

Greenville Packer Backers

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Greenvillepackerbackers.com

2008 Victims List

(Home games in **Bold**)

Date	Team	Time
24 W	Vikings	19
48 W	Lions	25
16	Cowboys	L 27
21	Buccaneers	L 30
24	Falcons	L 27
27 W	Seahawks	17
34 W	Colts	14
	Bye Week	
16	Titans	L 19
11/9	Vikings	1:00
11/16	Bears	1:00
11/24	Saints	8:30
11/30	Panthers	1:00
12/7	Texans	1:00
12/14	Jaguars	1:00
12/22	Bears	8:30
12/28	Lions	1:00

Packer Tidbits:

- The pack is back?
- Donald Driver - quietly changing football.
- It's one in a row for the Badgers (the other way).
- Come join us at the Corner Pocket
- My liddle pinky's better, can I play now coach?
- Is Culpepper the lyni's savior?

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Packer Backer Bits

Packer's 16



This was truly an old-school, back alley dogfight. It was also perhaps the most frustrating loss of the season for the Pack. This was a game we could have (and should have) closed out. In the end, Tennessee prevailed by simply playing their game, doing what they do. There were no surprises in the Titans' game plan and approach. The Tennessee style of play is (and was) by no means fun to watch, but has been and

continues to be effective (8-0).

The simplest of football formulas; defense, effective rushing, and avoiding (major) mistakes at quarterback has consistently worked since the days of Curly Lambeau. The Titans kept the Packers out of the end zone, kept the game close, and got just enough out of Kerry Collins in the end to have a shot at stealing the victory. Throw in the two extremely untimely and costly turnovers, especially in a close game, and the tombstone was nearly polished.

In retrospect, perhaps the biggest play for the Titans happened at the beginning of overtime. Losing the coin

Titan's 19

toss was more salt in the wound in a game that just seemed to be slipping away after being denied touchdowns in so many key opportunities. The way the Pack moved the ball downfield (when they took shots), there was a feeling that a winning field goal, at minimum, was likely if we could just get that chance.

The "simple formula" for Tennessee worked on Sunday, but there were still positives in each phase of the game by the Packers. The Titans kept the Packers from scoring touchdowns, but they were gashed for almost 400 yards, mostly when the offense took the aerial game

(see Loss #4 page 2)

Packer Mid Season Report



Packer fans are among the most knowledgeable in football. In recent years, we

have justifiably had high expectations. I took this into consideration in writing this midseason Packers Report Card. The grades will factor in the good, the bad, and the ugly. However, I love the Packers, and there will, admittedly, be optimism and bias in this article.

For all you transplanted engineers and computer types, don't try and hack in

and change the grades. I'm old school. Accordingly, I've got the grades backed up with red ink in a leather-bound folder, like Mrs. Sonnenburg did when myself and some friends tried to intervene in the fourth grade. This report card will include statistics, but is not about spitting out numbers. Stats are for losers. Good stats are like a good resume; they

(See Mid-Term page 3)

Deep in the heart of Dixie's ??????????????



(Loss #4 page 1)



Wow, what a week, or should I say weekend. Kathy Stark's son gave us a heads up on Saturday morning that Dixie's was closed. Kathy called me, I called Tim and Tim called the Corner Pocket. By mid afternoon, we had a place to meet again. I think we owe Tim a huge debt of thanks for his efforts. What we believe was it had to do with a temporary liquor license

they had while the new owner took over. We have not heard from Dixie's management as to what the problem was or how long it will take to correct. So until further notice, we will be meeting at the Corner Pocket at the corner of Brown and Coffee streets (one block south of Dixie's). Despite all the confusion, we had 60+ people turn out for the game. Loren was there once again with his trumpet leading the battle cries. We gave out 14 prizes, including Joe Mason (#172) and Kent sergeant (#127), winners of Packer apparel and Tom Manske (#170), win-

ner of a cooler donated by The Corner Pocket. The Corner Pocket also gave us koozies to hand out to everyone. The winners on the dollar pool were Gary Gandy (#162) twice, Loren Wolf (#104) and Bill Patterson (#118). Winners on the 50 cent pool were Tom Manske (#170) twice, Jeremy Wheelock and John Wieloch (#106). Tom Manske (we all know his number by now) was this week's trivia winner. There were no new member, however, there were 6 guests in attendance. This Sunday, bring your game face and a friend to the Corner Pocket as we watch and cheer the Pack to another victory over the little queenie's.
(John Wieloch)

downfield. The Pack had continued success against the Titans' secondary. The game reaffirmed that this team has a Pro Bowl-caliber passer with the best receivers in football. In hindsight, the play calling proved to be too conservative the way the game was developing. There were too many runs in the wrong situations against a dominant rushing defense, and many of the runs were ill-designed to attack their speed. The Packers ultimately hurt themselves by backing off the gas, an issue throughout McCarthy's tenure. The Titans ground attack had moments, but really hurt us in their last two drives. The Pack bottled the run on the majority of the plays, but

(See Tiatns, page 4)

Packer's



vs.



Viqueen's



This Sunday will be the 96th meeting between two teams that don't like each other very much. Which seems strange considering all the connections that Minnesota has with the Packers and Wisconsin. Ryan Longwell, Robert Ferguson and Darren Sharper played for

both teams, Derrell Bevell and Mike Eayers have had staff positions on both teams while Brad Childress, Jim Hueber and Brian Murphy were on the staff at UW. The pack hold a slight edge in the series (49-45-1) and have won the last five meeting between the two teams. All the stats say the Packers should win. Along with the five game streak, Mike McCarthy has not lost to the Viqueens (5-0), is perfect in dome games (6-0) and has one of the best road record (13-7) Along with that, the Pack won 10 of their last 14 games in a dome. Some of the Packers have had their best games against Minnesota. Donald Driver's career high catches (11), most

yards in a game (191) and longest run (45 yards) have all been in games against the queenies. Aaron Kampman twice has had 3 sack games against the vikies and has 9 total sacks in his career



against the vike's. All that being said, it will be a dog-fight. Eleven of the last twelve games have been decided by 7 points or less. In '04, '05 & '06, all six games ended with a winning field goal. The key to this game will be our defense. So far this year, our defense is #1 in the NFL for lowest QB rating (59.9) and completion rate (51.3%) and is 3rd in total passing yards (1555). On Sunday, none of this will mean anything unless we can contain Peterson. There, in the running game, the Packers stats are not as good. If they can stop Peterson then Gus Frerotte (their 6th QB in 6 games against

(See queenie's page 3)

(Mid-term page 1)



can maybe get you in the door. Ultimately, the true measure in football equals wins and losses. The reality is that this team is (4-4) and in second place in the division. Depending on your outlook, we are either in trouble or on the verge of making a playoff run.

Where is this team heading? Let's look at our first semester grades:

Defense

We had high hopes. There is still reason to be optimistic. Despite key injuries in the secondary, the Pack has only allowed an average of 183.9 yards per game in the air (5th NFL). With the returning defensive backs and the recently improved pass rush, expect this trend to continue. The obvious weakness is rushing defense. The Packers have been gashed on the ground (27th NFL overall), and particularly in situations where we needed stops.

Grade: B-

Quarterback Play

Aaron Rodgers gave us a glimpse of his character and toughness during the Favre drama. On the field, he has had a Pro Bowl-caliber season while playing through intense shoulder pain. He has become the unquestionable star and leader of the Packers. He has turned the ball over too many

times, but is continuing to grow as he gets acclimated to the NFL game.

Grade: A-

Rushing Game

This team is 21st in the league in rushing. Grant has yet to get untracked. The offensive line has to give him better opportunities to hit holes. He is a north-south runner who isn't built to dance around and find space. He has to get through to the defensive backfield, when he can make a cut and carry tacklers for extra yards. Brandon Jackson's explosiveness may need more carries. Rodgers has used his elusiveness and mobility to pick up yards.

Grade: C-



Special Teams

Will Blackmon is fearless. He has returned 19 punts (10.9 avg, 76 long, 1 TD) with only three fair catches. He has taken big hits to preserve field position for the offense. Mason Crosby has been clutch (14 of 17 overall, 2 of 3 from 50+ yards) and will continue to be a weapon when the offense stalls. Frost averages a solid 43.9 yards per punt. The Packers have done a solid job of limiting opposing returns.

Grade: B

Coaching

The main criticism is that the play calling has been too conservative given game situations. The Packers have done their opponents favors by tightening up and limiting their downfield attack. However, McCarthy has guided a team with numerous injuries and an initially unproven quarterback to within striking range of the division. Also, credit must be given to the defensive coaching, which undoubtedly helped the defense step up with key players on the sidelines.

Grade: B

GPB (The 'Backers)

Personally, this grade is touchy, since I myself have only met with the club for three games so far. My report card shows too many absences, but John says I get extra credit for writing this column.

Our turnout has been inconsistent, but there have been bright stars. We've had road warriors journey en masse to Tampa. We've had members offer the security and hospitality of their personal Packer bar to the rest of us in times of uncertainty and adversity. The spirit is there. We may yet eclipse the collective energy and flow we had during the stretch drive last season.

Grade: A-

The important thing is to remember that these grades are only for the first semester. This team is solid and will get better. We can easily get these grades up and make the honor roll, the playoffs. If we can get there, we have as good of a shot as anyone at being valedictorian.

(Kraig Pringle)



(queenie's page 2)

the Pack) should be picked apart by the secondary. Aaron Rodgers (our million dollar man) will need a better day on

Sunday then he had against the Titans. His QB rating of 76.7 was his

second worst rating of the year but still keeps him #5 overall (95.3) in the NFL. It is interesting to note that he does have a QB rating of 117.0 in indoor games. The running game has made small advances over the last few weeks, but will that be enough against the viqueens? By Sunday night we'll know.

As I said before, this will be a dogfight and not for the faint of heart to watch.

The Packers have the only game with more then a 7 point victory, a 34-0 shutout; the only shutout in the 96 game history. Look for a battle between Longwell and Crosby. Crosby will win that war and the game as well. So let's fasten our seatbelts and cheer for the men in green to beat the boys in purple. GO Pack! **(John Wieloch)**

The Favre Side



Favre's performance on Sunday did little to help our draft pick situation, but somehow the Jets won anyway. Brett threw another INT in the 4th quarter that was returned for a TD. This put the Bills within a touchdown and once again, made the game interesting. They are now in a three-way tie for first place. Next week should be an easy win when they play the Rams, but then again, Brett finds a way to make the game interesting. The big test will be the following week when they play New England.

Here's Brett by the numbers for week 9:
19 of 28 for 201 yards, 0 TD's & 1 Int.

***The Vikings are always
good for the Packers
morale***

(Titan's page 2)

gave up big chunks in a handful and looked tired at the end. The defense gave a valiant effort until becoming a step slow in the final moments.

Collins made some key throws in the last two drives to allow the Titans a chance to escape. The Packers wanted to make him beat us, and he came through. However, he made a number of bad decisions, and was fortunate on several occasions that he wasn't intercepted.

How many batted balls and tips can continue to hit the turf? As in any football game, luck can ultimately overcome just about any other factor.



Give credit where credit is due. They won. At home. In overtime. With two killer turnovers. With some timely luck. With a conservative Pack attack. Congratulations, Tennessee, and good luck, but we'll bounce back. As with this game, after a loss there are sometimes aspects to build upon and motivate a team. Look for the Packers to feed on it and come back strong next week. **(Kraig Pringle)**

Trivia contest is Here

Here is the question for Sunday November 16th (Bear Game):

When was the first Green Bay Packer game?

The rules:

- 1) The newsletter will be the only place you will find the question.
- 2) The only place you can submit your answer is at Dixie's Tavern on game day of that week.
- 3) Only one entry per person per week.
- 4) We will draw an answer during halftime. The first correct answer drawn will be the winner.
- 5) You may not win two weeks in a row.
- 6) Questions in each newsletter will be the following Sunday to allow a full week to find the answer.
- 7) You must be a member to enter.

And finally the prize: A \$10 gift certificate from The Corner Pocket

Here is the question for this Sunday (Viking's game)

What is the Green Bay Packers original name and how did they get it?

Last week's answer:

Q.) Last Sunday, Donald Driver broke this record held by Antonio Freeman. What was that record and what was the number that Donald surpassed?

A.) Driver also became the all-time receiving leader in Lambeau Field history. He surpassed the stadium's all-time mark, held by [Antonio Freeman](#) (3,477 yards). Driver, who has 3,494 receiving yards at the stadium, became the stadium's all-time leader in receptions last season.

The winner of Packer Coca-Cola pin is Tom Manske (#170)

