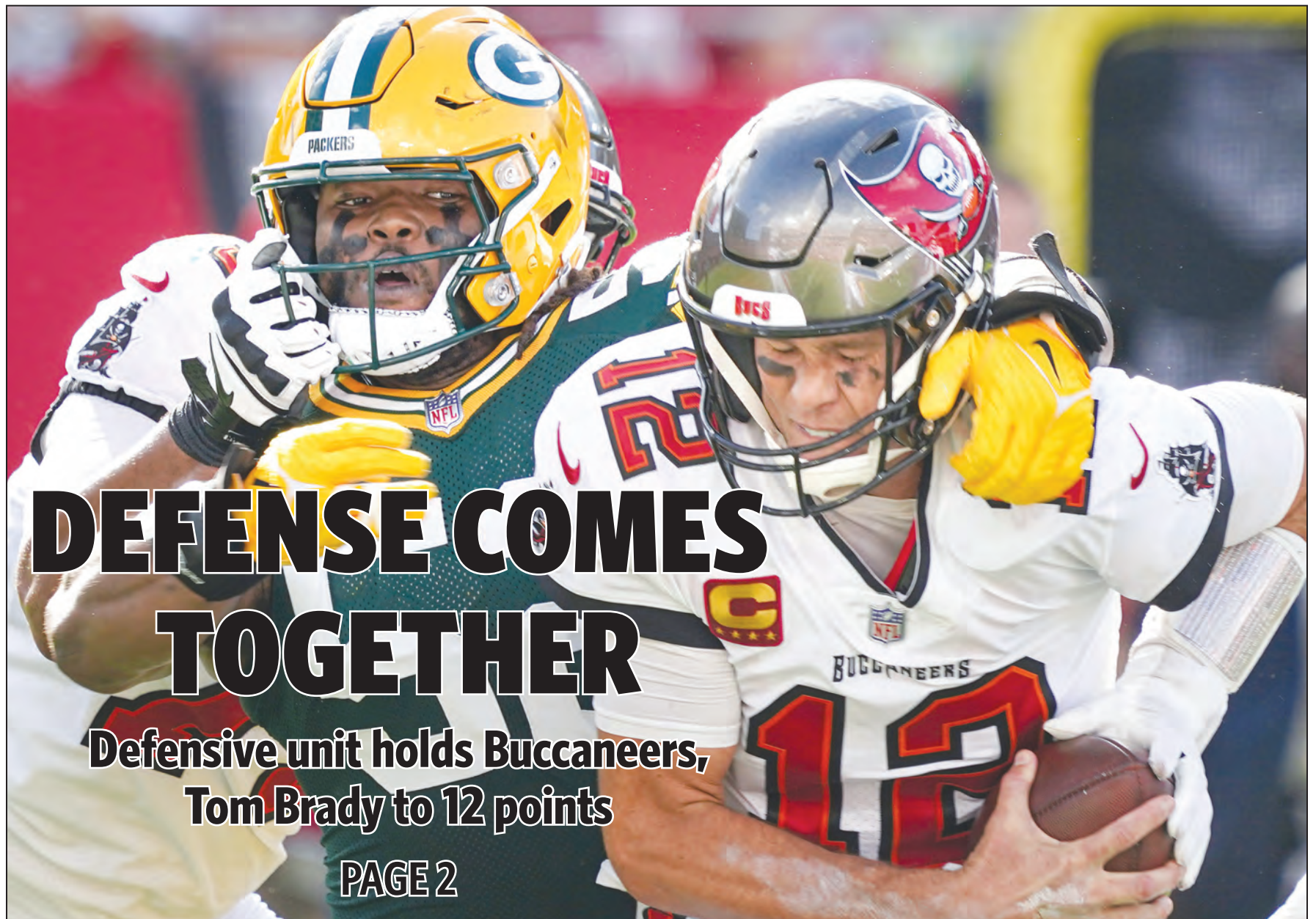




Green Bay Packers linebacker Rashan Gary, left, tries to bring Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady to the ground during a game on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida.

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Packers defense proves it can win games

Fournette held to 35 rush yards

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Coming into the 2022 season, high expectations were set on Green Bay's defense, as on paper it looked like one of the better units in the NFL.

After a poor passing defensive performance in week one and a poor rushing defensive performance in week two, the defense fully came together in Green Bay's week three win over Tampa Bay. The Packers held the Buccaneers to just 12 points and one touchdown pass from quarterback Tom Brady.

While Green Bay's offense jumped out to a hot start, scoring on the team's first two drives, it stalled after an Aaron Jones fumble at the goal line gave the Buccaneers the ball back late in the second quarter.

Though the offense may not have achieved expectations against Tampa Bay, the defense more than made up for it, holding Buccaneers running back Leonard Fournette to just 35 rushing yards. Not only was Fournette getting stuffed, Brady and the passing game suffered three sacks by way of two from defensive tackle Kenny Clark and one from linebacker Rashan Gary.

The defense really proved itself though, after Tampa Bay's offense marched down the field and scored a touchdown to cut Green Bay's lead to two with 14 seconds remaining in the game. On the subsequent two-point conversion attempt, Brady's pass was deflected on the outstretched arm of Packers linebacker De'Vondre Campbell.

"One thing we always talk to our guys about is just how do we respond when adversity strikes and I thought, just specifically our defense, to allow a touchdown there on the two minute drive and to reset themselves and play that final play," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "I just loved how we responded."

LaFleur said that he thought this win over Tampa Bay was "gritty." While that may be because of the low scoring, the turnovers favoring Green Bay played a factor in their win. Green Bay forced three fumbles, recovering two of them. The Packers are now minus two in the turnover differential category, but the game against Tampa Bay proved that if the offense turns the



Green Bay Packers defensive lineman Kenny Clark celebrates during the team's win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ball over, the defense can turn the ball over and win the game.

With a core of defenders that include Preston Smith, Adrian Amos and Jaire Alexander, none may be more crucial than Campbell. The one-time First-Team All-Pro selection has turned into the leader of the defense. Against Tampa Bay, Campbell recorded 14 tackles, which lead the team.

"He's a special player," said quarterback Aaron Rodgers, talking about Campbell. "He is coming into his own as a leader, but it always amazes me, even after a game like this, to think back to a couple of years ago when nobody really wanted him and he was out there as a late signing free agent, and here is 14 tackles today, deflection at the end of the game — says a lot about the type of person that he is."

While a lot of expectations were high on the secondary and young linebackers, Clark has once again proved himself as one of the best defensive tackles in the NFL. Much of Fournette's disappointment on the ground came as a result of Clark's inside play, as his two sacks, coupled with four tackles prevented Brady and company from being comfortable.

Gathering all of those pieces together, plus the secondary, Green Bay put together a great performance and shut down a high octane offense like Tampa Bay. Packers fans may be accustomed to Green Bay winning games with the offense, but the reverse may be a part of the team moving forward. With teams like Buffalo, Minnesota and the Los Angeles Rams on the schedule, the defense will need to be as good as they

were against the Buccaneers.

"We are more concerned about getting better — getting better each and every week," said LaFleur on if he is happy with a 2-1 record. "You never want to finish where you start, so you have to keep improving."

Another highlight of Green Bay's defense was Keisean Nixon, who replaced and injured Alexander. Nixon finished the game with six tackles, which was third on the team. Nixon also forced one fumble of the three total.

While the offense only scored 14 points in week three, if the defense can continue to improve, that may be as many points as Green Bay needs to win games.

lreimer@newmedia-wi.com



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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	23	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
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
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	24	2	Memphis
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	31	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	22	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	24	R	Miami
Reserve/Injured							
11	Sammy Watkins	WR	6-1	211	29	9	Clemson
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	24	3	UCLA
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	24	2	Mississippi State
Practice Squad							
19	Danny Etling	QB	6-3	222	28	1	LSU
34	Micah Abernathy	S	6-0	195	25	1	Tennessee
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
48	DQ Thomas	LB	6-2	216	23	R	Middle Tennessee State
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	27	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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1	DeVante Parker	WR	6-3	218	29	8	Louisville
2	Jalen Mills	CB	6-0	191	28	7	LSU
3	Jabrill Peppers	DB	5-11	213	26	6	Michigan
4	Bailey Zappe	QB	6-1	220	23	R	Western Kentucky
5	Brian Hoyer	QB	6-2	216	36	14	Michigan State
6	Nick Folk	K	6-1	222	37	15	Arizona
7	Jake Bailey	P	6-2	205	25	4	Stanford
8	Ja'Whaun Bentley	LB	6-2	244	26	5	Purdue
9	Matthew Judon	LB	6-3	261	30	7	Grand Valley
10	Mac Jones	QB	6-3	217	24	2	Alabama
13	Jack Jones	DB	5-11	175	24	R	Arizona State
15	Nelson Agholor	WR	6-0	198	29	8	USC
16	Jakobi Meyers	WR	6-2	200	25	4	North Carolina State
18	Matthew Slater	WR	6-0	205	37	15	UCLA
21	Adrian Phillips	DB	5-11	210	30	8	Texas
22	Cody Davis	DB	6-2	203	33	10	Texas Tech
23	Kyle Dugger	DB	6-2	220	26	3	Lenoir-Rhyne
24	Joshuah Bledsoe	S	5-11	201	23	1	Missouri
25	Marcus Jones	DB	5-8	175	23	R	Houston
26	Shaun Wade	CB	6-1	191	24	2	Ohio State
27	Myles Bryant	DB	5-9	185	24	3	Washington
30	Mack Wilson Sr.	OLB	6-1	233	24	4	Alabama
31	Jonathan Jones	DB	5-10	190	29	7	Auburn
32	Devin McCourty	DB	5-10	195	35	13	Rutgers
35	Pierre Strong Jr.	RB	5-11	205	23	R	South Dakota State
37	Damien Harris	RB	5-11	213	25	4	Alabama
38	Rhamondre Stevenson	RB	6-0	230	24	2	Oklahoma
41	Brenden Schooler	DB	6-1	205	25	R	Texas
48	Jahlani Tavai	MLB	6-2	246	26	4	Hawaii
49	Joe Cardona	LS	6-3	245	30	8	Navy
50	Raekwon McMillan	LB	6-2	242	26	5	Ohio State
52	Harvey Langi	LB	6-2	250	30	5	Brigham Young
55	Josh Uche	LB	6-3	245	24	3	Michigan
58	Anfernee Jennings	LB	6-3	259	25	3	Alabama
60	David Andrews	C	6-3	300	30	8	Georgia
63	Chasen Hines	OL	6-3	330	22	R	LSU
65	James Ferentz	OL	6-2	300	33	6	Iowa
69	Cole Strange	OL	6-5	305	24	R	Tennessee-Chattanooga
71	Mike Onwenu	OL	6-3	350	24	3	Michigan
72	Yodny Cajuste	OL	6-5	310	26	3	West Virginia

76	Isaiah Wynn	OL	6-2	310	26	5	Georgia
77	Trent Brown	OL	6-8	370	29	8	Florida
81	Jonnu Smith	TE	6-3	248	27	6	Florida International
83	LiJordan Humphrey	WR	6-4	225	24	3	Texas
84	Kendrick Bourne	WR	6-1	190	27	6	Eastern Washington
85	Hunter Henry	TE	6-5	250	27	7	Arkansas
90	Christian Barmore	DL	6-5	310	23	2	Alabama
91	Deatrich Wise Jr.	DL	6-5	275	28	6	Arkansas
92	Davon Godchaux	DT	6-3	311	27	6	LSU
93	Lawrence Guy Sr.	DL	6-4	315	32	12	Arizona State
95	Daniel Ekuale	DT	6-3	305	28	4	Washington State
96	Sam Roberts	DT	6-5	295	24	R	Northwest Missouri State
97	DaMarcus Mitchell	DL	6-3	260	23	R	Purdue
98	Carl Davis Jr.	DL	6-5	320	30	8	Iowa

Reserve/Injured

11	Tyquan Thornton	WR	6-2	182	22	R	Baylor
14	Ty Montgomery	WR	6-0	216	29	8	Stanford
17	Kristian Wilkerson	WR	6-1	214	25	1	Southeast Missouri State
33	Joejuan Williams	CB	6-3	212	24	4	Vanderbilt
51	Ronnie Perkins	LB	6-3	247	23	2	Oklahoma

Reserve/Non-Football Injury

13	Quinn Nordin	K	6-1	189	24	2	Michigan
64	Andrew Stueber	OL	6-6	325	23	R	Michigan

Reserve/Retired

19	Malcolm Perry	WR	5-10	175	25	3	Navy
28	James White	RB	5-10	205	30	9	Wisconsin

Practice Squad

17	Tristan Vizcaino	K	6-2	203	26	2	Washington
19	Laquon Treadwell	WR	6-2	215	27	5	Mississippi
35	Brad Hawkins	DB	6-1	221	24	R	Michigan
36	Kevin Harris	RB	5-10	225	21	R	South Carolina
42	J.J. Taylor	RB	5-6	185	24	3	Arizona
45	Cameron McGrone	LB	6-1	236	22	1	Michigan
61	Marcus Cannon	OL	6-6	335	34	11	TCU
62	Bill Murray	OL	6-4	265	25	1	William & Mary
66	Kody Russey	OL	6-2	300	24	R	Houston
72	Jeremiah Pharms Jr.	DL	6-3	275	25	1	Friends U.
74	LaBryan Ray	DL	6-4	290	24	R	Alabama
80	Lynn Bowden Jr.	WR	5-11	204	24	3	Kentucky
82	Tre Nixon	WR	6-2	180	24	1	UCF
87	Matt Sokol	TE	6-5	249	26	1	Michigan State
88	Scotty Washington	WR	6-5	217	25	1	Wake Forest

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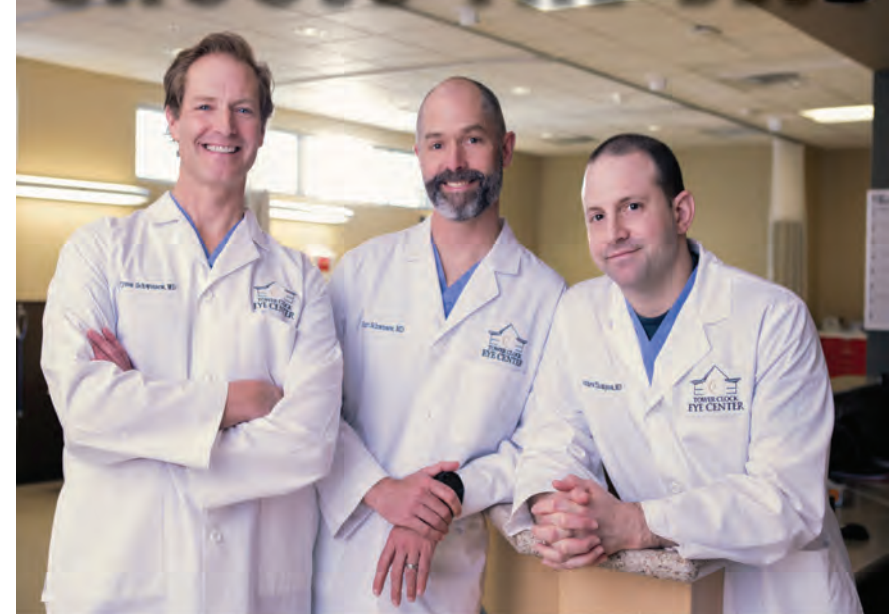
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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

GREEN BAY PACKERS (2-1) VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (1-2)

WHEN: 3:25 p.m. Sunday
WHERE: Lambeau Field
TV: CBS
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Patriots
All-time, regular season: 5-6
All-time, postseason: 1-0
All-time, at Packers: 3-1
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have lost three of their past four matchups with the New England Patriots. Green Bay's lone home loss to New England came in 2006.
Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 4, 2018, Patriots won 31-17 at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Then-New England quarterback Tom Brady led two scoring drives in the fourth quarter to help his team prevail. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 259 yards and two touchdowns in the loss.

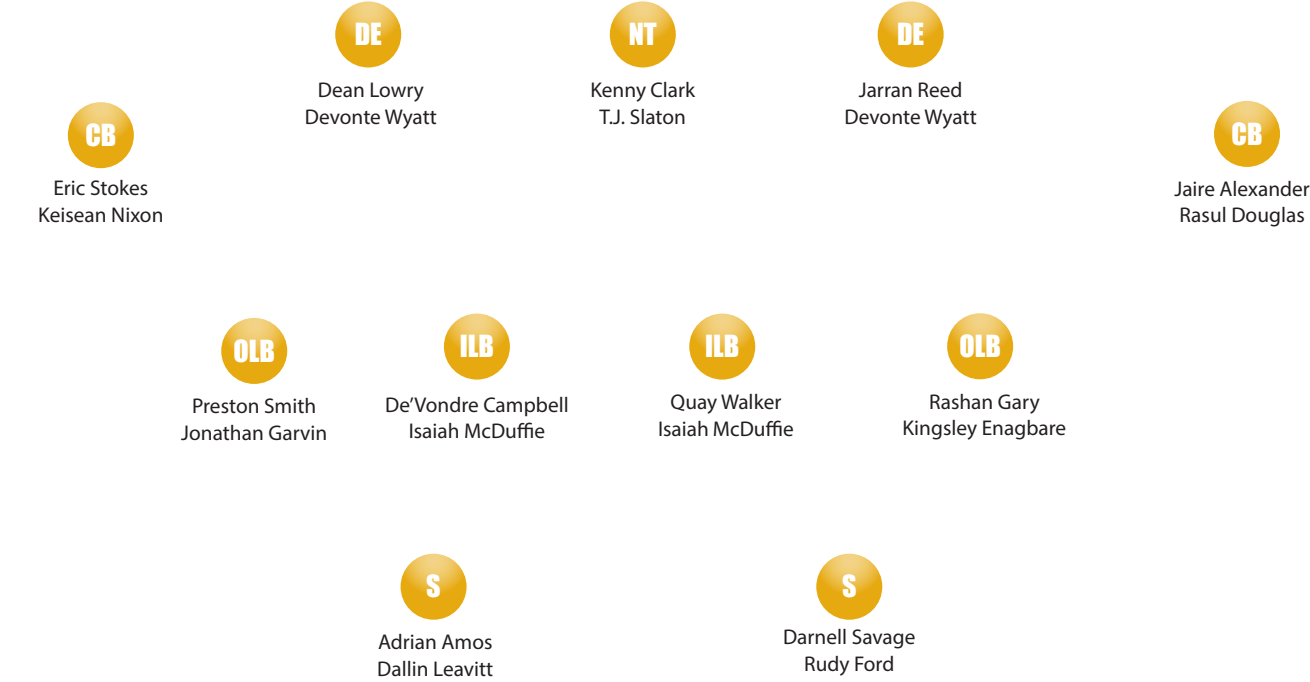
SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	Loss 23-7	
Sept. 18	vs. Chicago	Win 27-10	
Sept. 25	at Tampa Bay	Win 14-12	
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



DEFENSE



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Sept. 26, 12:30 p.m.

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PATRIOTS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR

Nelson Agholor
Kendrick Bourne

RB

Damien Harris
Pierre Strong Jr.

QB

Mac Jones
Brian Hoyer

RB

Rhamondre Stevenson

TE

Hunter Henry
Jonnu Smith

RT

Isaiah Wynn

RG

Mike Onwenu
Chasen Hines

C

David Andrews
James Ferentz

LG

Cole Strange
James Ferentz

LT

Trent Brown
Yodny Cajuste

WR

Jakobi Meyers
DeVante Parker

DEFENSE

DE

Deatrich Wise Jr.
DaMarcus Mitchell

DL

Davon Godchaux
Carl Davis Jr.

DL

Christian Barmore
Daniel Ekuale

DE

Lawrence Guy Sr.
Sam Roberts

CB

Jonathan Jones
Marcus Jones

LB

Matthew Judon
Josh Uche

LB

Ja'Whaun Bentley
Jahlani Tavai

LB

Mack Wilson Sr.
Raekwon McMillan

S

Kyle Dugger
Adrian Phillips

S

Devin McCourty
Jabrill Peppers

CB

Jalen Mills
Myles Bryant

SCHEDULE

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

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

Monday's Games
L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Next Thursday's Games
Indianapolis at Denver, 7:15 p.m.

STANDINGS

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

GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

NEW LOOK, SAME GOALS

Packers enter season missing big piece, so others must step up

PAGE 2

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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers will host the New England Patriots at 3:25 p.m. on Oct. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. CBS will televise the game.

History

The Packers and Patriots have split their 12 meetings. That includes Green Bay's victory in Super

Bowl XXXI. The last time the teams met at Lambeau, Green Bay won 26-21. Ha Ha Clinton-Dix's late break-up of Tom Brady's deep ball to Rob Gronkowski was the decisive play.

Coaches

Green Bay — Matt LaFleur, 41-11, fourth season. New England — Bill Belichick, 255-101, 23rd season; he's 291-145 across 28 total years coaching, with six Super Bowls to his name.

When the Packers have the ball

The Patriots obviously aren't the same without Tom Brady but they're not the same defensively, either.

After finishing second last year in points allowed, they enter the game ranked 22nd (23.7 per game). They're OK across the board — 15th in yards allowed per play, 22nd in rushing yards allowed per play and 11th in passing yards allowed per

play. The early bugaboos are third down (27th at 47.5% conversions) and red zone (22nd at 66.7% touchdowns).

New England operates out of a 3-4 base alignment. The front consists of Lawrence Guy and 2021 second-round pick Christian Barmore as the ends and Davon Godchaux on the nose. Guy is quite a story. A seventh-round pick by the Packers in 2011, he never played in



Green Bay Packers receiver Randall Cobb, left, tries to elude Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive back Logan Ryan during a game on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

a game for Green Bay but will make his 100th career start on Sunday.

Deatrich Wise and Matthew Judon are the outside linebackers. Wise leads the team with four sacks. A sixth-year pro, that's only one off his career high.

Judon, who signed with the Patriots in free agency in 2021 and posted 12½ sacks, has three sacks. Judon has 11 pressures, as many as Green Bay's Rashan Gary and Preston Smith.

Ja'Whaun Bentley and Mack Wilson are the inside linebackers. Bentley, who had a career-high 109 tackles and forced three fumbles last season, is second on the team with 16 tackles.

In the secondary, Jonathan Jones and Jalen Mills are the cornerbacks and Adrian Phillips and Devin McCourty are the safeties.

Myles Bryant mans the slot in nickel situations and safety Jabrill Peppers gets a lot of playing time, too.

Jones is the latest stud. He has one interception, two forced fumbles and allowed only six completions.

Mills has an interception, too, but he and Bryant should be attacked by Aaron Rodgers.

The 35-year-old McCourty has a team-high 17 tackles and has 31 interceptions in his 12-plus seasons with the Patriots.

"We know we're gonna have our work cut out for us," Jones said of facing Rodgers. "Getting here into the film study this week and getting used to him. They're a different team (at the) skill positions, but he's the same quarterback and he's slinging the ball."

When the Patriots have the ball

The Packers are going to catch a huge break. Impressive second-year quarterback Mac Jones suffered a high-ankle sprain during the waning moments of last week's loss to Baltimore and is expected to be sidelined for at least a few weeks. The next man up is Brian Hoyer, a 13-year pro. He hasn't won a start since the 2016 season with Chicago.

The Patriots' most dangerous playmaker is receiver DeVante Parker. With Jones in the game, he caught five passes for 156 yards vs. the Ravens last week. All his receptions gained at least 20 yards.

Jones has the arm strength to take advantage of Parker's skill-set; Hoyer might not. Nonetheless, he'll be the man to watch for Green Bay's secondary, which beat the Buccaneers despite Jaire Alexander sustaining a groin injury on the



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur, middle, celebrates a touchdown with quarterback Aaron Rodgers during the win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

opening series.

Parker is part of a quality receiver corps that includes Jakobi Meyers, field-stretching Nelson Agholor and former 49ers player Kendrick Bourne. Meyers was among the league leaders in slot receptions last year. He has the only drop on the team.

Damien Harris and Rhamondre Stevenson provide the one-two punch in the backfield. They've both been effective, with Harris rushing for 160 yards with a 4.6-yard average and Stevenson adding 145 yards and a 5-yard average.

According to Pro Football Focus, Stevenson averages a robust 4.2 yards after contact. He will be a big test for a Packers defense that tackled poorly the first two weeks but was excellent vs. the Bucs.

Hunter Henry and Jonnu Smith are the tight ends. There's a good bit of name recognition with those two but they've combined for 10 receptions for only 86 yards. Neither

are renowned for their blocking, either.

The line consists of left tackle Trent Brown, left guard Cole Strange, center David Andrews, right guard Mike Onwenu and right tackle Isaiah Wynn. Strange, this year's first-round pick, has allowed one sack. Wynn, the first-round pick in 2018, has been flagged four times.

Special teams

Packers kicker Mason Crosby and his Patriots counterpart, Nick Folk, both entered the NFL in 2007. Folk is 3-of-4 on the field goals this season after hitting 62-of-67 the last two years.

He's got a strong leg, having made five kicks from 50-plus yards last year.

Patriots punter Jake Bailey has kicked nine times. Only three were returned, though one of those was taken back 43 yards.

That could mean some opportu-

nities for Amari Rodgers, who has delivered a few quality returns for Green Bay. His 27-yarder vs. Tampa Bay was wiped out by the bogus running-into-the-punter call on Tipa Galeai.

Packers punter Pat O'Donnell is off to a tremendous start, ranking fifth in net average. He kicked seven times at Tampa Bay and pinned the Buccaneers inside their 15 on five of them.

GM Brian Gutekunst made two superb bargain signings with Rudy Ford and Keisean Nixon. They've been superb as the fliers.

"You guys can feel those guys getting down there, both Keisean and Rudy," LaFleur said. "They can cover up a lot of ... mistakes in your coverage lanes. Obviously, Pat had an amazing day punting the football. Just their ability to get down and win their one-on-ones or win a double-team on the outside, I think made a huge difference in our punt unit."

BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 5 Games: Sunday, October 2

Miami @ Cincinnati Thurs., Sept. 29
Minnesota @ New Orleans
Cleveland @ Atlanta
Buffalo @ Baltimore
Washington @ Dallas
Seattle @ Detroit
LA Chargers @ Houston
Tennessee @ Indianapolis

Chicago @ NY Giants Jacksonville @ Philadelphia
NY Jets @ Pittsburgh Arizona @ Carolina
Denver @ Las Vegas Kansas City @ Tampa Bay LA
Rams @ San Francisco Mon., Oct. 3

Tie Breaker Game:
New England @ Green Bay



Morgan Rode
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	LA Chargers	Las Vegas
New Orleans	Indianapolis	Kansas City
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Rams
Buffalo	Philadelphia	
Washington	Pittsburgh	
Detroit	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : New England 20 @ Green Bay 23



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Miami	LA Chargers	Las Vegas
Minnesota	Indianapolis	Kansas City
Cleveland	NY Giants	LA Rams
Buffalo	Philadelphia	
Dallas	Pittsburgh	
Detroit	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 10 @ Green Bay 24



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati	LA Chargers	Las Vegas
New Orleans	Tennessee	Kansas City
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Rams
Baltimore	Philadelphia	
Washington	Pittsburgh	
Seattle	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 14 @ Green Bay 21

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2022 PACKERS

REGULAR SEASON

1	Sunday, September 11	at Minnesota Vikings	1:00 p.m.	FOX
2	Sunday, September 18	at Chicago Bears	1:00 p.m.	FOX
3	Sunday, September 25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1:00 p.m.	FOX
4	Sunday, October 2	at New England Patriots	1:00 p.m.	FOX
5	Sunday, October 9	at New York Giants (London)	1:00 p.m.	FOX
6	Sunday, October 16	at New York Jets	1:00 p.m.	FOX
7	Sunday, October 23	at Washington Commanders	1:00 p.m.	FOX
8	Sunday, October 30	at Buffalo Bills	1:00 p.m.	FOX
9	Sunday, November 6	at Detroit Lions	1:00 p.m.	FOX
10	Sunday, November 13	at Dallas Cowboys	1:00 p.m.	FOX
11	Thursday, November 17	at Tennessee Titans	8:00 p.m.	FOX
12	Sunday, November 27	at Philadelphia Eagles	1:00 p.m.	FOX
13	Sunday, December 4	at Chicago Bears	1:00 p.m.	FOX
14				
15	Monday, December 12	at Los Angeles Rams	8:00 p.m.	FOX
16	Sunday, December 19	at Miami Dolphins	1:00 p.m.	FOX
17	Sunday, January 1	at Minnesota Vikings	1:00 p.m.	FOX
18	January 7 or 8	at Detroit Lions	1:00 p.m.	FOX

This Week's Winners: Gene's Floor Coverings & Shawano Seasons Restaurant

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record	Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Gene's Floor Coverings.....	10-6	29-19	Tim Murphy	8-8	26-22
22 Shell	10-6	28-20	Bill Huber.....	7-9	25-23
Buss Automotive.....	9-7	27-21	Luke Reimer	5-11	24-24
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	10-6	27-21	Morgan Rode	6-10	24-24
Charter Arrowcast	9-7	26-22	Tower Clock Eye Center	7-9	24-24
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	5-11	26-22	Senn Insurance	6-10	21-27



Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Miami
New Orleans
Atlanta
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 28 @ Green Bay 34



Shane Senn
Senn Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
Minnesota
Cleveland
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
NY Jets
Arizona

Las Vegas
Tampa Bay
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 23 @ Green Bay 31



Charter
Arrowcast
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Miami
Minnesota
Cleveland
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Denver
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 9 @ Green Bay 20



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
New Orleans
Cleveland
Buffalo
Washington
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 14 @ Green Bay 28



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
New Orleans
Atlanta
Buffalo
Washington
Seattle

LA Chargers
Indianapolis
Chicago
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
San Francisco

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 20 @ Green Bay 27



Gene Maas
Gene's Floor
Coverings

This Week's Picks:

Miami
Minnesota
Cleveland
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Indianapolis
NY Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 20 @ Green Bay 23



Bill Huber
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
New Orleans
Cleveland
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ Green Bay 30



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
New Orleans
Atlanta
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

LA Chargers
Tennessee
NY Giants
Philadelphia
NY Jets
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ Green Bay 30



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Cincinnati
Minnesota
Cleveland
Buffalo
Dallas
Detroit

Chargers
Indianapolis
Giants
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Arizona

Las Vegas
Kansas City
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England @ 12 Green Bay 27

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Rookie sensation

Ready or not, it's Romeo Doubs time.

With veteran Sammy Watkins placed on injured reserve on Saturday, the rookie receiver played 55 of 62 snaps in the Green Bay Packers' victory at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

All he did was catch all eight passes thrown his way for 73 yards and one touchdown.

"This is a kid that's got a ton of potential, and we're excited about him," coach Matt LaFleur said on Monday. "Obviously, young player, not even close to his ceiling. And he's just got to keep taking the same approach, which I know he will. He takes it one day at a time, and he tries to be his best every day.

"There's going to be a lot of learning along the way. I think these next few weeks are going to be just critical to his growth (with him) having the majority of the snaps. He cares about the game and he gives great effort each and every day."

Doubs, a fourth-round pick who dominated lesser competition at Nevada, was one of the team's top players through the first half of training camp before fading into the background a bit.

His ability to get open and to play with faster-than-the-stopwatch explosiveness has never been in doubt.

With Watkins out for at least three more games, the door is open for Doubs to grab a firm hold on a role for the rest of the season.

"He was a guy that showed up consistently being able to separate vs. man coverage that we were getting," LaFleur said. "I thought he did an outstanding job. He's got the body-movement skills, he's got the explosiveness, he plays on his in-steps, gets both feet in the ground, and that allows him to get off bump coverage. And the game is not too big for him.

"I think you see it. I feel it every time we go out there: a guy that's just showing more and more confidence, and I think that's a big part of being able to play to your potential."

In a hyped receiver class, Doubs ranks fourth with 14 receptions. That trails only the first-round trio of the Jets' Garrett Wilson (18), the Saints' Chris Olave (17) and the



Green Bay Packers offensive players celebrate a touchdown catch by receiver Romeo Doubs during the game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Falcons' Drake London (16).

He is No. 1 in yards after the catch, too, as LaFleur wanted to get the ball into the playmaker's hands in what turned out to be an excellent first NFL start.

"You can say that, yeah," Doubs said after the game. "I'm just ready to move forward from whatever's happening. I understand it was a big game, but that's just part of it. Whatever performance, if it was a bad performance, I'd be the same way. All right, good, just making sure I stay true to who I am, not just as a player but as a person."

Meanwhile, Watkins signed with the Packers in hopes of resurrecting a career that had gone south due to injuries.

After catching three passes for 93 yards in a week 2 victory over Chicago, he suffered a hamstring injury at Wednesday's practice. By the time his IR stint is over, he will have missed 34 games the past eight seasons.

LaFleur took the blame. It wasn't just the coach trying to redirect criticism toward one of his players.

There have been too many hamstring and groin injuries to start this season, so he's having

his strength and conditioning staff evaluating his practice routine in search of answers.

"I feel awful about that because I feel like we probably pushed our guys a little too hard in that regard in coming off a physical game, a night game," LaFleur said of the Chicago game. "He's done everything in his power to be in great shape, and he is in great shape.

"You look at the volume and the workload and always trying to look at yourself critically in thinking about what we could've done better. We've had a few too many soft-tissue injuries, so that probably tells you that we're maybe pushing it a little too much. It's an unfortunate part of it. Feel bad about it but there's nothing we can do about it retroactively. We can only control moving forward what we ask our guys to do."

Dominant defense

The Packers haven't won many games like the one at Tampa Bay. During the Aaron Rodgers era, the Packers were just 3-26 when scoring 14-or-fewer points in a game. One of those wins was the 2019 opener at Chicago. The other two

ONLINE

More Green Bay Packers news can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

were doing the Super Bowl season of 2010.

"We don't need to play the Bucs to get confidence," said linebacker De'Vondre Campbell, who preserved the victory with a leaping deflection of the Bucs' two-point play. "We know how good we can be. Everybody got their own opinions but we know what's up."

Improved tackling

Through the first two games, the Packers missed 16 tackles, according to SportRadar. That was the fourth-most in the NFL.

They missed only one vs. Tampa Bay, by our review. That was Campbell vs. receiver Breshad Perriman, that play ending when rookie Quay Walker forced a fumble and key turnover.

"I thought our guys, they did an outstanding job," LaFleur said of the tackling. "Tampa, obviously, they were missing some key pieces that present some problems. But we can only control what we can control, and our guys were flying around. Like you mentioned, you miss a tackle and a guy causes a fumble. So, I just thought our effort, by and large, playing in those elements and those conditions, I thought our guys were flying around."

Packers and the schedule

The Packers have a chance to make some hay the next four weeks with Sunday's home game against the Patriots (1-2), a trip to London to play the Giants (2-1), a return trip to Lambeau to play the Jets (1-2) and a game at the Commanders (1-2).

They'll need to win those games. The Washington game kicks off a three-game road trip that includes dates at Buffalo and Detroit. Plus, the Packers have road games against the NFL's last undefeated teams, the Eagles in week 12 and the Dolphins in week 16.

"If you would've said in the offseason we'd be 2-1 after three with these two tough road games, I'd say that's probably pretty good," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said, "considering that you would expect Minnesota and Tampa Bay to be in the top seven teams at the end of the season. So, I feel good about that."

Q&A WITH CLAY MATTHEWS

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Former Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Clay Matthews has retired from the NFL. He took part in this interview as part of a promotion for Tide laundry detergent.

Q: What are you up to these days?

A: Man, just raising three kids. I've got a 3-, a 5- and a 7-year-old. The level of stress in the household getting the kids off to school, the bedtime routine, it's more stressful than any game I ever played in my career.

Q: Tell me about superstitions. Are you supposed to wash your lucky jersey?

A: I'm teaming up with Tide this year to tackle superstitions about fans' lucky jerseys and how they may be lucky but, ultimately, they're dirty. We need you to wash them and, preferably, with Tide. We're going to have some fun this year being interactive with the fans.

If you go to my Instagram page, I posted a video asking the fans what they would do to wash their lucky jerseys. You can comment underneath my post and you'll have a chance to win big prizes. We're just trying to have some fun this year with Tide and with all the fanbases around the league, trying to get fans involved with their lucky jerseys – no matter whose that is – and ultimately trying to get them washed.

After being in a locker room for so many games, I understand how dirty and smelly these things can get.

Q: When you played, did you have any superstitions?

A: I don't know if you'd call it superstition or if it was just routine. I was very much a routine guy, whether it was what time I went to sleep, what time I woke up, the order in which I got dressed or stretched or worked out. Very much a routine guy. In the spirit of this message that I'm pushing, they must have all been superstition.

Q: My 10-year-old plays football. How should he get ready?

A: You just eat macaroni and throw your pants on and just roll out to the game. I think it's a little different when you've got 330-pound tackles trying to take your head off. It's been so long, I forget. Just get there two hours early so you don't get fined. I think that's ultimately what you need to do.

Q: What do you miss most about football?



Green Bay Packers linebacker Clay Matthews celebrates during a game against the Buffalo Bills on Sept. 19, 2010 in Green Bay.

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A: Just the day-to-day interaction with the guys – with everyone, really, whether it's the chefs, the coaches, the staff. It's so cliché. You miss the locker room but that truly is (what you miss). You don't get that anymore when you're talking to your kids. The inappropriate jokes, you can throw political correctness aside and just have fun because you're all in this for a common goal.

Fortunately, I still have good relationships with a number of guys still on that team as well as the Rams. Whether it's through text or Instagram or whatnot, just shooting them something quick to keep that relationship going and still feeling like you're a part of it. That's the thing that you miss the most.

Obviously, the success and the gameday and this and that but just that everyday interaction, messing with the boys, is something that you can't replicate when you're done playing.

Q: I think people will always remember the Super Bowl play, when you forced the fumble to start the fourth quarter to help you win the game. Do you ever go back and watch that stuff? And if you do, does it give you chills? Or are you not one to live in the past?

A: I did relive it, unfortunately, when Kevin Greene passed away. I don't do a lot of social media but I had seen that clip where Kevin comes up to me at the beginning

of the fourth quarter and he pretty much lets me know that Charles (Woodson), who was the undoubted leader of the defense at the time – really, of the team – he was out and it was time to step up and make a play.

For the very next play to have an inkling of what was going to happen, direct a few people around in front of me and make a big play that we went down and scored another touchdown at a time when they were marching and they had some momentum, yeah, it kind of gives you some chills.

But my favorite play is probably the Monday night game – it was Brett Favre and Rodgers up at the Metrodome in 2009. We lost but I stripped Adrian Peterson and ran it back 42 yards for a touchdown and just chucked the ball in the stands. That one was truly memorable for me because I was just trying to keep my head above water at the time.

I wasn't starting at the time but, naturally, you're coming into the NFL and you're just trying not to screw up any plays. To make a play like that that burst me onto the scene, ultimately, sticks out because it embodied where I was going in my career.

Q: You're retired now. How big of a decision was that because you can still play.

A: It's funny. For most people in the NFL, they don't get to make that decision. I feel like I had a say

in that. I'm at peace with how my career ended.

Obviously, I felt like I could've still played after the 2019 season in L.A. I felt like I was still rolling. I felt really good, I was healthy. I was on a good defensive unit. Ultimately, they decided to go another way and was another veteran casualty.

I had offers to continue playing but this was March 2020 and this was right when COVID really shut everything down. My family and I had just moved back to California and we just had our third child and the kids were starting school. Ultimately, the offers weren't moving the needle enough to relocate my family or for me to leave my family.

I stayed ready, kind of hoping for an opportunity, but nothing really came to fruition. That was OK. I thought it was pretty telling when the games came on and I enjoyed having a beer and smoking some fatty meats on Sunday as opposed to feeling that anxiety of gameday. I thought that was pretty telling.

I do feel like I could've played a few more years and, who knows where I would've ended up, but I'm OK with it now. I've fallen into this next chapter of my life, which is being a dad and helping my kids out and being at home – well, I was going to say being with my wife more but she probably appreciated that I was out of the house when I was playing. Everything's good. Everything's great.

Packers hold off Brady, Buccaneers late



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws a pass during the team's win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Rodgers tosses 2 touchdowns in win

By FRANK GOODALL

The Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers did just enough to beat Tom Brady and the short-handed Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The NFL most valuable player threw for 255 yards and two touchdowns, and the Packers withstood a late rally led by Brady to hold off the Bucs for a 14-12 victory on Sept. 25 in Tampa, Florida, in the first meeting between the teams since Tampa Bay won the NFC Championship Game two seasons ago.

"It's week three. It feels good for sure. There could be some tiebreakers and stuff down the line when you beat a team like this," Rodgers said after defeating Brady for the first time in three tries since the seven-time Super Bowl champion joined the Bucs in 2020.

"I have a ton of respect for him.

He's been a trailblazer at the position for a long time," Rodgers said. "I've had a lot of fun competing against Tom over the years and it's always nice to come out on top."

Rodgers tossed TD passes of 5 yards to Romeo Doubs and 6 yards to Allen Lazard on his team's first two possessions, while the Bucs' offense sputtered much of the day without star receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Julio Jones.

For the second straight week, the Bucs (2-1) were held without a touchdown into the fourth quarter. Brady finally got them into the end zone on a 1-yard pass to Russell Gage, capping an 89-yard drive with 14 seconds remaining.

Tampa Bay's bid to force overtime with a 2-point conversion was thwarted, first by a delay-of-game penalty and then an incomplete pass that was tipped by Packers linebacker De'Vondre Campbell, who also had 14 tackles.

The Packers (2-1) forced two turnovers and held Tampa Bay to fewer than 200 net yards before the Bucs' final drive.

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“One thing we always talk to our guys about is how are you going to respond when adversity strikes, specifically our defense,” Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. “To allow a touchdown there in a two-minute drive and just to reset themselves and play that final play. It was a gritty team win. We had a lot of guys step up.”

Rodgers completed 27 of 35 passes and was intercepted once in the first matchup in NFL history in which each starting quarterback has won at least three regular-season league MVP awards.

Rodgers has won four, including the past two, while Brady has three MVPs.

Ryan Succop kicked a pair of 45-yard field goals for the Bucs, the second trimming Green Bay’s lead to 14-6 midway through the third quarter.

Brady, who won three of four previous head-to-head matchups with Rodgers, finished 31 of 42 passing for 271 yards and one touchdown.

He was sacked three times and got minimal help from a rushing attack that produced 34 yards on 14 attempts.

“Too many plays where we were

behind the sticks, penalties, turnovers, missed opportunities,” Brady said. “The defense played great. We have to do a better job. We haven’t scored many points all season.”

The 45-year-old Brady actually had Tampa Bay’s longest run of the day, an 18-yard scramble that was nullified by a holding penalty in the third quarter. He broke the brace he wears on his left knee when he slid at the end of the run.

After leading the NFL in completions, passing yards and touchdowns last season, Brady has thrown for 673 yards, three TDs and one interception through three games.

With Evans serving a one-game suspension for his role in an on-field brawl the previous week at New Orleans and without Godwin and Jones — two of Brady’s other primary receivers — the Bucs were forced to rely on Gage, Breshad Perriman, Scotty Miller, Jaelon Darden and newly signed Cole Beasley against the Packers.

Rodgers led long scoring drives on Green Bay’s first two possessions, building a 14-3 halftime lead that could have been bigger.

Aaron Jones fumbled into the end zone after a 3-yard reception

to the Bucs 2, costing the Packers a chance to add at least three points late in the second quarter. The Green Bay offense was never the same after that.

Safety Ryan Logan recovered the fumble that kept the Packers from building on their lead, and later had an interception that led to Succop’s second field goal.

Bucs coach Todd Bowles noted his defense settled after a slow start, keeping Tampa Bay in the game. In the end, though, it wasn’t enough.

“There were a few things that

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happened that we can’t let happen,” Bowles said. “We had six crucial penalties. We made dumb mistakes.”

Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari played for just the second time since tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee on Dec. 31, 2020.

Rookie receiver Christian Watson (hamstring) was inactive. Cornerback Jaire Alexander (groin) did not play in the second half.

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