



THE NFC'S BEST

Packers top Vikings to claim No. 1 seed again

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Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur walks the sideline as receiver Davante Adams, left, and Aaron Rodgers look on during the team's win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.
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Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers celebrates with coaches and teammates during the team's win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. With the victory, Green Bay secured the NFC's top seed for the postseason. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Pack thrilled with top seed, but not satisfied

The goal for the Green Bay Packers every season is to win the Super Bowl. The team took a big step toward that goal when it trampled the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field, with the win securing the team the NFC's No. 1 seed.

Now, even with a week 18 matchup at the Detroit Lions still left in the regular season, the Packers know the first half of their playoff fate.

With the top seed, Green Bay receives the only bye week in the NFC postseason. That bye week will come



MORGAN RODE

between Jan. 15-17, when six total Wild Card Round games are happening — three in each conference.

The top seed also guarantees the Packers will host a Divisional Round game the following week-

end. Lambeau Field will also serve as the host of the NFC Championship Game should the Packers win in the Divisional Round.

"We're happy to have it. We're happy to have earned it. We're happy for the chips to fall in our favor," said outside linebacker Preston Smith. "And we're just happy to go out there and keep on working hard and keep striving toward our goal."

"It definitely feels amazing. It's something we continuously (are) working toward, we're striving toward," said running back A.J. Dillon. "We know how important it is to have teams have to come through Lambeau. I say it all the time, we got the best fans in football, we also got the elements as you saw tonight, so combine

those two with all the talent and the team and staff we got (and) it's going to be tough sledding for anybody."

Securing home-field advantage didn't help the Packers during last year's postseason, nor has it helped teams around the league during the regular season this year, but the Packers believe it will aid in their quest to reach the Super Bowl. Green Bay was the only team in the league to post a perfect home record this season.

"The fact that there's fans in the stands is a big deal," said coach Matt LaFleur, referencing the fact there were limited fans in the stands a year ago. "That will definitely play in our favor as we move forward and I really appreciate the energy our fans bring, and we'll continue to express that importance to them and hopefully they'll take that to heart and cheer us as loud as they have all season long."

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers also thought this year's postseason would be different because there would be a full crowd on hand. The QB is also hoping for some more cold weather games, just like the team had against Minnesota, after not getting typical winter weather during the postseason run last year.

Already having the No. 1 seed locked up with a week still to go plays heavily in favor of the Packers.

The team could rest most of its starters against Detroit and not risk injury, although it sounds like the Packers will play their regulars for at least a portion of the game.

In their postgame press conferences, Rodgers and receiver Davante Adams each said they'd like to play next week, and if those two are giving it a go, it's a pretty safe bet that most of the other starters will as well, unless they are dealing with injuries already.

Don't expect the starters to play more than a half, if that, but that one half of football should be enough to keep the team fresh and on its roll when it takes the field again in the postseason.

The next piece to the puzzle is figuring out which opponents the Packers will face, but the Packers like their chances because they'll be sleeping in their own beds before gameday and with a raucous and supportive crowd behind them.

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

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NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

To play or not to play

With the No. 1 seed in the NFC playoffs wrapped up and a first-round playoff bye clinched, Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur faces some interesting personnel questions for Sunday's regular-season finale at the Detroit Lions.

First and foremost, should LaFleur play his top performers in a meaningless game? LaFleur is leaning toward the "reward" side of that risk-reward dilemma. While Aaron Rodgers, Davante Adams and others might not play the entire game against Detroit, they will play in hopes of keeping them as sharp as possible.

"I'm not comfortable having essentially a three-week layoff for our guys," LaFleur said. "I know that you can look at it a million different ways and there's never a right answer unless it works out. If somebody goes in there and gets injured then, 'Well, why'd you play your guys?' But if you go out there in that first playoff game and you lay an egg, 'Well, why'd you rest your guys?'"

The other personnel focal point is the fate of the team's injured stars. Left tackle David Bakhtiari hasn't played all season and didn't practice the past two weeks, the second time his comeback from a torn ACL has been short-circuited. Outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith hasn't played since week one due to a back injury that required surgery. Cornerback Jaire Alexander hasn't played since week four due to a shoulder injury.

Those are three of the best players in the NFL. If they are unable to knock off some of the rust against Detroit, can LaFleur count on them in a do-or-die playoff game?

That's especially true for Bakhtiari. At this point, what's the better option at left tackle? The five-time All-Pro who hasn't played in more than a year or the former undrafted free agent who has started the past five weeks? Getting Bakhtiari some action against the Lions would provide some clarity because it's not as if Yosh Nijman has been a liability.

With four weeks of practice under his belt, Alexander seemed on track to make his debut this week. However, he was placed on the COVID list on Sunday. At best, he could return in time to practice on Friday. Will LaFleur put him on the field without a full week of work?

Smith hasn't even practiced since his surgery.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws a pass in the team's win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. One of the dilemmas facing the Packers this week is whether or not to play starters, like Rodgers, in a meaningless game against the Lions.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

"In a perfect scenario, they would get reps in the regular season," LaFleur said when asked specifically about Bakhtiari and Alexander. "We'll see if that comes to fruition this weekend or not. You're talking about two premier players. I think they've shown enough over the course of their career that they can handle it. I know the moment will never be too big for them, and so we've got a lot of confidence, if they're available, they will play."

With veteran receiver Randall Cobb close to returning from core-muscle surgery, the Packers could get a big influx of talent for the playoffs. After the game on Sunday, the tone in Rodgers' voice suggested it was more than just wishful thinking.

"I really feel like there's a possibility to get a few of those guys back for this stretch run, and that's exciting," he said. "We'll see this week where those

guys are at. but it would be fun to get those guys back. Obviously, Randall is going to be back. You think about Z and Jaire and David, that could make things really interesting for us on both sides of the ball."

Adams' record pursuit

Against Minnesota, Adams broke his own franchise record for receptions in a season with 117. Against Detroit, Adams will try to break the franchise record for single-season receiving yards. In 2014, Jordy Nelson set that mark with 1,519 yards. Adams, who will be a free agent at the end of the season, enters this week with 1,498 yards, meaning he needs 22 yards against the Lions' injury-riddled secondary.

"That's why I want to play. Nah, that's not why, but I'd like to think playing a half or whatever it is, what-

ever we decide, I'll be able to take care of that," Adams said. "You never know when you'll be able to have that type of honor later. In 2018, I didn't play in the last game (because of a knee injury) and needed two catches for the record. I would've broke it then, broke it last year and then re-broke it this year. Who knows what will happen in the future, so you've got to take advantage of different opportunities when you're so close."

The big 4-0

LaFleur's first three seasons have been preposterously good.

- He'll pack a career record of 39-9 for the trip to Detroit. That's the most wins in NFL history by a coach in his first three seasons, beating George Seifert's 38 wins from 1989 through 1991.

- The Packers became the first team in NFL history with three consecutive seasons of 13 wins.

- With a victory over the Lions, LaFleur would have a 40th win. That would tie Chicago legend Mike Ditka, who went 40-8 with the Bears from 1985 through 1987, for most wins by any coach in a three-year span.

The Packers are 22-2 at Lambeau Field and 14-0 in December and January. Of course, those are regular-season marks. LaFleur knows those accomplishments will mean nothing without winning a championship, which is why he's continually downplayed his success.

"I think it's a great credit to everybody in this organization, from the top down," LaFleur said. "There's not going to be a whole lot of reflection. There's time for that down the road. We're going to continue to attack this with the same mindset, and that is the mindset that we've got a great game to go play in Detroit. Like I just mentioned, a place that has been a tough place for us to go play."



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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
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	26	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	29	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
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	24	R	Florida
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	25	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
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	26	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
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
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
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
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	26	3	Mississippi State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	26	2	Ferris State

Practice Squad

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
9	Elliott Fry	K	6-0	172	27	1	South Carolina
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
34	Kerrith Whyte	RB	5-10	204	25	2	Florida Atlantic
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
43	Peter Kalambayi	LB	6-3	252	26	R	Stanford
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
61	Jon Dietzen	G/T	6-5	312	24	R	Wisconsin
65	Michal Menet	C	6-4	301	24	R	Penn State
72	Adrian Ealy	T	6-4	321	22	R	Oklahoma
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
80	Josh Malone	WR	6-3	208	25	3	Tennessee
82	David Moore	WR	6-0	219	26	5	East Central
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

LIONS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Austin Bryant	OLB	6-5	260	25	3	Clemson
3	Jack Fox	P	6-2	215	25	2	Rice
6	Riley Patterson	K	6-0	190	23	R	Memphis
8	Josh Reynolds	WR	6-3	196	26	5	Texas A&M
10	David Blough	QB	6-1	205	26	3	Purdue
11	Kalif Raymond	WR	5-8	182	27	5	Holy Cross
12	Tim Boyle	QB	6-4	227	27	4	Eastern Kentucky
14	Amon-Ra St. Brown	WR	6-0	197	22	R	USC
15	Brady Breeze	S	6-0	200	24	R	Oregon
16	Jared Goff	QB	6-4	217	27	6	California
17	Trinity Benson	WR	6-0	180	24	1	East Central
18	KhaDarel Hodge	WR	6-2	205	27	4	Prairie View A&M
19	Saivion Smith	CB	6-1	200	24	2	Alabama
21	Tracy Walker III	S	6-1	206	26	4	Louisiana-Lafayette
25	Will Harris	S	6-1	206	26	3	Boston College
26	Ifeatu Melifonwu	CB	6-3	210	22	R	Syracuse
27	Bobby Price	CB	6-3	208	23	2	Norfolk State
28	Jermar Jefferson	RB	5-10	212	21	R	Oregon State
30	Jamaal Williams	RB	6-0	224	26	5	BYU
31	Dean Marlowe	S	6-1	203	29	6	James Madison
32	D'Andre Swift	RB	5-9	211	22	2	Georgia
35	Godwin Igwebuike	RB	6-0	212	27	2	Northwestern
38	C.J. Moore	S	5-11	197	26	3	Ole Miss
40	Mark Gilbert	CB	6-1	190	24	R	Duke
41	AJ Parker	CB	5-11	178	23	R	Kansas State
42	Jalen Elliott	S	6-0	206	23	1	Notre Dame
43	Rashod Berry	OLB	6-4	255	25	1	Ohio State
44	Jalen Reeves-Maybin	LB	6-1	230	26	5	Tennessee
45	Jason Cabinda	FB	6-1	240	25	4	Penn State
46	Craig Reynolds	RB	5-11	225	25	1	Kutztown
47	Scott Daly	LS	6-1	245	27	1	Notre Dame
49	Curtis Bolton	LB	6-0	228	26	2	Oklahoma
52	Jessie Lemonier	OLB	6-2	240	24	2	Liberty
53	Charles Harris	OLB	6-3	252	26	5	Missouri
54	Alim McNeill	NT	6-2	330	21	R	N.C. State
55	Derrick Barnes	LB	6-0	238	22	R	Purdue
57	Anthony Pittman	LB	6-3	240	25	1	Wayne St.
58	Penei Sewell	T	6-5	331	21	R	Oregon
63	Evan Brown	C	6-3	320	25	3	Southern Methodist
67	Matt Nelson	T	6-7	316	26	2	Iowa
68	Taylor Decker	T	6-7	324	28	6	Ohio State
69	Will Holden	T	6-7	315	28	3	Vanderbilt
72	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	G	6-6	325	28	6	Texas Christian
73	Jonah Jackson	G	6-4	308	24	2	Ohio State
74	Ryan McCollum	C	6-5	300	23	R	Texas A&M
75	Levi Onwuzurike	DE	6-3	295	23	R	Washington
78	Tommy Kraemer	G	6-6	319	23	R	Notre Dame
80	Jared Pinkney	TE	6-4	260	24	1	Vanderbilt
85	Tom Kennedy	WR	5-10	195	25	1	Bryant
89	Brock Wright	TE	6-5	259	23	R	Notre Dame
91	Michael Brockers	DE	6-5	297	31	10	LSU
96	Jashon Cornell	DE	6-3	297	25	2	Ohio State
97	Nick Williams	DE	6-4	310	31	7	Samford
98	John Penisini	NT	6-2	335	24	2	Utah
99	Julian Okwara	OLB	6-4	245	24	2	Notre Dame

Reserve/Injured

4	Austin Seibert	K	5-9	211	25	3	Oklahoma
23	Jeff Okudah	CB	6-1	202	22	2	Ohio State
24	Amani Oruwariye	CB	6-2	205	25	3	Penn State
34	Alex Anzalone	LB	6-3	237	27	5	Florida
39	Jerry Jacobs	CB	5-11	203	24	R	Arkansas
50	Shaun Dion Hamilton	LB	6-0	235	26	4	Alabama
51	Josh Woods	LB	6-1	236	25	3	Maryland
65	Tyrell Crosby	T	6-4	318	26	4	Oregon
71	Logan Stenberg	G	6-6	315	24	2	Kentucky
77	Frank Ragnow	C	6-5	311	25	4	Arkansas
79	Joel Heath	DE	6-6	302	28	5	Michigan State
87	Quintez Cephus	WR	6-1	208	23	2	Wisconsin
88	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	24	3	Iowa
90	Trey Flowers	OLB	6-2	265	28	7	Arkansas
95	Romeo Okwara	OLB	6-4	255	26	6	Notre Dame

Reserve/Non-Football Injury

43	Charlie Taumoepeau	TE	6-3	240	23	1	Portland State
86	Hunter Bryant	TE	6-2	245	23	2	Washington

Practice Squad

1	Nickell Robey-Coleman	CB	5-8	180	29	9	USC
5	Aldrick Rosas	K	6-2	221	27	5	Southern Oregon
13	Geronimo Allison	WR	6-3	190	27	5	Illinois
19	Steven Montez	QB	6-5	230	24	1	Colorado
29	Parnell Motley	CB	6-0	180	24	2	Oklahoma
33	Rodney Smith	RB	5-11	210	25	2	Minnesota
36	Corey Ballentine	CB	6-0	191	25	3	Washburn
48	Ross Travis	TE	6-7	235	28	5	Penn State
59	Tavante Beckett	LB	5-11	220	24	R	Marshall
65	Parker Ehinger	G	6-6	310	29	4	Cincinnati
70	Dan Skipper	T	6-9	330	27	4	Arkansas
76	Bruce Hector	DE	6-2	296	27	2	University of South Florida
82	Nick Eubanks	TE	6-4	256	25	R	Michigan
83	Javon McKinley	WR	6-2	216	23	R	Notre Dame
86	Juwan Green	WR	6-0	187	23	1	Albany
94	Eric Banks	DE	6-5	274	23	1	Texas-San Antonio



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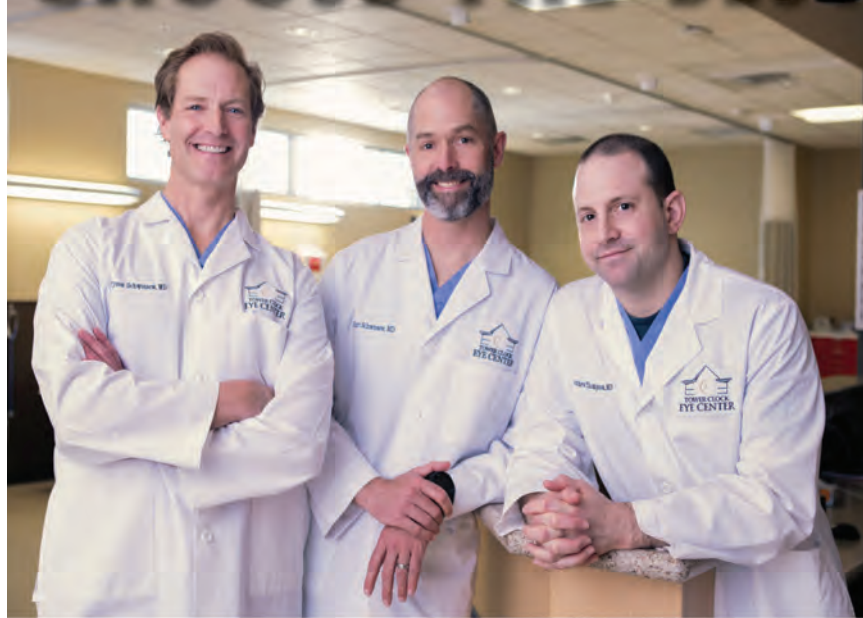
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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

**GREEN BAY PACKERS (13-3) AT
DETROIT LIONS (2-13-1)**

WHEN: noon, Sunday
WHERE: Ford Field
TV: FOX
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius Satellite
Radio (WTMJ feed)

OFFENSE

FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Jan. 2, 8:50 p.m.

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Lions
All-time, regular season: 103-72-7
All-time, postseason: 2-0
All-time, at Lions: 45-43-3
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won the last two road contests against the Detroit Lions, and the last five games overall. The Packers are 10-5 against the Lions in Detroit since 2006.
Last meeting, regular season: Sept. 20, 2021, Packers won 35-17 at Lambeau Field. Green Bay scored all 21 second-half points.

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	Win 36-28	
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	Win 45-30	
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	Win 31-30	
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	Win 24-22	
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	Win 37-10	
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

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
Isaiah McDuffie



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



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
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

LIONS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR
Amon-Ra St. Brown
KhaDarel Hodge

TE
Brock Wright
Jared Pinkney

RT
Penei Sewell
Will Holden

RG
Halapoulivaati Vaitai
Tommy Kraemer

C
Evan Brown
Ryan McCollum

LG
Jonah Jackson

LT
Taylor Decker
Matt Nelson

RB
D'Andre Swift
Jamaal Williams

QB
Jared Goff
Tim Boyle

FB
Jason Cabinda

FYI

The top seed in each conference gets a bye in the playoffs. The top seven teams in each conference make the playoffs.

WEEK 18 SCHEDULE

Saturday's Games

Kansas City at Denver, 3:30 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Green Bay at Detroit, noon
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon
Chicago at Minnesota, noon
Tennessee at Houston, noon
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 3:25 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 3:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Miami, 3:25 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 7:20 p.m.

DEFENSE

CB
A.J. Parker
Bobby Price

DE
Michael Brockers
Jashon Cornell

NT
Alim McNeill
John Penisini

DE
Nick Williams
Levi Onwuzurike

CB
Ifeatu Melifonwu
Saivion Smith

OLB
Austin Bryant
Julian Okwara

ILB
Derrick Barnes
Anthony Pittman

ILB
Jalen Reeves-Maybin
Curtis Bolton

OLB
Charles Harris
Jessie Lemonier

S
Tracy Walker III
Dean Marlowe

S
Will Harris
C.J. Moore

PLAYOFF PICTURE

NFC

Seed Team Record

1. Green Bay 13-3 (xz*)
2. L.A. Rams 12-4 (x)
3. Tampa Bay 12-4 (xz)
4. Dallas 11-5 (xz)
5. Arizona 11-5 (x)
6. San Francisco 9-7
7. Philadelphia 9-7 (x)
8. New Orleans 8-8
9. Minnesota 7-9 (e)
10. Atlanta 7-9 (e)
11. Washington 6-10 (e)
12. Chicago 6-10 (e)
13. Seattle 6-10 (e)
14. Carolina 5-11 (e)
15. N.Y. Giants 4-12 (e)
16. Detroit 2-13-1 (e)

x - clinched playoff spot
z - clinched division

AFC

Seed Team Record

1. Tennessee 11-5 (xz)
2. Kansas City 11-5 (xz)
3. Cincinnati 10-6 (xz)
4. Buffalo 10-6 (x)
5. New England 10-6 (x)
6. Indianapolis 9-7
7. L.A. Chargers 9-7
8. Las Vegas 9-7
9. Pittsburgh 8-7-1
10. Miami 8-8
11. Baltimore 8-8
12. Cleveland 7-9 (e)
13. Denver 7-9 (e)
14. N.Y. Jets 4-12 (e)
15. Houston 4-12 (e)
16. Jacksonville 2-14 (e)

e - eliminated
* - clinched homefield advantage



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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 18 Games: Sunday, January 9

No teams on bye

New Orleans @ Atlanta
Pittsburgh @ Baltimore
NY Jets @ Buffalo
Cincinnati @ Cleveland
Tennessee @ Houston
Indianapolis @ Jacksonville
New England @ Miami
Chicago @ Minnesota
Washington @ NY Giants
Dallas @ Philadelphia
Carolina @ Tampa Bay
Seattle @ Arizona
Kansas City @ Denver
San Francisco @ LA Rams
LA Chargers @ Las Vegas

Tie Breaker Game: Green Bay @ Detroit

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record	Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel.....	12-4.....	172-82-1	Buss Automotive.....	11-5.....	159-95-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	9-7.....	161-93-1	B & C Auto Recycling.....	13-3.....	158-96-1
Tim Murphy.....	13-3.....	164-90-1	Smokey Joe's.....	12-4.....	158-96-1
Idell Johnston, State Farm Insurance Agent.....	13-3.....	163-91-1	P & D Sales.....	14-2.....	156-98-1
Morgan Rode.....	13-3.....	162-92-1	Hawkeye Hearth & Home.....	9-7.....	155-99-1
Tower Clock Eye Center.....	13-3.....	161-93-1	Gehm's Club 117.....	10-6.....	152-102-1
Dennis Brei.....	12-4.....	160-94-1	Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	14-2.....	146-108-1
Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	12-4.....	160-94-1	Cirinnity/Wittenberg Telephone.....	11-5.....	142-112-1
22 Shell.....	13-3.....	160-94-1	Senn Insurance.....	12-4.....	139-115-1

Last Week's Winner: Idell Johnston, State Farm Agent
This Week's Winner: P & D Sales



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Detroit 24



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	Las Vegas
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 48 @ Detroit 47



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Detroit 13

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 36 @ Detroit 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 36 @ Detroit 14



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:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 35 @ Detroit 17



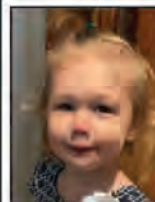
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

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

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Detroit 20



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

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

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 37 @ Detroit 7



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	New England	Denver
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	NY Giants	Las Vegas
Cleveland	Dallas	
Houston	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Detroit 21



In Memory of
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Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	NY Giants	Las Vegas
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ Detroit 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Detroit 7



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
NY Jets	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Cleveland	Dallas	
Houston	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Detroit 14



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	San Francisco
Buffalo	Washington	Las Vegas
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Detroit 17



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Detroit 27



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	Miami	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	LA Chargers
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Detroit 13



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Kansas City
Baltimore	Minnesota	San Francisco
Buffalo	Washington	Las Vegas
Cleveland	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Detroit 21



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

New Orleans	New England	Denver
Baltimore	Minnesota	LA Rams
Buffalo	Washington	Las Vegas
Cincinnati	Dallas	
Tennessee	Tampa Bay	
Indianapolis	Arizona	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Detroit 20

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Green Bay Football 2021 Season

SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:55 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	3:20 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	7:30 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	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)	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*	@ PHOENIX PACKERS	FOX

KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (13-3) will travel to face the Detroit Lions (2-13-1) at noon Sunday at Ford Field in Detroit. FOX will televise the game.

History

The Packers leads the series 103-72-7. It's their most wins against any franchise, one more than they own vs. Chicago. They've also won both playoff matchups. Green Bay is 5-0 vs. Detroit under coach Matt LaFleur.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 39-9, third season.
Detroit — Dan Campbell, 2-13-1, first season.

When the Packers have the ball

With its 37-point outburst vs. Minnesota on Sunday night, the Packers have moved up to 10th in scoring with a season-best 26.3 points per game. Aaron Rodgers leads the NFL in passer rating and the Packers have a league-low 10 giveaways.

The Lions had been playing better on defense but gave up 51 points against Seattle on Sunday, the eighth-worst mark in franchise history. The Lions forced a three-and-out punt to start the game, then gave up six touchdowns and three field goals on the next nine possessions. They enter the final week of the season ranked 30th in scoring with 27.3 points allowed per game.

They are in the bottom third of the NFL in every category, including 30th in yards allowed per passing play (7.67), 28th on third down (44.2% conversions) and 30th in the red zone (66.7% touchdowns). It doesn't help that their standout outside linebackers (Trey Flowers and Romeo Okwara), best inside linebacker (Alex Anzalone) and best cornerback (Jeff Okudah) are on injured reserve.

Under defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn, the Lions operate out of a 3-4 base. Michael Brockers, Alim McNeil and Nick Williams form the starting line, with second-round rookie Levi Onwuzurike getting considerable playing time, too. Brockers has been the most active with 51 tackles.

Charles Harris and Austin Bryant are the outside linebackers. Harris is the most disruptive player on the defensive side of the ball with team highs of 7½ sacks and 10 forced fumbles. Bryant has 4½ sacks. Julian Okwara, Romeo's younger brother, has 3½ sacks off the bench.

Rookie Derrick Barnes and Jalen Reeves-Maybin are the inside linebackers. Both players have four tackles for losses, with Reeves-Maybin contributing two forced fumbles.

With 11 touchdowns and zero interceptions in his past three games against Detroit, Rodgers will attack a secondary that lined up against Seattle with Will Harris and rookie Ifeatu Melifonwu at cornerback, Tracy Walker and Dean Marlow at safety, and AJ Parker in the slot.

Harris is a safety by trade but switched positions after the Lions were hammered by injuries at corner that included Okudah, the third pick of the 2020 draft, and Amani Oruwariye, who has six of the Lions' nine interceptions. It's little wonder why the Lions are 29th in opponent passer rating (101.4).



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams carries the ball during the team's win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field. Should Adams play this weekend, he and the Packers' passing game will go up against a battered Lions' secondary.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

When the Lions have the ball

The Lions are 28th in the league with 17 points per game. Situational football has killed them; they are 31st on third down and the red zone. The Packers, who shook out of a defensive slump vs. Minnesota, are ninth with 20.9 points allowed per game.

The big question to start the week is who will start quarterback. Will it be Jared Goff, who missed the Seattle game with a knee injury, or will it be former Packers backup Tim Boyle? Goff, who was acquired from the Rams in the blockbuster Matthew Stafford trade, is 18th in the league with a 90 passer rating. Boyle has lost all three starts. While he's completed 64.9% of his passes, he's thrown three touchdowns vs. six interceptions for a passer rating of 63.5. Goff is a dink-and-dunker while Boyle is much more willing to press the issue.

With stud tight end T.J. Hockenson on injured reserve, the Lions' best offensive player has been rookie receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown. The brother of Packers receiver Equanimeous St. Brown, he's caught 82 passes for 803 yards and four touchdowns. He's hauled in 43 passes and scored all four touchdowns the past five games, including eight passes for 111 yards and one touchdown last week.

Where the Lions are solid is the backfield with the one-two punch of D'Andre Swift and former Packers standout Jamaal Williams. Swift not only leads the team with 587 rushing yards and four touchdowns, but he's third on the team with 58 receptions. Last month, he had back-to-back games of 130 rushing yards vs. Pittsburgh and 136 rushing yards vs. Cleveland before missing four games with a shoul-

der injury. Williams has contributed 558 yards, two touchdowns and 25 receptions.

The offensive line is in flux with left tackle Taylor Decker and right tackle Penei Sewell landing on the COVID list on Monday. With the revised protocols, they could play on Sunday. Left guard Jonah Jackson, a third-round pick in 2020, is a Pro Bowl alternate. Those three players are the strength of the team. Offensive tackle Matt Nelson played 22 snaps at tight end vs. Seattle to help offset the loss of Hockenson.

Special teams

The Lions are bad on offense and defense but they're good on special teams.

Riley Patterson, the team's fourth kicker of the season, is 10-of-11 on field goals including a perfect 10-for-10 inside of the 50 yards. Jack Fox is one of the top punters in the NFL. He ranks second in average (49.2) and fifth in net average (42.5).

Kalif Raymond, who is fourth on the team with 44 receptions, is averaging 11.2 yards per punt return. Godwin Igwebuike boasts an average of 24.9 yards per kickoff return. He had a season-best 47-yarder last week.

For Green Bay, Mason Crosby has made all 23 kicks over four games since the bye. Aside from his first field goal against Minnesota, in which Bojorquez dropped the ball but got it reset in time, none have been challenging. Still, the field-goal operation has to be feeling more confident heading into the playoffs. David Moore, who was signed to the practice squad last week, had a 23-yard punt return in his debut – the team's longest since 2018.

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**BEST OF
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2020**

Packers top Vikings, clinch No. 1 seed

Rodgers, Adams, Dillon star and defense dominates

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers locked up the No. 1 seed in the NFC after earning a lopsided 37-10 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 288 yards and two touchdowns, while receiver Davante Adams caught 11 passes for 136 yards and a touchdown. Running back A.J. Dillon tallied 63 rushing yards and two scores while sidekick Aaron Jones had 76 rushing yards on eight attempts to fill out a balanced attack.

Green Bay started slow against the undermanned Vikings, who played without quarterback Kirk Cousins.

The Packers' offense worked into the red zone on three of four drives to start the game, but only had a pair of Mason Crosby field goals to show for it.

Then, Rodgers connected with receiver Allen Lazard on a touchdown pass in the second quarter, and the Packers' offense was nearly unstoppable the rest of the game.

On the team's final possession of the first half, Rodgers found Adams for a touchdown. At halftime, Adams had 118 of Rodgers' 211 passing yards, while the Packers' defense surrendered just 70 yards, four first downs

and a last-second field goal.

The offense scored on its first three possessions of the second half to run away with the game.

For the first score, Dillon powered in from four yards out to give the Packers a 27-3 lead.

After a third Crosby field goal, Minnesota scored its lone touchdown of the game. Green Bay answered with a touchdown drive, with Dillon lumbering in from seven yards out to cap it.

With the big lead, the Packers were able to pull their starters and coast to victory. Green Bay became the first team in NFL history to win 13 games in three straight seasons.

"I thought it was our most complete game in all three phases and that's what we need moving forward," said coach Matt LaFleur.

Green Bay outgained Minnesota 481-206 in the contest. The Packers held the Vikings' running game to 27 yards and forced three turnover on downs and six punts.

Linebacker De'Vondre Campbell led the defense with eight total tackles. Outside linebackers Rashan Gary and Preston Smith had a sack and two tackles for losses each.

During his monster game, Adams also broke the franchise record for most receptions in a season with 117, breaking his own mark of 115 from last year.

The win gave LaFleur 39 in his young head coaching career, the most ever for a coach in their first three seasons.

sports@newmedia-wi.com



Green Bay Packers cornerback Rasul Douglas (29) smiles as he looks to the sideline during the team's win over the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

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Saturday... Dinner Menu After 4

Sunday..... Pizza & Wing
Combes

Dine in or Carry Out

117 N. Cecil Street • Bonduel, WI 54107

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