



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon, center, carries several Los Angeles Rams defenders with him during a Nov. 28 game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Pack closes in on division title, eyes top seed

The Green Bay Packers bye week has come and gone, and now the team's attention turns to the stretch run.



MORGAN RODE

Despite the late bye week, there's still plenty to play for in the final five weeks of the season.

After the Minnesota Vikings' shocking loss to the then-winless Detroit Lions, Green

Bay has a whopping four-game lead in the NFC North race. The Packers could clinch the division as early as this Sunday should Minnesota lose on Thursday and Green Bay defeats the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

Even if that doesn't happen, it's hard to imagine the Packers not winning the division.

Once the Packers are able to lock up their first goal of a division title, earning as many home playoff games as possible is the next goal. Ideally, that means locking up the NFC's top seed.

Currently, the No. 1 seed is held by the Arizona Cardinals with a 10-2 mark. Green Bay and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are each at 9-3, while the Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Rams both sit at 8-4. The Pack owns the head-to-head tiebreaker over the Cardinals and Rams.

While many Packer fans will be scoreboard-watching over the next several weeks, head coach Matt LaFleur said if coaches and players get hung up on other games, that's when problems can arise within their own team.

"We just have to take care of our



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, right, talks with Los Angeles Rams receiver Odell Beckham Jr. after the team's game Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers own the head-to-head tiebreaker over a couple NFC contenders, including the Rams, but are still chasing the Arizona Cardinals for the No. 1 seed.

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business and whatever happens in those other games, that's the way it rolls," said LaFleur.

"You can only control what you can control in terms of how you prepare each and every week."

While the Packers don't have a particularly challenging set of opponents over the final five weeks, it's the familiarity of three opponents and unfamiliarity of the other two that could present some challenges.

Along with the team's second showdown with the Bears, the Packers also have their second games against the Vikings and Lions, with those coming in weeks 17 and 18.

LaFleur noted that playing a team for a second time always adds to the challenge of preparing for a game, as both teams are adjusting to what worked or didn't in the first matchup.

While the Lions will almost certainly be eliminated from the postseason by the last week of the season, the Vikings could be fighting for their playoff lives. The same might be true for the Christmas Day game against the Cleveland Browns. The Bears' playoff chances are fading fast, with the result of this week either pushing the team to the brink of elimination or keeping a slim glimmer of playoff hope alive.

The Baltimore Ravens — like the Browns — are an unfamiliar AFC team, which always makes for a challenging contest. Baltimore is in the thick of the race for the top seed in the conference, and the winner of the Packers/Ravens game will certainly see their chances of earning a No. 1 seed increase, while the loser will have an uphill road to climb.

One thing that's working to the Packers' advantage is that the team

is starting to get back some of its injured players, while most other teams are seeing star players go down with injuries.

LaFleur said the team could have cornerback Jaire Alexander, offensive lineman David Bakhtiari and outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith back at practice this week. Even if they don't hit the practice field, the fact the coach mentioned they could be back bodes well for the trio's return before the playoffs roll around.

While the Packers have found ways to win without them — and several other players — throughout the year, LaFleur is certainly not against getting those guys back.

"You can never have enough great players," said LaFleur.

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



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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (9-3) will host the Chicago Bears (4-8) at 7:20 p.m. Sunday at Lambeau Field. NBC will televise the game.

History

The Packers lead the series 101-94-6. Plus, they've split two playoff games.

Green Bay has won five in a row, 10 of the last 11 and 20 of the last 23 dating to its 10-3 victory on Jan. 2, 2011.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 35-9, third season. Chicago — Matt Nagy, 32-28, fourth season.

When the Packers have the ball

Beginning with a 24-14 verdict when the teams met in week six, Chicago has dropped six of its last seven games. It allowed at least 29 points in four of those games.

In the first game between the teams, Chicago limited Green Bay to 323 yards and 2-of-8 on third down. But the Bears are down two key cogs, with outside linebacker Khalil Mack (foot) and inside linebacker Danny Trevathan (knee) done for the season.

Chicago is 22nd in points allowed (23.9 per game). It ranks ninth in total defense (327.9 yards per game), first in sack percentage (9.27), 18th on third down (40.7%), 11th in the red zone (55.8%) and a rugged fourth in goal-to-go (60%).

It's a talented bunch, even without the indomitable Mack and the hard-hitting Trevathan, which is why they've allowed less than 300 yards in four consecutive games.

Up front, nose tackle Eddie Goldman is flanked by ends Akiem Hicks and Bilal Nichols. Hicks, a former All-Pro, and Goldman, a former second-round pick, are the big names, but Nichols is the best player. He leads the unit with 33 tackles, two sacks and five tackles for losses.

Outside linebacker Robert Quinn, who is sixth in the NFL with 11 sacks, is the star of the defense. Without Mack, Trevis Gipson is the other starter. A second-year player, he has one sack in his six starts and three overall.

Roquan Smith and Alex Oglethorpe are the inside linebackers. Smith is an elite player. He's got 121 tackles, three sacks, nine tackles for losses and one interception. Of the 20 players with 90 tackles, Smith is first in TFLs and second in sacks.

In the secondary, up-and-coming Jaylon Johnson is the team's best cornerback. He's joined by Artie Burns at



Green Bay Packers cornerback Chandon Sullivan, right, falls to the ground as Los Angeles Rams receiver Van Jefferson catches a pass that turned into a touchdown in a game on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' defense will be tasked Sunday will not allowing big plays to a Bears' offense that has struggled of late.

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the other corner and Xavier Crawford in the slot. Johnson has one interception and eight passes defended – four more than any Bears defender.

Eddie Jackson and Tashaun Gipson are the safeties. Jackson was an All-Pro in 2018, when he had six interceptions and scored three defensive touchdowns, but he hasn't even broken up a pass this season.

When the Bears have the ball

Chicago's offense ranks 30th with 16.8 points per game while Green Bay's defense ranks fifth with 20.2 points allowed per game. The Bears are 30th in total offense (298.8 yards per game), 32nd in sack rate (11.4%) and 23rd in turnovers (19). So, on paper, anyway, it's a huge advantage for the Packers.

There's uncertainty at quarterback for the Bears. Talented rookie Justin Fields has missed two consecutive games with cracked ribs. Veteran Andy Dalton started and threw four interceptions in last week's home loss to Arizona.

"I really felt like his confidence was

starting to get good out there," Nagy said of Fields, who is next-to-last in the NFL in passer rating.

Because their skill-sets are so different, the uncertainty will provide a for defensive coordinator Joe Barry.

"Those guys I think are really high-quality quarterbacks," LaFleur said. "I think Andy's played in this league for a long time, so it's hard to really fool a guy like that. I think he's done some really nice things. And then Justin brings a different dynamic in terms of just his ability to create off-schedule and make some plays, and certainly he did that the first time we played them."

Regardless of the quarterback, the offense runs through hard-charging running back David Montgomery, who was inactive for the first matchup. In eight games, he's rushed for 566 yards and four touchdowns. He had 141 total yards and one touchdown vs. Arizona.

The Bears have three legit targets in the passing game. Receiver Darnell Mooney leads the way with 51 receptions for 721 yards and three touchdowns. He scored in the first matchup

vs. Green Bay.

Tight end Cole Kmet has 40 receptions for 402 yards. Former Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson, who is coming off back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons, has only 30 catches for 339 yards and one score. He's missed the last three games with a hamstring injury and will be questionable to open this week.

The offensive line consists of 39-year-old left tackle Jason Peters, left guard Cody Whitehair, center Sam Mustipher, right guard James Daniels and right tackle Larry Borom.

Mustipher is the weak link. He'll have his hands full with Kenny Clark, who had two sacks in the first meeting.

Special teams

Chicago has a big-time weapon in Jakeem Grant. Acquired from Miami earlier this season, he's averaging 24.4 yards per kickoff return and 9.4 yards per punt return. In his sixth season, he's got five career touchdowns on returns (three on punts, two on kickoffs). He'll be a big test for the Packers.

While punter Corey Bojorquez ranks fourth with a 43.8-yard net average, Green Bay is 26th in kickoff coverage.

Chicago punter Pat O'Donnell ranks 26th in net average, so there are opportunities for Green Bay's feeble and mistake-prone punt return. Chicago's Cairo Santos is 16-of-19 on field goals (84.2%), including 15-of-16 from inside of 50 yards.

The Packers can only hope the bye week allowed kicker Mason Crosby to regroup. He's 18-of-27 on field goals, his 66.7 percent rate being second-worst in the NFL.

Poor snaps, bad holds and shoddy protection all factored earlier in the season, but those problems seemed to be largely squared away before the bye. He's missed at least one field goal in four consecutive games.

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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
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
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
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
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
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

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

59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
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BEARS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Justin Fields	QB	6-3	228	22	R	Ohio State
2	Cairo Santos	K	5-8	175	30	8	Tulane
4	Eddie Jackson	DB	6-0	206	27	5	Alabama
8	Damien Williams	RB	5-11	225	29	7	Oklahoma
9	Nick Foles	QB	6-6	262	32	10	Arizona
10	Damiere Byrd	WR	5-9	175	28	6	South Carolina
11	Darnell Mooney	WR	5-11	173	24	2	Tulane
12	Allen Robinson II	WR	6-2	220	28	8	Penn State
14	Andy Dalton	QB	6-2	219	34	11	TCU
16	Pat O'Donnell	P	6-4	223	30	8	Miami (Fla.)
17	Jakeem Grant Sr.	WR	5-7	172	29	6	Texas Tech
18	Jesse James	TE	6-7	251	27	7	Penn State
21	Xavier Crawford	DB	5-11	185	25	3	Central Michigan
22	Kindle Vildor	DB	5-11	189	23	2	Georgia Southern
23	Marqui Christian	DB	5-11	195	27	5	Midwestern State
24	Khalil Herbert	RB	5-9	212	23	R	Virginia Tech
25	Artie Burns	DB	6-0	187	26	4	Miami (Fla.)
26	Deon Bush	DB	6-0	198	28	6	Miami (Fla.)
32	David Montgomery	RB	5-11	224	24	3	Iowa State
33	Jaylon Johnson	DB	6-0	196	22	2	Utah
35	Ryan Nall	RB	6-2	240	25	3	Oregon State
36	DeAndre Houston-Carson	DB	6-0	202	28	6	William & Mary
37	Teez Tabor	DB	6-0	193	25	3	Florida
38	Tashaun Gipson Sr.	DB	6-1	207	31	8	Wyoming
44	Alec Ogletree	LB	6-3	250	30	9	Georgia
45	Joel Iyiegbuniwe	LB	6-1	235	26	4	Western Kentucky
48	Patrick Scales	LS	6-3	226	33	6	Utah State
57	Christian Jones	LB	6-3	245	30	8	Florida State
58	Roquan Smith	LB	6-1	232	24	4	Georgia
59	Cassius Marsh Sr.	LB	6-4	254	29	8	UCLA
64	Alex Bars	OL	6-5	334	26	3	Notre Dame
65	Cody Whitehair	OL	6-3	316	29	6	Kansas State
67	Sam Mustipher	OL	6-2	332	25	2	Notre Dame
68	James Daniels	OL	6-4	327	24	4	Iowa
71	Jason Peters	OL	6-4	328	39	18	Arkansas
73	Lachavious Simmons	OL	6-5	319	25	2	Tennessee State
75	Larry Borom	OL	6-5	333	22	R	Missouri
76	Teven Jenkins	OL	6-6	321	23	R	Oklahoma State
80	Jimmy Graham	TE	6-7	259	35	12	Miami (Fla.)
81	J.P. Holtz	TE	6-3	246	28	3	Pittsburgh
84	Marquise Goodwin	WR	5-9	180	31	8	Texas
85	Cole Kmet	TE	6-6	260	22	2	Notre Dame
87	Jesper Horsted	TE	6-4	241	24	2	Princeton
90	Angelo Blackson	DL	6-4	315	29	7	Auburn
91	Eddie Goldman	DL	6-3	325	27	6	Florida State
92	Caleb Johnson	LB	6-2	227	23	R	Houston Baptist University
93	Margus Hunt	DL	6-8	295	34	9	SMU
94	Robert Quinn	LB	6-4	245	31	11	North Carolina
95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-4	338	25	R	BYU
96	Akiem Hicks	DL	6-4	335	32	10	Regina (Canada)
97	Mario Edwards Jr.	DL	6-3	277	27	7	Florida State
98	Bilal Nichols	DL	6-4	302	25	4	Delaware
99	Trevis Gipson	LB	6-4	263	24	2	Tulsa

Active/Physically Unable to Perform

29	Tarik Cohen	RB	5-6	196	26	5	North Carolina A&T
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Reserve/Injured

6	Danny Trevathan	LB	6-0	234	31	10	Kentucky
20	Duke Shelley	DB	5-9	176	25	3	Kansas State
50	Jeremiah Attaochu	LB	6-3	262	28	8	Georgia Tech
52	Khalil Mack	LB	6-3	267	30	8	Buffalo
74	Germain Ifedi	OL	6-5	344	27	6	Texas A&M

Practice Squad

13	Rodney Adams	WR	6-1	188	27	2	South Florida
15	Nsimba Webster	WR	5-10	180	25	3	Eastern Washington
27	Thomas Graham Jr.	DB	5-11	197	22	R	Oregon
30	Dee Virgin	DB	5-9	194	28	3	West Alabama
31	Artavis Pierce	RB	5-11	208	25	2	Oregon State
43	Ledarius Mack	LB	6-1	237	25	1	Buffalo
46	Sam Kamara	LB	6-2	288	23	R	Stony Brook
47	Rashad Smith	LB	6-1	220	24	2	Florida Atlantic
49	Charles Snowden	LB	6-7	245	23	R	Virginia
53	Arlington Hambrick	OL	6-5	309	25	2	Colorado
55	Bruce Irvin	LB	6-3	248	34	10	West Virginia
60	Dieter Eiselen	OL	6-4	320	25	1	Yale
63	LaCale London	DL	6-5	316	24	1	Western Illinois
72	Tyrone Wheatley Jr.	OL	6-6	326	24	R	Stony Brook
82	Isaiah Coulter	WR	6-2	198	23	2	Rhode Island
83	Dazz Newsome	WR	5-10	184	22	R	North Carolina

Reserve/COVID-19

70	Elijah Wilkinson	OL	6-6	322	26	5	Massachusetts
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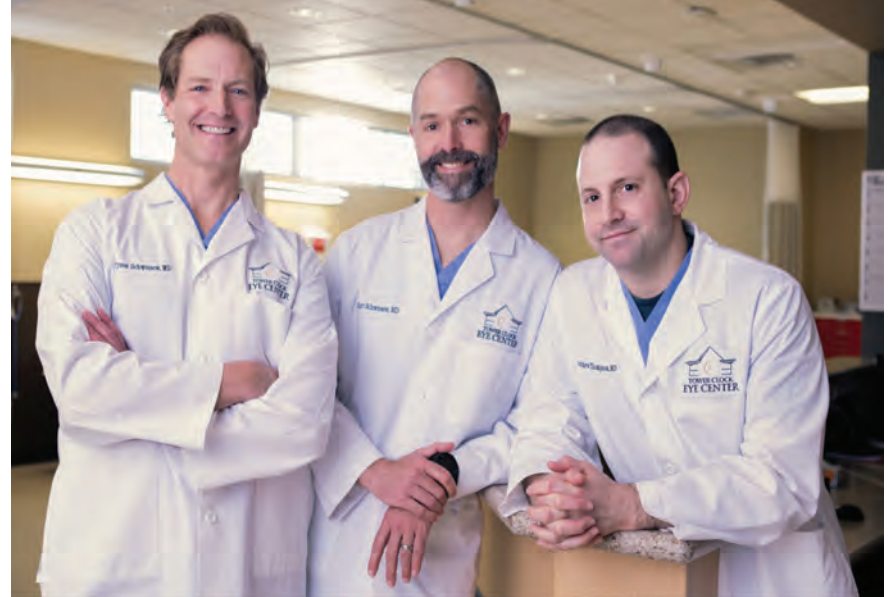
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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Bears
All-time, regular season: 101-94-6
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Packers: 50-42-4
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have dominated the series against the Chicago Bears, winning 10 of the last 11 matchups. Green Bay hasn't lost a home game to Chicago since 2015.
Last meeting, regular season: Oct. 17, 2021, Packers won 24-14 at Solider Field in Chicago. Aaron Rodgers threw touchdown passes to Allen Lazard, and Aaron Jones and ran for another score. Mason Crosby added a field goal.

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	36-28	
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
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
Randall Cobb



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Ben Braden



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Ben Braden



LT
Yosh Nijman
Dennis Kelly



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB
Preston Smith
Tipa Galeai



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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. 6, 12:15 p.m.

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DEFENSE



SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games

Dallas at Washington, noon
Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon
Seattle at Houston, noon
Las Vegas at Kansas City, noon
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets, noon
Atlanta at Carolina, noon
Baltimore at Cleveland, noon
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Chicago at Green Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

L.A. Rams at Arizona, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Philadelphia

Thursday's Game

Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East

Team	W	L	T
Dallas	8	4	0
Washington	6	6	0
Philadelphia	6	7	0
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	9	3	0
Minnesota	5	7	0
Chicago	4	8	0
Detroit	1	10	1

South

Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	9	3	0
Carolina	5	7	0
Atlanta	5	7	0
New Orleans	5	7	0

West

Team	W	L	T
Arizona	10	2	0
L.A. Rams	8	4	0
San Francisco	6	6	0
Seattle	4	8	0

AFC East

Team	W	L	T
New England	9	4	0
Buffalo	7	5	0
Miami	6	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Baltimore	8	4	0
Cincinnati	7	5	0
Pittsburgh	6	5	1
Cleveland	6	6	0

South

Team	W	L	T
Tennessee	8	4	0
Indianapolis	7	6	0
Houston	2	10	0
Jacksonville	2	10	0

West

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

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Canadian Mist Whiskey \$13⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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

Skyy Premium Vodka \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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



Mount Royal Light, Light Rye or Light Cherry Whiskey \$19⁷⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Rich & Mellow Korbels Brandy \$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Southern Comfort Whiskey \$22⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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



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Wine** **\$8.99** 750 ml.

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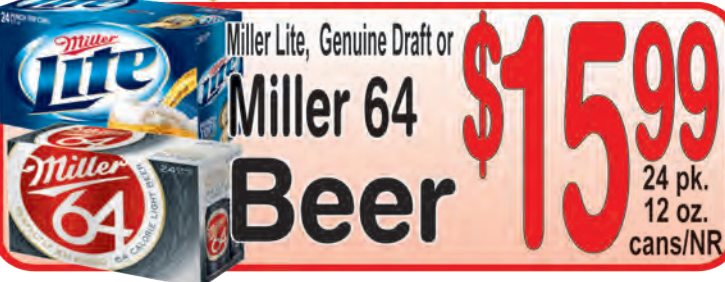
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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 14 Games: Sunday, Dec. 12

Teams on bye:
Indianapolis, Miami, New England & Philadelphia

Pittsburgh @ Minnesota Thurs., Dec. 9
Atlanta @ Carolina
San Francisco @ Cincinnati
Seattle @ Houston
Las Vegas @ Kansas City
New Orleans @ NY Jets
Jacksonville @ Tennessee
Dallas @ Washington
Detroit @ Denver
NY Giants @ LA Chargers
Buffalo @ Tampa Bay
Chicago @ Green Bay
LA Rams @ Arizona Mon., Dec. 13

Tie Breaker Game:
Baltimore @ Cleveland

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	10-4	129-64-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	10-4	121-72-1
Tim Murphy	8-6	121-72-1
Dennis Brei	9-5	120-73-1
22 Shell	9-5	119-74-1
Buss Automotive	8-6	119-74-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	9-5	119-74-1
Hawkeye Hearth & Home	8-6	117-76-1
Shawano Place Assisted Living	9-5	117-76-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Smokey Joe's	9-5	117-76-1
Morgan Rode	8-6	116-77-1
Idell Johnston State Farm Insurance Agent	8-6	116-77-1
B & C Auto Recycling	10-4	115-78-1
Gehm's Club 117	10-4	112-81-1
P & D Sales & Service	9-5	112-81-1
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	8-6	104-89-1
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	9-5	103-90-1
Senn Insurance	9-5	99-94-1



This Week's Winner: Gehm's Club 117



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 24



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 16 @ Cleveland 13



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 17

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
San Francisco	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
NY Jets	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	LA Rams
Atlanta	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 24 @ Cleveland 17



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 17 @ Cleveland 21



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Washington	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Buffalo	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 24



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 20 @ Cleveland 17



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	LA Rams
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 30 @ Cleveland 13



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	Arizona
Atlanta	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Detroit	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 28 @ Cleveland 31



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Atlanta	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
NY Jets	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 31 @ Cleveland 24



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	Arizona
Atlanta	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 21



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 20 @ Cleveland 35



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Washington	
San Francisco	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
NY Jets	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 23



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Carolina	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 17 @ Cleveland 16



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	Arizona
Atlanta	Dallas	
Cincinnati	Denver	
Seattle	NY Giants	
Kansas City	Buffalo	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 24



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Minnesota	Tennessee	LA Rams
Atlanta	Washington	
San Francisco	Detroit	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Kansas City	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 30 @ Cleveland 34



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Pittsburgh	Tennessee	LA Rams
Carolina	Dallas	
San Francisco	Denver	
Seattle	LA Chargers	
Las Vegas	Tampa Bay	
New Orleans	Green Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 7

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	7:35 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN	
Sunday, September 26	7:30 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC	
OCTOBER				
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS	
Thursday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX	
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX	
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX	
Thursday, October 28	7:30 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	5:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)	FOX	
DECEMBER				
BYE WEEK				
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	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

Post bye struggles

Coming off a bye should be a tremendous advantage. Oddly, it's not.

Under coach Matt LaFleur, the Green Bay Packers lost 37-8 at San Francisco following their week 11 bye in 2019 and 38-10 at Tampa Bay following their week five bye in 2020. It's also worth recalling the Packers hosted the Seahawks and the Rams after their byes this season and won both games.

League-wide, teams coming off their bye this season are 12-11-1. Teams coming off their bye and playing at home, like Green Bay will be on Sunday night against the Chicago Bears, are 5-4.

Regardless, it was a badly needed break for LaFleur's crew. By injury impact, they've been the most-injured team in the NFL, according to ManGamesLost.com.

LaFleur was optimistic that three star players who've barely played this season, All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari (knee), All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander (shoulder) and Pro Bowl outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith (back), could return to practice this week.

Running back Aaron Jones (knee) and quarterback Aaron Rodgers (toe) should be a week healthier. After a long 12-week grind, the team should be refreshed for the pivotal stretch run.

"I think that's always the hope when you have such a late bye," said LaFleur, whose team took advantage of last year's playoff bye to beat the Rams 32-18 in the divisional round. "It breaks your season in terms of we've got five games left in the regular season and then, hopefully, some games after that. But I hope it gets the guys rejuvenated for the final push that we're about to encounter."

For LaFleur, the week off was about recharging batteries and studying his team's tendencies. With a dozen games behind him, there's a lot to digest. He also got a sneak peak at the next two opponents. As a happy coincidence, the Bears hosted Arizona in the noon time slot and Baltimore was at Pittsburgh in the afternoon window. Those are the next opponents on the docket.

"I would say the primary focus is on yourself but, yeah, you're definitely taking notice when you're sitting there watching the Bears game



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis. LaFleur is looking to pick up his first win after the team's bye week, after having lost in his first two years.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

vs. Arizona, and the Baltimore, Pittsburgh game," LaFleur said. "You're always kind of taking in just observations as you're watching it, but as far as really dissecting it the way we do when we watch our coaches' copies, I would say it's at a totally different level."

Race for homefield advantage

With five games remaining, the top three teams in the NFC are separated by one game. Arizona leads the way with a 10-2 record. Last year's NFC title game participants, Green Bay and Tampa Bay, are one game back at 9-3.

While all three teams face cumulative schedules of below .500, the Cardinals have by far the toughest remaining slate. Their five remaining opponents are a combined 28-32-1, but that changes to 27-22 once woeful Detroit is taken out of the equation.

In the case of a three-team tie, Green Bay as it stands today would be the No. 1 seed. The first tiebreaker is head-to-head, which wouldn't apply in this case because the three teams did not play each other.

The next tiebreaker is conference record. Green Bay and Arizona have two losses and Tampa Bay has three. That would eliminate the Buccaneers.

The tiebreaker then goes back to the top with head-to-head, which Green Bay won on Rasul Douglas' end-zone interception.

The No. 1 seed is huge because it provides the only bye into the divisional round. Playing at Lambeau Field is an obvious advantage, but Arizona is 7-0 at home this season and Tampa Bay, of course, won at Green Bay in last year's NFC Championship Game.

Here are the remaining schedules:

Arizona: home vs. the Rams (8-4), at Detroit (1-10-1), home vs. Indianapolis (7-6), at Dallas (8-4), home vs. Seattle (4-8). Total: 28-32-1. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 3.

Green Bay: home vs. Chicago (4-8), at Baltimore (8-4), home vs. Cleveland (6-6), home vs. Minnesota (5-7), at Detroit (1-10-1). Total:

24-35-1. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 1.

Tampa Bay: home vs. Buffalo (7-4), home vs. New Orleans (5-7), at Carolina (5-7), at N.Y. Jets (3-9), home vs. Carolina (5-7). Total: 25-34. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 1.

Jones nominated for major honor

Jones is the Packers' nominee for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year.

A Pro Bowl running back on the field, Jones has been active in the Green Bay community and his hometown of El Paso, Texas. He and his brother, Alvin Jr., founded the A&A All the Way Foundation. Jones also started the Yards for Shoes campaign in which he donates one pair of shoes for every rushing yard.

"It means everything to me," Jones told Packers.com. "Me and my family have always been big on giving back to the community and different things like that. Just to be mentioned in the same sentence as some of these guys who are nominated or some of these guys who have won before is a huge honor."

All 32 nominees will receive up to a \$40,000 donation in their name to their charity of choice. The win-

ner, which will be announced during NFL Honors on the eve of the Super Bowl, will receive a \$250,000 donation.

"The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award is the league's most prestigious honor, and these 32 men represent their many teammates who do incredible things in their communities," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Their unwavering commitment to their hometowns and team communities embodies Walter's spirit of giving back in a way that makes us all incredibly proud of the work they are doing every day."

Packers-Bears, round 2

For the second and final time this season, it's Packers vs. Bears.

Green Bay won round one, 24-14, on Oct. 17. Rodgers' 6-yard touchdown run with 4:30 remaining, in which he declared to all the world that he owned the Bears, was the clinching score.

"I always think the second time you play somebody, it's challenging for both teams because you're going to rely on a lot that went right and/or wrong the first time you played," LaFleur said, "and you're going to try to play that chess game in terms of how are you going to adjust? Ev-

ery time you play the Chicago Bears, you know it's going to be a physical, four-quarter battle and that was what it was like the first time around and I would expect nothing different the second time around."

This is Green Bay's third full decade of overwhelming dominance in the series. Over the past 30 seasons, the Packers own a commanding 45-15 advantage, including a victory in the 2010 NFC Championship Game. Why? Quarterbacks, of course. During those 60 matchups:

Passer rating: Packers, 93.8; Bears, 66.8.

Completion percentage: Packers, 63.7; Bears, 57.1.

Touchdowns/interceptions: Packers, 113/52; Bears, 58/91.

For his career, Rodgers is 22-5 against Chicago. One of those losses came in 2013, when he suffered a broken collarbone on the opening series. In 26 regular-season starts, he's thrown 57 touchdowns vs. 10 interceptions, good for a 107.7 passer rating. He's 13-0 when he tops a 100 passer rating.

Green Bay has won five in a row in the series. Rodgers has 12 touchdowns vs. zero interceptions during those games compared to five touchdowns vs. seven interceptions for Chicago's quarterbacks.

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