



COLD REALITY

PACKERS LOSE STEAM IN SECOND STRAIGHT LOSS HEADING INTO PLAYOFFS

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Packers star players Jordan Love and Christian Watson were forced out of the game with injuries, as Chicago Bears kicker Cairo Santos nailed a 51-yard field goal to win 24-22 in Green Bay on Jan. 5.

In the middle of the second quarter, Love went down with an apparent injury to his throwing arm, which forced him out of the game and allowed Malik Willis to see extended time. It seems that Love avoided a major injury though, indicating that his elbow was hit and his arm went numb.

“By the time that I can start feeling my hand, I would definitely be trying to get back out there,” said Love, on if he would have gone back in if this was a do-or-die game. “I think it just comes down to if I can throw or not — grip the ball, things like that. So once some feeling starts coming back, I would try to push it for sure.”

Both Love and Packers head coach Matt LaFleur indicated that Love should be ready to go in Green Bay’s wild card playoff matchup against the Philadelphia Eagles on Jan. 12.

The same might not be able to be said about Watson though. A few plays before Love was forced out of the game, Watson went down with an apparent non-contact knee injury after running a deep route on the right side of the field. Since Watson was drafted in 2022, he has suffered nu-

merous injuries, including an ankle sprain and a knee bruise this season.

Finding itself down 21-13 with six minutes left in the fourth quarter, Willis led a four play, 51-yard drive that culminated in a 21-yard rushing touchdown from Emanuel Wilson to cut Chicago’s lead to two. During the drive, Willis injured the thumb on his throwing hand. That injury played a part in Green Bay’s two-point attempt as the football came out of Willis’ hand in an awkward manner resulting in the PAT failing.

On Chicago’s ensuing drive, wide receiver D.J. Moore caught a pass at the line of scrimmage, but was hit immediately by Packers defensive back Carrington Valentine and fumbled the football. Fellow defensive back Javon Bullard recovered the fumble, and Green Bay was set up at the Bears’ 43-yard line.

Three plays later, Green Bay faced a fourth-and-4 from the Bears’ 37-yard line. With 58 seconds left in the game, as opposed to running the game clock down, LaFleur called a timeout and sent the kicking unit out. Packers kicker Brandon McManus converted the 55-yard attempt to give Green Bay a 22-21 lead.

With 48 seconds remaining in the game, Green Bay linebacker Kingsley Enagbare immediately sacked Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, but was called for a 15-yard penalty due to a horse collar tackle. Williams then completed a



15-yard pass to wide receiver Rome Odunze, before scrambling for four yards. A Chicago illegal shift later, the Bears were set up with a third-and-11 from its own 49-yard line. With Green Bay playing a deep three deep coverage, Williams connected with Moore for 18 yards to set up the game winning attempt.

“At the end of the game, that is squarely on me — just got caught in a situation where we planned on going for it and they felt like (McManus) could make that field goal,” said LaFleur, on why he took the timeout before the field goal attempt. “Hindsight is 20/20. I wish I would not have taken the timeout, because it gave them obviously way too much time to go down and operate. Like I told the team, that is on me and that can’t happen.”

Top left, wide receiver Jayden Reed had a big catch but also a big fumble against the Bears. Above, Green Bay head coach Matt LaFleur said after the loss to Chicago that he wished he had not taken a timeout before Brandon McManus’ go-ahead field goal. Doing so gave the Bears enough time to drive down the field for their own go-ahead and winning field goal. Below, wide receiver Christian Watson went down with a no-contact knee injury that could see him miss the playoff game against the Eagles on Jan. 12. Mistakes and injuries need to be avoided if the Packers hope to beat Philadelphia in the opening round of the playoffs.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 VS. BEARS 24



Tight end Tucker Kraft caught four balls for 36 yards against the Bears, including this catch for 20 yards. In the regular season, Kraft caught 50 balls for 707 yards for a 14.1 yards per catch average. He also hauled in seven touchdowns and had a long reception of 67 yards.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

GOING UP FOR THE CATCH

KRAFT HAULS IN 4 CATCHES FOR 36 YARDS AGAINST THE BEARS



MENOMINEE

CASINO RESORT

Packers face uphill battle against Eagles

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers will travel to Philadelphia to take on the Eagles in the opening Wild Card Round of the NFL playoffs.

Here are the keys to the Packers coming out on top.

Defense vs. Saquon Barkley

The Green Bay Packers can change the coordinators. They can change personnel.

One thing has remained the same during Matt LaFleur's tenure as head coach.

They stunk against opposing run games.

That was true, of course, until this year.

The Packers run defense is actually the strength of that side of the ball.

They were excellent for most of the year, and even good against Barkley the first time these two teams

met.

Yes, Barkley went over 100 yards, but he had to earn every yard on his way to his 105 yards and two touchdowns on that night in Brazil.

Green Bay's coming off a strong finish to the season where they slowed down Aaron Jones and Chicago's run game to close out the year.

The task this week, however, is admittedly pretty different.

Philadelphia's offensive line is right up there with the Detroit Lions as far as the best in the NFL.

Lane Johnson might be the best player at his position.

Landon Dickerson and Mekhi Becton combine for a punishing tandem at both guard spots.

Behind the great wall of Philadelphia is the NFL's best running back this season, Saquon Barkley.

Barkley may have broken the NFL's rushing

record in a single season held by Eric Dickerson had he been asked to play in Sunday's win over the New York Giants.

Instead, the Eagles rested their starters to gear up for what they hope to be a long postseason run.

Barkley will surely be leaned on as the Eagles look to establish the line of scrimmage against a Packers team that played all their guys in a physical battle against the Chicago Bears.

Packers/Eagles vs. Momentum.

Is momentum real? I suppose that depends on who you ask.

This week's game is a tale of two teams headed in opposite directions as the playoffs get underway.

The Eagles are winners of 11 of their last 12 games. The Packers have lost their last two against division rivals in disappointing fashion.

The Eagles rested their

starters in the final week of the season and could come out of the gates firing with fresh legs.

As LaFleur said earlier this week, the only philosophy that matters is the one that works.

LaFleur played his starters in a game that was largely meaningless outside of playing for seeding against the Chicago Bears.

The results were disastrous.

Christian Watson was injured and likely will not be able to play in this week's game. The question is less so whether he can play this weekend and rather when he will be able to play in 2025.

Jordan Love also exited Sunday's game with an elbow injury. He later said he would have been doing everything to back in if it were a win-or-go home scenario.

He did not say, however, that he could have gone back in. Those are

two different things.

How healthy is Green Bay's quarterback?

How healthy is the psyche in Green Bay after losing their last two games? Are they a defeated team, or can they flip the switch?

Passing game vs. Eagles' young secondary

Coming into the first game of the regular season the thought was that this might be Green Bay's biggest advantage. The Packers' passing game was entering its second full season together.

Love is established as the quarterback of the future, and all of his weapons were back around him.

That will not be true. Christian Watson will not be available on Sunday.

Romeo Doubs missed Sunday's game with an illness but should be good to go.

They have everyone except for their most explosive playmaker.

That could be a problem against the Eagles, who boast one of the best defenses in football.

Their nickel package of Cooper DeJean, Quinyon Mitchell and Darius Slay is one of the most talented trios in all of football.

The Eagles complement that well with a pass rush that is not as lethal as the group they had two years ago but still very good.

At some point, Green Bay's passing game is going to need to make some plays down the field.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

TIME AND DATE: 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 12

LOCATION: Lincoln Financial 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

2024 RECORDS: Packers, 11-6, Eagles 4-3.

HISTORY: The Eagles and Packers have played each other 46 times, which includes three postseason meetings as well.

The most recent meeting in the postseason came in 2010 when a Tramon Williams interception preserved a 21-16 Packers victory in a

season that would see them win the Super Bowl.

Their last meeting in the regular season came in this year's season opener. The Packers and Eagles faced off in Brazil.

Jordan Love threw two touchdown passes, including a 70-yarder to Jayden Reed. Xavier McKinney and Devonte Wyatt made splash plays early on defense, but the Packers made too many mistakes, and Saquon Barkley scored three touchdowns in what would become an MVP caliber season for the Eagles' talented running back.

COACHES: Packers — Matt LaFleur (sixth season, 67-33). Eagles — Nick Sirianni (fourth season, 45-20).

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadel-

phia, L 29-34

Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis W 16-10

Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee W 30-14

Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota L 29-31

Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. W 24-19

Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona W 34-13

Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22

Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27

Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit L 14-24

Week 10 BYE

Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago W 20-19

Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10

Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami W 30-17

Thursday, Dec. 5 at De-

troit L 34-31

Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle W 30-13

Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans W 34-0

Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota, L 27-25

Sunday, Jan. 5, vs. Chicago, L 24-22

NFL SCHEDULE

Wild Card Round

Saturday, Jan. 11

LA Chargers at Houston, 3:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 12

Denver at Buffalo, Noon

Green Bay at Philadelphia, 3:30 p.m.

Washington at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 13

Minnesota at LA Rams, 7 p.m.



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My favorite Green Bay Packer memories

"For the Packer games a family member will usually come over and we order a pizza and watch the game together!"

Dorothy Martin
Golden Pond Tenant





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Playoffs - Wild Card Round

Sat., Jan. 11, Sun., Jan. 12 & Mon. Jan. 13

Teams on Bye: Detroit & Kansas City

Denver @ Buffalo
LA Chargers @ Houston
Pittsburgh @ Baltimore
Washington @ Tampa Bay
Minnesota @ LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay @ Philadelphia

2024 Beat the Expert Champion:

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Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media	3-2	69-21
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin	3-2	65-25
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	3-2	64-26
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	4-1	63-27
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-1	62-28
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health	3-2	58-32
Staff, Walsh Dental	3-2	56-34
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	2-3	56-34
Elaine Arneson, The Cottages at Meadowlands	1-4	54-36
Rita Kristof, The Cottages on Golden Pond	2-3	52-38
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-2	50-40



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
Houston
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Philadelphia 28



Mike Worachek
Card & Coin

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Philadelphia 27



Kevin Passon
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Philadelphia 27



Jacob Westendorf
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 31



Meadowlands Tenants
The Cottages at Meadowlands

This Week's Picks:

Denver
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 14



Tanya Hintz
Shawano Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 21



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 10 @ Philadelphia 35



Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Philadelphia 28



Dorothy Martin
The Cottages on Golden Pond

This Week's Picks:

Denver
Houston
Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ Philadelphia 24



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 23



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 27

WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 vs. BEARS 24



Running back Chris Brooks broke one open for 23 yards, his longest run of the season, against the Bears on Jan. 5. For the day, Brooks carried the ball eight times for 59 yards. For the season, Brooks played in 15 games and had 36 carries for 183 yards and one touchdown.

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BROOKS SEES PLENTY OF ACTION

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GREEN BAY

PACKERS

2 Malik Willis.....QB

7 Quay Walker.....LB

8 Josh Jacobs.....RB

9 Christian Watson.....WR

10 Jordan Love.....QB

11 Jayden Reed.....WR

13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR

17 Brandon Mcmanus.....K

18 Malik Heath.....WR

19 Daniel Whelan.....P

20 Javon Bullard.....S

21 Eric Stokes.....CB

22 Robert Rochell.....CB

24 Carrington Valentine..CB

25 Keisean Nixon.....CB

26 Corey Ballentine.....CB

27 Kitan Oladapo.....S

29 Xavier McKinney.....S

30 Chris Brooks.....RB

31 Emanuel Wilson.....RB

33 Evan Williams.....S

39 Zayne Anderson.....S

42 Matt Orzech.....LS

45 Eric Wilson.....LB

50 Zach Tom.....OL

52 Rashan Gary.....DL

53 Arron Mosby.....DL

55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL

56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB

57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL

58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB

59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB

62 Jacob Monk.....C/G

63 Rasheed Walker.....T

71 Josh Myers.....C/G

73 Andre Dillard.....T

74 Elgton Jenkins.....G/T

75 Sean Ryan.....G

76 Kadeem Telfort.....T

79 Travis Glover.....T

80 Bo Melton.....WR

85 Tucker Kraft.....TE

86 John FitzPatrick.....TE

87 Romeo Doubs.....WR

88 Luke Musgrave.....TE

89 Ben Sims.....TE

90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL

93 T.J. Slaton.....DL

94 Karl Brooks.....DL

95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL

96 Colby Wooden.....DL

97 Kenny Clark.....DL

PHILADELPHIA

EAGLES

0 Bryce Huff.....DE

1 Jalen Hurtz.....QB

2 Darius Slay Jr.....CB

3 Nolan Smith Jr.....OLB

4 Jake Elliott.....K

6 DeVonta Smith.....WR

7 Kenny Pickett.....QB

8 C.J. Gardner-Johnson....S

10 Braden Mann.....P

11 A.J. Brown.....WR

13 Ian Book.....QB

14 Kenneth Gainwell.....RB

16 Tanner McKee.....QB

17 Nakobe Dean.....LB

19 Josh Sweat.....OLB

21 Sydney Brown.....S

22 Kelee Ringo.....CB

23 Eli Ricks.....CB

26 Saquon Barkley.....RB

27 Quinyon Mitchell.....CB

28 Will Shipley.....RB

29 Avonte Maddox.....CB

32 Reed Blankenship.....S

33 Cooper DeJean.....DB

34 Isaiah Rodgers.....CB

36 Tristin McCollum.....S

42 Oren Burks.....LB

49 Rick Lovato.....LS

51 Cam Jurgens.....C/G

53 Zack Braun.....LB

54 Jeremiah Trotter Jr.....LB

56 Tyler Steen.....OL

58 Jalyx Hunt.....OLB

59 Thomas Booker IV.....DT

61 Nick Gates.....OL

65 Lane Johnson.....T

68 Jordan Mailata.....T

69 Landon Dickerson.....G

72 Darian Kinnard.....T/G

74 Fred Johnson.....T

75 Jack Driscoll.....OL

77 Mekhi Becton.....G/T

79 Trevor Keegan.....G

81 Grant Calcaterra.....TE

82 Ainius Smith.....WR

83 Jahan Dotson.....WR

84 E.J. Jenkins.....TE

88 Dallas Goedert.....TE

89 Johnny Wilson.....WR

90 Jordan Davis.....DT

93 Milton Williams.....DT

97 Moro Ojomo.....DT

98 Jalen Carter.....DT

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WEEK 18/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 vs. BEARS 24



Quarterback Caleb Williams runs with the ball while being chased by linebacker Edgerrin Cooper on Jan. 5 at Lambeau Field. Safety Xavier McKinney posted his eighth interception of the season, the most by a Packer since CB Charles Woodson in 2009. Also, safety Javon Bullard registered the first fumble recovery of his NFL career.

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Music

JAN 11

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WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 VS. BEARS 24



Running back Josh Jacobs set a franchise record by posting a rushing touchdown in his eighth consecutive game. It also ties the franchise mark (WR Davante Adams, 2020) for the most consecutive games (eight) with a TD. Jacobs became just the fourth player in team history to clear the 1,300-yard rushing mark (Ahman Green, 2001 and 2003; Jim Taylor, 1961 and 1962; Dorsey Levens, 1997). His 1,329 yards on the season rank No. 5 in single-season team history. Jacobs finished the season with 15 rushing TDs (tied for No. 3 in team history), 16 total TDs (tied for No. 7) and 1,671 yards from scrimmage (No. 6).

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

RECORD-SETTING RUN

JACBOS SCORES TOUCHDOWN IN EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE GAME

