



Former Green Bay running back Aaron Jones celebrates with Vikings fans at Lambeau Field following Minnesota's 31-29 win Sept. 29. Against his former team, Jones rushed 22 times for 93 yards and caught four passes for 46 yards. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BITTERSWEET DEFEAT

Love returns, Jones feeling at home, leaving Vikings 4-0, Packers 2-2

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

In his first game back since spraining his MCL in Week 1, Packers quarterback Jordan Love registered his best statistical game as a pro. After Malik Willis led Green Bay to two wins in Love's absence, many eyes were on Love in the big NFC North matchup against the Vikings, as this game was as close to a must win game as a game can be within the first four weeks of the season. To start the game, it certainly looked like Love had some rust on him. With Green Bay down 28-7 and Love throwing two interceptions at halftime, it would have made some sort of sense to bench Love

for the remainder of the game and let Willis continue to play and develop. Green Bay didn't go that route, and as it turned out, made the right decision, as Green Bay was just a few points away from making an incredible comeback. Either way, Love looked healthy, as he was able to move well in and out of the pocket, while for the most part avoided taking big hits. "It feels fine coming out (of the game)," said Love, about his knee. "As far as it affected me - no, I think that I was able to play through it. I took a hit to it, which had some pain on that, but I was able to play a full game." While it certainly wasn't the plan to throw the ball 54 times in the



Packers quarterback Jordan Love started slow after missing two games due to a knee injury but picked up the pace in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, it was a case of too little too late as Green Bay lost 31-29. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

injury. "I don't think that we envisioned throwing the ball 54 times. That is never the plan, going into any game." It was obvious that Love was confident that Love could play at a high level without risking a further injury. And that somewhat paid off, as Love threw three touchdowns in the fourth quarter against Minnesota to almost complete the improbable comeback. All in all, LaFleur commended Love for competitiveness and toughness. "We have a lot of trust, belief and faith in him and I love who he battles," said LaFleur, on Love. "That is one of the things that you absolutely love about him is just his composure. He is never too high, he is never

too low and he keeps competing and keeps battling. I was super proud of his effort." The reality is that with Minnesota playing incredible football in the first quarter of the season, it looks like the No. 1 threat to win the NFC North. With expectations surrounding Green Bay, it is also expected to vie for the division, so anytime Green Bay gets a matchup against a major competitor, the best players have to play if they can, including Love. Love's knee got put to the test early in the game, as he was tackled on a run, to which he said his knee did hurt, but the pain was not nearly enough for him to exit the game.

LOVE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

LOVE WINLESS AS STARTER, HEADING WEST

Green Bay needs to tighten every aspect of its game

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers Offense vs. Rams Defense

Jordan Love is back. The quarterback returned from his knee injury after a two-game absence. His return was up and down, featuring the highs of throwing four touchdown passes, tying a career high. He also tied a career high with three interceptions, two of which were egregious as the Packers dug a 28-0 hole in the first half of their 31-29 loss to the Minnesota Vikings. This week, Love should be able to go again barring any setbacks in practice. He came out of the game just fine, and thinks he should continue to progress on that front.

The passing game took a significant blow in Sunday's loss to the Vikings. Christian Watson was injured on one of Love's interceptions and did not return to the game. They got good news out of the game, with Watson saying he thought it was just a sprain according to Matt LaFleur.

Either way, it's tough to imagine Watson being able to play this weekend against the Rams.

That puts some of the onus on Dontayvion Wicks. Wicks, like Love, had some highs and lows during the team's loss to the Vikings.

He had three tough drops but also scored two touchdowns. One thing about Love, is he'll continue to target his receivers even if they are struggling that day.

The Packers' final numbers from Sunday look good.

They piled up 465 yards against the Vikings but struggled in the red zone early, and turning the ball over got them in trouble as well.

Overall, other than Watson, the team is healthy now, and should be able to find some holes against this Rams' defense.

One thing is certain, they'll want to get Josh Jacobs more than the nine carries that he got on Sunday.

That was largely in part due to the game script



Green Bay quarterback Jordan Love scrambles to get away from Minnesota's defense Sept. 29. In his big comeback game from a knee injury, Love threw for 389 yards and three touchdowns but his inconsistent play doomed the Packers in their loss to the Vikings. Green Bay has a better chance of defeating the Los Angeles Rams on Oct. 6.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

that had Green Bay down by two scores after they'd touched the ball once.

Despite Jacobs' reputation as a workhorse, he has been splitting snaps and carries with Emanuel Wilson the last two weeks.

Wilson has done some nice things, but Green Bay needs their top back to be one of their focal points.

Los Angeles' defense has one gaping hole in the middle of it at the moment. Anytime the Rams have played the Packers in LaFleur's tenure, they've had Aaron Donald.

Donald is one of the greatest defensive players to ever play in the NFL.

He's gone now after retiring in the offseason.

The Rams' defense has been good to start the year, with one major exception.

They came into Week 4 with the worst passing defense in football.

Perhaps they can be the medicine that cures the ills of Green Bay's inconsistent offense to start the season.

Packers Defense vs. Rams Offense

Green Bay's defense is certainly good at forcing turnovers early in the season. They got two more against Minnesota. Sam Darnold threw an interception to Xavier McKinney, his fourth in four games.

McKinney is the first Packer to accomplish that in team history. The other turnover came on a strip sack from Keisean Nixon, who hunted down Darnold like a heat-seeking missile.

The fumble was recovered by Edgerrin Cooper and helped get the Packers back into the game. One of the issues the Packers are having is that teams are able to move the ball with relative ease if they're not forcing turnovers.

Darnold looked comfortable in the pocket.

Aaron Jones was good enough in his return to Lambeau Field on Sunday.

The pass rush is where there are some alarms going off at the moment.

After an eight-sack performance against the Tennessee Titans, they were nearly blanked by the Vikings.

They did finish with two sacks in the game, but Darnold was comfortable more often than he was not.

Jeff Hafley has emphasized taking the ball away and making big plays on defense, and they have certainly done that early in the season.

They could have some opportunities against Matthew Stafford, who has been prone to the turnover through the course of his career.

That's going to require the Packers to be much better at rushing the passer than they were on Sunday against the Vikings.

The Rams' offensive

line is decimated by injuries at the moment, as is their receiving corps.

The biggest challenge for Green Bay with their front's ability to get after Stafford will likely come in the run game.

Kyren Williams is someone that Sean McVay has tried to lean on when the matchups are advantageous toward him.

The Packers failed their first two tests in run defense, after Saquon Barkley tore them apart for three touchdowns.

Jonathan Taylor ran for more than 100 yards on just 12 carries.

Aaron Jones had 93 yards on 22 carries. They did keep him out of the end zone, but four yards per carry allows the opposing offense to stay on schedule.

When you give up 31 points, everything needs to be better on defense, and the Packers have to get things on track this week against a Rams team that

will be missing a ton of players.

Two of those players are their top two receivers.

Cooper Kupp and Puka Nacua will not play Sunday either. Green Bay could be missing Jaire Alexander again, so perhaps that is a tradeoff they would take?

Whether Alexander plays or not, Nixon and Eric Stokes both need to be much better than they were on Sunday.

Other teams have them circled. They need to start making more plays in the passing game.

Special Teams

The Packers have not benefited from the new kickoff rules as of yet. Keisean Nixon has one chance at a return this season, and it was one that was ill-advised.

There's little reason to think that will change anytime soon. They didn't do anything on Sunday in the return game, and Nixon's job is mostly to take touchbacks at this point.

Green Bay's kicking situation remains a work in progress. Brayden Narveson missed two more kicks on Sunday. This evens out the one from Week 3, where he missed a 48-yarder, but it was wiped out by a seldom-called defensive holding penalty on a defensive tackle.

He is currently tied for the league's lead in missed kicks. He'd have the outright lead if not for the penalty wiping one of them away.

Narveson will continue to have some leash as the season progresses. Brian Gutekunst said he needed to be more patient with specialists. LaFleur insisted again after the game that his confidence was not shaken in him.

Punter Daniel Whelan has been excellent in the early part of the year as well.

The Rams have been run by Chase Blackburn, who is in his second season with the team.

Until Green Bay's kicking situation figures itself out, they're likely going to be at a disadvantage in these special teams matchups. They've given points away each of the first four weeks. That is something that cannot continue.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT LOS ANGELES RAMS

TIME AND DATE: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6
LOCATION: SoFi Stadium
TV: CBS
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, 2-2, Rams 1-3

HISTORY: The Rams and Packers have played 99 times in their history, with the Packers holding a slim lead of 50-47-2 against them. Sean McVay has never beaten Matt LaFleur, and the most recent meeting between the two teams came in 2023. Brett Rypien started for the Rams, and the Packers' defense was dominant in a 20-3 victory.
COACHES: Packers — Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 58-29). Rams — Sean McVay (eighth season 71-47).

PACKERS SCHEDULE
Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadelphia, L 29-34
Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis Noon W 16-10
Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee Noon W30-14
Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 29-31
Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. CBS
Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona Noon FOX
Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston Noon

CBS
Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville Noon FOX
Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit 3:25 p.m. FOX
Week 10 BYE
Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago Noon FOX
Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco 3:25 p.m. FOX
Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami 7:20 p.m. NBC
Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit 7:15 p.m. Amazon Prime

Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle 7:20 p.m. NBC
Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans 7:15 p.m. ESPN
Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota Noon FOX
Week 18 vs. Chicago TBD
NFL SCHEDULE
Thursday, Oct. 3
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 6
NY Jets at Minnesota (at London), 8:30 a.m.

Carolina at Chicago, Noon
Cleveland at Washington, Noon
Miami and New England, Noon
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, Noon
Buffalo at Houston, Noon
Baltimore at Cincinnati, Noon
Las Vegas at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
NY Giants at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at LA Rams, 3:25 p.m.
Dallas at Pittsburgh, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 7
New Orleans at Kansas City, 7:15 p.m.

Trio of 4th quarter TDs not enough in 31-29 loss to Vikings

Four turnovers doom Packers in divisional matchup

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

It was a tumultuous return to action for Jordan Love, as his four touchdown passes were overshadowed by three interceptions in Green Bay's 31-29 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 29.

Finding itself down 28-0, Green Bay outscored Minnesota 29-3 from the 15-second mark in the second quarter but was unable to recover a desperation onside kick attempt with 56 seconds left in the game and dropped the NFC North matchup.

"I am super proud of our guys' effort," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "That is one thing – these guys battled. It is interesting when you are down 28-0, like how you are going to respond, and I think you saw the character of our locker room today, in terms of just how our guys went out and competed."

In total, Love finished the game completing 32-of-54 passes for 389 yards, four touchdowns and three interceptions. Love's 389 passing yards and four touchdowns mark career highs, while the three interceptions tie a career high.

Wide receiver Jayden Reed was the main beneficiary of Love's big day through the air, as the Michigan State alum recorded 139 yards on seven



Flat in the first half, Green Bay's defense looked better toward the end of the game, but the deficit was too much for the Packers as they lost the divisional game to the Vikings.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

receptions and one touchdown. Dontayvion Wicks added 78 receiving yards and touchdowns, while tight end Tucker Kraft finished off the quartet of touchdowns.

"As the game went, it seemed to me that he looked more and more comfortable. We made more explosive plays, which is tough to do when a team is sitting back in two shell (coverage)," said LaFleur, on what he saw from Love in this game. "There are a lot of good lessons that come out of every game."

As for Minnesota, quarterback Sam Darnold completed 20-of-28 passes for 275 passing yards and three touchdowns. With Packers defensive back Jaire Alexander out of the game, Minnesota star receiver Justin Jefferson led the air attack with 85 yards and a touchdown on six receptions. Jordan Addison and Josh Oliver each also scored a touchdown.

In his return to Green Bay, Vikings running back Aaron Jones finished the game with 93 rushing yards on 22 carries and 46 receiving yards on four

receptions.

Minnesota jumped out to a blazing start, as it scored on its first three drives of the game, putting Green Bay into a big 21-0 hole. That 21-0 hole was exasperated by Green Bay missing two field goals and throwing an interception on its first three drives.

"I think that it comes down to that we just didn't make enough plays," said Love, on the Packers' slow start. "I had a turnover early, and we just didn't make plays. Just did not play well enough, person-

ally. Accuracy was a little bit off, a little bit shaky, and it was definitely making it hard on some of the guys, which led to us getting off of the field early and not being able to put up points. We got in a hole early with all of that."

Following the 21-point deficit, things only got worse for Green Bay, when Love threw his second interception of the game. Minnesota immediately capitalized on the interception, as Darnold connected with Jefferson for a 14-yard touchdown.

After Green Bay turned

the ball over on downs in its next possession, the teams traded punts. That is when Green Bay caught a spark of life.

Punting the ball away, Vikings returner Jalen Nailor lost the punt in the sun and muffed the punt. Green Bay recovered the ball on Buffalo's 4-yard line. Love connected with Romeo Doubs close to the end zone, but after a bobble was marked short. In an attempt to stop the clock to take another look at the play, the officials did not see LaFleur trying to call a timeout, so the Packers coach ran out onto the field screaming at the officials and was called for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, pushing Green Bay back to the 15-yard line. On the next play, Love connected with Reed to score Green Bay's first points of the afternoon.

After a scoreless third quarter, Wicks and Kraft converted a touchdown each, while Minnesota traded in a field goal. Wicks' second touchdown of the day came with 56 seconds left and cut the deficit to two, before Minnesota ended the game by recovering the onside kick.

"I am just happy that we just continued to play," said Packer linebacker Quay Walker. "Sometimes, our best is not going to lead to a victory, and sometimes you have to be OK with that."

LOVE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It is just one of those things where you take a hit and it is painful," said Love. "It was painful, I felt it and I got up and was able to move around on

it still, so nothing really there."

While it doesn't sound like a positive, hearing Love say that even though the hit was painful, he was

able to get up and walk around can be seen as a positive. Love, LaFleur and the rest of the coaching staff were able to immediately test Love's knee

to see how much he could handle.

As Love said in his post-game press conference, football is a physical sport and injuries happen

for everyone.

If someone can play, they are going to play, because every game matters for a team like Green Bay with Super Bowl

aspirations.

"It's football, you know, we play a physical sport and there is injuries and you have to fight through some stuff," said Love.

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My favorite Green Bay Packer memories

"I have been a Green Bay Packer fan all my life. I remember sitting on my Dad's lap at City Stadium (now East High) when I was 7 years old. When Lambeau field was built, my dad bought 6 season tickets and today our family still has those tickets. They have been passed down from generation to generation. My Grandson's are the 4th generation to sit in those seats."

Barb Nickel,
Meadowlands Tenant




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KEYS TO THE GAME

Brace yourself for game against Stafford

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are forced to lick their wounds following a loss to the Minnesota Vikings at Lambeau Field.

They trailed by as many as 28 points and looked like they were in a different weight class from the Vikings through three quarters.

Ultimately, they did put up a fight, before falling 31-29.

This week, they'll face the Los Angeles Rams, led by Green Bay's old nemesis, Matthew Stafford.

Stafford and the Rams have been competitive through four weeks of the season.

They beat the San Francisco 49ers two weeks ago, and took the Detroit Lions to the brink in the season opener.

They've also lost to the Chicago Bears, struggling to find much in the way of points against a stingy Chicago defense.

The Packers are at 2-2 and 0-2 against NFC opponents. It's hard to call a game a must-win this early in the season, but a third loss against an NFC opponent would make tiebreaker scenarios much trickier in what should be a loaded NFC playoff picture.

Here are our keys to the Packers ensuring they get to 3-2.

Jordan Love vs. Turnovers

One of Jordan Love's biggest developments last season was his ability to avoid the turnovers and bad decisions.

Love had not avoided either of those things in the two games he has started.

Sunday was his second three-interception game of his career.

He did throw four touchdown passes as well. He made some explosive plays against a defense that is one of the best in football.

Unfortunately, the offense resembled the group that stumbled all over itself in the first half of 2023 than the group that set the league on fire in the second half of the season.

A lot of their issues against the Vikings came because they turned the ball over too much.

Minnesota scored 14 points off of Love's first two interceptions in the first half, which helped lead to the 28-0 hole.

Matt LaFleur always says the quarterback's No. 1 job is to take care of the football.

Love needs to start taking care of the football next week.

Matthew Stafford vs. Green Bay's Front 7

Green Bay's pass rush

went MIA again on Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings.

Sam Darnold struggles when he is pressured, and they needed their highly-decorated front to find their way to pressure him without Jaire Alexander.

Instead, Green Bay was unable to get much pressure with their front four, which forced Hafley to send extra guys in pressure.

Any defensive coordinator will tell you they prefer to get pressure with just four guys, leaving more in coverage.

Stafford is one of the best quarterbacks of his generation, and that is especially true when he is kept clean.

The Rams are decimated by injuries on the offensive line and the receiving corps.

Stafford has done a good job of making chicken salad the last two weeks, but this is something the Packers need to be able to take advantage of.

That starts with Rashan Gary. Of all the disappointing players through the first four weeks of the season, Gary is likely near the top of the list.

He has one sack in four games. That one came against Lane Johnson, who clearly was not ready for the ball to be snapped.

Gary needs to turn his season around starting on Sunday.

Jeff Hafley vs. Sean McVay

Defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley had his first big test of the season on Sunday when he faced Kevin O'Connell with the Minnesota Vikings.

Of all the offensive minds the Packers have faced this season, O'Connell is the best one.

They failed their first test, falling behind 28-0 and giving up touchdowns on four of Minnesota's first five possessions.

Yes, Alexander did not play on Sunday. He may return this week.

Hafley failed in that regard, as did the players.

This week, Hafley has another test. Sean McVay is on the other sideline.

McVay is widely regarded as one of the best offensive minds in football. If Kyle Shanahan and Andy Reid are considered the two best offensive coaches in the NFL, a straw poll would likely earn McVay the honors as third on that list.

Hafley got caught in three separate blitzes last week, when the Vikings had a screen on. His players did not recognize the play quickly enough to make a play on the ball.

Hafley will need to be better this week than he was a week ago.



Jordan Love completed 32-of-54 passes for 389, four touchdowns and three interceptions in his comeback game against Minnesota on Sept. 29. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



Rookie kicker Brayden Narveson missed field goals of 37 and 49 yards in Green Bay's 31-29 loss to Minnesota on Sept. 29. Narveson is now 9-of-13 this season — a miserable 69.2%. Narveson has missed a kick in three of Green Bay's four games. And in the fourth game, Narveson missed a field goal, but Tennessee was offsides, and the play was nullified. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



Tight end Tucker Kraft caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love in Green Bay's Week 4 loss to Minnesota at Lambeau Field. Kraft pulled in six catches for 53 yards in the game.

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BEAT The Expert

Week 5 Games: Sunday, Oct. 6
Tampa Bay @ Atlanta - Thurs., Oct., 3
NY Jets @ Minnesota
Carolina @ Chicago
Dallas @ Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay 28 @ LA Rams 17

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin.....	2-1	13-7
Tim Murphy, NEW Media.....	3-2	13-7
Staff, Walsh Dental Group.....	4-1	13-7
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	3-2	12-8
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive.....	3-2	12-8
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Service.....	2-3	11-9
Dorothy Martin, The Cottages on Golden Pond.....	2-3	11-9
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media.....	3-2	11-9
Sue Sadowski, The Cottages at Meadowlands	3-2	10-10
Kevin Passon, NEW Media.....	1-4	8-12
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	2-3	7-13



This Week's Picks:
Tampa Bay
NY Jets
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ LA Rams 23

Week 4 Winner:
The Staff
Walsh Dental Group



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
Minnesota
Carolina
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ LA Rams 22



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
Minnesota
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ LA Rams 21



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
Minnesota
Chicago
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ LA Rams 14



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
NY Jets
Carolina
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green NBay 27 @ LA rams 17



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
NY Jets
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ LA Rams 17



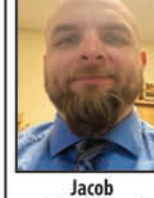
This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
NY Jets
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ LA Rams 20



This Week's Picks:
Tampa Bay
Minnesota
Carolina
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ LA Rams 17



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
NY Jets
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score : Green Bay 34 @ LA Rams 20



This Week's Picks:
Atlanta
Minnesota
Chicago
Dallas

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ LA Rams 20



This Week's Picks:
Tampa Bay
Minnesota
Chicago
Pittsburgh

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ LA Rams 24

Kraft emerging as a go to player in Green Bay

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay tight end Tucker Kraft was drafted by the Packers in the 2023 draft. Against the Vikings on Sept. 29, he caught six passes for 53 yards including a 13-yard touchdown catch.

What does a tight end in a red jersey do in practice?

I guess do your best not to get thudded up by your teammates. Usually if I'm about to hit one of my teammates, I'll tell them, like, 'Hey, I'm coming at you, just give me like 75%, let me work on my hands and feet.' That's great, too. If I'm in pass protection with one of the guys, you get engaged and then I'll say go, now just go.

For a guy who likes to block, is that hard to back off?

Well, yeah, I mean there's, I would say, more pros than cons about it, because come Sunday I can really just unload, but I feel like I'm someone who plays with good leverages and techniques, so I get that on the field in practice. I just don't get the collisions.

This have anything to do with the pec injury?

No, this is has nothing to do with my pec. This is just, like, they're just trying



Tight end Tucker Kraft is emerging as a go-to player in Green Bay. As a rookie last year, he appeared in all 17 games and made eight starts. He finished with 31 receptions for 355 yards and two touchdowns. In May, Kraft suffered a torn pectoral muscle, causing him to miss part of Green Bay's offseason training program.

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to take some hits off me.

You have pick up blitzers to keep Love from getting hit?

Yeah, that's just us being locked in to our responsibilities. They're going to give us so many different fronts, different defensive personnels, they have blitz tendencies, they have packages, and

the things we're trying to do is we're not trying to so much make it about personnel, but just spots and people.

Between the running back and I and wide receivers just all being on the same page of who's responsible for who and just running off the football to try to play fast.

Do you have to keep Jordan protected?

Of course, protect the quarterback at all costs, for sure.

What do you think about pass rushers lining up over the tight ends?

You've got all week to watch the film and know where you're going to put your tight end, so I wouldn't say that the defense was creating that matchup. I was saying that I would be in the offense's hands to create that matchup. Learning how to pass pro a pass rusher in the NFL is a hard thing to do as a rookie. I've seen the Texans film. I know what to expect from a physical pass rusher. What's important is staying inside out, getting hands on, maintaining a base, keep-

ing your hips behind you. I mean you have to really be locked into your technique when you're going against guys that are 15, 20 pounds heavier than you,

Favorite Aaron Jones memory?

I mean, he was just such a nice guy. It didn't matter if you just got in that week to be on the practice squad, he'd treat you the same as if you were an eight-year vet. One of my favorite memories is when we got into the fight with that defensive back after the Vikings game. Someone got a picture of it, and I framed it and I had him sign it. So that was a funny, cool memory.

Weird seeing him get into a fight?

We were breaking it up. He just took a glancing blow to the face. He caught a stray fist there, so we all had to step in and protect everybody, I guess.

You could've stayed on the sideline (against the Titans), but you went back in even though the game was in hand?

That wasn't even in a question in my head. I desire to be on the field.

No big picture view to play it safe and stay out?

Last night, I got on YouTube and I looked up Mark Bavaro, so that's just kind of the mindset I'm going with from now on. I'm going to be tough. I'm going to play through things; everybody does. God gave us all the ability to endure, so I'm just choosing free will right now. Checking that box.

You weren't even alive when Mark Bavaro played.

Yeah, had a lot of people tell me to look him up, especially coach Rich Bisaccia. He said you've got to give this guy a look.

I did, and I was amazed.

What did you learn?

Just being physical, being tough. YAC, that's really all that guy was worried out. He set a precedent in the run game, so just trying to channel my inner Bavaro.

Did you give Emanuel Wilson any hurdling tips?

I don't know, maybe not so far in the box still. Wait until you're one on one on that one. Naw, I don't know. That looked like it hurt, though. I've been there.

You were big part of win at Minnesota last year.

What happens when they're blitzing, when they're sending five, sending six, you leave holes in your defense. We took advantage of those. There was guys open. We had a pretty complete game. We were able to take our starters off the field in the fourth quarter. That was a New Year's Eve game, so it was great to be able to get some reps off our bodies. The key to that was finding the voids.

Communication with Love on that?

Yeah. The quarterback can change protection out there at any moment. I could not be involved and he sees seven guys walked up on the line of scrimmage and we're going to use our cadence, he's going to bring me down. It's all just about communication. I'm using my peripherals to see if Jordan, if he takes a look at me, look back at him. He could signal me something, he could directly tell me something.

Usually, we're only one position - we're No. 3 as far as field, boundary receiver sets, so we're still pretty close to the quarterback, we can hear what he's saying.

Like to watch the blocking or receiving part of your game more?

Getting around and picking on a DB, it's cool and all, but getting the opportunity to do something with your legs, like catching a short route and making the first guy miss, that's my mentality. I never want to be tackled by the first guy, let alone a DB. My mentality as soon as I catch the football is I'm just seeing probabilities of run lanes. That all really goes back to my nine-man high school running back days. I got a lot of reps with that in high school. I'd get 40 carries a game, got a lot of opportunities to run with the football. In college, same thing. I established the larger part of what I could do as a tight end was be physical. I'm still as a pro trying to define the space between where physicality and precision meet, and I feel like I'm getting there. I love catching the football. That's great, but I love breaking tackles.

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jaire Alexander	23	CB	5-10	196	27	7	Louisville
Zayne Anderson	39	S	6-2	206	27	2	BYU
Corey Ballentine	26	CB	5-11	196	28	6	Washburn
Chris Brooks	30	RB	6-1	219	24	R	BYU
Karl Brooks	94	DL	6-3	296	24	2	Bowling Green
Javon Bullard	20	S	5-10	198	22	R	Georgia
Kenny Clark	97	DL	6-3	314	28	9	UCLA
Edgerrin Cooper	56	LB	6-2	229	22	R	Texas A&M
Brenton Cox Jr.	57	DL	6-4	250	24	2	Florida
Andre Dillard	73	T	6-5	315	28	6	Washington State
Romeo Doubs	87	WR	6-2	204	24	3	Nevada
Kingsley Enagbare	55	DL	6-4	258	24	3	South Carolina
Rashan Gary	52	DL	6-5	277	26	6	Michigan
Travis Glover	79	T	6-6	317	24	R	Georgia State
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	24	2	Mississippi
Ty'Ron Hopper	59	LB	6-2	228	23	R	Missouri
Josh Jacobs	8	RB	5-10	223	26	6	Alabama
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	28	6	Mississippi State
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	23	2	South Dakota State
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	25	5	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	25	4	Boston College
Xavier McKinney	29	S	6-0	201	25	5	Alabama
Bo Melton	80	WR	5-11	189	25	1	Rutgers
Jacob Monk	62	C/G	6-3	308	23	R	Duke
Jordan Morgan	77	T/G	6-5	311	23	R	Arizona
Arron Mosby	53	DL	6-3	250	25	2	Fresno State
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	24	2	Oregon State
Josh Myers	71	C/G	6-5	310	26	4	Ohio State
Brayden Narveson	44	K	6-0	215	25	R	N.C. State
Keisean Nixon	25	CB	5-10	200	27	6	South Carolina
Kitan Oladapo	27	S	6-2	216	23	R	Oregon State
Matt Orzech	42	LS	6-3	245	29	5	Azusa Pacific
Jayden Reed	11	WR	5-11	187	24	2	Michigan State
Sean Rhyan	75	G	6-5	321	23	3	UCLA
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	24	2	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	26	4	Florida
Preston Smith	91	DL	6-5	265	31	10	Mississippi State
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-1	194	25	4	Georgia
Kadeem Telfort	76	T	6-7	322	25	1	UAB
Zach Tom	50	OL	6-4	304	25	3	Wake Forest
Carrington Valentine	24	CB	6-0	189	23	2	Kentucky
Lukas Van Ness	90	DL	6-5	272	23	2	Iowa
Quay Walker	7	LB	6-4	241	24	3	Georgia
Rasheed Walker	63	T	6-6	324	24	3	Penn State
Christian Watson	9	WR	6-4	208	25	3	North Dakota State
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	25	2	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	23	2	Virginia
Evan Williams	33	S	5-11	200	23	R	Oregon
Malik Willis	2	QB	6-1	225	25	3	Liberty
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-10	226	25	2	Fort Valley St. U
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	30	8	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	23	2	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	26	3	Georgia
Reserve/Designated to Return							
Jonathan Ford	99	DL	6-5	338	26	2	Miami
Reserve/Injured							
LJ Davis	40	CB	6-1	203	25	1	Northern Arizona
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	27	5	Georgia Tech
AJ Dillon	28	RB	6-0	247	26	5	Boston College
Ralen Goforth	44	LB	6-1	227	23	R	Washington
MarShawn Lloyd	32	RB	5-9	220	23	R	LSC

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Davis Allen	87	TE	6-6	251	23	2	Clemson
Tutu Atwell	5	WR	5-9	165	24	4	Louisville
Stetson Bennett	13	QB	5-11	190	26	1	Georgia
Bobby Brown III	95	NT	6-4	328	24	4	Texas A&M
Logan Bruss	60	OL	6-5	317	25	2	Wisconsin
Geron Christian	59	OL	6-5	302	28	7	Louisville
Blake Corum	22	RB	5-8	210	23	R	Michigan
Kamren Curl	3	S	6-2	205	25	5	Arkansas
Tyler Davis	90	DE	6-2	300	23	R	Clemson
Justin Dedich	67	OL	6-2	300	24	R	USC
Kevin Dotson	69	OL	6-4	330	28	5	La.-Lafayette
Cobie Durant	14	CB	5-11	182	26	3	S. C. State
Ethan Evans	42	P	6-3	250	23	2	Wingate
Braden Fiske	55	DE	6-4	291	24	R	Florida State
Neville Gallimore	92	NT	6-2	307	27	5	Oklahoma
Jimmy Garoppolo	11	QB	6-2	225	32	11	Eastern Illinois
Nick Hampton	31	OLB	6-3	250	24	2	Appalachian State
Rob Havenstein	79	OL	6-8	323	32	10	Wisconsin
Michael Hoecht	97	OLB	6-4	267	26	4	Brown
Jacob Hummel	35	ILB	6-1	229	25	3	Iowa State
Alaric Jackson	77	OL	6-7	345	26	4	Iowa
Brennan Jackson	44	OLB	6-4	263	23	R	Washington State
Deshaun Johnson	94	DE	6-3	280	25	2	Toledo
Tyler Johnson	18	WR	6-1	208	26	4	Minnesota
Joshua Karty	16	K	6-2	207	22	R	Stanford
Kamren Kinchens	26	S	5-11	207	22	R	Miami
Cooper Kupp	10	WR	6-2	207	31	8	Eastern Wash.
Quentin Lake	37	S	6-1	196	25	3	UCLA
Cam Lampkin	33	DB	5-11	176	23	R	Washington State
Beaux Limmer	50	OL	6-5	312	23	R	Arkansas
Hunter Long	84	TE	6-5	243	26	4	Boston College
Warren McClendon Jr.	71	OL	6-4	317	23	2	Georgia
Jaylen McCollough	39	S	6-0	202	23	R	Tennessee
Dylan McMahon	63	OL	6-3	298	23	R	N.C. State
Elias Neal	58	ILB	6-0	227	23	R	Marshall
Colby Parkinson	86	TE	6-7	265	25	5	Stanford
Troy Reeder	51	ILB	6-3	236	30	6	Delaware
Ronnie Rivers	20	RB	5-9	192	25	3	Fresno State
Demarcus Robinson	15	WR	6-1	202	30	9	Florida
Christian Rozeboom	56	ILB	6-2	237	27	4	S. Dakota State
Cody Schrader	32	RB	5-9	214	25	R	Missouri
Omar Speights	48	ILB	6-1	228	23	R	LSU
Matthew Stafford	9	QB	6-3	214	36	16	Georgia
Kobie Turner	91	DE	6-2	297	25	2	Wake Forest
Jared Verse	8	OLB	6-4	260	23	R	Florida State
Josh Wallace	30	CB	6-0	189	24	R	Michigan
Alex Ward	47	LS	6-4	241	25	2	UCF
Tre'Davious White	27	CB	5-9	196	29	8	LSU
Jordan Whittington	88	WR	6-1	202	24	R	Texas
Kyren Williams 23	RB	5-9	202	24	3		Notre Dame
Charles Woods 21	CB	5-11	185	24	R		SMU
Byron Young	0	OLB	6-2	258	26	2	Tennessee
Reserve/Injured							
Steve Avila	73	OL	6-3	338	24	2	TCU
Jonah Jackson	72	OL	6-4	315	27	5	Ohio State
John Johnson III	43	S	6-0	204	28	8	Boston College
Derion Kendrick	1	DB	6-0	199	24	3	Georgia
Conor McDermott	64	OL	6-8	305	31	8	UCLA
Puka Nacua	17	WR	6-2	212	23	2	BYU
Joe Noteboom	70	OL	6-5	300	29	7	TCU
Tre Tomlinson	6	DB	5-9	177	24	2	TCU
Darius Williams	24	CB	5-9	192	31	7	Ala.-Birmingham
Reserve/Injured; Designated for Return							
KT Leveston	66	OL	6-4	336	24	R	Kansas State
Larrell Murchison	52	DT	6-2	285	27	5	N.C. State

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Jackie Wehmeyer,
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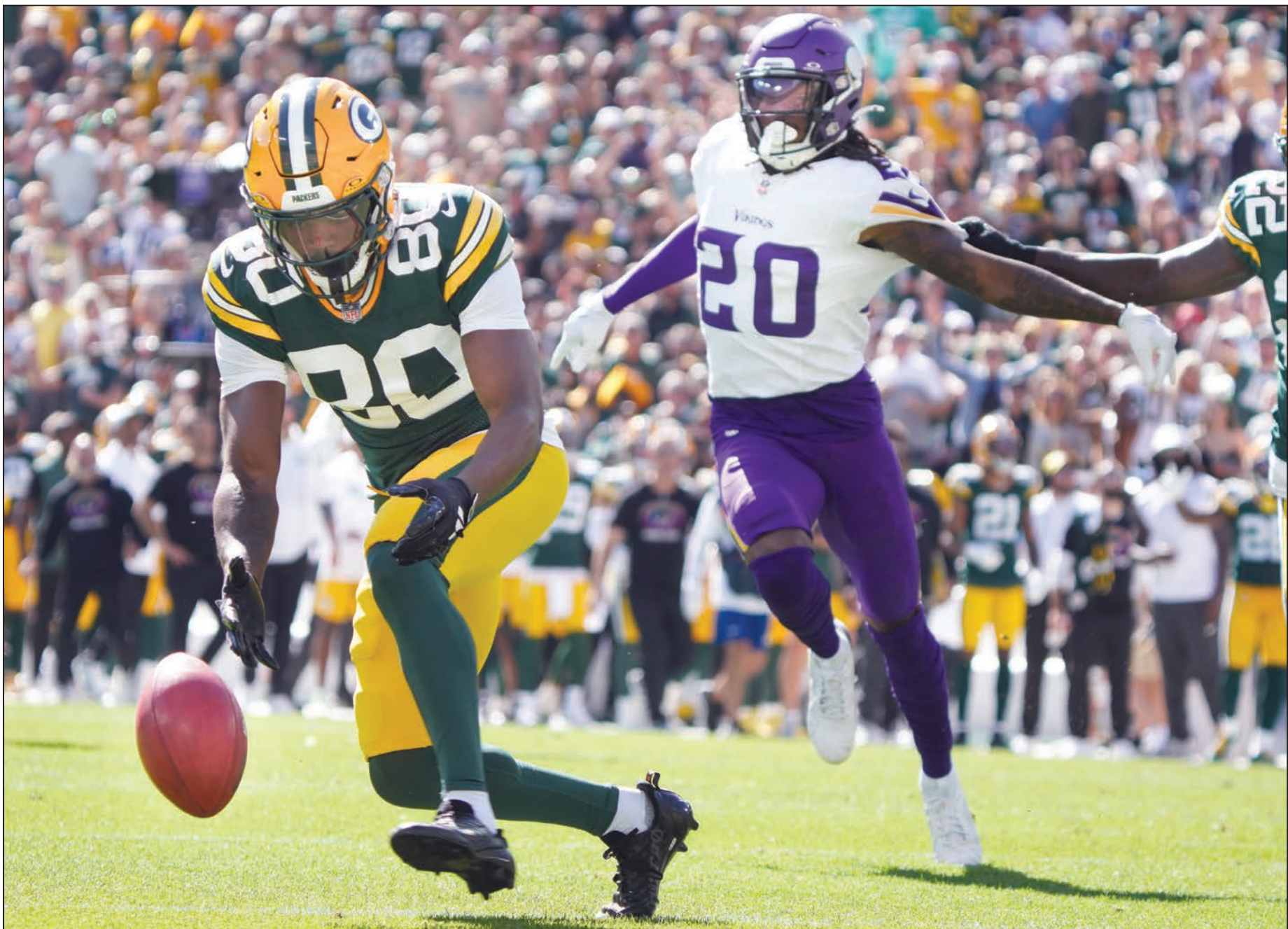
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WEEK 4
PACKERS 29, VIKINGS 31
THE MOMENT



Green Bay wide receiver Bo Melton recovers a muffed punt at the 3-yard line during the Week 4 game at Lambeau Field. Late in the second quarter, the muffed punt by Jalen Nailor — who was back there for a banged-up Brandon Powell — led to a Packers touchdown that gave them some life.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



Green Bay quarterback Jordan Love completed a 15-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Jayden Reed, who made a jump ball catch over the defender to get the Packers on the board. Reed finished the game with seven receptions for 139 yards and one touchdown. On the year, he now has 17 receptions for 336 yards and two touchdowns.

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**MELTON RECOVERS
PUNT, LEADS TO
TOUCHDOWN**

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