



SOLID GAME

AARON JONES HELPS
LIFT PACKERS TO
VICTORY

A Packers offense riddled with injuries at every skill position turned to a familiar face during the Christmas Eve must-win encounter with the Carolina Panthers. And Aaron Jones did not disappoint. Green Bay's seventh-year running back put his own recent injuries in the past during his finest performance of the season, 21 carries for 127 yards, to catapult the Packers to a 33-30 win over the Panthers at Bank of America Stadium.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packers survive scare from Panthers, 33-30

Green Bay playoff chances up to 28%

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

Carolina Panthers quarterback Bryce Young was unable to get a snap off as the Panthers found themselves in field goal range as the game clock ticked to zero in Charlotte on Christmas Eve.

Down 30-22, the Carolina Panthers took over at their own 30-yard line with 5:47 left in the game. Eight yards came out of the first two plays, before Young connected with receiver D.J. Chark for 20 yards. After an unnecessary roughness penalty was called on Packers defensive back Anthony Johnson Jr., Carolina took its next snap from the Packers 42-yard line.

On the ensuing play, Young connected with receiver (and former Minnesota Viking) Adam Thielen for a 17-yard gain. The drive came to an end after Young connected with Chark again for a 10-yard touchdown. Raheem Blackshear capped the scoring off with a converted two-point conversion to tie the game.

Green Bay took back over on its own 25-yard line. After two Aaron Jones rushes brought up a third-and-4, Packers quarterback Jordan Love launched a deep pass down the left side line. Romeo Doubs went up for the contested catch and came down with the pass. As he came down with the pass, it appeared the Doubs bobbled the ball out of bounds, after his knee had hit the ground. Carolina challenged the play, but it was ruled in favor of Green Bay.

From there, Love connected with Tucker Kraft for a 20-yard gain and after a few more rushes by Jones, Carolina was forced to call its timeouts. Green Bay eventually found itself in a third-and-12 situation from the Carolina 15-yard line. Patrick Taylor rushed forward for one yard and Green Bay ran the clock down as much as it could. With 22 seconds left, Packers rookie kicker Anders Carlson hit the go-ahead field goal.

Chark once again made an impact on Carolina's final drive, taking a pass for 20 yards. That was followed up by Thielen making a 22-yard reception, before Young was unable to get a snap off in time to end the game.



Romeo Doubs had four receptions for 79 yards and one touchdown Sunday in the Green Bay Packers' 33-30 win over the Carolina Panthers. The Packers won a key replay review on Doubs' 36-yard catch late in the game that set up their winning field goal.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The bottom line is that we had a couple of plays at the end of the game to propel us to take the win," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur.

Love finished the game completing 17-of-28 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns. Both Doubs, who finished with 79 yards, and Dontayvion Wicks were on the receiving end of Love's scores. It was Jones, though, who was the main driving force for the Packers this week. In what was probably his best performance of the year, Jones registered

127 rushing yards on 21 carries. Though Jones was a force on the ground, A.J. Dillon and Love both recorded rushing touchdowns.

"That's how he's been," said Doubs, on Jones' performance. "He has been that dude. Aaron's had some trials and tribulations throughout the course of this year, but I am not surprised that he played the way that he did, because that is how he always plays."

On the Panthers' side of the ball, Young, who was the first pick in the past NFL draft, put on the best per-

formance of his young career. The Alabama product recorded 312 passing yards and two touchdowns. Running back Chuba Hubbard finished with 43 yards and one touchdown on 16 carries. Ihmir Smith-Marsette added another rushing touchdown for the Panthers.

With the win, Green Bay now sits at 7-8 on the season, which is currently good for the ninth seed in the NFC. With 8-7 records, both the Los Angeles Rams and the Seattle Seahawks occupy the sixth and seventh seeds, respectively.

BEAT The Expert

Week 17 Games: Sun., Dece. 31



Luke Reimer
New Media

New York Jets @ Cleveland ... Thurs., Dec. 28
Detroit @ Dallas Sat., Dec. 30
Atlanta @ Chicago
Cincinnati @ Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay @ Minnesota

Week 16 Winner :

**Jacob
Westendorf
New Media**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	5-0	56-24
Time Murphy, New Media	5-0	55-25
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center	4-1	54-26
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	5-0	53-27
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	5-0	47-33
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-2	46-34
Kevin Passon, New Media	3-2	45-35
Staff, Shawano Health Services	4-1	45-35
Luke Reimer, New Media	4-1	45-35
Sue Moede, Moede & Sons Plumbing	5-0	43-37
Staff, Walsh Dental	4-1	41-39



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Minnesota 20



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Minnesota 31



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 20 @ Minnesota 27



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

New York
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Minnesota 28



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Cincinnati

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Minnesota 17



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Minnesota 17



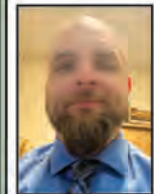
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Atlanta
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Minnesota 21



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Atlanta
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Minnesota 21



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Atlanta
Cincinnati

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 17 @ Minnesota 24



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Chicago
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Minnesota 34



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Cleveland
Dallas
Atlanta
Kansas City

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Minnesota 17

THE VITALS —

Green Bay Packers at Minnesota Vikings

TIME AND DATE: 7:20 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31

LOCATION: US Bank Stadium

TV: NBC

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, 7-8. Vikings 7-8

HISTORY: The Packers lead the all time series 65-58-3. While the Chicago Bears may be the Packers' biggest rival historically, Minnesota has been far more competitive since Brett Favre took over as the Packers quarterback in 1992.

Matt LaFleur has never lost to the Bears since Green Bay hired him in 2019. His record against Minnesota is a much more modest 5-4.

The Packers have split the season series each of the last three years with the Vikings since sweeping them in 2019.

The two teams met earlier in October, where the Packers lost 24-10 on a gloomy day at Lambeau Field.

The last time these two teams met at US Bank Stadium, the Packers lost 23-7 in the 2022 season opener, in a game they were never truly competitive.

COACHES: Packers - Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 54-27). Vikings: Kevin O'Connell (second season 19-12)

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 17-19
Dec. 11 at NY Giants 7:15 p.m. L 24-22
Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay L 34-20
Dec. 24 at Carolina W 33-30
Dec. 31 at Minnesota 7:20 p.m. NBC
Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, TBD

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 28

Jets at Browns, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Lions at Cowboys, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31

Titans at Texans, Noon

Falcons at Bears, Noon

Dolphins at Ravens, Noon

Saints at Buccaneers, Noon

Patriots at Bills, Noon

Cardinals at Eagles, Noon

Panthers at Jaguars, Noon

Raiders at Colts, Noon

Rams at Giants, Noon

49ers at Commanders, Noon

Steelers at Seahawks, 3:05 p.m.

Bengals at Chiefs, 3:25 p.m.

Chargers at Broncos, 3:25 p.m.

Packers at Vikings, 7:20 p.m.

KEYS TO THE GAME

Biggest challenge will be fighting Flores' schemes

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are in the thick of the playoff race, but the message is simple: They need to win the rest of their games, or they'll be lamenting two losses to the New York Giants and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

They'll travel to US Bank stadium, a place they've struggled recently, losing the last two games.

The Vikings, like the Packers, are in the thick of the playoff race, despite having lost Kirk Cousins for the rest of the season the last time these two teams met up.

That day led to a 24-10 Vikings win, and the Packers' season was in a full tailspin. They've rebounded nicely, to make this game matter.

If the Packers are going to exorcise the demons of US Bank Stadium, here are the three keys to victory.

Green Bay defense vs. Justin Jefferson

Justin Jefferson missed the last matchup between these two teams with a hamstring injury that knocked him out for more than a month.

The last time Jefferson faced Green Bay, he was a relative non-factor. His most famous moment of the game was getting angry and Jaire Alexander stealing his signature celebration after breaking up a pass intended for him.

Alexander's status for this game remains unclear. He's missed the last seven games with a shoulder injury. Could he return for a marquee matchup against the league's best receiver? That's anyone's guess at this point.

Even if Alexander does play, it takes a total team effort to stop a guy like Jefferson.

Eric Stokes has returned from his hamstring injury and struggled in his return. Carrington Valentine has had some up and down moments as a rookie.

Embattled defensive coordinator Joe Barry, who may be coaching for his job, will need to figure out the best way to attack Jefferson and this diverse Vikings offense.



Jordan Love continues to string together big-time performances for a team that needs its offense to do everything it can to help carry a porous defense. Love finished the day against Carolina 17-28 for 218 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions. He added a touchdown run to give him 30 total touchdowns for the season. It wasn't the gaudiest of numbers, but Love did that despite missing his top three receivers.

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Packers offense vs. Brian Flores

They don't give the NFL Coach of the Year award to assistant coaches, but if they did, that award would be a runaway to Brian Flores.

Flores took over a defense that was at the bottom of the league a season ago under Ed Donatell, and has catapulted them to the top half of the league.

That has been true despite not having the marquee talent at many key positions outside of Danielle Hunter.

Flores' complex scheme involves where he could send as many as eight rushers or as few as three.

He's done a good job confusing some of the league's best quarterbacks throughout the course of the season.

The last time these two teams met, the Packers scored 10 points.

Their only touchdown came after the score was 24-3.

The Vikings' defense is tough. They've battled all season through various quarterback changes and offensive ineptitude to keep things afloat.

Perhaps the biggest feather in Flores' cap was winning a game 3-0 against the Las Vegas Raiders.

The Packers are going to need more than the 10 points they scored last time against this team. Jordan Love has been magnificent at taking care of the ball during this six game stretch. He'll need to continue that trend as the Vikings smell blood when turnovers become available to them.

It'll be up to Matt LaFleur and Love to try and outfox Flores in this battle between two NFC North opponents.

Packers' pass rush vs. Nick Mullens

The general NFL fanbase has probably grown an appreciation for Cousins this season. Cousins was playing as well as he ever had when he ruptured his Achilles on Oct. 24, ending his season.

The Vikings have since given way to three different quarterbacks. Jaren Hall initially took over for Cousins before ceding the position to Josh Dobbs.

Dobbs played above his head for a few weeks before hitting a wall and getting benched during the team's 3-0 win over the Las Vegas Raiders.

Dobbs has been a healthy inactive ever since, with Hall backing up former San Francisco 49er Nick Mullens.

Mullens played against Green Bay in November 2020 during the COVID-19 affected season. The Packers won that night 34-3.

Mullens has had some highs since taking over as the starting quarterback, but his lows are incredibly low. He has a propensity to turn the ball over and take some horrendous sacks.

The quartet of Devonte Wyatt, Kenny Clark, Preston Smith and Rashan Gary have formed one of the better pass rushing groups in football in terms of pressure rate.

That doesn't account for the recent ascension of Lukas Van Ness or Karl Brooks.

The Packers will need to get after Mullens against an offensive line that has been better than recent years in terms of pass blocking.

If they can do that, Mullens will put the ball up for grabs.



Keisean Nixon (25) of the Green Bay Packers tries to escape from a trio of Carolina Panthers at Bank of America Stadium on Dec. 24 in Charlotte, North Carolina. ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NOTEBOOK

Playing average might be enough for a victory over Minnesota

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Vikings' defense

The last time these two teams met, Green Bay's offense was in a tailspin. They had just been shut down by a Broncos defense that had recently given up 70 points. Prior to that, the Raiders had held the Packers to 13 points.

This Packers offense is different. They hit a turning point in late November with a 23-20 win over the Los Angeles Chargers.

Jordan Love's first 300-yard game as a passer appeared to take a lid off this offense.

Since then, they've performed well in every game save for a Monday night performance against the New York Giants.

Love has turned the ball over three times in the last six games, and has surpassed a 100 passer rating in seven games this season.

Any questions about the Packers' long-term future at quarterback appear to be answered.

This is a bit of a different test.

Minnesota's defense is not the group that it was under Mike Zimmer that used to give Aaron Rodgers and company fits, but they have been much better in 2023 than they were in 2022. Brian Flores is likely to be one of the hottest candidates for a head coaching gig when the 2023 season ends.

The Vikings are led by Danielle Hunter as one of the top pass rushers in football. He has 15.5 sacks on the season and is headed toward a career year.

Harrison Smith is still around as a veteran presence as the team essentially breaks in an entirely new secondary.

Josh Metellus was a thorn in Green Bay's side the first time these two teams met. He recently signed a contract extension in Minnesota, and will be around for the foreseeable future. He snatched a ball away from Jayden Reed for an interception in the team's first meeting.

Unfortunately for Minnesota, injuries and turnovers have been their bugaboo this season on the offensive



Tucker Kraft (85) caught four balls for 60 yards against the Carolina Panthers. On the season, Kraft has 22 catches for 276 yards, a 12.6 average.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

side of the ball. Kirk Cousins is out for the rest of the season. Justin Jefferson has been in and out of the lineup.

The defense has picked up the slack. They shut out the Las Vegas Raiders two weeks ago in a game where had they allowed any points, they would have lost.

Green Bay's offense is on a roll, but the Vikings could relish a chance to effectively end Green Bay's season.

This will be the matchup that decides the game.

Packers' defense vs. Vikings' offense

Joe Barry is on the hot seat. There's no question about that. After the Packers lost 34-20 to the Tampa

Bay Buccaneers, Matt LaFleur was asked whether he would relieve Barry of his duties.

LaFleur is sticking by his embattled defensive coordinator and hoping for a late season surge toward the postseason.

Green Bay has not done anything particularly well in terms of slowing teams down, and their longest standing trend is the inability to stop the run game.

The good news is Minnesota is one of the worst teams in the NFL in the run game.

They average 98 yards per game on the ground. That is good for 23rd in the NFL. They've been missing Alexander Mattison and relying on Ty Chandler to carry the load in the

backfield.

The Packers are built to get after opposing passers. If the pass rush does well, the defense has a chance. If it doesn't, they have struggled severely.

Rashan Gary and the rest of his crew will have their hands full as Christian Darrisaw is one of the best left tackles in football.

Nick Mullens has a tendency to hold the ball and take some horrendous sacks. That could give the Packers opportunities to make plays on the quarterback.

This team is only one game removed from allowing Baker Mayfield to become the first visiting quarterback to post a perfect passer rating at Lambeau Field.

This game could feature two of the very best at their positions going head-to-head.

Jefferson has bounced in and out of the lineup with a hamstring and chest injury. He should be good to go for Sunday's action.

Jaire Alexander, Jefferson's biggest nemesis, has struggled with injuries of his own. He's missed time with a back and shoulder injury. His situation remains unclear.

The Packers have some help in the return of Eric Stokes. He's played two games since being activated from injured reserve before their loss to Tampa Bay.

He's been up and down in those two games, which is to be expected considering his injury situation prior to being activated.

Minnesota's receiving corps is wounded with Jefferson sitting on the sidelines but still has some talent. Jordan Addison has had some nice moments as a former first-round pick.

TJ Hockenson is a dangerous player at tight end. KJ Osborn, the team's third receiver, made some plays when Jefferson was out of the lineup as well.

Special teams

The Packers' kicking game has been up and down all season. Anders Carlson has yet to find any sort of consistency.

Carlson's big leg has flashed at times. Other times, he looks like a golfer who mis-hits his wedge. The ball doesn't always explode off of his foot. Despite that, Carlson has been given a vote of confidence. The team will be sticking with him for the rest of the season.

As these games get bigger, the bigger the kicks will be for Carlson. An indoor environment should give him some confidence to kick without worrying about any elements.

Keisean Nixon just has not been the weapon on special teams he was a year ago. The temperatures at Lambeau Field have not allowed for shorter kickoffs. Nixon has not had one kick that even looked like he might return for a touchdown. There are still signs of electricity, but right now his signature play of the season was fumbling a punt that turned the tide of a game against the New York Giants.

Minnesota's special teams has Greg Joseph kicking for them. He's been rock solid for most of the year.

Ty Chandler has been the primary returner during the season, but has taken a step back with an increased role being given to him on offense.

Kene Nwangwu has taken on that role and has a long return of 38 yards on the season.

Minnesota's special teams ranked right in the middle of the pack according to Rick Gosselin's special teams rankings in 2022.

Average might be enough to have a big advantage. The Packers are ranked toward the bottom of the league in special teams DVOA once again, calling into question if their investment in Rich Bisaccia is paying off.



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur talks with Romeo Doubs on the sideline of the Dec. 24 game against the Carolina Panthers. A 36-yard catch by Doubs set up the game-winning field goal. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senior VP of Officiating discusses on-field calls

Pro Football Writers of America pool reporter Joe Person's interview with NFL Senior Vice President of Officiating Walt Anderson

Question: Two plays, the first one being the Carolina challenge on the Green Bay catch by 87 along the Carolina sideline. Looking at that just on the FOX replays, the ball ended up on the ground, on the turf next to 87. For what it's worth, Dean Blandino said it should have been overturned. What did you guys see on the replay review?

Anderson: "The ruling on the field, obviously, is where we start. It was a catch and the receiver maintained control throughout the process as he was going to the ground. We actually did see the ball touch the ground, but we also saw that he had control of the ball in his left hand. The left hand never came off the ball and there were no available shots that show that he actually lost control of the ball in his left hand even though the ball touched the ground. The ball is allowed to touch the ground as long as there's not evidence that he lost control and we didn't

think it was clear and obvious that he did. And since the ruling on the field was a catch, we stayed with the ruling on the field."

Question: And, did you see at the end of the play that the ball being out of his control on the ground, and if so, how did you kind of come to grips with that?

Anderson: "You mean eventually, right after the process?"

Question: No, I mean kind of as he was completing the catch, the ball was out of his control next to him."

Anderson: "We did not see a view that showed that he lost control of the ball in his left hand until he was actually maybe beginning to get up. At that point, the process was over."

Question: Okay, thank you. And then secondly, on the final play of the game, Walt, there's the completed catch, Carolina coming down to try to spike the ball and stop the clock. Why did that play not go up to you guys in New York for review?

Anderson: "There are two parts of the replay rule that are in effect at the end of the game in this situation. Replay can stop

the game and restore time only if there are two or more seconds to be added to the game. But, as part of the same rule, we can assist the on field officials. What the officials were doing was they were getting together. What they ruled was that the ball was snapped with one on the clock, but by the time the ball hit the ground, they had zero. And they asked us if we could confirm that and we did confirm that to them, that in fact the clock actually went to zero just as it was leaving the quarterback's hand, so it was clearly at zero when it hit the ground. And we could confirm that to the crew."

Question: So, you guys did look at that because that was not communicated on the field here at the stadium?

Anderson: "Yes, because that's in the replay assistance rule. And so, as the officials were having their conference, they were communicating with us telling us, 'Here's what we're ruling on the field. We're ruling that the ball was snapped with one but it went to zero before it hit the ground.' And we could confirm that indeed that was what had occurred."



Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones carried the ball 21 times for 127 yards, to catapult the Packers to a 33-30 win over the Panthers at Bank of America Stadium on Dec. 24. It was the Packers' first 100-yard rushing or receiving performance this season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jones nominated for Ground Player of the Week

Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones has been nominated for the FedEx Ground Player of the Week following Green Bay's 33-30 victory at Carolina on Christmas Eve.

In just his second game back from a three-week absence due to a knee injury, Jones rushed for 127 yards on 21 carries, turning in the Packers' first 100-yard rushing or receiving performance this season.

It was Jones' 18th career 100-yard outing and first since Green Bay's Week 17 victory over Minnesota last season.

The other nominees for this week's award are Chicago's Khalil Herbert (112 yards, TD) and the L.A. Rams' Kyren Williams (104 yards, TD).

"I think I showed that Week 1 and I just haven't been healthy to get out there and show it again," Jones said. "Finally getting back healthy, I feel like I showed people a lot of the doubters, people who may be saying, 'Oh, he's getting too old, blah, blah, blah.' It felt good."

Like last week against Tampa Bay, Jones came out of the gates hot. He recorded 82 of his 121 rushing yards on the first two series in the first quarter. He ran for 38 yards and caught an 8-yard pass on Green Bay's first possession, a seven-play, 80-yard drive that ended with a Dillon 1-yard touchdown run.

Jones then busted a season-long 39-yard run on his first carry up the right sideline to start the next series.

Jones and the offensive line continued to wear down the Panthers' front in the third quarter, with the 5-foot-9, 208-pound running back gaining 24 yards on four straight carries to set up Love's 5-yard touchdown pass to receiver Romeo Doubs on the first play of the fourth quarter.

"That's how he's been. He's been that dude," Doubs said. "It's easy outside looking in to speak on what he's done. He's had some trials and tribulations throughout the course of this year, but I'm not surprised that he played the way he did because that's how he always plays."



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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	26	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	28	5	Mississippi State
Anthony Johnson Jr.	36	S	6-0	205	24	R	Iowa State
Aaron Jones	33	RB	5-9	208	29	7	Texas-El Paso
Caleb Jones	72	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	23	R	South Dakota State
David Long Jr.	30	CB	5-11	196	25	5	Michigan
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	25	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie58	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
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	26	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	31	9	Mississippi State
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia
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	23	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
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Unvi.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jordan Addison	3	WR	5-11	175	21	R	USC
Hakeem Adeniji	78	T	6-4	315	26	4	Kansas
Brian Asamoah II	33	LB	6-0	226	23	2	Oklahoma
Mekhi Blackmon	5	CB	5-11	178	24	R	USC
Andrew Booth Jr.	23	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Clemson
Garrett Bradbury	56	C	6-3	300	28	5	North Carolina State
Blake Brandel	64	G	6-7	315	26	3	Oregon State
Jonathan Bullard	90	DL	6-3	290	30	8	Florida
Camryn Bynum	24	S	6-0	200	25	3	California
Andre Carter II	55	OLB	6-6	256	23	R	Army
Ty Chandler	32	RB	5-11	204	25	2	North Carolina
Lewis Cine	6	S	6-2	199	24	2	Georgia
Christian Darrisaw	71	T	6-5	315	24	3	Virginia Tech
Sheldon Day	52	DL	6-1	294	29	7	Notre Dame
Andrew DePaola	42	LS	6-1	229	36	9	Rutgers
Joshua Dobbs	15	QB	6-3	220	28	7	Tennessee
Troy Dye	45	LB	6-3	225	27	4	Oregon
Akayleb Evans	21	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Missouri
Myles Gaskin	37	RB	5-10	199	26	5	Washington
Jaren Hall	16	QB	6-0	207	25	R	BYU
C.J. Ham	30	FB	5-11	250	30	7	Augustana (S.D.)
Jordan Hicks	58	LB	6-1	236	31	9	Texas
T.J. Hockenson	87	TE	6-5	248	26	5	Iowa
Danielle Hunter	99	OLB	6-5	263	29	9	LSU
Ed Ingram	67	G	6-3	307	24	2	LSU
Lucky Jackson	81	WR	6-0	186	26	R	Western Kentucky
Theo Jackson	25	S	6-1	198	25	2	Tennessee
Trishton Jackson	9	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Syracuse
Justin Jefferson	18	WR	6-1	195	24	4	LSU
Pat Jones II	91	OLB	6-4	264	25	3	Pittsburgh
Greg Joseph	1	K	6-0	206	29	4	Florida Atlantic
Alexander Mattison	2	RB	5-11	215	25	5	Boise State
Josh Metellus	44	S	5-11	207	25	4	Michigan
Nick Mullens	12	QB	6-0	210	28	5	Southern Mississippi
Johnny Mundt	86	TE	6-4	233	29	6	Oregon
Byron Murphy Jr.	7	CB	5-11	190	25	5	Washington
Nick Muse	34	TE	6-5	252	25	2	South Carolina
Jalen Nailor	83	WR	6-0	190	24	2	Michigan State
Kene Nwangwu	26	RB	6-1	210	25	3	Iowa State
Brian O'Neill	75	T	6-7	310	28	6	Pittsburgh
Josh Oliver	84	TE	6-5	259	26	5	San Jose State
K.J. Osborn	17	WR	5-11	203	26	4	Miami (Fl.)
Ivan Pace Jr.	40	LB	5-10	231	23	R	Cincinnati
Harrison Phillips	97	DL	6-3	307	27	6	Stanford
Brandon Powell	4	WR	5-8	181	28	6	Florida
David Quessenberry	76	T	6-5	310	33	6	San Jose State
Chris Reed	62	G/C	6-3	314	31	8	Minnesota State
Dalton Risner	66	G	6-5	312	28	5	Kansas State
Jaquelin Roy	93	DL	6-3	305	23	R	LSU
Austin Schlottmann	65	C	6-6	300	28	5	TCU
Harrison Smith	22	S	6-2	211	34	12	Notre Dame
NaJee Thompson	11	CB	5-11	205	23	R	Georgia Southern
Khyiris Tonga 95	DL	6-4	338	27	3	BYU	
Jay Ward	20	S	6-1	188	23	R	LSU
Jaylin Williams	38	CB	5-10	195	23	R	Indiana
D.J. Wonnum	98	OLB	6-5	258	26	4	South Carolina
Ryan Wright	14	P	6-3	245	23	2	Tulane
Reserve/Injured							
Cam Akers	31	RB	5-10	217	24	3	Florida State
Kirk Cousins	8	QB	6-3	205	35	12	Michigan State
Marcus Davenport	0	OLB	6-6	265	27	6	Texas-San Antonio
Malik Knowles	n/a	WR	6-2	196	23	R	Kansas State
William Kwenkeu	47	LB	6-1	235	26	2	Temple
Dean Lowry	94	DL	6-6	296	29	8	Northwestern
James Lynch	92	DL	6-4	295	24	4	Baylor
Olisaemeka Udoh	74	OT	6-6	320	26	5	Elon

Pack faces biggest game of the season

Victory over Minnesota Vikings increases playoff chances to 62%

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

When Green Bay's schedule was released, it looked like the biggest game of the season was going to be the Week 17 game against the Minnesota Vikings.

That has come to fruition, as Green Bay, which currently sits at a 28% chance to make the playoffs, according to the New York Times Playoff Predictor, has the opportunity to greatly improve those chances with a win.

Making the playoffs would be thought of as a success for this season. With the youth of the offense and the change at quarterback, many thought that this season would be a rebuilding year, with Green Bay finishing closer to the bottom of the league than the top. It seems like that line of thinking has since been squashed, as there is no doubt that Jordan Love has what it takes to be a starting quarterback in the NFL.

Also, Green Bay has shown it can beat some of the better teams in the league, like the Detroit Lions and Kansas City. Putting those two things together and it looks like Green Bay is in a better position than many thought.

With pieces like Romeo Doubs, Jayden Reed, Jaire Alexander, Aaron Jones, Rashan Gary and Tucker Kraft, it really looks like Green Bay has a team that can make the post-season. That all comes to play this week as Green Bay takes on the Minnesota Vikings, in as close to a do-or-die game as one team can be.

"Everything is at stake, and we are going into a great environment next week in Minnesota against a really good football team," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "It is going to be a really great challenge, but this is what we prepare for all year, every day, every week, so we will be excited about that opportunity."

Green Bay played the Minnesota Vikings during Week 8 at Lambeau



Field, a game the Packers lost 24-10. The Vikings look drastically different since then, as Kirk Cousins was hurt in that game. Josh Dobbs looked like he was going to save Minnesota's season, but after a string of poor performances, NFL fans have seen Nick Mullens start recently for the Vikings. It is no doubt that Green Bay has a better chance of winning with Mullens starting, but with Justin Jefferson and Ty Chandler hitting their strides, Minnesota's offense is nothing to scoff at.

The Vikings' defense has been worse against the pass this season than the run, so it appears that Love will need to be the focal point of the offense this week. That can't eliminate the run game though, as Green Bay needs to capitalize off of the performance that Jones registered last week. Once the run game gets going, Love should be able to settle in and utilize the middle of the field to open up the deep shots down the sidelines.

"We know exactly what is out in front of us," said Love. "We have to finish the season off, and we have to win these last two games, so like I said, we are going to do the same thing we have been doing all season and take one game at a time. We know to keep those (playoff) hopes alive and to give ourselves a chance, we have got to win these last two. We all know what is in front of us, and we know what we are capable of, so we are just going to go finish this thing and take it one game at a time."

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