



NOT YET ELITE

PLAYOFF BOUND PACKERS 0-4 vs. NFC LEADERS

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

It took two passes on the final drive to burn Green Bay’s timeouts and end a furious comeback for the Vikings to clinch the victory over the Packers on Dec. 29.

The Packers were unable to get revenge for its Week 4 loss, as it dropped its second game of the season to the Minnesota Vikings, 27-25 in Minnesota.

Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold registered the best game of his career. The USC alum completed 33-of-43 passes for a career high 377 yards and three touchdowns.

Vikings superstar receiver Justin Jefferson was the main recipient of Darnold’s big day, as he finished with 92 yards on eight receptions. Receiver Jordan Addison registered 69 yards and a touchdown on six catches, and tight end T.J. Hockenson registered 68 yards

on five receptions, but it was receiver Jalen Nailor who was the X-factor for Minnesota’s offense as he recorded 81 yards and a touchdown on five receptions.

Former Packers and Vikings running back Aaron Jones finished the game with 47 yards on 12 carries.

As for Green Bay, Jordan Love struggled as Minnesota’s defense was relentless in the pass rush, recording three sacks, two tackles for losses and eight total quarterback hits. Love finished the game completing 19-of-30 passes for 185 yards and one touchdown.

Romeo Doubs was the leading receiver for the Packers in the game with 58 yards on seven receptions. Tucker Kraft added 53 yards on two receptions, while Dontayvion Wicks notched 43 yards on four receptions.

“You have to come out and adjust to whatever they might be throw-

ing at you, whether it is something that you have planned for or something that you haven’t,” said Love, on Minnesota’s exotic defenses. “I don’t think we did that well enough, and then it comes down to going out there and making those plays, and we didn’t make those plays.”

Josh Jacobs churned out 69 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries, while Emanuel Wilson added 29 rushing yards and one touchdown on six carries.

In the two teams’ Week 4 matchup, Green Bay found itself down 28-7 after the first half of the game. While last week’s matchup was not as drastic of a deficit, it seemed eerily similar to the first game between the teams.

Led by its stellar defense, Minnesota jumped out to a 20-3 lead through the middle of the third quarter, but again like the first matchup, Green Bay’s roaring comeback provided late game sparks.



Top, quarterback Jordan Love throws a stiff arm to defend himself as he scrambles with the ball against the Vikings on Sunday. Love was 19-of-30 for 185 yards with a touchdown and 91.7 rating. Above, running back Josh Jacobs is shy of the goal line, like the rest of the team when it comes to defeating top-tier opponents this year. At left, coach Matt LaFleur searches for a successful play from his list. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

WEEK 17/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 25 vs. VIKINGS 27



Defensive end Kingsley Enagbare towers over wide receiver Brandon Powell. Enagbare was not as active against the Vikings as he has been in previous games, but he is still in contention to seize the starting spot opposite Rashan Gary.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

TOWERING ABOVE

ENGABARE QUIET AGAINST VIKINGS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS GAMES

HO-CHUNK  GAMING

WITTENBERG

No reason Packers shouldn't beat Bears

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are at the end of the road. Sunday's game in all likelihood will be the final game at Lambeau Field this season. Jordan Love and company are coming off a 27-25 loss to the Minnesota Vikings, which saw them continue a trend of slow starts leading to disappointing finishes against the best teams in the NFC. Because of that loss, they'll now be the sixth seed at best in the NFC playoffs, with a possibility of finishing seventh, and hitting the road to Philadelphia for the Wild Card round.

They'll face a team that they've dominated for the last five years. The Packers are looking to build some momentum going into the playoffs. Here are the keys to doing just that. **Green Bay pass rush** Of all the units that disappointed on Sunday, the Packers' pass rush was probably the most egregious in terms of their disappointment. They did not get near Sam Darnold often enough against an offensive line that had struggled for most of the year. They play another struggling unit this week-end with the Chicago Bears coming to town. Caleb Williams has taken sacks at a record-setting

pace and has a propensity to hold onto the ball. Green Bay is built to feast against teams like that, and they need to do so. The last time these two teams played, the pass rush did not come to life until late in the fourth quarter. This time around, Green Bay needs to pounce on Williams early and often. **Chicago vs. Cancun** The reality of the situation is the Bears are made up of humans. DJ Moore joked before their game against Minnesota that he was most looking forward to vacation. Keenan Allen said that he played for the name on the back of his jersey. The reality from those

comments is that it does not appear Chicago is overly interested in competing to win. They looked lifeless in their loss to the Seattle Seahawks. They were booed by their home crowd and were unable to find the end zone. If the Packers are able to jump out to a lead in this game, the Bears could start thinking about their reservations in Cancun more than they are thinking about beating the Packers. It's not the most common outcome, but in a game where both teams are human, nobody would blame the Bears, mired in a 10-game losing streak, for wanting to be put out of

their misery. **Packers vs. Momentum** The Packers don't have much time to lick their wounds after a tough loss in Minnesota. They have one more game at home before heading to the postseason where they'll face off against another good team. Matt LaFleur said after Sunday's loss that he wanted his team to finish the season the right way and go into the postseason on a good note. To do that, they'll need to play well against the Bears. The good news is, that's something they've typically done. Despite LaFleur's comments to the public, there's

no question that he wants to treat this game like he did the game against New Orleans before Christmas. Josh Jacobs got a lesser workload that night. They rotated a bunch of players in on defense. Jordan Love got most of the fourth quarter off thanks to a 27-0 lead. This week's game could be handled in a similar way if the Packers are able to jump out to an early lead. This is a game where everything is in Green Bay's favor. They have more talent than Chicago. They're at home. They have more to play for. All the ingredients are there to build some confidence before having to hit the road in the postseason.

CHICAGO BEARS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

TIME AND DATE: Noon, Sunday, Jan. 5
LOCATION: Lambeau 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
2024 RECORDS: Packers, 11-5, Bears 4-12.
HISTORY: The Bears and Packers have been locking horns since the 1930s. The Packers lead the all-time series 109-76-7. Their last matchup at Lambeau Field came last year when the Packers won 17-9 to clinch their spot in the postseason in Jordan Love's first season as a starter. Their most recent meeting however came down to the final play of the game. The Packers took a late 20-19 lead on a quarterback sneak from Love.

Caleb Williams mounted a comeback drive to get the Bears into field goal range and have a chance to snap a 10-game losing streak to the Packers. Instead, Karl Brooks played the role of hero on the day as Cairo Santos' field goal was blocked as time expired. Perhaps that was the beginning of the end for Matt Eberflus, who has since been fired in favor of Thomas Brown, who started the season as the team's quarterback coach. He was promoted to offensive coordinator with the firing of Shane Waldron before being promoted to interim head coach. **COACHES:** Packers - Matt LaFleur (sixth season, 69-32). Bears - Thomas Brown (interim, 0-4). **PACKERS SCHEDULE** Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadelphia, L 29-34 Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis W 16-10 Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee W 30-14

Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota L 29-31 Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. W 24-19 Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona W 34-13 Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22 Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27 Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit L 14-24 Week 10 BYE Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago W 20-19 Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10 Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami W 30-17 Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit L 34-31 Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle W 30-13 Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans W 34-0 Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota, L 27-25 Sunday, Jan. 5, vs. Chicago, Noon **NFL SCHEDULE** Saturday, Jan. 4

Cleveland at Baltimore,, 3:30 p.m. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. **Sunday, Jan. 5** Carolina at Atlanta, Noon Houston at Tennessee, Noon NY Giants at Philadelphia, Noon Jacksonville at Indianapolis, Noon Washington at Dallas, Noon Chicago at Green Bay, Noon New Orleans at Tampa Bay, Noon Buffalo at New England, Noon LA Chargers at Las Vegas, 3:25 p.m. San Francisco at Arizona, 3:25 p.m. Kansas City at Denver, 3:25 p.m. Seattle at LA Rams, 3:25 p.m. Miami at NY Jets, 3:25 p.m. Minnesota at Detroit, 7:20 p.m.

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My favorite Green Bay Packer memories

"I went to the Ice Bowl and wore plastic bags over my socks and boots along with my snowmobile suit to stay warm! Bart Starr was my favorite player back in the day and now I'm pretty fond of Love. He is doing a great job!"

Rita Kristof,
Golden Pond Tenant

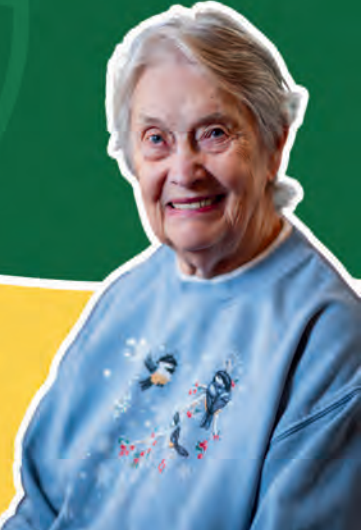


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My favorite NFL team to watch is...

"Green Bay Packers, who are they?! Just kidding born & raised in Wisconsin, have to be a Packer fan!"

Elaine Arneson,
Meadowlands Resident



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BEAT The Expert



2024-25

Week 18 Games: Sun., Jan. 5

Minnesota @ Detroit
Miami @ NY Jets
Washington @ Dallas
NY Giants @ Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Chicago @ Green Bay

Due to time constraints the Monday night game will be included in next week's issue of Green and Gold Express.

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media	4-0	65-19
Mike Warachek, Card & Coin	2-2	61-23
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	2-2	60-24
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	4-0	58-26
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-0	57-27
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Services	3-1	54-30
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	3-1	53-31
Margaret Vandebush, The Cottages at Meadowlands	3-1	53-31
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	4-0	52-32
Joan Kamps, The Cottages on Golden Pond	2-2	50-34
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-1	47-37



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Green Bay 32

Week 16 Winner:

Kevin Passon, NEW Media

Week 17 Winner:

Luke Reimer, NEW Media



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 3 @ Green Bay 31



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Green Bay 30



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Miami
Washington
NY Giants

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Green Bay 27



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
NY Jets
Dallas
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 27 @ Green Bay 35



This Week's Picks:
Minnesota
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 13 @ Green Bay 30



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 17 @ Green Bay 24



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
NY Jets
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score : Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 34



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
Miami
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 30



This Week's Picks:
Detroit
NY Jets
Washington
Philadelphia

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Chicago 10 @ Green Bay 24

WEEK 17/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 25 vs. VIKINGS 27



Josh Jacobs carried the ball 17 times for 69 yards and a touchdown, but it wasn't enough to lift the Packers to victory, as Green Bay lost 27-25 to the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 29. Depending on what happens in Week 18, the Packer could be either a sixth seed or seventh seed wild card team.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

RUNNING THROUGH THE NOISE

JACOBS CARRIES THE BALL 17 TIMES FOR 69 YARDS AGAINST MINNESOTA



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GREEN BAY
PACKERS

2 Malik Willis.....QB

7 Quay Walker.....LB

8 Josh Jacobs.....RB

9 Christian Watson.....WR

10 Jordan Love.....QB

11 Jayden Reed.....WR

13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR

17 Brandon Mcmanus.....K

18 Malik Heath.....WR

19 Daniel Whelan.....P

20 Javon Bullard.....S

21 Eric Stokes.....CB

22 Robert Rochell.....CB

23 Jaire Alexander.....CB

24 Carrington Valentine..CB

25 Keisean Nixon.....CB

26 Corey Ballentine.....CB

27 Kitan Oladapo.....S

29 Xavier McKinney.....S

30 Chris Brooks.....RB

31 Emanuel Wilson.....RB

33 Evan Williams.....S

39 Zayne Anderson.....S

42 Matt Orzech.....LS

45 Eric Wilson.....LB

50 Zach Tom.....OL

52 Rashan Gary.....DL

53 Arron Mosby.....DL

55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL

56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB

57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL

58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB

59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB

62 Jacob Monk.....C/G

63 Rasheed Walker.....T

71 Josh Myers.....C/G

73 Andre Dillard.....T

74 Elgton Jenkins.....G/T

75 Sean Rhyan.....G

76 Kadeem Telfort.....T

79 Travis Glover.....T

80 Bo Melton.....WR

85 Tucker Kraft.....TE

86 John FitzPatrick.....TE

87 Romeo Doubs.....WR

88 Luke Musgrave.....TE

89 Ben Sims.....TE

90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL

93 T.J. Slaton.....DL

94 Karl Brooks.....DL

95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL

96 Colby Wooden.....DL

97 Kenny Clark.....DL



CHICAGO
BEARS

1 Jaylon Johnson.....DB

2 DJ Moore.....WR

4 D'Andre Swift.....RB

6 Kyler Gordon.....DB

8 Cairo Santos.....K

10 Tyler Scott.....WR

13 Keenan Allen.....WR

14 Gerald Everett.....TE

15 Rome Odunze.....WR

17 Tyson Bagent.....QB

18 Caleb Williams.....QB

19 Tory Taylor.....P

20 Travis Horner.....RB

22 Elijah Hicks.....DB

23 Roschon Johnson.....RB

24 Adrian Colbert.....DB

25 Darryton Evans.....RB

29 Tyrique Stevenson.....DB

30 Tarvarius Moore.....DB

31 Kevin Byard III.....DB

32 Terrell Smith.....DB

36 Jonathan Owens.....DB

38 Ameer Speed.....DB

39 Josh Blackwell.....DB

44 Noah Sewell.....LB

45 Amen Ogbongbemiga..LB

46 Scott Daly.....LS

49 Tremaine Edmunds.....LB

52 Darrell Taylor.....DL

53 T.J. Edwards.....LB

55 Jacob Martin.....DL

57 Jack Sanborn.....LB

58 Darrell Wright.....OL

64 Jonathan Ford.....DL

65 Coleman Shelton.....OL

68 Doug Kramer Jr.....OL

72 Kiran Amegadjie.....OL

73 Jake Curhan.....OL

75 Larry Borom.....OL

76 Teven Jenkins.....OL

79 Matt Pryor.....OL

80 Collin Johnson.....WR

84 Mercedes Lewis.....TE

85 Cole Kmet.....TE

90 Dominique Robinson..DL

91 Chris Williams.....DL

92 Daniel Hardy.....DL

93 Byron Cowart.....DL

94 Austin Booker.....DL

95 DeMarcus Walker.....DL

96 Zach Pickens.....DL

98 Montez Sweat.....DL

99 Genvon Dexter Sr.....DL

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WEEK 17/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 25 vs. VIKINGS 27



An interception of Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold sparked the Packers' play, but it wasn't enough to overcome a 17-point deficit. Darnold led the way again for the Vikings, throwing for 377 yards and three touchdowns. It was the 13th time in 16 games that he finished with a quarterback rating of more than 100. After the game, Darnold received a hero's welcome in the Vikings' locker room, getting showered with water bottles as his teammates lifted him into the air.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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WEEK 17/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 25 vs. VIKINGS 27



Tight end Tucker Kraft caught two passes for 53 yards, including one for 35 yards, against the Vikings. Like the Week 4 game against the Vikings, the Packers dug themselves a big hole before attempting another big comeback. They trailed 13-3 at halftime and then 27-10 heading into the fourth quarter. Two fourth-quarter touchdowns by the Packers cut the deficit to 27-25 before the 2-minute warning. But the Vikings got two first downs and Sam Darnold, who had a career high in passing, sealed it with a completion to Cam Akers.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

MAKING THE MOST OF A CATCH

KRAFT’S OFFENSIVE OUTPUT INCLUDES 53 YARDS ON 2 CATCHES



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