



THE DOPE SHEET

OFFICIAL PUBLICITY, GREEN BAY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB

VOL. V; NO. 14

GREEN BAY, OCT. 28, 2003

EIGHTH GAME

BEST IN NFL HISTORY: According to Elias Sports Bureau, Brett Favre enters Sunday's contest averaging more TD passes per game than any player in league annals (minimum 150 TD), including the two quarterbacks ahead of him on the all-time list, Dan Marino and Fran Tarkenton:

| Avg | Player | TD | GP | All-time Rk |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1.7772 | Brett Favre | .327 | 184 | 3 |
| 1.7586 | Peyton Manning | .153 | 87 | n/a |
| 1.7355 | Dan Marino | .420 | 242 | 1 |
| 1.4813 | Jim Kelly | .237 | 160 | 15 |
| 1.4219 | Joe Montana | .273 | 192 | 7 |
| 1.4033 | Dan Fouts | .254 | 181 | 10 |
| 1.3990 | Warren Moon | .291 | 208 | 5 |
| 1.3902 | Fran Tarkenton | .342 | 246 | 2 |
| 1.3744 | Johnny Unitas | .290 | 211 | 6 |
| 1.3728 | Steve Young | .232 | 169 | 17 |

MOST ACCURATE WITH MOST ATTEMPTS: No one in NFL history has thrown as many passes (6,217) more accurately (.612 completion percentage) than Favre. The league's most accurate passers with at least 6,000 attempts:

| Passer | Att | Comp | Pct |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Brett Favre | 6,217 | 3,803 | .612 |
| Dan Marino | 8,358 | 4,967 | 59.4 |
| Warren Moon | 6,823 | 3,988 | 58.4 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 6,467 | 3,686 | 57.0 |
| John Elway | 7,250 | 4,123 | 56.9 |

FAVRE IN 2003: Brett Favre through seven games is statistically off to the most accurate start of his career. He is on pace to hit two significant marks:

- ▶ He would shatter his 1992 franchise record in completion percentage (64.1). Favre is second in the NFL with a 67.4 mark.
- ▶ He would throw for 30 touchdown passes (344 career), and eclipse Fran Tarkenton (342) for No. 2 on the all-time list, behind Dan Marino (420); Favre would reach 30 TD passes for the seventh time, but for only the second time in the last five seasons.
- ▶ The one category in which Favre is not "above par" is passing yards. He's on pace to finish with just under 3,500, which would be his lowest in 10 years. However, the Packers as a team are averaging 139.0 yards rushing; that's nearly 20 yards more than any of Favre's previous 11 seasons in Green Bay (120.8 in 2002). Favre's also on pace for 512 attempts, the second-lowest of his career.
- ▶ After a rough start, Favre has a 103.9 rating over his last 159 attempts (115 of 159, 72.3 percent, 1,184 yards, 10 TD, four INT). The stretch covers five-plus games.
- ▶ He has only four multiple-interception games over his last 30 starts (one in seven 2003 starts).

Sunday night football

- ▶ Sunday Night Football became a reality in 1987, when ESPN purchased rights to launch the prime-time series. A landmark in television history, it was the NFL's debut on the cable medium.
- ▶ From 1987-97, for 11 years, ESPN held the Sunday night slot for only the last half of each season. In 1998, the network began airing Sunday night games exclusively, virtually every week.
- ▶ TNT held rights to air Sunday night games, mostly over the first half of each season from 1990-97.
- ▶ Veteran ESPN play-by-play man Mike Patrick has called every prime-time NFL broadcast for the network, which will air its 200th broadcast later this season.
- ▶ Since it began in 1987, Sunday night football has annually finished as the highest-rated series on ad-supported cable (excluding premium networks, such as HBO, etc.).

ALL-TIME RECORDS, SUNDAY NIGHT (1987-2003)

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Green Bay | .9 | 2 | 0 | .818 |
| Kansas City | .8 | 2 | 0 | .800 |
| San Francisco | .11 | 4 | 0 | .733 |
| Miami | .16 | 6 | 0 | .727 |
| Philadelphia | .8 | 4 | 0 | .667 |
| Washington | .12 | 6 | 1 | .658 |
| Carolina | .5 | 3 | 0 | .625 |
| Buffalo | .10 | 7 | 0 | .588 |
| Tennessee/Houston O. | .11 | 8 | 0 | .579 |
| Seattle | .12 | 9 | 0 | .571 |

FRESH OFF THE BYE: In six of the last seven seasons, since 1996, the Packers have won after their bye week. The only loss was a 2000 decision at Miami.

NO THREE-GAME SLIDES: Since Mike Sherman's debut season, 2000, he and the Eagles' Andy Reid are the only NFL coaches who have not lost more than two consecutive regular-season games (excluding the Jets' Al Groh and the Cowboys' Bill Parcells, who coached fewer than 17 games).

SHARPER IS TOP THORN: No other NFL player, according to STATS, Inc., has intercepted more Daunte Culpepper passes than Darren Sharper. Plus, no other quarterback has thrown more interceptions to Sharper.

Most interceptions of Culpepper

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 5 | Darren Sharper |
| 4 | Deon Grant |
| 2 | Brock Marion |
| | Derrick Brooks |
| | Reggie Tongue |
| | Donnie Abraham |
| | Damien Robinson |
| | Will Allen |

Most interceptions, by QB, Sharper

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 5 | Daunte Culpepper |
| 3 | Charlie Batch |
| | Jim Miller |
| 2 | Jake Plummer |
| | Kordell Stewart |

Favre reaches 200, with another chink in his armor

For the 10th time during his ironman games-played streak, Brett Favre will play with injury. Sunday, he'll play in a 200th consecutive game (183 regular season, 17 postseason). He stands just five games from matching Forrest Gregg's 33-year-old franchise record, 187 consecutive regular-season games played. A case-by-case look at Favre's stretches of playing in pain:

| Injury | Sustained | First game back, result | Notes |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| First-degree separation, left shoulder | vs. Phi.; Nov. 15, 1992 | at Chi.; Nov. 22, 1992 | W Led Packers to comeback win over Eagles, with injury |
| Deep thigh bruise | vs. TB; Nov. 28, 1993 | at Chi.; Dec. 5, 1993 | L Limping, threw game-winning TD on play after injury vs. TB; next week, set career highs in completions and passing yards |
| Severely bruised left hip | at Min.; Oct. 20, 1994 | at Chi.; Oct. 31, 1994 | W Career-high 58 yards rushing, TD, at Chicago in cold rain |
| Severely sprained left ankle | at Min.; Nov. 5, 1995 | vs. Chi.; Nov. 12, 1995 | W Missed most of second half at Min.; didn't practice all week, rebounded vs. Bears for highest career passer rating (147.2) |
| Wind knocked out (twice) | vs. Pit.; Dec. 24, 1995 | vs. Atl.; Dec. 31, 1995 | W Packers called timeout; Favre coughed up blood on sideline, returned to lead team to division-clinching win vs. Steelers |
| Sprained thumb, right hand | vs. Den.; Aug. 23, 1999 | vs. Oak.; Sept. 12, 1999 | W Aggravated several times early in season; played most of year with injury |
| Tendinitis, right elbow | (training camp) | vs. NYJ.; Sept. 3, 2000 | L Missed final three preseason games; battled much of season |
| Left mid-foot sprain | at TB; Nov. 12, 2000 | vs. Ind.; Nov. 19, 2000 | W Warren Sapp sack; 23-of-36, 301 yards, 2 TD vs. Ind. |
| Sprained lateral collateral ligament, left knee | vs. Was.; Oct. 20, 2002 | vs. Mia.; Nov. 4, 2002 | W LaVar Arrington sack; wore brace most of remaining games |
| Broken thumb, right hand | at StL; Oct. 19, 2003 | at Min.; Nov. 2, 2003 | W 23-of-32, 268 yards, 2 TD, at StL after early-game injury |

Two years after he co-founded the Packers with Curly Lambeau, George Calhoun began writing a piece called *The Dope Sheet*, which served as the official press release and game program from 1921-24. Honoring Calhoun, the first publicity director, the Packers are running this weekly feature in their release.

THE DOPE ON THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT:

Coaches Mike Sherman: 37-21, fourth season
Mike Tice: 12-12, second season

Packers vs. Vikings:

All-time regular season: 41-42-1
Postseason: 0-0
Last meeting, regular season: Sept. 7, 2003;
Lambeau Field (Vikings won, 30-25)
Last meeting, Minnesota: Nov. 17, 2002;
Metrodome (Vikings won, 31-21)

- ▶ Only once over the last 10 seasons has a team won as many as three straight (GB, 1996-97).
- ▶ Clubs have combined for seven of division's last nine titles (1994-2002).
- ▶ Packers win would make the road team 2-0 in the season series for only the second time over the last 20 seasons (1991).

FAVRE NEARS 4,000: Is there a way to quantify Brett Favre's worth to the Packers franchise? Probably not, but this might be close: Drives engineered by Favre, entering Sunday, have yielded 3,965 points — that's 35 points from 4,000. Since coming to Green Bay in 1992, he's led 2,078 drives, and put the Packers in a position to score on approximately 40 percent of them, compared by some the equivalent to batting .400 over a career in baseball.

FRANKS REACHES 50: Bubba Franks is expected to make his 50th career start Sunday. He's bidding to become the first Packers tight end since Paul Coffman with three consecutive Pro Bowl selections.

STINGY ON KICKOFF COVERAGE: The Packers kickoff coverage under first-year special teams coordinator John Bonamego is tied with Atlanta for first in the NFL, keeping opponents, including explosive Dante Hall, to an average start of their own 25.3 yard line. The unit, which ranked 15th in 2002, also continues to post the league's lowest average per return.

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Green Bay |18.4 |
| Indianapolis |19.1 |
| Atlanta |19.5 |
| Buffalo |19.9 |
| N.Y. Giants |19.9 |

YAC-ITY YAC: According to STATS, Inc., the Packers offense has more yards after the catch (832) than any NFL club. On defense, Green Bay's allowed 743 yards after the catch, fifth-fewest in the NFL. Plus, the Packers have held opponents to less than 1 yard after the catch 34 times; only one other defense (San Francisco, 37) has more.

OUT OF THE LOCKER ROOM: The Packers have scored a touchdown on the first possession of the second half in each of their last three games.

CAPTURE THE FLAG: Green Bay's 33 penalties are tied for second fewest in the NFL, behind the Jets (28). Philadelphia also has 33.

- ▶ In comparison, officials have flagged opponents 47 times. Those opponent penalties have wiped out 114 yards of offense, two touchdowns and six first downs. Eight of the opponent penalties have been on kickoff or punt returns. Five have kept Packers offensive drives alive.

GREEN MARKS ALL OVER PACKERS ANNALS:

- ▶ Ahman Green (1,004) needs three carries to surpass No. 5 Dorsey Levens (1,006) and 22 to eclipse No. 4 Tony Canadeo (1,025) on the Packers' all-time list.
- ▶ He needs 135 rushing yards for 5,000 career.
- ▶ He needs just 37 yards to reach 1,000 yards from scrimmage this season (including 229 receiving).
- ▶ Green (34) needs two rushing touchdowns to surpass No. 4 Clarke Hinkle (35, 1932-41) and four to top No. 3 Verne Lewellen (37, 1924-32).

- ▶ Green (eight) has already surpassed his 2002 rushing TD total, seven. He needs two to equal his 2000 career high, 10. Before that, the last Packers player with 10-or-more in a season was Terdell Middleton (11) in 1978.
- ▶ Green leads all NFL players with 58 first downs earned (Kansas City's Priest Holmes is second with 57). He's converted 11 of 14 third-down carries, including five-for-five on third-and-1. He's two-for-two on fourth-and-1.
- ▶ His 433 yards from Sept. 29-Oct. 12 were the highest total by a Packers individual over any three-game stretch. Hall of Famer Jim Taylor (419 in 1962) held the previous mark.
- ▶ Green became the third Packers player to top 100 in three straight games (Dorsey Levens in 1997, John Brockington in 1971).
- ▶ Green's on pace to rush for 1,678 yards, 204 more than Taylor's 1962 team record (1,474), the NFL's oldest franchise rushing record.

GREEN ON THE SCOREBOARD: Ahman Green has 60 points in 2003 (on 10 touchdowns).

- ▶ The halfback has 12 more than kicker Ryan Longwell (48). The last time a kicker did not lead the Packers in scoring was 1994 (Sterling Sharpe, 108).
- ▶ Only one other non-kicker has more points; Priest Holmes, who has his bye this week, has 72.
- ▶ In 2003, he's increased his Green Bay career total to 258, climbing from 27th to 19th on the Packers' all-time list (currently tied with Billy Howton, having passed legends such as Johnny Blood McNally, Paul Coffman and Boyd Dowler).
- ▶ Just two more TD will push him past Don Chandler (261), Al Del Greco (262), and Dorsey Levens (266).

WHAT'S THE RUSH?: The Packers' rushing offense (139.0 yards per game) ranks No. 4 in the NFL.

- ▶ The last time Green Bay finished a season in the Top 5 was 1967, Vince Lombardi's last year as head coach, when they finished second. The Packers haven't ranked in the Top 10 since 1972 (seventh).
- ▶ One other club has scored more TD on the ground (11); Kansas City, who takes its bye this week, has 14.
- ▶ The Packers have rushed for touchdowns in six straight games, something they haven't done since 1985-86 (seven consecutive, last four games of 1985, first three of '86).

RAUCOUS IN THE RED ZONE: The Packers own the NFL's No. 1 red-zone offense.

| Club | Poss | Pts | TD | FG | TD Pct |
|-------------|---------|-----|----|----|--------|
| Green Bay |23 | 136 | 18 | 3 | .783 |
| Kansas City |21 | 127 | 16 | 5 | .762 |
| New Orleans |17 | 100 | 12 | 5 | .706 |
| Tampa Bay |17 | 95 | 12 | 4 | .706 |
| Minnesota |25 | 130 | 16 | 6 | .640 |

SEEING THE FIELD: After early-season injuries took their toll on his pass catchers, Brett Favre has had to work with several targets in both games and at practice this season. He's overcome that adversity, however, having completed at least 14 passes to six receivers.

- ▶ For the first time in his career, he has not had a 100-yard receiver over his first seven games. The last time the Packers did that was 1991, when Sterling Sharpe recorded 133 yards in the 10th game (11/10/91 vs. Buffalo at Milwaukee).

Longest current scoring streaks, NFL

The Packers now have scored in 192 consecutive games...The last team to blank Green Bay was Chicago, Oct. 17, 1991 (10-0 at Lambeau)...On Oct. 7, 2001, at Tampa, the team broke the previous franchise record, 156 games (Nov. 9, 1958 — Dec. 21, 1969)...The Packers have scored in every game under Vince Lombardi, Mike Holmgren, Ray Rhodes and Mike Sherman.

LONGEST CURRENT NFL TEAM SCORING STREAKS

| Streak | Team | Began |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 410 | San Francisco 49ers | 10/16/1977 |
| 195 | Minnesota Vikings | 9/29/1991 |
| 192 | Green Bay Packers | 10/27/1991 |
| 173 | Denver Broncos | 11/30/1992 |

Non-losing decades, NFL history

In 2001, the Packers captured the NFC's longest active streak of non-losing seasons, now 11. Green Bay's last sub-.500 campaign was 1991 (4-12). The Packers, who've now accomplished it three times, are the only team ever to do it more than twice (and that does not include the Lombardi era)...

| Team | Consecutive Non-Losing Seasons | Years | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Miami Dolphins | 14 | 1989-2002 | (current) |
| Green Bay Packers | 11 | 1992-2002 | (current) |
| Minnesota Vikings | 10 | 1991-2000 | |
| San Francisco 49ers | 16 | 1983-98 | |
| Miami Dolphins | 11 | 1977-87 | |
| Pittsburgh Steelers | 13 | 1972-84 | |
| Dallas Cowboys | 21 | 1965-85 | |
| Oakland Raiders | 16 | 1965-80 | |
| Baltimore Colts | 15 | 1957-71 | |
| New York Giants | 10 | 1954-63 | |
| Washington Redskins | 11 | 1936-46 | |
| Green Bay Packers | 14 | 1934-47 | |
| Detroit Lions/Portsmouth Spartans | 10 | 1931-40 | |
| Chicago Bears | 15 | 1930-44 | |
| Green Bay Packers | 12 | 1921-32 | |

NOTE — Streaks listed in reverse chronological order.

THIRD-DOWN: The Packers' third-down offense ranks third in the NFL, converting at a .444 clip (36 of 81).

HE'D LOVE A ROOF AT LAMBEAU: Ryan Longwell, who's overcome the challenging conditions of Lambeau Field to become one of the most accurate in history, is nearly automatic indoors.

- ▶ Overall in domes, Longwell is 28 of 31, including post-season, since launching his career in 1997.
- ▶ He's perfect outside the Metrodome, as all three of his "no-goods" were at Minnesota. Two of them were in the same 2001 game (42- and 51-yarders). The other was as a rookie in 1997 (35 yards).

SPEAKING OF LONGWELL: The Packers' kicker has quietly proved to be one of the team's most dependable resources in 2003.

- ▶ He's one of three full-time kickers who've yet to miss an attempt (32 of 32 in combined PAT and FG). Carolina's John Kasay (27 of 27) and Indy's Mike Vanderjagt (40 of 40) are the others.
- ▶ He's hit 11 consecutive field goals, and 25 of his last 26 attempts (since Oct. 20, 2002). **From 40-plus yards**, he's hit eight of his last nine (all five in '03).
- ▶ Longwell (167) needs seven field goals to surpass No. 1 Chris Jacke (173) on the Packers' all-time list.
- ▶ He's converted his last 78 PAT, since a blocked attempt Dec. 23, 2001, vs. Cleveland. His career high is 104 (1999-2001, second in team history).

Most Consecutive PAT, GB History

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 134 | Chris Jacke, 1990-94 |
| 104 | Ryan Longwell, 1999-2001 |
| 99 | Paul Hornung, 1960-62, 1964 |
| 87 | Chris Jacke, 1994-96 |
| 78 | Ryan Longwell, 2001-03 |

Most Consecutive FG, GB History

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 17 | Chris Jacke, 1993 |
| 15 | Chris Jacke, 1989-90 |
| 14 | Ryan Longwell, 2002 |
| 13 | Ryan Longwell, 1997-98 |
| | Ryan Longwell, 2000 |
| 11 | Jan Stenerud, 1981 |
| | Ryan Longwell, 1998 |
| | Ryan Longwell, 2002-03 |

ANOTHER LEGEND ON THE HORIZON: Favre (118) with a win Sunday can tie No. 4 Johnny Unitas (119) on the NFL's all-time wins list.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| John Elway, Den | 148 | 82 | 1 | .643 |
| Dan Marino, Mia | 147 | 93 | 0 | .613 |
| Fran Tarkenton, Min-NYG | 125 | 109 | 6 | .533 |
| Johnny Unitas, BalC-SD | 119 | 63 | 4 | .651 |
| Brett Favre, GB | 118 | 62 | 0 | .656 |
| Joe Montana, SF-KC | 117 | 47 | 0 | .713 |
| Terry Bradshaw, Pit | 107 | 51 | 0 | .677 |
| Warren Moon, HouO-Min-Sea-KC | 102 | 98 | 0 | .510 |

NOT UP FOR THE CHALLENGE: Dating to 2001, officials have denied instant-replay challenges 14 of the last 18 times an opponent head coach has thrown his red flag (including four of five times in 2003).

HE'S IN GOOD HANDS: Favre's offensive line is tied for second in the NFL, allowing just six sacks.

- ▶ The Packers went three consecutive games without allowing a sack for the first time in team history (statisticians began tracking sacks in 1963), Sept. 14-29.
- ▶ The line went 256 passing plays between sacks, from Sept. 7 to Oct. 5.
- ▶ The league's best offensive lines, based on sacks allowed (three of which have corralled Green Bay's pass rush this year).

| | | |
|----|--------------|----|
| 1) | Indianapolis | 4 |
| 2) | Detroit | 6 |
| | Green Bay | 6 |
| | Tampa Bay | 6 |
| 5) | N.Y. Jets | 8 |
| 6) | Miami | 9 |
| 7) | Kansas City | 10 |
| 8) | Arizona | 11 |
| 9) | Houston | 12 |
| | N.Y. Giants | 12 |

- ▶ The current starters (tackles Mark Tauscher and Chad Clifton, guards Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle, and center Mike Flanagan) began starting together in 2001. After 2002 injuries hit four of the five positions, the front has picked up where it left off in '01. The five players have started together 20 games overall (13 of 16 games in 2001, all seven in 2003). The offense's numbers in those games:

| | Rushing | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Att | Yds | Avg/Att | Avg/Gm | TD | Sk Allowed | Sk/Gm |
| Current starters (20 gm) | 539 | 2392 | 4.4 | 119.6 | 21 | 23 | 1.2 |
| Other 19 games | 520 | 2207 | 4.2 | 116.2 | 13 | 32 | 1.7 |
| Totals (2001-03) | 1059 | 4599 | 4.3 | 117.9 | 34 | 55 | 1.4 |

FRANCHISE CHART WATCH:

- ▶ **Josh Bidwell** (265) needs to get off 10 *unblocked* punts to establish the longest streak in team history (David Beverly, 274, 1977-80).
- ▶ **Bidwell** (265) needs 25 punts to surpass No. 4 Craig Hentrich (289).
- ▶ **William Henderson** (234), now the 14th-ranking receiver in team annals, needs nine receptions to surpass No. 13 Edgar Bennett (242) on the all-time list. Henderson's catches are the fourth most by a Packers back.
- ▶ **Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila** (30) needs two-and-a-half sacks to surpass No. 6 Vonnie Holliday (32), three to surpass No. 5 Bryce Paup (32.5) and six-and-a-half to surpass No. 4 Tony Bennett (36).

THE STREAK I: Favre's **starting streak** (180) is the longest ever by a quarterback. What's more, Oct. 5 vs. Seattle he surpassed Aeneas Williams (Ari-StLR, 1992-2002) for the **10th-longest** starting streak on record.

THE STREAK II: Since Favre began his streak 11 years ago (Sept. 27, 1992), 161 other quarterbacks have started an NFL game.

- ▶ This season, two quarterbacks have made their first career start (Kyle Boller and Byron Leftwich).
- ▶ In 2003 alone, the Broncos have started three quarterbacks.
- ▶ Nine QBs in 2003 made their first start for a new team.
- ▶ During the span, the Bears (15, including Kordell Stewart) have started the most.

CLIMATE-CONTROLLED SITUATIONS: No team has a better overall record since 1992 than the Packers. But one of the team's blemishes during that period (since Brett Favre became quarterback) has been games in domes. Including postseason, Green Bay is 13-21 under roofs since 1992, dropping 10 of its last 13, including a 2001 divisional playoff at St. Louis.

- ▶ In 11 of their 13 dome wins, the key to victory was a positive turnover ratio (the only exceptions were in 2001 at Minnesota and 1992 at Detroit). Green Bay in that span is 2-19 in domes with an even or negative ratio.

FAVRE IN DOMES: Brett Favre in the Packers' 13 dome wins since 1992 (including postseason and Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans) has turned in several outstanding efforts.

- ▶ Seven of his 37 career 300-yard passing games (including playoffs) — and seven of 17 on the road — have come in domes.
- ▶ The third-best game of his career, and best-ever road performance (142.8 rating), came at the Louisiana Superdome in 1995.
- ▶ His second-highest single-game completion percentage (.795, 31-of-39) came at the Metrodome in 1998.

THE TOUCHDOWN STREAK: Favre has thrown a touchdown pass in 16 straight games. The Packers' longest all-time streaks:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 22 | Cecil Isbell (Weeks 1-11, 1941; Weeks 1-11, 1942) |
| 18 | Brett Favre (Weeks 3-16, 1997; Weeks 1-4, 1998) |
| 17 | Brett Favre (Weeks 8-16, 1994; Weeks 1-8, 1995) |
| 16 | B.Favre (Weeks 9-17, 2002; Weeks 1-7, 2003) (current) |
| 15 | D.Majkowski (Weeks 15-16, 1988; Weeks 1-13, 1989) |
| 14 | B.Favre (Weeks 10-16, 1995; Weeks 1-7, 1996) |
| | B.Favre (Weeks 1-14, 2001) |

PERFECT WITH PLUS CARRIES: Favre is now 41-0, including Sept. 14 vs. Detroit and Oct. 5 vs. Seattle, when the Packers have more rushing plays than passing plays.

TAKEAWAY TALK: Since Ed Donatell took over the defense in 2000, the Packers have gone 20-1 (13-0 at home) in games with at least three takeaways. Their only loss was Nov. 17, 2002, at Minnesota.

- ▶ The Packers have at least one takeaway in 30 of their last 32 games.

LIMIT GIVEAWAYS, INCREASE WINS: The Packers under Mike Sherman are 24-3 (16-0 at home) when committing one or fewer turnovers.

- ▶ Including the Oct. 5 win over Seattle, they're also 8-0 under Sherman in turnover-free games. Over a longer stretch, the team has won 14 straight zero-turnover contests, dating to a loss at Minnesota, Dec. 1, 1997.

BYE-WEEK DYK: Only once over the last 10 seasons (1994-2003) have the Packers had a bye before Week 5. That was in 1999, a Week 4 bye during the team's worst season (8-8) over the period. Why have the Packers been so fortunate?

- ▶ Most of it is coincidence, especially since the league expanded to 32 teams in 2002. There is no league effort to give the Packers a bye consistently during the middle of the season.
- ▶ Green Bay's reputation for poor weather is probably a factor, considering the league doesn't want to miss putting the Packers on the field during Wisconsin's great early-fall weather.
- ▶ The league usually winds up giving many early-season byes to teams who share stadiums with baseball. Other stadium conflicts (conventions, major events, etc.) can also affect when a team receives/requests its bye.
- ▶ Part of it can be attributed to the Packers' consistently strong television ratings. The networks generally use Green Bay games to highlight double-headers or prime-time broadcasts, which usually carry larger crews and more equipment, difficult to move in bad weather.
- ▶ According to the NFL, the league attempts to accommodate requests, but each request usually centers around either the middle of the season, or after a long road trip.
- ▶ Until the Texans entered the league in 2002, a winning record usually guaranteed a team would not see an early bye on its schedule the following year.
- ▶ From 1990-98, or before the expansion Browns gave the NFL an odd number of teams, byes were scheduled by division for a few years, until the networks requested a different policy.
- ▶ From 1999-2001, because of the odd number of teams, at least one team had a bye each week of the season. In general, the early-season byes were reserved for teams with the lowest winning percentages.
- ▶ The one constant is this: With 32 teams, the league does its best to avoid giving one team an early bye (Weeks 3-5) two or three years in a row.

Green Bay and the bye week, 1990-2003

In games after their bye week, the Packers have won six of their last seven. A closer look at the Packers and their bye weeks, since the players and owners agreed to add the concept before the 1990 season:

| | Record entering Bye | | | | Game after Bye | Result | Record after Bye | | | Overall Record | | |
|------|---------------------|---|---|------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|---|------|----------------|----|------|
| | Bye Week | W | L | Pct | | | W | L | Pct | W | L | Pct |
| 1990 | 7 | 2 | 4 | .333 | vs. Minnesota (Milw.) | W | 4 | 6 | .400 | 6 | 10 | .375 |
| 1991 | 7 | 1 | 5 | .167 | vs. Chicago | L | 3 | 7 | .300 | 4 | 12 | .250 |
| 1992 | 6 | 2 | 3 | .400 | at Cleveland | L | 7 | 4 | .636 | 9 | 7 | .563 |
| 1993 | 3 | 1 | 1 | .500 | at Minnesota | L | 8 | 6 | .571 | 9 | 7 | .563 |
| 1994 | 7 | 3 | 3 | .500 | at Minnesota | L | 6 | 4 | .600 | 9 | 7 | .563 |
| 1995 | 5 | 3 | 1 | .750 | at Dallas | L | 8 | 4 | .667 | 11 | 5 | .688 |
| 1996 | 8 | 6 | 1 | .857 | vs. Tampa Bay | W | 7 | 2 | .778 | 13 | 3 | .813 |
| 1997 | 8 | 5 | 2 | .714 | at New England | W | 8 | 1 | .889 | 13 | 3 | .813 |
| 1998 | 7 | 4 | 2 | .667 | vs. Baltimore | W | 7 | 3 | .700 | 11 | 5 | .688 |
| 1999 | 4 | 2 | 1 | .667 | vs. Tampa Bay | W | 6 | 7 | .462 | 8 | 8 | .500 |
| 2000 | 8 | 3 | 4 | .429 | at Miami | L | 6 | 3 | .667 | 9 | 7 | .563 |
| 2001 | 7 | 4 | 2 | .667 | vs. Tampa Bay | W | 8 | 2 | .800 | 12 | 4 | .750 |
| 2002 | 8 | 6 | 1 | .857 | vs. Miami | W | 6 | 3 | .667 | 12 | 4 | .750 |
| 2003 | 8 | 3 | 4 | .429 | at Minnesota | | | | | | | |