

Packers, Cowboys cling to 40-40 tie

Numerous second-half lead changes lead to overtime

LUKE REIMER

Green & Gold Express

Packers kicker Brandon McManus nailed a 34-yard field goal as the time expired in overtime, resulting in a 40-40 tie in Micah Parsons' return to Dallas on Sept. 28.

McManus' game-tying field goal matched Cowboys' kicker Brandon Aubrey's field goal, giving the Packers its seventh tie game since 1974, when overtime was introduced to the NFL, and the first since it tied the Minnesota Vikings 29-29 in 2018.

During Green Bay's drive in overtime, the Packers worked down to the Dallas 15-yard line down three points with 28 seconds left. From there it was obvious that there was confusion, as the Packers ran the clock nearly all the way down and snapped the ball with six seconds left in the game. Love fired a pass to the back of the end zone that landed incomplete with one second left, setting up McManus and saving Green Bay from a loss.

"That just goes to the level of detail of where we need to be," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on the end-of-overtime chaos. "We have an on-the-ball call to send everyone to the end zone. It has to go out of bounds or end zone, obviously with time remaining, and the operation was just way too slow. Ultimately, the communication has to get better — myself to Jordan (Love) and Jordan to the huddle, and that is the bottom line."

LaFleur said there was no thought to try and throw another pass to the end zone with one second remaining in overtime.

Parsons was relatively



Green Bay Packers running back Josh Jacobs takes it to the house with an 18-yard rushing touchdown during the Week 4 game against the Dallas Cowboys. Below, Packers defensive lineman Micah Parsons gives Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott a strong look.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

quiet in his reunion with Dallas, as he was able to muster just three tackles and one sack that resulted in a loss of no yards. With Dallas trading Parsons to Green Bay exactly one month prior to the date of the game, there was understandable hype surrounding the reunion given the pass rusher's talent, as well as the messy divorce between him and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

"The emotions for me being in Dallas went away the moment they traded me," said Parsons, on how he was able to handle the reunion. "I didn't even get to talk to my owner, the

person that drafted me." Parson added that he found out through his agent that he was traded from Dallas to Green Bay. "To me, that emotion-side was pointless ... it was more about a respect factor at that point."

Even though Parsons seemed like he was going to be the main storyline of the game, that quickly shifted.

The story of the matchup between the Packers and the Cowboys was the excellent offenses and quarterback play as a whole.

Love finished the game completing 31-of-43 passes for 337 yards and three



touchdowns. On the other side, Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott completed 31-of-40 passes for 319 yards and three touchdowns as well. Prescott added

another touchdown on the ground.

Along with Love's big day, Romeo Doubs recorded the best game of his career, totaling 58 yards on six receptions and hauling in all three of Love's touchdown passes. Matthew Golden joined Doubs in the receiving column, totaling 58 yards on five receptions, while Tucker Kraft added another 56 yards on five receptions.

In the running game, Josh Jacobs was finally able to find some footing for the first time this season, rushing 22 times for 86 yards and two touchdowns. He also found success in the

receiving game, catching four passes for 71 yards.

Dallas was led by George Pickens in the receiving game, as the former Steeler caught eight passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns. Jalen Tolbert added another 61 yards on four receptions, while former Wisconsin Badger Jake Ferguson totaled 46 yards and one touchdown. On the ground, Cowboys running back Javonte Williams rushed for 85 yards and one touchdown.

After Dallas took a 37-34 lead with 50 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Love and the Packers offense quickly moved down the field with help from a 25-yard reception from Jacobs and nine-yard reception from Malik Heath. That set up McManus' first field goal with no time left on the clock, which sent the game to overtime.

While this game featured a flurry of game-changing plays, none may have been bigger than after Green Bay's second touchdown. After going up 13-0 on Doubs' second touchdown of the game, McManus' extra point attempt was blocked and returned back to the end zone by Dallas, giving the Cowboys two points and swinging the game by three points.

"That is disappointing two weeks in a row where you have a kick blocked," said LaFleur. "I thought we did a lot of good things throughout the week to correct the problem. Obviously it wasn't enough."

After being in control of the game for a majority of the first half, Green Bay had the ball, up 13-9, late in the second quarter. From there, Love was stripped and on the next play, Prescott connected with Pickens to give Dallas the lead heading into halftime.

Packers lead the NFL in most tie games since 1974

LUKE REIMER

Green & Gold Express

How is a team supposed to react after battling for 60 or more minutes of grueling football, only for the game to end in a tie with no winner and no loser?

The Packers should know that answer better than any other team: Since 1974, when the NFL implemented its overtime rules, no franchise has tied more games than Green Bay.

With seven tie games, the most recent iteration of the feat came this past

week in a crazy football game against the Dallas Cowboys that saw Packer kicker Brandon McManus nail an overtime-expiring field goal to end the game 40-40.

"It doesn't feel good. It feels weird," said Packers quarterback Jordan Love, on tying a game. "It is my first time going through a tie. It feels weird to play a full game and end in a tie."

That same sentiment is probably shared with all of the other starting quarterbacks and players as a whole for the Packers

in its previous six tie game finishes as well.

The first of those seven ties came on Nov. 26, 1978, against the Minnesota Vikings with the final scoring showing 10-10.

The Packers were led by running back Terrell Middleton, who ran the ball 39 times for 110 yards and one touchdown in the game. Quarterback David Whitehurst completed 11-of-23 passes for 175 yards.

The tie resulted in the Packers and Vikings tying (8-7-1) in the division standings, which gave the

Vikings the division after beating the Packers in the teams' other matchup.

The next tie game for the Packers came on Oct. 12, 1980, to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as Middleton again scored a touchdown, but it was quarterback Lynn Dickey who had the big game, throwing for 418 yards and a touchdown. That touchdown was caught by Paul Coffman. The Buccaneers were led by Doug Williams who passed for 103 yards and ran for a touchdown.

Two years later, the

Packers found itself in a similar spot, when it tied the Baltimore Colts 20-20 on Dec. 19, 1982.

Both teams exchanged two field goals apiece, but it was Packers kicker Jan Stenerud who missed what would have been a game-winning 47-yard field goal with two minutes left. This tie kept the Colts from finishing solidly in the loss column with a record of 0-8-1.

Seven years later on Sept. 20, 1987, the Packers found themselves in an evenly matched con-

test against the Denver Broncos.

Playing in Milwaukee, quarterback Don Majkowski dueled with Hall of Famer John Elway. Majkowski threw for 121 yards and one touchdown to Paul Ott Carruth. Brent Fullwood added another touchdown on the ground.

As for Denver, Elway threw for 285 yards, but it was the ground game that picked up the scores, with Gene Lang and Steve Sewell each recording a

TIES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Packers welcome early bye this season

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Teams are just about one quarter of the way through the NFL season, and the Green Bay Packers are going into their bye week.

Their season started with a bang. A big trade Aug. 28 that netted Micah Parsons in exchange for two first round draft picks and defensive tackle Kenny Clark was a big boost to the team's morale — and, more importantly, their defense — before the start of the regular season.

The defense has been as advertised, as Parsons has worked his way into the fold.

The offense has some issues to work through, but they should have some reinforcements on their way.

Ultimately, their record is 2-1-1 through four games. They are second in the division.

Here are six of our thoughts as the team gets a week off.

 1. How welcome is this rest after just four games?

Incredibly welcome. When the schedule came out, there were some collective groans about the bye week being so early in the season.

There are still some challenges that come with that, but the Packers are a beat-up bunch, particularly on the offensive line.

The inactive list that came out 90 minutes before the team kicked

off their Week 4 contest against the Dallas Cowboys had three of their top seven offensive linemen on it.

Zach Tom in particular has been in and out of the lineup to start the year with an oblique injury that knocked him out after just one snap against Cleveland in Week 3.

Just as importantly, the Packers could be getting some reinforcements back at practice when they return from the bye.

Wide receiver Christian Watson will start practicing when the team gets back. Running back Marshawn Lloyd could give the team's run game a boost out of the bye as well.

Either way, this team should come out of the bye healthier than when they entered it.

 2. How good is the receiving corps with Watson and Jayden Reed both out now?

The receiving corps is still in good shape with both of those players still sidelined.

Reed is going to be back sometime in late November or early December, and he should be fully healthy.

He's not a player the Packers were going to have this season with Reed playing through a Jones fracture that was surgically repaired when he went in for surgery on his collarbone.

Watson should start practicing when the team returns from the bye week and could make his season debut before Halloween.

Romeo Doubs has been

solid if unspectacular. Don-tayvion Wicks has been much better this season.

Matthew Golden has shown flashes, even if they have not shown up in the box score yet.

Wide receiver is the least of Green Bay's worries on offense.

 3. What's next for the O-line?

For now, that group is in shambles. Through three games, they had played nine different offensive line combinations.

They went into the Dallas game with three of their top seven offensive linemen on the sideline with injuries.

Depth on the offensive line is always going to be tested. That position group rarely has the same five starters throughout the season.

Through four games, the Packers have not had the same starting five in back-to-back games.

The result has been an obvious lack of continuity, leading to some miscommunications while trying to protect Jordan Love.

Coming out of the bye week, the hope is that they'll have some of their guys back and be able to get some semblance of stability within that group

 4. When do the Packers need to make a special teams coaching change?

Weeks 2 and 3 in particular were rough showings for Rich Bisaccia's group.

The fourth game of the

year wasn't much better as Brandon McManus had a PAT blocked and returned for a two-point conversion, which helped the Cowboys take a lead into halftime.

The Packers have been putting a noticeable emphasis on the third phase of the game since the disastrous 2021 group played a large role in ending their season.

That included making Bisaccia the highest-paid special teams coordinator in football. He was also promoted to assistant head coach before the 2024 season as well.

Bisaccia is widely respected both by the coaching staff and by the players that he coaches.

Keisean Nixon, in particular, has been very outspoken about how Bisaccia has influenced his career.

That being said, at some point the results have to meet the investment made.

They've continued to change the players, but the unit still has not been up to par.

If that does not happen before the end of the season, there are plenty of fair questions that can be asked.

 5. How do you stop the penalties?

This is a tough one, because of the way the NFL works in regard to how much you're allowed to practice in pads.

This is not the old days when discipline was paramount, and coaches were allowed to make players run until they threw up, or anything like that.

It's a different world.

The preventable mistakes are the ones that are happening before the snap.

The false starts and illegal shifts have been tough, specifically during the team's 13-10 loss to the Cleveland Browns.

The easy answer is that some of the young players on the roster need to grow up quickly.

In addition, the veterans on the offensive line have to play better as well.

In general, some stability, specifically on the offensive line, will allow Green Bay to settle in and cut down some of their early season penalty issues.

 6. Where are the takeaways this season?

The defense is elite, first and foremost. That's a question that has been emphatically answered through the first four games of the season. That's true even despite a performance that was not fully up to the standard that they set in the first three games of the year.

Dak Prescott's touchdown run near the end of the first half was the first touchdown the defense had allowed in the first three quarters all season.

They were dominant in wins over Detroit and Washington at Lambeau Field to open the season.

Micah Parsons is a legitimate star, and he makes everyone else around him better. That trade has been worth its weight in gold.

When last offseason began, Brian Gutekunst said his team had to be able to pressure the quarterback

with just four players. Because of Parsons and the strong start to the season from Rashan Gary, they've been able to do that.

The special teams remains a roller coaster. They don't have a punt returner and don't seem particularly interested in going outside of the organization to find one at this stage of the season.

The punt game has been good with Daniel Whelan's strong start to the season.

The kicking game has been a bit of a disappointment. Brandon McManus was nearly perfect in training camp but missed a kick in Week 2 against Washington and had a potential game-winning kick blocked by the Cleveland Browns in the team's first loss of the year.

They had an extra point blocked against Dallas as well, which gifted the Cowboys two points.

Offensively, it's still a work in progress. The run game has really struggled through the first quarter of the year.

There could be a variety of reasons for that, but the Packers need to rectify that situation as one-dimensional teams are often bounced in the playoffs.

As it usually does, however, the big question will need to be answered by the team's quarterback: Is Love good enough to win a championship?

His highs are as high as anyone in football. His lows? Those can also be pretty disastrous.

Love will have a chance to win some big games

TIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rushing touchdown. With a field goal each, the game resulted in a 17-17 tie.

Green Bay's next tie game came 26 years later in a different circumstance. In 2012, the rules were changed to prevent a field goal make on the first possession of overtime ending the game.

Once again, the Packers found themselves in a stalemate with the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 24, 2013.

With Aaron Rodgers injured, it was Scott Tolzein who started the game for the Packers. He was ineffective in his start, only managing one rushing touchdown to open the scoring. Minnesota ripped off 23 straight points, including an Adrian Peterson touchdown run, before Tolzein was benched for Matt Flynn.

Flynn led a 16-point comeback, with Eddie Lacy and Jarrett Boykin both scoring touchdowns. Tied at 23, both Green Bay and Minnesota exchanged field goals in overtime, ending in a 26-26 tie.

Green Bay's sixth tie since 1974 also came against the Minnesota Vikings in a 29-29 battle on

Sept. 16, 2018.

Rodgers was healthy in this game, completing 30-of-42 passes for 281 yards and one touchdown. That touchdown went to Davante Adams.

Rodgers was out-duled by Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins, who threw for 425 yards and four touchdowns. Stefon Diggs (two), Adam Thielen (one) and Laquan Treadwell (one) were on the receiving end of those touchdown passes. With Packers kicker Mason Crosby making five field goals, the other Packers touchdown came from defensive back Josh Jackson on a blocked punt recovery in the end zone. In regulation, it appeared Crosby had made the game-winning field goal, but the Vikings called a time out right before the kick. On the next attempt, Crosby missed the kick, sending the game to overtime.

In overtime, Vikings kicker Daniel Carlson missed both field goal attempts, saving the Packers from a loss. Carlson was cut from the Vikings shortly thereafter.

Green Bay's seventh

tie game then came seven years later against the Cowboys in Love's first

experience as a game-tying quarterback.

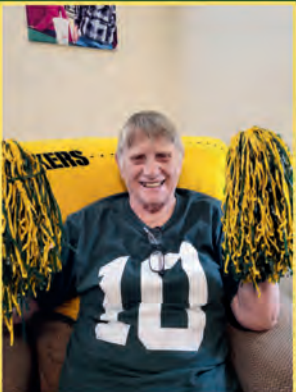
"It was a weird game,"

said McManus. "I wouldn't say satisfying, but it is not a loss and it is not a tick

in the loss column. Who knows down the road if that helps us or hurts us?"



PACKERS MEMORIES



Mary Jane,
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"My favorite Packers player is Brett Favre."

Best Lambeau memory?
"The day I got to go down on the field and shake hands with the players."

"My favorite piece of Packers merch is a photo of Brett Favre and Bart Starr together."

"Game day isn't complete without finger food."



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MOMENTS

GREEN BAY PACKERS 40, DALLAS COWBOYS 40



In the Week 4 game on Sept. 28, Romeo Doubs had a career-best game against the Dallas Cowboys, catching six passes for 58 yards and three touchdowns, a hat trick that helped the Green Bay Packers to a 40-40 tie and put them ahead late in the fourth quarter. This performance was a notable highlight for Doubs, especially with other key receivers out due to injury.

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HAT TRICK FOR DOUBS

WIDE RECEIVER PULLS DOWN THREE TOUCHDOWNS AGAINST THE COWBOYS



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MOMENTS

GREEN BAY PACKERS 40, DALLAS COWBOYS 40



Jordan Love and the Green Bay Packers battled the Dallas Cowboys to a 40-40 overtime tie Sept. 28, with Love throwing for 337 yards and three touchdowns. He led a perfect opening drive and continued to make big plays throughout the game, including a 25-yard run, but the Packers ultimately were unable to win, with a slow final drive that prevented a last-second winning touchdown.

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40 FOR LOVE JUST NOT ENOUGH

PENALTIES, MISSED OPPORTUNITIES DOOM PACKERS TO 40-40 TIE

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