

PACKERS DIVISION TITLE HOPES PUT ON HOLD

GREEN BAY LOSES TO LIONS ON BATES' LAST-SECOND FIELD GOAL

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

For the second time this season, the Green Bay Packers were unable to beat Detroit, as they lost 34-31 on a last-second field goal.

With the game tied at 31-31, the Lions marched down to the Packers' 21-yard line and were faced with a third-and-one. On the third-down play, Packers backup safety Zayne Anderson stopped Lions running back David Montgomery short to force a fourth-and-inches with 43 seconds left.

Instead of attempting a field goal on the fourth down, Lions head coach Dan Campbell called another Montgomery run, which Detroit converted to run the clock all the way down and kick the game-winning field goal.

"That is how Dan (Campbell) has done it throughout the course of his career, so it doesn't necessarily surprise me," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on whether he was surprised about the Lions going for the fourth-and-inches. "That gave us an opportunity there. Hats off to them; they executed it, and we didn't."

While Detroit came away with the victory, Green Bay was just as good on offense as Detroit.

The strength of Green Bay's offense in the game was on the ground. Josh Jacobs registered another great game, as he picked up 66 yards on 18 carries and scored three touchdowns. Jacobs surpassed 1,000 rushing yards on the season during this game.

Jordan Love complemented Jacobs well in the game, as he completed 12-of-20 passes for 206 yards and one touchdown. Tight end Tucker Kraft was on the receiving end of Love's touchdown pass, as the South Dakota State alum finished the game with 41 yards on three receptions. It was Christian Watson, though, who led the team in receiving, picking up 114 yards on four receptions.

As for Detroit, quarterback Jared Goff continued his run for the NFL most valuable player award, completing 32-of-41 passes for 283 yards and three touchdowns. He also threw one interception.

Jameson Williams was the main benefactor of Goff's big day, catching five passes for 80 yards. Tight end Sam LaPorta added another 54 yards on five receptions. Green Bay did



Behind a strong game from defensive tackle Kenny Clark (eight tackles, one tackle for loss), the Packers turned away the Lions on a fourth-down run and got a big interception from Keisean Nixon. Tucker Kraft caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love to begin the comeback, which was ultimately derailed when a Packer go-ahead score was wiped out on a penalty. With the loss, the Packers fell three games behind Detroit with four left in the regular season, but with their 9-4 record, Green Bay still has a 97% chance of making the playoffs, per [PlayoffStatus.com](#)

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

a solid job in limiting Lions superstar Amon-Ra St. Brown, holding him to just 43 yards on five receptions. Tim Patrick, however, was the X-factor for the Lions, catching six passes for 43 yards and two touchdowns.

On top of limiting St. Brown, Green Bay was also somewhat able to limit Detroit's dynamic run game, holding them to just 111 yards. Coming into the game, the Lions were averaging 154.4 yards per game running the ball. Montgomery was the leading rusher for the team, taking

14 carries for 51 yards and a touchdown. Jahmyr Gibbs added another 43 yards on 15 carries, registering a receiving touchdown.

While the play of the game saw the Lions converting on fourth-and-inches to essentially seal the victory, a key turning point of the game arguably came much earlier. Down 7-0 at the start of the second quarter, Love connected with Watson on a crossing route in which Watson turned up field. To avoid being tackled, Watson fumbled the ball, which

was recovered by Detroit. The Lions were immediately able to turn the turnover into points, converting a Bates field goal to go up 10-0; eventually, they won the game by three points.

Another key part of the Lions' success was converting third and fourth downs, especially when compared to Green Bay's success in those situations. On third down, Detroit went 7-for-15, while Green Bay converted just one out of five attempts. While the Packers were never faced with a fourth-down conversion

attempt, Detroit converted four of five chances to help prolong drives and dominate the time of possession 36:06 to 23:54.

With the loss, Green Bay stays the sixth seed in the NFC playoff picture behind the Minnesota Vikings, who occupy the fifth seed. The Detroit Lions continue to dominate the NFC with a 12-1 record as the No. 1 seed.

While there are still four games yet to be played this season, it is becoming more apparent that the Lions are going to host at least one

playoff game. The same can't be said for Green Bay, but there is a possibility these two teams will meet up again in the later rounds of the NFC playoffs.

"That is one thing where we have to continue to take it a week at a time, like we always talk about," said Love, on a possible third matchup. "Obviously we have a couple of games left here, and we are trying to finish on the right note and win out these last couple games. We will see what happens in the postseason time."

KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers must play better situational football

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The calendar has turned to December, and the Green Bay Packers are coming off a tough loss in Detroit against the Lions. The Packers were good enough to stay with Detroit but made too many mistakes in key situations to beat a team as good as the Lions. That included giving up four fourth-down conversions, two of which resulted in touchdowns. The Packers will be able to get a mini-bye with 10 days off between their game against Detroit and the next one against Seattle.

The Seahawks are not a pushover by any stretch. They currently lead the NFC West and would be Green Bay's playoff opponent if the season were to end today. It does not end today, and the Packers need to win to ensure they have a spot in the postseason. Here are the keys to doing just that.

Packers' DBs vs. Seahawks' receivers

Last week, it was the dynamic backfield of Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery that was the primary focus for the Pack-

ers' defense. This week, they face a trio of receivers that are as good as any in the sport. Former Packers' draft favorite, Jaxon Smith-Njigba, leads the Seahawks in receiving and is likely to top 1,000 yards on the year. He operates mostly from the slot. On the outside, the Seahawks have DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett who can give a defense fits at any given moment of a game. The Packers' defensive backfield is tattered and in flames at the moment. Jaire Alexander has struggled with injuries all season and re-aggravated his PCL tear against Chicago in early November. He has not played since then and has only practiced twice. Without him, the Packers' cornerback group is being held together with bubble gum and sticky tack. That was before Javon Bullard and Evan Williams left Thursday's game with an ankle injury and a concussion, respectively. Williams may be able to return, but concussions are not predictable. Bullard was seen leaving Ford Field in a walking boot and with crutches. He's unlikely to be able to suit up. Green Bay's secondary full of reserves just got beaten up by Tim Patrick. No disrespect to Patrick, but he's not near the level of the guys they will see on Sunday night. The defensive backs need to play better, and the guys up front need to help them out.

Pass rush vs. Geno Smith

Green Bay's pass rush looked like it was finding the form from earlier in the summer in their Thanksgiving Day win over the Miami Dolphins. They had five sacks that night and kept Tua Tagovailoa from ever getting comfortable. Rashan Gary notched another sack against Detroit. He has at least half of a sack in four of his last five games, but the rush as a whole, was not good enough. The rest of the edge rushers hardly sniffed Jared Goff for a majority of the night, and he made them pay. That was a big reason he was able to complete all 10 of his passes in the fourth quarter. Geno Smith can be prone to mistakes if you are able to put him under pressure. The Packers have not been able to do that for most of the year, but the Seahawks have given up 40 sacks on Smith going into Week 14. This is an opportunity to be a get right game for Green Bay's pass rush. Time is running out for them to assert themselves. They'll need to if they're going to make a playoff run.

Situational football

When you get into December, and playing against better teams, sometimes a play or situation can decide who wins or loses. Against Detroit, the Packers were horrendous in situational football. The Lions were 4-of-5 on fourth down. They scored two touchdowns on fourth downs. They have four touchdowns on fourth downs against the Packers just this season. As if that was not enough, a fourth-down conversion essentially iced the game for the Lions. Goff was stepped on while trying to get the ball handed off to Montgomery. Goff got the ball away, and Montgomery picked up seven tough yards. The conversion essentially allowed the Lions to bleed out the rest of the clock before kicking a short field goal.

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GREEN BAY PACKERS AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

TIME AND DATE: 7:20 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15
LOCATION: Century Link Field
TV: NBC
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 9-4, Seahawks 8-5.
HISTORY: The Seahawks and Packers have had some high profile matchups in the last 10 years. In total, they've met 24 times with the Packers leading the all-time series 15-9. When Aaron Rodgers and Russell Wilson were facing each other, there was a clear theme. Whoever was at home was the team who won the game. The last meeting between these two teams was November 2021. Rodgers returned from the Reserve/COVID-19 list, and the Packers' defense suffocated Wilson, winning 17-0. The last meeting at Century Link Field came in 2018. The Packers jumped out to an early lead but could not hold on to it. Wilson and Seattle's dynamic running game ran through the Packers for a 27-24 victory.

COACHES: Packers - Matt LaFleur, fifth season, 65-31. Seahawks - Mike MacDonald, first season, 8-5.

PACKERS SCHEDULE
Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadelphia, L 29-34
Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis Noon W 16-10
Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee Noon W 30-14
Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 29-31

Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. W 24-19
Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona Noon W 34-13
Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22
Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27
Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit 3:25 p.m. L 14-24
Week 10 BYE
Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago Noon W 20-19
Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10
Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami W 30-17
Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-31
Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle 7:20 p.m. NBC
Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans 7:15 p.m. ESPN
Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota

Noon FOX
Week 18 vs. Chicago TBD

NFL SCHEDULE
Thursday, Dec. 12
LA Rams at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15
Washington at New Orleans, Noon
Kansas City at Cleveland, Noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, Noon
Miami at Houston, Noon
Baltimore at NY Giants, Noon
NY Jets at Jacksonville, Noon
Dallas at Carolina, Noon
Tampa Bay at LA Chargers, 3:25 p.m.
Indianapolis at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Detroit, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16
Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Las Vegas, 7:30 p.m.

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Daniel Bechard,
Golden Pond Resident

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WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay defensive end Lukas Van Ness zeroes in on one of his three tackles in the Dec. 5 NFC North matchup against surging, first-place Detroit. Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs, the focus of Van Ness' attention on this play, finished with just 43 yards on 15 carries in Detroit's 34-31 victory.

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Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media.....	5-0	54-16
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin.....	4-1	51-19
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive.....	4-1	49-21
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-1	47-23
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	5-0	46-24
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Services	2-3	45-25
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	5-0	44-26
Karen Jaeger, The Cottages at Meadowlands.....	4-1	42-28
Ken & Kate Cisar, The Cottages on Golden Pond.....	1-4	41-29
Kevin Passon, NEW Media.....	2-3	41-29
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-2	36-34



This Week's Picks:

Dallas

Jacksonville

Buffalo

Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 10

Week 14 Winner:
Tim Murphy
NEW Media


BUSS
AUTO

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
 NY Jets
 Buffalo
 Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Seattle 17

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This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 20



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Buffalo
Chicago

Marilyn Kielman
The Cottages at
Meadowlands

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 21



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 16 @ Seattle 12



This Week's Picks:

Dallas

Jacksonville

Buffalo

Minnesota

Kevin Passon
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 21



Tanya Hintz
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 17



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
Jacksonville
Buffalo
Chicago

Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 24



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 27 @ Seattle 10

Jacob
Westendorf
New Media



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Tim Murphy
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Seattle 20



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Seattle 27

WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Behind a strong game from defensive tackle Kenny Clark (eight tackles, one tackle for loss), the Packers turned away the Lions on a fourth-down run and got a big interception from Keisean Nixon. Tucker Kraft caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love to begin the comeback, which was ultimately derailed when a Packer go-ahead score was wiped out on a penalty. With the loss, the Packers fell three games behind Detroit with four left in the regular season, but with their 9-4 record, Green Bay still has a 97% chance of making the playoffs, per [PlayoffStatus.com](#).

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KEEPING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

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GREEN BAY

PACKERS

2	Malik Willis.....QB	29	Xavier McKinney.....S	73	Andre Dillard.....T
7	Quay Walker.....LB	30	Chris Brooks.....RB	74	Elgton Jenkins.....G/T
8	Josh Jacobs.....RB	31	Emanuel Wilson.....RB	75	Sean Rhyan.....G
9	Christian Watson.....WR	33	Evan Williams.....S	76	Kadeem Telfort.....T
10	Jordan Love.....QB	39	Zayne Anderson.....S	79	Travis Glover.....T
11	Jayden Reed.....WR	42	Matt Orzech.....LS	80	Bo Melton.....WR
13	Dontayvion Wicks.....WR	45	Eric Wilson.....LB	85	Tucker Kraft.....TE
17	Brandon Mcmanus.....K	50	Zach Tom.....OL	86	John FitzPatrick.....TE
18	Malik Heath.....WR	52	Rashan Gary.....DL	87	Romeo Doubs.....WR
19	Daniel Whelan.....P	53	Arron Mosby.....DL	89	Ben Sims.....TE
20	Javon Bullard.....S	55	Kingsley Enagbare.....DL	90	Lukas Van Ness.....DL
21	Eric Stokes.....CB	56	Edgerrin Cooper.....LB	93	T.J. Slaton.....DL
22	Robert Rochell.....CB	57	Brenton Cox Jr.....DL	94	Karl Brooks.....DL
23	Jaire Alexander.....CB	58	Isaiah McDuffie.....LB	95	Devonte Wyatt.....DL
24	Carrington Valentine.....CB	59	Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB	96	Colby Wooden.....DL
25	Keisean Nixon.....CB	62	Jacob Monk.....C/G	97	Kenny Clark.....DL
26	Corey Ballentine.....CB	63	Rasheed Walker.....T		
27	Kitan Oladapo.....S	71	Josh Myers.....C/G		

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS

1	Jaelon Darden.....WR	25	Kenny McIntosh.....RB	63	Sataoa Laumea.....G
2	Rayshawn Jenkins.....SS	26	Zach Charbonnet.....RB	64	Christian Haynes.....G
4	Michael Dickson.....P	27	Riq Woolen.....CB	65	Michael Jerrell.....T
5	Mason Myers.....K	28	Nehemiah Pritchett.....CB	67	Charles Cross.....T
6	Sam Howell.....QB	29	Josh Jobe.....CB	70	Laken Tomlinson.....G
7	Geno Smith.....QB	30	AJ Finley.....S	72	Abraham Lucas.....T
8	Coby Bryant.....FS	32	Jerrick Reed II.....FS	82	Cody White.....WR
9	Kenneth Walker III.....RB	38	Brady Russell.....TE	83	Dareke Young.....WR
10	Uchenna Nwosu.....LB	41	Chris Stoll.....LS	86	Pharaoh Brown.....TE
11	Jaxon Smith-Njigba.....WR	42	Drake Thomas.....LB	87	Noah Fant.....TE
13	Ernest Jones IV.....LB	48	Tyrice Knight.....LB	88	AJ Barner.....TE
14	DK Metcalf.....WR	50	Trevis Gipson.....LB	90	Jarran Reed.....NT
16	Tyler Lockett.....WR	51	Olu Oluwatimi.....C	91	Byron Murphy II.....DT
18	Josh Ross.....LB	52	Patrick O'Connell.....LB	94	Mike Morris.....DE
19	Jake Bobo.....WR	53	Boye Mafe.....LB	97	Johnathan Hankins.....DT
20	Julian Love.....FS	55	Dre'Mont Jones.....DE	98	Roy Robertson-Harris..DT
21	Devon Witherspoon.....CB	58	Derick Hall.....LB	99	Leonard Williams.....DE
22	Tre Brown.....CB	61	Jalen Sundell.....C		

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WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay defensive stalwarts Isaiah McDuffie (No. 58, 15 tackles), Quay Walker (7, 10 tackles), Xavier McKinney (29, seven tackles) and Kingsley Enagbare (55) celebrate the fourth-down stop of Detroit's Jahmyr Gibbs deep in Lions territory. The Packers' third-quarter stand set up the score that gave Green Bay its first lead of the night.

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WEEK 14/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



In addition to completing 12-of-20 pass attempts for 206 yards and a touchdown, Packers quarterback Jordan Love ran four times for 24 yards, including this 14-yard scamper for a first down (his longest run of the season, in the Dec. 5 34-31 loss to Detroit. After the tough defeat, Love and the Pack seek to regroup and find the momentum they generated at playoff time last year.

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POSTSEASON MOBILITY

PACKERS SEEK TO REGROUP AND FIND PLAYOFF MOMENTUM

HO-CHUNK  GAMING

WITTENBERG

WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay Packers linebacker Quay Walker (7) and defensive tackle T.J. Slaton (93) zero in on Lions quarterback Jared Goff (16) in the Dec. 5 game in Detroit. Goff was 32-of-41 for 283 yards with three touchdowns, one interception and a 109.7 rating. Running backs David Montgomery (14 carries, 51 yards) and Jahmyr Gibbs (14-43) combined for 94 yards on the ground.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

TRYING TO HOLD THE LINE



Bigger is not always better, but better is how we get bigger. As the smallest media covering the NFL’s smallest market, the Leader is proud to have brought top-notch Packers content to the community for the past 100-plus years. Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another. The same can be said for every Green Bay Packers’ football season ... and also for the Shawano Leader - the smallest market, bringing quality content to the community since 1881.

