



WIN-AND-IN

PACKERS ROLL TO 33-10 WIN OVER VIKINGS TO BRING IN THE NEW YEAR

Aaron Jones (33) sprays Jordan Love (10) after the Green Bay Packers defeated the Minnesota Vikings 33-10 on New Year's Eve. Now, if the Packers beat the Chicago Bears on Jan. 7, the team will make the playoffs. There are also several scenarios for the Packers to back into the playoffs if they lose to Chicago.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Love, Packers destroy Vikings 33-10

Green Bay is one win away from the playoffs

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The year came full circle for the Green Bay Packers as they beat the Vikings at home during the 2022-23 season on Jan. 1., and once again on Dec. 31 during the 2023-24 season.

The most recent of those games proved to be the biggest of the current season, as Green Bay went into Minnesota and destroyed its longtime rival to a tune of 23 points, 33-10.

Quarterback Jordan Love registered another great performance for the Pack, as the first-year starter completed 24-of-33 passes for 256 yards and three touchdowns.

As has been the case in victories for the Packers over the recent seasons, Aaron Jones was the sparkplug for the offense. Jones rushed for 120 yards on 20 carries.

As for the receiving game, second-year receiver Bo Melton became the first receiver to record 100 yards for Green Bay, as he logged 105 yards and one touchdown on six receptions. Jayden Reed also broke Sterling Sharpe's record for most receptions in a season by a rookie in this game.

"That is God – that is all God," said Reed, on his historic rookie season, which includes 10 touchdowns. "I put my faith in God and just work hard and have a different mindset. Just being coachable. I am a very coachable kid; I think I am mature for my age. That is all it really takes. People being around you that trust you and great teammates and coaches that push you to go hard every day. That is just how it happened."

For the Vikings, rookie quarterback Jaren Hall was given the reins, as he started the game. Completing 5-of-10 passes, Hall was pulled at halftime in favor of Nick Mullens. Mullens completed 13-of-22 passes for 113 yards and one touchdown.

The Packers defense was stingy against the run, as Vikings rushers combined for just 67 yards. Without Jaire Alexander and Eric Stokes, Green Bay also held Minnesota's superstar wide receiver Justin Jefferson to just 59 yards on five receptions.



Jordan Love is all smiles as the Packers easily defeated the Minnesota Vikings 33-10 on New Year's Eve. Love went 24 for 33 for 256 yards and three touchdowns in what many are calling his finest game of his first year as the starter in the post-Aaron Rodgers era. Love will enter the Jan. 7 win-or-go-home showdown against the Bears on an incredible tear. He's thrown 16 touchdowns vs one interception over the last seven games. He's tied for first in touchdowns as well as interceptions over that span, and his passer rating of 109.9 is second-best. In fact, Love's 3,843 passing yards and 30 touchdowns would rank No. 1 in Bears history. His 30 touchdowns vs. 11 interceptions would give him the second-best touchdown-to-interception ratio in Bears history.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

After both teams traded punts, Green Bay started its first scoring drive. Jones, Melton, tight end Tucker Kraft, Reed and running back A.J. Dillon all got touches, as Anders Carlson knocked a 34-yard field goal through the uprights to give Green Bay an early 3-0 lead.

Two plays later, Green Bay's defense, which has been heavily criticized over the past few weeks for its poor performance, forced Hall into an interception by way of Corey Ballentine. The Packers immediately capitalized on the turnover, as Love threw a 33-yard dart to Reed in the end zone to take a 10-0 lead.

Green Bay then forced Minnesota to punt on its next drive, and Love and the offense took back over at their own 26-yard line. Jones and Dil-

lon picked up a combined 24 yards, Melton picked up 28 yards and a 15-yard face mask penalty on Minnesota set Green Bay up with a fourth-and-one from the Vikings 24-yard line. On the ensuing play, Love dropped back and floated a pass toward the left sideline intended for Melton. As Melton was going to the ground, the ball bounced out of his grasp, and the Packers turned the ball over on downs.

From there, the Vikings marched down the field for a field goal. That was quickly followed up with a 10-play 75-yard drive from Green Bay that culminated in a two-yard rushing touchdown for Love.

Minnesota took back over with 39 seconds left in the half. On the second play of the drive, Packers

linebacker Preston Smith sacked Hall and forced a fumble, which in turn was recovered by Packers rookie Karl Brooks to set up a first-and-10 from the Vikings 37-yard line with 26 seconds left. Green Bay once again capitalized on the turnover, as Love connected with Reed for a 25-yard touchdown.

"That was all Jordan trusting me in making a play," said Reed, on his second touchdown. "I tried to run the best route that I could. Jordan trusted me, and I ran through the smoke and scored."

Coming out of the half, Minnesota was immediately forced to punt the ball. Green Bay once again capitalized on the opportunity, with Love connecting with Melton for a nine-yard touchdown.

Down 30-3, Minnesota was once again forced to punt, but on the return, Packers receiver Samori Toure muffed the punt and the Vikings recovered at the Green Bay seven-yard line. Two plays later, Johnny Mundt scored the first touchdown of the game for the Vikings. Carlson then added another field goal to put the dagger in as Green Bay took home a 33-10 victory.

With the win, Green Bay finds itself in second place in the NFC North and seventh in the NFC. That means that all Green Bay needs to do is win its final game of the season against the Chicago Bears to make the playoffs.

"This is the exact position that we have been working for all off-season – all through training camp – to put ourselves in a position to make the playoffs," said Love. "Like I said, it hasn't been easy all year, a lot of highs and lows, a lot of adversity, and we didn't have any expectations coming into the year. So I think everybody is continuing to work and continuing to find ways to get better."

According to the New York Times Playoff Simulator, Green Bay currently has a 68% chance to make the playoffs. If they were to win, that number would go up to 100%.

If Green Bay were to lose and the Seattle Seahawks were to win, then Seattle would get into the playoffs. If both teams were to lose, then the playoff picture becomes a little murkier. The NFC South has yet to be decided, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Atlanta Falcons and New Orleans Saints all still mathematically alive in the hunt.

BEAT The Expert

Week 18 Games: Sun., Jan. 7



Luke Reimer
New Media

Minnesota @ Detroit
New York Jets @ New England
Dallas @ Washington
Philadelphia @ NY Giants

Tie Breaker Game:
Chicago @ Green Bay

**Week 16
Winner :**

**Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	4-1	60-25
Tim Murphy, New Media	4-1	59-26
Jim Weigand, Tower Clock Eye Center	4-1	58-27
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	5-0	58-27
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	4-1	51-34
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	4-1	50-35
Kevin Passon, New Media	4-1	49-36
Staff, Shawano Health Services	4-1	49-36
Sue Moede, Moede Plumbing	5-0	48-37
Luke Reimer, New Media	2-3	47-38
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	3-2	44-41



Jim Weigand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 17 @ Green Bay 23



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 20 @ Green Bay 24



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
NY Giants

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 27 @ Green Bay 34



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Green Bay 27



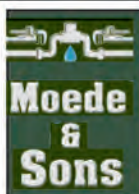
Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Green Bay 21



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
NY Giants

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 28



Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New England
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 17 @ Green Bay 27



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New England
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Green Bay 27



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 31



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New York Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Green Bay 20



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
New England
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 27

NOTEBOOK

Bears can't be taken for granted, but Packers should be able to tame them

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Bears' defense

All eyes are going to be on Jordan Love as he looks to finish off a strong debut season as Green Bay's starting quarterback.

Love got his first taste of this rivalry in his first start of the season and played well, throwing three touchdown passes, including two to Romeo Doubs.

Love has shaken off an early-season slump to assert himself as one of the better quarterbacks in all of football.

Love's season hit a turning point in early November when the Packers beat the Los Angeles Chargers 23-20. Love threw for 300 yards that day, but the rest of the offense took off from there.

Love and the offense would win their next two games against the Detroit Lions and Kansas City Chiefs, with the offense putting up points in bunches.

Despite missing some of his best weapons, Love has continued to improve as the season has gone along.

Christian Watson missed time after injuring his hamstring against Kansas City. Jayden Reed and Don-tayvion Wicks have been banged up down the stretch of the season. Luke Musgrave has missed time with a lacerated kidney.

That hasn't mattered much as Green Bay's offense has ascended into the top-10 of the league in terms of DVOA.

One of the biggest reasons for the offensive improvement is the stability along the offensive line.

The group was in flux early in the year with David Bakhtiari only being able to play one game before a knee injury sacked his entire season.

Rasheed Walker has shaken off some early struggles and been really consistent since the calendar turned to November.

Walker was splitting time with Yosh Njiman at times during the season. That competition appears to be over, with Walker winning. He took all of the snaps at left tackle against



Kenny Clark (97) and Quay Walker (7) tower over Vikings quarterback Jaren Hall (16) during the first half of the Dec. 31 game in Minnesota. Hall was replaced at the start of the second half. While not taking the Chicago Bears for granted, Green Bay should be able to keep their rivals on their backs in the regular season finale Jan. 7.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Carolina.

Whether he's the team's tackle of the future remains to be seen, but he's one of the biggest reasons for Green Bay's improvement.

Zach Tom won the right tackle position early in the year and has been rock solid all season long. He's one of the team's best players.

The run game has been one of the

biggest disappointments on the season. Aaron Jones became the team's first 100-yard rusher on the year two weeks ago in Carolina.

Jones is clearly this team's best

running back and should be able to handle a full workload. AJ Dillon's usage has been limited since he broke his thumb in a Monday night game against the New York Giants.

Patrick Taylor has been the team's primary third running back but does not have a role carved out in the offense.

Chicago's defense was in a transition after head coach Matt Eberflus made it through his first year evaluating his team.

They spent a bunch of money this offseason, namely on two inside linebackers. Philadelphia's T.J. Edwards and Buffalo's Tremaine Edmunds both signed in Chicago this offseason. Both have played well. Edmunds leads the team in interceptions, while Edwards leads the team in tackles.

Jaquan Brisker and Jaylon Johnson help form a group that is not short on talent but suffered through some growing pains a season ago.

The defense has improved as the season has gone on, and there is one big acquisition that could be pointed to for that.

If there was something you'd want to draw up for Love in his first start, it'd be facing a team with a pass rush as putrid as Chicago's was a season ago. That remained true in the season opener. Love was only sacked once in the season opener.

The Bears were the worst team in the NFL in 2022 at sacking the quarterback, and after passing on all of the pass rushers in the draft, they made a big splash at the trade deadline. They traded a second-round pick for Montez Sweat.

Sweat has quickly become one of the best players on the defense and looks like someone the Bears can build around for the future.

The goal will be to find him a running mate. The Bears signed Yannick Ngakoue at the beginning of the season. He had four sacks on the season but is dealing with a broken ankle that will keep him sidelined for Sunday's game.

This is not the same defense Green Bay rumbled through in the season opener. They've gotten better, and can make life difficult for opposing offenses.

Packers' defense vs. Bears' offense

This could be the final game for Justin Fields as the Bears' preferred starting quarterback. It looks likely that the Bears, thanks to a trade with the Carolina Panthers, will be picking in the top-2 of April's draft.

Because of that, they'll be in position to select Caleb Williams or Drake Maye.



Aaron Jones carried the ball 20 times for 120 yards against the Vikings on Dec. 31. It marked the second straight week he's carried for more than 100 yards in a game. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

The Bears could forgo that opportunity and choose to build around Fields, but that is a distinction he has not earned. Despite the investment in the offense this offseason, Fields has not taken the jump as a passer the Bears could have hoped for.

He's a gifted runner. He's a good weapon, but the same mistakes have been made continuously. He takes too many sacks and turns the ball over at a high clip.

The Bears' passing offense is ranked toward the bottom of the

NFL. Keeping him as the team's quarterback of the future is not justifiable at this stage.

That being said, Fields could be showcasing himself for his new team and could have a chip on his shoulder as he's never beaten the Packers.

He ran for 59 yards in the first meeting between the two teams, but he turned the ball over twice, including throwing a pick-six to Quay Walker that essentially ended the game.

The Bears gave him a new

weapon this offseason, adding former Carolina Panthers' wide receiver DJ Moore in a trade that moved the Bears eight back eight spots in April's draft.

Moore has emerged as the team's number one receiver and has gone over the 1,000-yard mark for the season.

He was quiet in his first game against Green Bay, hauling in two passes for 25 yards.

Cole Kmet is the team's second best weapon at this point in the year and has been a steady target for Fields in the middle of the field.

The biggest investment that Chicago made on offense this offseason was in trying to protect Fields.

Darnell Wright has had his ups and downs in his rookie season. Teven Jenkins has been in and out of the lineup. The Bears' offensive line is better than it was a season ago but still has some struggles.

Special teams

Green Bay's special teams is not as bad as it was in 2021 when they were one of the laughingstocks of the NFL.

Despite the investment both in their special teams' coordinator and roster spots used on specialists, the Packers have not improved nearly enough to meet the investment that they've made in their special teams.

They are the most penalized unit in football and seem to make at least one major miscue per week.

Anders Carlson will be looking for a strong finish within the field goal operation. He has lacked consistency through the season but could have some confidence being two weeks removed from kicking a game-winning field goal against the Carolina Panthers.

Rich Bisaccia is unlikely to be on the hot seat after receiving a promotion for 2023, but this unit should be under a microscope as the season comes to a close.

The Chicago Bears were 24th in Rick Gosselin's special teams rankings in 2022.

Cairo Santos returned for a second season as the Bears' kicker and was recently rewarded with a contract extension that will keep him in the Windy City for the next four seasons.

The return game does not boast the ghosts of Chicago past like Devin Hester. Velus Jones and Tyler Scott have split kick return duties, with neither having much to boast about.

Trent Taylor has been the team's primary punt returner with a long return of 31 yards.

KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers' defense needs to keep Bears ground game in check

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

Just like the season begins, so it too shall end. The Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears will face off in the final game of the season at Lambeau Field.

Green Bay's season has turned into what it could have hoped for. They have to feel good about having their quarterback of the future. Their offense has seen growth from all of their young players.

The defense is another story, and one that will be revisited whenever Green Bay's season officially ends.

The Bears are going to miss the playoffs again and feel like a franchise at a crossroads. Do they keep Justin Fields and build around him? Do they select one of the top quarterbacks in the draft with the pick they'll receive from Carolina?

Fields is showcasing himself in this game, whether it is to keep his job in Chicago or for a new team. The Bears will be ready. They've lost nine straight games to Green Bay, and are likely tired of hearing about those trends.

Here are the keys to the Packers continuing that streak to finish the season.

Packers' defense vs. Bears' run game

The Chicago Bears' strength of their offense is their ground game. Khalil Herbert, D'onta Foreman and Roschon Johnson have all had strong moments throughout the season.

In addition to their backfield, the Bears have the legs of Fields at their disposal. For all the questions about Fields' arm, those questions do not exist about his legs. Fields ran for 1,143 yards a season ago.

He's not going to go over 1,000 yards this year, but is the team's leading rusher with more than 600 yards gained on the ground.

He's as dynamic as any quarterback when he takes off to run. He ran for 59 yards the last time these two teams met.

The Packers' run defense has been dreadful again in 2023. They made changes in personnel but are still near the bottom of the league.



The Packers' defense needs to rein in the Chicago Bears' run game, like they did with Minnesota's Ty Chandler (32). Chandler picked up 40 yards on the ground, and all Minnesota rushers gained only 67 yards. The Chicago Bears' strength of their offense is their ground game. Khalil Herbert, D'onta Foreman and Roschon Johnson have all had strong moments throughout the season. In addition to their backfield, the Bears have the legs of Fields at their disposal.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

They've given up more than 200 yards rushing four times this year.

This offseason, the Packers jettisoned Dean Lowry and Jarran Reed to give more snaps to Devonte Wyatt, T.J. Slaton, and two late-round draft picks Colby Wooden and Karl Brooks.

It hasn't mattered.

The Packers are still one of the worst defenses in football against the run. Chicago wants to run the ball.

Slowing down this ground game and making Fields beat them with his arm is one of the biggest keys to Green Bay winning this game.

Jordan Love vs. Montez Sweat

The first time these two teams

met, Jordan Love was essentially playing 7-on-7. He sat in the pocket, scanned the field and found open receivers.

He threw three touchdown passes on the day and reminded all of Chicago that just because the old quarterback was gone, it does not mean things were going to change anytime soon.

The Bears' pass rush, which was bad in 2022, was not good to start 2023.

They've made a big acquisition at the trade deadline that has changed the equation. Montez Sweat was sent to Chicago for a second-round pick, and he has been a menace since arriving in Chicago.

Sweat is a dynamic pass rusher that Chicago did not have the first time these two teams met. Zach Tom and Rasheed Walker have been solid down the stretch of the season, but Sweat is the type of pass rusher that can wreck a game.

If Love and the rest of the offense can keep him off balance, they'll should be able to navigate Chicago's secondary.

Packer's young receivers vs. Bears' secondary

Speaking of that secondary for Chicago, the Bears have a budding star in Jaylon Johnson. He has been excellent in a contract season for

Bo Melton (80) caught six passes for 105 yards and a touchdown against the Vikings. He and the other young Green Bay receivers have to make some plays against an improving Chicago secondary.

GREG MELLIS |
GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



him. The Bears have yet to reward him with a contract extension, but he's as capable of stepping up to cover a team's top receiver as any corner in football.

Perhaps the good news for Green Bay is that they don't really have a true go-to receiver. Dontayvion Wicks, Romeo Doubs, Jayden Reed and Christian Watson have all had their time in the sun as the team's top wideout in 2023.

The reality is that Green

Bay's offense does not move the ball on the ground. They've relied on Love's arm more than they likely would have wanted to in his first season as the team's starting quarterback.

Conversely, Chicago's run defense has been stout. They're second behind San Francisco in total yardage given up on the ground and third in opponent yards per carry.

The Packers did not run the ball all that well the first

time these two teams met, either. Aaron Jones ran for 41 yards on nine carries and was the leading rusher on the day.

Green Bay's run game hasn't gotten much better since then, and Chicago's run defense has. That means they will likely have to move the ball through the air with Love and his young receiving corps.

It'll be up to one of their young guys to make some plays against an improving secondary.

THE VITALS

GREEN BAY PACKERS VS. CHICAGO BEARS

TIME AND DATE: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7

LOCATION: Lambeau Field

TV: Fox

RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee - 97.3; Packers Radio Network

2023 RECORDS: Packers, 8-8. Bears 7-9.

HISTORY: The NFL's oldest rivalry in the history of the NFL dates back to 1921. The Packers lead the all-time series 106-95-6.

The Packers have won the last nine games against the Bears, including a 38-20 victory at Soldier Field in the season opener this year. The last time the Packers and Bears faced off at Lambeau Field, Green Bay won 27-10 on Sunday Night Football.

Matt LaFleur is a perfect 9-0 against Chicago.

COACHES: Packers - Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 55-27). Bears - Matt Eberflus (second season, 10-23)

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. 11 at NY Giants 7:15 p.m. L 24-22

Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay L 34-20

Dec. 24 at Carolina W 33-30

Dec. 31 at Minnesota W 33-10

Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, FOX

NFL SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 6

Steelers at Ravens, 3:30 p.m.

Texans at Colts, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Jaguars at Titans, Noon

Vikings at Lions, Noon

Falcons at Saints, Noon

Jets at Patriots, Noon

Buccaneers at Panthers, Noon

Browns at Bengals, Noon

Bears at Packers, 3:25 p.m.

Cowboys at Commanders, 3:25 p.m.

Broncos at Raiders, 3:25 p.m.

Eagles at Giants, 3:25 p.m.

Seahawks at Cardinals, 3:25 p.m.

Rams at 49ers, 3:25 p.m.

Chiefs at Chargers, 3:25 p.m.

Bills at Dolphins, 7:20 p.m.



Antiques • Vintage Collectibles
• Pop-Culture • Repurposed Items

701 S. Main Street • Shawano • (715) 853-8722

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm

Mondays 1pm-5pm



While you are here, try all our
Twigs Flavors



LIKE US ON
facebook

TWIGS
BEVERAGE

920 S. Franklin St. Shawano 715-526-5031

Green Bay finds itself in a familiar position

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

For the second straight season, the Green Bay Packers find themselves in a win-and-in situation against a division rival who is mathematically eliminated from the playoffs.

This time though, Green Bay hosts the Chicago Bears, rather than the Detroit Lions, which defeated the Packers and crushed their playoff dreams last season.

"We understand what we have in front of us, and it really means nothing unless we take care of business next week in Lambeau," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, after the Week 17 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. "We were in a similar situation a year ago and couldn't get it done, so we know it is going to be a tremendous challenge."

While the circumstances are eerily similar, many things about the 2023-24 Green Bay Packers are different compared to the 2022-23 Green Bay Packers.

First of all, there is a different

quarterback attempting to lead the team to the Super Bowl. While the team is in the same spot as it was last year, there seems to be a different aura surrounding this year's team. All of last season, the Packers were expected to make the playoffs, as everyone knew what Aaron Rodgers could do on a football field. This season though, that feeling changed. Nobody knew what Jordan Love could do on a football field.

All season, it really seemed like the Packers were a team that could maybe win some games, but once again did not have expectations. While every team's goal is to win a Super Bowl, this Packers' season was really to see what Love could do. Yes, there is still a lot of work to do, but the question on if Love can actually be the starting quarterback of the Green Bay, seems to somewhat be answered. Instead of this being a "let's see what we have" season, it has quickly turned into a "win-and-we-are-in" season.

That really started to become a reality on Christmas Eve. After Green Bay lost to the Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers, its last hope was really to win the remainder of its games to make the playoffs, with a little help from other teams. But, as fate would have it and just like the previous season, the teams that needed to lose lost and Green Bay beat who it needed to beat to set themselves up with a prime opportunity.

Along with Love having question marks surrounding himself, the offense as a whole had those same question marks. General manager Brian Gutekunst assembled the youngest offense in the NFL this season and with injuries surrounding Christian Watson and inconsistency surrounding Romeo Doubs, fans were wondering who would be the player that could break out on the Packers.

"Even though we had a lot of young guys coming into the start of the season, you could just see how many playmakers we had on offense and how deep our skill positions were," said Love, reflecting on training camp. "I was excited about it, so that is exactly why I said that the sky's the limit. We had no expecta-

tions, and the main thing is that we continue to work every day and find ways to improve."

Players like Jayden Reed, Tucker Kraft, Bo Melton and Love were not playing for the team last year, and it has become increasingly obvious that they have become the go-to guys in this offense. With help from Aaron Jones, Dontayvion Wicks and Malik Heath, this Green Bay team certainly looks like it has a better opportunity to make the playoffs than the team last year.

Much like last season, a Green Bay Packers season that looked like it was doomed in the middle of the season has all of a sudden turned into basically a playoff game in Week 18. This season's team has already exceeded expectations, but if it can beat Chicago on Sunday, the 2023-24 season may go down as one of the most memorable in Packers' history.

"We know that it is going to be a great challenge. We know that we are going to get (the Bears) best shot, and I am sure that they would love nothing more than to knock us out of the playoffs," said LaFleur.

CONVENIENT • TRUSTED • LOCALLY OWNED

Iverson's
piggly wiggly



Pig Stop Fuel Center - Crystal Clean Car Wash

**FIND YOUR FRESH PRODUCE,
MEAT & MORE AT YOUR
LOCALLY OWNED WIGGLY!**

HOURS: MON. THRU SAT. 7AM-9PM SUN. 7AM-7PM

BEST OF TIMES HERALD 2022 409 E. HIGHLAND DR,
OCONTO FALLS
920-846-2805 **BEST OF TIMES HERALD 2022**



Moede & Sons

**Proudly Serving the Shawano Area
for over 100 years**

4 Generations of Experience

**Remodeling/New Construction
Residential/Commercial**

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2022 Showroom
810 E Center St. Shawano **BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2022**

Call Today! 715-524-4211

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	28	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
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
Bo Melton	80	WR	5-11	189	24	1	Rutgers
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	28	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
Benny Sapp III	48	S	5-11	200	23	R	Northern Iowa
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
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	23	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
Samori Toure	83	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.

CHICAGO BEARS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Tyson Bagent	17	QB	6-3	213	23	R	Shepherd
Andrew Billings	97	DL	6-1	311	28	7	Baylor
Josh Blackwell	39	DB	5-11	180	24	2	Duke
Khari Blasingame	35	FB	6-0	233	27	5	Vanderbilt
Larry Borom	75	OL	6-5	333	24	3	Missouri
Jaquan Brisker	9	DB	6-1	200	24	2	Penn State
Ja'Tyre Carter	69	OL	6-3	311	24	2	Southern
Dylan Cole	55	LB	6-0	240	29	7	Missouri State
Nate Davis	64	OL	6-3	316	27	5	Charlotte
Gervon Dexter Sr.	99	DL	6-6	312	22	R	Florida
Tremaine Edmunds	49	LB	6-5	250	25	6	Virginia Tech
T.J. Edwards	53	LB	6-1	242	27	5	Wisconsin
Dan Feeney	67	OL	6-4	310	29	7	Indiana
Justin Fields	1	QB	6-3	228	24	3	Ohio State
D'Onta Foreman	21	RB	6-0	235	27	5	Texas
DeMarquis Gates	43	LB	6-2	221	27	1	Mississippi
Trenton Gill	16	P	6-4	219	25	2	N.C. State
Kyler Gordon	6	DB	6-0	200	24	2	Washington
Rasheem Green	94	DL	6-4	279	26	6	USC
Khalil Herbert	24	RB	5-9	212	25	3	Virginia Tech
Elijah Hicks	22	DB	5-11	200	24	2	California
Travis Homer	20	RB	5-10	202	25	5	Miami
Eddie Jackson	4	DB	6-0	206	30	7	Alabama
Teven Jenkins	76	OL	6-6	321	25	3	Oklahoma State
Jaylon Johnson	33	DB	6-0	196	24	4	Utah
Quindell Johnson	26	DB	6-2	208	24	R	Memphis
Roschon Johnson	23	RB	6-0	225	22	R	Texas
Braxton Jones	70	OL	6-5	310	24	2	Southern Utah
Jaylon Jones	31	DB	5-11	190	26	2	Mississippi
Justin Jones	93	DL	6-3	309	27	6	North Carolina State
Velus Jones Jr.	12	WR	6-0	200	26	2	Tennessee
Cole Kmet	85	TE	6-6	260	24	4	Notre Dame
Mercedes Lewis	84	TE	6-6	265	39	18	UCLA
Darnell Mooney	11	WR	5-11	173	26	4	Tulane
DJ Moore	2	WR	5-11	210	26	6	Maryland
Lucas Patrick	62	OL	6-3	313	30	7	Duke
Nathan Peterman	14	QB	6-2	225	29	7	Pittsburgh
Zacch Pickens	96	DL	6-4	300	23	R	South Carolina
Dominique Robinson	90	DL	6-5	253	25	2	Miami (Ohio)
Jack Sanborn	57	LB	6-2	234	23	2	Wisconsin
Cairo Santos	8	K	5-8	175	32	9	Tulane
Patrick Scales	48	LS	6-3	226	35	8	Utah State
Tyler Scott	13	WR	5-11	185	22	R	Cincinnati
Noah Sewell	44	LB	6-2	253	21	R	Oregon
Terrell Smith	32	DB	6-0	207	24	R	Minnesota
Equanimeous St. Brown	19	WR	6-5	214	27	6	Notre Dame
Tyrique Stevenson	29	DB	6-0	204	23	R	Miami
Montez Sweat	98	DL	6-6	262	27	5	Mississippi State
Trent Taylor	15	WR	5-8	178	29	6	Louisiana Tech
Robert Tonyan	18	TE	6-5	240	29	6	Indiana State
DeMarcus Walker	95	DL	6-4	280	29	7	Florida State
Cody Whitehair	65	OL	6-3	316	31	8	Kansas State
Darnell Wright	58	OL	6-6	333	22	R	Tennessee
Reserve/Injured							
Yannick Ngakoue	91	DL	6-2	246	28	8	Maryland



Guard Sean Rhyan (75) blocks against a rush of Vikings players during the New Year's Eve contest in Minnesota. Rhyan is sharing his duties with Jon Runyan Jr. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Rhyan shares duties, concentrates on one game at a time

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Guard Sean Rhyan was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in the third round in 2002 after playing his college ball at UCLA.

Rhyan was named a starter at offensive tackle for the Bruins going into his freshman season. He started all 12 of UCLA's games and was named a Freshman All-American by the Football Writers Association of America and USA Today.

He saw his first NFL action on Nov. 6, 2022, playing a single special teams snap in a Week 9 loss to the Detroit Lions. On Nov 25, Rhyan was suspended six games for violating the league's substance abuse policy, effectively ending his season.

You played a lot against the Panthers. How'd it go?

Good, good. I had a couple mistakes here and there, but I guess mistakes are part of the game – little silly ones – but it's definitely good playing the game, having a good amount of snaps, being able to feel the flow of the game a little bit more. It was good.

What's this been like?

It's been good. You know, I think each week just kind of focusing on getting 1% better, focusing on one thing each week, and then just trying to be there and do what's best and help the team. Whether that be stepping in here or there or, when I do get my opportunities, to make the most of them.

I realize you're playing on Sunday to win Sunday's game, but big picture?

Yeah, you know, my grandma used to say if you look too far in the future, you're never going to see what's in front of you. So, I'm just going week to week, day to day. I'm not trying to think too far in the future. As a team, too, we're just trying to go 1-0, focus on this week. What the future holds, I don't know. But all I know is this week we've got the Vikings, and I'm excited to get after them a little bit.

No thinking about being a starter next year?

Yeah, obviously, thinking in the future, yeah, it'd be nice to be a

starter, but, you know, as things are right now, me and Johnny (Runyan) are rotating and I think it's given us an edge.

During the game, we were playing Derrick Brown, and I went in there for the second series and he goes, 'Man, why do you guys keep switching guards? I can't get used to any of you.' I go, 'Oh, well, perfect.'

So, it's great. Obviously, starting is everyone's goal. Their first goal in the NFL, I think, is to get into that starting role. So, obviously, my eyes are set on that, but this year I think, right now, rotating I think is helping us a little bit, but it's enough to kind of keep us going in the right direction.

Brown's a hell of a player too. He's never been a Pro Bowl guy, but he's right there.

I mean, he's a hell of a player. It's kind of surprising to me why he isn't. I don't really know how any of it works, but I have heard like records come into play, but that guy's a real good player. Plays hard, big old boy, strong. It was fun playing against him. Everyone's good in the league, but I like it when we get in the film room and we go, 'Hey, we got Derrick Brown. This guy's a good player.' I was like, 'Well, if he's such a good player, let's get after him and see what we can do.'

Is that a measuring stick for you, or have you played enough ball in your life that measuring sticks aren't your thing?

Well, let's see here, this will be my ninth season playing football. So, when I do get those guys, it's like, I don't look at it as a bad thing, I look at it as a good thing. This guy is one of the best in the league, and I get to go against him, I can't ask for anything more. Just because if you do ... when I do well against those players, it's a little bit of a confidence boost in a way.

I'm doing the right things, treating myself the right way and doing all that. So, it's kind of almost a reassurance thing. It's not like I'm scared or, 'Oh, snap,' you know? We got whoever's in front of us. It's the NFL. You know, I'm striving to kind of try to become one of those guys. So, it's fun. It's a journey I like to take."



WALSH DENTAL GROUP

Accepting New Patients

WALSH DENTAL GROUP

657 N. Main St., Shawano

715-524-2587

Mon-Thurs - 7am to 4:30pm



SPECIALIZING IN:
AUTO • HOME • LIFE
BUSINESS • FARM

237 N MAIN OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154

(920) 848-2341

WWW.SENNHOMETOWNINS.COM

The Right Choice

THAT WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US. 

Local care, because you are family.
 Our centers are part of the North Shore Healthcare family, serving the Shawano community.

Call our centers for more information!

Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals strive to deliver quality care to those who have chosen us. Our goal is to create an environment that affords our residents the opportunity to be a partner in the care they receive, to develop trusting relationships with our caregivers, and to reach their highest level of independence. We are passionate about making our center. *The Right Choice* for you or your loved one.


NORTH SHORE
 HEALTHCARE

BIRCH HILL HEALTH SERVICES
 1475 Birch Hill Ln. | Shawano, WI 54166
 (715) 526-3161 | birchhillhs.com

EVERGREEN HEALTH SERVICES
 1250 Evergreen St. | Shawano, WI 54166
 (715) 526-3107 | evergreenhsatshawano.com

SHAWANO HEALTH SERVICES
 1436 S Lincoln St. | Shawano, WI 54166
 (715) 526-6111 | shawanohealthservices.com

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE INVENTORY
FIND NEW ROADS  www.bussautos.com



Your road trip begins with
BUSS
Automotive

1255 East Green Bay St • Shawano, WI
(715) 524-0444

CHOOSE THE BEST





CATARACTS • GLAUCOMA • LASIK

229 E GREEN BAY ST
 SHAWANO
 GREEN BAY | APPLETON
920 499-3102
towerclockeyecenter.com



BC's bottle shop



Añejo Barrel Select
Patrón Tequila
\$49.99
750 ml.



Apple, Peach or Vanilla
Crown Royal
Canadian Whiskey
\$42.99
1.75 ltr.



Distilled
Platinum 7X Vodka
\$11.99
1.75 ltr.



Rum Chata
Cream Liqueur
\$18.79
750 ml.



Jackson Morgan
Southern Creams
\$15.99
750 ml.



Pink Whitney
New Amsterdam
Vodka
\$9.99
750 ml.



Maker's Mark
Bourbon Whiskey
\$46.99
1.75 ltr.



Woodford Reserve
Bourbon Whiskey
\$24.99
750 ml.



Bombay Blue Sapphire
London Dry
Gin
\$32.99
1.75 ltr.



Evan Williams
Bourbon Whiskey
\$22.99
1.75 ltr.



Single Barrel Select
Jack Daniels
Whiskey
\$39.99
750 ml.



Five Farms
Irish Cream
\$19.99
750 ml.



Tito's
Handmade Vodka
\$29.99
1.75 ltr.



Cinnamon
Fireball
Whiskey
\$19.99
1.75 ltr.



Regular or Light
Kessler's
Whiskey
\$14.99
1.75 ltr.



Canadian
Windsor
Whiskey
\$13.99
1.75 ltr.



Segrams 7
Crown
Whiskey
\$18.99
1.75 ltr.



Captain Morgan
Spiced Rum
\$24.99
1.75 ltr.



Light Rye, Light Cherry or Light
Mount Royal Whiskey
\$20.99
1.75 ltr.



Canadian Club
Whiskey
\$16.99
1.75 ltr.



Original, Fire, Apple or Honey
Jack Daniel's
Whiskey
\$37.99
1.75 ltr.



Southern Comfort
Whiskey
\$22.99
1.75 ltr.



Seagrams V.O.
Canadian
Whiskey
\$20.99
1.75 ltr.



Light or Regular
Busch Beers
\$21.99
30 pk.
12 oz.
cans

**LIQUOR
DEPT.
OPEN
7AM-9PM**



Miller Lite, Genuine Draft or
Miller 64 Beers
\$21.59
24 pk.
12 oz.
cans

We apologize, but due to conditions beyond our control we can not guarantee any products or prices. Sorry, no rain checks.

**OPEN DAILY
7AM - 10PM**

Better Prices
Great Quality
Super Service

Charlie's

County Market

Prices Effective Friday, January 5 through Thursday, January 11, 2024

Large Enough to Serve,
Small Enough to Care



We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct printing errors

521 S. Main St, P.O. Box 337, Shawano, WI 54166 • 715-524-2523