

MOMENTUM SHIFT

Green Bay is now up to 9%
to make the playoffs

PAGE 2



Packers running back A.J. Dillon tries to escape a tackle from the Rams during the Dec. 19 home game.

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Packers keep playoff hopes alive

Green Bay to end its year with three opponents at .500 or better

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

With the Packers 24-12 win over the Los Angeles Rams, Green Bay now holds a 9% chance to make the playoffs.

While 9% does not seem very high, it is up from the 6% that the team was facing last week. Of course, the Packers still cannot afford to lose a game yet this year.

That continues as Green Bay travels to Miami on Christmas Day. Miami has been one of the better teams in the league this year, with its 8-6 record. The Dolphins excel on the offensive side of the ball, recording 370.4 yards per game. Only the Kansas City Chiefs, Buffalo Bills, Philadelphia Eagles and Detroit Lions have recorded more yards per game.

"You win a game and vibes are pretty good," said Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, on how the team's feelings have changed about making the playoffs. "We have just been practicing better, the energy has been better. We have played a couple of teams that we should have beat — that being said, it's still tough to win in the league. I have said it before, I think we can beat anybody — we can also lose to anybody. When you win a couple in a row, it just gives you some confidence."

The Dolphins possess such a strong offensive attack, due in part to its receivers Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle. Through 14 games, Hill has recorded 1,529 receiving yards and seven touchdowns. What makes Hill so dangerous, though, is his speed. Giving the three-team All-Pro even an inch of space will likely result in a large gain for Miami.

Hill has seemingly turned into the catalyst for this Miami offense, as the Dolphins rank third in the NFL in passing yards at 3,830. While Miami's passing attack may be one of the better passing attack in the NFL, the Packers should be prepared, as Green Bay currently owns the second-best passing defense in terms of yards given up. Only giving up 2,592 yards through the air this year, the passing defense will have its work cut out for them.

That may need to start on the front end of the defense though.



Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver Romeo Doubs extends his arm, indicating a first down during a matchup against the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19 in Green Bay.

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Preston Smith, Kingsley Enagbare and Kenny Clark will have to create pressure against Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa. While Tagovailoa has shown a drastic improvement from last year, there are still deficiencies in his game that Green Bay Packers defensive coordinator Joe Berry should be able to exploit.

Making the playoffs starts with winning this game for Green Bay. After week 15, the Packers still sit

in the 10th seed in the NFC. Only Detroit, Seattle and the Washington Commanders sit ahead of Green Bay, as it is looking for a wild card spot. Since the Giants beat the Commanders on Sunday night last week, Packers fans need to root for Washington to lose two more games. Its upcoming schedule includes the San Francisco 49ers, Cleveland Browns and Dallas Cowboys.

Detroit holds a 7-7 record and a head-to-head win over the Packers. Unfortunately for Green Bay, the Lions have the Panthers and Bears upcoming in its next two games. With a combined record of 8-20, it seems likely that Detroit wins both of these games. Assuming Green Bay wins its next two games, the week 18 matchup between the two division rivals could have major playoff implications.

While it may seem unlikely after a five-game losing streak in the middle of the season, Green Bay has a realistic chance of making the playoffs. So far, Green Bay has done its part in making those playoff dreams come true — beating Chicago and Los Angeles. These two teams have a combined record of just 7-21. The Packers' next three opponents have a combined record of 26-16.

"You have to keep the focus on what is right in front of you," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "If you look at the totality, all three teams are really good football teams, so I don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves and we just want to be the best that we can be each and every day, each and every game and that starts with Miami."

After losing five games in a row in the middle of the season, it has to feel good for Packers players, coaches and fans to see the team rip off two wins a row. Even though those games weren't against the best teams in the NFL, it should create some sort of momentum for the team, as each game from here on out is a must-win game.

"Momentum is real," said LaFleur. "We hit that lull in the middle of the season, where we lost five straight. It's hard, when it's going one way, to get it going the other way. We all have seen the competitiveness in this league each and every week — it doesn't really matter who you play. Anybody is capable of beating anyone else and there is great examples each week. It just speaks to how competitive this league is."



Linebacker Preston Smith, right, tries to take down Rams wide receiver Jaylen Waddle during a play at the Packers' Dec. 19 home game.

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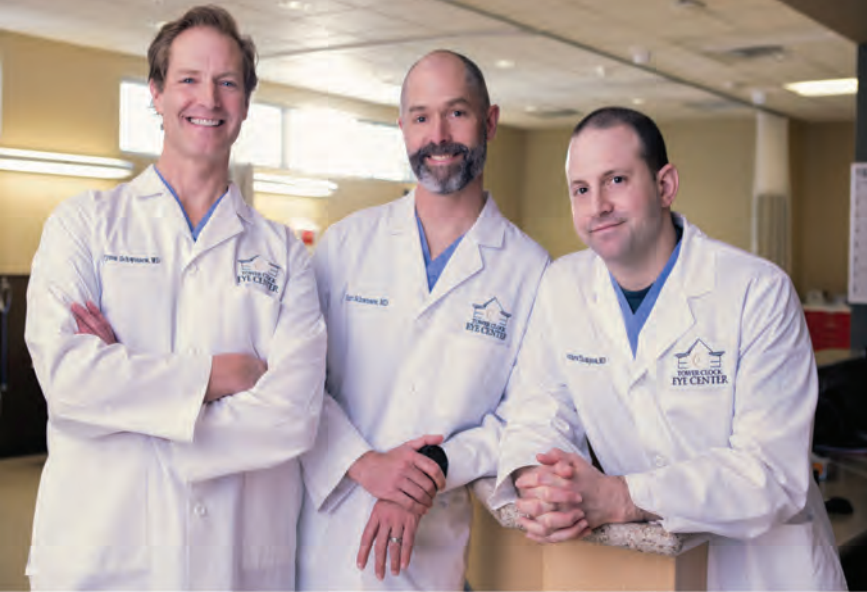


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PACKERS ROSTER

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
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	39	18	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	27	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	28	6	Texas-El Paso
35	Corey Ballentine	CB	5-11	196	26	4	Washburn
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	24	1	TCU
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
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

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	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	38	17	UCLA
90	Jarran Reed	DL	6-3	307	30	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	25	4	Michigan
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	25	2	Oregon

Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner

75	Sean Rhyan	T/G	6-5	321	22	R	UCLA
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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
39	Tyler Goodson	RB	5-9	197	22	R	Iowa
43	Kiondre Thomas	CB	6-0	186	24	1	Kansas State
46	Nick Guggemos	TE	6-5	247	27	1	University of St. Thomas
48	DQ Thomas	LB	6-2	216	24	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
65	Michal Menet	C	6-4	301	25	1	Penn State
79	Jean Delance	T	6-4	303	24	R	Florida
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
98	Chris Slayton	DL	6-4	307	26	1	Syracuse

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DOLPHINS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Tua Tagovailoa	QB	6-1	217	24	3	Alabama
2	Bradley Chubb	LB	6-4	275	26	5	N.C. State
3	Myles Gaskin	RB	5-10	194	25	4	Washington
4	Thomas Morstead	P	6-4	225	36	14	SMU
5	Teddy Bridgewater	QB	6-2	212	30	9	Louisville
6	Melvin Ingram	LB	6-2	250	33	11	South Carolina
7	Jason Sanders	K	5-11	190	27	5	New Mexico
8	Jevon Holland	S	6-1	210	22	2	Oregon
9	Noah Igbinoghene	CB	5-11	197	23	3	Auburn
10	Tyreek Hill	WR	5-10	191	28	7	West Alabama
11	Cedrick Wilson Jr.	WR	6-2	197	27	5	Boise State
14	Trent Sherfield	WR	6-1	206	26	5	Vanderbilt
15	Jaelan Phillips	LB	6-5	263	23	2	Miami
17	Jaylen Waddle	WR	5-10	182	24	2	Alabama
18	Erik Ezukanma	WR	6-2	206	22	R	Texas Tech
19	Skylar Thompson	QB	6-2	219	25	R	Kansas State
20	Justin Bethel	CB	6-0	200	32	11	Presbyterian College
21	Eric Rowe	S	6-1	210	30	8	Utah
22	Elijah Campbell	DB	5-11	195	27	3	Northern Iowa
23	Jeff Wilson Jr.	RB	6-0	213	27	5	North Texas
25	Xavien Howard	CB	6-1	203	29	7	Baylor
26	Salvon Ahmed	RB	5-11	197	23	3	Washington
27	Keion Crossen	DB	5-10	195	26	5	Western Carolina
28	Kader Kohou	CB	5-10	195	24	R	Texas A&M-Commerce
30	Alec Ingold	FB	6-1	235	26	4	Wisconsin
31	Raheem Mostert	RB	5-10	205	30	8	Purdue
32	Verone McKinley III	S	5-10	195	22	R	Oregon
41	Channing Tindall	LB	6-2	232	22	R	Georgia
42	Clayton Fejedelem	S	6-1	202	29	7	Illinois
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	LB	6-4	242	27	4	Wisconsin
44	Blake Ferguson	LS	6-3	240	25	3	LSU
45	Duke Riley	LB	6-1	227	28	6	LSU
49	Sam Eguavoen	LB	6-1	236	29	4	Texas Tech
52	Elandon Roberts	LB	6-1	238	28	7	Houston
55	Jerome Baker	LB	6-2	225	25	5	Ohio State
58	Connor Williams	OL	6-5	317	25	5	Texas
63	Michael Deiter	OL	6-6	315	26	4	Wisconsin
65	Robert Jones	OL	6-4	334	23	2	Middle Tennessee State
68	Robert Hunt	OL	6-6	335	26	3	Louisiana-Lafayette
71	Brandon Shell	OL	6-5	324	30	7	South Carolina
72	Terron Armstead	T	6-5	305	31	10	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
75	Greg Little	T	6-5	322	25	4	Mississippi

77	John Jenkins	DT	6-3	340	33	10	Georgia
79	Eric Fisher	T	6-7	312	31	10	Central Michigan
80	Tanner Conner	TE	6-3	232	24	R	Idaho State
81	Durham Smythe	TE	6-6	246	27	5	Notre Dame
84	Hunter Long	TE	6-5	253	24	2	Boston College
85	River Cracraft	WR	6-0	198	28	4	Washington State
88	Mike Gesicki	TE	6-6	250	27	5	Penn State
92	Zach Sieler	DT	6-6	305	27	5	Ferris State
94	Christian Wilkins	DT	6-4	310	26	4	Clemson
96	Justin Zimmer	DT	6-3	292	30	4	Ferris State
98	Raekwon Davis	DT	6-7	335	25	3	Alabama

Reserve/Injured

0	Adam Shaheen	TE	6-7	248	28	6	Ashland
0	Trill Williams	CB	6-1	206	22	2	Syracuse
29	Brandon Jones	S	6-1	191	24	3	Texas
40	Nik Needham	CB	6-1	196	26	4	UTEP
46	John Lovett	FB	6-2	236	26	2	Princeton
73	Austin Jackson	OL	6-5	320	23	3	USC
74	Liam Eichenberg	OL	6-5	306	24	2	Notre Dame
82	Cethan Carter	TE	6-3	243	27	6	Nebraska
91	Emmanuel Ogbah	DE	6-4	278	29	7	Oklahoma State
93	Trey Flowers	LB	6-2	265	29	8	Arkansas

Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform

24	Byron Jones	CB	6-1	194	30	8	Connecticut
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Practice Squad

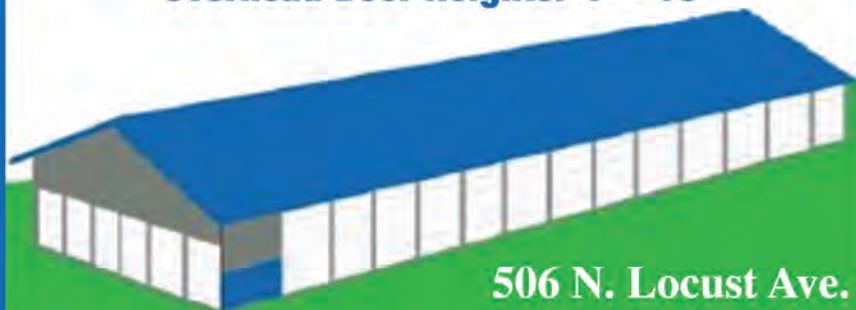
33	La'Mical Perine	RB	5-11	216	24	3	Florida
34	Tino Ellis	CB	6-1	195	25	1	Maryland
35	Ka'dar Hollman	CB	6-0	196	28	3	Toledo
36	Jamal Perry	DB	5-10	182	28	4	Iowa State
48	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	250	26	1	North Carolina
53	Cameron Goode	LB	6-3	238	24	R	California
57	Brennan Scarlett	LB	6-4	263	29	7	Stanford
61	Lamont Gaillard	OL	6-3	305	26	3	Georgia
62	James Empey	OL	6-3	297	26	R	BYU
70	Kendall Lamm	T	6-5	310	30	8	Appalachian State
76	Kion Smith	T	6-5	311	24	1	Fayetteville State University
86	Braylon Sanders	WR	6-1	194	23	R	Mississippi
87	DaeSean Hamilton	WR	6-1	206	27	5	Penn State
90	R.J. McIntosh	DT	6-4	293	26	4	Miami
95	Josiah Bronson	DT	6-3	300	25	2	Washington
97	Jaylen Twyman	DT	6-2	285	23	1	Pittsburgh

Practice Squad/Veteran Protected

0	Porter Gustin	LB	6-5	267	25	4	USC
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FYI
Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Dec. 19, 11 a.m.

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Dolphins
All-time, regular season: 5-10
All-time, postseason: Never met
All-time, at Dolphins: 2-6
Streaks: The Miami Dolphins have dominated the Green Bay Packers in the all-time series, but the Packers have owned the series of late. Green Bay has won four of the past five games and five of the last seven matchups.
Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 11, 2018, Packers won 31-12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdowns to Davante Adams, while Aaron Jones rushed for two scores and 145 yards.

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	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	Win 28-19	
Bye week			
Dec. 19	vs. L.A. Rams	Win 24-12	
Dec. 25	at Miami	noon	FOX
Jan. 1	vs. Minnesota	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Jan. 7/8	vs. Detroit	TBD	TBD

OFFENSE

WR

Christian Watson
Sammy Watkins

RB

Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB

Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

TE

Mercedes Lewis
Robert Tonyan

RT

Yosh Nijman
Rasheed Walker

RG

Jon Runyan
Royce Newman

C

Josh Myers
Zach Tom

LG

Elgton Jenkins
Royce Newman

LT

David Bakhtiari
Zach Tom

WR

Randall Cobb
Samori Toure

WR

Allen Lazard
Romeo Doubs

DEFENSE

DE

Dean Lowry
Devonte Wyatt

NT

Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE

Jarran Reed
Devonte Wyatt

CB

Rasul Douglas
Shemar Jean-Charles

OLB

Preston Smith
Jonathan Garvin

ILB

De'Vondre Campbell
Isaiah McDuffie

ILB

Quay Walker
Krys Barnes

OLB

Kingsley Enagbare
Justin Hollins

S

Adrian Amos
Dallin Leavitt

S

Darnell Savage
Rudy Ford

CB

Jaire Alexander
Keisean Nixon

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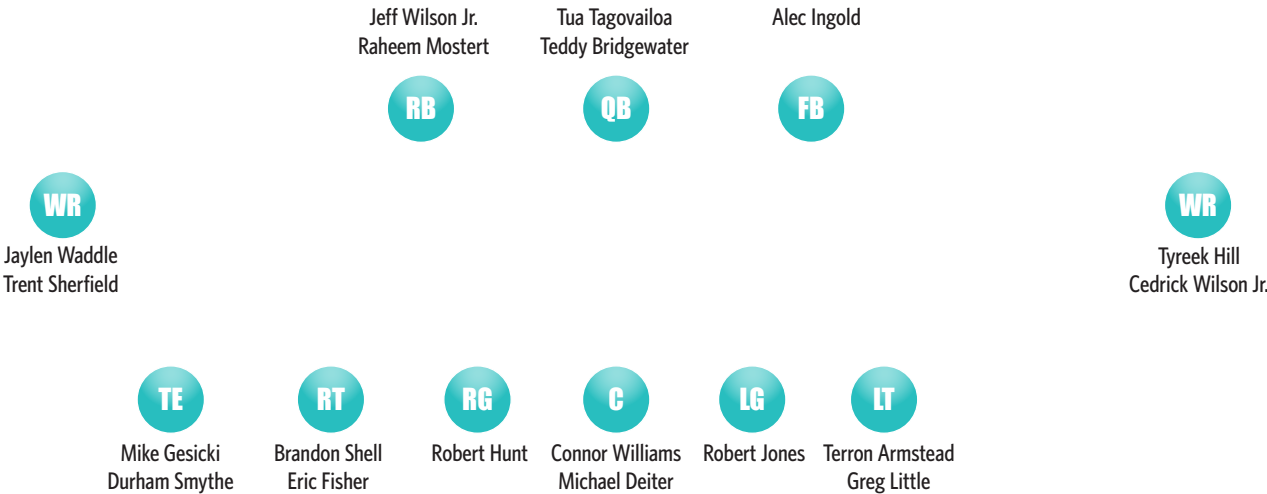
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DOLPHINS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE



DEFENSE



SCHEDULE

Thursday's Game
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Baltimore, noon
Detroit at Carolina, noon
Buffalo at Chicago, noon
New Orleans at Cleveland, noon
Seattle at Kansas City, noon
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, noon
Cincinnati at New England, noon
Houston at Tennessee, noon
Washington at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 3:25 p.m.
Las Vegas at Pittsburgh, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Green Bay at Miami, noon
Denver at L.A. Rams, 3:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Arizona, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
L.A. Chargers at Indianapolis, 7:15 p.m.

Next Thursday's Game
Dallas at Tennessee, 7:15 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East				AFC East			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Philadelphia	13	1	0	Buffalo	11	3	0
Dallas	10	4	0	Miami	8	6	0
N.Y. Giants	8	5	1	New England	7	7	0
Washington	7	6	1	N.Y. Jets	7	7	0
North				North			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Minnesota	11	3	0	Cincinnati	10	4	0
Detroit	7	7	0	Baltimore	9	5	0
Green Bay	6	8	0	Cleveland	6	8	0
Chicago	3	11	0	Pittsburgh	6	8	0
South				South			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	Tennessee	7	7	0
Carolina	5	9	0	Jacksonville	6	8	0
New Orleans	5	9	0	Indianapolis	4	9	1
Atlanta	5	9	0	Houston	1	12	1
West				West			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
San Francisco	10	4	0	Kansas City	11	3	0
Seattle	7	7	0	L.A. Chargers	8	6	0
Arizona	4	10	0	Las Vegas	6	8	0
L.A. Rams	4	10	0	Denver	4	10	0

SPORTS

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BEARS EARN HOME WIN

Bonduel tops Sturgeon Bay in first conference game

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NOTEBOOK

After falling at Philadelphia for their seventh loss in eight games, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers knew the harsh reality for a team that entered the season with Super Bowl aspirations but had plunged to 4-8.

"Before the Bears week, we knew we had a bye afterwards," Rodgers said after a 24-12 victory over the Rams on Monday night. "Those of us who sometimes peek ahead knew that we had to win five and then have a lot of things go our way. So, we've won two and just about everything we needed to happen has gone our way. Just about, right? So, things are looking up."

Rodgers is right. With a 6-8 record, the Packers' longshot playoff hopes are at least semi-plausible. But their back-to-back wins came over Chicago, which is 16th in the 16-team NFC standings, and Los Angeles, which is 15th.

The challenge will get much, much tougher the rest of the way, starting with Christmas in Miami. The Dolphins are 8-6. They have lost three in a row but they all came on the road against the 49ers, Chargers and Bills – three of the NFL's top teams. They are 6-1 at home.

If the Packers can spring the upset, they'll host must-win games against the Minnesota Vikings (11-3) and Detroit Lions (7-7 but winners of six of their last seven) to close the regular season.

"I do. I do," Rodgers said of his belief the team can run the table. "Now, we're going to play three better football teams, but I do. Definitely."

Seven teams will qualify for the playoffs in the NFC. The Washington Commanders hold that last spot with their 7-6-1 record. The Packers are in 10th place, one-and-a-half games off the pace and on the heels of Seattle (7-7) and Detroit.

To get past the Commanders, Washington will have to go 1-2 in its last three games. Their schedule: at the San Francisco 49ers (10-4), home against the Cleveland Browns (6-8) and home against the Dallas Cowboys (10-4).

Thanks to their dominating defense, the 49ers are red hot and could hand the Commanders one of those losses. Can the Browns with Deshaun Watson back from suspension pull off the upset? Or can the Packers get some help from former coach Mike McCarthy, even though his Cowboys have the No. 5 seed locked up and probably will be go-



Rookie receiver Christian Watson runs down the sideline after a catch in a matchup against the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ing with backups?

"I don't even want to talk like that, to be honest with you," coach Matt LaFleur said. "I think you've got to keep the focus on what's right in front of you. Certainly, if you look at the totality of it, all three teams are really good football teams, so I don't want to get too far in front of ourselves and just want to be the best we can be each and every day, each and every game, and that starts with Miami."

Promising passing game

Perhaps belatedly, the passing game that Green Bay envisioned is coming to life.

During the first half of the season, rookie Romeo Doubs emerged but fellow rookie Christian Watson couldn't stay on the field. Then, Doubs suffered an ankle injury and Watson burst onto the scene with eight touchdowns the next four games.

Entering Monday night, Watson and Doubs had played only 52 snaps together. Back after a four-game absence, Doubs caught all five passes for 55 yards, including a 23-yarder on the final drive. He was wide open on all five completions. Watson didn't find the end zone and had a modest four receptions for 46 yards but drew two penalties.

"It was great to see (Doubs) back out there," LaFleur said. "You can certainly see his route-running

ability, how effortless it is when he catches the football. I think we need to find ways to get Christian involved in the game earlier because he has such a big impact on the game. Both those guys, they've come a long way, but I still think there's much more in front of them so that's really, really exciting."

Jones moving up record book

In the first quarter against the Rams, Aaron Jones moved past John Brockington and into third place on the Packers' career rushing list. He's



Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is all smiles after the Packers kept their playoff hopes alive with a win over the Los Angeles Rams.

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got 5,100 yards.

Jones has his sights set on something much bigger: No. 1 all-time. Ahman Green holds that distinction with 8,322 yards and Hall of Famer Jim Taylor is second with 8,207 yards.

"It's not something I come in and voice, but if you're not shooting to be the all-time leader then, really, what are you shooting for?" he said. "You're shooting to be the best or the best of all-time here. It's something I've definitely set in my mind. I did it in college. It's something I look to achieve here. Hopefully, I'm here long enough to break that."

Jones also topped 1,000 career carries. Among all players with at least 900 carries in NFL history, Jones ranks fourth with his 5.08-yard average. He trails only Jamaal Charles (5.38), current Browns star Nick Chubb (5.23) and Hall of Famer Jim Brown (5.22). And one more historical nugget: He needs one more touchdown to become the eighth player in franchise history with 60.

Happy returns

With a 14.0-yard average on six kickoff returns with the Raiders from 2019 through 2021, there was nothing to suggest Keisean Nixon would become a game-changing returner for the Packers.

With Amari Rodgers going nowhere fast, the Packers gave Nixon a shot against the Jets in Week 6. His one return went 32 yards.

Who knew a legend would be born?

OK, legend might be hyperbole but, considering the longstanding ineptitude of Green Bay's special teams, what Nixon has done is incredible. He is second in the NFL with a 25.4-yard average. That's not the half of it. He leads the NFL with eight kickoff returns of 30-plus yards (nobody else has more than five) and three returns of 50-plus yards.

"In all my 18 years, I've never once until tonight seen an opposing team's kicker kick away from one of our returners. On purpose. That's fun," Rodgers said. "That's pretty incredible. So, big kudos to (special teams coordinator) Rich (Bisaccia) and his staff and, obviously, Keisean. He's been a big difference-maker for us. You hate to do the what-ifs and the lookbacks, but there's definitely, the way certain players were playing for us, that you wonder how it would have been had things been a little different starting the season."

Q&A WITH CALEB JONES

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Caleb Jones was a three-year starter at Indiana but went undrafted, due in part to weighing 370 pounds at pro day. With the Packers, he dropped about 35 pounds to contend for a roster spot. He failed to make the opening 53 but was promoted to the active roster for Week 1. Early in the season, he fell ill with mono and was placed on the non-football illness list. He's back on the active roster for the stretch run.

Q: How are you doing?

A: I'm feeling good. My son had mono and it's been a bit of a struggle with his stamina.

It's definitely one of those things where all credit to Coach Gizzi (Green Bay's strength and conditioning coordinator) and his staff because they were able to keep me in tip-top shape the entire time, even when I was sick.

Q: What led you to finding out? For us, it was Google.

A: Yeah, for the most part. I woke up one morning and wasn't really feeling too good. I figured it was in my best interests to go get checked with the pandemic stuff.

It's been quite a rookie season, going from undrafted to fighting for a roster spot and eventually getting on the 53, only to get mono.

It has been a while ride, that's for sure. There's been a lot of ups and downs but I've kept my faith and I kept my faith in the organization. At the end of the day, it's in their hands. What's in my hands is working as hard as possible.

Q: What's gotten you here? You look back on your college career to now, what's been the key?

A: Discipline. Just finally holding myself accountable is the main thing. I think I let myself make a lot of bad decisions in my years before, back in high school and college, that led me to not really having a handle on my weight and not really having a handle on playing my best ball. I think holding myself accountable and really looking at myself in the mirror and making good decisions has been the deciding factor in being able to keep myself here for a while.

Q: How do you stay disciplined?

A: It seems easy to say. I went to the store before practice for a few things and, on the day-old rack in the dairy section, are a box of crul-lers and I bought them. I didn't need

AT A GLANCE

Caleb Jones
Jersey Number: 72
Position: Offensive tackle
Age: 23
Season: Rookie
College: Indiana

them. It's hard.

It's tough. It's tough. I got here and I realized the challenge of how it was an uphill battle. Honestly, if I didn't do it, I wouldn't be able to be around here. Once that clicked for me, it kind of made it easy to make the right choices.

Q: How long were you here until you realized that you belonged and, "You know what, I'm just as good as some of these other guys."

A: You never know. One thing (offensive line) coach (Luke) Butkus always says, 'If you think you've got it, you don't got it.' I just try to be the best me. That's all I can do. I can't compare myself to anybody else. All I can do is be the best version of myself every single day and put my best foot forward. That's really all I can do.

Q: Are you having fun?

A: Absolutely. A ball.

Q: When was this your dream? Was football always what you wanted to do?

A: Yeah, it was one of those things where from a very young age that it was always my dream to play in the NFL. I think I lost sight of it maybe in my younger years. I was playing the sport but I was just kind of playing it to have fun. I didn't think about it as, 'Oh, man, I can't wait to play in the NFL.' I re-found that in high school and it started to get real with (college scholarship) offers. I knew then it was going to be a way for me to pay for my schooling and it would eventually maybe pay for my livelihood. It was one of those things where it's always been in the back of my mind.

Q: They didn't need to bring you back to the 53-man roster but they must like what you're doing. So, what's the key for you over these next few weeks?

A: Just trying to get better every day. It's truly a one-day-at-a-time mentality. I don't want to look too far ahead. I don't want to look past anything. I just want to show up every single day and put my best foot forward and try to make myself better and make myself into whatever it is they see in me.

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When the coronavirus pandemic hit, churches and other places of worship had to close, which meant NEW Media's worship directory had to go away. Now that the faithful are returning to their houses of worship, we're in the process of rebuilding our worship directory on our website

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to

NEWS@NEWMEDIA-WI.COM. Be sure to have **"WORSHIP DIRECTORY"** in the subject line.



NEW MEDIA INC.



BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 16 Games: Sunday, December 24

Jacksonville @ NY Jets..... Thurs., Dec., 22

Atlanta @ Baltimore

Detroit @ Carolina

Buffalo @ Chicago

New Orleans @ Cleveland

Seattle @ Kansas City

NY Giants @ Minnesota

Cincinnati @ New England

Houston @ Tennessee

Washington @ San Francisco

Philadelphia @ Dallas

Las Vegas @ Pittsburgh

Denver @ LA Rams..... Sun., Dec. 25

Tampa Bay @ Arizona

LA Chargers @ Indianapolis Mon., Dec. 26

Tie Breaker Game:

Green Bay @ Miami Sun., Dec. 25



Morgan Rode
New Media

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	New England	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 27 @ Miami 31



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Miami 28



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	NY Giants	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Washington	
New Orleans	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Miami 20

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2022 PACKERS

REGULAR SEASON

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

This Week's Winner: Gene's Floor Coverings

Weekly Standings

22 Shell	11-5	142-82
Tower Clock Eye Center	10-6	141-83
Buss Automotive.....	10-6	140-84
Tim Murphy	11-5	139-85
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	10-6	137-87
Bill Huber.....	10-6	136-88

Weekly Record

Overall Record

Weekly Standings

Charter Arrowcast	10-6	135-89
Luke Reimer	7-9	134-90
Gene's Floor covering.....	12-4	131-93
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-8	131-93
Morgan Rode	9-7	131-93
Senn Insurance	10-6	118-97

Weekly Record

Overall Record



Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Miami 21



Shane Senn
Senn Insurance

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	Denver
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ Miami 31



Charter
Arrowcast
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ Miami 17



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	New England	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
New Orleans	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Miami 21



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	Indianapolis
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Miami 21



Gene Maas
Gene's Floor
Coverings

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	Minnesota	Denver
Atlanta	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 14 @ Miami 21



Bill Huber
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

NY Jets	Minnesota	Denver
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Dallas	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Miami 31



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Pittsburgh	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Miami 23



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Jacksonville	Minnesota	LA Rams
Baltimore	Cincinnati	Tampa Bay
Detroit	Tennessee	LA Chargers
Buffalo	San Francisco	
Cleveland	Philadelphia	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Miami 24

KEYS TO THE GAME

The Green Bay Packers (6-8) will visit the Miami Dolphins (8-6) on noon Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. Fox will televise the game.

History

In a series that dates to 1971, the Dolphins lead 10-5. Miami won the first eight matchups, but Green Bay has won four of the last five. In their last trek to Miami, way back in 2014, the Packers won 27-24 on Aaron Rodgers' 4-yard touchdown pass to Andrew Quarless with 3 seconds remaining.

Coaches

Packers – Matt LaFleur (fourth season, 45-18).
Dolphins – Mike McDaniels (first season, 8-6).

When the Packers have the ball

Green Bay's offense has made some progress the last five weeks. From Game 10 through Game 13, the Packers were sixth in scoring during that four-game span. They were limited to 24 points against the Rams but took a knee on first-and-goal at the 1.

The Dolphins are 27th in scoring with 24.6 points allowed per game. They are 23rd in total defense (357.6) and 16th in yards per rush (4.36) and yards per pass (6.63). They are bad on third down (27th) and in the red zone (25th). So, that means the Packers have a chance to roll, right? Not exactly. Miami is second in points allowed at home with just 15.3 per game. That's about half of the 31.5 it allows in road games.

The Dolphins operate out of a 3-4 alignment. The front consists of Christian Wilkins, Raekwon Davis and Zach Sieler. Wilkins, a first-round pick in 2019, is excellent. He has 81 tackles – an incredible number for an interior lineman – and a team-high 14 tackles for losses.

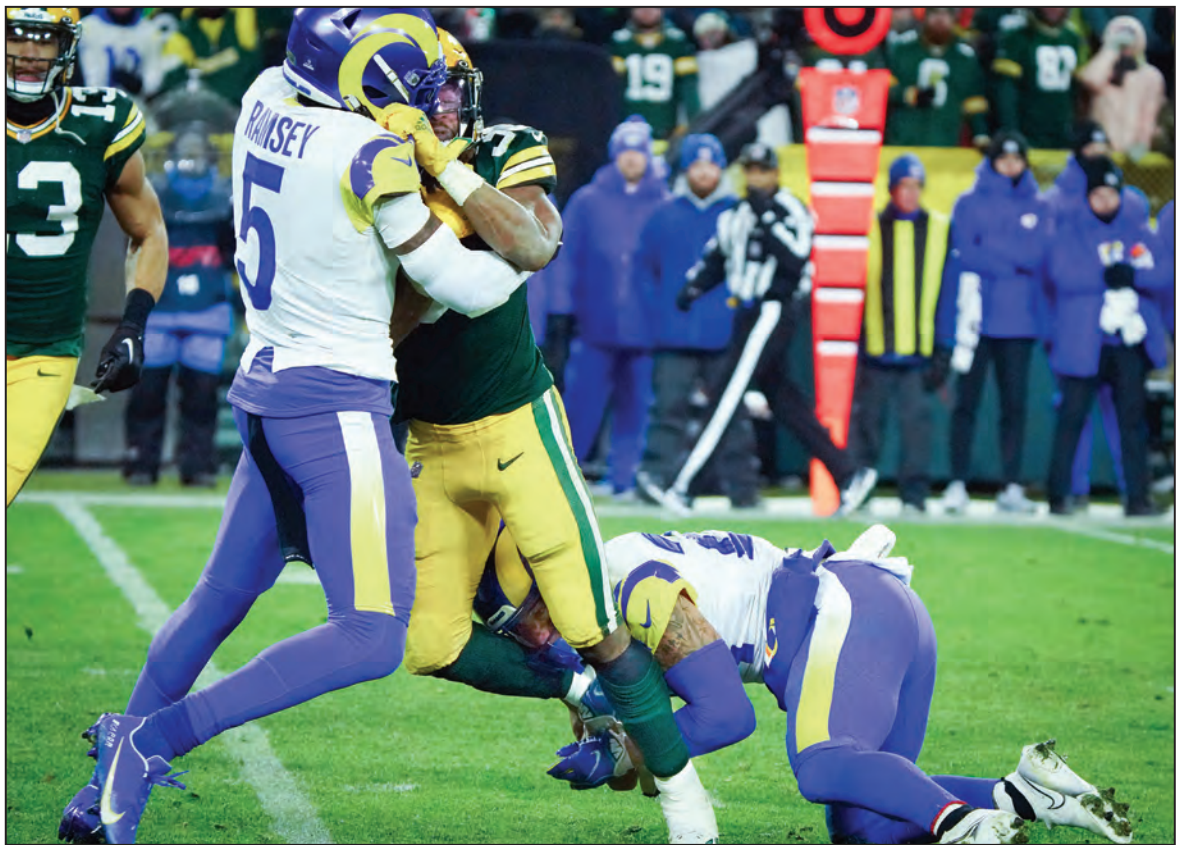
Jalean Phillips and trade-deadline acquisition Bradley Chubb are the outside linebackers, with Melvin Ingram joining them on passing downs. It's a fearsome group. Phillips has a team-high seven sacks and ranks among the NFL leaders with 60 pressures, according to Pro Football Focus. Chubb has eight sacks, including 2.5 in his six games in Miami. Ingram has six sacks. None of them play solely on the left or solely on the right.

Jerome Baker and Elandon Roberts form the tandem at inside linebacker. They lead the team with 89 and 84 tackles, respectively. Baker has four sacks, as well.

Formerly one of the best corners in the NFL, Xavier Howard anchors the secondary. Noah Igbinoghene is the other starting corner and Kader Kohou mans the slot. Howard has had better seasons. He led the NFL with 10 interceptions and 20 passes defended in 2020 and posted five interceptions and 16 passes defended as an encore. This year, he has one interception and eight passes defended. According to PFF and its best guess of coverage responsibilities, he has allowed a 66.7 percent catch rate and six touchdowns. Kohou, an undrafted rookie, is grabby (six penalties).

Eric Rowe and Jevon Holland are the safeties. Holland is a quality starter with 71 tackles, a team-high two interceptions and six passes defended.

"We're about to go play Aaron Rodgers," Hol-



Running back Aaron Jones fights for extra yardage after contact in a matchup against the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

land said when asked about the playoffs on Monday. "I played Tom Brady last year. We're about to play Aaron Rodgers, who has been in the league for years and arguably one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play. So, what more do you have to focus on? This is a huge challenge, especially for me. This is Aaron Rodgers that we're talking about. It's AR-12. He's the guy. I'm excited. Definitely. It's Aaron Rodgers, bro. Discount double-check. The whole cheesehead thing."

When the Dolphins have the ball

The Packers are coming off back-to-back wins against the Bears and Rams, two teams with feeble passing attacks. The Dolphins' passing attack is not feeble.

Led by quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and rocket-fast receivers Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle, the Dolphins feature one of the top offenses in the NFL. They rank ninth in scoring with 24.6 points per game, thanks to a passing attack that is No. 1 with 7.85 yards per attempt.

Tagovailoa leads the league with a 107.8 passer rating. With speed on the perimeter, it is a passing attack built on big plays. Tagovailoa is No. 1 in air yards per completion (8.53) and No. 2 in air yards per attempt (9.5), which more than offsets his No. 21 ranking in completion percentage (64.8). He's thrown 24 touchdowns vs. five interceptions.

Tagovailoa has some limitations as a thrower, but it helps to have Hill and Waddle. They are so fast that defenses have to play soft, which means some easy completions. Hill is more than just a sprinter. He is a complete player. He ranks second with 109 receptions and 1,529 yards. Five of his eight total touchdowns have covered 45-plus

yards. Waddle has 62 receptions for 1,117 yards and seven touchdowns. As a rookie last year, he averaged 9.8 yards per reception. This year, he's averaged a league-high 18.0 yards.

Raheem Mostert, who destroyed the Packers in the 2019 NFC Championship Game while with San Francisco, leads the team with 746 rushing yards. Like Hill and Waddle, he's got game-breaking speed.

Tight end Mike Gesicki has added 25 receptions for 274 yards and three touchdowns. Fullback Alec Ingold, who played at Bay Port and Wisconsin, has chipped in 15 receptions.

The offensive line consists of left tackle Terron Armstead, left guard Robert Jones, center Connor Williams, right guard Robert Hunt and right tackle Brandon Shell. Three-time Pro Bowler Armstead, former Cowboys standout Williams and Hunt are really good players. Shell is the weak link.

Special teams

In Football Outsiders' rankings from before Week 15, Miami was 28th and Green Bay is 30th.

Jason Sanders is 20-of-21 on field goals inside of 50 yards and 1-of-4 from 50-plus. Opponents are averaging 27.6 yards per return on his kick-offs, meaning there will be some opportunities for Green Bay's explosive Keisean Nixon, who leads the NFL in 30-yard kickoff returns despite not taking that job until Week 6.

Veteran Thomas Morestead handles the punting. His net of 40.4 yards isn't too hot but he's got 21 inside-the-20 punts vs. only two touchbacks.

Receiver Cedric Wilson is the punt returner and Mostert is the kickoff returner. Neither have been effective.

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Packers beat Rams to keep playoff hopes alive

Dillon scores 2 TDs

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
The Associated Press

A.J. Dillon ran for two scores, Aaron Rodgers threw a touchdown pass to Aaron Jones and the Green Bay Packers kept their playoff hopes afloat with a 24-12 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19 in Green Bay.

Dillon put Green Bay (6-8) ahead for good with a tiebreaking 8-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and also scored from 1 yard out in the third period. He ran for 36 yards on 11 carries before leaving the game midway through the second half to be evaluated for a concussion.

Rodgers went 22 of 30 for 229 yards with a touchdown and interception to win his ninth straight "Monday Night Football" start. The longest "Monday Night Football" winning streak by any starting quarterback is owned by Kenny Stabler, who won 11 straight from 1975-80.

The four-time MVP's lone touchdown pass was a 7-yarder to Jones, who rushed for 90 yards and had four catches for 36 yards.

Rodgers' latest Monday night victory came in freezing conditions. The temperature was 15 degrees with a wind chill of 7 just before the opening kickoff.

The Rams (4-10) have matched the highest loss total by any defending Super Bowl champion. When John Elway retired after leading Denver to consecutive Super Bowl titles in the 1997 and 1998 seasons, the Broncos finished 6-10 in 1999.

Los Angeles played this game without several notable injured players, including three-time defensive player of the year Aaron Donald and All-Pro receiver Cooper Kupp. Quarterback Baker Mayfield made his first Rams start with injuries sidelining Matthew Stafford and John Wolford.

Mayfield had rallied the Rams to a 17-16 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders on Dec. 8, less than 48 hours after they had claimed him off waivers from Carolina. Mayfield wasn't as effective Monday, going 12 of 21 for 111 yards with a touchdown and interception.

He was sacked five times while working behind an offensive line missing center Brian Allen, who injured an ankle on the game's first



Green Bay Packers Linebacker Preston Smith celebrates after a big play during a matchup against the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19 in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

play from scrimmage.

Preston Smith recorded two sacks for Green Bay.

The Rams also got field goals of 33 and 55 yards from Matt Gay, who also sent an extra-point attempt wide right. Gay's 55-yarder matched

the third-longest field goal anyone has ever made at Lambeau Field.

Mason Crosby had a 34-yard field goal for Green Bay while playing his 255th consecutive regular-season game to tie Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre for the longest streak in

franchise history.

After Gay and Crosby traded field goals early in the game, Green Bay pulled ahead thanks mainly to Dillon, the 6-foot, 247-pound running back whose bruising style thrives in this type of weather.

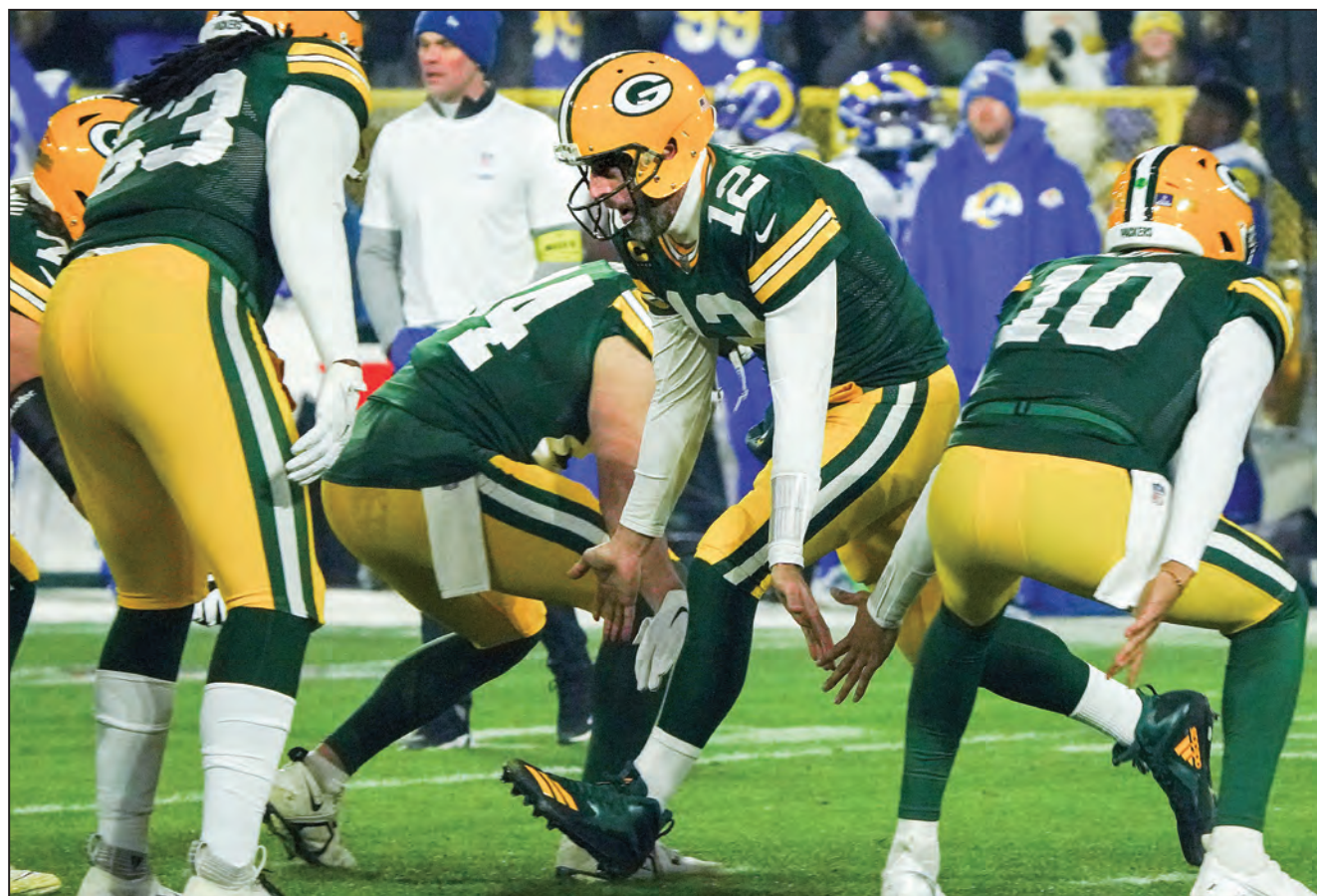
Facing fourth-and-3 from the 17, the Packers passed up a field-goal attempt and instead handed the ball to Dillon, who ran for 4 yards. Dillon then put Green Bay ahead for good with an 8-yard touchdown run in which he pushed Rams defenders backward for the last yard or so.

The Packers led 10-6 at halftime and broke the game open by scoring touchdowns on their first two drives of the second half. Rodgers' 7-yard touchdown pass to Jones put the Packers ahead 24-6.

Los Angeles cut the lead to 24-12 on Mayfield's 8-yard completion to Tyler Higbee, the first touchdown catch by a Rams tight end this season.

Rams LB Jake Gervase injured an ankle late in the first half.

Packers offensive tackle David Bakhtiari missed a second straight game as he recovers from an appendectomy.



Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers runs through a line of high fives from his teammates during introductions before a game against the Los Angeles Rams on Dec. 19 in Green Bay.

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