



Green Bay Packers cornerback Rasul Douglas, left, celebrates as Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields looks on during the team's contest on Dec. 12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Special teams mistakes could cost team game

Special teams has been a weakness for the Green Bay Packers all season, with an abysmal showing against the Chicago Bears providing the most recent examples of poor play.



MORGAN RODE

In the first half of the game alone, the Packers allowed a punt return of 34 yards and then a 97-yard punt return for a score, allowed kickoff returns of 40 and 42 yards, muffed a kickoff heading out of bounds

that led to the offense starting at its own 5-yard line and then booted the ball out of bounds on a kickoff.

Those mistakes helped the four-win Bears take a six-point lead into halftime and left little room for error in the second half.

The second half wasn't nearly as bad, but wasn't without special teams mistakes.

Punter Corey Bojorquez had a rare shank on a punt attempt, with the ball going just 22 yards. Rookie returner Amari Rodgers had a punt bounce off his facemask that the Bears recovered — the Packers were bailed out by a Bears' penalty on the play. Finally, receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling wasn't able to handle an onside kick attempt, extending the time the Packers' defense had to be on the field.

"Certainly, special teams wasn't good enough," said coach Matt LaFleur.

Through all the miscues, Green Bay was still able to find a way to win. That can be attributed to a couple things.

For one, Green Bay's offense and defense made plays when they needed to. Really, the real reason Green Bay was still able to come out with a win is because of the opponent on the other sideline.

These kind of mistakes are what could keep the team from winning the Super Bowl this season. It's unlikely a team like the Arizona Cardinals or Tampa Bay Buccaneers turn the ball over three times like the Bears did, so it's time for the special teams unit to get its act cleaned up.

With its constant struggles this year, LaFleur was asked if a change



Green Bay Packers receiver Amari Rodgers carries the ball on a return during the team's win over the Chicago Bears on Dec. 12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' special teams struggled mightily in the contest and have been an issue all season.

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of special teams coordinator was the answer.

"Absolutely not," said LaFleur. "We got to continue to work. We got to look at the tape, we got to get things corrected. I'll be the first to tell you that yeah, is there some things that we have to clean up as coaches? No doubt about it, but we have to execute better as well."

Maurice Drayton is the team's special team coordinator. It is Drayton's first year as the coordinator after serving as an assistant special teams coach the past three seasons.

A change at any coaching position this late in the season is something you rarely see with a contending team, so any switches might not

take place until after the season.

Regardless of which coach is leading the unit, the play across all facets of special teams needs drastic improvement in the final four weeks.

Kicker Mason Crosby has struggled with field goal and extra point attempts this season, but knocked through all seven of his kicks on Sunday. He's struggled to produce touchbacks on kickoffs, which offers the opportunities for opponents to get some of those long returns.

The Packers have put several different players back to return punts and kicks, and each has struggled and failed to create big plays for the team. There's been multiple fumbles

on returns, but the Packers have avoided turnovers in most cases.

Green Bay's kickoff and punt coverage had been solid for most of the season before Sunday's debacle. The punt return for a touchdown was the first in the NFL this season.

What's alarming is for how little special teams are on the field during the course of a game, there's numerous examples of mistakes and miscues from every game.

At some point, those mistakes are going to cost the Packers a game, or end the team's season, so you can bet special teams will be a focal point at practice from this point forward.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.

KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (10-3) will travel to face the Baltimore Ravens (8-5) at 3:25 p.m. Sunday at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. FOX will televise the game.

History

The Packers lead the series 4-2, though the Ravens have outscored them 135-108. The teams last met in 2017 at Lambeau Field. With Aaron Rodgers out with a broken collarbone and Brett Hundley throwing three interceptions, the Ravens won 23-0.

Green Bay won its last trip to Baltimore, 19-17 in 2013. Rodgers threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson in the third quarter and Mason Crosby made four field goals.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 36-9, third season. Baltimore — John Harbaugh, 137-84, 14th season.

When the Packers have the ball

With Aaron Rodgers throwing 10 touchdown passes over the last three weeks, the Packers' offense is on a roll. However, it could be tough sledding against a Ravens defense that has given up 89 points the last five weeks.

The Ravens are ninth with 21.9 points allowed per game. They are dominant against the run, ranking first in rushing yards allowed per game (85.5) and fourth in rushing yards allowed per attempt (3.94).

With premier cornerback tandem Marcus Peters and Marlon Humphrey having suffered season-ending injuries, the Ravens are 31st in passing yards per game (266.1), 30th in passing yards per attempt (7.44) and 28th in interception percentage (1.29). The saving grace has been a stout red-zone defense that has allowed a touchdown rate of 48.4 percent, third-best in the league.

Coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale operates out of a 3-4 defense.

The front of Calais Campbell, Brandon Williams and Justin Madubuike is no joke. At age 35, the six-time Pro Bowler Campbell remains a high-quality player. While he's not the guy who had 26 sacks with Jacksonville in 2017 and 2018, he's the unit's best player. He has only 1½ sacks but is fourth on the team with 11 quarterback hits.

Justin Houston and Tyus Bowser are the starting outside linebackers. Houston, who was a star at Kansas City when Green Bay's Mike Smith

was his position coach, has four sacks and a team-high 16 quarterback hits. Bowser has a team-high 5½ sacks.

First-round pick Odafe Oweh, who didn't have any sacks last year at Penn State but is a superb physical talent, has five sacks, 13 quarterback hits and three forced fumbles off the bench. On passing downs, the Ravens go with a front of Houston, Bowser, Campbell and Oweh.

Former first-round pick Patrick Queen and Josh Byner are the inside linebackers. Queen is an attack-mode player, not only leading the Ravens with 70 tackles but with nine tackles for losses.

If Green Bay can protect Rodgers, there are plays to be made against a secondary with three starters – Humphrey, Peters and safety DeShon Elliott – on injured reserve.

Anthony Averett and Jimmy Smith start at corner and Tavon Young mans the slot. Averett has a team-high three interceptions and trails only Humphrey with 11 passes defended, but he's also given up the fourth-most receiving yards in the league, according to Pro Football Focus.

Brandon Stephens and Chuck Clark are the safeties. Clark is a thumper at the line of scrimmage and has eight passes defended.

When the Ravens have the ball

It will be Ankle Watch all week with Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, missing most of last week's loss with a sprained ankle.

"The plans are right now for Lamar to be out there," Harbaugh said on Monday.

Will Jackson play? And if so, how effective will he be? The 2019 NFL MVP is the only quarterback in league history with multiple 1,000-yard rushing seasons. He's 37-12 as the starter.

If Jackson is out, Tyler Huntley will make his second career start. He's completed 67.8 percent of his passes and averaged 5.9 yards per carry in two games with extensive action but lost two fumbles against Cleveland.

With running backs J.K. Dobbs, Gus Edwards and Justice Hill on injured reserve – they combined for almost 1,600 rushing yards last season – the Ravens have leaned on retreads Devonta Freeman and Latavius Murray. Freeman leads that group with 440 yards (4.3 average) and four touchdowns. He's been a reliable threat the last six games.

Whoever is slinging the football, there are a lot of weapons on the perimeter. Tight end Mark Andrews is an elite player. He's leads the team with 75 receptions, 926 yards and six touchdowns. Even without Jackson for almost the entire game last week, he caught all 11 targets for 115 yards.

There's no shortage of speed with receivers Marquise Brown (70 receptions, 866 yards, six touchdowns), first-round rookie Rashod Bateman (32 receptions, 404 yards) and Devin Duvernay (28 receptions, 240 yards, two touchdowns). Veteran Sammy Watkins (27 receptions, 394 yards, one touchdown) rounds out the group. He is the turtle of the group with a still-fast 4.43-second clocking in the 40.

As is the case with Green Bay, Baltimore is without its stud left tackle with Ronnie Stanley out for the season with an ankle injury. So, the line is made up of veteran Alejandro Villanueva at left tackle, Ben Powers at left guard, Bradley Bozeman at center, Kevin Zeitler at right guard and Tyre Phillips at right tackle.

Zeitler, the former Wisconsin standout, is the best of the bunch. Villanueva, once a bedrock in Pittsburgh,

is past his prime and the weak link.

Special teams

Harbaugh cut his teeth as a special teams coordinator. Thus, the Ravens' units are typically superb – bad news for a Packers special teams that gave up a season's worth of big plays in one game against Chicago.

Justin Tucker might be the best kicker in NFL history. When he misses, it's news. This season, he's 28-of-30 on field goals, which puts him second in the league at 93.3 percent. That includes a perfect 6-of-6 from 50-plus yards.

Sam Koch ranks 16th with his 40.7-yard net average. He's put 20 punts inside the 20-yard line.

Duvernay gives the Ravens a big-play returner. He's averaging a dazzling 14.4 yards per punt return and 24.2 yards per kickoff return. He'd be No. 1 in the league in punt returns if not for Chicago's Jakeem Grant running circles around Green Bay last week.

Their coverage units are spectacular, ranking fourth on kickoffs (19.2 average) and fifth on punts (6.3 average). Former Packers safety Anthony Levine leads them with five tackles.

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PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	38	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	27	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	24	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	29	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State

Practice Squad

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
43	Nate Orchard	OLB	6-3	255	28	6	Utah
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
61	Jon Dietzen	G/T	6-5	312	24	R	Wisconsin
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

Reserve/COVID-19

10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
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RAVENS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Tyler Huntley	QB	6-1	196	23	2	Utah
4	Sam Koch	P	6-1	222	39	16	Nebraska
5	Marquise Brown	WR	5-9	180	24	3	Oklahoma
6	Patrick Queen	LB	6-0	232	22	2	LSU
8	Lamar Jackson	QB	6-2	212	24	4	Louisville
9	Justin Tucker	K	6-1	183	32	10	Texas
11	James Proche II	WR	5-11	193	25	2	Southern Methodist
12	Rashod Bateman	WR	6-1	193	22	R	Minnesota
13	Devin Duvernay	WR	5-11	210	24	2	Texas
14	Sammy Watkins	WR	6-1	211	28	8	Clemson
16	Tylan Wallace	WR	5-11	195	22	R	Oklahoma State
21	Brandon Stephens	DB	6-1	215	23	R	SMU
22	Jimmy Smith	CB	6-2	210	33	11	Colorado
23	Anthony Averett	CB	5-11	178	27	4	Alabama
25	Tavon Young	CB	5-9	185	27	6	Temple
26	Geno Stone	S	5-10	209	22	2	Iowa
28	Lataavius Murray	RB	6-3	230	31	9	UCF
30	Chris Westry	CB	6-4	199	24	2	Kentucky
33	Devonta Freeman	RB	5-8	206	29	8	Florida State
34	Ty'Son Williams	RB	6-0	220	25	1	Brigham Young
36	Chuck Clark	S	6-0	205	26	5	Virginia Tech
38	Kevon Seymour	CB	6-0	185	28	4	USC
40	Malik Harrison	LB	6-3	247	23	2	Ohio State
41	Anthony Levine Sr.	DB/LB	5-11	207	34	10	Tennessee State
42	Patrick Ricard	FB/DL	6-3	300	27	5	Maine
45	Jaylon Ferguson	OLB	6-5	275	26	3	Louisiana Tech
46	Nick Moore	LS	6-2	248	29	1	Georgia
49	Chris Board	LB	6-2	229	26	4	North Dakota State
50	Justin Houston	OLB	6-3	270	32	11	Georgia
54	Tyus Bowser	OLB	6-3	242	26	5	Houston
56	Josh Bynes	LB	6-1	240	32	10	Auburn
57	Kristian Welch	ILB	6-3	240	23	2	Iowa
63	Trystan Colon	C	6-3	313	23	2	Missouri
65	Patrick Mekari	G/C	6-4	308	24	3	Cal-Berkeley
66	Ben Cleveland	G	6-6	357	23	R	Georgia
70	Kevin Zeitler	G	6-4	315	31	10	Wisconsin
71	Justin Ellis	DT	6-2	350	30	8	Louisiana Tech
72	Ben Powers	G	6-4	310	25	3	Oklahoma
74	Tyre Phillips	G	6-5	344	24	2	Mississippi State
77	Bradley Bozeman	C	6-5	325	27	4	Alabama
78	Alejandro Villanueva	OT	6-9	277	33	7	Army
80	Miles Boykin	WR	6-4	220	25	3	Notre Dame
84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	249	24	3	San Jose State
85	Eric Tomlinson	TE	6-6	263	29	6	Texas-El Paso
86	Nick Boyle	TE	6-4	270	28	7	Delaware
89	Mark Andrews	TE	6-5	256	26	4	Oklahoma
92	Justin Madubuike	DT	6-3	293	24	2	Texas A&M
93	Calais Campbell	DT	6-8	300	35	14	Miami (Fl.)
96	Broderick Washington	DT	6-3	304	25	2	Texas Tech
98	Brandon Williams	DT	6-1	336	32	9	Missouri Southern State
99	Odafu Oweh	OLB	6-5	251	23	R	Penn State
Reserve/Injured							
3	L.J. Fort	LB	6-0	232	31	7	Northern Iowa
24	Marcus Peters	CB	6-0	195	28	7	Washington
27	J.K. Dobbins	RB	5-10	212	22	2	Ohio State
29	Ar'Darius Washington	S	5-8	176	22	R	TCU
31	Khalil Dorsey	CB	5-9	181	23	2	Northern Arizona
32	DeShon Elliott	S	6-1	210	24	4	Texas
35	Gus Edwards	RB	6-1	238	26	4	Rutgers
37	Iman Marshall	CB	6-1	210	24	3	USC
43	Justice Hill	RB	5-10	200	24	3	Oklahoma State
44	Marlon Humphrey	CB	6-0	197	25	5	Alabama
51	Otaro Alaka	ILB	6-3	239	25	3	Texas A&M
59	Daelin Hayes	LB	6-3	253	23	R	Notre Dame
79	Ronnie Stanley	T	6-6	315	27	6	Notre Dame
90	Pernell McPhee	LB	6-3	265	32	11	Mississippi State
91	Xavier Kelly	DT	6-6	306	24	R	Arkansas
95	Derek Wolfe	DE	6-5	285	31	10	Cincinnati
97	Aaron Crawford	DT	6-1	315	24	1	North Carolina
Reserve/Non-Football Injury							
76	Ja'Wuan James	OT	6-6	315	29	7	Tennessee
Practice Squad							
7	Chris Streveler	QB	6-1	216	26	2	South Dakota
10	Jaylon Moore	WR	5-11	191	24	1	Tennessee-Martin
17	Robert Jackson	CB	6-1	202	28	3	UNLV
18	Kevin Toliver	CB	6-2	192	26	4	LSU
37	Blake Countess	S	5-9	184	28	5	Auburn
39	Mazzi Wilkins	DB	6-0	191	26	2	University of South Florida
47	Nate McCrary	RB	6-0	213	22	R	Saginaw Valley State
48	Jordan Richards	S	5-11	210	28	7	Stanford
53	Adam Redmond	C	6-6	290	28	3	Harvard
58	Joe Thomas	LB	6-1	227	30	7	South Carolina State
61	Jaryd Jones-Smith	OT	6-7	320	26	1	Pittsburgh
62	David Sharpe	OT	6-6	343	26	5	Florida
81	Binjimen Victor	WR	6-4	199	24	1	Ohio State
83	Tony Poljan	TE	6-7	251	24	R	Virginia
94	Isaiah Mack	NT	6-1	299	25	3	Tennessee-Chattanooga
Practice Squad/Injured							
15	Jake Verity	K	6-2	197	23	R	East Carolina

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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Ravens
All-time, regular season: 4-2
All-time, postseason: Never met
All-time, at Ravens: 1-1
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won two of the previous three meetings against the Baltimore Ravens.
Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 19, 2017, Ravens won 23-0 at Lambeau Field. The Packers starting quarterback that day was Brett Hundley, and he was sacked six times and threw three interceptions. Receiver Davante Adams had eight catches for 126 yards.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
Oct. 17	at Chicago	Win 24-14	
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	Win 24-10	
Oct. 28	at Arizona	Win 24-21	
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	Loss 13-7	
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	Win 17-0	
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	Loss 34-31	
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	Won 36-28	
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	Won 45-30	
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	3:25 p.m. FOX	
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m. FOX	
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m. NBC	
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon FOX	

OFFENSE

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR
Davante Adams
Equanimeous St. Brown



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Yosh Nijman
Dennis Kelly



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Eric Stokes
Kevin King



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Rasul Douglas
Chandon Sullivan



OLB
Preston Smith
Tipa Galeai



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.

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RAVENS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

		RB		QB		FB	
		Devonta Freeman Latavius Murray		Lamar Jackson Tyler Huntley		Patrick Ricard	
							
WR		TE		RT		RG	
Sammy Watkins Rashod Bateman		Mark Andrews Nick Boyle		Patrick Mekari Tyre Phillips		Kevin Zeitler Tyre Phillips	
				C		LG	
				Bradley Bozeman Trystan Colon		Ben Powers Ben Cleveland	
				LT		Alejandro Villanueva Tyre Phillips	
						WR	
						Marquise Brown Devin Duvernay	

DEFENSE

CB		DT		NT		DE		CB	
Anthony Averett Jimmy Smith		Calais Campbell Broderick Washington		Brandon Williams Justin Ellis		Justin Madubuike Broderick Washington		Chris Westry Tavon Young	
OLB		MLB		WLB		OLB			
Justin Houston Odafe Oweh		Josh Bynes Chris Board		Patrick Queen Kristian Welch		Tyus Bowser Jaylon Ferguson			
		S		S					
		Chuck Clark Anthony Levine Sr.		Brandon Stephens Geno Stone					

SCHEDULE

Saturday's Games

Las Vegas at Cleveland, 3:30 p.m.

New England at Indianapolis, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Dallas at N.Y. Giants, noon

Houston at Jacksonville, noon

Tennessee at Pittsburgh, noon

N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon

Washington at Philadelphia, noon

Arizona at Detroit, noon

Carolina at Buffalo, noon

Cincinnati at Denver, 3:05 p.m.

Atlanta at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.

Seattle at L.A. Rams, 3:25 p.m.

Green Bay at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.

New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

Minnesota at Chicago, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday's Game

San Francisco at Tennessee, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC

East

Team	W	L	T
Dallas	9	4	0
Washington	6	7	0
Philadelphia	6	7	0
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	10	3	0
Minnesota	6	7	0
Chicago	4	9	0
Detroit	1	11	1

South

Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	10	3	0
Atlanta	6	7	0
New Orleans	6	7	0
Carolina	5	8	0

West

Team	W	L	T
Arizona	10	3	0
L.A. Rams	9	4	0
San Francisco	7	6	0
Seattle	5	8	0

AFC

East

Team	W	L	T
New England	9	4	0
Buffalo	7	6	0
Miami	6	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Baltimore	8	5	0
Cleveland	7	6	0
Cincinnati	7	6	0
Pittsburgh	6	6	1

South

Team	W	L	T
Tennessee	9	4	0
Indianapolis	7	6	0
Houston	2	11	0
Jacksonville	2	11	0

West

Team	W	L	T
Kansas City	9	4	0
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0
Denver	7	6	0
Las Vegas	6	7	0



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DeWar's White Label Scotch Whiskey \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Ole Smoky Specialty Whiskeys \$16⁹⁹ 750 ml.

Grey Goose Vodka \$46⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

New Amsterdam Pink Whitney Vodka \$8⁹⁹ 750 ml.



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Crown Royal Apple, Vanilla or Canadian Whiskey \$44⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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Black Velvet Canadian Whiskey \$7⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jack Daniel's Winter Jack Tennessee Cider \$15⁹⁹ 750 ml.

Leroy Butler Leap Vodka \$20⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

7x Distilled Platinum Vodka \$6⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr. After \$5.00 rebate



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Rich & Mellow Korbel Brandy \$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Southern Comfort Whiskey \$22⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Seagram's VO Canadian Whiskey \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



10x Filtered Smirnoff Vodka 2 FOR \$23⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr. After \$12.00 rebate on 2

Canadian Mist Whiskey \$13⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Original, Fire, Honey or Apple Jack Daniel's Whiskey \$34⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Sky Vodka \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 2 FOR \$37⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr. After \$12.00 rebate on 2



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Leinenkugel Craft Beers \$12⁹⁹ 12 pk. 12 oz. cans

Blue Moon Specialty Beers \$13⁹⁹ 15 pk. 12 oz. cans



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Blue Moon Beer \$13⁹⁹ 15 pk. 12 oz. cans



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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 15 Games:

Sat. Dec. 18/Sun. Dec. 19

No teams on bye

Kansas City @ LA Chargers Thurs., Dec. 16
 Carolina @ Buffalo
 Las Vegas @ Cleveland
 New England @ Indianapolis
 NY Jets @ Miami
 Green Bay @ Baltimore
 Arizona @ Detroit
 Houston @ Jacksonville
 Dallas @ NY Giants
 Tennessee @ Pittsburgh
 Cincinnati @ Denver
 Atlanta @ San Francisco
 Seattle @ LA Rams
 New Orleans @ Tampa Bay
 Minnesota @ Chicago Mon., Dec. 20

Tie Breaker Game: Washington @ Philadelphia

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel.....	10-4.....	139-68-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	10-4.....	131-76-1
Tim Murphy.....	10-4.....	131-76-1
22 Shell.....	10-4.....	129-78-1
Dennis Brei.....	9-5.....	129-78-1
Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	12-2.....	129-78-1
Tower Clock eye Center.....	10-4.....	129-78-1
Smokey Joes.....	11-3.....	128-79-1
Buss Automotive.....	8-6.....	127-80-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Hawkeye Hearth & Home.....	10-4.....	127-80-1
Idell Johnston, State Farm Ins.Agent.....	11-3.....	127-80-1
Morgan Rode.....	10-4.....	126-81-1
B & C Auto Recycling.....	10-4.....	125-82-1
Gehm's Club 117.....	11-3.....	123-84-1
P & D Sales & Service.....	9-5.....	121-86-1
Cirinnity/Wittenberg Telephone.....	10-4.....	114-93-1
Iversnon's Piggly Wiggly.....	11-3.....	114-93-1
Senn Insurance.....	10-4.....	109-98-1



This Week's Winner:
Shawano Place Assisted Living



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Baltimore	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Washington 27 @ Philadelphia 31



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 20 @ Philadelphia 30



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Tennessee	
Miami	Denver	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 28 @ Philadelphia 24

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Denver	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 27 @ Philadelphia 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

LA Chargers	Detroit	LA Rams
Carolina	Houston	Tampa Bay
Las Vegas	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	Atlanta	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 24 @ Philadelphia 17



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Cleveland	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 35 @ Detroit 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Denver	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 21 Philadelphia 28



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 10 @ Philadelphia 17



Sophie
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 17 @ Philadelphia 28



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

LA Chargers	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Chicago
New England	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 28 @ Philadelphia 21



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 28 @ Philadelphia 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 17 @ Philadelphia 20



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	Seattle
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Denver	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 23 @ Philadelphia 20



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

LA Chargers	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Denver	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 24 @ Philadelphia 26



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

LA Chargers	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 24 @ Philadelphia 20



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

LA Chargers	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Houston	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 25 @ Philadelphia 20



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
Indianapolis	Tennessee	
Miami	Denver	
Baltimore	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 21 @ Philadelphia 28



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City	Arizona	LA Rams
Buffalo	Jacksonville	Tampa Bay
Cleveland	Dallas	Minnesota
New England	Pittsburgh	
Miami	Cincinnati	
Green Bay	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Washington 30 @ Philadelphia 28

Follow The Pack With Us!

Green Bay Football 2021 Season			
SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	7:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Injury watch

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson was the NFL's MVP in 2019. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers won MVP honors in 2020.

Two of the league's dominant forces – Jackson, with his unparalleled combination of arm strength and athletic ability, and Rodgers, with his sublime combination of arm strength, accuracy and experience – will be limping into Sunday's showdown in Baltimore.

After some bye-week healing allowed Rodgers to practice on Friday last week, he aggravated his broken pinky toe against Chicago. While he might not practice this week, at least he'll play. The same might not be true for Jackson, who suffered an ankle injury during the first quarter of last week's loss at Cleveland. While Ravens coach John Harbaugh said "the plans right now" are for Jackson to start, there's no guarantee he'll play or play effectively.

Jackson is not a great quarterback in the traditional sense, but his running ability puts incredible stress on a defense. The Packers couldn't contain Bears quarterback Justin Fields on Sunday night; Jackson is an even better runner and a much better passer with much better weapons. Against Indianapolis in week five, for instance, Jackson completed 37-of-43 passes for 442 yards and four touchdowns and added 62 rushing yards for a ridiculous 504 total yards.

From a passing perspective, that game was a bit of an outlier. For the season, Jackson is 22nd in the league in passer rating and 23rd in completion percentage. He has 16 touchdowns vs. 13 interceptions – one of the worst ratios in the NFL. But he

is 10th in the NFL with 767 rushing yards and second with a 5.8-yard average. With 1,206 rushing yards in 2019 and 1,005 rushing yards in 2020, he's the only quarterback in NFL history with multiple 1,000-yard rushing seasons. Can he be that player with a wounded ankle?

Rodgers, meanwhile, has gotten on one of those Rodgers-style rolls. Even while barely practicing due to the toe injury suffered during his COVID isolation, he's the hottest quarterback in the league. From week 11 through week 14, Rodgers is No. 1 in passer rating (126.5), yards per game (344.3), touchdown passes per game (3.3), yards per attempt (8.98) and touchdown-to-interception ratio (10-0).

"This guy is special," coach Matt LaFleur said.

Dominating Douglas

Want to know why the Packers are in contention to win the Super Bowl and the Las Vegas Raiders and Houston Texans are going nowhere fast?

Rasul Douglas spent most of training camp with the Raiders but was released before the preseason finale. Douglas landed with the Texans for the final week of camp before he was released again. The Raiders are 6-7 and 31st in the league in points allowed. The Texans are 2-11 and 30th in the league in points allowed.

Douglas apparently wasn't good enough to help those teams, but he's been one of the most valuable players on the Packers since being grabbed off Arizona's practice squad in October. In eight games, he's got a team-high three interceptions and is second with 10 passes defended. Douglas had pick-sixes in each of his last two games, making him the first Packers defender with two interception-return touchdowns in a season



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, right, talks with Chicago Bears linebacker Bruce Irvin during a game on Dec. 12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Rodgers aggravated the toe injury he's been battling in the contest.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

since Julius Peppers in 2014.

According to Pro Football Focus and its best guess at coverage responsibilities, Douglas has allowed a 50% catch rate. Among corners with at least 300 coverage snaps, he ranks second with a passer rating allowed of just 54.5. In his last two games, he's allowed 3-of-12 passing with two interceptions and six passes defended.

How did a journeyman defender — this is his sixth team since entering the NFL in 2017 — become such an X-factor? Douglas has continually praised defensive backs coach Jerry Gray's role in film study.

"It's like you see it and you see it and you see it and you see it. Then when you see it, do you believe it?" Douglas said. "I know when I first came here, I was talking to (Gray) and I was just like, 'I've seen it, but I ain't trust it.' He was like, 'Let me tell you something. If you see something and you don't believe it, the next time you're going to psych yourself out of believing it again. So, this person, when you see that he runs a curl, and you don't jump the first curl which you should have, the next time you're going to think he's going to run a curl-and-go.'

"He's like, 'So, you've messed yourself out of both plays and you don't know what you're going to do.' He was like, 'You've just got to believe it. If your eyes are right and he

runs something else, then you're still good.' I just try to take that mindset with everything so when they show me stuff, all my chips, I just push it to the table and I'm all-in. If it's not that, then, hopefully, my feet and my eyes are good so I can do what else I've got to do."

An interesting decision could be coming for Green Bay. All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander is practicing for a second consecutive week. If Alexander is able to return to the lineup, who will the Packers go with at corner? Alexander is an elite player, Douglas has been excellent, first-round rookie Eric Stokes has had more good games than bad and Chandon Sullivan has played well in the slot. Plus, Kevin King is back from his latest injury.

The best three would be Alexander, Douglas and Stokes. Alexander has the skill-set to play in the slot but that position requires physicality because of its proximity to the ball, and the coaches might want to keep Alexander out of harm's way as much as possible.

"I don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves," LaFleur said, "but, absolutely, Rasul has been a huge part of this defense. He makes key plays all the time. I love how aggressive he plays. He just is a guy, that he's fearless, he's resilient."

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Packers earn comeback victory over Bears

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers overcame a slow start and a multitude of special teams' mistakes in a 45-30 win over the Chicago Bears on Dec. 12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 341 yards and four scores, while top wideout Davante Adams had 10 receptions for 121 yards and two touchdowns. Receiver Allen Lazard and running back Aaron Jones also caught a touchdown pass each, while Jones had the team's lone rushing score.

While Green Bay's defense allowed a couple big plays, the unit also had three takeaways, one of which was a pick-six by cornerback Rasul Douglas. A strip sack by outside linebacker Preston Smith led to another touchdown that ignited the team in the second half before an interception by Chandon Sullivan sealed up the wild win.

"I was proud of our guys. There was no panic at halftime," said coach Matt LaFleur. "I thought we kind of got back to who we were in the sec-

ond half, and I think that was pretty evident."

After a fairly quiet first quarter, the teams erupted for 45 second-quarter points.

Chicago had a 3-0 lead before a 46-yard passing touchdown moved the visitor's lead to 10-0.

Green Bay finally got its offense moving and marched 75 yards in 11 plays, capping the drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to Lazard on fourth-and-goal.

Chicago's offense got great field position after a long kickoff return, but Douglas jumped a pass from Chicago rookie quarterback Justin Fields and took it 55 yards the other way to put the Packers ahead.

Douglas joined Herb Adderley (1965) as the only Packers in team history to return interceptions for touchdowns in back-to-back games.

"I think he ran an out route. I just put my foot in the ground, and I looked back and I seen the ball — caught it, tried to run as fast as I can and score," said Douglas, who later added that this has already been his best season in his career.

Chicago grabbed the lead right

back after a 54-yard touchdown pass and then tacked on seven more points on a 97-yard punt return on the ensuing drive.

Green Bay looked to have the last laugh in the wild quarter after Rodgers found Adams for a 38-yard touchdown, but another long kickoff return helped the Bears add a field goal before halftime.

The final half was dominated by the Pack, with the defense surrendering just three points on a late field goal.

Green Bay's offense put together a nine-play, 75-yard drive to open the third quarter, leaning on running back A.J. Dillon before Jones scored on a 3-yard run.

The defense then forced its second turnover, with Smith sacking Fields and outside linebacker Rashan Gary falling on the loose ball. On the next offensive play, Rodgers hit Jones

out of the backfield for a 23-yard score to give the Pack a 35-27 lead.

After the Packers' defense forced a punt and got great field position for the offense, a 20-yard field goal from kicker Mason Crosby made it a two-score game at 38-27.

After the teams traded several punts, Green Bay's offense put the finishing touches on the comeback win.

The offense went 71 yards in 13 plays, taking nearly nine minutes off the fourth quarter clock before Rodgers and Adams connected again. This time, Adams burned his defender by faking the fade route before cutting inside for a wide-open slant pass.

Chicago added a field goal and recovered an onside kick, but Sullivan picked off a Fields' pass to seal up the win.

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Green Bay Packers cornerback Rasul Douglas reacts after scoring a touchdown on an interception return against the Chicago Bears on Dec. 12 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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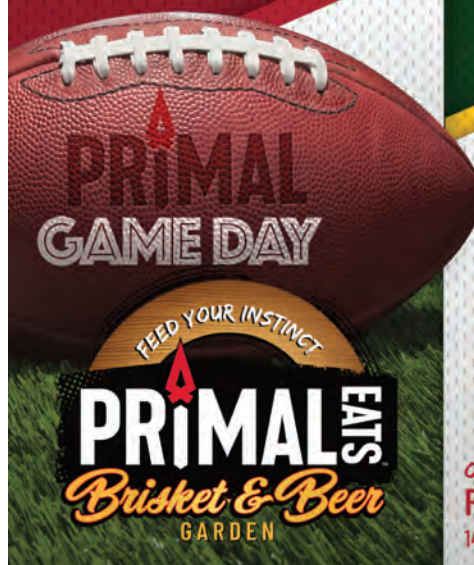
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