

Packers pull out a win despite more injuries

Gauntlet of NFC North awaits Green Bay over the next three weeks

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers got back on track this week as they overcame a few injuries to snap a two-game losing streak and defeat the New York Giants, 27-20, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Nov. 16.

The biggest of those injuries came early in the game, as Packers quarterback Jordan Love appeared to injure his shoulder when he was tackled on a scramble. This called for backup quarterback Malik Willis to step in and throw for Green Bay's first passing touchdown in the past nine quarters.

Willis was not relied on too long, though, as Love quickly made his return to the game on the very next drive.

"You know, it was tough. I went in and got evaluated and figured it was good enough to come back, so I came back in," said Love, about his shoulder. "It was definitely not fun. It was just a small injury, so we will reevaluate it when we get back, look at it, see what's going on, but it's not fun."

The second of the notable injuries for Green Bay in this game came by way of running back Josh Jacobs, who was forced out of the game after injuring his knee in the second quarter. While it is concerning that Jacobs did not return to the game, reports are that the injury is not significant enough to put Jacobs out for the rest of the season.

"I think any time a player, especially of his magnitude, doesn't finish a game, you are always concerned about the welfare of them," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur.

This win over the Gi-



Green Bay Packers' Micah Parsons knocks the ball from New York Giants' Jameis Winston on the final play of the game Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

ants saw the Packers score more points than during the team's previous two games combined. Love finished the game completing 13-of-24 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns. In his lone drive in place of Love, Willis completed 2-of-2 passes for six yards and one touchdown.

"Just a big time job by (Willis)," said Love. "It is always tough being the backup. You know, you have to stay ready; you never know when that opportunity is going to come, and so it is tough. I have been there. But he did a great job staying ready,

coming in and leading us to a touchdown drive. Doing exactly what he needed to do."

Willis' touchdown pass was completed to Christian Watson, who put together his biggest game of the season. Watson recorded four receptions for 46 yards and two touchdowns. Romeo Doubs was the only other Packer who caught more than one pass, as he finished the game with 53 yards on four receptions.

In the running game, Jacobs finished with 40 yards on seven carries. Emanuel Wilson added

another 40 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries, while the Packers finished the game with 128 total rushing yards.

For the Giants, quarterback Jameis Winston completed 19-of-29 passes for 201 yards, no touchdowns and one interception.

That interception came late in the fourth quarter as the Giants were marching down the field looking for a touchdown to tie or win the game. Winston dropped back and threw a pass to the corner of the end zone. Winston's receiver appeared to cut the route short, and Pack-

ers safety Evan Williams came away with an easy interception.

With wide receiver Darius Slayton out of this game for New York, Isaiah Hodgins led the Giants in receiving, catching five passes for 57 yards. Running back Tyrone Tracy added another 51 yards on four receptions, while tight end Theo Johnson recorded 36 yards on three receptions.

In the run game, Tracy paved the way for the Giants, totaling 88 yards on 19 carries. Devin Singletary added another 44 yards on 16 carries.

The Giants came out and scored on their first drive, the first time the Packers have given up a first-drive touchdown this year. Green Bay receivers recorded a number of drops, and kicker Lucas Havrisik missed two extra points, but Green Bay was still able to get back into the win column before its gauntlet of NFC North opponents over the next three weeks.

Sitting at 6-3-1, Green Bay currently sits at the six seed in the NFC playoff picture, with a matchup coming next week against the Minnesota Vikings.



Green Bay Packers' Jordan Love runs during the first half against the New York Giants Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey. AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

Green Bay offense needs to show its power

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay has a lot to clean up on offense, defense and special teams if they intent to make a deep playoff push this season.

All three facets of the game have had their positive moments this season, but all three have also floundered as well.

How will they perform against NFC North foe Minnesota on Sunday?

Packers' offense vs. Vikings' defense

Green Bay's offense has one big question mark surrounding it coming into Sunday's game.

Is Josh Jacobs going to play?

Jacobs left Sunday's game with a knee injury and did not return.

Emanuel Wilson stepped up in his absence and scored a touchdown in the second half.

Sunday's game, however was largely on the

shoulders of Jordan Love and the passing game.

Green Bay's receivers struggled. They had seven dropped passes Sunday, but they made just enough plays to win.

The biggest plays of the game were made by rookie third-round pick Savion Williams and Christian Watson.

Williams' 33-yard reception was a big third-down conversion on what became the game-winning touchdown drive.

The game-winner came courtesy of Watson, who had two touchdowns in Sunday's win over the Giants.

The biggest concern in this game for Green Bay is going to be whether they're able to protect Love.

Love was sacked twice against the Giants' vicious pass rush Sunday, and Brian Flores employs as complex a blitz package as

VIKINGS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

VIKINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

any defensive coordinator in football.

The offensive line has struggled but now has a game under its belt with new center Sean Rhyhan playing in the middle of the offensive line.

The tight end position is a bit of a dead zone without Tucker Kraft. Luke Musgrave was essentially benched after playing poorly in the first half. Both of his touches turned into a fumble or an incompleteness.

Defensively, Minnesota frustrated Chicago's Caleb Williams and held the Bears' offense to 19 points.

Williams completed 50% of his passes and was sacked twice in Chicago's 19-17 win over the Vikings.

This group is led by its pass rush, which has 26 sacks on the season.

Old friend Eric Wilson has 3.5 sacks on the year.

The Vikings have seven guys on their team with more than one sack, and 13 guys with at least half of a sack.

In the secondary, they have some cornerbacks who are gettable.

Byron Murphy is not having as strong of a year in his second season with the Vikings after a career year a season ago. Jeff Okudah is a former draft bust from Detroit who has been playing significant snaps for them as well.

Their leading playmaker is safety Josh Metellus.

One of the best plays of his career came against Green Bay during the 2023 season where he stole the ball from Jayden Reed resulting in an interception.

Metellus leads the team this year in interceptions with two.

The Vikings only have three interceptions on the year with Isaiah Rodgers having the other.

For a defense as aggressive as Flores' unit typically is, they do not have a lot of takeaways, with three interceptions and six fumble recoveries.

Green Bay's offense needs to take care of the football and protect its starting quarterback.

Packers' defense vs. Vikings offense

Evan Williams made the play of the game in Sunday's 27-20 win over the New York Giants.



Green Bay Packers safety Evan Williams (33) reacts after a play against the New York Giants on Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

AP PHOTO/ADAM HUNGER

After a multitude of missed opportunities, Jameis Winston gave the Packers one final shot at taking the ball away.

Williams finally obliged Winston, intercepting a pass with less than 40 seconds left to seal a victory.

Williams caught one while his teammates dropped others.

Javon Bullard and Keisean Nixon each dropped one. Carrington Valentine missed an opportunity for two.

As it stands, the Packers have just four interceptions on the season - two from Williams and two from Xavier McKinney.

That's it. Green Bay's defensive backs need to make more plays on the ball if they're

going to realize their potential.

Last week was a tough week in the secondary, specifically for Nixon who was victimized in coverage by Isaiah Hodgins.

This week, they face a much stiffer test. Minnesota's skill players are Jordan Addison and arguably the best receiver in football, Justin Jefferson.

Jefferson is having a slower season by his standards but is capable of taking off at a moment's notice.

Minnesota's run game takes a committee approach. Aaron Jones, who continues to age gracefully, has bounced back from an injury to continue to play well.

He's flanked by Jordan Mason, who is a hard

running sledgehammer as Jones' backup.

They both average more than four yards per carry on the year.

Green Bay's pass rush was supposed to be its super power but has recently turned into Micah Parsons and the funky bunch.

Perhaps they could get a boost this week with the return of third-year defensive end Lukas Van Ness, but someone other than Parsons needs to start making plays on the quarterback.

J.J. McCarthy is Minnesota's quarterback, and he's been sacked 15 times in his four starts.

He's indecisive at times and has a propensity to hold onto the football.

That could give Green

Bay's pass rush some opportunities to get home.

Special Teams

Stop me if you've heard this before, but Green Bay's kicking situation is in flux.

Brandon McManus was sidelined last week with a leg injury that popped up on the Saturday before the game in New York.

Lucas Havrisik came off the bench and was into the starting lineup after being sidelined for the last month.

His perfect run ended on his first kick of the day, where he badly missed an extra point.

He would miss another, although the second miss was at least in part due to a shoddy field goal operation.

The special teams were

saved largely on the back of Daniel Whelan, who has been an excellent punter this season for the Packers. That included a 61-yard bomb that flipped the field against the Giants.

Minnesota's special teams is coming off a bad finish. Not only were they beaten on a game-winning field goal. Chicago's game-winning drive was largely completed by a long kickoff return given up to Devin Duvernay.

Will Reichard has only missed two field goals this season, and has yet to miss an extra point.

After a rough showing against Chicago, this group will be motivated against Green Bay, who struggled in the third phase of the game a week ago.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

TIME AND DATE: Noon, Sunday, Nov. 23

LOCATION: Lambeau Field

TV: FOX

RADIO: Flagship WRIT-FM Milwaukee — 95.7; 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

2025 RECORDS: Packers, 6-3-1. Vikings, 4-6.

HISTORY: The Vikings and

Packers have a rivalry that dates all the way back to 1961. The Packers lead the all-time series 66-60-3.

Matt LaFleur has struggled with the Vikings.

He is 2-4 against Kevin O'Connell after getting swept last year.

COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur, seventh season, 72-36-1. Vikings, Kevin O'Connell, fourth season, 38-22.

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 7, vs. Detroit

Lions, W 27-13

Thursday, Sept. 11, vs. Washington Commanders, W 27-18

Sunday, Sept. 21, at Cleveland Browns, L 10-13

Sunday, Sept. 28, at Dallas Cowboys, T 40-40

Bye Week

Sunday, Oct. 12, vs. Cincinnati Bengals, W 28-17

Sunday, Oct. 19, at Arizona Cardinals, W 27-23

Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pittsburgh Steelers, W 35-25

Sunday, Nov. 2, vs. Caro-

lina Panthers, L 13-16

Monday, Nov. 10, vs. Philadelphia Eagles, L 7-10

Sunday, Nov. 16, at New York Giants, W 27-20

Sunday, Nov. 23, vs. Minnesota Vikings, noon

Thursday, Nov. 27, at Detroit Lions, noon

Sunday, Dec. 7, vs. Chicago Bears, noon

Sunday, Dec. 14, at Denver Broncos, 3:25 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20, at Chicago Bears, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 27, vs.

Baltimore Ravens, TBA

Sunday, Jan. 4, at Minnesota Vikings, TBA

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Nov. 20

Buffalo at Houston, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 23

Indianapolis at Kansas City, noon

Seattle at Tennessee, noon

NY Jets at Baltimore, noon

NY Giants at Detroit, noon

Pittsburgh at Chicago, noon

New England at Cincin-

nati, noon

Cleveland at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.

Jacksonville at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at Dallas, 3:25 p.m.

Atlanta at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay at LA Rams, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 24

Carolina at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Bye Teams: Denver, LA Chargers, Miami, Washington

Packers need to reverse recent history against Vikings



BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers will host the Minnesota Vikings at noon Sunday in the first of three consecutive NFC North contests.

More on that in our weekly six pack.

1. Division Dominance

The Packers used to be automatic at home in the division. That was especially true when Aaron Rodgers was the quarterback.

Since Jordan Love took over, however, that has not been the case.

Coming into the year, the Packers are 1-5 at home against divisional opponents.

This year, they scored a big win over the Detroit Lions on opening weekend.

The Packers have never won at home against Minnesota since Love took over.

The Packers were not particularly close in either contest. The final score was 31-29 in last year's loss at home, but the team trailed 28-0 before they started doing anything of substance on offense.

Love's first start against Minnesota was an ugly 24-10 loss.

They'll need to reverse that trend on Sunday.

2. Kevin O'Connell

Much like the Packers reversal of fortune in division play, that has been the case against opposing coaches as well.

Kevin O'Connell is 4-2 against Matt LaFleur in the three years since he took over as Minnesota's head coach in 2022.

Of his four wins against LaFleur, three have been by multiple scores.

LaFleur needs to flip that script starting this Sunday.

3. New QB

O'Connell has only been in Minnesota for three full seasons, with this year being his fourth.

J.J. McCarthy will be the fourth starting quarterback O'Connell has had against the Packers.

McCarthy has struggled this season and is coming off an ugly performance against Chicago. He did throw a go-ahead touchdown with 50 seconds left in the game, but apart from that, he has really struggled.

Minnesota could be evaluating its quarterback position further at season's end.

4. Identity Shift?

Josh



Green Bay Packers head coach Matt LaFleur watches a play unfold. LaFleur and the Packers will face all three division opponents over the next three weeks, games that could impact the playoff picture for the NFC North.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Jacobs left last week's win over the New York Giants with a knee injury that could keep him out of Sunday's game against Minnesota.

If that is the case, the Packers may have to shift some of their priorities on offense. Their identity has surrounded Jacobs and being physical in the run game.

Now, with Jacobs potentially sidelined, the next man up is Emanuel Wilson.

Wilson has been admirable in spot duty this year, but he has never been asked to be the primary ball carrier.

Could that lead to LaFleur leaning further into his passing game led by his franchise quarterback?

5. He's Back

Christian Watson has been a big-play machine whenever he has been healthy.

The further removed he gets from last season's ACL injury, the better he seems to look.

Watson had one drop on a potential big play in Sunday's win over the Giants but otherwise was excellent.

He displayed strong hands on a touchdown pass from Malik Willis for Green Bay's first score of the game.

That was his first catch.

His last one was a game-winning 17-yard touchdown where he skied over a Giants defensive back. Watson is the team's biggest big-play threat, and they need to continue to keep him involved.

6. Big Plays Coming?

The Packers finally caught an interception to end last week's game against the Giants with Evan Williams taking the ball away and saving Green Bay's bacon at the end of the game.

That was the fifth ball that touched a Green Bay defensive back's hands on the day.

Jameis Winston is known for putting the ball in harm's way, and after

spending the day begging for a Packers' defensive back to intercept a pass, Williams finally obliged.

McCarthy is similar in putting the ball in dangerous spots. He has six interceptions in four starts this season. He's turned the ball over in every game he has started.

The Packers' defense needs to start taking the ball away more. Perhaps a follow-up from Winston against McCarthy will be just what the doctor ordered.

0	Matthew Golden.....	WR
1	Micah Parsons.....	DL
2	Malik Willis.....	QB
7	Quay Walker.....	LB
8	Josh Jacobs.....	RB
9	Christian Watson.....	WR
10	Jordan Love.....	QB
13	Dontayvion Wicks.....	WR
16	Bo Melton.....	CB
17	Brandon McManus.....	K
18	Malik Heath.....	WR
19	Daniel Whelan.....	P
20	Javon Bullard.....	S
21	Nate Hobbs.....	CB
23	Emanuel Wilson.....	RB
24	Carrington Valentine.....	CB
25	Keisean Nixon.....	CB
27	Kitan Oladapo.....	S
29	Xavier McKinney.....	S
30	Chris Brooks.....	RB
33	Evan Williams.....	S
35	Lucas Havrisik.....	K
36	Kamal Hadden.....	CB
39	Zayne Anderson.....	S
42	Matt Orzech.....	LS
50	Zach Tom.....	OL
52	Rashan Gary.....	DL
53	Aaron Mosby.....	DL
55	Kingsley Enagbare.....	DL
54	Kristian Welch.....	LB
55	Kingsley Enagbare.....	DL
56	Edgerrin Cooper.....	LB
58	Isaiah McDuffie.....	LB
59	Ty'Ron Hopper.....	LB
62	Jacob Monk.....	C/G
63	Rasheed Walker.....	T
65	Aaron Banks.....	G
67	Donovan Jennings.....	G/T
70	Darian Kennard.....	T/G
71	Anthony Belton.....	T
75	Sean Rhyan.....	G
77	Jordan Morgan.....	T/G
81	Josh Whyle.....	TE
83	Savion Williams.....	WR
86	John FitzPatrick.....	TE
87	Romeo Doubs.....	WR
88	Luke Musgrave.....	TE
90	Lukas Van Ness.....	DL
91	Warren Brinson.....	DL
93	Nazir Stackhosue.....	DL
94	Karl Brooks.....	DL
95	Devonte Wyatt.....	DL
96	Colby Wooden.....	DL
99	Barryn Sorrell.....	DL
0	Ivan Pace Jr.....	LB
1	Jalen Nailor.....	WR
2	Isaiah Rodgers.....	CB
3	Jordan Addison.....	WR
4	Myles Price.....	WR
6	Dwight McGlothern.....	CB
7	Byron Murphy Jr.....	CB
9	J.J. McCarthy.....	QB
12	Max Brosmer.....	QB
13	Tai Felton.....	WR
15	Dallas Turner.....	OLB
16	Will Reichard.....	K
17	Ryan Wright.....	P
18	Justin Jefferson.....	WR
19	Adam Thielen.....	WR
22	Harrison Smith.....	S
23	Fabian Moreau.....	CB
24	Jay Ward.....	S
26	Theo Jackson.....	S
27	Jordan Mason.....	RB
30	C.J. Ham.....	FB
33	Aaron Jones Sr.....	RB
36	Zavier Scott.....	RB
37	Tavierre Thomas.....	S
42	Andrew DePaola.....	LS
43	Andrew Van Ginkel.....	OLB
44	Joshua Metellus.....	S
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez.....	DL
51	Blake Cashman.....	LB
55	Eric Wilson.....	LB
56	Austin Keys.....	LB
57	Chaz Chambliss.....	OLB
58	Jonathan Greenard.....	OLB
60	Joe Huber.....	G
61	Jalen Redmond.....	DL
64	Blake Brandel.....	G
65	Michael Jurgens.....	G
67	Justin Skule.....	T
71	Christian Darrisaw.....	T
73	Walter Rouse.....	T
74	Donovan Jackson.....	OL
75	Brian O'Neill.....	T
76	Will Fries.....	G
84	Josh Oliver.....	TE
85	Ben Yurosek.....	TE
87	T.J. Hockenson.....	TE
89	Ben Sims.....	TE
90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins.....	DL
93	Jonathan Allen.....	DL
96	Tyler Batty.....	OLB
97	Javon Hargrave.....	DL
98	Bo Richter.....	OLB
99	Elijah Williams.....	DL

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GAME DAY PREDICTIONS

Score Prediction
Packers 20 vs Vikings 10

Who's the biggest rival?

"The Packers biggest rival is the Detroit Lions."

Gary,
Meadowlands Resident

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MOMENTS

GREEN BAY PACKERS 27, NEW YORK GIANTS 20



Green Bay Packers' Christian Watson catches a touchdown pass with New York Giants' Deonte Banks defending during the first half Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

AP PHOTO/ADAM HUNGER

WATSON HANGS ON FOR TD

WIDE RECEIVER RETURNS FROM ACL INJURY WITH MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OFFENSE

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