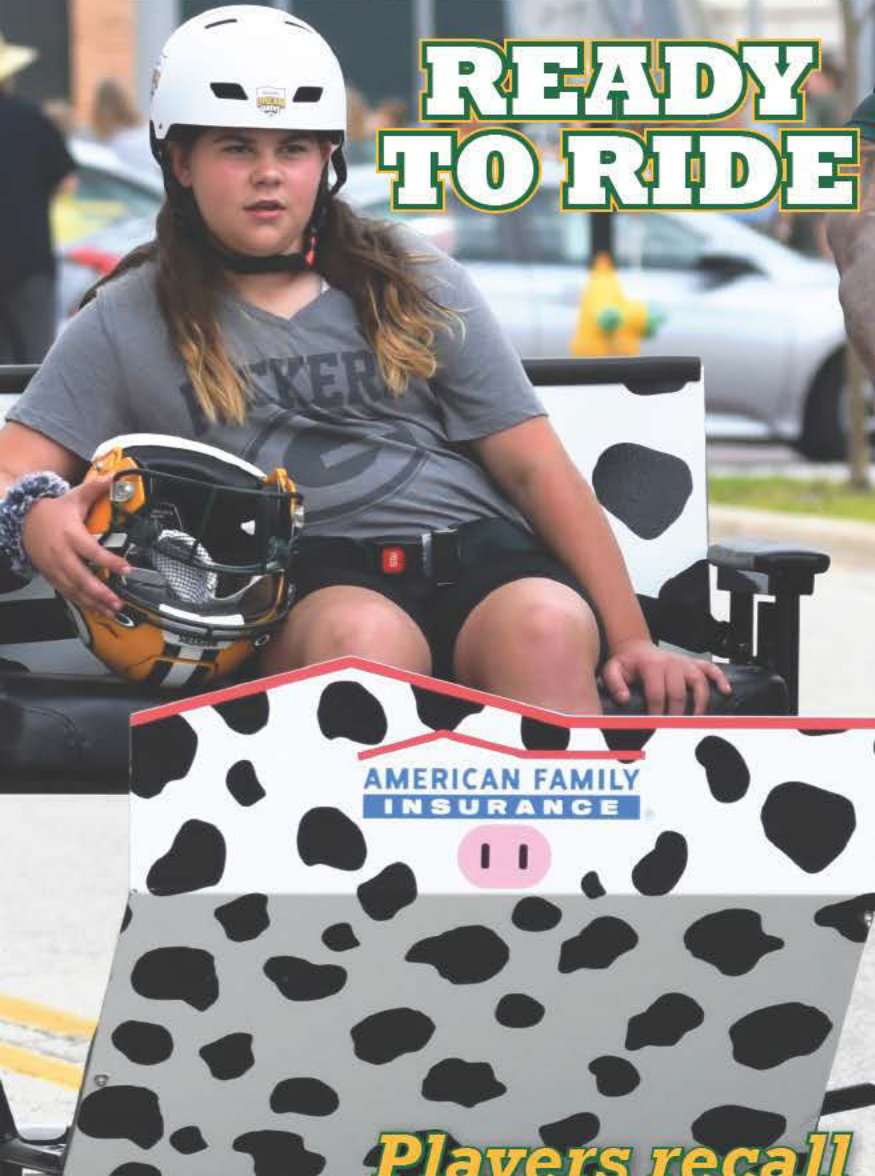


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FROM THE EDITOR



This is my favorite time of the year.

Football is back, the weather is going to start getting cooler and the leaves will turn magnificent colors. And, did I mention football is back?!

We start another year at Packerland — formerly Packerland Pride — trying to provide readers with stories and images they can't find anywhere else. We won't give you a typical feature story on a how a veteran Packers player changed his diet and came into training camp in the best shape of his life; we won't have a feature on an undrafted rookie who might do the unthinkable and snatch a spot on the Packers' 53-man roster.

Packerland is all about giving you depth in other areas.

We start that with our lead piece. With this being a monumental anniversary season for the Packers, marking 25 years since the team made its run to Super Bowl XXXII, we will dive into that magnificent run. Despite losing the big game 31-24 to John Elway and the Denver Broncos, the Packers had a memorable season.

Writer Kevin Damask chronicles the season and what made it so special. He was able to chat with LeRoy Butler last year about the storybook season that came up just short. It's remarkable what the former players remember from that season after a quarter century. It's a fun read. Think back 25 years to what you were doing during that time in the late 1990s.

The Packers Hall of Fame, Inc. held its annual golf outing in mid-July and plenty of former players teed up at the event The Bull at Pinehurst Farms Golf Course in Sheboy-

gan Falls. Packerland's Rich Palzewic was able to catch up with some former Packers players onsite. Carroll Dale opened up about playing wide receiver for coach Lombardi, playing in the historic "Ice Bowl" and what his days have been like since football concluded.

Palzewic also had the opportunity to attend the Packers' opening day of training camp on July 27. He was able to capture the full scope of the rookies' first day in an NFL camp and the wild Packers fans cheering on their team.

It's great to see the "Dream Drive" back in full swing. That's where Packers players — and sometimes coaches — ride kids' bikes from Lambeau Field to the practice field. It's always fun to see a kid's eyes light up when a Packers player comes out of the facility and through the gates and "picks" a kid to ride on his or her bike. My oldest daughter, Bailey, has experienced that feeling three times over the years and it's simply magical.

It's a great time to be a Packers fan as we enter the team's 103rd season in its history. Here's to a good season ahead and another year for Packerland to provide fans with great stories and photos. As always, I welcome any story ideas you may have.



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It's been 25 years since the heavily-favorite Packers, one year removed from winning the Super Bowl, went on another postseason run. This one came up just short.

11 Dale recalls glory days

Former Packers wide receiver Carroll Dale had a good run with the franchise from 1965-72. He talks about his days of playing for Lombardi.

12 Ticket Holder of the Month

Matt Lacanne from Marinette has been attending Packers games for the last 25 years. Now 33 years old, he and his wife travel to one road game every season.

Photo Feature

14 First day of training camp



On the cover...

Packers cornerback Jaire Alexander — in his customary shades — bikes to practices with a young fan on the team's opening day of training camp on July 27 at Ray Nitschke Field. (PHOTO BY RICH PALZEWIC)



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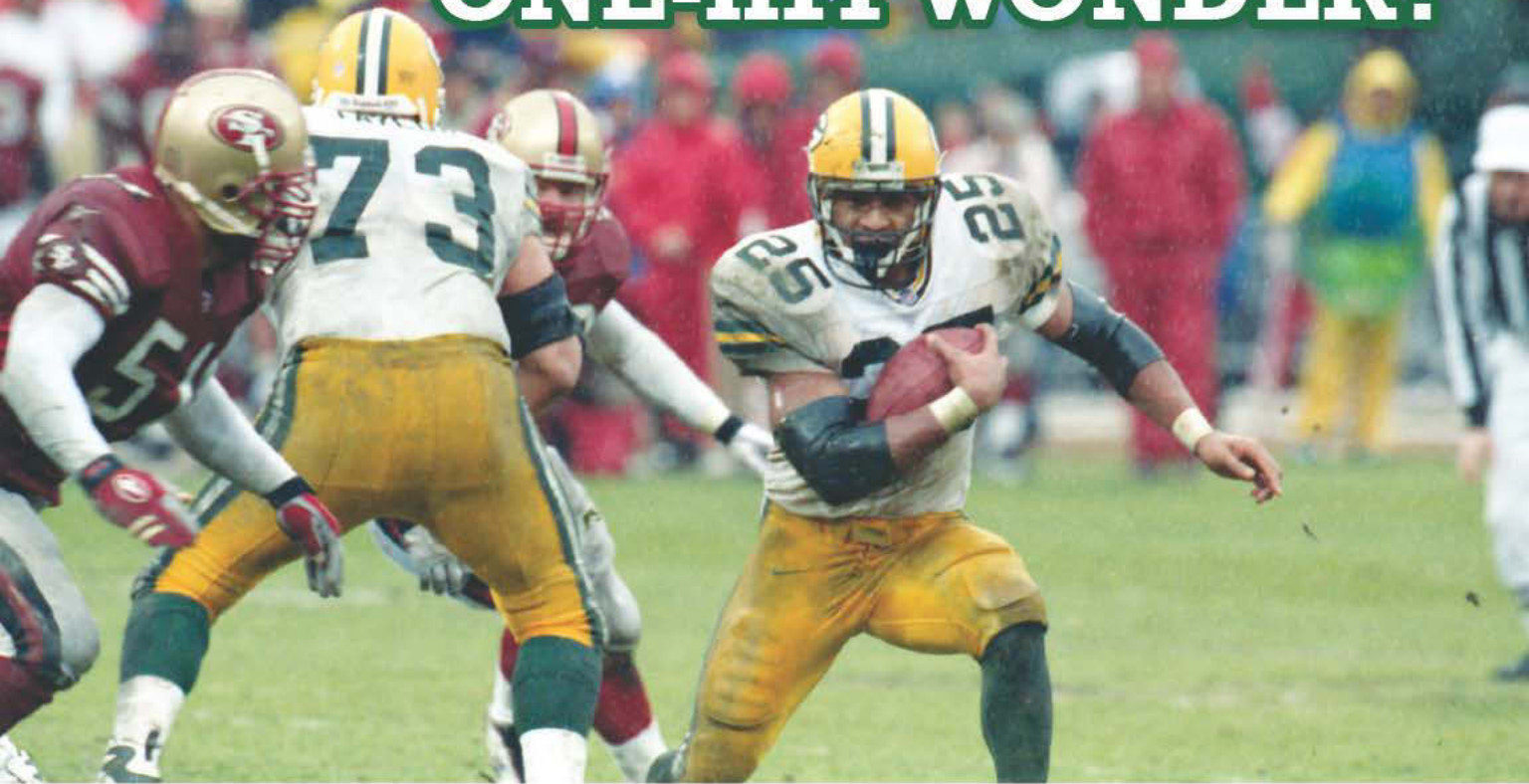
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ONE-HIT WONDER?



1997 Packers looked like a team on a mission, until it was stopped cold by upset-minded Broncos

BY KEVIN DAMASK
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

Heading into the 1997 NFL season, the Green Bay Packers were riding high.

The franchise was coming off its first Super Bowl title in nearly 30 years. The Packers still had the league's best quarterback, Brett Favre, coming off back-to-back MVP seasons, just hitting his prime. On defense, Reggie White was still harassing offensive linemen and planting quarterbacks to the turf at age 36.

Several familiar faces from the '96 championship squad were gone, but new players emerged.

The Packers once again rolled through the regular season, dominated in the playoffs and didn't skip a beat. They looked primed to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

Until they met the underdog Denver



Quarterback Brett Favre holds up the trophy after the Packers won the NFC championship game.

Broncos.

Twenty-five years have passed since the Packers made consecutive trips to the Super Bowl for the first time since

the Lombardi era. They have not done so since the '97 season. Packerland looks back on a memorable season with Green Bay falling painfully short of another championship.

BREAKOUT PERFORMANCES

In '97, Favre, who turned 28 on Oct. 10, was in the midst of one of the great runs in NFL history.

Winning his third straight MVP award (sharing the honor with Detroit's phenomenal Barry Sanders), the gunslinger completed 304 of 513 passes for 3,867 yards with 35 touchdowns and 16 interceptions. Favre finished the season with a 92.6% passer rating.

Going into the '97 campaign, Favre was excited to welcome back one of his favorite targets — Robert Brooks — and continue to develop a one-of-a-kind connection with Antonio Freeman who was

blossoming into one of the league's best receivers.

In the offseason, Green Bay parted ways with Andre Rison, a late-season addition in '96 who proved vital to the team's Super Bowl title. Rison signed a free-agent deal with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Talking about the late '90s Packers in a 2021 interview with Packerland, Rison said, "those teams probably could have two or three more championships."

Despite the loss of Rison, Brooks returned from a season-ending injury in '96 and produced solid numbers. In 15 games, Brooks hauled in 60 receptions for 1,010 yards and scored seven touchdowns.

Freeman, meanwhile, put together a Pro Bowl-worthy season. The third-year receiver grabbed 81 passes for 1,243 yards and 12 TDs.

At tight end, Keith Jackson, coming off his fifth Pro Bowl selection, retired after the '96 season.

Jackson's departure opened the door for Mark Chmura to emerge as the Packers' leading tight end. Chmura finished '97 with 38 receptions for 417 yards and six TDs. His breakout season earned him a trip to the Pro Bowl.

The backfield also saw a huge departure in the offseason. Versatile running back Edgar Bennett had signed with the rival Chicago Bears. No worries. Dorsey Levens stepped in and produced the best season of his 10-year career. Levens, earning his only Pro Bowl trip, rushed for 1,435 yards off of 329 carries and caught 53 passes for 370 yards. He hit the end zone 12 times.

Paving the way for Levens, full-back William Henderson, a 6-foot-1, 252-pound bulldozer, also grabbed 41 receptions for 367 yards.

On defense, it was the usual suspects with a few new faces rising to the occasion.

LeRoy Butler, a member of the 2022 NFL Hall of Fame class, enjoyed arguably his best season in '97. Lining up at strong safety, Butler had five interceptions, three sacks and 103 combined tackles. Butler was honored with an All-Pro selection and made the Pro Bowl.

Reggie White, from his left defensive end slot, was showing no signs of slowing down. The "Minister of Defense" hound-



Packers DE Reggie White puts pressure on Broncos QB John Elway during Super Bowl XXXII on Jan. 25, 1998. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

ed quarterbacks with 11 sacks, while recording two fumble recoveries in another Pro Bowl season.

While White and Butler, both veteran leaders, were expected to shine, other players took advantage of opportunities to make an impact.

Eugene Robinson, at free safety, had 112 combined tackles with 2.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries. Doug Evans, from the right cornerback slot, had three interceptions.

During the '96 playoffs, middle linebacker George Koonce suffered a torn ACL injury. Koonce wouldn't return until late in the '97 season. The door swung wide open for Bernardo Harris. The middle linebacker led the Packers with 113 combined tackles and was a steady presence on defense. Meanwhile, right outside linebacker Brian Williams finished with 100 tackles.

Along the defensive line, White, as great as he was, couldn't do it all. The Packers lost defensive end Sean Jones to retirement, but the team received solid performances from the tackle positions. Gilbert Brown, the 340-pound anchor, not only stuffed the run, but also had three sacks despite missing four games. Santana Dotson chipped in with 5.5 sacks.

The Packers still had one of the most feared defensive units in the league.

On special teams, gone was Super Bowl XXXI MVP Desmond Howard who signed with the Oakland Raiders. Bill Schroeder,

a Wisconsin native, stepped in to return kicks and punts, splitting time with Derrick Mayes.

Green Bay also said goodbye to veteran kicker Chris Jacke, opting to bring in rookie Ryan Longwell as his replacement.

MEMORABLE GAMES

Similar to '96, the Packers rolled through the regular season, finishing 13-3 and capturing the NFC Central Division crown.

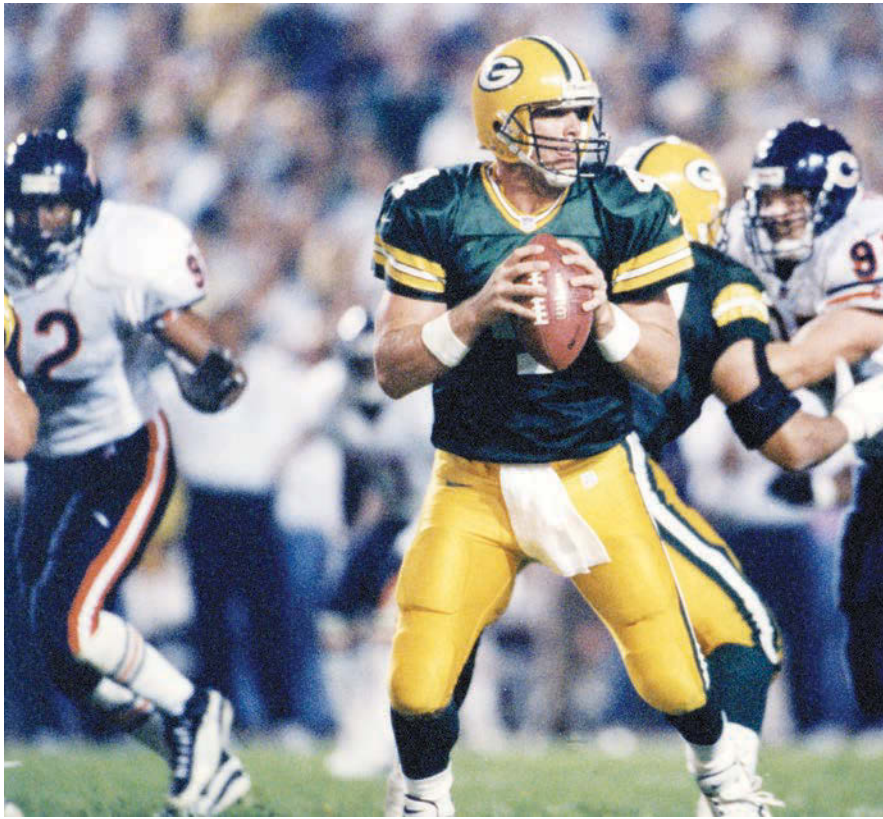
Perhaps the team was fending off a slight Super Bowl hangover, but Green Bay started out 3-2, falling to mediocre Philadelphia and Detroit. However, the Packers hit their stride in October and early November, winning five-straight contests.

Building momentum at 8-2, they were licking their chops when they flew to Indianapolis to play the 0-10 Colts on Nov. 16. The hapless Colts, led by former Packers head coach Lindy Infante, weren't expected to put up much of a fight. Instead, Indianapolis shocked the Packers 41-38.

It was the low point of the season.

In a 2021 interview with Packerland, Butler said there was no doubt Infante wanted to knock off the team that fired him six years earlier. It didn't help that the Packers played lifeless and out of sorts throughout most of the game.

"I'll never forget, (head coach) Mike Holmgren told us after that game, 'I don't



Brett Favre drops back to pass against the Chicago Bears during a game in the Packers' Super Bowl run in the 1997 season.

mind if you play bad ... just don't play bad on Sundays," Butler said.

The debacle at Indy was a wake-up call. Green Bay banged out seven-straight victories after the upset loss, including two dominant playoff wins. In fact, a week following the Indy defeat, the Packers took their frustrations out on a dreaded foe — the Dallas Cowboys.

For years, the Cowboys had been a nemesis, constantly beating the Packers in both regular-season and postseason matchups. Not this time. Finally getting Dallas at Lambeau Field, the Packers thrashed the overmatched Cowboys, 45-17. The game had a playoff atmosphere feel,

but the Packers clearly showed who the new prevailing force was in the NFC.

The Packers were ready to claim another division title, but first they had to fend off a team on the rise — the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

In their first matchup, an Oct. 5 clash in Green Bay, the Packers held on for a 21-16 win. By the second meeting, on Dec. 7 in Tampa, the Bucs were 9-4.

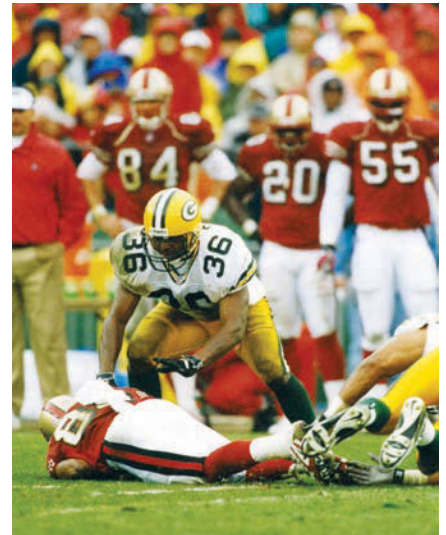
Coach Tony Dungy's team had a young, hungry defense ready to shut down Favre and Green Bay's potent attack. Instead, it was the Packers' defense that won the day. Held to only two Michael Husted field goals, Tampa Bay's offense never got on track. Green Bay wrapped up the NFC Central crown with a 17-6 victory.

ROLLING THROUGH THE PLAYOFFS

Unlike the previous season, Green Bay did not have home-field advantage going into the '97 playoffs, but the Packers felt confident.

They finished the season strong, secured a first-round bye, and watched the playoff picture shake out to their liking. Green Bay would meet Tampa Bay again in the divisional round and San Francisco, who locked up home-field throughout the playoffs, in the NFC title game. Two opponents the Packers had success against in recent years.

In the divisional playoff game, on Jan. 4, 1998, the Packers looked a bit rusty, but managed to control the contest from



LeRoy Butler logs a tackle during the NFC championship game against the 49ers.

start to finish, ending the Bucs' season with a 21-7 win. Favre connected with Chmura for a short touchdown pass and Longwell booted two field goals to give Green Bay a 13-0 lead at halftime.

The Bucs cut the lead to 13-7 on a Mike Alstott touchdown run. Suddenly, the 60,000-plus fans packed into Lambeau Field had reason for concern. That's when Favre issued a challenge to his teammates.

"I told 'em in the huddle, 'Hey, this is what we get paid for,'" Favre told the Washington Post following the game. "Some guys go into a shell like a turtle. Some guys step up. This is the biggest game we're going to play all year — until next week."

Levens, who gashed the fierce Bucs defense for 112 yards on 25 carries, sealed the win with a 2-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. It was on to San Francisco.

Reminiscent of how the Packers struggled against those championship Cowboys teams just a few years' prior, the 49ers simply could not beat the Packers in the playoffs. Green Bay ended the 49ers' seasons in both the '95 and '96 divisional playoffs. In '97, however, under first-year coach Steve Mariucci, San Francisco felt prepared to end the streak.

From 1992-95, Mariucci had served as the Packers' quarterbacks coach. He helped mold Favre into an MVP, Super Bowl-winning signal-caller. Mariucci had unique knowledge of Favre's strengths

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and weaknesses. It didn't help.

In the NFC championship game, on Jan. 11, Favre had a nearly flawless performance, leading Green Bay to a 23-10 victory. His stats weren't eye-popping, but Favre completed 16 of 27 passes for 227 yards, including a 27-yard TD strike to Freeman. Most importantly — no interceptions.

On a rainy, muddy afternoon at 3Com Park, the Packers built a 13-3 halftime lead and relied on the running of Levens in the second half to secure their second-consecutive NFC title. Levens had 27 carries for 114 yards, including a 5-yard TD run to push Green Bay's lead to 23-3 with 3:10 left in the game.

The Packers' defense, meanwhile, continued its late-season dominance. Heading into the Super Bowl, they had not allowed a touchdown pass for 31 quarters. Against the 49ers, Brown and Williams plugged the middle, allowing only 33 yards rushing on 18 carries.

Green Bay looked like a team nobody wanted to face heading into the biggest game of the year.

"It's the same feeling we had in our locker room a year ago," Packers coach Mike Holmgren told reporters after the win, "but the road was quite different. I've always preached that you have to enjoy the journey. But when you're repeating, that's tough to do. Expectations are just so high. But once you've accomplished it, the feeling is the same."

UPSET-MINDED BRONCOS END DREAM SEASON

It's a question that's haunted Packers fans for almost 25 years — what went wrong in Super Bowl XXXII?

Green Bay entered the game against the AFC champion Denver Broncos nearly two-touchdown favorites. National media outlets heaped glowing praise on the Packers. It was almost a foregone conclusion the Packers would breeze through the Broncos en route to back-to-back titles.

The Broncos also didn't have history on their side. Denver was 0-4 in Super Bowls — 0-3 with quarterback John Elway at the helm.

"Really and truly, the Denver Broncos don't want any of this. Nobody's up to the challenge at the moment,"



The Packers' offensive line paves a lane for Dorsey Levens during Super Bowl XXXII.

wrote Washington Post columnist Michael Wilbon. "The Packers are the best team. They're healthy, they're on a roll, they're appropriately arrogant. It's their time. More specifically, it's Brett Favre's time."

Denver did not buy into the hype.

In one of the most exhilarating games in Super Bowl history, the Broncos upset the Packers 31-24 on Jan. 25 at San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium. Perhaps Denver was tired of hearing about how the Packers would trounce them in the days leading up to the championship. Bill Romanowski, the Broncos' high-strung linebacker, was never one to hold back. In a post-game television interview, he said so much of the build-up before the game centered around the Packers.

"It made me want to puke," Romanowski said.

Utilizing its highly-regarded zone blocking scheme to perfection, Denver's running game ran the Packers' defense ragged. Running back Terrell Davis, fending off a nauseating migraine headache, pounded out 157 yards and scored three touchdowns, all on 1-yard runs. The headache kept Davis sidelined the whole second quarter, but he still earned Super Bowl MVP honors.

Defensively, the Broncos harassed the Packers with a gutsy blitz that kept Favre's head on a swivel the entire game. Favre still managed to fire three TD passes, two to Freeman and one to Chmura. Freeman played an excellent game, hauling in nine passes for 126

yards. After two outstanding playoff games, Denver held Levens in check: 90 yards rushing, 19 carries, no touchdowns.

On the other side, the Packers' defense looked tired and worn out. Butler led the team with nine tackles, but White was held to only one. The Packers recorded no sacks.

Despite less than stellar stats (12 for 22 passing, 123 yards, no TDs), Elway finally had his championship. But the Broncos didn't need to rely on their future hall-of-fame quarterback.

Davis and the running game carved up Green Bay with 179 yards.

For the Packers, the stunning loss was a bitter pill to swallow. A win would have meant consecutive Lombardi Trophies. The stepping stone to a potential dynasty. Denver wiped away all of that.

"We're a one-hit wonder, just a fart in the wind," Packers General Manager Ron Wolf told the media after the game.

Several months later, Wolf sat down with longtime Packers beat writer Bob McGinn. The GM admitted the Broncos simply out-executed the Packers.

"I never thought that would be possible," Wolf said. "But let me say this. We were defeated."

There wasn't anything flukish about it."

Years later, Holmgren was blamed for not making in-game adjustments that cost his team dearly. Whatever the case, 25 years later the '97 Packers are remembered as a dominant squad, just falling short of the ultimate prize. 🏈

Carroll Dale recalls his Packers glory days

BY RICH PALZEWIC
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

SHEBOYGAN FALLS – Carroll Dale, a former Packers wide receiver who played for coach Vince Lombardi in the mid-1960s and early '70s, said it was a unique experience playing for the Hall of Fame legend.

"It's true what they say," Carroll told Packerland Magazine. "Coach Lombardi treated everyone the same — like dogs. He had his favorites, I'm sure, but he was fair to everyone — whether you were a star player or a bench warmer. He was demanding, but he preached 100% to what was best for the team. He had good judgment about players — were they dependable and could they be trusted."

Carroll told a story about when he was injured and missed some playing time during his first year in Green Bay.

"I pulled a muscle in my leg," he said. "We were playing Detroit early in the season and were behind 21 points at halftime. Our tight end was hurt, so Boyd (Dowler) went to tight end. Max (McGee) must have been hurt, too, because I was playing split end — I normally played flanker."

During the game, Carroll said he made a



Carroll Dale was a solid wide receiver for the Packers from 1965-72. He was an integral part of the team winning the first two Super Bowls. RICH PALZEWIC PHOTO

nice block on a play and then caught a long pass from quarterback Bart Starr.

"On one of Bart's famous 3rd-and-one pass plays, I went 77 yards and scored," he said. "On the plane ride back home, coach

Lombardi nudged me and said, 'You got your job back.' We beat Cleveland that year for the championship, and I caught a touchdown pass in that game."

Carroll said Lombardi had the ability to pull people together and get the best out of them.

"He'd pick up linemen from other teams who weren't doing all that well and turn them into All-Pro," he said. "You had to buy into his philosophy. When he got to Green Bay, he told the guys, 'If you don't want to win, move on now, get out, go.'"

GOLF OUTING

Carroll, along with dozens of other former Packers players, attended the annual Packers Hall of Fame, Inc. golf outing at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms Golf Course in Sheboygan Falls on July 18.

Unlike many of the players who hopped on an airplane to attend, Dale drove from Wise, Va. — his hometown and a 12-hour car ride away.

"I drove with a friend for company and to show him around the area," the 84-year-old Dale said. "It made the trip go by faster."

See DALE page 13

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Season ticket holder of the month: Matt Lacanne

Marinette native is a lifelong Packers fan

BY RICH PALZEWIC
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

For being only 33 years old, Matt Lacanne from Marinette knows a thing or two about the Packers.

“Our family’s season tickets have been in the family when my grandparents on my mom’s side had them in the 1970s,” he said. “Before that, the tickets were in my grandpa’s brother’s name. My grandpa was a diehard fan, and he and my grandma would go every Sunday.”

The three seats, located in Section 120 and 10 rows up, are behind the Packers’ bench.

“You can’t get much better than that,” Lacanne said. “We’re on about the 46-yard line.”

Lacanne said he remembers the first game he went to — a preseason contest against the New England Patriots in the late ’90s.

“I was about 7 or 8 at the time,” he said. “I remember thinking how awesome it was stepping foot inside Lambeau Field.”

After his grandparents passed the tickets to his uncle in 2000, Lacanne’s parents took them over in 2010.

“As soon as I got out of college (at Saginaw Valley State University), started working and could afford them, the tickets went into my name,” Lacanne said. “I’d buy a game or two every year before I started buying the whole season. It’s what my wife (Tracy) and I want to do with our money — go to games.”

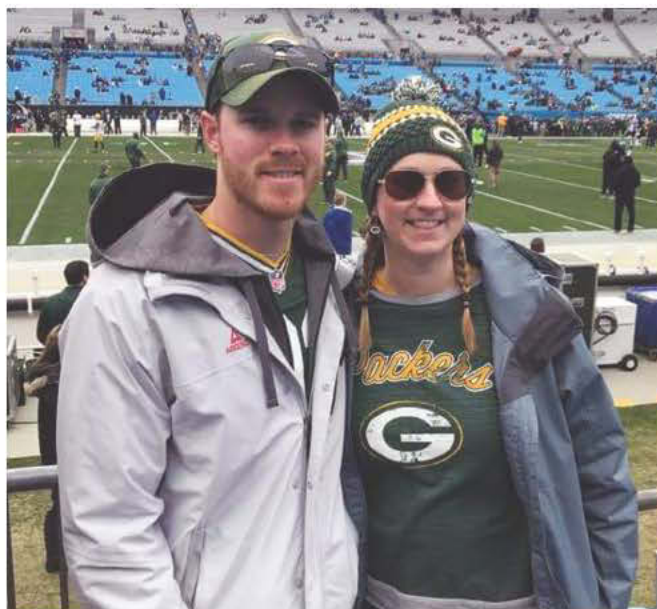
The Lacannes have the Green Package, which means they get one preseason game and six regular-season games each year.

His wife also got box seats last year — bringing their total to five tickets.

“It’s fun because three of the seats are in the bowl, and two of them are box seats,” Lacanne said. “It’s fun to bring different people to the games so they can



Matt Lacanne proposed to his girlfriend, Tracy, before a November 2014 game. The couple travels to one Packers road game every season. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The Lacannes made the trek down to the Packers’ game at Carolina in 2017. It was Aaron Rodgers’ first game back that season after he came off injured reserve from a broken collarbone.

enjoy the experience.”

Speaking of his game day ritual, Lacanne said he and his wife don’t do “anything crazy.”

“We like the atmosphere of Lambeau Field, obviously, but our enjoyment comes mostly from

watching the game,” he said. “I have a football background, so it’s nice to see the whole field.”

Lacanne said sometimes they travel from Marinette to Green Bay a bit early but other times not.

“It depends,” he said. “Half

the time, we end up going to Lambeau and walking around for 30-60

minutes before the game and then going inside. Other times, we tailgate for a bit before the game.”

Lacanne said when former quarterback Brett Favre came back to Green Bay for his retirement ceremony in November 2015, it showed his loyalty to the team.

“To this day, I still get made fun of for that game when (Favre) came back to get honored,” he said. “I could have sold my tickets for \$1,500 a piece, which at the time, would have paid for two seasons worth of tickets. We ended up going — it was a miserable weather game, with temperatures in the low 30s with rain. It was a terrible game to watch because the Packers lost (17-13) to the Bears. It’s not about the money — it’s about the atmosphere and being there every week.”

Seven years ago, the Lacannes decided to go to one away game every season.

This year’s road game will be different.

“We got London tickets,” Lacanne said. “We’re in the process of planning that.”

During the seven years, the couple has gone to New Orleans, Denver, Atlanta, Carolina, New York, Kansas City and Indianapolis.

“We haven’t picked the easy ones,” Lacanne laughed. “The first four or five years we ended up losing the games. We told ourselves to stop picking good teams to play against. Each city and stadium is different, but none have been better than Lambeau.”

When asked if he’s been heckled by opposing fans in away stadiums, Lacanne said it “hasn’t been too bad.”

“New York was the worse,” he said. “We had lots of fans screaming directly at us. Most others were great, but New Orleans was the best. It was a few years after Hurricane Katrina

See LACANNE page 13

EARLY NFL CAREER

After being drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the eighth round of the 1960 NFL Draft, Dale was traded to the Packers in 1965.

"During my first five seasons with the Rams, I endured five losing seasons," he said. "As soon as I was traded, (the Rams) started winning. I had some ties with the Rams who went to the Packers, so that helped with the transition. We played the Packers twice a year, so I knew them."

LOMBARDI YEARS

Upon arriving in Green Bay, Dale helped the Packers win three NFL Championships from 1965-67, including the first two Super Bowls.

"Coming to Green Bay changed my career," Dale, who caught four passes in each of the first two Super Bowls, said. "The atmosphere was different, and I learned as soon as I got here that the team and coach Lombardi were all about winning."

Dale corralled 438 passes for 8,277 yards and 52 touchdowns in his 14-year NFL career and still holds the Packers' franchise

record for most yards per reception in a career (19.7).

ICE BOWL

Carroll said he remembers playing in the famous Ice Bowl in 1967 like it was yesterday.

"Early in the game, Bart threw a high pass to me," he said. "I didn't catch it — I must have short-armed it. That game could have gone either way. Somehow, we put that game-winning drive together and pulled out the win. Stating the obvious, it was cold."

PLAYING WITH STARR

Carroll said Starr was a high-character individual.

"On road trips, Bart, (quarterback) Zeke (Bratkowski) and I would go out and have dinner, or maybe catch a movie," he said. "Bart was a hard worker and was dedicated. He was a great leader. If guys got out of line, he'd set them straight."

POST LOMBARDI

After Lombardi resigned from coaching the Packers in 1968, he continued as the general manager, naming Phil Bengtson head coach.

"I went through two more

head coaches (after Lombardi left)," Dale said. "After Bengtson, (Dan) Devine cut me. He called me in and said they were picking up another player and had to cut me, but he offered me a coaching job. I had already talked to (Minnesota coach) Bud Grant, who told me if I cleared waivers, they'd pick me up. Devine didn't think any team would pick me up."

After leaving Green Bay upon the completion of the 1972 season, Dale landed in Minnesota for his final NFL season in 1973.

The Vikings advanced to Super Bowl VIII, only to lose to the Miami Dolphins at Rice Stadium in Houston, 24-7.

"As amazing as winning the first two Super Bowls were, it was equally as hard to lose Super Bowl VIII," Dale said. "You go through an entire season and get that far — it was tough."

HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

Dale played baseball, basketball and football at J. J. Kelly High School in Wise.

"If I hadn't played football, I probably would have played basketball," Dale said. "In baseball, I either hit a home run or struck out."

LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL

When Carroll's NFL career was finished, he lived in Bristol, Tenn.

"There was a coal boom going on in the area," he said. "It was a good transition — you didn't know if one day you were going to hit it rich or go bankrupt. I was involved in that for about seven years."

Dale said working in the coal industry took the place of football — at least for the time being.

"It was exciting and used all the philosophies Lombardi had coached," he said. "The harder you worked the luckier you get. I didn't have time to miss football."

Later in life, Carroll became an athletic director at a small college.

"I did that for about 22 years," he said. "I also helped fundraise and did that until I turned 77. It was one of those jobs where I'd golf with clients to help raise money."

Carroll golfs "quite a bit."

"I do have a tan," he laughed. "Sometimes, I go five times a week. I've attended quite a few of the Hall of Fame golf outings. As long as I can hit the ball OK, I'll still come up. I'm getting up there in age at 84." 🍌

LACANNE from page 12

came through, and people were recently coming back to the city. We had fans thanking us for coming back because they were excited to have fans back. We ended up losing that game, but the atmosphere was great."

Lacanne said his favorite players over the years have been past players Julius Peppers, Favre, Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman, and current players Aaron Rodgers and Jaire Alexander.

"Julius Peppers was a big man," he said. "Standing next to Clay Matthews, he made him look like a little kid. Today, I like Rodgers because he does it differently than any other quarterback. I like Alexander, because I was a former defensive back and like watching his approach."

Lacanne said he's witnessed plenty of memorable games, but two stand out.

"New England and Tom Brady came to Lambeau (in 2014)," he said. "(Former receiver) Jordy Nelson scored on a long touchdown pass from Rodgers before halftime to help us get the win."

Lacanne said his other favorite game occurred against the Packers' biggest rival, the Chicago Bears.

"In the season opener in 2018, Rodgers injured his calf in the first half," he said. "He ended up coming back in the second half, and the standing ovation given to him gave me the chills. Randall Cobb caught a long touchdown pass at the end of the game with about two minutes remaining, and we won, 24-23."

Along with the good memories, Lacanne said there have

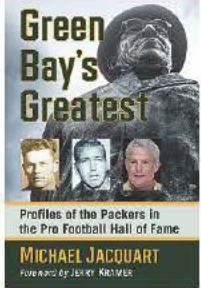
been some gut-wrenching losses.

"In the 2020 NFC championship game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Brady came back to Lambeau again," he said. "That (31-26) loss was tough. It was tough to get tickets for the playoff games because of the COVID-19 pandemic — it

was an odd atmosphere."

Lacanne said if he's physically able, he won't stop going to games anytime soon.

"It never gets old — not even close," he said. "It still gives me butterflies when I walk inside Lambeau. My wife makes fun of me for how giddy I still get." 🍌



Green Bay's Greatest
Profiles of the Packers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
MICHAEL JACQUART
Foreword by Jerry Kramer

Green Bay's Greatest
Profiles of the Packers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
MICHAEL JACQUART

Highlighting each of the 27 Green Bay Packers enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Michael Jacquart has been published in Packerland Pride magazine and this is his second Packers book. He lives in Iola, Wisconsin.

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Sights and sounds of 77th training camp

BY RICH PALZEWIC
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

The Green Bay Packers kicked off their 2022 training camp July 27 at Ray Nitschke Field.

It marked the team's 77th training camp, a tradition that began in 1946 under team co-founder and coach Curly Lambeau.

It was the first of 12 practices open to the public.

Before 2020, St. Norbert College had hosted the Packers for training camp since 1958, with players residing in on-campus residence halls and eating dinner in the college's commons.

The Packers didn't use the training camp arrangements at St. Norbert again this summer due to construction projects upgrading residence halls on campus.

Instead, the team used its facilities at Lambeau Field for its entire training camp operations, including practice, meals and meetings.

One of the best traditions in all of sports was also back for training camp.

After a short hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, players resumed riding kids' bikes from Lambeau Field to practice, a tradition that dates back to the 1960s when Vince Lombardi was head coach.

As usual, the crowds were big and dozens of kids begged players to pick their bikes.

Some of the best images of training camp don't come from the practice field but come from witnessing 300-pound linemen riding an undersized bike with flat tires.

Running back AJ Dillon, offensive lineman Zach Tom and defensive back Keisean Nixon come to mind of such examples you'll see in the September edition of Packerland.

Shooting photos of training camp is organized chaos.

It's great getting close to the players, but you're also competing for space with dozens of other media members and special VIP guests who pay to get sideline passes.

Sometimes, it's difficult to find a good spot to set up shop.

Also, there are restrictions on media members as to when they can shoot photos.

Most often, we only have about 15-20 minutes combined to snap away.

Naturally, when the team is working on schemes, photo/video taking is off limits.

Typically speaking, before practice or when the team works on drills or stretches, there are no media restrictions.

According to the Greater Green Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, training camp, along with Packers Family Night, attracts approximately 90,000 visitors from across the nation and as many as 20 foreign countries, with a total economic impact estimated at approximately \$9 million. 🍷



Running back AJ Dillon, showing off his famous monster quads, flies through drills.



Backup quarterback Jordan Love throws a pass to a receiver.

(ALL PHOTOS BY RICH PALZEWIC)



Offensive lineman Zach Tom waves to the crowd as he rides the bike of this little Packers fan.



Packers players donning protect padding over their helmets exit the Don Hutson Center for the start of practice on Ray Nitschke Field.



A group of Packers players are all smiles heading to practice as fans carry their equipment.



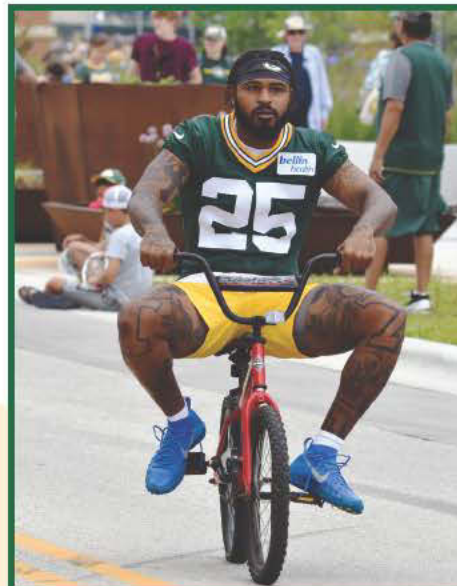
Aaron Rodgers focuses on a snap during a training camp practice open to fans.



Running back Aaron Jones gets set to sign autographs before practice.

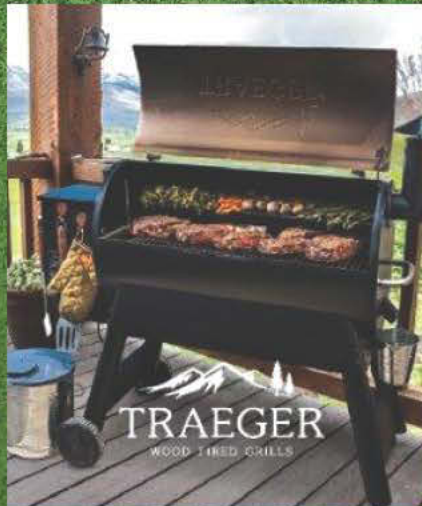


Packers wide receivers Amari Rodgers (8), Romeo Doubs (87), Samori Toure (83) and Allen Lazard (13) take a break in practice and watch their teammates.



Defensive back Keisean Nixon didn't fit this bike too well riding over to the Packers' practice field.

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