



DO YOU BELIEVE?

**PACKERS ELEVATE TO NO. 7 SEED
IN PLAYOFF PICTURE**

In the Packers 27-19 victory over the Chiefs, AJ Dillon rushed for 73 yards on 18 carries and snagged a lone catch for 14 additional yards. Dillon's average of 4.1 yards per carry kept the Chiefs honest with their defense and added depth to the playbook. The Packers have an easy schedule the rest of the season: the Giants (4-8) on Monday night, home against the Buccaneers (5-7), at the Panthers (1-11) and Vikings (6-6), and home against the Bears (4-8). That's a combined record of 20-40 or a .333 winning percentage.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Green Bay holds seventh seed in NFC playoff picture

Packers stun Chiefs to get back to .500

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

In a building with Taylor Swift, Simone Biles, Tony Shalhoub and Bobby Portis in attendance, it was Jordan Love who was the biggest star as the Green Bay Packers took down the Kansas City Chiefs 27-19 at Lambeau Field on Dec. 3.

In a stand-alone game on Sunday Night Football, Love put together another career performance, as the fourth-year quarterback completed 25-of-36 passes for 267 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. This marks the third straight game that Love hasn't turned the ball over. In that three-game stretch, he has recorded 857 passing yards and eight touchdowns.

"The only word that I can think of is extraordinary," said Packers wide receiver Christian Watson, on Love's recent play. "His comfortability, his confidence, his ability to make plays – we are just seeing more and more every single week."

It was Watson who was on the receiving end of two Love's touchdowns this week. Up 7-3 with 10:44 left in the second quarter, Watson broke away from coverage in the back of the end zone and found himself wide open for a nine-yard score to push the lead to two scores.

His second touchdown came in the middle of the third quarter, as Love dropped back and threw a jump ball, which Watson out-jumped the Kansas City defender to bring down.

With Love's recent success, Watson has been just as good, as in that three-game stretch, Watson has recorded 184 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

The offense as a whole outdueled Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes' offense, as the future Hall of Famer was held to just 210 passing yards and one touchdown.

Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco was the main contributor for the



Quarterback Jordan Love posted his fourth game this season with three touchdown passes and zero interceptions, tied with Brock Purdy of the 49ers for No. 1 in the NFL this season. One of his TD passes went to tight end Ben Sims, who posted his first TD catch in the NFL (1-yard score in the first quarter). He joins tight ends Luke Musgrave and Tucker Kraft as the first rookie tight end trio in team history to each register a TD reception in a season. Per the Elias Sports Bureau, the Packers are the first team in the Super Bowl era to have three rookie tight ends catch a TD pass in a season.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Chiefs, as he totaled 110 yards and one touchdown on 18 rushes. But, he was ejected late in the game after throwing a punch at Packers defensive back Keisean Nixon.

It was Nixon who made arguably the biggest play of the game though.

With Green Bay up 24-19 in the

middle of the fourth quarter, the Chiefs took over after a made field goal from Packers kicker Anders Carlson. On the first play of the drive, Mahomes dropped back and hit rookie wide receiver Rashee Rice for a nine-yard gain. That play was followed up with a defensive pass

interference from Packers defensive back Corey Ballentine.

On the ensuing play, Mahomes dropped back and threw a floating ball to the right side of the field that was intended for receiver Skyy Moore. Nixon played the ball like he was the receiver and intercepted Mahomes to give the ball back to Green Bay with 5:20 remaining in the game.

"We were watching mannerism tape earlier in the week, and he tapped his knee and they put two off the ball, and I'm like 'Oh, I've seen this before,' and I knew he was going to run it and he ran it," said Nixon, on his interception.

In total, the Packers scored touchdowns on three of its first four drives, with rookie tight end Ben Sims opening the game with his first career touchdown. Green Bay controlled the entire game and with questionable officiating during the second half of the fourth quarter, the Packers' defense swatted down Mahomes' last second Hail Mary attempt to improve to 6-6 on the season.

This was the second time in both quarterbacks' careers that they faced the other team. For Mahomes, it was his first time playing at Lambeau Field, and for Love it was his first time starting a Lambeau game against the Chiefs. The first game against Kansas City for Love came in 2021, when Aaron Rodgers was ruled out with COVID-19. In that game Green Bay lost 13-7, with Love passing for just 190 yards.

"Obviously, I've had this game circled for a long time," said Love. "This was my first start, and I obviously didn't play how I wanted to in the first game. To be able to see these guys and get the victory is huge."

Green Bay now sits at 6-6 on the season, which is tied with the Minnesota Vikings for the second spot in the NFC North, but more importantly, it currently slots the Packers into the seventh seed in the NFC Playoff Picture. That is a far cry from a team that was 3-6 and looking at a top-seven pick in the NFL Draft just three weeks ago.

According to the New York Times Playoff Simulator, the Packers now hold a 70% chance to make the playoffs.

BEAT The Expert

Week 14 Games: Sunday, Dec. 10



Luke Reimer
New Media

Houston @ New York Jets
Minnesota @ Las Vegas
Detroit @ Chicago
Philadelphia @ Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Green Bay 31 @ New York Giants 17...Mon., Dec 11

Week 13 Winner : Tie

Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock Eye Center

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, New Media.....	3-2	45-20
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center.....	4-1	45-20
Jacob Westendorf, New Media.....	2-3	44-21
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive.....	4-1	42-23
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	3-2	39-26
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance.....	2-3	37-28
Kevin Passon, New Media.....	3-2	37-28
Staff, Shawano Health Services.....	3-2	37-28
Luke Reimer, New Media.....	1-4	36-29
Staff, Walsh Dental Group.....	3-2	33-32
Sue Moede, Moede & Sons Plumbing.....	4-1	33-32



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ New York Giants 13



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ New York Giants 21



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Las Vegas
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ New York Giants 17



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Las Vegas
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ New York Giants 10



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Las Vegas
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ New York Giants 17



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ New York Giants 10



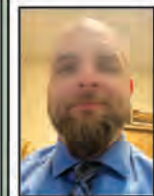
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Las Vegas
Detroit
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ New York Giants 17



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Chicago
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ New York Giants 10



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 24 @ New York Giants 13



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ New York Giants 17



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Houston
Minnesota
Detroit
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ New York Giants 21

NOTEBOOK

Giants' defense won't be a pushover

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Giants' defense

A week after facing a decorated defensive coordinator in Steve Spagnuolo, the Packers will face another on Monday with Wink Martindale locking horns with Matt LaFleur.

The New York Giants' defense has struggled this season, but Martindale has done a good job making chicken salad with the ingredients he has been handed. In addition, the Giants' offense has been dreadful, which has put them in tough spots through the season.

Overall, the Giants rank 28th in the NFL in yards given up per game. This is not the test the Packers faced a week ago with the Kansas City Chiefs defense.

If there's a player on defense to watch, it's second-year pass rusher Kavyon Thibodeaux.

Thibodeaux has 11 sacks on the season and has been relentless in his pursuit of opposing quarterbacks.

The Packers' offense is coming off another strong performance against what is probably the best defense they've played so far this season.

Perhaps the short-term pain is turning into a long-term gain right in front of our eyes.

Jordan Love threw three more touchdown passes on Sunday, and he's thrown eight touchdowns to zero interceptions in the last three games.

Christian Watson had another strong performance with two touchdown receptions. He did leave the game with a hamstring injury that puts his status in doubt for Monday's game. If he is able to play, however, he is starting to look like the player the Packers thought they were getting when the season began.

Romeo Doubs, Jayden Reed and Dontayvion Wicks have all made plays over the last three weeks as well. Doubs had a big fourth-down conversion on a beautiful throw from Love that helped set up Watson's second touchdown of the night.

The pass protection kept Love relatively clean and allowed him to complete 25 passes to nine different receivers against the Chiefs.

The run game is still struggling but looked better on Sunday against the Chiefs. AJ Dillon ran for 73 yards on 18 carries, and looked as explosive as

he has all season.

It remains unclear if Aaron Jones will be back on Monday, but even if he is, expect Dillon to be the team's workhorse as the temperatures continue to dip.

Packers' defense vs. Giants' offense

Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce are still one of the best duos in all of football.

The Packers really found a way to limit both of those guys in Sunday's win over the Chiefs.

Mahomes threw for 210 yards and only one touchdown pass. Travis Kelce had 81 yards receiving but was not an overwhelming factor in the game as he usually can be.

Green Bay's pass rush has started to heat up. Lukas Van Ness, Rashan Gary and Preston Smith all had at least 0.5 sacks in Sunday's win. The team as a whole had three sacks against Mahomes.

That goes with the three sacks they had two weeks ago against the Lions.

They'll be facing a Giants offensive line that is dreadful in pass protection. The key of course will be getting to obvious passing situations against a bad offensive line.

The Packers have had their struggles against opposing ground games.

The Packers' defense is coming off another poor performance against the Chiefs. Isiah Pacheco ran for more than 100 yards and averaged more than six yards per carry.

That may not bode well for the Green Bay defense in this matchup because they are facing a team that will be playing a backup quarterback. Even when their starting quarterback is playing, the Giants want to get the ball to their best player.

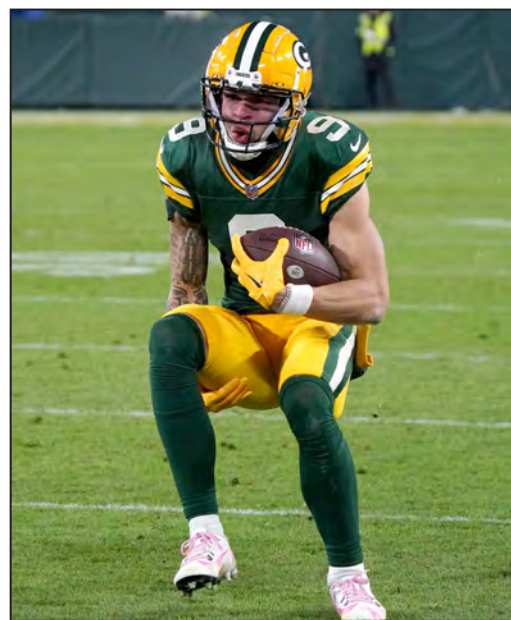
That is Saquon Barkley.

Barkley has been in and out of the lineup with injuries, but he's healthy now, and that could be a problem for a Green Bay defense that is once again at the bottom of the league in defending the run.

Keisean Nixon just had the biggest play of his career with an interception of Mahomes on Sunday night. He is now the only Packers cornerback currently on the roster with an interception.

Special teams

The Packers' kicking game had officially become a problem before



During the fourth quarter of Sunday's upset victory over the Chiefs, Christian Watson delivered a key first down but injured the same hamstring that sidelined him to start the season. With about 3 minutes to play and the Packers nursing a 24-19 lead, Watson caught a little flip from quarterback Jordan Love, turned on the jets and raced around the left edge of the Chiefs' defense. With the first down secured, Watson gave himself up to stay inbounds and keep the clock rolling. Instead, his right hamstring gave way. Watson missed the first three games of the season with an injured right hamstring.

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Sunday's game against the Chiefs.

Anders Carlson was starting to struggle and had missed a kick in every game except for one since the bye week. The Packers expressed confidence in the young kicker again, and he rewarded their faith.

Carlson made all of his kicks on Sunday night, including a 48-yard field goal that ensured the Packers would not lose in regulation. That was the biggest kick of his career to date.

Perhaps that will give him some confidence as the weather continues to turn and kicking conditions become more volatile.

Nixon was only able to return

one kick on Sunday night but got the Packers out past the 25 and into some better field position.

Perhaps he'll get more opportunities in another outdoor stadium that will be subject to the elements.

The Giants were dreadful on special teams a year ago, finishing 28th in Rick Gosselin's annual special teams rankings.

The kicking situation in New York has been rocky with Graham Gano being placed on injured reserve in November.

Randy Bullock has handled kicking duties since then and will likely line up there for the Giants on Monday night.

Taylor relishes another opportunity in Green Bay

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Running back Patrick Taylor has had an on again-off again relationship with the Green Bay Packers.

He first signed as an undrafted free agent in 2020. He has seen stints on the active/non-football injury list, the reserve/non-football injury list, the practice squad and the active roster. He has also been released by the Packers and served about a month on the practice squad of the New England Patriots.

What's your recent timetable been like?

"Well, I was sitting in my apartment in Foxborough with my wife watching the game, and I saw Aaron (Jones) had went down and then Emanuel (Wilson) went down, and my agent had gave me a call. I didn't pick up because I didn't see it. He called my wife. She was sitting on the couch with me and she handed me the phone and said, 'Hey, we're going back to Green Bay,' so I kind of figured that was the case. He called me at halftime, when the Packers were at halftime. Saw the guys went down, and I figured I would be back."

Is there a mental overload having to learn two different offenses in a short period of time?

"In this profession, you get tugged and pulled each which way, but you gotta be ready for your opportunity. I'm a smart guy, so I've been in this offense for four years, so it's not really hard for me to just pick it right back up. I think they're running the same general stuff that they were before I left, so it's pretty easy for me to pick it up."

You still have all your Packers stuff?

"Some people have told me to toss it, but I decided to just hold onto it for the future."

"That's for my kids or friends and family and stuff like that. It's in the storage here in Green Bay, so I guess I'll pull it back out."

What is your role here now?

"I think it's a big opportunity for me to put my talent on display. I just have to not put any added pressure on myself. I've been playing this game for a long time, and I have confidence in my ability and I believe the coaches have confidence in me to put me out there in critical situations and for me to do my job at a high level."

What were your emotions com-



Patrick Taylor (27) rushed for 29 yards on two carries during the Packers' 27-19 win over the Chiefs in Week 13. Most of Taylor's yardage came from a big 24-yard run.

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ing back here?

"It was nice and exciting seeing everybody that I've been here with throughout my four years here, like when I walked through the locker room, seeing all the guys. First guy I saw was Jordan. He was in here. He looked at me and he was like, he knew I was coming back. Being able to just see all the guys, like Aaron and AJ (Dillon) and E and like all the defensive guys. They welcomed me back, so it was pretty cool."

Were you expecting to be back?

"It was in the back of my mind. I was like, 'I might be going back to Green Bay.' I told my wife, 'I might be going back to Green Bay, but we just got here,' but she was extremely supportive through it all. She's heading back here today. She packed up everything in the Foxborough apartment. My dog was up there, too. She shipped him off this morning, so it's been a lot on her plate, and she's definitely my rock, for sure."

So, your stuff was still in storage here?

"Yeah, so like my wife, so Oct. 17th, Oct. 16th, I flew to Foxborough. The 17th I had a workout. The 18th I signed. During that time, my wife was packing up my house here and putting it in storage. She recently got to Foxborough last Tuesday. It's crazy how it works out."

What are you doing now in terms of living arrangements?

"I recently called movers. That's who I was on the phone with not too

long ago. After we get out of here around 3:15, 3:30, I'm going over to meet them at the U-Haul place to pick up my stuff and bring it back to my house here."

Is it like riding a bike, easy to pick everything up again? Have you been in a meeting yet?

"Yeah. I've been in a meeting and everything. The terminology was just different in New England compared to here, so I guess I was able to decipher or clearly separate the two. Once I came here and started to hear the terminology again, it all came back. It was just a refresher."

Do you feel a sense of unfinished business coming back here?

"I would say yeah. I feel like I left on a bad note. I didn't really leave. But I'm excited for the opportunity that I get here moving forward. I think, I always tell myself this: You're just an opportunity away from being a force in this league. So, like I said, I don't put any added pressure on myself. Just going out there and playing the game that I've been playing for 21 years and I'm going to have fun with it."

Your opportunity here?

"I know opportunities are hard to come by in this league, but guys who work hard and show up on time and put the work in and always prepare like they're playing, the opportunity is going to present itself and you're going to perform well. I think that's going to show. A lot of guys over the course of the league, guys who didn't

really get much of a chance or opportunity, they get that one opportunity, which they prepare for, and they're ready for it."

How tough is that to separate the hassles of life from football? You've got to move, and you're also getting ready for a game.

"My faith plays a big part in that. I have extreme faith in God. I build my foundation in Christ, so in those chaos moments, I have joy in it, and I'm at peace. I'm not uptight or stressed out. I try to stay even-keeled through the highs and the lows. When I got cut, there were no lows. I was still high and confident in myself, and I caught on with the Patriots. I know I can play this game at a high level."

Second guess whether to come back? Or couldn't turn it down?

"I think it was an opportunity I couldn't turn down. It was tough leaving how I did. It was the opportunity to come back here and play the game that I love. So, it's exciting to be back."

Can you step in wherever?

"Yeah. Whatever I'm asked to do for the team, I'll do it. I want to be able to help the team win in every aspect that I can whether that's on special teams, running the ball, catching the ball, pass protection."

Surprised how fast Packers called you?

"I mean, I said it: 'Hey, Lauren. We might be going back to the Packers,' but I didn't think it would happen so soon. Literally two minutes, three minutes after I said that, my agent called me and I looked at my wife. He called her. She said, 'Hey, Chris is calling.' I looked at her and then she was like, 'Yeah, we're probably going back to the Green Bay Packers.'"

Did they ask you to come back on practice squad after you got cut?

"No, they didn't. I'd say it left a bad taste in my mouth, for sure, but I know out of everything, nobody owes you anything in this league no matter how hard you work, no matter all the things that you do. It's a performance-based business. If you're not playing well or you're not helping the team, then they'll get rid of you. It left a bad taste in my mouth, for sure, but I'm grateful that it happened. It gave me a different perspective of everything moving forward. But I am grateful for the opportunity to be back here and be back with my boys, and play with the Packer G."

VITALS

GREEN BAY PACKERS NEW YORK GIANTS

TIME AND DATE: 7:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11

LOCATION: MetLife Stadium

TV: ESPN

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

2023 RECORDS: Packers, 6-6. Giants 4-8.

HISTORY: The Packers and Giants most famous meetings occurred during the Vince Lombardi era, as two of the gold standard franchises in football met up for NFL Championship games in 1961 and 1962. The Packers owned both games behind strong performances from Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor. The Giants hold the claim of winning the last game Brett Favre ever played for the Packers, a frigid NFC Championship Game that saw temperatures dip well below zero. The Giants won 23-20. They also knocked off Green Bay in 2011, ending a season that saw the Packers go 15-1.

Overall the Packers are 34-27-2 against the Giants. Their most recent meeting came in London in 2022. The Packers blew a double-digit lead and lost 27-22. The last time these two teams locked horns at MetLife stadium, the Packers won 31-13 in December 2019.

COACHES: Packers - Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 53-25). Giants - Brian Daboll (second season 13-15-1)

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 at Chicago W 38-20

Sept. 17 at Atlanta L 25-24

Sept. 24 vs. New Orleans Noon W 18-17

Sept. 28 vs. Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-20

Oct. 9 at Las Vegas 7:15 p.m. L 17-13

Oct. 15 BYE

Oct. 22 at Denver 3:25 p.m. L 19-17

Oct. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 24-10

Nov. 5 vs. LA Rams W 20-3

Nov. 12 at Pittsburgh L 23-19

Nov. 19 vs. LA Chargers W 23-20

Nov. 23 at Detroit W 29-22

Dec. 3 vs. Kansas City W 27-19

Dec. 11 at NY Giants 7:15 p.m. ESPN

Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay Noon FOX

Dec. 24 at Carolina Noon FOX

Dec. 31 at Minnesota 7:20 p.m. NBC

Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, TBD

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 7

Patriots at Steelers, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Texans at Jets, Noon

Rams at Ravens, Noon

Panthers at Saints, Noon

Colts at Bengals, Noon

Buccaneers at Falcons, Noon

Jaguars at Browns, Noon

Lions at Bears, Noon

Seahawks at 49ers, 3:05 p.m.

Vikings at Raiders, 3:05 p.m.

Broncos at Chargers, 3:25 p.m.

Bills at Chiefs, 3:25 p.m.

Eagles at Cowboys, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11

Packers at Giants, 7:15 p.m.

Titans at Dolphins, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Chargers at Raiders, 7:15 p.m.

KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers' defense should do well against Giants' QB

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are coming off their biggest win of the Jordan Love era. The Packers beat the defending Super Bowl champions 27-19 at Lambeau Field to move to 6-6. As of now, the Packers hold the seventh spot in the NFC playoff picture, but they are looking for more.

The Giants are 4-8 and have failed to build on last season's success story where they made the divisional round of the NFC playoffs before getting blown out by the Philadelphia Eagles.

Quarterback Daniel Jones is out for the season with a torn ACL, so the Giants are playing out the string at this point in the year.

Brian Daboll is still a good coach, and they will be at home, so the Packers will have their hands full.

The Packers do not play a team with a record above .500 between now and the end of the season. The team is facing a golden opportunity to make the playoffs and potentially position themselves to make some noise.

If they're going to do that, however, they have to beat the Giants first. Here are the keys to the Packers getting to 7-6.

Packers vs. Saquon Barkley

Saquon Barkley is one of the most dangerous runners in all of football. He requires the defense at all levels to be ready to tackle. He's dangerous in both the run and pass game. He might be the Giants' best pass catcher at this point of his career.

That requires the Packers to be ready in the secondary and on the front. He'll threaten them at all of those levels. One missed tackle can turn a short gain into a touchdown with the ball in Barkley's hands.

With an inexperienced quarterback, the Giants are likely to rely on Barkley even more.

The Packers did not stop the Lions' two-headed monster of David Montgomery and Jahmyr Gibbs, but they did slow them down.

They didn't slow down Isiah Pa-



Outside linebacker Rashan Gary (52) exchanges a high five with cornerback Keisean Nixon (25) as the defense celebrates another big play against the Chiefs. The defense will need to work just as hard against the Giants as they did against the Chiefs, particularly when Saquon Barkley is running with the ball. Continuing with third string quarterback Tommy DeVito under center, the Giants may lean even more on Barkley.

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checo and the Chiefs rushing offense. The only thing that stopped Pacheco from running wild against Green Bay was the game flow. The Packers kept scoring early, forcing the Chiefs to play catch up. Couple that with Pacheco getting ejected for throwing a punch at Keisean Nixon, and you have the formula for how Pacheco was stopped.

The Packers did not do anything special to slow him down.

With all due respect to Pacheco, Barkley is a much more dynamic runner. The Packers will need to be much better to keep him in check.

Packers' pass rush vs. Tommy DeVito

The Packers are coming off a stretch where they've played three high level quarterbacks.

Tommy DeVito is not one of those at this point in his career. He is the Giants' third preferred quarterback this season. Daniel Jones is out for the season with a torn ACL. Tyrod Taylor filled in before being sidelined with an injury of his own.

DeVito wasn't a high draft pick; he's not highly touted. He's someone the Packers should be able to control.

The Packers' pass rush was dominant against the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving Day. They wrecked the Lions' game plan.

Rashan Gary sacked Jared Goff

three times. Preston Smith has lived in the backfield in recent memory, which would lead you to believe more production should be on its way. Lukas Van Ness did not have the sack production until Sunday night when he dragged Patrick Mahomes to the ground in the first quarter of Sunday's game against the Chiefs.

Gary, Van Ness and Smith all had at least half a sack in Sunday's win over the Chiefs.

They'll need to slow down Barkley as previously mentioned and force DeVito to win the game.

If they can do that, the Packers' secondary should have plenty of opportunities to catch errant passes from DeVito.

Offensive tackles vs. Kayvon Thibodeaux

Another week, another dominant pass rusher squaring off against the Packers' offensive line.

The Packers kept Aidan Hutchinson in check two weeks ago. They did well against Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack as well.

Chris Jones had a nice night against the Packers but didn't ruin the game. The Packers allowed other

pass rushers to wreck the game earlier in the year, but Jones had what could be described as a nice night. That's a win for someone as dominant as he can be.

Thibodeaux is the Giants' best pass rusher and has been since he was drafted two years ago.

The Giants know a thing or two about cobbling together a good pass rush unit. The Packers know about that as well having faced off against Michael Strahan, Justin Tuck and other great pass rushers the Giants have had on their best teams.

Jordan Love's arrow is pointing upward. One of the biggest reasons for that is the pass protection around him has been much better. They're currently ranked second in the NFL in ESPN's pass block win rate statistic. Zach Tom has been a brick at right tackle, while the platoon of Rasheed Walker and Yosh Nijman has masked some of their struggles as well.

Thibodeaux will line up on both ends of the line of scrimmage. All three tackles will get their dosage of him. It's up to them to keep Love clean and allow him to find receivers down the field against a leaky Giants secondary.



Green Bay offensive linemen Zach Tom (50), Jon Runyan (76) Josh Myers (71) and Elton Jenkins (74) will have their hands full against Kayvon Thibodeaux of the Giants. Thibodeaux is the Giants' best pass rusher and has been since he was drafted two years ago. The Packers kept Aidan Hutchinson in check two weeks ago. They did well against Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack as well. Chris Jones had a nice night against the Packers but didn't ruin the game.

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Kelly brings versatility to field

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers claimed cornerback Kyu Blu Kelly off waivers from the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 15.

Kelly (6-0, 191), a rookie out of Stanford, was originally drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the fifth round of the 2023 NFL Draft. He was released after training camp and claimed off waivers by Seattle. Kelly played in five games for the Seahawks this season.

He started 35 of 38 career games played for the Cardinals from 2019-22, earning second-team All-Pac-12 honors from the conference coaches in each of his last two seasons.

What happened to get you to Green Bay?

I got released from the Seahawks, as you all know, on Saturday. Sunday, I was back home. Monday, the phone call from up in Wisconsin. It happens quick. It happens quick.

Are you used to the mental switchup?

Yeah, my dad played for 12 years luckily, so I have someone in the

business. He said, "It's your rookie year, man. You had a rough year going all over the place, but it's your first place – a year from now might not even be like this. Just stay the course, do what you can and just make sure you make it worthwhile."

How are you absorbing information? Can you contribute quickly?

Going to work every single day. First of all, learning the playbook, make sure I know what I need to do and whatever's asked of me, do it full throttle. That's all you can do. Control what you can control.

Who has the better hands – you or Dad?

Yeah, it's Year 1. So we'll see about four years from now who's got more. I'll make sure I can leap that number, but yeah, he's pretty good.

You have better hands?

Yeah, most definitely. I played receiver. He didn't.

How are you picking up this defense?

Yeah, I got pretty good football IQ. I've been in three defenses now. You see similarities around the



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CONTRIBUTED

league. Some people do the same things, different terminology – similar to Seattle, I'd say, as what you guys do here. So, it's coming pretty fast.

Dad prepare you for NFL process?

Similar to what I was saying, this is the nature of the beast, the league. It's the NFL – Not For Long. You could be somewhere and think you're doing well, and business side of things put you somewhere else. It's just that mentality you gotta have being in this business. But it's a great business to be in if you can get into it.

How soon can you play special teams?

Yeah, yeah, no, absolutely. I'm healthy, so wherever I need to go, I can go. That's a good thing.

What's the story of your name?

Definitely. So my dad wanted Blu. We're all in the delivery room. I'm crying, and my mom's not feeling it and wants something with a K. They compromised Kyu Blu.

Ever meet a Kyu?

No, probably never will.

Was Green Bay interested prior to the draft?

Coach Hood was my DB coach at the Senior Bowl. So, that was someone I had connected with, and we had a bunch of draft meetings. He said, "Keep my number." You never know, and here I am. Things like that happen, for sure.

Did you ever meet assistant

head coach and special teams coordinator Rich Bisaccia?

No, but he always got a Christmas card with me on it. He's definitely a friend of my dad's and someone who's really close to the family, and now I'm getting to know him on a coaching level, which is pretty cool.

You're big into designing video games?

I'm the chief creative officer of a video game I'm making and pairing into movie directing, too. It's just something I stumbled in. My dad's friends with somebody who does that. He didn't know a thing about video games. He thought this movie idea would be a great video game, and they kind of streamlined me. I wrote some stuff up. I wrote a few scripts, and they really liked it.

I'm sticking with that, that's my outside-of-football hobby pretty much.

Where did that interest start?

I didn't have to go to school for it. It was just playing a lot of video games. When I wrote the script, they were like, "Who did this?" My dad's like, "My son," and they're like, "Well, we'd like to do some other things with it," but I tried to stay as much as I can into it. They allowed me to be the chief creative officer.

What do you bring?

Just versatility, somebody's who played inside and outside, has special teams background in the league and a healthy body. Whatever they need me to.



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GREEN BAY PACKERS

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
Corey Ballentine	35	CB	5-11	196	27	5	Washburn
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	28	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
Kingsley Enagbare	55	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina
Rudy Ford	20	S	6-0	210	29	7	Auburn
Rashan Gary	52	LB	6-5	277	25	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
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
Kyu Blu Kelly	24	CB	6-0	191	22	R	Stanford
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	23	R	South Dakota State
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	25	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College
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	23	2	UCLA
Robert Rochell	22	CB	6-0	193	25	3	Central Arkansas
Jon Runyan	76	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	26	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	31	9	Mississippi State
Patrick Taylor	27	RB	6-2	217	25	3	Memphis
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	22	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
Kristian Welch	54	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Iowa
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	24	1	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	29	7	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	22	R	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia
Reserve/Injured							
David Bakhtiari	69	T	6-4	310	32	11	Colorado
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State
Darnell Savage	26	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Deonte Banks	25	CB	6-2	200	22	R	Maryland
Saquon Barkley	26	RB	6-0	232	26	6	Penn State
Boogie Basham	45	OLB	6-3	274	25	3	Wake Forest
Daniel Bellinger	82	TE	6-6	255	23	2	San Diego State
Dane Belton	24	S	6-1	190	22	2	Iowa
Ben Bredeson	68	G	6-5	310	25	4	Michigan
Matt Breida	31	RB	5-10	195	28	7	Georgia Southern
Cam Brown	47	ILB	6-5	235	25	4	Penn State
Randy Bullock	46	K	5-9	208	33	12	Texas A&M
Lawrence Cager	83	TE	6-5	220	26	3	Georgia
Parris Campbell	0	WR	6-1	205	26	5	Ohio State
Jashaun Corbin	35	RB	6-0	221	23	1	Florida State
Carter Coughlin	52	ILB	6-3	240	26	4	Minnesota
D.J. Davidson	98	DL	6-5	320	24	2	Arizona State
Tommy DeVito	15	QB	6-2	210	25	R	Illinois
Cor'Dale Flott	28	CB	6-2	175	22	2	LSU
Jamie Gillan	6	P	6-1	207	26	5	Univ. of Ark. at Pine Bluff
Mark Glowinski	64	G	6-4	310	31	9	West Virginia
Eric Gray	20	RB	5-10	211	24	R	Oklahoma
Sean Harlow	65	OL	6-4	284	28	4	Oregon State
Tre Hawkins III	37	CB	6-3	195	23	R	Old Dominion
Isaiah Hodgins	18	WR	6-3	200	25	3	Oregon State
Darnay Holmes	30	CB	5-10	195	25	4	UCLA
Jalin Hyatt	13	WR	6-0	185	22	R	Tennessee
Adoree' Jackson	22	CB	5-11	185	28	7	USC
Casey Kreiter	59	LS	6-1	250	33	8	Iowa
Dexter Lawrence II	97	DL	6-4	340	26	5	Clemson
Bobby McCain	21	S	5-9	196	30	9	Memphis
Nick McCloud	44	CB	6-1	193	25	3	Notre Dame
Micah McFadden	41	ILB	6-2	232	23	2	Indiana
Marcus McKethan	60	OL	6-7	335	23	2	North Carolina
Xavier McKinney	29	S	6-0	201	24	4	Alabama
Evan Neal	73	T	6-7	340	23	2	Alabama
Rakeem Nuñez-Roches	93	DL	6-2	305	30	9	Southern Mississippi
Azeez Ojulari	51	OLB	6-3	240	23	3	Georgia
Bobby Okereke	58	ILB	6-2	235	27	5	Stanford
Gunner Olszewski	80	WR	6-0	190	27	5	Bemidji State Univ.
Gervarrius Owens	39	S	6-0	200	24	R	Houston
Tyre Phillips	79	T	6-5	330	26	4	Mississippi State
Jason Pinnock	27	S	6-0	200	24	3	Pittsburgh
Justin Pugh	67	OL	6-5	311	33	11	Syracuse
Jordon Riley	95	DL	6-5	315	25	R	Oregon
A'Shawn Robinson	91	DL	6-4	330	28	8	Alabama
Wan'Dale Robinson	17	WR	5-8	185	22	2	Kentucky
John Michael Schmitz Jr.	61	C	6-4	320	24	R	Minnesota
Sterling Shepard	3	WR	5-10	198	30	8	Oklahoma
Isaiah Simmons	19	S/ILB	6-4	238	25	4	Clemson
Darius Slayton	86	WR	6-1	198	26	5	Auburn
Kayvon Thibodeaux	5	OLB	6-5	258	22	2	Oregon
Andrew Thomas	78	T	6-5	315	24	4	Georgia
Jihad Ward	55	OLB	6-5	285	29	8	Illinois
Benton Whitley	48	LB	6-4	260	24	2	Holy Cross
Reserve/Designated to Return							
Tyrod Taylor	2	QB	6-1	217	34	13	Virginia Tech
Reserve/Injured							
Gary Brightwell	23	RB	6-1	220	25	3	Arizona
Jarrad Davis	57	ILB	6-1	238	29	6	Florida
Joshua Ezeudu	75	OL	6-4	310	24	2	North Carolina
Bryce Ford-Wheaton	6	WR	6-3	220	23	R	West Virginia
Graham Gano	9	K	6-2	202	36	14	Florida State
J.C. Hassenauer	63	C	6-2	295	28	4	Alabama
Daniel Jones	8	QB	6-5	230	26	5	Duke
Shane Lemieux	66	G	6-4	310	26	4	Oregon
Matt Peart	74	T	6-7	315	26	4	Connecticut
Darren Waller	12	TE	6-6	238	31	7	Georgia Tech

All of a sudden, Green Bay looks like a playoff team

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

The tides have turned after a rough opening to the Packers season. After starting 2-1, Green Bay lost five out of its next six games and found itself at 3-6. The team now find itself at 6-6.

With playoffs then seemingly impossible to come by, many fans were already planning what Green Bay was going to do with a top-seven pick in the NFL Draft.

Will the team take wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. out of Ohio State? Will it go after one of the many quarterbacks coming up in the draft? Or will it try to solidify the offensive line with the absence of David Bakhtiari this year?

It seems that that line of thinking can now be thrown out. After three straight wins over the Chargers, Lions and Chiefs, the Packers now find themselves slotted in the seventh seed in the NFC Playoffs picture. Instead of deciding whom to draft, the Packers now need to figure out their game plan to make a run at the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl still seems like somewhat of a fever dream, but with a remaining schedule of the New York Giants, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Carolina Panthers, Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears (all teams with a .500 record or worse), playoffs are a real possibility. And once a team gets to the playoffs, there is only one more thing to achieve, and that is a Super Bowl.

"Obviously, yeah. The goal is to make the postseason," said Packers quarterback Jordan Love. "We are going to take it one week at a time and try to focus on one game and winning those games, but that is the goal - getting in that playoff race."

Now, if you told a Packers fan a month ago that this team has a 70% chance to make the playoffs today, you would have been called crazy. So what has changed over the course of four weeks?

For starters, the offensive line has given Love all of the time in the world to work through his progressions and find open receivers.

On top of that, head coach Matt LaFleur and offensive coordinator Adam Stenavich's inclusion of pre-

snap motion has seemingly confused opposing defenses — much like we saw in Green Bay's win over the Kansas City Chiefs — which has opened holes in both the running and passing games.

Finally on offense, without Aaron Jones, young players have stepped their games up to the next level. Love has not thrown an interception in three games. Christian Watson has recorded four touchdowns in three weeks, and Jayden Reed has become a threat in both the passing and rushing attack.

As for the defense, after early rumblings that defensive coordinator Joe Barry should be fired, the Packers defensive unit has stepped up to the challenge.

On the season, the Packers have only given up 243 points, which ranks 11th in the NFL, and over the three-game win streak have given up just 71 points to three of the best offenses in the NFL. That comes on the back of constantly missing starting defenders. With Rashan Gary playing like a mad man, Devonte Wyatt and Kenny Clark holding down the middle of the line and

Lukas Van Ness starting to come into his own, the Packers' defense is starting to look like what many had pictured at the beginning of the season.

"I think that there is a different mentality that we have taken on," said LaFleur, on what has changed with the team in the past month. "Obviously, it has worked well for us, but it goes back to trusting those guys to be able to go out there to execute the plays that are being called. They have to go out and do it, and they are doing that. That makes it much easier to call those plays."

All in all, the NFL season still has five weeks left of the regular season and things can shift in a hurry, something that LaFleur reiterated to media members after Green Bay's win over the Chiefs.

"It is hard to not get caught up in the results, but you really can't," said LaFleur. "You have to stay committed to your core values, your beliefs, and what you believe it takes in order to win games. Credit to the men in the locker room in just believing in each other, believing in what we are doing and staying together."

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