

GIANT LETDOWN

Packers fumble
chance to stand
out among playoff
contenders



Green Bay quarterback Jordan Love was 25-of-39 passing for 218 yards with one touchdown, one interception and one lost fumble against the New York Giants on Monday. Green Bay was 5-of-14 against one of the best third-down defenses in the NFL but 2-of-5 against one of the worst red-zone defenses.

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Giants stun Packers on Monday night

Bullock's game-winning field goal pushes Green Bay to 6-7

By LUKE REIMER

Green & Gold Express

A 37-yard field goal from Giants' kicker Randy Bullock as time expired pushed Green Bay to a game under .500, as the Giants knocked off the red hot Packers 24-22 on Dec. 11 in New Jersey.

It looked certain that Green Bay was going to lose, as the Giants, up 21-16 with 5:30 remaining in the game, began to march down the field. Giants superstar running back Saquon Barkley saw two carries to open the drive, one going for six yards and the other going for 17 yards. On his third attempt of the drive, Barkley broke free for a 34-yard gain down the right sideline, but as he was tripped up fumbled the football, which in turn was picked up by Packers' defensive back Carington Valentine and returned 50 yards down to the Green Bay 36-yard line.

"I saw nobody touched him, the ball popped out and I grabbed it and started running," said Valentine, on the fumble recovery.

All of a sudden, Green Bay was in a prime opportunity to take the lead late and steal the game at MetLife Stadium.

The offense did its part, as the drive started with 3:34 remaining in the game. Running back A.J. Dillon churned out 14 yards on the first three plays of the drive. That was followed up by two completions from Packers quarterback Jordan Love. A Love scramble later, Green Bay faced a second-and-goal from the Giants six-yard line with 1:42 remaining.

Love got the snap and avoided defenders, stepped up in the pocket and ran to the right side of the field, before throwing a dart to receiver Malik Heath. Heath initially caught the pass, but before he could control the ball, it was knocked out by a Giants' defender, setting up a third-and-goal.

On the ensuing play, Heath, who was isolated to the left side of the field, ran an out route and made an incredible catch, sneaking into the end zone to give Green Bay a one point lead with 1:33 left in the game. The following two-point attempt failed though, as Jayden Reed was tackled just short of the end zone on an end-around.



Running back AJ Dillon (28) had 15 carries for 53 yards against the Giants on Monday night. So far this season, Dillon has rushed 164 times for 574 yards, a 3.5 yards per carry average. The Packers are 21st in the NFL with 1,382 yards in 2023. Based on the team's 324 carries, the Packers are averaging 4.3 yards per carry. The team has seven rushing touchdowns.

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Giants quarterback Tommy DeVito then began his march down the field, completing three short passes before connecting with wide receiver Wan'Dale Robinson for 32 yards to put New York into field goal range. From there, Barkley chewed the clock with three straight runs, setting up the eventual 37-yard make from Bullock to give Green Bay its first loss since the team's Nov. 12 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Obviously, extremely disappointed," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "I think our team learned a valuable lesson in terms of if you don't play your best, it doesn't matter who you are playing, where you are playing, when you are playing - you are not going to win the game."

In relation to the last three games, it was an uncharacteristically underperforming game for Love, as he

completed 25-of-39 for just 218 yards and one touchdown. Love also threw one interception and lost one fumble.

It was tight end Tucker Kraft, who was the leading receiver for Green Bay, catching four passes and recording 64 yards. As for the run game, Dillon logged 53 yards on 15 carries. He added another 25 yards receiving.

"Not good enough," said Love, on his performance. "Obviously not good enough to get the job done there at the end and obviously two costly turnovers hurt us a lot, so just not good enough."

The game opened with three straight punts, before the Giants were faced with a fourth-and-eight from the Packers 30-yard line. Bullock ran onto the field to attempt to open the scoring, but a missed field goal kept the game knotted at zero. Green Bay then took over and

marched down the field on a seven-play drive, capped off by a Reed 16-yard rushing touchdown. The Giants immediately responded with an eight-play drive that resulted in a Barkley five-yard rushing touchdown.

Love fumbled on the next drive, but the Packers were able to hold the Giants to a turnover-on-downs to get the ball back late in the first half and kick a field goal to go up three.

Coming out of halftime, the Packers forced the Giants to punt, but a muff by Packers' returner Keisean Nixon set the Giants up at the Packers' 31-yard line. DeVito picked up his biggest play of the game on the drive, rushing 26 yards on 2nd-and-six to set up Barkley's second touchdown of the game.

Green Bay was forced to punt on its ensuing drive. It was the Giants though who muffed the punt this time and Green Bay took over at the Giants' 14-yard line. The Packers could not do anything with the drive though and were forced to settle for a field goal to cut New York's lead to one.

The Giants immediately responded with a touchdown as DeVito found Giants receiver Isiah Hodgins in the back corner of the end zone to go up eight.

Green Bay then pushed down the field quickly on the backs of a 16-yard reception from Samori Toure and a 14-yard reception from Romeo Doubs. That drive yielded no points though as kicker Anders Carlson missed the 45-yard attempt. From there, the crazy fourth quarter commenced.

The loss to the Giants does not immediately hurt the Packers in the playoff picture, as despite its 6-7 record, Green Bay still finds itself in the seventh seed, one game behind the Minnesota Vikings and three back of the Detroit Lions for the lead in the NFC North. Green Bay still controls its own destiny, but four teams in the NFC sit at a 6-7 record looking to swipe that seventh seed.

For what it is worth, the New York Times Playoff Simulator gives the Packers a 50% chance to make the playoffs. If Green Bay beats Tampa Bay next week, that goes up to 67%. If Green Bay loses to Tampa Bay next week, that goes down to 25%.

BEAT The Expert

Week 15 Games: Sun., Dec. 17



Luke Reimer
New Media

Denver @ Detroit
Minnesota @ Cincinnati
New York Jets @ Miami
Chicago @ Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:
Tampa Bay @ Green Bay

Week 14 Winner :

**Jacob
Westendorf
New Media**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center	2-3	47-23
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	3-2	47-23
Tim Murphy, New Media	1-4	46-24
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	2-3	44-26
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	0-5	39-31
Kevin Passon, New Media	2-3	39-31
Staff, Shawano Health Services	1-4	38-32
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	1-4	38-32
Luke Reimer, New Media	1-4	37-33
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	1-4	34-36
Sue Moede, Moede Plumbing	1-4	34-36



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Chicago

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 21



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 28



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 13 @ Green Bay 31



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Minnesota
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ Green Bay 28



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Minnesota
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ Green Bay 28



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 14 @ Green Bay 24



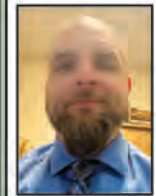
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 27



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 20 @ Green Bay 27



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Tampa Bay 21 @ Green Bay 23



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 20 @ Green Bay 23



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Denver
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 14 @ Green Bay 28

NOTEBOOK

Bucs' weak ground game could be a blessing for Packers' defense

Mayfield's done enough to keep Bucs respectable as they move on from Brady

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Bucs' defense

The Bucs' defense was what was their strongest unit when they ended the Packers' Super Bowl dreams a few years ago. A large portion of that defense is still in Tampa Bay under Todd Bowles.

They may not be as strong, but there are still capable players on that side of the ball.

Antoine Winfield Jr. is as good as it gets at the safety position. The son of former Packer nemesis Antoine Winfield has three sacks and two interceptions on the season. He seems to have a nose for the football.

The Bucs' defense is built from the front back and that starts with Vita Vea. Vea was one of the game wreckers from the NFC title game a few years ago. He is able to stymie any team's run game but also rushes the passer.

The defense as a whole is ranked 27th in the NFL in yards per game. Despite being at the bottom of the league, this is not a unit to sleep on. They still have players that have played a lot of football and made some big plays.

The Packers' offense continues to come on strong. Their performance against the Kansas City Chiefs was one of the best of the season. They had five scoring drives and only punted twice.

Their two punts were a result of self-inflicted wounds more than anything the Chiefs did.

The young offense is growing up in front of all of us.

Jordan Love threw three more touchdown passes against the Chiefs, and going into Monday Night Football had thrown eight touchdowns to zero interceptions during the team's three-game winning streak.

On Monday, he added another TD but also added an interception.

Christian Watson was one of the stories of that winning streak, but unfortunately injured his hamstring



Patrick Taylor (27) rushed four times for 30 yards and brought in both targets for 22 yards in the Packers' 24-22 loss to the Giants on Monday night. The reserve back once again served as the No. 2 option in the Packers backfield with Aaron Jones sidelined due to a knee injury.

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late in the fourth quarter against the Chiefs. Watson was having his best stretch of his young season, and the offense appears to be at its best when he is at his best.

In Watson's absence, the team will be hopeful to get Aaron Jones back to full strength. Jones practiced all week last week, and could be ready for prime time against Tampa Bay. That will help the team as a running back and a receiver out of the backfield.

The biggest key that needs to continue as the Packers go through this final stretch of games is that Love has not turned the ball over.

During the Packers' losing streak early in the year, he worked his way to the top of the leaderboard in interceptions.

He's played clean, and as a result, the offense has been much better.

The run game is still struggling, and that may be the case all season.

AJ Dillon and Aaron Jones have rarely been on the field at the same time this year as Jones has battled injuries all year.

The third running back spot has been a bit of a revolving door. Patrick Taylor has been in and out of Green Bay. Emanuel Wilson was there before he was placed on injured reserve after injuring his shoulder against the Los Angeles Chargers.

The Packers signed Kenyan Drake and released James Robinson a week ago. Whether or not that gives the team a boost remains to be seen. If nothing else, Drake has experience as a pass catcher, and he could give some more juice there.

Whether Jones is ready for an extended workload remains to be seen. If he is, it'll likely be Jones and Dillon trying to jumpstart this anemic Green Bay ground game.

Packers' defense vs. Bucs' offense

Tom Brady chose the Bucs in part because of the group that would surround him in Tampa Bay.

Brady brought Rob Gronkowski and Antonio Brown with him, but they were role players on that team.

The stars of the show were Chris Godwin and Mike Evans. Those two are still in Tampa Bay, and they're still causing headaches for opposing defensive coordinators.

Baker Mayfield has stepped in and played solid football for the Bucs. He's not Tom Brady, but then again nobody is. That being said, he's done enough to keep the Bucs respectable in their first season transitioning away from the future Hall of Famer.

The Bucs' run game is a source of concern for them. They're ranked 30th in the NFL in rush yards per game.

The Packers have had their struggles against opposing ground games. They've allowed more than

200 yards rushing in three games this season. The Bucs struggles are likely a welcome sight for Green Bay, considering how well they're set up to defend opposing pass games.

The Packers' defense has not always looked pretty, but they've been effective. Joe Barry recently said the most important number was the one on the scoreboard.

The Packers have done well in that regard. They've crept into the top 10 in points allowed per game. They have not allowed more than 24 points in a game since Week 2 against Atlanta.

One of the biggest reasons for that is Green Bay's pass rush.

Rashan Gary has four sacks and two forced fumbles in two of the last three games.

Preston Smith, Lukas Van Ness and Kenny Clark have all at least shared a sack as well in the last two games.

The Packers cornerback room finally got on the board for an interception when Keisean Nixon picked off Patrick Mahomes late in the fourth quarter of their game against the Chiefs.

They should have more opportunities to catch errant passes from Baker Mayfield if they're able to put him under pressure.

Special teams

The Packers' kicking game has rebounded nicely. Anders Carlson, after having missed a kick in every game since the bye week, had a massive rebound against the Chiefs. Carlson made what is likely the biggest kick of his career when he drilled a 48-yard field goal to give the Packers an 8-point lead.

Keisean Nixon has to feel like more opportunities are going to come his way to return kickoffs. As the weather gets deeper into December, the temperatures will continue to drop, which should mean kickers won't be able to drill the ball out of the back of the end zone.

The Packers' coverage units have gotten better in recent weeks, but are still ranked near the bottom of the league in Special Teams DVOA.

Coming into Week 14, the Packers were ranked 30th in that regard.

The Bucs were ranked 30th in Rick Gosselin's special teams rankings a year ago. Their kicker situation is solid. Chase McLaughlin has only missed two of the 43 kicks he's attempted this season. That includes drilling a 57-yard field goal against the Minnesota Vikings. He has plenty of range, which makes things interesting in a game that could come down to the wire.



With just a couple minutes left in the game Monday, Jordan Love maneuvered around the pocket before throwing a bullet to Malik Heath in the end zone for what appeared to be a touchdown, but safety Jason Pinnock knocked it away from Heath, who was a bit lackadaisical after the grab; the ruling stood upon review. That made it third-and-goal from the 6 and Heath made amends with an incredible all-hands catch at the pylon.

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KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers, Buccaneers ready for another 'Battle of the Bays'

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers return home on a short week after having to travel to MetLife Stadium to take on the New York Giants.

This week, they face another NFC opponent who has had struggles of their own, but one they're pretty familiar with.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers used to be division rivals with the Packers. The famous "Battle of the Bays" was something that would happen twice a year. There were epic battles between Brett Favre and Warren Sapp, including a 21-7 slugfest in the Divisional Round of the 1997-98 NFL Playoffs.

The two teams have not been division rivals since the early 2000s, but did meet up three years ago for the NFC Championship.

Tom Brady and the Bucs beat Aaron Rodgers in the Packers in the only playoff matchup between the two legendary quarterbacks.

The two teams met last year in Tampa, with the Packers winning 14-12.

The two teams are in transition now. Baker Mayfield is the starting quarterback in Tampa Bay after Tom Brady retired.

Jordan Love and company are rolling and eyeing a spot in the NFC playoffs.

If they're going to get there, here are the keys to beating the Bucs at home.

Packers' corners

vs. Mike Evans and Chris Godwin

Brady might be gone, but the structure of the Tampa Bay passing game that helped Brady lead the Bucs to three consecutive playoff appearances is still in tow.

Mike Evans is over 1,000 yards again in a career that may have him fitted for a gold jacket at the end of the season.

Chris Godwin is one of the better slot receivers in all of football.

The Packers' cornerback situation is tenuous.



Green Bay Packers tight end Tucker Kraft (85) carries the ball against the New York Giants during the fourth quarter Monday in East Rutherford, N.J.

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Carrington Valentine has been a revelation. He was pushed into the starting lineup after Rasul Douglas was traded to the Buffalo Bills at the trade deadline.

Valentine has been flanked by Corey Ballentine. The two started again in New York against the Giants.

Keisean Nixon made the first interception by a Green Bay cornerback on the active roster with a massive play against the Chiefs late in the fourth quarter. He has played better of late, and will likely see a lot of Chris Godwin on Sunday.

Jaire Alexander missed another game with a shoulder injury that has completely derailed his season. At this point in the year, it's hard to say when Alexander will be back on the field. He has only missed one practice since Week 11, but has not suited up at game time.

Even if Alexander does play, Evans and Godwin represent a challenge for a Packers secondary that has been decimated by injury throughout the season.

Packers' pass rush vs. Baker Mayfield

The Packers' pass rush was supposed to be one of the strengths of their team.

They've started to flex their muscles during the team's winning streak. They had three sacks against both Jared Goff and Patrick Mahomes in their most impressive two-game stretch of the season.

Rashan Gary is a star, and has played like one over the last month.

He's likely to only get better as he gets further removed from an ACL injury that derailed his season a year ago.

Kenny Clark has just as many

pressures on the season as Gary according to Pro Football Focus.

Both are tied for the team lead with 41 apiece.

Clark has an opportunity to create some havoc against a Tampa interior that struggles with pressure.

In addition to those two, Preston Smith, Lukas Van Ness and Karl Brooks have all created some havoc over the last month of the year.

That's a positive sign when a team is set to face Mayfield.

When Mayfield is pressured, he gets reckless with the ball. The Packers saw that firsthand in a Christmas Day matchup two years ago where Mayfield was picked off four times.

Mayfield comes into play on Sunday with 20 touchdowns to just eight interceptions.

The key will be getting pressure



Green Bay Packers safety Rudy Ford (20) celebrates after recovering a fumbled punt by the New York Giants during the third quarter Monday. Despite the fumble recovery, Green Bay's pass rush could not do what this defense is allegedly built to do. It should have been able to attack a rookie third-string quarterback. Instead, Tommy DeVito walked down the field with relative ease to set up a game-winning field goal as time expired. For all the success the defense has had on the scoreboard, it's been beaten far too often by inferior quarterbacks.

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against Mayfield and forcing him to make mistakes.

Matt LaFleur and Jordan Love vs. Todd Bowles

The Packers have gone through a bit of a gauntlet of defensive coaches in the last two weeks.

Steve Spagnuolo is one of the

most decorated coordinators in the sport. The Packers moved the ball seemingly at will against the Chiefs. Spagnuolo threw a variety of looks at Jordan Love, and they seemed to have answers for all of them.

They moved from Spagnuolo to Wink Martindale.

Against the Giants, the Packers' pass offense looked too much like

the one that stumbled through the month of October.

Todd Bowles is a little different than both Martindale and Spagnuolo. He lives in a cover-2 world and is not as blitz heavy as Martindale or Spagnuolo has proven to be.

He is good at disguising coverages and making opposing offenses think about what they are seeing.

Bowles was the defensive coordinator on Bruce Arians' staff that helped stifle Aaron Rodgers and the high-powered 2020 Packers' offense.

He'll be looking to try and force Love into some mistakes. Matt LaFleur will need to help his young quarterback and offense that is coming into its own of late.

THE VITALS

GREEN BAY PACKERS VS. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

TIME AND DATE: Noon on Sunday, Dec. 17

LOCATION: Lambeau Field

TV: Fox

RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee - 97.3; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay - 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo - 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette - 95.1, and WSAU Wausau - 550 AM and 95.1 FM

HISTORY: The Bucs and Packers have locked horns 58 times over the history of both franchises. The Packers have won 34 games to the Bucs 23, and the two teams have tied twice.

The most recent matchup was a 14-12 slugfest in Tampa Bay a season ago. Aaron Rodgers led two scoring drives in the first quarter, and the defense did the rest with DeVondre Campbell knocking away a two-point conversion to thwart a late comeback

attempt.

The most recent postseason matchup came in the NFC Championship Game on Jan. 24, 2021. The Packers lost 31-26 that day in the only postseason meeting between Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. The most recent regular season matchup at Lambeau Field came in 2017. Brett Hundley started that day, and the Packers won 26-20 in overtime behind a touchdown run from Aaron Jones.

COACHES: Packers - Packers - Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 54-26). Bucs - Todd Bowles 2nd season 14-16).

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 at Chicago W 38-20
Sept. 17 at Atlanta L 25-24
Sept. 24 vs. New Orleans Noon W 18-17
Sept. 28 vs. Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-20
Oct. 9 at Las Vegas 7:15 p.m. L 17-13

Oct. 15 BYE

Oct. 22 at Denver 3:25 p.m. L 19-17

Oct. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 24-10

Nov. 5 vs. LA Rams W 20-3

Nov. 12 at Pittsburgh L 23-19

Nov. 19 vs. LA Chargers W 23-20

Nov. 23 at Detroit W 29-22

Dec. 3 vs. Kansas City W 27-19

Dec. 10 at NY Giants L 24-22

Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay Noon FOX

Dec. 24 at Carolina Noon FOX

Dec. 31 at Minnesota 7:20 p.m. NBC

Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, TBD

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 14

Chargers at Raiders, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Vikings at Bengals, Noon

Steelers at Colts, 3:30 p.m.

Broncos at Lions, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Giants at Saints, Noon

Bears at Browns, Noon

Falcons at Panthers, Noon

Buccaneers at Packers, Noon

Jets at Dolphins, Noon

Chiefs at Patriots, Noon

Texans at Titans, Noon

49ers at Cardinals, 3:05 p.m.

Commanders at Rams, 3:05 p.m.

Cowboys at Bills, 3:25 p.m.

Ravens at Jaguars, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 18

Eagles at Seahawks, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Saints at Rams, 7:15 p.m.

Long reunites with Gary, others

Newest Packers' cornerback ready to contribute right away

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers claimed cornerback David Long Jr. off waivers from the Carolina Panthers on Dec. 5.

Long (5-11, 196), a fifth-year player out of the University of Michigan, was originally selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the third round of the 2019 NFL Draft. He played four seasons for the Rams (2019-22) before joining the Las Vegas Raiders this past offseason. He played in eight games with one start for the Raiders this season before being released on Nov. 2.

Long was then claimed by Carolina, where he appeared in three contests with one start.

For his career, he has played in 63 regular-season games with 12 starts, recording 94 tackles (81 solo), an interception, eight passes defended and two tackles on special teams.

Long appeared in six postseason contests with one start for the Rams (2020-21), posting 12 tackles (11 solo),

a tackle for a loss and an interception returned for a touchdown.

So what's this been like for you? It's the ups and downs of the league I suppose, but what's this last 48 hours been like for you?

It just comes with the territory of being in the league. You know, I was cut one day and then claimed and then you just get on the flight and get prepared to insert yourself into another system, culture and just do all you can to help the team win.

What's the toughest thing about changing teams again?

Man, I think it's tough, you know, because this is a business of people, and you get familiar with people. But, you know, just being yourself, packing a light bag so it's easy to move around, and then just going out there and giving your best for your new teammates and new peers so that they have earned respect for you.

Do you know anyone?

I actually know a good amount of guys. I was with Robert Rochell in L.A. I went to school with Rashan

Gary; we're the same recruiting class, so I spent three years with him in Michigan. John Runyan, as well. I was with Matt, the long snapper, in L.A., as well, Super Bowl year. And I know Keisean Nixon; he's from the L.A. area. I'm from Pasadena, but I played high school in Los Angeles.

I know you just got here, but I assume you know the defense at least fairly well, right? Because you spent four years with the Rams, and this is their defense.

Yeah, there's some familiar calls and things like that. So that's always easy when you go to a system or defense that you're familiar with. So, just getting used to the terminology and things like that and their identity and mindset on the defense.

You mentioned packing a "light bag." What did you bring? Couple changes of clothes?

Yeah, the biggest bag I pack probably is my football stuff: cleats, stuff to keep my body together.

And then clothes-wise, underwear, toiletries, you get that when you go and then you just kind of pack some warm clothes heading out here. And then everything else kind of sorts of stuff.

Reuniting with Gary?

It's cool. I've spent a good deal of time with Rashan. We kind of grew up from boys to men at Michigan. And I've been a huge fan of his. Happy to see his success the last few years. So, to be here and be able to share the field with him is extremely cool for me, and we already have a connection in terms of just like understanding who I am, who he is. We've grown some being in the league but, at its core, I think I understand who he is and he understands who I am.

You were a top prospect that's bounced around. Confidence?

Yeah, that's a valid question. Sometimes, it's not always me. I think I'm very self-aware. I understand things I need to work on, but the thing about this league is it's not always black and white in terms of why things happen and why things don't.

You see a lot of guys bounce around the league that have been productive or can be productive, and I think for me it's just staying in the fight. I'm not coming into a situation where I feel like I need to be a CEO when the opportunity to make the team or to make the company is cleaning in the floors. I'm willing to



David Long Jr., a fifth-year player out of the University of Michigan, was originally selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the third round of the 2019 NFL Draft. The Green Bay Packers claimed him off waivers from the Carolina Panthers on Dec. 5.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

do whatever I can or wear whatever hat. I don't really allow my ego and my pride to get in the way.

I was a starter in the Super Bowl, and then I've been bouncing around this past year for the first time between teams. I was playing a little bit on defense and not playing. But, yeah, just leaving my pride and my ego out of it and just trying to do the best I can for the defense. I don't really think too much about myself. My personal journey, that will take care of itself as long as I do what I need to do for the team.

Is Rasul Douglas a good example of what can happen with a fresh start?

I think every opportunity is a fresh start for me. I think this is a great place. They're turning in the right direction. I'm happy to be here. And I'm just willing to take advantage of my opportunities, and we'll see where it goes from here.

Where are you playing inside? Outside?

I've played everything, honestly. Super Bowl year, I was featured mainly in the slot, but I've bounced around outside, as well. This last year, I've been a lot playing corner, but I can do it all. Like I said, I understand my skillset; they understand it. So, whatever the team needs, I'm willing to do that. That's kind of how I go about it.

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jaire Alexander	23	CB	5-10	196	26	6	Louisville
Zayne Anderson	39	S	6-2	206	26	1	BYU
Corey Ballentine	35	CB	5-11	196	27	5	Washburn
Karl Brooks	94	DL	6-3	296	23	R	Bowling Green
De'Vondre Campbell	59	LB	6-4	232	30	8	Minnesota
Anders Carlson	17	K	6-5	219	25	R	Auburn
Kenny Clark	97	DL	6-3	314	28	8	UCLA
Sean Clifford	8	QB	6-2	218	25	R	Penn State
Brenton Cox Jr.	57	LB	6-4	250	23	R	Florida
Josiah Deguara	81	TE	6-2	238	26	4	Cincinnati
AJ Dillon	28	RB	6-0	247	25	4	Boston College
Romeo Doubs	87	WR	6-2	204	23	2	Nevada
Kingsley Enagbare	55	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina
Rudy Ford	20	S	6-0	210	29	7	Auburn
Rashan Gary	52	LB	6-5	277	26	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	27	5	Mississippi State
Anthony Johnson Jr.	36	S	6-0	205	24	R	Iowa State
Aaron Jones	33	RB	5-9	208	29	7	Texas-El Paso
Caleb Jones	72	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana
Kyu Blu Kelly	24	CB	6-0	191	22	R	Stanford
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	23	R	South Dakota State
David Long Jr.	30	CB	5-11	196	25	5	Michigan
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	25	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College
Josh Myers	71	C/G	6-5	310	25	3	Ohio State
Royce Newman	70	G/T	6-5	310	26	3	Mississippi
Yosh Nijman	73	T	6-7	314	27	4	Virginia Tech
Keisean Nixon	25	CB	5-10	200	26	5	South Carolina
Matt Orzech	42	LS	6-3	245	28	4	Azusa Pacific
Jonathan Owens	34	S	5-11	210	28	5	Missouri Western
Jayden Reed	11	WR	5-11	187	23	R	Michigan State
Sean Rhyan	75	G	6-5	321	23	2	UCLA
Robert Rochell	22	CB	6-0	193	25	3	Central Arkansas
Jon Runyan	76	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan
Darnell Savage	26	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	26	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	31	9	Mississippi State
Patrick Taylor	27	RB	6-2	217	25	3	Memphis
Zach Tom	50	OL	6-4	304	24	2	Wake Forest
Samori Toure	83	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska
Carrington Valentine	37	CB	6-0	189	22	R	Kentucky
Lukas Van Ness	90	LB	6-5	272	22	R	Iowa
Quay Walker	7	LB	6-4	241	23	2	Georgia
Rasheed Walker	63	T	6-6	324	23	2	Penn State
Christian Watson	9	WR	6-4	208	24	2	North Dakota State
Kristian Welch	54	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Iowa
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	24	1	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	29	7	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	22	R	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia
Reserve/Injured							
David Bakhtiari	69	T	6-4	310	32	11	Colorado
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Shaquil Barrett	7	OLB	6-2	250	31	10	Colorado State
K.J. Britt	52	LB	6-0	235	24	3	Auburn
Jake Camarda	5	P	6-1	193	24	2	Georgia
Lavonte David	54	LB	6-1	233	33	12	Nebraska
Carlton Davis III	24	CB	6-1	206	26	6	Auburn
Jamel Dean	35	CB	6-1	206	27	5	Auburn
Dee Delaney	30	DB	5-11	200	28	3	Miami
SirVocea Dennis	8	LB	6-0	230	23	R	Pittsburgh
Yaya Diaby	0	OLB	6-4	270	24	R	Louisville
Payne Durham	87	TE	6-5	255	23	R	Purdue
Chase Edmonds	22	RB	5-9	201	27	6	Fordham
Mike Evans	13	WR	6-5	231	30	10	Texas A&M
Matt Feiler	71	G	6-6	330	31	7	Bloomsburg
Greg Gaines	96	DL	6-1	312	27	5	Washington
William Gholston	92	DL	6-6	281	32	11	Michigan State
Cam Gill	49	OLB	6-3	240	25	4	Wagner
Chris Godwin	14	WR	6-1	209	27	7	Penn State
Luke Goedeke	67	T	6-5	312	25	2	Central Michigan
Robert Hainsey	70	C	6-4	306	25	3	Notre Dame
Logan Hall	90	DL	6-6	283	23	2	Houston
Josh Hayes	32	DB	6-0	190	24	R	Kansas State
Keenan Isaac	16	CB	6-3	190	23	R	Alabama State
Christian Izien	29	S	5-10	200	23	R	Rutgers
Calijah Kancey	94	DL	6-0	280	22	R	Pittsburgh
Ko Kieft	41	TE	6-5	265	25	2	Minnesota
Nick Leverett	60	G	6-4	310	26	3	Rice
Cody Mauch	69	G	6-6	303	24	R	North Dakota State
Baker Mayfield	6	QB	6-1	215	28	6	Oklahoma
Zyon McCollum	27	CB	6-2	199	24	2	Sam Houston State
Chase McLaughlin	4	K	6-0	190	27	5	Illinois
Kaevon Merriweather	26	S	6-0	212	23	R	Iowa
Ryan Neal	23	S	6-3	200	27	4	Southern Illinois
Anthony Nelson	98	OLB	6-7	271	26	5	Iowa
Patrick O'Connor	79	DL	6-4	270	30	5	Eastern Michigan
Cade Otton	88	TE	6-5	247	24	2	Washington
Trey Palmer	10	WR	6-1	190	22	R	Nebraska
J.J. Russell	51	LB	6-1	225	25	2	Memphis
Justin Skule	77	T	6-6	315	27	4	Vanderbilt
Aaron Stinnie	64	G	6-3	312	29	6	James Madison
Deven Thompson	83	WR	5-8	155	23	2	Utah State
Kyle Trask	2	QB	6-5	236	25	3	Florida
Zach Triner	97	LS	6-3	245	32	5	Assumption
Joe Tryon-Shoyinka	9	OLB	6-5	259	24	3	Washington
Sean Tucker	44	RB	5-10	205	22	R	Syracuse
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	21	RB	5-10	214	26	4	Vanderbilt
Vita Vea	50	NT	6-4	347	28	6	Washington
Brandon Walton	73	OL	6-5	300	25	2	Florida Atlantic
Markees Watts	58	OLB	6-1	240	24	R	Charlotte
Devin White	45	LB	6-0	237	25	5	LSU
Rachaad White	1	RB	6-0	214	24	2	Arizona State
Antoine Winfield Jr.	31	S	5-9	203	25	4	Minnesota
Tristan Wirfs	78	T	6-5	320	24	4	Iowa
John Wolford	11	QB	6-1	218	28	4	Wake Forest
Reserve/Injured							
Russell Gage	3	WR	6-0	184	27	6	LSU
Mike Greene	91	DL	6-3	293	24	1	James Madison
Rakim Jarrett	18	WR	6-0	192	22	R	Maryland
Ryan Jensen	66	C	6-4	319	32	10	Colorado State-Puebl

How Green Bay responds to loss will determine future

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

After winning three straight and turning its season around, the Green Bay Packers got slapped in the face Monday, losing 24-22 to the New York Giants.

It really seemed like the Packers had turned the corner after its victory over the Kansas Chiefs two weeks ago. The mistakes that fans had seen in the first ten games were seemingly over in the Packers' three-game win streak. There were fewer penalties and close to no turnovers, but that seemed to change in Green Bay's loss to the New York Giants.

While Green Bay did hold the lead late against the Giants, the game felt closer to how the team played when it was 3-6, rather than when it was 6-6. The problem with that is that it came in a very winnable game. Even though the Giants have now won three games in a row, it seemed that at the time, the Packers were clearly the superior team.

But as Packers head coach Matt LaFleur has said multiple times, the

NFL has a way of humbling you and that wasn't more true than on Monday night for Green Bay.

"No, not at all," said LaFleur, when asked if the team sensed a poor performance like this throughout the week. "That is why it is disappointing. You get a Monday night game on a big stage, and I thought we had a good week of preparation, and in practice, it was pretty clean, but ultimately you have to do it on gameday."

The theme for the Packers this season has been the youth, and the common saying is that with a young team, there is going to be some ups and there is going to be some downs. That hasn't been more true this year, as Green Bay started 2-1, before going 1-5 and then 3-0. With the loss to the Giants, Green Bay needs to avoid another low point in the season as the playoffs loom large.

Even though the team is 3-1 in the last four games, it really feels like Green Bay needs to come away with another statement win and that can happen this week against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. With Tampa Bay

coming to Lambeau Field on Sunday and looking to solidify its playoff life, not only getting a win, but a dominant win should work wonders in righting the Packers' season before it goes south quickly.

"They are all critical, they are all critical," said LaFleur, on how critical the loss is. "But, we better have a short memory. You have to learn from it and move on and we are on a short week now against a team in Tampa that is also fighting for their playoff lives and are the leaders of their division, so we are going to have to play a lot better than we did tonight in order to come out on top."

LaFleur is right, Green Bay is going to need to play a lot better than it did against the Giants.

The good news for Green Bay is that the loss to the Giants was only LaFleur's first loss in December. With Baker Mayfield starting at quarterback for the Buccaneers, it also poses a strong opportunity for the Packers, as Mayfield has historically struggled at Lambeau Field. In two career starts at Lambeau Field, Mayfield is 0-2, throwing for three touchdowns and five interceptions.

Now obviously, the team he is leading this year is much different than teams in the past, but given Tampa Bay's inconsistency on both the offensive and defensive lines this year, Green Bay needs to control the line of scrimmage to come away with a victory here.

There are still four weeks left in the regular season, and realistically the playoffs may come down to Green Bay's matchup with the Minnesota Vikings in week 17, but this game against the Buccaneers really has a must-win feel to it. If Green Bay loses and any of the Los Angeles Rams, Seattle Seahawks, Atlanta Falcons, New Orleans Saints, or New York Giants win next week, the Packers could find themselves out of the playoffs.

For a team that once looked like it was going to get a top-7 pick, to a team that looked like it could sneak into the playoffs, to a team that now controls its destiny, the next four weeks are going to be very stressful in Green Bay. That all starts this week, as the Packers have as close to a must-win game as one team can get without having a must-win game.



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