



Green Bay Packers defenders chase Philadelphia Eagles running back Miles Sanders during a game on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia.

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Latest loss reveals most concerning issue for Pack

Green Bay opponents rushing for average of 154.8 yards a game this season

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Green Bay Packers have dealt with a lot of problems holding the team back from its full potential this year, but none may be more damaging than the run defense.

Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts just set the single-game rushing record in Eagles history from a quarterback, with 157 rushing yards, while running back Miles Sanders added another 143 on the ground, in route to a 363-yard rushing game from the Eagles.

That should not seem out of the ordinary though, as Green Bay now ranks 31st in the NFL in rushing yards allowed per game, giving up 154.8 rushing yards per game. Only the Houston Texans have a worse rushing defense at 168.6 yards.

Over just the last three games, Green Bay is giving up 203.3 yards per game on the ground, which is 32nd in the league and 14 more yards than the Atlanta Falcons.

“To come up short is really disappointing but bottom line is, you can’t allow someone to run for (363) yards against you,” said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. “I think we were in some situations where we were capable of making some tackles that we didn’t make.”

LaFleur is right. Although it may not seem likely, the Packers are still in the playoff picture. If the team wants to reach the postseason, it can not give up 363 rushing yards.

This was a winnable game for the Packers, but missed tackles may just be the reason that they lost. LaFleur noted that Green Bay missed 15 tackles on Sunday, a number that Pro Football Focus bumped up to 16. Rookie linebacker Quay Walker, who has taken over the play-calling duties on defense, missed four alone. Two other linebackers Isaiah McDuffie and Krys Barnes added another two each, to bring a total of eight missed tackles from the linebacker position.

Reading that, it makes sense why Philadelphia rushed for 363 yards.

“It’s tough to stop anything if you have 15 missed tackles,” said LaFleur. “We have to be better. We have to have a better plan. We have to go out there and execute better. We have to tackle better, because that can’t happen in this league.”

LaFleur’s answer to his impression of the rush defense against Philadel-



Green Bay Packers linebacker Quay Walker, right, runs with the ball as cornerback Jaire Alexander looks to throw a block during a game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia.

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phia makes sense, but should be concerning for Packers fans. Whether it has been the rushing defense, the poor play of the receivers to start the year, or the usage of running back Aaron Jones, LaFleur has answered criticism by saying that the team has to do better. That has not necessarily been the case, as the high point of the season came early, when the team started 3-1.

When the Packers win, it is much easier to mask those deficiencies, but after winning just one out of the team’s past eight games, there shouldn’t be any more “we have to be better.” Whether it be the defensive gameplan, the players, or the coaches, the Packers have not been better this year — the team gave up just 106 yards on the ground per game last year — it has become glaringly obvious that a below-average offense cannot succeed if the defense is giving up 363 rushing yards in a game.

Playing devil’s advocate, the Pack-

ers have played a lot of good runners this years: Dalvin Cook (Minnesota), Leonard Fournette (Tampa Bay), Saquon Barkley (New York Giants), Breece Hall (New York Jets), Jamaal Williams (Detroit), Derrick Henry (Tennessee) and the potent rushing attacks of Chicago and Philadelphia. That’s no excuse though, as every team in the NFL plays Pro Bowl running backs on a weekly basis and each team comes up with a different gameplan to stop them.

The gameplan for Green Bay has succeeded in some instances, like against Fournette, but has totally failed in other instances, like against Hall. With Cook, Williams and Chicago still yet to play their second game against Green Bay, there is not much time for LaFleur’s thought of “we have to be better.” It is now time to be better.

It sounds like De’Vondre Campbell is very close to returning, which will undoubtedly improve the rushing de-

fense, but depending on when and how much he plays, it might be too late.

Green Bay has dug itself a major hole, which tends to happen when a team loses five games in a row in the middle of the season. Yes, Rodgers has been playing hurt this year and rookies have had to step up into unfamiliar roles all around the team, but as the old cliché goes, a football game is won in the trenches.

If Green Bay has any last-ditch effort to continue playing after the regular season, the run defense needs to be the strength of this team. Cleaning up missed tackles and Campbell returning will provide positive results and should take pressure off of Walker. It is not too late for the Packers to run the table and sneak into the playoffs with a 9-8 record, but that has to start up front by stopping the run.

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#	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
9	Christian Watson	WR	6-5	208	23	R	North Dakota State
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	24	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	28	6	Auburn
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
35	Corey Ballentine	CB	5-11	196	26	4	Washburn
44	Johnathan Abram	S	5-11	205	26	4	Mississippi State
45	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	230	28	6	Cincinnati
47	Justin Hollins	LB	6-5	248	26	4	Oregon
50	Zach Tom	OL	6-4	304	23	R	Wake Forest
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	24	3	UCLA
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	24	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
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
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	26	3	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	26	4	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	25	3	Michigan

78	Luke Tenuta	T	6-8	314	23	R	Virginia Tech
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	Marcedes 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	30	8	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	25	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	27	7	UCLA
99	Jonathan Ford	DL	6-5	338	24	R	Miami
Reserve/Injured							
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Georgia
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	25	2	Utah State
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	24	4	Michigan
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	25	2	Oregon
Reserve/Non-Football Illness							
72	Caleb Jones	T	6-9	370	23	R	Indiana
Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner							
75	Sean Ryan	T/G	6-5	321	22	R	UCLA
Practice Squad							
17	Ramiz Ahmed	K	5-11	193	27	1	Nevada
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
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	24	1	TCU
39	Tyler Goodson	RB	5-9	197	22	R	Iowa
43	Kiondre Thomas	CB	6-0	186	24	1	Kansas State
48	DQ Thomas	LB	6-2	216	23	R	Middle Tennessee State
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	24	2	North Texas
57	Tim Ward	LB	6-6	255	25	3	Old Dominion
80	Dede Westbrook	WR	6-0	178	29	6	Oklahoma
82	Jeff Cotton	WR	6-2	206	25	1	Idaho
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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#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Justin Fields	QB	6-3	228	23	2	Ohio State
2	Cairo Santos	K	5-8	175	31	8	Tulane
4	Eddie Jackson	DB	6-0	206	28	6	Alabama
6	Kyler Gordon	DB	6-0	200	22	R	Washington
8	N'Keal Harry	WR	6-4	225	24	4	Arizona State
9	Jaquan Brisker	DB	6-1	200	23	R	Penn State
10	Chase Claypool	WR	6-4	238	24	3	Notre Dame
11	Darnell Mooney	WR	5-11	173	25	3	Tulane
12	Velus Jones Jr.	WR	6-0	200	25	R	Tennessee
13	Byron Pringle	WR	6-1	203	29	5	Kansas State
15	Trevor Siemian	QB	6-3	220	30	7	Northwestern
16	Trenton Gill	P	6-4	219	23	R	N.C. State
18	Dante Pettis	WR	6-1	195	27	5	Washington
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	26	5	Notre Dame
21	Darrynton Evans	RB	5-10	203	24	3	Appalachian State
22	Kindle Vildor	DB	5-11	189	24	3	Georgia Southern
25	Trestan Ebner	RB	5-11	206	23	R	Baylor
26	Justin Layne	DB	6-2	192	24	4	Michigan State
29	Dane Cruikshank	DB	6-1	209	27	5	Arizona
31	Jaylon Jones	DB	5-11	190	25	R	Mississippi
32	David Montgomery	RB	5-11	224	25	4	Iowa State
33	Jaylon Johnson	DB	6-0	196	23	3	Utah
35	Khari Blasingame	FB	6-0	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
36	DeAndre Houston-Carson	DB	6-0	202	29	7	William & Mary
37	Elijah Hicks	DB	5-11	200	23	R	California
39	Josh Blackwell	DB	5-11	180	23	R	Duke
44	Matt Adams	LB	6-0	230	26	5	Houston
45	Joe Thomas	LB	6-1	227	31	8	South Carolina State
48	Patrick Scales	LS	6-3	226	34	7	Utah State
50	Sterling Weatherford	LB	6-4	224	23	R	Miami (Ohio)
53	Nicholas Morrow	LB	6-0	216	27	5	Greenville
55	Al-Quadin Muhammad	DL	6-3	250	27	6	Miami
57	Jack Sanborn	LB	6-2	234	22	R	Wisconsin
60	Dieter Eiselen	OL	6-4	320	26	1	Yale
64	Mike Pennel Jr.	DL	6-4	332	31	9	Colorado State (Pueblo)
65	Cody Whitehair	OL	6-3	316	30	7	Kansas State
67	Sam Mustipher	OL	6-2	332	26	3	Notre Dame
69	Ja'Tyre Carter	OL	6-3	311	23	R	Southern

70	Braxton Jones	OL	6-5	310	23	R	Southern Utah State
71	Riley Reiff	OL	6-6	313	33	11	Iowa
72	Alex Leatherwood	OL	6-5	312	23	2	Alabama
75	Larry Borom	OL	6-5	333	23	2	Missouri
76	Teven Jenkins	OL	6-6	321	24	2	Oklahoma State
79	Michael Schofield III	OL	6-6	303	32	9	Michigan
84	Ryan Griffin	TE	6-6	255	32	10	Connecticut
85	Cole Kmet	TE	6-6	260	23	3	Notre Dame
88	Trevon Wesco	TE	6-3	267	27	4	West Virginia
90	Angelo Blackson	DL	6-4	315	30	8	Auburn
91	Dominique Robinson	DL	6-5	253	24	R	Miami (Ohio)
93	Justin Jones	DL	6-3	309	26	5	North Carolina State
96	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	295	26	4	Arkansas
97	Taco Charlton	DL	6-5	270	28	6	Michigan
99	Trevis Gipson	DL	6-4	263	25	3	Tulsa

Reserve/Injured

24	Khalil Herbert	RB	5-9	212	24	2	Virginia Tech
62	Lucas Patrick	OL	6-3	313	29	6	Duke
68	Doug Kramer	OL	6-2	300	24	R	Illinois
78	Dakota Dozier	OL	6-4	312	31	9	Furman
88	Tajae Sharpe	WR	6-2	194	27	7	Massachusetts

Practice Squad

14	Nathan Peterman	QB	6-2	225	28	6	Pittsburgh
17	Nsimba Webster	WR	5-10	180	26	4	Eastern Washington
20	Breon Borders	DB	6-0	189	27	4	Duke
30	Harrison Hand	DB	5-11	197	24	3	Temple
38	A.J. Thomas	DB	6-2	214	23	R	Western Michigan
43	DeMarquis Gates	LB	6-2	221	26	1	Mississippi
47	Chase Allen	TE	6-6	251	25	R	Iowa State
63	Michael Niese	OL	6-5	295	24	R	Temple
78	Kellen Diesch	OL	6-7	300	25	R	Arizona State
80	Sammis Reyes	TE	6-5	260	27	2	Loyola University
81	Jake Tonges	TE	6-4	240	23	R	California
82	Daurice Fountain	WR	6-1	210	26	4	Northern Iowa
92	Trevon Coley	DL	6-1	307	28	6	Florida Atlantic
95	Jalyn Holmes	DL	6-5	283	26	5	Ohio State
98	Gerri Green	DL	6-4	250	27	1	Mississippi State

Practice Squad/Injured

46	Andre Anthony	DL	6-4	251	26	R	LSU
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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Bears
All-time, regular season: 103-94-6
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Bears: 52-53-2
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have dominated the Chicago Bears of late, winning each of the last seven matchups. The Packers have lost just once in Chicago since 2011.
Last meeting, regular season: Sept. 18, 2022, Packers won 31-10 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Green Bay scored 21 points in the second quarter, with Aaron Rodgers throwing two touchdowns and Aaron Jones scoring twice.

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	Win 27-24 (OT)	
Oct. 9	vs. N.Y. Giants (London)	Loss 27-22	
Oct. 16	vs. N.Y. Jets	Loss 27-10	
Oct. 23	at Washington	Loss 23-21	
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	Loss 27-17	
Nov. 6	at Detroit	Loss 15-9	
Nov. 13	vs. Dallas	Win 31-28	
Nov. 17	vs. Tennessee	Loss 27-17	
Nov. 27	at Philadelphia	Loss 40-33	
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

PACKERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR

Christian Watson
Sammy Watkins

RB

Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB

Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

WR

Randall Cobb
Samori Toure

WR

Allen Lazard
Romeo Doubs

TE

Marcedes Lewis
Robert Tonyan

RT

Yosh Nijman
Rasheed Walker

RG

Jon Runyan
Royce Newman

C

Josh Myers
Zach Tom

LG

Elgton Jenkins

LT

David Bakhtiari
Zach Tom

DEFENSE

DE

Dean Lowry
Devonte Wyatt

NT

Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE

Jarran Reed
Devonte Wyatt

CB

Rasul Douglas
Shemar Jean-Charles

CB

Jaire Alexander
Keisean Nixon

OLB

Preston Smith
Jonathan Garvin

ILB

De'Vondre Campbell
Isaiah McDuffie

ILB

Quay Walker
Krys Barnes

OLB

Kingsley Enagbare
Jonathan Garvin

S

Adrian Amos
Dallin Leavitt

S

Darnell Savage
Rudy Ford

FYI
Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 28, 1:30 p.m.



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BEARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR

Darnell Mooney
Chase Claypool

RB

David Montgomery
Trestan Ebner

QB

Justin Fields
Trevor Siemian

FB

Khari Blasingame

TE

Cole Kmet
Ryan Griffin

RT

Larry Borom
Riley Reiff

RG

Teven Jenkins
Ja'Tyre Carter

C

Sam Mustipher
Dieter Eiselen

LG

Cody Whitehair
Michael Schofield III

LT

Braxton Jones
Alex Leatherwood

WR

Equanimeous St. Brown
Byron Pringle

DEFENSE

DE

Trevis Gipson
Dominique Robinson

DT

Justin Jones
Angelo Blackson

DT

Armon Watts
Mike Pennel Jr.

DE

Al-Quadin Muhammad
Taco Charlton

CB

Jaylon Johnson
Josh Blackwell

LB

Nicholas Morrow
Sterling Weatherford

LB

Jack Sanborn
Matt Adams

LB

Joe Thomas

S

Eddie Jackson
DeAndre Houston-Carson

S

Jaquan Brisker
Dane Cruikshank

CB

Kyler Gordon
Kindle Vildor

SCHEDULE

Thursday's Games
Buffalo at New England, 7:15 p.m.

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

Monday's Games
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on byes: Arizona, Carolina

Next Thursday's Games
Las Vegas at L.A. Rams

STANDINGS

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

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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers will travel to face the Chicago Bears at noon on Sunday at Soldier Field in Chicago. FOX will televise the game.

History

In a series that dates to 1921, the Packers lead 104-95-6. That includes a split of two playoff games. They've won seven in a row, 12 of the last 13, 16 of the last 18 and 22 of the last 25.

When the Bears beat the Packers 30-10 on Oct. 25, 1992, Chicago had extended its series lead to 80-57-6. Since then, Green Bay is a resounding 46-14.

Coaches

Green Bay — Matt LaFleur, 43-18, fourth season. Chicago — Matt Eberflus, 3-9, first season.

When the Packers have the ball

Will it be Aaron Rodgers starting and trying to retain his ownership over Chicago? Or will Jordan Love be getting his first shot in the century-old rivalry? Whoever it is will be facing a vulnerable defense.

The Bears enter week 13 ranked 28th with 25.4 points allowed per game. Eberflus was hired because of his defensive acumen but it hasn't shown up. On a per-play basis, the Bears are 29th overall (5.92), 24th against the run (4.68) and 31st against the pass (7.61).

They're also 31st on third down (48.9% conversions) and 27th in the red zone (65.9% touchdowns). The one trouble spot is takeaways, where the Bears are 10th with 15.

Chicago operates out of a 4-3 alignment. Having traded away two of their stars, linebacker Roquan Smith and pass rusher Robert Quinn, it is a unit that will enter the offseason seeking an infusion of talent.

Up front, Trevis Gipson and Al-Quadin Muhammad are the ends and Justin Jones and Armon Watts are the tackles. Jones and Gipson lead that group with two sacks apiece. Gipson has a team-high eight quarterback hits and Jones has been active with five quarterback hits, eight tackles for losses and four passes defended.

Former Wisconsin player Jack Sanborn, former Packers player Joe Thomas and Nicholas Morrow are the linebackers, with Sanborn and Morrow being the every-down players.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws a pass during a game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Morrow has 78 tackles, including a team-high nine for losses. The last three weeks, Sanborn, an undrafted rookie, has games of 12 tackles and two sacks and 14 tackles.

The secondary is where there is talent. Jaylon Johnson and rookie Kyler Gordon have a chance to be a quality cornerback tandem and Eddie Jackson and rookie Jaquan Brisker already have emerged as a top pair at safety. When the Bears go with five defensive backs, it's Johnson and Kindle Vildor as the corners and Gordon in the slot.

Johnson is an excellent player, so opponents have attacked Gordon. The second-round pick has taken his lumps. According to Pro Football Focus, he's allowed an 82% catch rate and 615 yards, the second-worst and worst, respectively, in the NFL.

Brisker, also a second-round pick, is fourth on the team with 73 tackles. He leads the team with three sacks and has added one interception. His presence has helped

Jackson return to prominence. He was an All-Pro in 2018 (six interceptions, two for touchdowns) and a Pro Bowler in 2019 (two interceptions) but didn't have any interceptions in 2020 and 2021. This year, he's got four interceptions, two forced fumbles and 80 tackles.

With Gordon and Brisker in the concussion protocol last week, Jets backup quarterback Mike White threw for 315 yards, three touchdowns and a 149.3 passer rating.

When the Bears have the ball

The injury report will be a big deal this week, and not just because of Aaron Rodgers. Bears quarterback Justin Fields was inactive last week with an injured left shoulder. Last year's first-round pick hasn't been great as a passer — 59.6%, 13 touchdowns vs. eight interceptions and an 86.2 rating — but he is an electric runner with team-leading figures of 834 yards, 6.8 average and seven touchdowns. That 6.8 average ranks second in the NFL.

David Montgomery has had to carry the load with Khalil Herbert on injured reserve. Montgomery, who had 1,070 yards in 2020 and 849 yards in 13 games in 2021, has 580 yards (4-yard average) and three touchdowns. The Bears miss the explosive Herbert, who has 653 yards on the strength of a fourth-ranked 6-yard average.

No doubt the Bears will want to run the ball early and often against a Green Bay defense that allowed 363 rushing yards vs. Philadelphia, the third-worst night in franchise history. The Packers couldn't handle Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts; Fields is even more explosive as a runner.

Receivers Darnell Mooney and Chase Claypool and tight end Cole Kmet give Fields (or backup Trevor Siemian) some firepower in the passing game. Mooney leads the team with 40 receptions for 493 yards. Kmet has contributed 29 receptions for 336 yards and a team-high five touchdowns.

Acquired at the trade deadline, Claypool has only seven catches for 83 yards in four games.

Up front, rookie Braxton Jones is the left tackle, Cody Whitehair is the left guard, Sam Mustipher is the center, Teven Jenkins is the right guard and Riley Reiff is the right tackle.

Former Packers lineman Lucas Patrick, who had been starting at center, is on injured reserve (toe). Jones, a fifth-round pick, has really struggled with five sacks and 32 total pressures allowed. The Packers have struggled to mount a pass rush without Rashan Gary, though.

Special teams

In Football Outsiders' rankings, Chicago is 19th and Green Bay is 29th.

Cairo Santos has solved the Bears' longtime kicking issues. He is as reliable as they come, having converted 16-of-17 field-goal attempts. He is 4-of-5 from 50-plus yards.

Rookie punter Trenton Gill is 17th in average (47.1) and 23rd in net (40). He has only 11 inside-the-20 punts and has had one kick blocked.

The man he replaced, Green Bay's Pat O'Donnell, is 26th in average (45), 25th in net (39.9) but sixth with 22 inside-the-20s.

Receiver Dante Pettis is averag-



Green Bay Packers defensive lineman T.J. Slaton (93) reacts during a game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ing 8.4 yards per punt return and running back Trestan Ebner is averaging 22 yards per kickoff return.

Coming off a big game against Philadelphia, Packers kickoff returner Keisean Nixon will face a Bears coverage unit that is allowing 26.4 yards per return, including a 103-yard touchdown.



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Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 13 Games: Sunday, December 4

Teams on bye: Carolina & Arizona

Buffalo @ New England Thurs., Dec. 1
Pittsburgh @ Atlanta
Denver @ Baltimore
Jacksonville @ Detroit
Cleveland @ Houston
NY Jets @ Minnesota
Washington @ NY Giants
Tennessee @ Philadelphia

Seattle @ LA Rams
Miami @ San Francisco
Kansas City @ Cincinnati
LA Chargers @ Las Vegas
Indianapolis @ Dallas
New Orleans @ Tampa Bay Mon., Dec. 5

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay @ Chicago



Morgan Rode
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	LA Rams	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 24



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Kansas City	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Chicago 20



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	Washington	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	
Houston	Kansas City	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 13

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2022 PACKERS G

REGULAR SEASON

1	Sunday, September 11	at Minnesota Vikings	12:25 p.m.	FOX
2	Sunday, September 18	CHICAGO BEARS	7:20 p.m.	FOX
3	Sunday, September 25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	12:25 p.m.	FOX
4	Monday, 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	12:10 p.m.	FOX
7	Sunday, October 23	at Washington Commanders	12:00 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	12:25 p.m.	FOX
11	Monday, November 17	TENNESSEE TITANS	7:15 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.	FOX
16	Sunday, December 25	at Miami Dolphins	12:00 p.m.	FOX
17	Sunday, January 1	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	12:25 p.m.	SCBS
18	January 7 or 8	DETROIT LIONS		FOX

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Week 11 Winner:
Buss Automotive

Week 12 Winner:
22 Shell

Weekly Standings

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tower Clock Eye Center	11-5	112-68
22 Shell	12-4	111-69
Buss Automotive.....	11-5	111-69
Tim Murphy	11-5	109-71
Charter Aarrowcast	8-8	107-73
Luke Reimer	12-4	107-73

Weekly Record

Overall Record

Weekly Standings

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	10-6	107-73
Bill Huber.....	11-5	106-74
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	10-6	104-76
Gene's Floor Coverings.....	10-6	102-78
Morgan Rode	8-8	102-78
Senn Insurance	11-5	89-82

Weekly Record

Overall Record



Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	LA Rams	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Kansas City	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 17



Shane Senn
Senn Insurance

This Week's Picks:

New England	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 31



Charter
Aarrowcast
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	Miami	
Cleveland	Kansas City	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Chicago 27



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	Miami	
Houston	Kansas City	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 14 @ Chicago 28



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This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	LA Rams	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Chicago 28



Gene Maas
Gene's Floor
Coverings

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	Washington	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Denver	LA Rams	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Kansas City	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 33 @ Chicago 12



Bill Huber
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	Washington	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Packers 30 @ Chicago 20



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	Washington	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Minnesota	LA Chargers	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 38 @ Chicago 31



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo	NY Giants	Dallas
Atlanta	Philadelphia	Tampa Bay
Baltimore	Seattle	
Detroit	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Kansas City	
Minnesota	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 13

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

Repeat performance incoming?

For the Green Bay Packers, it could be a case of jumping from the frying pan and into the deep frier.

In Sunday night's loss at Philadelphia, Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts rushed for 157 yards. He had 102 yards after the first quarter and 126 yards in the first half before finishing with 157 yards. Had Eagles coach Nick Sirianni been inclined, Hurts might have set the single-game rushing record for a quarterback.

The record was set on Nov. 6 by Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields, who rushed for 178 yards against Miami.

The Packers are set to play at Chicago on Sunday. Fields sat out last week's loss to the Jets with an injured left shoulder. Watching the Green Bay defense's feeble performance against Hurts probably has Fields' shoulder feeling as good as new.

"That quarterback-run game is a monster, and they did a really good job with it scheming some stuff open," coach Matt LaFleur said of the Eagles. "There were times when we weren't in the best position for our guys.

We've got to look at everything just in terms of the different structures we're presenting to an offense and make it a little more challenging on an offense.

"We had a long discussion about that today, because, shoot, we're going against Chicago and last time I checked they've got a pretty darned good run game and they've got a quarterback that's capable of doing the same type of things. So, it's going to be another great challenge for us, for our defense and we'll see the type of improvement we make this week."

Improvement is needed everywhere after giving up 363 rushing yards — third-most in franchise history. Too often against the Eagles, Green Bay's defensive line was blown off the ball. And when there were chances to make a play, the play wasn't made.

By the staff's count, the Packers missed more than 20 tackles. It was the worst performance in LaFleur's three-plus seasons on the job. The tone was set early, when Hurts broke three tackles and gained 24 yards on the opening third-and-10.

The Packers were one of the top tackling teams in the NFL in 2021. Now, they're one of the worst. Why?

"That's a hell of a question. That's a hell of a question," LaFleur said. "I don't know. That was by far our worst tackling performance that I've seen here."



Green Bay Packers defensive players celebrate during a game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Explosive Nixon

The Packers hadn't had a kickoff return of 50-plus yards since Jeff Janis took one 70 yards in 2015. That streak seemed destined to continue on Sunday night. On his first opportunity, Keisean Nixon dropped the ball, picked it up in the end zone and slipped and fell at the 9-yard line.

For Green Bay's perennially downtrodden special teams, it looked like a case of the same old, same old.

Instead, Nixon emerged as one of the stars of the night. He returned the next kickoff 38 yards to the 41. He was only getting started. Nixon fielded the opening kick of the second half from 5 yards deep in the end zone and took it 52 yards. Finally, late in the game with the Packers trailing 40-30, Nixon took the kickoff from 6 yards deep and returned it 53 yards.

Just like that, Nixon became the only returner in the NFL this season with a pair of 50-yarders in one game.

"I love the guys on kickoff return," Nixon said. "They put me in position to win and I'm not scared to hit it. I'm going to hit it for them. If they hit a good block, I'm going to reward them with a return."

Nixon runs with more speed than the man he replaced, the since-released Amari Rodgers. Plus, his full-

throttle style has him running through would-be tacklers.

"I like that he's really fast, really physical," special teams coordinator Rich Bisaccia said recently. "He's just got something about him. He's got some dirt on the back of his neck and just makes him have a little bit of love for football and for everything we're asking him to do."

Playoff and draft picture

According to ESPN, the Packers have a 2% chance to make the playoffs. Doing so almost certainly would require sweeping the next five games to finish the season 9-8. The Eagles qualified for the postseason last year with a 9-8 record.

The Packers are in 11th place in the NFC with their 4-8 record. The Washington Commanders hold the seventh and final spot with their 7-5 record. That's a three-game lead. Plus, they own the tiebreaker.

"When you lose games, you're putting yourself farther out there," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "We have a five-game stretch. We've got to win all five and probably need a little bit of help."

The Packers have no margin for error in the playoff race and they have no margin for error as far as draft positioning. According to Tankathon, the Packers currently own the eighth

pick in the 2023 draft. But the situation could hardly be more fluid as they are one of 10 teams with four wins.

Sticking with Barry

Entering training camp, Green Bay's defense looked like one of the best in the NFL. It dominated the playoff matchup against San Francisco, retained All-Pro linebacker De'Vondre Campbell and playmaking cornerback Rasul Douglas in free agency, added Jarran Reed and Nixon in free agency, and used first-round picks on linebacker Quay Walker and defensive tackle Devonte Wyatt.

Instead, the Packers are 23rd in points allowed and 31st against the run. LaFleur, however, is sticking with defensive coordinator Joe Barry.

"We're not going to go down that road," LaFleur said. "If I thought there was an issue there, then we'd make the change. But we work as a staff and, collectively, we're all in this sucker together and it's never just one person. It's never one person."

It starts with myself and then it goes to our assistant coaches and then our players. And we're all in this together. It's not just one person. If I felt confident it was one person, then I would pinpoint it and let you guys know that. But it's collectively and it starts with myself. I've got to be better for everybody here."

Q&A WITH JUSTIN HOLLINS

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Packers claimed Justin Hollins off waivers from the Los Angeles Rams last Wednesday, and he arrived in Green Bay in time for practice on Thanksgiving. A few days later, he had one sack and two tackles for losses in his Green Bay debut at Philadelphia.

Hollins was a fifth-round draft pick by the Denver Broncos in 2019. After one year in Denver, he had a career-high three sacks for the Rams in 2020.

Q: What is it like getting to Green Bay on Thanksgiving?

A: It was great today. Airport wasn't congested. It was way calmer. It's nice, man. And it's green out here, too.

Q: Don't get used to it being so warm.

A: That's what I was told. I was told this was a hot week. 30-something outside? 40?

Q: You played in a playoff game here in 2020.

A: That was cold. I was Vasolined up. I had the Vaseline all on my arms.

Note: It was 35 at kickoff when the Packers beat the Rams 32-18 on Jan. 16, 2021.

Q: How similar is this defense

to the one you played in with the Rams?

A: Joe B (Packers defensive coordinator Joe Barry) was over there in L.A. a couple years ago (with then-Rams defensive coordinator Brandon Staley when I first got there. So, I built a relationship with him. Looking over it, scheming over it, there's a lot of carryover. Different terminology here and there.

Of course, he's going to put his own spin on things. So, I just got to adapt to that and have a good handle on that. It shouldn't be hard.

Q: What was it like playing for Barry?

A: It was great. I didn't get to get coached by him specifically because I also came in late, first-game-of-the-season-type thing. I didn't have that big experience with him. I was in the OLB room. He was in the ILB room. But I spent some time in there, rotating between ILB and OLB.

So, I did get a little relationship with him and I did get to get some of his greatness to rub off.

Q: You went from starting to this season to being released. What happened?

A: Man, you can't get your feelings

involved, you know? It's a business, at the end of the day. So, you come in with a fresh slate, just ready to put in work and whatever happens, happens. You can only control what you can control, and you move forward with the best attitude and put your best foot forward.

Q: What have these last 24 hours been like?

A: Shoot, you get cut, get released, and then you call your agent, have a conversation with your agent and stuff. We were just talking about possibilities, different teams that reached out,

certain ballclubs, and he got good feedback.

It's just a waiting game to see what happens. You never know. You're not in on any of the calls.

Q: Did you have any sense that you'd land here?

A: Actually, I was a little surprised. I was a little surprised. But I also didn't know about Rashan (Gary)'s traumatic injury. I didn't know about that. So, my condolences to him on that. Hopefully he's in good spirits and stuff. But we didn't talk about (Green Bay). But I'm here now, so I'm happy to be here.

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Rodgers injures ribs in loss to Eagles

Veteran quarterback wants to keep playing as long as team is mathematically alive



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, back, absorbs a hit during a game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 27 in Philadelphia.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

By **DAN GELSTON**

The Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers kept bending, wincing — the Green Bay star and reigning NFL MVP openly in pain.

Rodgers was forced out by injuries in a loss to the Eagles.

He's not ready to wave the white flag on the season.

"As long as we are mathematically alive, I'd like to be out there," Rodgers said.

Rodgers sustained rib injuries late in the third quarter to go with a broken right thumb suffered weeks ago. He was forced to leave early in another Packers' loss that all but eliminated them from playoff contention.

Rodgers was 11-of-16 passing for 140 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions in a 40-33 loss at Philadelphia on Nov. 27.

Now, the question is will Rodgers miss much — if any — time?

Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said it was too early to determine if Rodgers will be healthy enough to play Sunday against Chicago.

"We've got to have more conversation before we ever get into that," LaFleur said. "As long as he's able to go, I expect him to be out there."

Rodgers, who turns 39 this week, said he was worried about a punctured lung as well. That scare turned out fine, but Rodgers said he'll need more tests Monday to find out the severity of the rib injuries.

"The pain was tough," he said. "I couldn't really breathe or rotate my upper body."

But he expected to play.

The Packers (4-8) have little to play for and could shut down Rodgers to take a closer look at backup Jordan Love, their 2020 first-round pick.

Love connected with Christian Watson on a 63-yard, catch-and-run touchdown that cut Philly's lead to 37-30 in the fourth. He was 6-of-9 passing for 113 yards.

"I'm not shocked, to be honest with you, that he went out there and played well and showed great poise," LaFleur said. "We see it on a daily basis in practice. People might not necessarily agree with that, but I see it every day."

The 2020 first-round pick from Utah State, Love has drawn much scrutiny ever since the Packers drafted him. He was only 6-of-9 for 73

yards and no touchdowns or interceptions in limited time this season.

Love made his first career start at Kansas City last year after Rodgers' positive COVID-19 test and went 19 of 34 for 190 yards with a touchdown and an interception as the Packers lost 13-7.

"In my mind, it is just go and make the most of it," Love said. "Opportunities do not come around too often. You have to go make the most of it."

Rodgers already played the last several weeks with a broken right thumb and appeared in pain during a drive in the third that led to a Packers field goal. Rodgers attempted only a few short throws and grimaced after he released the ball.

LaFleur said he was about to call a pass play in the third when it became obvious Rodgers could not really throw.

"So we kept going run after run after run," he said.

Rodgers hurt his thumb Oct. 9 during a foiled Hail Mary attempt on the final play of the Packers' 27-22 loss to the New York Giants in London. Although the Packers have listed Rodgers with a thumb injury ever since, the four-time MVP hadn't said publicly until this week that it was broken.

Rodgers said his thumb "felt pretty good this week" and he has not yet discussed potential surgery.

The Packers were 4-6 in 2016 when Rodgers predicted the team would "run the table." Sure enough, a victory at Philadelphia started an eight-game winning streak that sent the Packers to the NFC Championship Game, where they lost to Atlanta.

Not this week in Philly, not against Jalen Hurts and his 157 yards rushing — an Eagles record for a quarterback.

Rodgers said he's still waiting until the offseason to make a decision on his future.

Rodgers hasn't missed any games, but the injury has limited his practice time and he hasn't approached the level he reached while earning MVP honors each of the last two seasons. That loss to the Giants started a 1-7 tailspin that has put the three-time defending NFC North champions' playoff hopes in jeopardy.

"We have a five-game stretch; we need to win all five," Rodgers said. "And we probably need some help."

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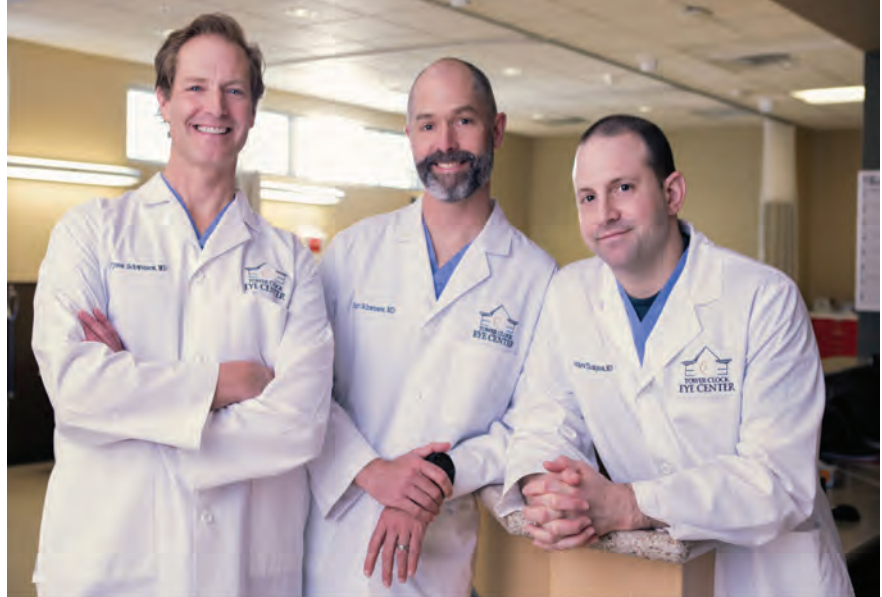
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