



SHUT OUT, BUT BANGED UP

Green Bay defense blanks Seattle,
but injuries continue to mount

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Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus celebrates a sack against the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Mercilus later left with an injury and has since been ruled out for the season.

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Injury-riddled defense looks to continue upward trend

The Green Bay Packers' defense continues to defy the odds.

The unit's most recent achievement was shutting out Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson for the first time in his career. The Packers' defense accomplished that while missing a couple key starters — something the team has dealt with for several weeks — and lost a couple more players along the way.



MORGAN RODE

It doesn't seem to matter who has stepped onto the field for the defense this year, the unit has continued to impress and actually somehow looks improved without a couple of its stars.

"When someone goes in, there's no loss of faith at that position," said safety Adrian Amos. "They are held accountable to the standard of the person they are replacing."

"Our coaches do a great job of putting us in positions to succeed. So if you do have a guy in there, he's not going to go in there and do something that he necessarily (is) not comfortable with."

The Packers have only had pass-rushing linebacker Za'Darius Smith for one game, and he was limited in his snaps against the New Orleans Saints.

Green Bay lost star cornerback Jaire Alexander a couple weeks later, but they have found ways to replace him and continue their winning ways.

Starting pass rusher Preston Smith and cornerback Kevin King have also missed some games.

The most recent additions to the



Green Bay Packers outside linebackers Preston Smith, right, and Rashan Gary, left, close in on Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson during a Nov. 14 game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

defensive injury list are pass rushers Rashan Gary and Whitney Mercilus, who each had sacks against the Seahawks. Gary is expected to play again this season, but Mercilus is reportedly out for the year.

That means more players will need to step up to continue the defense's upward trend.

"It's tough, but like I've said, we all practice like we're starters," said inside linebacker Krys Barnes. "It's always tough when you lose somebody, but the next guy in is going to come up and fill that role the same

way like whoever was in there."

Both Amos and Barnes talked about the defense buying into defensive coordinator Joe Barry's scheme and simply doing their 1/11 when on the field.

It sounds like a fairly easy thing to do, but all it takes is one defender to not fully comprehend a certain play for an opposing offense to take advantage. It makes what the defense has accomplished to this point of the season that more impressive considering how many guys have been asked to do their 1/11 at certain points.

Speaking of the first-year defensive coordinator Barry, he has endeared himself to Packers' fans in a hurry.

When Barry was hired by coach Matt LaFleur in the offseason, fans weren't thrilled looking back on Barry's track record. The defense's showing against the Saints in week one and for the first half of the Detroit Lions game in week two didn't help matters, but the defense has steadily improved since then and is now starting to get noticed across the league.

While LaFleur is an offensive-minded coach, he's been quick to

ONLINE

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credit the defense after each game and knows that unit is the biggest reason for the team's 8-2 start.

"I really like the culture that we have on that side of the ball," said LaFleur. "The guys are buying in, playing for one another, playing with great energy and effort."

Green Bay seems to be trending away from having a high-powered offense and instead being guided by a strong defense.

With quarterback Aaron Rodgers still in town, the chances the offense continues to play second fiddle to the team's defense seem low. If the Packers' offense can start playing more efficiently and consistently, or Rodgers plays anywhere near the MVP level he did a season ago, Green Bay will be the team to beat in the NFC and the front-runner for the Super Bowl.

Now the Packers' goal is to find a way to get the offense and defense to play well at the same time.

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



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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (8-2) will travel to face the Minnesota Vikings (4-5) at noon Sunday at U.S. Bank Stadium. FOX will televise the game.

History

Green Bay leads the series 62-54-3.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 34-8, third season. Minnesota — Mike Zimmer, 68-52-1, eighth season.

When the Packers have the ball

In past seasons, Green Bay's offense vs. Minnesota's defense would be a clash of the titans. Not this year. After leading the NFL in scoring last season, Green Bay enters this week ranked 19th with 21.6 points per game and is 25th in the red zone. Minnesota is 16th with 23.4 points allowed per game and is also 25th in the red zone.

Passing the ball will be a challenge, though. The Vikings are No. 10 in opponent passer rating, No. 4 in completion percentage and No. 1 in sack percentage.

Not that the injury-plagued Packers will have sympathy, but injuries have been a major issue.

Danielle Hunter, who with six sacks is one of the best pass rushers in the NFL, is on injured reserve after suffering at torn pectoral against Dallas a few weeks ago. Nose tackle Michael Pierce (elbow) was placed on injured reserve this week. That's their best defensive linemen. Veteran cornerback Patrick Peterson (hamstring) has been on injured reserve for a month but could be ready to for Sunday.

Zimmer employs a 4-3 defense. The front consists of Everson Griffen and D.J. Wonnum as the ends, and Dalvin Tomlinson and Armon Watts as the tackles.

Tomlinson, a second-round pick by the Giants in 2017 who has started all 73 games of his career, is the best player on the depleted unit. However, with zero tackles for losses after recording eight last year in New York, he's been a bit of a disappointment after signing a two-year deal worth \$22 million in free agency.

Griffen, a four-time Pro Bowler who will turn 34 next month, is back with the Vikings and has five sacks. Sheldon Richardson, the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2013, a Pro Bowler in 2014 and a 16-game starter in 2020, is the top backup. He's got 1½ sacks.

The linebackers are excellent, with Eric Kendricks flanked by Anthony Barr and Nick Vigil.



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, center, carries the ball as quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) and Josiah Deguara (81) look on during the team's win over the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' passing game will face a challenge against the strong Minnesota Vikings pass defense.

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An All-Pro in 2019, Kendricks is one of the game's great middle linebackers. He leads the team with 92 tackles, is second with five tackles for losses, third with four sacks and tied for second with four passes defended. Barr, a four-time Pro Bowler, missed the first four games with a knee injury and has 14 tackles. He is a threat against the run, in coverage and blitzing the quarterback.

Cameron Dantzler and Bashaud Breeland have been the cornerbacks with Mackenzie Alexander in the slot. Based on the early season lineups, Peterson would replace Dantzler in the lineup. Breeland, though, has really struggled. According to Pro Football Focus, he's allowed a 69.1 percent catch rate and four touchdowns and been penalized four times.

The 31-year-old Peterson spent his first 10 seasons in Arizona before joining the Vikings in free agency. He's allowed a 59.4 percent catch rate in six games. Dantzler and Alexander lead the cornerbacks with four passes defended.

Harrison Smith and Xavier Woods are the safeties. The 32-year-old Smith, who is expected back from the COVID list, is one of the league's great game-wreckers. From 2017 through 2020, he recorded 16 interceptions, 39 passes defended and four forced fumbles. Woods, an underrated pickup from Dallas, has two interceptions, six passes defended and two forced fumbles.

When the Vikings have the ball

Green Bay's surging defense, which is up to third in points allowed and total defense after smothering Arizona's Kyler Murray, Kansas City's Patrick

Mahomes and Seattle's Russell Wilson the past three weeks, will get another challenge against Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Few teams in the league can match the combination of Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen at receiver and Dalvin Cook at running back. Minnesota is 14th with 24.6 points per game but seventh in total offense (384.7 yards per game), ninth in rushing offense (122.4 per game) and ninth in passing offense (262.2 per game).

Cousins is hard to sack (Minnesota is second in sack rate) and doesn't make mistakes (No. 1 in interception percentage). It is terrible on third down (26th at 35.7 percent) but excellent in the red zone (seventh at 66.7 percent).

Cousins is No. 6 in passer rating and completion percentage, and has 18 touchdowns vs. two interceptions. He's mostly a dink-and-dunker; his average pass distance of 6.86 yards ranks 31st out of 34 qualifying quarterbacks. He was brilliant against the Packers in 2018 (passer ratings of 118.8 and 129.5), horrendous in 2019 (52.9 and 58.8) and superb in 2020 (118.6 and 138.1).

Jefferson, who had one of the great rookie seasons by any receiver in NFL history with his 88 receptions for 1,400 yards and seven touchdowns in 2020, has 55 receptions for 775 yards and four touchdowns this year. He is their best deep threat and is elusive after the catch, but he's dropped six passes, according to PFF.

Thielen, coming off a season of 14 touchdowns, has 50 receptions for 542 yards and seven touchdowns. K.J. Osborn sees a lot of action as the No. 3 receiver and has 29 catches for 341

yards and two scores.

With Irv Smith on injured reserve, Tyler Conklin has provided surprise production at tight end with 35 receptions for 353 yards and three touchdowns.

Cook, who is fifth in the league with 648 rushing yards, and Alexander Mattison form one of the best one-two punches in the NFL. According to PFF, Cook is sixth with 32 missed tackles forced and second with 23 runs of 10-plus yards. He is a threat to go the distance at any point. Fullback C.J. Ham is a quality blocker and adept receiver.

The offensive line is not very good. Rookie Christian Darrisaw is the left tackle, Ezra Cleveland the left guard, Garrett Bradbury is the center, Oli Udoh is the right guard and Brian O'Neill is the right tackle.

O'Neill is by far the best player; the interior is weak and Darrisaw is only four starts into his career.

Special teams

Packers kicker Mason Crosby made his first nine field-goal attempts of the season but has missed seven of his last 12 tries. While he's been in a funk for weeks due to poor holds and protection, Vikings kicker Greg Joseph shook off a chip-shot miss that would have beaten Arizona in week two. He's 19-of-23 on field goals, including 5-of-6 from 50-plus yards.

Packers punter Corey Bojorquez has been tremendous and will have to be again because Vikings returner Dede Westbrook is a legit threat. He's got a 45-yard return this year. Vikings punter Jordan Berry will give Packers rookie returner Amari Rodgers some opportunities.







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PACKERS ROSTER						
Active						
#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP. COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15>Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4>New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R>Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2>Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	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
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4>Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5>Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R>Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R>Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4>Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3>Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1>Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2>Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5>West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7>Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	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
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2>Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4>Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3>TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1>Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1>Indiana State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10>Illinois
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
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
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9>Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R>Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2>Virginia Tech
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	30	8>North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10>Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2>Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4>South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2>Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2>Ferris State
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16>UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R>Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	28	7>Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R>Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6>Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4>Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3>Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6>UCLA
Reserve/Injured						
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4>Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6>Mississippi State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R>Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1>Mississippi State
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
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4>Indiana State
Practice Squad						
6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2>Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1>UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R>Alcorn State
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R>Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3>Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R>TCU
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1>Utah State
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3>Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2>Colorado
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1>Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2>Michigan
72	Auzoyah Alufohai	DL	6-4	313	25	1>West Georgia
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R>Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2>Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2>Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4>Miami

VIKINGS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	27	4	Florida Atlantic
3	Jordan Berry	P	6-5	195	30	7	Eastern Kentucky
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	33	10	Michigan State
11	Kellen Mond	QB	6-3	212	22	R	Texas A&M
12	Dede Westbrook	WR	6-0	178	27	5	Oklahoma
14	Sean Mannion	QB	6-6	230	29	7	Oregon State
15	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	WR	6-1	185	22	R	Iowa
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	24	2	Miami (Fla.)
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	22	2	LSU
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	31	8	Minnesota State
20	Harrison Hand	CB	5-11	185	23	2	Temple
21	Bashaud Breeland	CB	5-11	195	29	8	Clemson
23	Xavier Woods	S	5-11	204	26	5	Louisiana Tech
24	Mackensie Alexander	CB	5-10	192	28	6	Clemson
25	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	215	23	3	Boise State
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210	23	R	Iowa State
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	190	23	2	Mississippi State
29	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	195	25	3	Texas
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	28	6	Augustana (S.D.)
33	Dalvin Cook	RB	5-10	210	26	5	Florida State
35	Luke Stocker	TE	6-5	253	33	11	Tennessee
41	Chazz Surratt	LB	6-2	233	24	R	North Carolina
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	34	7	Rutgers
43	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	23	R	California
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	23	2	Michigan
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	225	25	2	Oregon
48	Blake Lynch	LB	6-3	233	24	2	Baylor
51	Wyatt Davis	G	6-4	315	22	R	Ohio State
52	Mason Cole	OL	6-5	298	25	4	Michigan
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	29	7	UCLA
55	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	257	29	8	UCLA
59	Nick Vigil	LB	6-2	230	28	6	Utah State
64	Blake Brandel	T	6-7	315	24	1	Oregon State
66	Eddie Yarbrough	DE	6-3	259	28	4	Wyoming
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	310	29	6	Southern Mississippi
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	22	R	Virginia Tech
72	Ezra Cleveland	G	6-6	312	23	2	Boise State
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	G	6-6	320	24	3	Elon
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	26	4	Pittsburgh
83	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-3	248	26	4	Central Michigan
85	Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	203	24	2	Penn State
89	Chris Herndon	TE	6-4	253	25	4	Miami
90	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	290	30	9	Missouri
92	James Lynch	DT	6-4	295	22	2	Baylor
93	Patrick Jones II	DE	6-4	264	23	R	Pittsburgh
94	Dalvin Tomlinson	DT	6-3	325	27	5	Alabama
96	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	307	25	3	Arkansas
97	Everson Griffen	DE	6-3	273	33	12	USC
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	24	2	South Carolina

Reserve/Injured

7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	198	31	11	LSU
12	Chad Beebe	WR	5-10	187	27	4	Northern Illinois
13	Blake Proehl	WR	6-1	190	22	R	East Carolina
14	Nate Stanley	QB	6-4	233	24	1	Iowa
58	Michael Pierce	DT	6-0	340	29	6	Samford
66	Jordon Scott	DT	6-1	326	23	R	Oregon
81	Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	210	24	3	Colorado State
82	Ben Ellefson	TE	6-3	250	25	2	North Dakota State
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	240	23	3	Alabama
95	Janarius Robinson	DE	6-5	258	22	R	Florida State
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	263	27	7	LSU

Reserve/Non-Football Injury

76	Jaylen Twyman	DT	6-2	285	22	R	Pittsburgh
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Practice Squad

5	Tye Smith	CB	6-0	190	28	6	Towson State
9	Trishton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	23	2	Syracuse
36	A.J. Rose Jr.	RB	6-1	211	24	R	Kentucky
39	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	179	27	4	Tulane
40	Zach Davidson	TE	6-7	251	23	R	Central Missouri
46	Myles Dorn	S	6-2	210	23	2	North Carolina
47	Tuf Borland	LB	6-1	233	23	R	Ohio State
50	T.J. Smith	DT	6-3	303	24	1	Arkansas
63	Cohl Cabral	C	6-5	296	23	1	Arizona State
65	Spencer Pulley	C	6-4	311	28	6	Vanderbilt
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	315	23	1	Washburn
73	Nate Orchard	DE	6-3	243	28	6	Utah
86	Brandon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	24	1	Marian
87	Myron Mitchell	WR	6-1	185	23	R	UAB
91	T.Y. McGill	DT	6-0	294	28	7	N.C. State

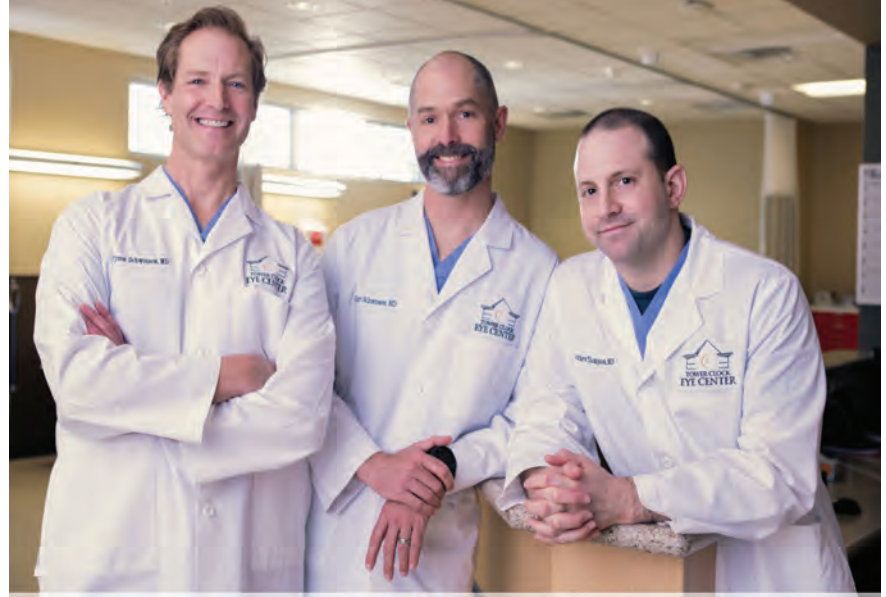
Practice Squad/COVID-19

34	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	245	24	1	North Carolina
61	Timon Parris	T	6-6	330	26	1	Stony Brook
78	Dakota Dozier	G	6-4	305	30	8	Furman

Reserve/COVID-19

22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	32	10	Notre Dame
56	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	26	3	North Carolina State
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	234	26	3	Wisconsin
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	24	2	Michigan State

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THE SERIES

Packers vs. Vikings
All-time, regular season: 62-54-3
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Vikings: 30-29
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won three of the past four games against the Minnesota Vikings. The Packers are 2-3 in their last five trips to Minnesota.

Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 1, 2020, Vikings won 28-22 at Lambeau Field. Minnesota's Dalvin Cook rushed for 163 yards and three touchdowns in the win.

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	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
Randall Cobb



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB
Preston Smith



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 15, 6:15 p.m.

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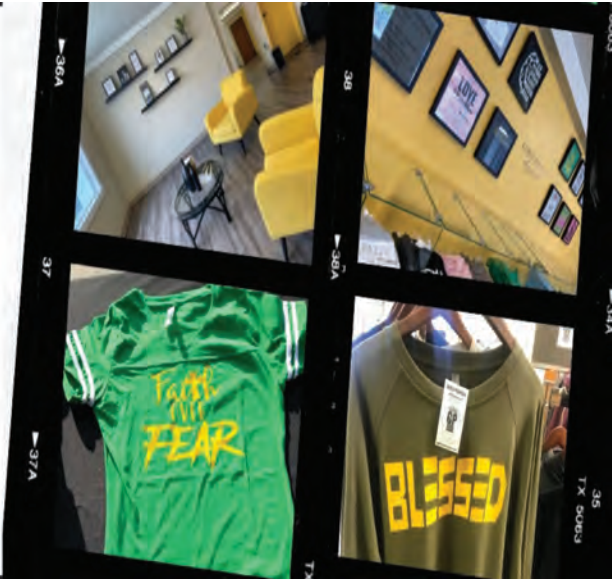
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VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR
Justin Jefferson
K.J. Osborn

TE
Tyler Conklin
Chris Herndon

RT
Brian O'Neill
Blake Brandel

RG
Olisaemeka Udoh
Wyatt Davis

C
Mason Cole

LG
Ezra Cleveland

LT
Christian Darrisaw
Rashod Hill

RB
Dalvin Cook
Alexander Mattison

QB
Kirk Cousins
Sean Mannion

FB
C.J. Ham

WR
Adam Thielen
Ihmir Smith-Marsette

DEFENSE

CB
Cameron Dantzler
Mackensie Alexander

DE
D.J. Wonnum
Patrick Jones II

DT
Dalvin Tomlinson
Sheldon Richardson

NT
Armon Watts
James Lynch

DE
Everson Griffen
Eddie Yarbrough

CB
Bashaud Breeland
Kris Boyd

OLB
Nick Vigil
Chazz Surratt

MLB
Eric Kendricks
Troy Dye

OLB
Anthony Barr
Blake Lynch

S
Josh Metellus

S
Xavier Woods
Camryn Bynum

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games

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

Monday's Game

N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Denver, L.A. Rams

STANDINGS

NFC East					AFC East				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Dallas	7	2	0		Buffalo	6	3	0	
Philadelphia	4	6	0		New England	6	4	0	
Washington	3	6	0		Miami	3	7	0	
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0		N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	
North					North				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Green Bay	8	2	0		Baltimore	6	3	0	
Minnesota	4	5	0		Pittsburgh	5	3	1	
Chicago	3	6	0		Cincinnati	5	4	0	
Detroit	0	8	1		Cleveland	5	5	0	
South					South				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Tampa Bay	6	3	0		Tennessee	8	2	0	
New Orleans	5	4	0		Indianapolis	5	5	0	
Carolina	5	5	0		Jacksonville	2	7	0	
Atlanta	4	5	0		Houston	1	8	0	
West					West				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Arizona	8	2	0		Kansas City	6	4	0	
L.A. Rams	7	3	0		L.A. Chargers	5	4	0	
San Francisco	4	5	0		Las Vegas	5	4	0	
Seattle	3	6	0		Denver	5	5	0	



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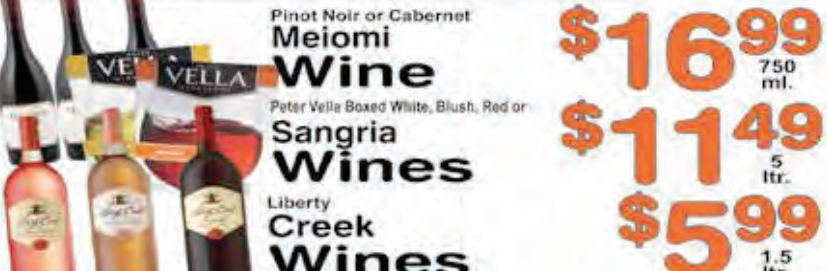
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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 11 Games: Sunday, Nov. 21

Teams on bye: LA Rams & Denver

New England @ Atlanta Thurs., Nov. 18
Indianapolis @ Buffalo
Washington @ Carolina
Baltimore @ Chicago
Detroit @ Cleveland
San Francisco @ Jacksonville
Green Bay @ Minnesota
Miami @ NY Jets
New Orleans @ Philadelphia
Houston @ Tennessee
Cincinnati @ Las Vegas
Dallas @ Kansas City
Pittsburgh @ LA Chargers
NY Giants @ Tampa Bay Mon., Nov. 22

Tie Breaker Game: Arizona _____ @ Seattle

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	8-5-1	100-49-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	7-6-1	96-53-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	6-7-1	95-54-1
22 Shell	6-7-1	93-56-1
Buss Automotive	5-8-1	93-56-1
Tim Murphy	5-8-1	93-56-1
Morgan Rode	6-7-1	92-57-1
Dennis Brei	6-7-1	91-58-1
Hawkeyes	5-8-1	90-59-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living	6-7-1	90-59-1
State Farm-Ildell Johnston	6-7-1	90-59-1
P & D Sale and Service	6-7-1	88-61-1
Smokey Joes	7-6-1	88-61-1
B & C Auto Recycling	5-8-1	86-63-1
Gehm's Club 117	5-8-1	83-66-1
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-5-1	79-70-1
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	4-9-1	78-71-1
Senn Insurance	6-7-1	78-71-1



This Week's Winner: Iverson's Piggly Wiggly



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Arizona 27 @ Seattle 31



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 20 @ Seattle 17



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 21 @ Seattle 13

FOLLOW YOUR FAVORITES!



Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 21 @ Seattle 24



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Detroit	Las Vegas	
Jacksonville	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 13



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 23



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 30 @ Seattle 27



Sophie
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Charges
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 25 @ Seattle 27



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

New England	Minnesota	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Detroit	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 28 @ Seattle 17



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 28 @ Seattle 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 24 @ Seattle 17



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

New England	Minnesota	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 27



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 34 @ Seattle 31



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 21



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Houston	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 27 @ Seattle 23



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 34 @ Seattle 27



Dale
Hawk
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 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	7:35 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	12:20 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 DOLPHINS (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

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Dynamo Dillon

When running back A.J. Dillon ran through Pro Bowl linebacker Bobby Wagner for a 3-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter on Sunday, it was the type of power running the Green Bay Packers expected when they selected Dillon in the second round of last year's draft.

When Dillon caught a swing pass at his knees, turned upfield, ran through two tackles and gained 50 yards to set up his clinching touchdown, it was the type of athletic play the Packers could only have projected.

Dillon has emerged as an all-around dynamo for the Packers. With Pro Bowl running back Aaron Jones suffering a minor knee injury vs. Seattle, it will be up to Dillon to not just carry the load for the next game or two but be an all-around threat out of the backfield.

"That's something I really wanted to work on here," Dillon said after scoring two touchdowns in a 17-0 victory over the Seahawks. "I always talk about being an APB – all-purpose back. I really want to be somebody reliable in every situation. So, I've just been working on it. I've got Aaron Jones to teach me a lot of the stuff he's done so well in the pass game, so he's really been teaching me a lot."

There was no denying Dillon's running ability coming out of Boston College. In three seasons, he carried the ball 845 times. He averaged 24.1

carries per game for his career and 26.5 carries during his final season. Many of his 4,382 rushing yards were the result of the 245-pounder's bruising style.

The question entering the 2020 NFL Draft was whether he'd be a viable receiver. It wasn't that Dillon couldn't catch the ball. It's that he wasn't asked to catch the football. Dillon caught only 21 passes for 236 yards in his career and had just one game of more than two catches.

In 10 games this season, he has 16 receptions for 196 yards. Of the 46 running backs with at least Dillon's 18 targets, he is tied for eighth in catch percentage (88.9), No. 1 in yards per target (12.3), No. 2 in yards after the catch per catch (11.3) and No. 5 in yards per route (2.11). Obviously, that's skewed by the 50-yarder, but he's also had catches of 24, 21 and 16 yards.

With Jones sidelined and rookie seventh-round pick Kylin Hill out with a season-ending knee injury, Dillon is the last man standing in what had been a crowded backfield. Patrick Taylor, an undrafted free agent in 2020 who had zero career carries until late in the fourth quarter vs. Seattle, is the only other back on the 53-man roster. So, it will be up to Dillon to carry the running game at the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday and perhaps against the Los Angeles Rams at Lambeau next week.

It's something he did at Boston College but hasn't done in the NFL. In fact, he's played half of the offensive snaps just once in his career – 56% vs. Tennessee late last season, when he dominated the Titans with 124 rushing

yards and two touchdowns.

He's ready for the challenge.

"I don't want to say he's come a long way, but he has come a long way," coach Matt LaFleur said. "That's not a knock on him. I'm just really happy to see his progression. Going back and really reflecting back on his first year, there were times where he would get worn out quickly and I don't think that's necessarily an issue anymore. He's learned how he needs to prepare. I think he puts in the work in the offseason. I think he is so multi-dimensional as a halfback."

Challenge on offense

With Aaron Rodgers back from a bout with COVID-19, the offense was not sharp against Seattle. The conundrum for LaFleur is how to get it fixed.

Players need to practice – Rodgers included. After beating Arizona with a makeshift receiver corps on a Thursday night, he missed the final three practices and the game against Kansas City, then the three practices before facing the Seahawks.

"We haven't really practiced a whole bunch," LaFleur said. "Basically, the week before Arizona was all walk-through, so it's not like he was getting a ton of time with these guys. And then we had different receivers the last time he played and then you're getting all these guys back, so naturally there was probably a little bit of a dip in terms of from our passing game."

The challenge is the Packers are entering their 11th consecutive week with a game. They've been hammered

by injuries. LaFleur felt "the energy was maybe a little bit off" against the Seahawks. So, there are competing interests. One is to cut back on practice to make sure the players are as fresh as possible for Sunday. Another is to crank up the practice reps to help an offense that ranks only 19th in scoring.

"That's the trick right now," LaFleur said. "How do you make it so that we're getting what we need from an actual practice standpoint but yet keeping everybody fresh and so we can fly around? Because the speed is absolutely one thing that can benefit you, and the more you practice, sometimes it takes away from that. You want guys healthy, you want them to be able to go out there and fly around."

Slow starts

The Packers have scored only 24 points in the first quarter. Only the Giants (20), Lions (20) and Jets (14) have scored fewer points. Those teams are a combined 5-21. This week's opponent, the Vikings, are 11th with 51 points.

"That's something that we're searching for," LaFleur said. "Obviously, it all starts with us as coaches and myself as a play-caller. Got to do a better job. We've got to make sure we get these guys ready to go so that when we go into a game, we're capitalizing on our opportunities. I thought we had some opportunities in the first quarter (against Seattle) and didn't do enough, obviously. But that's always a good problem to correct when you win a football game. You've just got to be on your 'A' game every week."



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon grits his teeth as he carries the ball during the team's win over the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Dillon will have to carry a bigger workload the next couple weeks with starting running back Aaron Jones out.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

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Packers blank Seahawks at Lambeau for 8th win

Dillon scores 2 TDs

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers defense continued its recent string of success, this time shutting out the Seattle Seahawks in the team's 17-0 win on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

The Seahawks got quarterback Russell Wilson back after he missed time with an injury, but the Packers' defense was up to the challenge. It was the first time that Wilson has been shut out in his NFL career.

"First and foremost, it's hard to shut out anybody," said Packers safety Adrian Amos. "But then when you got a guy that can extend (plays) who has the pedigree and all the things he has done — a Super Bowl-winning quarterback and everything — that's a tough task."

It marked the first Packers' shut-out win since September 2018.

The Packers' pass rush chased Wilson around all game, leading to some errant throws and costly mistakes. The Seattle quarterback completed half of his 40 passes for



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon, left, and Elgton Jenkins celebrate with fans after Dillon scored a touchdown during the game against the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

only 168 yards, was intercepted twice and was sacked three times.

Both of the Packers' interceptions came in the end zone.

Cornerback Kevin King got the first pick in the third quarter on what

was the best Seattle drive of the game. Amos got the second takeaway on a deep ball from Wilson in the fourth quarter.

"I thought our defense really carried the night," said coach Matt LaFleur.

It was a standout performance from start to finish for the Packers' defense.

Four of the five Seattle possessions in the first half ended in punts. The other drive came right before halftime, with the Packers' defense knocking down a pass to the end zone as the second quarter clock expired.

Seattle had just 86 total net yards at halftime.

Amos said that it was at halftime that the defense started having thoughts of pitching the shutout, and the unit continued to dominate in the second half.

The defense forced another punt on Seattle's first drive of the third quarter before King's pick kept the visitors off the scoreboard on the next drive.

"It's always good to get interceptions, especially down in the red zone — taking points off the board. Those are huge," said King. "Get that momentum swing and give it back to the best offense in football."

After the Packers turned the ball over, the defense picked them up by forcing a three-and-out.

After Green Bay was able to extend its lead to 10-0, Amos had his interception to set up the Packers' final scoring drive of the contest.

Up 17-0 with under two minutes to play, the only real question left was if the defense was going to pitch the shutout or not.

Seattle worked the ball to the Green Bay 37 before outside line-backer Preston Smith came up with a big sack of Wilson, resulting in a 14-yard loss.

After an incomplete pass, the Packers' defense stopped a fourth-down pass short of the first-down marker as time expired to seal up the win.

"A lot of times when you're up like that, you give them something cheap at the end. That was good to see we closed it out at the end, didn't give them nothing cheap to make it interesting with them kicking an on-side kick — we finished it right then," said Amos.

Seattle finished with 208 net yards for the game and had the ball for just over 20 minutes.

The defensive effort was especially big because the Packers' offense struggled for a large portion of the contest.

The Packers' offense drove right down the field on the first possession of the game, but a holding penalty and sack forced a 42-yard field goal attempt, which kicker Mason Crosby missed.

After punting on the next two drives, the offense put together a 14-play, 82-yard drive to finally score. This time, Crosby connected from 27 yards.

The offense had another chance to score before half, but eventually turned the ball over on downs.

The unit had just four possessions in the second half. The first ended in a punt before a promising drive ended in an Aaron Rodgers interception in the end zone.

The offense at least ended the day on a positive note with a pair of touchdowns from running back A.J. Dillon, who finished with 128 total yards of offense. His touchdown runs were from 3 and 2 yards out.

Dillon got the bulk of the workload in the second half after starting running back Aaron Jones left and didn't return with an injury.

In Rodgers' return from the COVID-19 list, he struggled at times but still finished with 292 passing yards, with the longest pass going to Dillon for 50 yards. Davante Adams had seven grabs for 78 yards, Jones added four receptions for 61 yards and Marquez Valdes-Scantling pulled in a 41-yard reception.

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