

Packers hoping to get back into win column

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

When the Cincinnati Bengals visit Green Bay for a Week 6 matchup against the Packers, Green Bay should see this as a major opportunity to get back into the win column.

Packers' offense vs. Bengals' defense

Green Bay's offense had been a mixed bag through three games to start the year.

They were mostly good against Detroit and Washington before turning in a bad performance against Cleveland.

There was nothing bad about the Sept. 28 performance against the Dallas Cowboys.

The Packers rang up 40 points and likely could have named their score had they been more aggressive.

The passing game found its footing and had its best game of the season.

Jordan Love completed 31 of his 43 passes, throwing for more than 300 yards and three touchdown passes. His passer rating was well over 100 for the third time this season, and the Packers' offense looked like a well-oiled machine in the passing game.

On the receiving end of his passes, Matthew Golden made his first explosive play of the season, catching a 46-yard bomb on the team's first touchdown drive.

Romeo Doubs remains a red zone weapon and looks to be Love's go-to guy when pressure rises.

Doubs caught two touchdowns on run-pass options and a third to give the Packers a lead late in the fourth quarter in Dallas.

Perhaps more encouraging was the run game starting to find some holes as well.

Josh Jacobs is still averaging just above three



The Packers 27-13 victory over the Lions softened the 2024 NFC North Division struggles. Bo Melton (out of uniform) sustained a shoulder injury in the second half but was enjoying the moment while Coach Matt LaFleur and staff stayed focused on closing out the game. Melton, 26, was making his first official appearance as a cornerback with Green Bay but failed to record any stats before his departure.

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yards per carry but finally had some holes to run through against Dallas, especially as the game progressed.

Jacobs and Emanuel Wilson both found their way into Dallas' secondary, with Jacobs scoring twice.

The offensive line situation is still a little murky, as they're missing two preferred starters, plus a top reserve in Anthony Belton.

It remains to be seen if the Packers will get any of those guys back for Sunday's game against Cincinnati, but they could use

all of the continuity they could try to find.

Cincinnati's defense has some talented players, but it really struggled last year.

Their pass rush group, however, does have some potential to cause problems in Green Bay.

Trey Hendrickson was a player the Packers reportedly inquired about trading for this offseason, according to Ian Rapoport.

He was at a contract impasse with the Bengals all offseason before ultimately reaching an agreement to keep him in Cincinnati.

The other side could be Cincinnati's first-round pick, Shemar Stewart. Stewart had a contract impasse of his own and has been struggling through an ankle injury but is not short on talent.

With the way the Packers have been protecting, this is a situation to monitor.

Packers' defense vs. Bengals' offense

Green Bay's defense suffered its first hiccup of the season against Dallas.

They started off hot, forcing a punt on each of

Dallas' first two possessions, but the Cowboys took off from there.

Dak Prescott lit the defense on fire to the tune of 40 points and more than 300 yards passing.

Carrington Valentine and Nate Hobbs in particular really struggled, both allowing a passer rating of more than 130 when they were targeted.

The pass rush was mostly a one-man band as well.

Micah Parsons had 10 pressures and the team's lone sack of Prescott on

the night.

Rashan Gary and Lukas Van Ness were notably silent. They were unable to get home when they brought extra pressure.

Despite that fact, the Packers' defense is still a group you should have confidence in. One bad game does not erase three good ones, and this week's game is a good chance for them to get back on track against an offense missing some of its best players, notably the quarterback.

HOPE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Week 4 in Dallas ended with a tie. While the defense shined in the first three games, the Cowboys scored 40 points adding more questions as the season resumes in Week 6.

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KEYS TO THE GAME

Green Bay needs offensive momentum to continue

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are probably kicking themselves after falling into a tie against the Dallas Cowboys before their bye week.

Out of the bye, the Packers will return to Lambeau Field having not won a game in more than a calendar month.

The Bengals as a team are struggling right now as they've lost their franchise quarterback, Joe Burrow, for the remainder of the season due to a foot injury.

Green Bay's defense should have a good opportunity to get back on track after giving up 40 points in their most recent showing, while the offense has a chance to take another step forward.

Ultimately, Green Bay

needs to start winning again, and here are the keys to getting their third win of the year.

1. Find Ja'Marr

The cornerback room in Green Bay was a point of contention throughout the offseason, but the concerns had not come to a head during the team's first three games.

The defensive backs played well as the Packers did not allow a touchdown

through the first three quarters of their first three games.

Last week, that changed. Carrington Valentine and Nate Hobbs really struggled against George Pickens and Dallas' powerful passing offense.

This week, they have another challenge.

Jake Browning may not be as good as Dak Prescott,

KEYS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HOPE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One injury concern to watch is defensive tackle Devonte Wyatt, whom head coach Matt LaFleur described as week-to-week after he left the game against the Cowboys with a knee injury.

If he does not play, Warren Brinson could make his debut, and the Packers are really struggling to find a rotation at defensive tackle.

Nazir Stackhouse played extended snaps but was not impactful. Karl Brooks and Colby Wooden were noticeably gassed by the end of the game as well.

They need someone to step up and take some of those extra snaps in the middle of the defense so the guys who have been playing are not overworked.

The Bengals' offense took a devastating hit early in the season when

it was announced that Joe Burrow was going to miss three months with a toe injury that required surgery.

As a consequence of that, Burrow will miss this game against Green Bay, but the Bengals are not short on weapons.

Ja'Marr Chase has struggled with Jake Browning at quarterback and had one of the least productive games of his career when the Bengals lost 28-3 against the Broncos on Monday Night Football in Week 4.

He's still one of the top receivers in football that has to be accounted for.

He's flanked by Tee Higgins, who helps the Bengals boast arguably the best wide receiver tandem in football.

What the Bengals boast in skill positions, they lack up front.

As the Bengals built their offense around

Burrow, a pressure point has been whether they'd be able to protect their quarterback.

They were not able to during his brief stint this year and lost him for the rest of the year.

Green Bay's pass rush should look to have a bounce-back game here.

Special Teams

Green Bay's special teams is going through it.

LaFleur said in his last media availability before the bye week that his team needed to clean up some of the catastrophic mistakes, and that if they did that, they'd be in a good spot.

They made some changes in personnel during the team's 40-40 tie against the Dallas Cowboys and might have a few more coming out of the bye week.

They need something to change, because the special teams has played a key



While Jordan Love has had strong statistics in the first four games, his critical errors at crucial moments have contributed to a loss and tie in past two games. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

role in the last two games going the way they have.

Most recently, it was a blocked extra point that the Cowboys returned to put up their first points of the night.

That easily could have

been waved off as no big deal, because the score was 13-2, but as the Packers have learned, teams will take advantage of the mistakes they make.

The mistakes were not just in the kicking game;

the return game is a mess. Savion Williams has struggled on when to field the ball in the air on kickoffs.

Golden has been an adventure while trying to return punts.

The Packers had two open roster spots going into the bye week but have shown little interest in adding a return specialist either to the active roster or the practice squad.

They have who they have, and right now that is not good enough.

Cincinnati's kicker is Evan McPherson, and he has a big leg. The Packers have seen him before, as both he and Mason Crosby traded missed kicks in what ended in a Packers' victory in 2021.

Green Bay's special teams needs to figure things out before the schedule turns to the stretch run.

KEYS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but his group of receivers is better than what Dallas had going into their matchup.

Ja'Marr Chase is the best receiver in football or on the short list with Minnesota's Justin Jefferson.

He has been quiet since Browning took over at quarterback, notably with a ho-hum performance in the team's 28-3 loss to the Denver Broncos.

Usually, a game like that leads to a bit of an overcorrection from the coach and the quarterback.

Expect Chase to be involved early and often.

2. Back On Track

Green Bay's pass rush had been lethal through the first three games of the season but was more of a one-man band against the Dallas Cowboys.

Micah Parsons had 10 pressures by himself and the only sack of the night.

Rashan Gary and Lukas Van Ness were quiet, while Devonte Wyatt left the game with a knee injury.

Cincinnati's offensive line has been leaky throughout Burrow's tenure in Green Bay, and the Packers should match up well here.

One thing is certain: They should be motivated coming off a poor showing.

With some of the extra

resources that may need to be allocated to Cincinnati's receivers, it's imperative the Packers figure out a way to get home with just their front four, which is something they did really well through the first three games of the year.

3. Keep the Momentum

Green Bay may not have won the game against Dallas but perhaps took some steps toward figuring out how they'll need to win as the season progresses.

Fair or not, this league is about quarterback play, and Green Bay's quarterback was excellent in the tie against Dallas.

Love's passer rating was more than 100, the third such game he's had out of the team's first four of the season.

He found Matthew Golden on a deep ball early in the game and a fourth down in overtime as well.

Romeo Doubs was a weapon in the red zone.

Ultimately, this Packers team is going to go as far as Love and the passing game are able to carry it.

Yes, they need more from their run game, and Josh Jacobs looked like he found some of his 2024 form in the team's last game.



The return game and special teams have struggled. Romeo Doubs entered the fourth quarter as a punt returner during the game against Dallas. Doubs managed to shake off the first defender but gained five yards on his only punt return of the season. Rookies Mathew Golden and Savion Williams have not yet emerged as solutions in the crucial return game. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

CINCINNATI BENGALS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

TIME AND DATE: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12

LOCATION: Lambeau Field 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

2025 RECORDS: Packers, 2-1-1. Bengals, 2-3.

HISTORY: These two teams have met 14 times in their history, with the series being dead even at seven wins apiece.

The last time these two

teams met, a wild game broke out where the Packers and Bengals kept trading missed field goals, until Mason Crosby ultimately kicked a game-winner in overtime.

The last game at Lambeau Field was not a bad one either. The Packers trailed 24-7 in the second half before Aaron Rodgers led a comeback that culminated with a touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson to send the game to overtime.

From there, the Packers' defense got a stop setting up Rodgers finding Geronimo Allison for a big play to put them in field goal range.

Mason Crosby would make another game-winner from there to give the Packers a 27-24 victory.

COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur, seventh season, 69-34-1. Bengals, Zac Taylor, seventh season, 48-55-1.

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. Cin-

cinnati Bengals, 3:25 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 19, at Arizona Cardinals, 3:25 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pittsburgh Steelers, 7:20 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 2, vs. Carolina Panthers, noon
Monday, Nov. 10, vs. Philadelphia Eagles, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 16, at New York Giants, noon
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, Oct. 9
Philadelphia at NY Giants, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 12
Denver at NY Jets, in London, 8:30 a.m.
Seattle at Jacksonville, noon
LA Chargers at Miami, noon
LA Rams at Baltimore, noon
Arizona at Indianapolis, noon

Dallas at Carolina, noon
New England at New Orleans, noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, noon
Tennessee at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Detroit at Kansas City, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 13
Buffalo at Atlanta, 6:15 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7:15 p.m.
Bye Teams: Houston, Minnesota

Packers welcome early bye this season

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are returning home for the first time since early September, and they'll take on the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday.

The Packers have not won a game since that 28-19 victory over the Washington Commanders, having lost and tied their first two road games of the season.

The Bengals season is in flux right now, as quarterback Joe Burrow has been lost for the season with a foot injury.

Jake Browning has struggled in his absence, and a game that was supposed to be a potential Super Bowl preview now looks like there is only one team left that could be a contender.

That's Green Bay, but they need to get back to their winning ways.

More on that in this week's six pack.

1. Wild Ones

These two teams have met three times since 2013, and all of those games have been wild for one reason or another.

The first game of note was in 2013, which came in Cincinnati.

The Packers stormed out to a 30-14 lead but would subsequently blow that lead against Andy Dalton and the Bengals, highlighted by a key fumble from rookie running back Jonathan Franklin.

Four years ago, the two teams met again in Cincinnati. The Packers won in overtime, as the two teams traded missed kicks in OT. Mason Crosby ultimately won that game with a walk-off field goal.

The last meeting at Lambeau Field saw the Packers fall behind before Aaron Rodgers led a big comeback on what was at the time the hottest game day in the history of Lambeau Field.

The comeback was capped off with a touch-down pass to Jordy Nelson in the corner of the end zone and won in overtime by a Crosby field goal.

Safe to say, when these two teams get together, expect fireworks.

2. Out of the Bye

One of the pressure points for Matt LaFleur early in his career was that his team really struggled coming off extended rest periods.

That appears to have changed.

The Packers have won four of their last five games out of the bye.

This game against the Bengals is a potential bounce back, where the Packers will be hoping that trend continues.



Josh Jacobs' 86 yards rushing and 71 yards receiving was a dual threat abasing the Cowboys.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

3. Health?

LaFleur was pretty succinct when he was asked what his team needed to focus the most on coming out of the bye week.

"It's called health," LaFleur said.

It's true, the Packers were pretty beat up going into Dallas, missing three offensive linemen. They lost Devonte Wyatt during the game as well.

It's unclear if the Packers will get any of those guys back, but they did waive Brant Banks, whom they promoted from the practice squad in the wake of those injuries.

They lost him to the Titans on waivers and have yet to replace him on the practice squad.

That suggests they should feel good about getting Aaron Banks, Anthony Belton or Zach Tom back on Sunday.

4. Special Teams

Green Bay's special teams is in shambles.

To be fair to them, special teams around the league have been pretty rough to start the year. Perhaps there will be a discussion some day as to why.

Green Bay, however, should not worry about the rest of the league; they should worry about themselves.

Matthew Golden has looked uncomfortable as a punt returner. Ditto for Savion Williams returning kicks.

Kick coverage has been a mess between committing penalties and allowing

explosive returns. To top it all off, they've had kicks blocked in back-to-back games.

The last time these two teams met, it was an adventure on special teams as well. Is that an omen? That remains to be seen.

5. Grudge Match

These two teams have only met 14 times in their history, but those 14 games are at a deadlock.

Green Bay's win in Cincinnati four years ago evened the series at seven wins apiece.

The Packers have a chance to add an

eighth win at Lambeau Field against a backup quarterback.

6. Cavalry's Coming

LaFleur talked about health going into the bye week, but that was with players currently on the active roster.

With four weeks in the books, the Packers can now look at bringing some players back from injured reserve.

The most likely candidate at this point is wide receiver Christian Watson.

Other candidates include Marshawn Lloyd, Jacob Monk and Collin Oliver.



0	Matthew Golden.....	WR	1	Ja'Marr Chase.....	WR
1	Micah Parsons.....	DL	2	Evan McPherson.....	K
2	Malik Willis.....	QB	5	Tee Higgins.....	WR
7	Quay Walker.....	LB	6	Jake Browning.....	QB
8	Josh Jacobs.....	RB	8	Ryan Rehkow.....	P
10	Jordan Love.....	QB	11	Brett Rypien.....	QB
13	Dontayvion Wicks.....	WR	15	Charlie Jones.....	WR
16	Bo Melton.....	CB	20	DJ Turner II.....	CB
17	Brandon McManus.....	K	22	Geno Stone.....	S
18	Malik Heath.....	WR	23	Dax Hill.....	CB
19	Daniel Whelan.....	P	24	Marco Wilson.....	CB
20	Javon Bullard.....	S	25	Tahj Brooks.....	HB
21	Nate Hobbs.....	CB	26	Tycen Anderson.....	S
23	Emanuel Wilson.....	RB	27	Jordan Battle.....	S
24	Carrington Valentine....	CB	28	Josh Newton.....	CB
25	Keisean Nixon.....	CB	29	Cam Taylor-Britt.....	CB
27	Kitan Oladapo.....	S	30	Chase Brown.....	HB
29	Xavier McKinney.....	S	34	Samaje Perine.....	HB
30	Chris Brooks.....	RB	37	PJ Jules.....	S
31	Nick Niemann.....	LB	38	DJ Ivey.....	CB
33	Evan Williams.....	S	42	Oren Bunks.....	LB
36	Kamal Hadden.....	CB	44	Demetrius Knight Jr....	LB
39	Zayne Anderson.....	S	46	William Wagner.....	LS
42	Matt Orzech.....	LS	49	Barrett Carter.....	LB
50	Zach Tom.....	OL	50	Shaka Hayward.....	LB
52	Rashan Gary.....	DL	55	Logan Wilson.....	LB
55	Kingsley Enagbare.....	DL	58	Joseph Ossai.....	DE
56	Edgerrin Cooper.....	LB	61	Cody Ford.....	OT
58	Isaiah McDuffie.....	LB	63	Dylan Fairchild.....	G
59	Ty'Ron Hopper.....	LB	64	Ted Karras.....	C
63	Rasheed Walker.....	T	65	Matt Lee.....	C
65	Aaron Banks.....	G	66	Dalton Risner.....	G
67	Donovan Jennings.....	G/T	69	Mike Pennel.....	DT
70	Darian Kennard.....	T/G	71	Amarius Mims.....	OT
71	Anthony Belton.....	T	74	Jalen Rivers.....	G
74	Elgton Jenkins.....	C/G	75	Orlando Brown Jr.....	OT
75	Sean Rhyan.....	G	80	Andrei Iosivas.....	WR
77	Jordan Morgan.....	T/G	81	Jermaine Burton.....	WR
83	Savion Williams.....	WR	82	Mitch Tinsley.....	WR
85	Tucker Kraft.....	TE	85	Cam Grandy.....	TE
86	John FitzPatrick.....	TE	86	Noah Fant.....	TE
87	Romeo Doubs.....	WR	87	Tanner Hudson.....	TE
88	Luke Musgrave.....	TE	88	Mike Gesicki.....	TE
89	Ben Sims.....	TE	89	Drew Sample.....	TE
90	Lukas Van Ness.....	DL	90	Kris Jenkins Jr.....	DT
91	Warren Brinson.....	DL	91	Trey Hendrickson.....	DE
93	Nazir Stackhouse.....	DL	92	B.J. Hill.....	DT
94	Karl Brooks.....	DL	93	McKinney Jackson.....	DT
95	Devonte Wyatt.....	DL	94	Jordan Jefferson.....	DT
96	Colby Wooden.....	DL	96	Cam Sample.....	DE
99	Barryn Sorrell.....	DL	97	Shemar Stewart.....	DE
			98	T.J. Slaton Jr.....	DT
			99	Myles Murphy.....	DE

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GAME DAY PREDICTIONS

Score Prediction
Packers 10
vs Bengals 7

Favorite Packers Memory

"Taking the Lambeau tour with my husband while we were living at The Cottages. We even got to go down on the field! And my favorite snack to eat while watching the game is popcorn."

Betty,
Meadowlands Tenant

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MOMENTS

PACKERS BACK HOME AFTER ROAD TRIP, BYE WEEK



In Week 1, the Packers' defense held the Detroit Lions' running game to 46 yards and 13 points in the season opener. Last season, the Lions averaged 143 yards on the ground per game. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

COOPER, WOODEN FEAST ON A LION

THE DEFENSE'S SIGNATURE MOMENT

HO-CHUNK



GAMING

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