

GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

PACKERS BEGIN 2023 SEASON



**A LOVE
AFFAIR**
QB's play could
determine outcome

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love (10) is tackled by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Artie Burns (23) in the first half of a preseason NFL football game on Aug. 26 in Green Bay.

MIKE ROEMER | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



When the Packers beat the Bears 28-19 on Dec. 4, 2022, it was the team's 787th win, one more than the Bears. By the time the last regular season game was played, Green Bay had amassed 790 wins, while Chicago remained at 786.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Packers look to extend record of most NFL wins

Green Bay is 4 games ahead of longtime record-holding Bears

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Green & Gold Express

When the Green Bay Packers open the 2023 season Sunday, they will have another chance to extend their lead over the Chicago Bears as the winningest team in NFL history.

When the Packers beat the Bears 28-19 on Dec. 4, 2022, it was the team's 787th win, one more than the Bears. By the time the last regular season game was played, Green Bay had amassed 790 wins, while Chicago remained at 786.

The Packers finished the regular season with an 8-9 record. They went

5-4 at home and 3-5 on the road. The Bears finished the regular season with a 3-14 record. They went 2-7 at home and 1-7 on the road.

The first matchup in this rivalry came in 1921, when the then-Chicago Staleys (a name that would change to the Bears a year later) shut out the Packers 20-0.

Many Hall of Fame players have been on the field for both franchises since that first game; however, the one constant has been Chicago holding the record for most all-time wins in NFL history.

After the Packers won that fateful game in December, it was the first time since 1920 the Bears no longer sat at the top of the list as the team with the most victories.

Chicago built up its victory count over several decades — from the 1940s through their Super Bowl

performance in the 1980s. But, under the quarterback leadership of Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, the Packers roared back in the past 30 years to even the score — and then grab the lead.

Going into Week 1, the Packers also hold a 105-95 record over the Bears.

The Bears, one of two charter members of the NFL still in existence, have played more games (1,452) and have more ties (42) than any team in the league's regular season history. The Packers, founded a year later, have the most wins at 790. The other charter member, the Arizona Cardinals, have the most losses at 790.

The Dallas Cowboys hold the highest regular season win-loss percentage (.574), with a 550-408-6 record through the end of the 2022 season. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers maintain

GAME VITALS

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT CHICAGO BEARS

WHEN: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10

WHERE: Soldier Field

TV: FOX

RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee - 97.3; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay - 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo - 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette - 95.1, and WSAU Wausau - 550 AM and 95.1 FM

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Bears All-time, regular season: 105-95
Last meeting, regular season: Dec. 4, 2022. Packers 28, Bears 19

the lowest regular season win-loss percentage (.404), holding a 299-442-1 record through 2022.

Green Bay has the second-highest percentage at .571. In their 1,418 games played, the Packers have a record of 790-590-38.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

BEAT The Expert

Week 1 Games: Sunday, Sept. 10



Luke Reimer
New Media

Detroit @ Kansas City...Thurs., Sept. 7
Tampa Bay @ Minnesota
Dallas @ New York Giants
Buffalo @ New York Jets...Mon., Sept. 11

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay @ Chicago

**Watch
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Each
Week's
Winner**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Luke Reimer, New Media	0-0	0-0
Tim Murphy, New Media.....	0-0	0-0
Kevin Passon, New Media.....	0-0	0-0
Bill Huber, New Media	0-0	0-0
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	0-0	0-0
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive.....	0-0	0-0
Walsh Dental	0-0	0-0
Moede & Sons Plumbing	0-0	0-0
Shawano Health Services.....	0-0	0-0
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	0-0	0-0
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock eye Center	0-0	0-0



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
Dallas
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
New York Giants
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Chicago 17



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
New York Giants
New York Jets

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Chicago 20



Staff
Walsh Dental
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
Dallas
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 17



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
Dallas
New York Jets

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 21



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
New York Giants
New York Jets

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Chicago 10



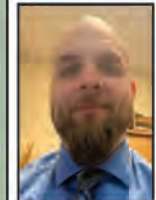
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
New York Giants
New York Jets

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Chicago 17



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Tampa Bay
Dallas
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Chicago 20



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Tampa Bay
New York Giants
New York Jets

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Chicago 10



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
Dallas
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 13 @ Chicago 27



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Kansas City
Minnesota
Dallas
Buffalo

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Chicago 13

KEYS TO THE GAME

Young players' performance will win or lose game

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The oldest rivalry in the NFL renews again on Sunday as the Green Bay Packers will take on the Chicago Bears to kick off the 2023 season.

It's a new era in Green Bay. Aaron Rodgers, self-proclaimed owner of the Chicago Bears, is in New York.

Enter Jordan Love. The Packers famously spent a first-round pick on Love three years ago. After starting one game, but otherwise waiting on the bench, Love is set to become the team's starter.

Chicago likely breathed a sigh of relief as Rodgers exited the division to head out east. After an offseason spending spree, and a blockbuster trade that netted them wide receiver DJ Moore, there is optimism in Chicago for the first time since 2018 when they last won the NFC North.

Regardless of the outcome of this game, there will be no shortage of takes. If Green Bay wins, there will be a collective groan in Chicago who had hoped the Packers' reign of terror over them had ended.

If the Packers lose, there will be plenty of talking head shows proclaiming the Jordan Love era to be a failure.

The answer, as always, will not be known for quite some time.

Here are the keys to the Packers coming away with a victory to start the season.

Packers defense vs. Bears run game

The Chicago Bears have a bit of a transition going in their backfield for 2023. David Montgomery is gone after signing in Detroit. Khalil Herbert and D'Onta Foreman will hold down the fort until rookie Roschon Johnson is ready to contribute.

In addition to their backfield, the Bears have the legs of Justin Fields at their disposal. For all the questions about Fields' arm, those questions do not exist about his legs. Fields ran for 1,143 yards a season ago.

He's as dynamic as any quarterback when he takes off to run.

The Packers run defense is one of the biggest questions about their team going into 2023. They were 31st in the NFL in Football Outsiders' Defensive DVOA against the run last year. They're the worst run defense in the NFL since Brian Gutekunst took over as general manager.



Quay Walker (7) makes a tackle against the Chicago Bears in a 2022 game.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

This offseason, the Packers jettisoned Dean Lowry and Jarran Reed. Both players started a season ago.

They did not add anyone of significance in free agency. The earliest draft pick they used was on Colby Wooden in the fourth round.

Help for Kenny Clark will need to come in the form of organic growth from T.J. Slaton and last year's first-round pick Devonte Wyatt.

Preseason football yielded some promising results, but there are more challenging things ahead — starting with the Bears' dynamic ground game.

Jordan Love vs. early jitters

One of the themes of Jordan Love's preseason was a slow start, followed by a strong finish. The Packers scored once on their opening drive in the preseason, but it was largely due to an unsportsmanlike penalty that gave the Packers a free 15 yards. That drive ended with Jordan Love not completing a pass, and an Anders Carlson field goal.

This will be Jordan Love's first start as the preferred starter in Green Bay. It'd be natural for the quarterback to be extra juiced up before the game starts.

Brett Favre used to say he needed to get hit in order to get settled

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into a game.

Maybe that'll be the case for Love. Maybe it'll be something different.

Regardless, the Packers' margin for error is smaller than it has been with a new quarterback under center. That's just the way things are now. Love will need to shake off those jitters early.

Matt LaFleur will need to help get him settled in.

The formula against Chicago will be to get ahead early and force Fields to beat you with his arm. If Love can shake off jitters early, he could get them out to an early lead.

Packers ground game vs. Bears run defense

For as much conversation as there is surrounding the Packers' run defense, Chicago's might be in the same boat.

They'll be breaking in new starters on the defensive line and struggled last year to stop the run. The first meeting between the two teams saw the Packers pile up 203 yards and average a whopping 5.3 yards per carry.

With Love, the Packers could look to lean on their run game early in the season. Even if Love weren't a first time starter, this could be a team to follow a formula like that against anyway.

Aaron Jones and AJ Dillon combine for one of the better running back duos in all of football. Both players will be motivated as they're entering what in essence are contract

years. Dillon's contract is actually expiring. Jones' contract has an easy out after 2023.

Combine all of those factors together, it could be a big day on the ground for the Packers.

Packers young players vs. first NFL game

Like Love, nerves for the players around him would be natural. The Packers are incredibly young.

The oldest player on the team is David Bakhtiari. He's 31. That's not even old in football terms.

Their offense is going to be led by receivers whose eldest statesmen are second year players. Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs represent the veterans of the current cast of pass catchers.

Luke Musgrave and Jayden Reed are going to be playing in their first NFL game. Malik Heath could get snaps for what would be his first game.

Tucker Kraft is going to get snaps. It's his first NFL game. That's a significant portion of the passing game that is making its NFL debut.

Youth can lead to rookie mistakes. A recent example would be Heath getting the nod to run with the starting unit during the team's final preseason game. He was flagged for a false start on the first play.

Youth and growing pains are going to be a theme of the season.



Stopping Bears quarterback Justin Fields will be a priority for the Packers defense.

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10 things to look for in 2023 Packers

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

A new season is here. The Green Bay Packers will be set to start their season against the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field.

They'll finish their season against the Chicago Bears at Lambeau Field. The 15 games in between will tell a story unlike any we've seen in the last 15 years.

After nearly a decade of being considered a top contender for the Super Bowl, the Packers are not considered a favorite.

The good news for them is the NFC North is wide open with no clear favorite. The Minnesota Vikings, last year's champion, let go of some trusted veterans who have helped them in recent years.

The Chicago Bears spent a boatload of money this offseason, but they were the worst team in the NFL a season ago. Can they improve enough to win the division after winning just three games last season?

The Detroit Lions are the division favorite but have been synonymous with failure since 1957. For all the hype they've received coming off their 2022 season, they still only finished 9-8, which followed a 1-7 start.

The Packers have plenty of storylines to follow them, despite not being a Super Bowl favorite. Here are 10 things to keep an eye on:

1. Jordan Love

Let's start with the obvious, shall we? Jordan Love will be the first quarterback not named Brett Favre or Aaron Rodgers to be the team's preferred starting quarterback since 1991 when it was Don Majkowski.

Love, by all accounts, has taken charge in the locker room and become a leader of the team. His teammates have all been publicly supportive.

The Packers gave him a contract extension that represents a short-term commitment. If Love plays well in 2023, they could look to extend his deal well beyond the 2024 season when his contract expires.

Love's training camp had more ups than downs, but it was rocky at times. That can be expected during the season as well. There will be some highs and some lows. The hope for the Packers is that he doesn't make the same mistake twice. Love didn't turn the ball over once in the



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Christian Watson (9) tries to catch a pass while defended by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Michael Jackson (30) and safety Joey Blount (35) during a preseason NFL football game Aug. 26 in Green Bay. The Packers won 19-15.

JOE ROBBINS | AP

preseason, something that has been an issue in any extended playing time he'd received prior to this point.

That'll be a big point of emphasis for Love as he grows into the team's starter.

2. David Bakhtiari

David Bakhtiari is back in Green Bay. After a complex knee injury wiped out all but two quarters of the 2021 season, Bakhtiari played 11 games a season ago. He missed the first two games of the season due to the same knee injury, but after that only missed one more due to his knee.

The other three games he missed were due to a surprise appendectomy that wiped him out of three games.

When he did play, he was David Bakhtiari, which is to say one of the best players in the league at his position.

Bakhtiari didn't give up a sack in the 11 games he played. He's back with Elgton Jenkins to form one of the best left sides of the offensive

line in all of football.

He'll be on an unorthodox regimen in terms of practice. He was used sparingly during training camp. That'll continue into the season.

Bakhtiari joked that teammates are calling him "The Lamborghini," meaning they only take him out on Sundays.

Bakhtiari's practice participation might be limited, but if that keeps him active on Sundays, it's worth it.

3. Joe Barry's Last Stand

Joe Barry's defense was supposed to carry the day a season ago. The Packers' offense was going to try and find its way after the loss of Davante Adams. The defense was supposed to pick up the slack.

That didn't come to fruition. The defense was inconsistent at best, below average at worst.

Those struggles came despite having seven first-round picks on that side of the ball.

They added another this offseason

with outside linebacker Lukas Van Ness being selected with the 13th overall pick in April's draft.

Despite the struggles from a season ago, Barry survived a below average season.

In turn, Matt LaFleur stuck his neck out for the man he hired after they were spurned by former Wisconsin defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard.

If the defense fails this season, it's hard to imagine Barry keeping his job. They have plenty of talent, but talent alone doesn't lead to good performances.

The Packers need to be more consistent on that side of the ball.

4. New Dynamic Duo

The Packers are committed to a youth movement on offense. Despite Allen Lazard and Randall Cobb following Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets, the Packers didn't add a veteran receiver in the offseason. Instead, they're relying on Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs to serve as the veterans in the room.

Doubs had a nice start to the season before hitting the rookie wall at the end of last year.

Christian Watson's season was essentially the opposite of Doubs'. Watson's season started with a drop on national television that would be replayed for weeks on end. He would struggle with injuries before breaking out in a big way at the halfway point of the season against the Dallas Cowboys.

His three touchdowns that day started a strong finish to the season where he would catch seven touchdowns in four games. By the end of the year, he was the team's top receiver.

Rookie Jayden Reed had a nice camp, but the Packers are relying on Watson and Doubs to help stabilize the passing game while the rest of the offense tries to catch up.

5. Rashan Gary's return

Rashan Gary has come a long way from draft night. He wasn't a popular draft pick. He hardly played as a rookie.

He's progressively gotten better since getting drafted. After the release of Za'Darius Smith, it was time for Gary to step up as one of the best players on the defense. Gary's season ended in early November with a torn ACL.



Romeo Doubs

with a torn ACL.

Before the injury, Gary was a wrecking ball for the defense. He had six sacks in the eight full games he played. He was the only edge defender in the NFL who was in the top 10 of ESPN's pass rush win rate, and run stop rate.

He could have been on his way to being a NFL Defensive Player of the Year candidate prior to the injury.

Gary is back. He was removed from the PUP list in training camp, and will play Week 1. LaFleur says he'll be on a pitch count early, but just his presence makes the Packers' defense so much better.

Ron Wolf used to talk about players who tilt the field in the direction of the team they play for.

Gary is one of those players. His presence cannot be understated.

Gary is also in the final year of his contract. Getting his contract extended is a likely priority with the Packers' front office.

6. Can They Stop The Run?

Fans likely still have nightmares of Raheem Mostert running wild against the Packers in the NFC Championship Game following the

2019 regular season. Mostert ran for a record-breaking 220 yards and four touchdowns that day.

The Packers haven't gotten much better since then. Since Brian Gutekunst took over as general manager, they're the worst team in the NFL defending the run. They were 31st in the NFL last season in Football Outsiders' Defensive DVOA.

They are replacing two starters with young players. Colby Wooden and Karl Brooks were the only outside additions to the defensive line. Both were picked on the third day of the draft.

Devonte Wyatt and TJ Slaton will be relied on heavily to take big jumps playing next to Kenny Clark.

Clark and defensive line coach Jerry Montgomery have said that stopping the run starts with a mindset.

If that is the case, the Packers will need a full mental makeover after the last four seasons. Their pass rush could be lethal, if they can get opposing teams in obvious passing situations.

That starts with stopping the run, something they haven't been good enough at.

7. Ground Game

Aaron Jones and AJ Dillon both return for what are in essence, contract years. Jones took a pay cut this offseason to stay with the only organization he has ever known.

Jones has been one of the most productive running backs in football since the Packers drafted him. The issue, if anything, has been he's been underutilized throughout his career. His contract has one more year on it but will likely be addressed in the offseason. If he looks like the same player, he could be an extension candidate.

Dillon is entering a contract year. After a promising second season, Dillon was disappointing in the first half of 2022. He turned it on toward the end of the season, but he has not been the bruising force that Gutekunst was hoping he'd be when he selected him with the 62nd overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft.

Both players will be key factors in the offense this season. Last season, the two combined for 1,891 yards and nine touchdowns. That touchdown number will likely rise, especially for Jones as he only had two last season.

The team will likely heavily lean on these two backs as they break in a new starting quarterback.

8. Luke Musgrave

Musgrave represents the biggest investment the Packers have made in a tight end since they drafted Bubba Franks in 2000 with a first-round pick.

Of the 13 rookies from the Packers' 2023 draft class, Musgrave has been the most impressive. He stepped in as the starting tight end from the first day of OTA's in May and has not looked back.

He has clearly been a focal point of the passing game in practice and preseason games. He took every snap with Jordan Love during preseason games. He is the unquestioned starter at a position where the Packers have been starved for talent.

With the lack of veteran support, and rookie classmate Tucker Kraft struggling, it's possible that Musgrave could challenge Jermichael Finley's franchise record of 61 receptions set in 2012.

That would be unprecedented at a position that typically takes players awhile to adapt. The opportunity is there. The talent is there. It's up to Musgrave to capitalize on the situation.

9. Youth Movement

Bakhtiari is the oldest player on the team. He's 31. With an average age of 24.9 years, the Packers are the youngest team in the NFL since the 2017 Cleveland Browns.

They're asking youth to rule the day in some big spots. Obviously Love is going to be one of the big keys to the season, but how the rest of the year goes might depend on how quickly young players adapt to an NFL season.

If you exclude the running backs, the Packers' top four pass catching options are all second-year players or younger. The team is asking a lot of its young players.

Gutekunst said the goal wasn't necessarily to be young, but to be athletic and fast.

They've achieved both. Now it's up to the young players to grow up fast.

10. Walker's Maturity

Quay Walker was the 22nd overall pick and the largest investment the Packers had made in an inside linebacker since drafting AJ Hawk fifth overall in 2006.

His season had its ups and downs. At times, he showed his ability that caused Gutekunst to fall in love with him. Other times he showed that he was a rookie going through growing pains.

On two very specific occasions, Walker showed he had some growing up to do. Getting kicked out of one game can easily be dismissed as a one-time mistake, but the second time it happens, it's a troubling trend.

Walker fell into that trend at the end of last season when he was ejected from the team's season-ending 20-16 loss against the Detroit Lions for shoving a trainer.

LaFleur was noticeably furious during and after the game.

It was an unfortunate ending, because Walker was really coming on strong to end his rookie season.

Going into his second season, Walker appears to have grown from that situation. He told reporters earlier in camp that he had to give himself grace to move on from what happened a season ago.

The reality is that Walker is a first-round pick, and the team expects a lot out of him. He's been the player calling the defense with De'Vondre Campbell sidelined during the preseason. He is one injury away from being that player in games that count.

With his reputation, opposing teams are going to try and egg Walker on to get him to do something that could hurt the team.

Walker's maturity will be put to the test early and often. He'll need to continue to show that he's moved past his mistakes as a rookie and grow into the player the Packers think he can be.

Packers rebuild with solid draft picks

By LUKE REIMER

Green & Gold Express

In the first draft for the Green Bay Packers in the post-Aaron Rodgers era, the team looked to supplement pieces it lost in the offseason, while building for the future.

With Jordan Love taking over from under center, a similar thought in past drafts was asked: How early will Green Bay draft a pass catcher to help its quarterback?

In years past, the Packers fan base has loudly expressed its desire to give Rodgers some help on the offensive side of the ball early in the draft. While general manager Brian Gutekunst did not necessarily oblige then, it was obvious that the plan was to get Love help in the 2023 NFL Draft.

"We had a great three days, and I feel really good about," said Gutekunst. "I am just really, really excited about what we were able to do."

That help had to wait until the second day of the draft though, as Green Bay selected Iowa edge rusher Lukas Van Ness with the team's 13th pick. Van Ness figures to play immediately on the defensive line, as the status of Rashan Gary, coming off a torn ACL, is still up in the air. Van Ness has proven his versatility on the defensive line, as he has lined up at five spots (A-gap, B-gap, over the tackle, outside of the tackle and off the ball) in his Iowa career.

With the selection of Van Ness, the Packers have now chosen a defensive player with 12 out of their last 13 first-round picks — the lone exception being Love.

In the second round of the draft, Green Bay addressed its glaring need of pass catchers. Coming into the draft, the Packers wide receiver room consisted of five players, none of whom have been on the team longer than one year.

The first pass catcher off the board was Oregon State tight end Luke Musgrave. With tight ends Rob Tonyan Jr. and Mercedes Lewis signing with the Bears, Musgrave expects to slot into that starting position and will be relied upon immediately.

The Packers matched Musgrave with another pass catcher using their second pick of the second round on Michigan State wide receiver Jayden Reed. In Reed's senior season, he recorded 55 receptions



Green Bay Packers linebacker Lukas Van Ness (90) pursues a play on defense during a preseason NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 26 in Green Bay. The Packers won 19-15.

JOE ROBBINS | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

for 636 yards and five touchdowns. What instantly stands out about Reed though is his speed. Running a 4.45 second 40-yard dash at the NFL combine, Green Bay looks like it has its starting slot receiver to partner with Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs.

Pass catchers did not stop there, as Green Bay followed up its two second-round pick selections by selecting South Dakota State tight end Tucker Kraft in the third round. Kraft is expected to fill more of a

blocking role at the tight end position.

"I don't know that I have been a part of a draft where we have drafted two tight ends," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "That is exciting — both of those guys are big, physical and fast, so I thought we did pretty well right there."

Virginia wide receiver Don-tayvion Wicks was the next pass catcher selected. Adding depth in the receiver room, Wicks' big-play ability gives LaFleur an intriguing



General manager Brian Gutekunst.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

athletic piece, even though he probably won't make an impact immediately. Green Bay ended its draft in the seventh round with yet another pass catcher, Grant DuBose from Charlotte.

Looking to fill other positions of need, Green Bay continued to beef up its defensive line with the selections of Auburn's Colby Wooden and Bowling Green's Karl Brooks. Green Bay also addressed its defensive backfield, drafting Iowa State's Anthony Johnson Jr. and Kentucky's Carrington Valentine.

The Packers selected Central Michigan running back Lew Nichols III with one of the team's seventh-round selections, to add more depth to the team's deepest position group. Nichols led the NCAA in rushing in the 2021 season, with 1,848 rushing yards.

Green Bay rounded out its 13-player draft with taking two positions to possibly replace Green Bay Packers legends. Needing a quarterback, Green Bay selected Penn State's Sean Clifford in the fifth round and Auburn kicker Anders Carlson in the sixth round. Carlson is the brother of current Las Vegas Raiders kicker Daniel Carlson.

"It is going to going to create great competition — I think we have great opportunity on our roster, so I liked it," said Gutekunst on his draft. "That was one of our goals, to add some pass catchers and skill players. You never know how it is going to fall, but it fell good for us."

GREEN BAY PACKERS ROSTER

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jaire Alexander	23	CB	5-10	196	26	6	Louisville
Zayne Anderson	39	S	6-2	206	26	1	BYU
David Bakhtiari	69	T	6-4	310	31	11	Colorado
Karl Brooks	94	DL	6-3	296	23	R	Bowling Green
De'Vondre Campbell	59	LB	6-4	232	30	8	Minnesota
Anders Carlson	17	K	6-5	219	25	R	Auburn
Kenny Clark	97	DL	6-3	314	27	8	UCLA
Sean Clifford	8	QB	6-2	218	25	R	Penn State
Brenton Cox Jr.	57	LB	6-4	250	23	R	Florida
Josiah Deguara	81	TE	6-2	238	26	4	Cincinnati
AJ Dillon	28	RB	6-0	247	25	4	Boston College
Romeo Doubs	87	WR	6-2	204	23	2	Nevada
Rasul Douglas	29	CB	6-2	209	29	7	West Virginia
Kingsley Enagbare	55	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina
Rudy Ford	20	S	6-0	210	28	7	Auburn
Rashan Gary	52	LB	6-5	277	25	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
Justin Hollins	47	LB	6-5	248	27	5	Oregon
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	27	5	Mississippi State
Anthony Johnson Jr.	36	S	6-0	205	23	R	Iowa State
Aaron Jones	33	RB	5-9	208	28	7	Texas-El Paso
Caleb Jones	72	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	22	R	South Dakota State
Dallin Leavitt	6	S	5-10	195	29	5	Utah State
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	24	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State
Josh Myers	71	C/G	6-5	310	25	3	Ohio State
Royce Newman	70	G/T	6-5	310	26	3	Mississippi
Yosh Nijman	73	T	6-7	314	27	4	Virginia Tech
Keisean Nixon	25	CB	5-10	200	26	5	South Carolina
Matt Orzech	42	LS	6-3	245	28	4	Azusa Pacific
Jonathan Owens	34	S	5-11	210	28	5	Missouri Western
Jayden Reed	11	WR	5-11	187	23	R	Michigan State
Sean Rhyan	75	G	6-5	321	22	2	UCLA
Jon Runyan	76	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan
Darnell Savage	26	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	25	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	30	9	Mississippi State
Zach Tom	50	OL	6-4	304	24	2	Wake Forest
Samori Toure	83	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska
Carrington Valentine	37	CB	6-0	189	21	R	Kentucky
Lukas Van Ness	90	LB	6-5	272	22	R	Iowa
Quay Walker	7	LB	6-4	241	23	2	Georgia
Rasheed Walker	63	T	6-6	324	23	2	Penn State
Christian Watson	9	WR	6-4	208	24	2	North Dakota State
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	24	R	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	28	7	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	22	R	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia
Reserve/Injured							
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech
Tyler Goodson	39	RB	5-9	197	22	1	Iowa
Broughton Hatcher	43	LS	6-4	242	23	R	Old Dominion
Tarvarius Moore	30	S	6-1	200	27	6	Southern Mississippi
Lew Nichols	32	RB	5-10	220	22	R	Central Michigan
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia

CHICAGO BEARS ROSTER

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Tyson Bagent	17	QB	6-3	213	23	R	Shepherd
Andrew Billings	97	DL	6-1	311	28	7	Baylor
Josh Blackwell	39	DB	5-11	180	24	2	Duke
Khari Blasingame	35	FB	6-0	233	27	5	Vanderbilt
Larry Borom	75	OL	6-5	333	24	3	Missouri
Jaquan Brisker	9	DB	6-1	200	24	2	Penn State
Ja'Tyre Carter	69	OL	6-3	311	24	2	Southern
Chase Claypool	10	WR	6-4	238	25	4	Notre Dame
Dylan Cole	55	LB	6-0	240	29	7	Missouri State
Nate Davis	64	OL	6-3	316	26	5	Charlotte
Gervon Dexter Sr.	98	DL	6-6	312	21	R	Florida
Tremaine Edmunds	49	LB	6-5	250	25	6	Virginia Tech
T.J. Edwards	53	LB	6-1	242	27	5	Wisconsin
Dan Feeney	67	OL	6-4	310	29	7	Indiana
Justin Fields	1	QB	6-3	228	24	3	Ohio State
D'Onta Foreman	21	RB	6-0	235	27	5	Texas
Trenton Gill	16	P	6-4	219	24	2	N.C. State
Kyler Gordon	6	DB	6-0	200	23	2	Washington
Rasheem Green	94	DL	6-4	279	26	6	USC
Khalil Herbert	24	RB	5-9	212	25	3	Virginia Tech
Elijah Hicks	37	DB	5-11	200	23	2	California
Travis Homer	20	RB	5-10	202	25	5	Miami
Eddie Jackson	4	DB	6-0	206	29	7	Alabama
Jaylon Johnson	33	DB	6-0	196	24	4	Utah
Quindell Johnson	26	DB	6-2	208	23	R	Memphis
Roschon Johnson	30	RB	6-0	225	22	R	Texas
Braxton Jones	70	OL	6-5	310	24	2	Southern Utah
Jaylon Jones	31	DB	5-11	190	25	2	Mississippi
Justin Jones	93	DL	6-3	309	27	6	North Carolina State
Velus Jones Jr.	12	WR	6-0	200	26	2	Tennessee
Khalid Kareem	52	DL	6-4	268	25	4	Notre Dame
Cole Kmet	85	TE	6-6	260	24	4	Notre Dame
Mercedes Lewis	84	TE	6-6	265	39	18	UCLA
Darnell Mooney	11	WR	5-11	173	25	4	Tulane
DJ Moore	2	WR	5-11	210	26	6	Maryland
Yannick Ngakoue	91	DL	6-2	246	28	8	Maryland
Lucas Patrick	62	OL	6-3	313	30	7	Duke
Nathan Peterman	14	QB	6-2	225	29	7	Pittsburgh
Zacch Pickens	96	DL	6-4	300	23	R	South Carolina
Domnique Robinson	90	DL	6-5	253	25	2	Miami (Ohio)
Jack Sanborn	57	LB	6-2	234	23	2	Wisconsin
Cairo Santos	8	K	5-8	175	31	9	Tulane
Patrick Scales	48	LS	6-3	226	35	8	Utah State
Tyler Scott	13	WR	5-11	185	21	R	Cincinnati
Noah Sewell	44	LB	6-2	253	21	R	Oregon
Terrell Smith	32	DB	6-0	207	23	R	Minnesota
Equanimeous St. Brown	19	WR	6-5	214	26	6	Notre Dame
Tyrique Stevenson	29	DB	6-0	204	23	R	Miami
Trent Taylor	15	WR	5-8	178	29	6	Louisiana Tech
Robert Tonyan	18	TE	6-5	240	29	6	Indiana State
DeMarcus Walker	95	DL	6-4	280	28	7	Florida State
Cody Whitehair	65	OL	6-3	316	31	8	Kansas State
Darnell Wright	58	OL	6-6	333	22	R	Tennessee
Reserve/Injured							
Isaiah Ford	32	WR	6-2	195	27	5	Virginia Tech
Teven Jenkins	76	OL	6-6	321	25	3	Oklahoma State
Doug Kramer	68	OL	6-2	300	25	2	Illinois

Kickoff weekend underway in NFL

The NFL returns for the 2023 season as Kickoff Weekend signals the start of a 272-game journey, one that promises hope for each of the league's 32 teams as they set their sights on Super Bowl LVIII, which will be played on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

For the 2023 NFL Kickoff Guide, visit newmedia-wi.com.

2022 was one of the most competitive seasons ever as the average final score margin of 9.70 points was the lowest for a full season since 1932 (9.13). The 2023 season will be filled with memorable moments, as young players emerge, familiar faces continue their climb up the record books and teams vie to make their mark in the postseason. Every team enters the season with hope and a trip to Las Vegas for Super Bowl LVIII in mind. Below are a few reasons why:

Nineteen teams remained in Super Bowl contention on the final day of the 2023 regular season, the most such teams since 2006 (20).

Four teams clinched a division title after not winning their division last year (Jacksonville, Minnesota, Philadelphia and San Francisco) and at least two teams have won their divisions the season after missing the playoffs in 19 of the past 20 years.

Jacksonville clinched the AFC South after finishing in last place in the division in 2021 and in 18 of the past 20 seasons, at least one team finished in first place in their division the season after finishing in last or tied for last.

Seven teams clinched playoff berths after missing the postseason in 2021 (Baltimore, Jacksonville, the Los Angeles Chargers, Miami, Minnesota, the New York Giants and Seattle) and since 1990 – a streak of 33 consecutive seasons – at least four teams have qualified for the playoffs in every season that were not in the postseason the year before.

The Kansas City Chiefs won Super Bowl LVII and for an 18th consecutive season, the NFL had a new Super Bowl champion, extending the longest streak without a repeat winner in league history. Only eight teams have repeated as champions since the first Super Bowl in 1967, with the 2004 Patriots (Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX) being the last team to accomplish the feat.

Among the many notable accom-



Jordan Love (10) looks to the field as coach Matt LaFleur reviews his play selections.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

plishments players and coaches can achieve during the 2022 season:

Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes (24,241 passing yards and 192 touchdown passes) can surpass Peyton Manning (29,442 passing yards) and Dan Marino (220 touchdown passes) for the most in each category by a quarterback in his first seven seasons in NFL history.

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who enters 2023 with 59,055 passing yards and 475 touchdown passes, can continue to climb the all-time passer ranks. He can surpass Philip Rivers (63,440) for the sixth-most passing yards in NFL history and Brett Favre (508) for the fourth-most touchdown passes all-time.

Tennessee running back Derrick Henry needs 10 rushing touchdowns to become the third running back all-time with at least 10 rushing touchdowns in six-or-more consecutive seasons.

San Francisco running back Christian McCaffrey can become the fourth running back in NFL history with at least four career seasons with at least 1,000 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards.

Minnesota wide receiver Justin

Jefferson (324 receptions and 4,825 receiving yards) can become the third player with at least 400 receptions in his first four career seasons and can surpass Michael Thomas (5,512) for the most receiving yards by a player in his first four career seasons in NFL history.

Las Vegas wide receiver Davante Adams can join Marvin Harrison as the only players in NFL history with 100 receptions, 1,000 receiving yards and 10 touchdown receptions in four consecutive seasons.

Tampa Bay wide receiver Mike Evans needs 1,000 receiving yards to join Jerry Rice (11 consecutive seasons from 1986-96) as the only players ever with at least 1,000 receiving yards in 10 consecutive seasons.

Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce (814 receptions and 10,334 receiving yards) can become the fourth tight end all-time with 900 receptions and fourth tight end ever with 11,000 receiving yards.

San Francisco defensive lineman Nick Bosa can become the third player since 1982 with at least 15 sacks in three of his first five career seasons, joining J.J. Watt and Reggie White.

Dallas linebacker Micah Parsons

needs 13 sacks to become the second player since 1982 with at least 13 sacks in each of his first three seasons, joining Reggie White.

New England head coach Bill Belichick ranks second all-time with 329 total victories (298 regular-season wins and a league-record 31 playoff victories) and needs two regular-season wins to join Don Shula (328 regular-season wins) and George Halas (318) as the only head coaches in NFL history with 300 career regular-season victories.

Kansas City head coach Andy Reid ranks fifth all-time in both total wins (269) and regular-season wins (247) and can surpass Tom Landry (270 total wins, 250 regular-season wins) for fourth place on both lists, while becoming the fifth coach in league history to reach the 250-win milestone in the regular season.

Pittsburgh head coach Mike Tomlin is the first head coach in NFL history to lead his team to a .500-or-better record in each of his first 16 career seasons and can surpass George Halas (16 consecutive seasons from 1933-51) for the third-longest such streak for a coach at any point in his career in NFL history.



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