



Green Bay Packers' Christian Watson is hurt after Denver Broncos' Pat Surtain II intercepts a pass during the second half Sunday in Denver. AP PHOTO/JACK DEMPSEY

3rd quarter proves devastating for Packers

Injuries hurt offense and defense as Denver outscores Green Bay 20-3 to seal win

LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay suffered a major blow to its defense as star pass rusher Micah Parsons went down with a non-contact knee injury in the Packers' 34-26 defeat to the Broncos in Denver on Dec. 14.

Late in the third quarter of the game, Parsons was in pursuit of Broncos quarterback Bo Nix, when Nix side-stepped. This caused Parsons to plant with his left leg and go down to the ground clutching his knee.

"Yeah, it does not look good," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, regarding a question about Parsons' knee.

Parsons was not the only player to go down in



Green Bay Packers' Micah Parsons reacts after an injury during the second half against the Denver Broncos on Sunday. AP PHOTO/JACK DEMPSEY

this game, as the Packers saw wide receiver Christian Watson leave the game with a chest injury, and both offensive lineman

Zach Tom and defensive back Evan Williams leave the game with knee injuries that are not expected to be long-term injuries.



Green Bay Packers' Zach Tom is injured during the first half against the Denver Broncos on Sunday in Denver. AP PHOTO/JACK DEMPSEY

"Losing a game like this is tough. It was a battle," said LaFleur. "I think we did some good things, and there are some things that

we have to clean up that just weren't good enough, and speaking on some of the injuries, we will see what happens and what

the reports are when we get back, but it is tough. Anytime you lose guys during the game, especially some of your best players, it's tough."

Even with the numerous injuries suffered during the game, the Packers found themselves in position to tie the game with 1:07 remaining in the fourth quarter after Denver failed to convert on a fourth-and-1 that would have sealed the game.

During the final drive, Packers quarterback Jordan Love saw a heavy pass rush from the NFL's defense with the most sacks this season. The heavy pass rush resulted in four straight incompletions,

BRONCOS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Question mark surrounds Packers' defense

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay prepares to travel to Chicago for what will be the first of two Saturday night games in a row.

Packers' offensevs. Bears' defense

Chicago's defense has struggled this season on a play-to-play basis, but they did get some reinforcements back this month.

Jaylon Johnson recently returned from injury and intercepted a pass from Cleveland's Shedeur Sanders at Soldier Field last week. Kyler Gordon returned briefly from an injury but hurt his groin in warmups at Lambeau Field two weeks ago. He was placed on injured reserve and will miss Sunday's game.

Up front, their leader in sacks is Montez Sweat, and they've received contri-

butions from a plethora of other guys including second-year player Austin Booker, who has seen his role increase in recent weeks. He sacked Sanders twice on Sunday. Gervon Dexter was another big player for the Bears against the Browns with one sack in a dominant defensive performance.

Where the Bears make their living is on taking the ball away. Safety Kevin Byard and cornerback

Nahshon Wright are both on the leaderboard for most interceptions in football, which includes Byard leading the league with six interceptions. Chauncey Gardner-Johnson had some difficult moments against Green Bay, notably giving up a touchdown against Christian Watson.

He did, however, intercept a pass from Jordan Love on the first series of the game two weeks ago in Green Bay.

The Bears lead the league in takeaways but only had one at Lambeau Field two weeks ago.

Green Bay's offense is coming off a game where Love threw two interceptions against Denver's ball-hawking secondary.

Jayden Reed has made his return to the lineup and further integrated himself into Green Bay's offense last week against Denver.

They are going to need Reed to be a big part of

their offense now with Christian Watson leaving Sunday's game with a chest injury. His status is unclear, and it would be devastating if he can not play.

Matthew Golden has worked his way back from his wrist and shoulder injuries, and made a couple of plays against the Broncos. The Packers might need the rookie to take a

BEARS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BRONCOS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ending Green Bay’s shot at a comeback.

Through the first half of the game, Love dominated the elite Denver defense, as he completed 17-of-22 passes for 215 yards and one touchdown, leading the Packers to a 16-14 lead.

Love kept that momentum moving through the first drive of the third quarter, as Green Bay’s offense moved down the field quickly thanks in part to a defensive pass interference call. That penalty was immediately followed up by a Josh Jacobs 40-yard rushing touchdown, giving Green Bay a 23-14 lead.

Things quickly changed though, as after Denver was forced to punt on its next possession, Love took a deep shot on the first play of the drive intended for Watson. Broncos defensive back and former defensive player of the year Patrick Surtain made a diving in-

terception, getting the ball back to the Broncos while Watson was subsequently injured on the play.

“A bunch of plays, I mean we went down and we scored, we got a three-and-out and then took a shot, got the coverage we wanted and Suratin made a hell of a play,” said LaFleur, on how the game changed in the third quarter. “Give him a lot of credit, he is one of the best in the business.”

From that point, the Broncos went on a 20-3 run to end the game.

Love finished the game completing 24-of-40 passes for 276 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Matthew Golden and Jayden Reed were the leaders in the clubhouse when it came to receiving as the rookie caught three passes for 55 yards, while Reed totaled 55 yards on five

receptions. Luke Musgrave caught four passes for 52 yards, Romeo Doubs caught two passes for 36 yards, Watson caught three passes for 29 yards and Josh Jacobs caught two passes for 19 yards, including Love’s lone touchdown.

After coming into this game with an injury designation all week, Jacobs started the game for Green Bay but was certainly limited. He finished the game with 73 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries. Chris Brooks and Emanuel Wilson both totaled two carries for a combined 13 yards.

For Denver, Nix had one of the better games in his young career as he completed 23-of-34 passes for 302 yards and four touchdowns. Courtland Sutton was the leading receiver for Denver, as he totaled 113 yards and touchdown on seven receptions.



Green Bay Packers’ Josh Jacobs runs during the second half. Jacobs carried the ball 12 times for 73 yards and one rushing touchdown against the Broncos. AP PHOTO/JACK DEMPSEY

BEARS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

step in the last three games with Watson nursing an injury.

Green Bay’s offensive line is beat up following Sunday’s game. Zach Tom left Sunday’s game with a knee injury, and it’s unclear what his status will be for this week’s game. If he cannot go, Darian Kinnard was his replacement at right tackle, keeping former first-round pick Jordan Morgan on the bench.

The run game is still finding its way, but Josh Jacobs did have his best run as a Packer last week, a 40-yard-touchdown which gave the Packers a 23-14 lead before everything unraveled.

Packers’ defense vs. Bears’ offense

To state the obvious, the Packers’ defense suffered a devastating injury last week. In a case of losing the battle and the war, Micah Parsons was lost for the rest of the season with a torn ACL that will end his season and potentially spill into next year.

Parsons was the team’s best player and part of a seismic move made before the season. He was a huge part of why their defense had been as good as it had been during the season.

Now, they are just one



Denver Broncos’ R.J. Harvey fumbles as he is hit by Green Bay’s Micah Parsons during the first half Sunday in Denver. AP PHOTO/DAVID ZALUBOWSKI

big question mark.

Outside of Parsons, Green Bay’s defense was not making a lot of plays individually, and now they’re starting to lose some of their best players.

Devonte Wyatt and Parsons are both done for the season. Rashan Gary has been largely ineffective. Lukas Van Ness is working his way back from an injury but has not ascended into the player the team hoped he would be since using a first-round pick on him.

Their secondary was

picked to pieces by Bo Nix and Denver’s passing game. Nix had a quarterback rating higher than 130, and threw four touchdown passes. Xavier McKinney dropped an interception. Edgerrin Cooper and Carington Valentine had a chance at interceptions that went off their hands as well. Those are the types of game-changing plays that Parsons had been making during the season.

Now, they’ll need someone else to start making those plays.

Across from Green Bay will be an ascending offense, specifically on the line and run game. For all the discussion surrounding Ben Johnson’s creativity in the passing game, he has built a physical ground game, which is led by the right side of their offensive line. Drew Dallman, Jonah Jackson and specifically Darnell Wright have grown into a group of bullies.

The last time these two teams played, Green Bay did well against Chicago’s run game. They did not

have a single run total more than nine yards. That’s a good day at the office against Chicago’s run game, which is one of the best in football.

Both D’Andre Swift and Kyle Monangai are hard runners who makes some hay after contact is made.

In the passing game, Caleb Williams has been up and down all season, and that was on display against Green Bay as well. He struggled early before finding his way as the game went along.

Had he seen Cole Kmet earlier on the game’s final play, he had a chance to throw a game-tying touchdown, which would have been his third TD of the day.

His receiver trio of D.J. Moore, Rome Odunze and Luther Burden gives him options to try and find some opportunities in Green Bay’s secondary. Oduzne missed the first matchup between the two teams but did return last week against the Browns.

Keeping Williams in the pocket is key for Green Bay’s defense this week. The last time these two teams met, the Bears did a good job of rolling Williams away from pressure and getting him on the

move. When that happens, he can make some of his biggest plays.

Special Teams

Green Bay had been playing better on special teams coming into Sunday’s game against the Denver

Broncos, but they had a rough day at the office in the mile high city.

Kingsley Enagbare and Karl Brooks were each tagged with personal fouls. Enagbare took a shot at the punter on Denver’s first punt of the game, while Brooks was flagged on an extra point. Emanuel Wilson bobbled a kickoff return late in the first half, which lost the Packers 21 yards of field position.

The good news is that Brandon McManus made all of his kicks and looks to be healthy after a mid-season slump had some wondering if he could lose his job to Lukas Havrisik. In a game like this one, where the margins are going to be slim, whether or not McManus is on his game could be the difference between winning and losing.

The first time these two teams met, special teams was virtually non-descript. Green Bay shut down Chicago’s return game, which could be a big key in Sunday’s game.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT CHICAGO BEARS

TIME AND DATE: 7:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20
LOCATION: Soldier 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, 9-4-1. Bears 10-4.
HISTORY: The Bears and Packers have been locking horns since the 1930s. The Packers lead the all-time series 110-77-7. Their last matchup at

Lambeau Field came just two weeks ago. The Packers won a back-and-forth affair on the strength of a game-winning drive from Jordan Love and Josh Jacobs. Jacobs scored a two-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter to give Green Bay’s defense a chance to close the game out. From there, Keisean Nixon slammed the door shut with a game-winning interception against Caleb Williams. Their most recent meeting in Chicago came down to the final play of the game. The Packers took a late 20-19 lead on a quarterback sneak from Love.

Williams got the Bears into field goal range, but Cairo Santos’ last kick of the game was blocked by Karl Brooks.
COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur, seventh season, 78-36-1. Bears, Ben Johnson, first season, 10-4.
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. Carolina 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, W 23-6
Thursday, Nov. 27, at Detroit Lions, W 31-24
Sunday, Dec. 7, vs. Chicago Bears, W 28-21
Sunday, Dec. 14, at Denver Broncos, L 34-26
Saturday, Dec. 20, at Chi-

cago Bears, 7:20 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27, vs. Baltimore Ravens, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4, at Minnesota Vikings, TBA
NFL SCHEDULE
Thursday, Dec. 18
LA Rams at Seattle, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Philadelphia at Washington, 4 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 7:20 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21
LA Chargers at Dallas, noon
Minnesota at NY Giants, noon
Cincinnati at Miami, noon

Tampa Bay at Carolina, noon
NY Jets at New Orleans, noon
Buffalo at Cleveland, noon
Kansas City at Tennessee, noon
Jacksonville at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Las Vegas at Houston, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Baltimore, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 22
San Francisco at Indianapolis, 7:15 p.m.

Rookie might be in place for Golden opportunity

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are walking wounded into Chicago as the Bears are coming off a game where they blew away the Cleveland Browns at home. Will that have an effect on Saturday's showdown between the two teams? Who knows.

What we do know is that the two teams are fighting for position in the NFC playoffs, and the winner of this game should hold a big advantage in terms of winning the NFC North and securing a home playoff game.

First things first, winning a rivalry game, something the Packers did the first time around, and something the Bears hope to do this time.



Denver Broncos' Riley Moss is called for pass interference on a pass to Green Bay Packers' Matthew Golden during the second half Sunday in Denver.

AP PHOTO/DAVID ZALUBOWSKI

1. Icy handshake?

Two weeks ago, we talked about the fact that Ben Johnson took a shot at Matt LaFleur in his opening press conference as the Bears' head coach. After Green Bay's 28-21 victory at Lambeau Field, LaFleur and Johnson met at midfield briefly.

The emphasis is on briefly. The handshake between the two hardly lasted long enough for them to get any words out to each other. LaFleur downplayed that, saying he'll see Johnson again in two weeks, but considering the history between these two men, it was interesting to say the least.

2. Missed opportunities

Green Bay's defense continues to struggle taking the ball away. They had just one takeaway against the Broncos on Sunday but had chances at several others.

Unfortunately, their defensive backs were unable to secure the ball when it would hit their hands.

The Bears do not have that problem. They had three more takeaways against Shedeur Sanders and the Cleveland Browns on Sunday. The Bears are the best team in football at taking the ball away. These two teams played to a draw in the turnover battle two weeks ago, but Chicago's defense is full of ball hawks, and Green Bay has proven incapable of taking the ball away when it hits their hands. Those missed opportunities could loom large in a game with the margins as thin as this one could be.

3. Religious experience?

The 28-21 thriller at Lambeau

Field was capped off by an interception in the end zone by embattled cornerback Keisean Nixon. As it turns out, Nixon ended up covering Cole Kmet on the play, who was supposed to be the assignment for Evan Williams.

Williams would later thank Nixon for saving his bacon, while comparing him to Jesus of Nazareth.

"Kind of off instinct took off and played the flat and was praying that somebody was behind me to make the play on the corner, and sure enough, like, Jesus himself, 25 comes out of the blue and makes a play," Williams said. "I was just like, 'Thank you, thank you so much.'"

Maybe not a religious experience, but Green Bay will need more big plays against Caleb Williams and Chicago's offense this week.

4.) Rivalry returns

The two organizations played for the first time Nov. 27, 1921, at Chicago, when the Bears were named the Chicago Staleys. Bears' Gaylord "Pete" Stinchcomb scored the game's first touchdown on a 45-yard run. The Bears shut out the Packers 20-0 in their first meeting, and the rivalry was born. A year later, the Staleys changed their team name to the Bears.

5.) New look defense

The Packers lost the battle against the Denver Broncos, and in the process lost one of their best players. Micah Parsons is likely to miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL.

Green Bay's defense now has to adjust on the

fly. Parsons was a big part of a four-man front that could create pressure without Jeff Hafley needing to send extra rushers.

That might go out the window now with Parsons on the shelf. Rashan Gary, Kingsley Enagbare and Lukas Van Ness have not been effective enough in their careers to prove they can simply take over a game. It'll be interesting to see how Hafley adjusts without Parsons.

6.) Golden opportunity?

Matthew Golden was back from his shoulder and wrist injuries

that have ailed him since early November. He was limited the first time Green Bay played against Chicago but had a nice game against the Denver Broncos. He was tied for the team lead in receiving yards with 55, which included two third-down conversions.

With Christian Watson potentially sidelined with a chest injury, Golden could be someone in line to get more snaps. The Packers need to replace the speed element that Watson brings, and Golden has plenty of speed to burn. This could be his moment.



0	Matthew Golden.....	WR	1	Jaylon Johnson.....	DB
1	Micah Parsons.....	DL	2	D.J. Moore.....	WR
2	Malik Willis.....	QB	4	D'Andre Swift.....	RB
7	Quay Walker.....	LB	8	Cairo Santos.....	K
8	Josh Jacobs.....	RB	9	Jaquan Brisker.....	DB
9	Christian Watson.....	WR	10	Luther Burden III.....	WR
10	Jordan Love.....	QB	11	Case Keenum.....	QB
11	Jayden Reed.....	WR	12	Devin Duvernay.....	WR
13	Dontayvion Wicks.....	WR	14	Olamide Zaccheaus.....	WR
16	Bo Melton.....	CB	15	Rome Odunze.....	WR
17	Brandon McManus.....	K	17	Tyson Bagent.....	QB
19	Daniel Whelan.....	P	18	Caleb Williams.....	QB
20	Javon Bullard.....	S	19	Tory Taylor.....	P
21	Nate Hobbs.....	CB	20	Jahdae Walker.....	WR
23	Emanuel Wilson.....	RB	21	Travis Homer.....	RB
24	Carrington Valentine....	CB	22	Elijah Hicks.....	DB
25	Keisean Nixon.....	CB	24	Nick McCloud.....	DB
27	Kitan Oladapo.....	S	25	Kyle Monangai.....	RB
29	Xavier McKinney.....	S	26	Nahshon Wright.....	DB
30	Chris Brooks.....	RB	29	Tyrique Stevenson.....	DB
33	Evan Williams.....	S	31	Kevin Byard III.....	DB
36	Kamal Hadden.....	CB	33	Jaylon Jones.....	DB
39	Zayne Anderson.....	S	35	C.J. Gardner-Johnson....	DB
42	Matt Orzech.....	LS	36	Jonathan Owens.....	DB
50	Zach Tom.....	OL	39	Josh Blackwell.....	DB
52	Rashan Gary.....	DL	44	Noah Sewell.....	LB
53	Aaron Mosby.....	DL	45	Amen Ogbongbemiga..	LB
54	Kristian Welch.....	LB	46	Scott Daly.....	LS
55	Kingsley Enagbare.....	DL	47	Ruben Hyppolite II.....	LB
56	Edgerrin Cooper.....	LB	48	D'Marco Jackson.....	LB
58	Isaiah McDuffie.....	LB	50	Grady Jarrett.....	DL
59	Ty'Ron Hopper.....	LB	52	Drew Dalman.....	OL
62	Jacob Monk.....	C/G	53	T.J. Edwards.....	LB
63	Rasheed Walker.....	T	58	Darnell Wright.....	OL
65	Aaron Banks.....	G	62	Joe Thuney.....	OL
67	Donovan Jennings.....	G/T	71	Ryan Bates.....	OL
70	Darian Kennard.....	T/G	73	Jonah Jackson.....	OL
71	Anthony Belton.....	T	74	Jordan McFadden.....	OL
75	Sean Rhyan.....	G	75	Ozzy Trapilo.....	OL
76	Quinton Bohanna.....	DL	79	Theo Benedet.....	OL
77	Jordan Morgan.....	T/G	81	Durham Smythe.....	TE
81	Josh Whyle.....	TE	84	Colsteon Loveland.....	TE
83	Savion Williams.....	WR	85	Cole Kmet.....	TE
86	John FitzPatrick.....	TE	90	Dominique Robinson....	DL
87	Romeo Doubls.....	WR	91	Chris Williams.....	DL
88	Luke Musgrave.....	TE	92	Daniel Hardy.....	DL
90	Lukas Van Ness.....	DL	93	Joe Tryon-Shoyinka.....	DL
91	Warren Brinson.....	DL	94	Austin Booker.....	DL
93	Nazir Stackhosue.....	DL	96	Jonathan Ford.....	DL
94	Karl Brooks.....	DL	97	Andrew Billings.....	DL
96	Colby Wooden.....	DL	98	Montez Sweat.....	DL
97	Jordon Riley.....	DL	99	Gervon Dexter Sr.....	DL
99	Barryn Sorrell.....	DL			

The Right Choice

THAT WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Local care, because you are family.

Our centers are part of the North Shore Healthcare family, serving the Shawano community.

Call our centers for more information!

Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals strive to deliver quality care to those who have chosen us. Our goal is to create an environment that affords our residents the opportunity to be a partner in the care they receive, to develop trusting relationships with our caregivers, and to reach their highest level of independence. We are passionate about making our center. *The Right Choice for you or your loved one.*

BIRCH HILL HEALTH SERVICES
1475 Birch Hill Ln. | Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 526-3161 | birchhills.com

EVERGREEN HEALTH SERVICES
1250 Evergreen St. | Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 526-3107 | evergreensatshawano.com

SHAWANO HEALTH SERVICES
1436 S Lincoln St. | Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 526-6111 | shawanohealthservices.com

NORTH SHORE HEALTHCARE

GAME DAY PREDICTIONS

Score Prediction
Packers 27
@ Bears 21

"My favorite player is Brett Farve."

Who's the biggest rival?
"The Packers rival is the Chicago Bears."

Marilyn,
Meadowlands Resident

Join the huddle!
(866) 584-7163
thecottagescare.com

The Cottages
SENIOR LIVING & MEMORY CARE

MOMENTS

DENVER BRONCOS 34, GREEN BAY PACKERS 26



Denver Broncos quarterback Bo Nix (10) eludes Green Bay Packers defensive end Micah Parsons (1) in the second half. Nix ended the day completing 23-of-34 for 302 yards, four touchdowns, and no interceptions or sacks. AP PHOTO/DAVID ZALUBOWSKI

PARSONS WILL BE MISSED

STAR PASS RUSHER TORE HIS ACL DURING SECOND HALF AGAINST BRONCOS

HO-CHUNK



GAMING

WITTENBERG