



Green Bay Packers fans celebrate after the team's win over the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones leaps into the stands after scoring one of his four touchdowns in the game against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The fans provided plenty of energy for the team in its 35-17 win.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Fans provide energy for Pack in 1st game back

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

After the Green Bay Packers' abysmal showing against the New Orleans Saints in week one, the team was eager to return home and have full support of the green and gold faithful at Lambeau Field for the first time since early 2020.

The Packers looked much more like the team fans expected to see coming into the season in their 35-17 win over the Detroit Lions on Monday night. The 77,240 fans in attendance made their presence felt, and the team took notice.

Head coach Matt LaFleur opened his press conference talking about the fans.

"It was great to be back in Lambeau," said LaFleur. "Definitely felt the fans' presence. It was long overdue. I think we can all attest to that."

The last time Lambeau Field was at full capacity was for the NFC Divisional Round playoff game against the

Seattle Seahawks on Jan. 12, 2020. That Green Bay season ended the following week in San Francisco before limited fans were in attendance for the entire 2020 season because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Players had a difficult time adjusting to playing in nearly empty stadiums, often saying they needed to bring extra energy to the field. Big plays didn't bring out a buzz from the crowd like in years past, and many players admitted that playing in 2020 wasn't nearly as fun.

While things aren't exactly how they were in 2019 or years before that, there was definitely some extra energy at Lambeau on Monday.

When asked about the atmosphere, quarterback Aaron Rodgers' face lit up.

"It's special. It's what you miss for an entire year without this type of atmosphere," said Rodgers. "You miss everything from the intro with the people holding their phones up, or lights or whatever it was, to the fly-

over. Yeah, It's special. There's nothing like that feeling — 'Jump Around' in the fourth quarter when you're ahead. 'Roll Out The Barrel' and beer races. With the crowd, it's way different."

After a shaky first half, the Packers established dominance over the Lions in the third quarter. Like has happened so many times in the past, in the blink of an eye, the Packers had taken complete control of the game — with the fans loving every minute of it.

With the game out of reach soon after, the anxiety level of the fans went down, and the energy level of the fans continued to rise. Fans were on their feet for much of the second half, even as rain began to fall and the rain ponchos were brought out.

Songs played over the stadium were sung along to and fans reacted more with some of the games, hype videos and other game day features the Packers displayed on the scoreboards.

Even with a win well in hand, many fans remained in the stands until the fi-

nal whistle, soaking up the team's first win of the season. Many of the fans who left their seats early could still be found in the parking lots an hour-plus after the game wrapped up, even despite having heavy rain move through the area right after the game.

"It was fun," said running back Aaron Jones of having fans back. "It's special playing here in front of a packed crowd. The fans really bring the juice, and they give us the extra added energy we need. Last year, we had to bring our own juice, and you get out there and it's kind of like they brought the juice for you. I love playing in front of a packed Lambeau crowd, running out of that tunnel to 80,000."

The win over the Lions marked the ninth consecutive victory for the Packers in home openers, yet another sign of just how much the fans mean to the team. Since 2007, the Packers are 14-1 in their first games of the season at Lambeau Field.

Big 2nd half lifts Packers over Lions

Green Bay outscores Detroit 21-0

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers outscored the Detroit Lions 21-0 after halftime to claim a 35-17 win on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field.

The teams traded punches in the first half, with a late Lions' field goal giving the visitors a 17-14 lead at the break. The Packers' offense started the second half with the ball and got a big play from its two biggest offensive stars to start rolling.

Facing a third-and-12 play, quarterback Aaron Rodgers delivered a deep ball to receiver Davante Adams up the right sideline. The pass from Rodgers was perfect against good coverage, and Adams reached up at the last second to pull down the ball.

Three plays later, Rodgers delivered another perfect pass into a small window, finding tight end Robert Tonyan for a 22-yard touchdown and a 21-17 lead — the Packers' first lead of the season.

"That was a game-changing play,"

said coach Matt LaFleur on the 50-yard connection between Rodgers and Adams. "I think there was a couple within the game that were like that, but certainly that had an enormous impact on how that game turned out."

The Packers' defense then kept the Lions off the scoreboard for just the second possession of the game after forcing an incomplete pass on a fourth-down play.

A penalty-filled drive followed, with the Packers eventually extending their lead on an 11-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers to running back Aaron Jones.

On the Lions' first offensive play of the next series, quarterback Jared Goff mishandled the snap and Packers linebacker Krys Barnes fell on it.

Five plays later, Jones powered in from a yard out to cap the scoring in the contest and a four-touchdown game for the running back.

Jones scored both of the Packers' first-half touchdowns, with one coming on a 4-yard touch pass from Rodgers and the other on a 1-yard pass to the right flat.

Jones finished the night with 17 carries for 67 yards and six receptions for 48 yards. His three receiving scores

in the game marked the first time a Packer running back accomplished that feat since Andy Uram against the Chicago Cardinals way back in 1942.

"It feels great, you know, just to get that ugly taste out of your mouth (after the lopsided loss to the Saints in week one)," said Jones. "We had to wait an extra day to get that taste out of our mouth."

"I'm glad we came out and handled business and (got) back to playing Packer football."

The Packers' offensive outburst in the second half was complimented by the defense shutting out the Lions after a shaky first half.

Green Bay's defense surrendered 197 total yards and over six yards a play in the first 30 minutes of action. Along with its fourth-down stop and fumble recovery, the Packers' defense forced a punt, saw linebacker De'Vondre Campbell intercept a pass and had another stop on fourth down in the final half.

After only managing three points in the opener, Green Bay's offense was also much more efficient, with LaFleur noting the team made it a priority to put the ball in the hands of its playmakers.

Along with Jones' big game, Adams caught eight passes for 121 yards, and Tonyan had three catches for 52 yards. Rodgers finished the night completing 22 of 27 passes for 255 yards and the four scores.

Along with his fourth-quarter interception, Campbell led the defense with 13 total tackles. Safety Adrian Amos had 10 total tackles.

"Hopefully, it is an upward trajectory," said LaFleur on what to expect out of the defense going forward. "I think there are a lot of things that we can build upon, but certainly there are a lot of things we can do better."

In what turned out to be a similar first half to the first week, Green Bay stayed in the game this time around because it was able to match Detroit's scores.

After Detroit marched 75 yards in seven plays on the first drive of the game, Green Bay answered with an 11-play, 75-yard drive to tie it. The Lions went back ahead after scoring another touchdown on their third possession, but again the Packers answered, this time with a 10-play, 56-yard drive.

The victory improved LaFleur's record to 7-0 in regular season games following a loss.



Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones, center, reacts after scoring a touchdown against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field.

PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	36	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	24	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	21	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	22	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	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
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
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	23	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
43	Hunter Bradley	LS	6-3	241	27	4	Mississippi State
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi 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	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
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
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State

76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	29	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	26	4	South Florida
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Marcedes 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	28	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	23	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	26	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	24	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	25	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	28	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	25	2	Arkansas

Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform

69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	29	9	Colorado
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Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner

87	Jace Sternberger	TE	6-4	251	25	3	Texas A&M
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Practice Squad

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	23	R	Alcorn State
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	24	4	Notre Dame
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
35	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	23	1	Iowa State
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
50	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
60	Jacob Capra	G/T	6-5	300	22	R	San Diego State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
72	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	24	2	Colorado



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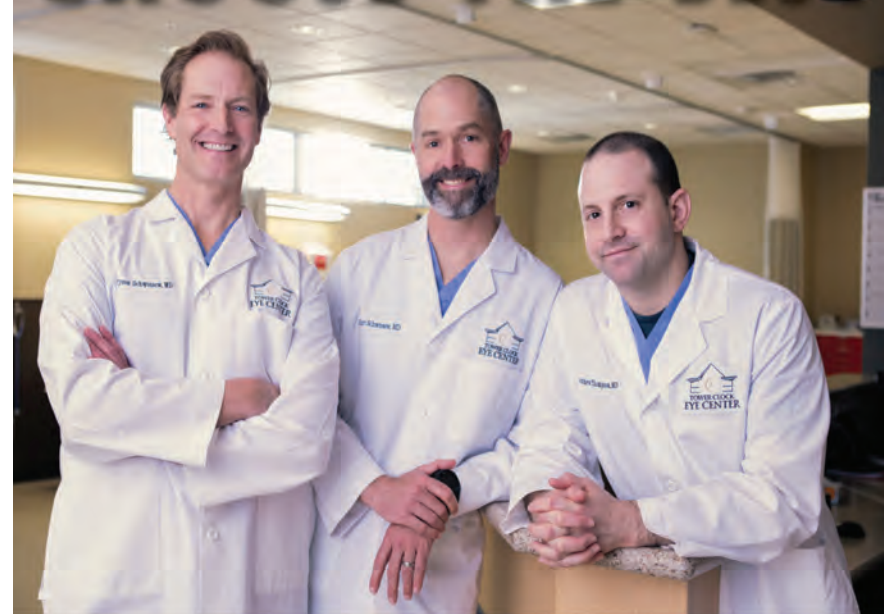
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49ERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Jimmie Ward	DB	5-11	195	30	8	Northern Illinois
3	Jaquiski Tartt	S	6-1	215	29	7	Samford
4	Emmanuel Moseley	CB	5-11	190	25	4	Tennessee
5	Trey Lance	QB	6-4	224	21	R	North Dakota State
6	Mohamed Sanu Sr.	WR	6-2	210	32	10	Rutgers
9	Robbie Gould	K	6-0	190	38	17	Penn State
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB	6-2	225	29	8	Eastern Illinois
11	Brandon Aiyuk	WR	6-0	200	23	2	Arizona State
13	Dre Kirkpatrick	CB	6-2	190	31	10	Alabama
15	Jauan Jennings	WR	6-3	212	24	1	Tennessee
18	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	6-2	220	29	3	Utah
19	Deebo Samuel	WR	6-0	215	25	3	South Carolina
20	Ambry Thomas	CB	6-0	190	22	R	Michigan
23	Ja'Mycal Hasty	RB	5-8	205	25	2	Baylor
24	K'Waun Williams	CB	5-9	185	30	7	Pittsburgh
25	Elijah Mitchell	RB	5-10	200	23	R	Louisiana
26	Josh Norman	CB	6-0	200	33	10	Coastal Carolina
27	Dontae Johnson	CB	6-2	200	29	8	North Carolina State
28	Trey Sermon	RB	6-0	215	22	R	Ohio State
29	Talanoa Hufanga	S	6-0	200	22	R	USC
32	Tavon Wilson	S	6-0	208	31	10	Illinois
36	Marcell Harris	LB	6-0	215	27	4	Florida
38	Deommodore Lenoir	DB	5-10	200	21	R	Oregon
40	Trenton Cannon	RB	5-11	185	27	4	Virginia State
44	Kyle Juszczyk	FB	6-1	235	30	9	Harvard
45	Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles	LB	6-2	223	25	2	Arizona
46	Taybor Pepper	LS	6-4	245	27	4	Michigan State
50	Alex Mack	C	6-4	311	35	13	California-Berkeley
51	Azeez Al-Shaair	LB	6-2	228	24	3	Florida Atlantic
54	Fred Warner	LB	6-3	230	24	4	BYU
55	Dee Ford	DL	6-2	252	30	8	Auburn
56	Samson Ebukam	DL	6-3	245	26	5	Eastern Washington
60	Daniel Brunskill	OL	6-5	300	27	3	San Diego State
64	Jake Brendel	OL	6-4	299	29	3	UCLA
65	Aaron Banks	OL	6-5	325	24	R	Notre Dame
66	Tom Compton	OL	6-6	315	32	9	South Dakota
69	Mike McGlinchey	T	6-8	310	27	4	Notre Dame
71	Trent Williams	T	6-5	320	33	11	Oklahoma
75	Laken Tomlinson	OL	6-3	315	29	7	Duke
76	Jaylon Moore	OL	6-4	311	23	R	Western Michigan
81	Trent Sherfield	WR	6-1	219	25	4	Vanderbilt
82	Ross Dwelley	TE	6-5	235	26	4	San Diego

85	George Kittle	TE	6-4	250	27	5	Iowa
89	Charlie Woerner	TE	6-5	241	23	2	Georgia
90	Kevin Givens	DL	6-1	285	24	2	Penn State
91	Arik Armstead	DL	6-7	290	27	7	Oregon
92	Zach Kerr	DL	6-2	334	31	8	Delaware
93	D.J. Jones	DL	6-0	305	26	5	Mississippi
95	Kentavious Street	DL	6-2	287	25	3	N.C. State
97	Nick Bosa	DL	6-4	266	23	3	Ohio State
98	Arden Key	DL	6-5	240	25	4	LSU
99	Javon Kinlaw	DT	6-5	319	23	2	South Carolina
Reserve/Injured							
2	Jason Verrett	CB	5-10	188	30	8	Texas Christian
13	Richie James	WR	5-9	185	26	4	Middle Tennessee State
14	Jalen Hurd	WR	6-5	230	25	3	Baylor
26	Davontae Harris	CB	5-11	200	26	4	Illinois State
31	Raheem Mostert	RB	5-10	205	29	7	Purdue
57	Dre Greenlaw	LB	6-0	230	24	3	Arkansas
67	Justin Skule	OL	6-6	315	24	3	Vanderbilt
78	Shon Coleman	T	6-5	310	29	5	Auburn
96	Maurice Hurst	DL	6-2	291	26	4	Michigan
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
22	Jeff Wilson Jr.	RB	6-0	213	25	4	North Texas
33	Tarvarius Moore	DB	6-2	200	25	4	Southern Mississippi
Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner							
94	Jordan Willis	DL	6-4	270	26	5	Kansas State
Practice Squad							
7	Nate Sudfeld	QB	6-6	227	27	6	Indiana
17	Travis Benjamin	WR	5-10	175	31	9	Miami (Fla.)
33	Kerryon Johnson	RB	5-11	206	24	4	Auburn
35	Jared Mayden	S	6-0	205	23	1	Alabama
40	Curtis Bolton	LB	6-0	228	25	2	Oklahoma
40	Josh Hokit	FB	6-1	225	23	1	Fresno State
41	Dee Virgin	DB	5-9	195	27	3	West Alabama
43	Kai Nacua	S	6-0	205	26	3	BYU
47	Nathan Gerry	LB	6-2	230	26	5	Nebraska
58	Alex Barrett	DL	6-2	250	27	2	San Diego State
61	Senio Kelemete	OL	6-3	301	31	9	Washington
67	Darrion Daniels	DL	6-3	311	23	1	Nebraska
68	Colton McKivitz	OL	6-6	301	25	2	West Virginia
77	Alfredo Gutierrez	OL	6-9	332	25	R	Tecnológico de Monterrey
84	Tanner Hudson	TE	6-5	239	26	3	Southern Arkansas
86	River Cracraft	WR	6-0	198	26	3	Washington State
88	Jordan Matthews	TE	6-3	236	29	7	Vanderbilt



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THE SERIES

Packers vs. 49ers
All-time, regular season: 33-28-1
All-time, postseason: 4-4
All-time, at 49ers: 13-20-1
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers are 3-2 against the San Francisco 49ers over the last five matchups. Green Bay is just 2-4 in its last six trips to San Francisco, including a 37-20 loss in the 2019 NFC Championship Game. This will be the fourth-straight time the teams face off in San Francisco.
Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 5, 2020, Packers won 34-17 at Levi's Stadium

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	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	noon	FOX
Oct. 17	at Chicago	noon	FOX
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	noon	FOX
Oct. 28	at Arizona	7:20	FOX
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	3:25 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	noon	FOX
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	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
Allen Lazard



TE
Robert Tonyan
Dominique Dafney



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Jon Runyan



C
Josh Myers
Jake Hanson



LG
Lucas Patrick
Jon Runyan



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Josiah Deguara



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Randall Cobb



DEFENSE

CB
Jaire Alexander
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Kevin King
Eric Stokes



OLB
Preston Smith
Rashan Gary



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Za'Darius Smith
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Sept. 20, 7:45 p.m.



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49ERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

	RB Trey Sermon JaMyca! Hasty	QB Jimmy Garoppolo Trey Lance	FB Kyle Juszczyk	
WR Brandon Aiyuk Mohamed Sanu Sr.	RT Mike McGlinchey Tom Compton	RG Daniel Brunskill Aaron Banks	C Alex Mack Jake Brendel	LG Laken Tomlinson
				LT Trent Williams Jaylon Moore
				TE George Kittle Ross Dwelley
				WR Deebo Samuel Trent Sherfield

DEFENSE

CB Emmanuel Moseley Ambry Thomas	DE Nick Bosa Samson Ebukam	DT D.J. Jones Kevin Givens	DT Javon Kinlaw Kentavious Street	DE Arik Armstead Dee Ford	CB Jason Verrett Deommodore Lenoir
	OLB Azeez Al-Shaair Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles	MLB Fred Warner	OLB Dre Greenlaw Marcell Harris		
	S Jimmie Ward Talanoa Hufanga		S Jaquiski Tartt Tavon Wilson		

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games

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

Monday's Games

Philadelphia at Dallas, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Jacksonville at Cincinnati, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC

East

Team	W	L	T
Washington	1	1	0
Dallas	1	1	0
Philadelphia	1	1	0
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Green Bay	1	1	0
Chicago	1	1	0
Minnesota	0	2	0
Detroit	0	2	0

South

Team	W	L	T
Carolina	2	0	0
Tampa Bay	2	0	0
New Orleans	1	1	0
Atlanta	0	2	0

West

Team	W	L	T
San Francisco	2	0	0
Arizona	2	0	0
L.A. Rams	2	0	0
Seattle	1	1	0

AFC

East

Team	W	L	T
Buffalo	1	1	0
Miami	1	1	0
New England	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0

North

Team	W	L	T
Baltimore	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	1	1	0
Cleveland	1	1	0
Cincinnati	1	1	0

South

Team	W	L	T
Houston	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0
Indianapolis	0	2	0
Jacksonville	0	2	0

West

Team	W	L	T
Las Vegas	2	0	0
Denver	2	0	0
Kansas City	1	1	0
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0

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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (1-1) travel to face the San Francisco 49ers (2-0) at 7:20 p.m. on Sept. 26 at Levi's Stadium. NBC will televise the game.

History

The Packers are 33-28-1 in regular season matchups, and the teams split their eight playoff encounters. The teams last met on Nov. 5, 2020 – a highly anticipated showdown after the 49ers crushed the Packers in the 2019 regular season and again in the 2019 NFC Championship Game. Instead, with the 49ers decimated by injuries and COVID, Green Bay rolled to a 34-17 victory. It wasn't even that close; Green Bay led 34-3 late in the fourth quarter before a couple lipstick-on-the-pig touchdowns. Aaron Rodgers was 25-of-31 passing for 305 yards, four touchdowns and a 147.2 passer rating.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 27-7, third season. San Francisco — Kyle Shanahan, 31-35, fifth season.

When the Packers have the ball

After a dismal performance vs. New Orleans in week one in which the Packers scored a league-worst three points, the offense came to life in Monday's 34-17 victory over the Detroit Lions. Rodgers threw four touchdown passes vs. zero interceptions, Aaron Jones scored four touchdowns and Davante Adams caught eight passes for 121 yards.

"Obviously, it starts with getting the ball to our playmakers, which are 33 and 17," Rodgers said of Jones and Adams. "That's where it all starts, then finding ways to let our great role players make plays."

Of course, first-year 49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans will be well aware of Green Bay's offensive formula and will plan accordingly. This will be a much, much bigger test than facing the Lions' retooled defense. The 49ers have a star-studded unit that has been mostly dominant to start the season.

Statistically, it's not a great unit. Through the way-too-early prism of two games, San Francisco is 10th with 22 points allowed per game, 19th in total defense (379.0 yards), 28th in yards per rushing attempt (5.04), eighth in yards per passing attempt (6.06), sixth on third down (33.3 percent conversions) and 25th in the red zone (80.0 percent touchdowns).



Green Bay Packers returner Kylin Hill, top, leaps over a Detroit Lions player during a kickoff return on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Hill gave the Packers' return game a boost against the Lions.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

However, a lot of that is skewed by Detroit's week one comeback.

The 49ers took the foot off the gas a bit after taking a 38-10 lead midway through the third quarter. Perhaps a more accurate indicator is the first half of that game (164 yards allowed, 10 points, one defensive touchdown) and Sunday's 17-11 victory at Philadelphia in which it took the Eagles 56 minutes to find the end zone.

Ryans runs a 4-3 defense that is fueled by a superb front. Nick Bosa and Arik Armstead are an elite tandem on the edges, and D.J. Jones and Javon Kinlaw are the tackles. Bosa (second pick in 2019), Armstead (17th pick in 2015) and Kinlaw (14th pick in

2020) aren't just former first-round picks but top-20 picks. Dee Ford (23rd pick in 2014) comes off the bench to rush the passer.

They will provide a massive test for Green Bay's retooled offensive line, which has been pretty good the first two weeks but will face a much stiffer challenge. Bosa, in particular, is off to a dominant start with three sacks. He rushes mostly from the defense's right side, meaning the first real challenge for left tackle Elgton Jenkins.

Fred Warner is one of the best middle linebackers in the business. He has at least 118 tackles and six passes defended in each of his

first three seasons. He's flanked by Marcell Harris and Azeez Al-Shaair. Harris replaced Dre Greenlaw in the lineup; Greenlaw is on injured reserve with a groin injury sustained on his pick-six at Detroit. It's a big loss, though it hardly mattered against the Eagles.

Rodgers will look at the Niners' cornerbacks and see opportunities. On paper, the outside starters are Jason Verrett and Emmanuel Moseley and the slot is K'Waun Williams. However, the injury-prone Verrett suffered a torn ACL in week one and Moseley missed the first two games with a knee injury (though Shanahan is hopeful he'll make his season

debut vs. Green Bay).

That left former All-Pro Josh Norman and fifth-round rookie Deommodore Lenoir as the corners with Williams in the slot against Philadelphia. That the Niners went with the 33-year-old Norman, who is long past his days as a premier cover man, over the 33-year-old Richard Sherman speaks volumes about where Sherman's at at this stage of his career.

The safeties are the quality duo of Jaquiski Tarrt and Jimmie Ward.

When the 49ers have the ball

Through six quarters, the Packers' defense had given up nine scores in 12 possessions. It's hard to imagine Joe Barry's tenure as coordinator starting much worse. But, Green Bay played much better in the second half, pitching a shutout while forcing two turnovers. Of course, that comes with the obvious asterisk of that came against Detroit, which might have the worst receiver corps in the NFL.

"I think we did make some necessary adjustments at halftime," LaFleur said. "One of the things I talked to Joe about was either play coverage or we have to pressure because, when we were doing our four-man rushes and playing man coverages behind it, we weren't getting to the

quarterback. We needed to affect the quarterback much more."

It will be a bigger challenge against the 49ers. They are eighth with 29 points per game, sixth in yards per passing attempt (8.93), 24th in yards per rushing attempt (3.76), No. 17 on third down (39.1 percent) and tied for No. 1 with a perfect mark in the red zone.

Before this year's draft, the 49ers traded their 2021, 2022 and 2023 first-round draft picks, as well as an additional third-rounder, to move up from No. 12 to No. 3. At that spot, they selected quarterback Trey Lance. Nonetheless, expect Jimmy Garoppolo to make his third consecutive start. He's played well, with a 70.9 percent completion rate, two touchdowns vs. zero interceptions, and a 111.4 passer rating.

Garoppolo's got two elite targets with receiver Deebo Samuel and tight end George Kittle. Samuel has 15 receptions for a league-leading 282 yards and one touchdown. Presumably, Barry will put All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander on Samuel early and often to force Garoppolo to look elsewhere.

Kittle isn't a bad second option. In fact, he's probably the best tight end in football because he changes games as a receiver and a blocker. In

2018 and 2019, Kittle posted back-to-back seasons of 88 receptions for 1,377 yards and 85 receptions for 1,053 yards. He probably would have been in that range again in 2020 but missed half the season with a foot injury. He's caught eight passes for 95 yards to start this season. In the 2019 regular season game, Kittle caught six passes for 129 yards and a touchdown.

Just like the Niners will want to force Rodgers to throw it to someone other than Adams, the Packers will want to force Garoppolo to look at his other receivers. Trent Sherfield, Mohamed Sanu and Brandon Aiyuk have combined for merely five receptions for 49 yards.

San Francisco's running back corps is a M*A*S*H unit. Starter Raheem Mostert suffered a season-ending injury in week one. In week two, Elijah Mitchell, JaMychal Hasty and rookie Trey Sermon all dropped out with injuries, though Mitchell at least returned following a shoulder injury.

It might not matter because the offensive line is filled with studs. Left tackle Trent Williams, left guard Laken Tomlinson, center Alex Mack, right guard Daniel Brunskill and right tackle Mike McGlinchey might rival the Saints' unit as the best line in the NFL. So long as the Packers' David Bakhtiari is out of action, Williams

might be the top left tackle in the game. The Niners are No. 1 in the league in sack percentage allowed.

Special teams

Last year, the 49ers finished 27th and the Packers 29th in Rick Goselin's annual special-teams rankings for SI.com. Both units, however, appear to be on the upswing.

With punter Mitch Wishnowsky and ageless kicker Robbie Gould, the Niners have a pair of proven legs. Five of Wishnowsky's seven punts have pinned the opponent inside the 20. The 38-year-old Gould is sixth in NFL history in field-goal accuracy, though he's at less than 80 percent the last two-plus seasons.

Aiyuk handles punt returns (10-yard average on two returns) and cornerback Ambry Thomas returns kickoffs (17.5-yard average on four tries). Their coverage units have been excellent.

For Green Bay, new punter Corey Bojorquez is off to an excellent start. Only one of his seven punts have been returned. The rookie returners have each contributed one strong runback.

Kylin Hill had a 41-yard kickoff return against Detroit and Amari Rodgers had a 17-yard punt return against the Saints. Those beat last year's best returns.



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Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 3 Games: Sunday, Sept. 26

Carolina @ Houston Thurs, Sept 23
Washington @ Buffalo
Chicago @ Cleveland
Baltimore @ Detroit
Arizona @ Jacksonville
LA Chargers @ Kansas City
New Orleans @ New England
Atlanta @ NY Giants
Cincinnati @ Pittsburgh
Indianapolis @ Tennessee
NY Jets @ Denver
Miami @ Las Vegas
Seattle @ Minnesota
Green Bay @ San Francisco
Philadelphia @ Dallas Mon, Sept 27

Tie Breaker Game:
Tampa Bay @ LA Rams

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Buss Automotive.....	13-3.....	22-10
God's Purpose Apparel.....	11-5.....	22-10
Dennis Brei.....	13-3.....	21-11
P & D Sales.....	10-6.....	20-12
B & C Auto Salvage.....	11-5.....	19-13
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	11-5.....	19-13
Senn Insurance.....	11-5.....	19-13
Shawano Place.....	10-6.....	19-13
Shawano Seasons.....	11-5.....	19-13

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy.....	11-5.....	19-13
22 Shell.....	11-5.....	18-14
Hawkeye Hearst & Home.....	9-7.....	18-14
Idell Johnston, State Farm Agent.....	11-5.....	18-14
Tower Clock Eye Center.....	10-6.....	18-14
Gehm's Club 117.....	9-7.....	17-15
Morgan Rode.....	9-7.....	16-16
Cirrinity /Wittenberg Telephone.....	9-7.....	14-18
Smokey Joe's.....	6-10.....	14-18



This Week's Winner: Buss Automotive



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Tampa Bay 27 @ LA Rams 28



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Seattle
Buffalo	Atlanta	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 41 @ LA Rams 30



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

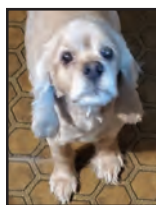
This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 21 @ LA Rams 24

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B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Houston	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	Atlanta	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 31 @ LA Rams 34



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 38 @ LA Rams 28



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
LA Chargers	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 21 @ LA Rams 23



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 35 @ LA Rams 31



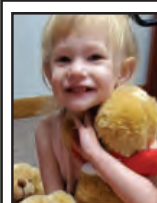
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 20 @ LA Rams 31



Sophie
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 28 @ LA Rams 21



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Minnesota
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 35 @ LA Rams 28



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Houston	New England	Minnesota
Buffalo	Atlanta	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Miami	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ LA Rams 20



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	Atlanta	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ LA Rams 27



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Washington	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Philadelphia
Detroit	Tennessee	
Arizona	NY Jets	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 28 @ LA Rams 21



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Houston	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	San Francisco
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Detroit	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Miami	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 28 @ LA Rams 21



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 31 @ LA Rams 35



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Seattle
Buffalo	Atlanta	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Philadelphia
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 27 @ LA Rams 23



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Houston	New Orleans	Seattle
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 34 @ LA Rams 27



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Carolina	New England	Minnesota
Buffalo	NY Giants	Green Bay
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Dallas
Baltimore	Indianapolis	
Arizona	Denver	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 21 @ LA Rams 28

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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	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	7:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES 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*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

ALL TIMES CENTRAL. *START TIMES MAY VARY DUE TO NFL SCHEDULE CHANGES

Packers Tonyan chasing San Fran's Kittle

Tight ends work out together in offseason

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Before the 2017 NFL Draft, agent Jack Bechta had two of his tight end prospects work out together in Dallas.

One of them was George Kittle, who wound up being drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the fifth round after playing at Iowa. The other was Robert Tonyan, who wound up signing with the Detroit Lions as an undrafted free agent after playing quarterback and receiver at Indiana State.

Tonyan failed to make the Lions' roster and was out of the league for three months before joining the Green Bay Packers' practice squad for the end of the 2017 season. Over the past few years, he's built himself into one of the better tight ends in the NFL. Perhaps the best tight end is Kittle.

That history made the first few weeks of the season especially intriguing for Tonyan. Facing the Lions on Monday night, Tonyan made one of the plays of the game with his 22-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter. Now, on Sunday night, it will be a matchup against Kittle, one of his best friends and, oddly enough, a former roommate.

In 2018, Kittle had one of the great seasons by a tight end in NFL history with his 88 receptions for 1,377 yards and five touchdowns. Tonyan, meanwhile, had merely four receptions for 77 yards.

That made the offseason between the 2018 and 2019 seasons particularly noteworthy. Kittle, needing a training partner, sent a group text message to a bunch of tight ends he knew. Tonyan, trying to build himself into a legitimate tight end, needed a mentor.

So, Tonyan responded. The two wound up working out and living together in Nashville. While Kittle had another monster season in 2019 to earn All-Pro honors, Tonyan was just starting to show his potential when he suffered a hip injury at Dallas that sidelined him for five weeks. They worked out together again during the offseason between the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

"I didn't grow up with a brother; I grew up with an older sister," Tonyan said. "She's super-competitive and a tough girl. She's one of my role models growing up. Now that I'm with George, everything's a competition just



Green Bay Packers tight end Robert Tonyan carries the ball after making a catch against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

because of the type of people we are. Whether it's video games or weight room, we're just always competing. He appreciates it because he has someone that is chasing him and I have someone that I'm chasing."

This time, potential became production as Tonyan emerged as one of the NFL's breakout performers. He caught 52 passes for 586 yards and 11 touchdowns. The touchdown total not only was tied with Kansas City Chiefs star Travis Kelce for tops among tight ends, it was one more than Kittle scored even while catching a total of 173 passes in 2018 and 2019.

Of the 34 tight ends who were targeted at least 40 times in the passing game, Tonyan was No. 1 in catch percentage (89.7), drop percentage (0.0) and passer rating (148.3), according to Pro Football Focus. Throw in eight catches in the playoffs, Tonyan made 60 grabs without a drop. No tight end since Dallas' Jason Witten (77 receptions in 2015) caught more passes than Tonyan in a season without a drop, according to PFF.

"He's coming along really quickly," Kittle said last year of Tonyan. "He's an absolutely insane athlete, one of the most natural people I've ever seen

catch a football. So, when you have that going for you, and he's an incredibly hard worker, he's going to find success."

After offseason practices ended in June, Tonyan and Kittle were back at it. This time, it was part of Tight End University. The inaugural three-day event was organized by Kittle and featured 49 tight ends from around the league convening in Nashville to share the tricks of the trade.

"We're sharing our strategy, our mind-set with guys," Kittle told ESPN.com. "How do you flip the switch? All it's doing is giving the opportunity for

the tight end position to take a step forward. You have all of these guys that are so different but they play the same position. We wanted to bring all of the guys together who are the best in the world at their position and learn from each other. It allows these guys to learn about every aspect of their game. If you can do all of the things that a tight end can do, there's not much a defense can do to stop you."

Among the tight ends in attendance were Tonyan and teammates Mercedes Lewis and Dominique Dafney.

"It was just very beneficial to get around guys and seeing them in the classroom and their mentality in certain things and how they view defenses or view themselves," Tonyan said. "I haven't been able to be doing tight end for a while, so it's good to get around those guys. Obviously, I've been around George for the past handful of years, so it was good to get around like guys like Travis Kelce and Greg Olsen and Darren Waller and just see their work, and what they put in and just try to take as much from them as possible and just kind of be a sponge."

While hands and athleticism are among Tonyan's strengths – his 70-catch streak without a drop ended in the opener against New Orleans –

he's a work in progress as a blocker and as a ball-carrier. In 2019, Kittle led all tight ends by forcing 20 missed tackles. In 2020, among the 33 tight ends with at least 25 catches, Tonyan was one of only two who didn't force a single missed tackle. So, it perhaps was noteworthy to see Tonyan post a career-high 40 yards after the catch against Detroit.

As a blocker, Tonyan has two excellent mentors with Kittle and Lewis. If he can become more of an asset in that phase of the game, he could warrant a huge contract as a free agent after this season.

"Every day I try to get better at that because, obviously, that's not what I was growing up doing. I was throwing the football and catching the football my whole life," Tonyan said. "I can do it, I'm strong, I can bend, I'm physical. It's kind of getting used to it, seeing the looks and playing fast in the box, and playing next to (Lewis) is obviously very encouraging and brings me confidence, and A-Rod putting us in the right positions to have those matchups and make those blocks is huge. But just day by day just keep getting better. That's what I want to get better at mostly. I can run and catch all day, but can I put my face on someone for four quarters? I challenge myself with that every day."



Green Bay Packers tight end Robert Tonyan gestures as running back Aaron Jones scores a touchdown against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

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The many faces of Aaron Rodgers



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers gestures to the sideline after throwing a touchdown to running back Aaron Jones on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Rodgers threw three touchdowns to Jones and one to tight end Robert Tonyan.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks up at the scoreboard during the team's win over the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers takes a moment to gather his thoughts after taking a hit against the Detroit Lions on Sept. 20 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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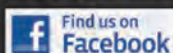
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The word "TUNE UP" is displayed in a large, stylized font. The "TUNE" portion is in dark blue, and the "UP" portion is in magenta. Above the letter "U" in "TUNE" is a small icon of a radio antenna with three curved lines representing signal waves.

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