



THE DOPE SHEET

OFFICIAL PROGRAM AND PUBLICATION, ACME-PACKERS FOOTBALL TEAM.

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2005 NFL SCHEDULE

QUICKLY: Four prime-time contests, including the maximum three Monday night games, and Christmas and New Year's Day matinees highlight the Green Bay Packers' 85th regular-season schedule, released today by the National Football League. Following is an overall analysis of the schedule and related items, followed by notes on each of the 16 contests.

A NATIONAL TEAM: Continuing to garner strong ratings, both locally and nationally, the Packers earned four **prime-time** kickoffs for the second straight season.

- ▶ Eight of the Packers' last nine games are expected to attract national television. Green Bay's last three games, at Baltimore on Monday, Dec. 19, vs. Chicago on Christmas Day, and vs. Seattle on New Year's Day, will go out to an exclusive national audience.
- ▶ All four Packers games in November, during the traditional ratings period, will air from coast to coast, on three of the four networks.
- ▶ Disadvantages? Well, noon kickoffs, most fans' preferred starting times, are becoming rare. This year, there are five, and only two at home.
- ▶ In 2004, the Packers played 17 games, including postseason, and 14 were televised to the largest national audience possible.

TOUGHEST STRETCH?: It might begin Oct. 23, when Green Bay must play five of seven games on the road, including trips to Minnesota, Atlanta and Philadelphia, all 2004 playoff clubs.

- ▶ The bonus is Green Bay closes with three of its last four at **home** for the first time since 1996, the last time it won the Super Bowl.
- ▶ What's more, the Packers won't be lacking confidence. They're coming off their best **road record** (6-2) since 1972.
- ▶ Over a longer stretch, Green Bay has won 10 of its last 13 regular-season road contests.
- ▶ In 2004, the Packers finished with a road record (6-2) better than their home record (4-4) for the first time since 1987.
- ▶ Green Bay finished with winning records on artificial surfaces (2-1) and in indoor stadiums (3-1). That dome record matched the best mark by any previous Packers team, equaling the 3-1 record of that '96 squad.
- ▶ Best Packers road records since 1965:

Year	W-L	Head Coach	Finish
1972	6-1	Dan Devine	NFC Central title; lost divisional playoff
1966	6-1	Vince Lombardi	NFL title; won Super Bowl I
2004	6-2	Mike Sherman	NFC North title
1968	4-2-1	Phil Bengtson	Third, NFL Central; missed playoffs
1965	4-2-1	Vince Lombardi	Tied for div. title; won NFL Champ.
1967	5-2	Vince Lombardi	NFL title; won Super Bowl II
2003	5-3	Mike Sherman	NFC North title; lost divisional playoff
2001	5-3	Mike Sherman	Second, NFC Central; lost div. playoff
1997	5-3	Mike Holmgren	NFC Central title; lost Super Bowl XXXII
1996	5-3	Mike Holmgren	NFC Central title; won Super Bowl XXXI

CONSECUTIVE ROAD OPENERS: Bart Starr was the Packers' coach and Jimmy Carter was in the White House the last time Green Bay opened away from Wisconsin in back-to-back seasons.

- ▶ In 1978, Green Bay also opened the year in Detroit, then followed with a 1979 opener at Chicago's Soldier Field.
- ▶ The Packers delivered an emotional win in their 2004 opener, at Carolina, a 24-14 victory on *Monday Night Football*.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: For the first time in its 85-year history, the Packers will play on Christmas, Dec. 25, when they host the Bears, the 171st meeting in one of the richest sports rivalries.

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Wis. Time	TV
Thurs., Aug. 11	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (Gold Pkg.) (Midwest Shrine Game)	. . . . .7 p.m.	ESPN
Sat., Aug. 20	at Buffalo Bills . . . . .	. . . . .5 p.m.	state
Aug. 25 or 26	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (Bishop's Charities Game along with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption)	. . . . .7 p.m.	state
Thurs., Sept. 1	at Tennessee Titans . . . . .	. . . . .7 p.m.	state

REGULAR SEASON

Date	Opponent	Wis. Time	TV
Sun., Sept. 11	at Detroit Lions . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Sept. 18	CLEVELAND BROWNS . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	CBS
Sun., Sept. 25	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (Gold Pkg.)	. . . . .12 noon	FOX
Mon., Oct. 3	at Carolina Panthers . . . . .	. . . . .8 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Oct. 9	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS . . . . .	. . . . .12 noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 16	Open date		
Sun., Oct. 23	at Minnesota Vikings . . . . .	. . . . .12 noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 30	at Cincinnati Bengals . . . . .	. . . . .12 noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 6	PITTSBURGH STEELERS . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	CBS
Sun., Nov. 13	at Atlanta Falcons . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	FOX
Mon., Nov. 21	MINNESOTA VIKINGS (Gold Pkg.)	. . . . .8 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Nov. 27	at Philadelphia Eagles . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Dec. 4	at Chicago Bears . . . . .	. . . . .12 noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 11	DETROIT LIONS . . . . .	. . . . .7:30 p.m.	ESPN
Mon., Dec. 19	at Baltimore Ravens . . . . .	. . . . .8 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Dec. 25	CHICAGO BEARS . . . . .	. . . . .4 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Jan. 1	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS . . . . .	. . . . .3:15 p.m.	FOX

NFL POSTSEASON DATES

January 7-8	AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs
January 14-15	AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
January 22	AFC and NFC Championship Games
February 5	Super Bowl XL at Ford Field, Detroit
February 12	AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu

- ▶ One week later, the team welcomes in the New Year with Seattle, as Brett Favre will close the regular season against his former coach, Mike Holmgren. It's only the second time Green Bay has played on Jan. 1. The club won the 1966 NFL championship on the date in 1967, a 34-27 win over the Dallas Cowboys at the Cotton Bowl — 364 days before the legendary Ice Bowl rematch with Dallas in Green Bay.
- ▶ For the first time since 1994, Christmas and New Year's fall on Sundays, causing a difficult situation for the league schedule-makers. They opted to schedule a full slate of afternoon games on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.
- ▶ To be fair, the league could not schedule the Packers with the majority of teams playing Saturday, Dec. 24, because Green Bay plays at Baltimore Monday night, Dec. 19. The NFL didn't want to ask any team to play five days after a Monday night game, so it scheduled the Packers on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Baltimore also plays Dec. 25.

GOLD-PACKAGE GAMES: Loyal, longtime season-ticket holders from Milwaukee drew two of the most anticipated games on the '05 schedule, Tampa Bay's return to Lambeau Field, Sept. 25, and Minnesota's first appearance in Wisconsin since ending the Packers' season in the '04 playoffs. The Gold Package, created by President Bob Harlan when the team





opted to play all home games in Green Bay after the '94 season, annually consists of the Packers' second and fifth home games.

PRESEASON DATES, TOO: The Packers this morning were nearly able to confirm dates and times for the final three preseason tilts (see Page 1). On March 16, the league had announced Green Bay would host San Diego in a contest televised by ESPN, Aug. 11.

IN THE DIVISION: Quirks in the schedule have proven advantageous to Green Bay in years past, and 2005 is no different.

- ▶ For only the second time since 1967, when the league re-aligned its divisions, the Packers will play four home games outside their division before hosting a team within their division. Green Bay hosts Cleveland, Tampa Bay, New Orleans and Pittsburgh before its first NFC North home date, Nov. 21 vs. Minnesota. The only other instance was 2002 (Atlanta, Carolina, Washington and Miami, before Detroit on Nov. 10).
- ▶ Over the same stretch (1967-2005), Nov. 21 equals the latest the Packers have hosted their first divisional foe. In 1982, the Packers also hosted the Vikings Nov. 21, the first game after a 57-day player strike.
- ▶ Three of Green Bay's final four home games are against NFC North foes.

BYE-WEEK FYI: The Packers' Week 6 open date is the earliest in Mike Sherman's tenure. In fact, only once over the last 12 seasons (1994-2005) 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 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 cold 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 NFL usually gives many early-season byes to teams who share stadiums with baseball. Other stadium conflicts (conventions, major events, etc.) also can 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.
- ▶ The league attempts to accommodate requests, but each request usually centers around either the middle of the season, or after a long road trip.

IN THE FINAL RANKINGS, 2004

GREEN BAY (Team)		
Category	NFC	NFL
Turnover Margin (-14)	.13th	27th
Total Offense (397.3)	.1st	3rd
Rushing (119.3)	.3rd	10th
Passing (278.1)	.2nd	3rd
Total Defense (346.3)	.13th	25th
vs. Rush (117.4)	.4th	14th
vs. Pass (228.9)	.14th	25th
Third-Down Offense (47.3%)	.2nd	2nd
Third-Down Defense (35.0%)	.4th	9th
Red-Zone Offense (57.7%)	.4th	10th
Red-Zone Defense (63.6%)	.14th	29th
GREEN BAY (Individual)		
Category	NFC	NFL
Rushing: Ahman Green (1,163)	.4th	12th
Passing: Brett Favre (92.4)	.5th	10th
Receptions: Javon Walker (89)	.T5th	T8th
Receiving Yards: Javon Walker (1,382)	.3rd	3rd
Sacks: Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila (13.5)	.2nd	3rd
Interceptions: Darren Sharper (4)	.T10th	T21st

Until the Texans entered the league in 2002, a winning record usually guaranteed a team would not see an early bye 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.

MORE THAN JUST AN ANNOUNCEMENT:

- ▶ Schedule day is the most anticipated date on the Wisconsin calendar. Fans want to plan trips to Green Bay or road trips to see the Packers in other cities. Plus, in Wisconsin, even non-fans anticipate this date simply to schedule their lives — including weddings, business meetings, family reunions and hunting excursions — around the team's schedule.
- ▶ According to the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, local hotels as of this press release are launching marathons in which phones don't stop ringing for at least six hours. Thanks to simple supply and demand, hotels are booking two-night minimums at premium rates. Kari Silva, president of the Packer Country Visitor & Convention Bureau, estimates a typical home weekend generates \$3.5 million for the local economy. The two Gold Package games for season-ticket holders from Milwaukee generate \$3.9 million, she said.

STIFF COMPETITION: Green Bay squares off with defending champions from four of the seven other divisions — Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Seattle. And, the Packers get each of the last three NFC Super Bowl representatives: Tampa Bay, Carolina and Philadelphia.

MILESTONE POSSIBILITIES:

- ▶ **Sept. 11 at Detroit: Brett Favre** needs 266 yards passing to become the third player in NFL history with 50,000, joining Dan Marino (61,361) and John Elway (51,475).
- ▶ **Sept. 18 vs. Cleveland: Ryan Longwell** could match his own Packers record for consecutive games with a field goal, 14 (1997-98)...**Favre** (178) can establish the single-stadium NFL record with three TD passes at Lambeau Field, breaking John Elway's mark at Mile High Stadium (180)...**The Packers** have scored in a franchise-record 217 straight games (dating to Oct. 17, 1991). On the NFL list, the club over its first two games can pass the No. 5 (Oakland Raiders, 217, 1966-81) and No. 4 (Dallas Cowboys, 218, 1970-85) streaks.

2004 SCHEDULE & RESULTS		
Mon. Sept. 13	at Carolina Panthers	.W, 24-14 (73,656)
Sun. Sept. 19	CHICAGO BEARS	.L, 10-21 (70,688)
Sun. Sept. 26	at Indianapolis Colts	.L, 31-45 (57,280)
Sun. Oct. 3	NEW YORK GIANTS	.L, 7-14 (70,623)
Mon. Oct. 11	TENNESSEE TITANS	.L, 27-48 (70,420)
Sun. Oct. 17	at Detroit Lions	.W, 38-10 (62,938)
Sun. Oct. 24	DALLAS COWBOYS	.W, 41-20 (70,679)
Sun. Oct. 31	at Washington Redskins	.W, 28-14 (89,295)
Sun. Nov. 7	Open Date	
Sun. Nov. 14	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	.W, 34-31 (70,671)
Sun. Nov. 21	at Houston Texans	.W, 16-13 (70,769)
Mon. Nov. 29	ST. LOUIS RAMS	.W, 45-17 (70,385)
Sun. Dec. 5	at Philadelphia Eagles	.L, 17-47 (67,723)
Sun. Dec. 12	DETROIT LIONS	.W, 16-13 (70,497)
Sun. Dec. 19	JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	.L, 25-28 (70,437)
Fri. Dec. 24	at Minnesota Vikings	.W, 34-31 (64,311)
Sun. Jan. 2	at Chicago Bears	.W, 31-14 (62,197)
Sun. Jan. 9	MINNESOTA VIKINGS (Wild Card)	.L, 17-31 (71,075)

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.



- ▶ **Sept. 25 vs. Tampa Bay:** Favre's consecutive starts streak would reach 208 and pass No. 6 Gene Upshaw (207) on the recorded list... **Donald Driver** could extend his streak of games with a reception to 51 and move into fourth on the all-time Packers list, passing 50-game streaks by Don Hutson (1941-45) and Paul Coffman (1979-82).
- ▶ **Oct. 23 at Minnesota:** Favre's starts streak would surpass the fourth-longest stretches on record, 210, shared by Jim Otto and Fred Cox.
- ▶ **Dec. 11 vs. Detroit:** Favre could play his 100th game at Lambeau Field, already a record for the legendary stadium.

OTHER MILESTONES TO WATCH:

- ▶ **Early in the season, Ahman Green** needs three rushing touchdowns to surpass No. 2 Paul Hornung (50) on the Packers' all-time list... **Longwell** needs 36 points for 1,000 career.
- ▶ **Later, Mike Sherman** could post a sixth straight winning season. Since the 1993 collective bargaining agreement, no other coach has notched winning seasons in each of his first five NFL campaigns... Also with an eighth win, Sherman would rank among the 10 winningest coaches over their first six seasons since the 1970 merger... **Favre's** 24th touchdown pass would make him the second player in NFL history to reach 400, joining Marino (420)... With 3,000 yards passing in a 14th overall season, Favre would break Marino's career NFL record... **Green** with 1,000 yards rushing in a fifth straight season would erase Jim Taylor's franchise record (five, 1960-64)... Green also needs 866 total yards from scrimmage to eclipse James Lofton's franchise record, 9,901.

2005 OPPONENTS

Lambeau Games	'04 Record	Last Overall Meeting/Result	Last Lambeau Field Meeting/Result
*Chicago	.5-11	01/02/05 W, 31-14	09/19/04 L, 10-21
*Detroit	.6-10	12/12/04 W, 16-13	12/12/04 W, 16-13
*Minnesota	.8-8	12/24/04 W, 34-31	11/14/04 W, 34-31
Tampa Bay	.5-11	11/16/03 W, 20-13	11/04/01 W, 21-20
Cleveland	.4-12	12/23/01 W, 30-7	12/23/01 W, 30-7
New Orleans	.8-8	09/15/02 L, 20-35	09/17/89 W, 35-34
Seattle	.9-7	10/05/03 W, 35-13	10/05/03 W, 35-13
Pittsburgh	.15-1	11/09/98 L, 20-27	12/24/95 W, 24-19
Totals	.60-68	(.469)	
Road Games	'04 Record	Last Overall Meeting/Result	Last Meeting at Site/Result
*Chicago	.5-11	01/02/05 W, 31-14	01/02/05 W, 31-14
*Detroit	.6-10	12/12/04 W, 16-13	10/17/04 W, 38-10
*Minnesota	.8-8	12/24/04 W, 34-31	12/24/04 W, 34-31
Carolina	.7-9	09/13/04 W, 24-14	09/13/04 W, 24-14
Baltimore	.9-7	10/14/01 W, 31-23	12/19/82 T, 20-20+
Atlanta	.11-5	11/18/01 L, 20-23	10/04/92 L, 10-24
Philadelphia	.13-3	12/05/04 L, 17-47	12/05/04 L, 17-47
Cincinnati	.8-8	09/20/98 W, 13-6	09/20/98 W, 13-6^
Totals	.67-61	(.523)	
Overall Schedule	.127-129	(.496)	

* — NFC North contests
 + — 1982 contest vs. Colts at Memorial Stadium;
 ^ — First appearance at Paul Brown Stadium; 1998 contest at Cinergy Field

GREEN BAY'S NON-DIVISIONAL FOES, 2002-2009

2002		2003		2004		2005	
Home	Road	Home	Road	Home	Road	Home	Road
ATL	NO	SF	ARI	DAL	PHI	NO	ATL
CAR	TB	SEA	STL	NYG	WAS	TB	CAR
BUF	NE	DEN	OAK	JAC	HOU	CLE	BAL
MIA	NYJ	KC	SD	TEN	IND	PIT	CIN
NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW

2006		2007		2008		2009	
Home	Road	Home	Road	Home	Road	Home	Road
ARI	SF	PHI	DAL	ATL	NO	SF	ARI
STL	SEA	WAS	NYG	CAR	TB	SEA	STL
NE	BUF	OAK	DEN	HOU	JAC	BAL	CLE
NYJ	MIA	SD	KC	IND	TEN	CIN	PIT
NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW	NFCW

NOTE: The final two games on each schedule pair the Packers with the club from that division that finished in the same standing as Green Bay the previous year. In **2005**, those clubs are Seattle (at home) from the NFC West and Philadelphia (on the road) from the NFC East. In **2004**, those clubs were St. Louis (at home) from the NFC West and Carolina (on the road) from the NFC South.

NON-LOSING SEASONS: The Packers in 2004 captured the league's longest active streak of non-losing seasons, 13. With an eighth win in 2005, the Packers would:

- ▶ Match their franchise's longest streak, 14 seasons without a losing record, established during the Don Hutson era from 1934-47.
- ▶ Surpass the streak set by the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers dynasty, 13 years from 1972-84.
- ▶ Longest streaks of non-losing seasons, NFL history, entering 2005:

21	Dallas Cowboys	.....	1965-85
16	San Francisco 49ers	.....	1983-98
	Oakland Raiders	.....	1965-80
15	Miami Dolphins	.....	1989-2003
	Baltimore Colts	.....	1957-71
	Chicago Bears	.....	1930-44
14	Green Bay Packers	.....	1934-47
13	Pittsburgh Steelers	.....	1972-84
	Green Bay Packers (current)	.....	1992-2004
12	Green Bay Packers	.....	1921-32

FAMILIAR WITH UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY: The Packers make two more trips to new stadiums — or stadiums new to them — in 2005.

- ▶ On Oct. 30, Green Bay makes its first appearance at Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium, the club's first trip to that city since Sept. 20, 1998.
- ▶ Then, on Dec. 19, the Packers make their first regular-season appearance at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium. It's the first Green Bay trip to that city in 23 years, since a 1982 tie with the Colts at Memorial Stadium.
- ▶ Green Bay has won six of its last seven regular-season games playing for the first time in unfamiliar stadiums (wins at FedEx Field and Reliant Stadium in 2004, renovated Soldier Field in 2003, Ford Field, Memorial Stadium in Champaign and Gillette Stadium in 2002). The only loss in the stretch was in 2004, their regular-season debut at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field.
- ▶ Over a longer regular-season stretch, the Packers have won nine of their last 12 (wins at Jacksonville in 1995, St. Louis in 1996 and Carolina in 1997, losses at Tampa Bay in 1998, Tennessee in 2001 and Philadelphia in 2004) in unfamiliar territory.

IT'S ABOUT TIME: Former AFC Central clubs Cincinnati and Pittsburgh are on the Packers' schedule for the first time since 1998, snapping Green Bay's longest active series droughts, respectively.

WHEN IN THE WORLD?: The Packers still haven't met the newest version of the Cleveland Browns in Cleveland. Green Bay has gone there twice in preseason, but won't play a regular-season game at Cleveland until 2009, 10 years after the franchise resurfaced as an expansion club.

- ▶ The Super Bowl champion New England Patriots haven't been to Green Bay since Oct. 1, 1979, a classic Monday night matchup won by the Packers, 27-14. The Patriots, who played in Milwaukee in 1988, will end their Green Bay drought next season.
- ▶ The Steelers opened their new stadium, Heinz Field, in 2001. The facility will be eight years old before the Packers see it, in 2009.
- ▶ San Diego will next travel to Lambeau Field in 2007, 11 years after their most recent visit, 1996.
- ▶ Brett Favre and Reggie White hadn't yet won a Super Bowl the last time the Packers played at Seattle, in 1996. However, including preseason and postseason, Seattle makes its fourth trip to Green Bay in three years. Incidentally, the Seahawks will host Green Bay in 2006.

YOU AGAIN?: Green Bay has seen plenty of three non-division NFC opponents in recent years, thanks to quirks in the league's objective eight-year schedule rotation (2002-09).

- ▶ Tampa Bay left the Packers' division in 2002, but the teams still played in 2002 and '03, both at Tampa. After a one-year break, the first time the Packers and Bucs didn't play since 1976, the Bucs are back on in 2005, this time in Green Bay.
- ▶ Carolina and Green Bay might as well be in the same division. The Panthers appear on the regular-season schedule for the eighth time in



the last nine years. Counting the 1996 NFC Championship, they've met nine of the last 10 seasons. Since the Panthers launched in 1995, the Packers have seen them every year except '95 and 2003.

- ▶ Thanks to their respective first-place finishes, the Packers make a second straight regular-season trip to Philadelphia in 2005. Also, Green Bay's 2003 season ended in Philadelphia, a 20-17 overtime loss in the NFC playoffs.

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY: For the first time since 1969, the Packers will not play a regular-season game on "AstroTurf."

- ▶ In 2005, Green Bay still plays three games on fake grass, but they're on the softer, more realistic "FieldTurf" (at Atlanta, Detroit and Minnesota), the same surface that covers two of the Packers' three practice fields.
- ▶ Green Bay played its first game on the hard, abrasive AstroTurf Dec. 6, 1970, a 20-12 win over the pre-dynasty Pittsburgh Steelers at Three Rivers Stadium.
- ▶ Brett Favre and the Packers are 4-1 all-time on FieldTurf (since 2002): 2-1 at Ford Field, 1-0 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Ill., and 1-0 at the Metrodome.

AT HOME: No one felt worse about the team's 4-4 Lambeau Field record, the team's lowest home winning percentage since 1991, than players and coaches. But the Packers weren't the only NFL team who struggled at home in 2004. All told, more than half of NFL teams — 17 clubs — finished .500 or below at home last season, compared to just 13 in 2003. And, three of the four home teams lost in the first round of the playoffs, Jan. 8-9. Composite home winning percentages, regular season, 2002-04:

Home Teams	W	L	T	Pct
2004	145	111	0	.566
2003	157	99	0	.613
2002	148	107	1	.580

PLAYOFF BERTHS DON'T GROW ON TREES: Green Bay in 2004 clinched a fourth straight postseason, and a 10th overall since 1993, most in the NFL. Streaks of at least four years in the salary cap era (1993-2004):

6 Green Bay, 1993-98	4 Dallas, 1993-96
San Francisco, 1993-98	Jacksonville, 1996-99
5 Miami, 1997-2001	Tampa Bay, 1999-02
Minnesota, 1996-2001	Green Bay, 2001-04
Philadelphia, 2000-04	
Pittsburgh, 1993-97	

- ▶ During the same span, no other team has as many overall playoff appearances:

10 Green Bay	7 Dallas	5 Buffalo
8 Minnesota	Denver	Detroit
Pittsburgh	Indianapolis	Kansas City
San Francisco	Miami	St. Louis
	New England	Tampa Bay
	Philadelphia	Tennessee

- ▶ And, since 1995, only the Steelers have as many division titles:

6 Green Bay	NFC Central 1995-97, NFC North 2002-04
Pittsburgh	AFC Central 1995-97, 2001; AFC North 2002, 2004
5 New England	AFC East 1996-97, 2001, 2003-04
4 Philadelphia	NFC East 2001-04
3 Dallas	NFC East 1995-96, 1998
Kansas City	AFC West 1995, 1997, 2003
Oakland	AFC West 2000-02
St. Louis	NFC West 1999, 2001, 2003
San Francisco	NFC West 1995, 1997, 2002

THREE STRAIGHT DIVISION CROWNS: Green Bay won a third straight division crown for the fourth time in its history (also 1960-62, 1965-67 and 1995-97). Each of its three previous streaks included at least one world championship.

- ▶ Since the merger, the Packers' division (NFC Central 1970-2001, NFC North 2002-04) has produced three consecutive winners on only four occasions:

6 Minnesota	NFC Central	1973-78
5 Chicago	NFC Central	1984-88
3 Green Bay	NFC Central	1995-97
Green Bay	NFC North	2002-04

RECORD TD STREAK: By scoring a touchdown in a 76th consecutive regular-season game Dec. 24, Green Bay established a franchise record. The last time an opponent held the Packers without a TD was Sept. 17, 2000, Mike Sherman's first career win, a 6-3 victory over Philadelphia at Lambeau Field. Green Bay's streak is 82 including playoffs. Longest streaks, active (courtesy Elias Sports Bureau) and in Packers history:

Active NFL	Packers History
77 Green Bay	77 2000-04 (current)
48 Minnesota	75 1992-97
37 San Diego	48 1997-2000
36 St. Louis	45 1965-68
32 Kansas City	40 1940-44
New Orleans	

BEST COACHES, WITHIN DIVISION: Since his first season as head coach, Mike Sherman has had noticeable success against division opponents.

- ▶ Overall, Sherman is 25-9 against his division, including a 14-3 home record (winning 14 of last 16 at Lambeau). Best division records among active NFL head coaches (minimum two seasons):

Mike Martz, StL	.25	9	.735
Mike Sherman, GB	.25	9	.735
Andy Reid, Phi	.29	13	.690
Marty Schottenheimer, Cle-KC-Was-SD	.88	48	.647
Bill Cowher, Pit	.62	36	.633

TURNOVERS TAKE AWAY WINS: The Packers under Mike Sherman are now 37-3 (22-0 at home) when committing one or fewer turnovers. Including playoffs, they are 39-4.

- ▶ They're also 15-0 under Sherman in turnover-free games (6-0 in 2004). Over a longer stretch, the team has won 21 straight zero-turnover contests, dating to a loss at Minnesota, Dec. 1, 1997.
- ▶ Since an Oct. 21, 2001, loss at Minnesota, the Packers have won 25 straight when ahead in turnover margin. Overall under Sherman, the Packers are 35-1 under the same criteria (37-1 including playoffs).

GAME-BY-GAME CAPSULES

SUN., SEPT. 11, at DETROIT (3:15 p.m., FOX): This marks the 12th time Green Bay and Detroit have kicked off a season, but only the second in Detroit.

- ▶ On Sept. 3, 1978, Green Bay sacked Lions quarterback Greg Landry eight times, got two field goals from Chester Marcol and a 1-yard TD plunge by Barty Smith in a 13-7 win at the Silverdome.
- ▶ The teams most recently opened a season in 2001, two days before the Sept. 11 attacks. The first season opener in the series was 1941, less than three months before Pearl Harbor.
- ▶ Mike Sherman, whose Detroit speech inspired his players to launch a playoff run after a 1-4 start in 2004, will attempt to improve his 6-1 career record against Steve Mariucci (including 49ers games).
- ▶ The league scheduled a late-afternoon kickoff to accommodate a Detroit Tigers game earlier in the day at Comerica Park, across the street from Ford Field.

SUN., SEPT. 18, vs. CLEVELAND (3:15 p.m., CBS): The Packers and Browns play the Lambeau opener, renewing a storied rivalry that includes Jim Brown's last NFL game (the 1965 title contest).

- ▶ Previously, the only instance in which Cleveland played the Packers' home opener was 1953, when Paul Brown's club pitched a 27-0 shutout



in Milwaukee, also the first meeting in the all-time series.

- ▶ In contrast to Cleveland's last regular-season trip to Green Bay in 2001, when snow greeted the Browns, warm weather is a likely setting.
- ▶ Rookie head coach Romeo Crennel comes to town. Under Mike Sherman, the Packers are 7-3 against coaches in their first NFL season (wins over Mike Tice's Vikings, Washington's Steve Spurrier and John Fox's Panthers in 2002, Cleveland's Butch Davis in 2001, Chicago's Lovie Smith in 2004 and two wins over Marty Mornhinweg's Lions in 2001; losses to Al Groh's N.Y. Jets in 2000, Tice's Vikings in 2002 and Chicago's Smith in 2004).

SUN., SEPT. 25, vs. TAMPA BAY (12 noon, FOX): The Packers welcome their former NFC Central rival in Tampa Bay's first trip to Green Bay since 2001, and first as a non-divisional opponent.

- ▶ The Packers have not lost to Tampa Bay in Wisconsin since 1989. Including the 1997 NFC playoffs, the Packers have won 13 consecutive home games over the Bucs. That's tied for the NFL's longest active home winning streak against a single opponent (including postseason), matched only by the Packers' active 13-game Wisconsin streak against Detroit.
- ▶ It's Jon Gruden's first trip to Green Bay since 1999, when Brett Favre led a last-minute comeback to defeat the Raiders, 28-24, in that season's first game.
- ▶ Including playoffs, former Packers assistant coaches against the Packers are just 10-28 (.263) since 1997. Gruden, a Packers assistant from 1992-95, is 1-2 as an NFL head coach against Green Bay.

MON., OCT. 3, at CAROLINA (8 p.m., ABC): For the second straight year, and third time in the Panthers' short history, the teams meet on a Monday night in Charlotte.

- ▶ In 2004, the Packers registered an emotional prime-time win over the Panthers, then the defending NFC champion, in the season opener.
- ▶ Unrestricted free agent guard Mike Wahle, who played a key role in that Packers' 2004 victory, meets his former club.
- ▶ Carolina is on Green Bay's regular-season schedule for the eighth time

in the last nine years. Counting the 1996 NFC Championship, they've met nine of the last 10 seasons. Since the Panthers launched in 1995, the Packers have seen them every year except '95 and 2003.

- ▶ Since 1997, the only non-divisional foe Green Bay has met as often is San Francisco. Including playoffs, the Packers and 49ers have squared off eight times over the last nine years.

SUN., OCT. 9, vs. NEW ORLEANS (12 noon, FOX): While they've made several preseason trips to Wisconsin, including 2004, the Saints haven't played a game that counted here since 1989.

- ▶ That Sept. 17, 1989, contest marked one of the most exciting games in Packers history. Down 24-7 at half, the Packers rebounded to beat New Orleans, 35-34. Don Majkowski found Sterling Sharpe on a 3-yard TD pass with 1:26 left and Chris Jacke's PAT provided the winning margin. On the deciding drive, rookie Jeff Query caught a 23-yard pass on fourth-and-17, launching a season-long pattern of dramatic wins.
- ▶ The early-fall game ends a 16-year drought, the longest active stretch any NFC team has had to wait to play at Lambeau Field. New England is the only other club who's had to wait longer; its last Green Bay appearance was 1979.
- ▶ The teams own two of the league's longest active streaks of seasons with a 1,000-yard rusher.

Yrs	Club	1,000-yard rushers	'04 Leader
9	N.Y. Jets	A.Murrell 1996-97, C.Martin, 1998-2004	Martin 1,697
7	Seattle	R.Watters 1998-2000, S.Alexander 2001-04	Alexander, 1,696
6	Green Bay	D.Levens 1999, A.Green 2000-04	Green 1,163
5	New Orleans	R.Williams 2000-01, D.McAllister 2002-03	McAllister 1,074
4	San Diego	L.Tomlinson, 2001-04	Tomlinson 1,335

SUN., OCT. 23, at MINNESOTA (12 noon, FOX): Green Bay returns to the site of its most memorable 2004 win, a Christmas Eve clash that clinched the Packers' third consecutive division championship.

- ▶ The Packers bid for a third straight win at the Metrodome for the first time since 1983-85, Green Bay's first three games under the Minneapolis roof.

Longest scoring streaks, NFL

Seattle shut out San Francisco Sept. 26, ending the 49ers' NFL-record 420-game scoring streak. The Packers' streak, now at 217, is second on the active list and joined the longest all-time streaks in 2004...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).

CURRENT			ALL-TIME		
Streak	Team	Began	Streak	Team	Years
220	Minnesota Vikings	9/29/1991	420	San Francisco 49ers	1977-2004
217	Green Bay Packers	10/27/1991	274	Cleveland Browns	1950-71
196	Denver Broncos	11/30/1992	220	Minnesota Vikings	1991-2004 (current)
			218	Dallas Cowboys	1970-85
			217	Oakland Raiders	1966-81
				Green Bay Packers	1991-2004 (current)
			216	New Orleans Saints	1983-97

Non-losing season streaks, NFL history

With Miami finishing with its first losing season since 1988, Green Bay assumed the NFL's longest active streak of non-losing seasons, now 13. Green Bay's last sub-.500 campaign was 1991 (4-12). The Packers, who've now accomplished a streak of at least 10 years three times, are the only team ever to do it more than twice (and that does not include the Lombardi era)...

Team	Consecutive		Team	Consecutive	
	Non-Losing Seasons	Years		Non-Losing Seasons	Years
Green Bay Packers (current)	13	1992-2004	New York Giants	10	1954-63
Miami Dolphins	15	1989-2003	Washington Redskins	11	1936-46
Minnesota Vikings	10	1991-2000	Green Bay Packers	14	1934-47
San Francisco 49ers	16	1983-98	Detroit Lions/Portsmouth Spartans	10	1931-40
Miami Dolphins	11	1977-87	Chicago Bears	15	1930-44
Pittsburgh Steelers	13	1972-84	Green Bay Packers	12	1921-32
Dallas Cowboys	21	1965-85			
Oakland Raiders	16	1965-80			
Baltimore Colts	15	1957-71			

NOTE — Streaks listed in reverse chronological order.



► Mike Sherman now has more wins at Minnesota (3-2) in five trips than Mike Holmgren (1-6) had in seven seasons as Green Bay head coach. Sherman also has more wins against Minnesota (7-4) in five seasons than Holmgren (5-9) had in seven years.

SUN., OCT. 30, at CINCINNATI (12 noon, FOX): Packers, who have several connections to the state of Ohio, make their debut at Paul Brown Stadium.

- It's Green Bay's first trip to the city since 1998, when Fritz Shurmur's defense rattled Neil O'Donnell in a 13-6 win at Cinergy Field.
- Brett Favre will play a regular-season game in his 40th stadium. Of those 40, 15 are either no longer standing or no longer in use by the NFL.

SUN., NOV. 6, vs. PITTSBURGH (3:15 p.m., CBS): The Steelers return to Lambeau Field for the first time in a decade, probably adding a chapter to some of the best games during the Brett Favre era.

- In their last visit, Dec. 24, 1995, the Packers clinched their first of three straight division titles under Holmgren, with a 24-19 win. Green Bay won on a defensive stand in the closing minutes. In another O'Donnell-Shurmur matchup, Green Bay dramatically stopped Pittsburgh on the first three goal-to-go snaps. The Steelers, though, caught a break on fourth down when a defender slipped, but Yancey Thigpen dropped O'Donnell's would-be game-winning touchdown pass.
- The Steelers' previous visit was Sept. 27, 1992, Favre's first career start, and first of 205 consecutive starts, an NFL record among quarterbacks. Since that day, a 17-3 win over rookie head coach Bill Cowher, 183 other quarterbacks have started an NFL game, including the Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger.
- In 2001 during the final year of the old NFL scheduling format, Pittsburgh was the only AFC Central team that did not play Green Bay, a quirk the league hoped to avoid in its new scheduling rotation.

SUN., NOV. 13, at ATLANTA (3:15 p.m., FOX): Green Bay makes its first trip to the Georgia Dome in 13 years, ending the Packers' longest active stretch without an appearance in an NFC city.

- The last time the Packers played at Atlanta, Oct. 4, 1992, the Georgia dome was brand new and Favre was 22. Green Bay sustained a 24-10 loss to the coach that had traded Favre the previous February, Jerry Glanville. It marked start No. 2 in his current 205-game starting streak.
- Had Green Bay defeated Minnesota in the 2004 NFC Playoffs, the Packers would have traveled to Atlanta for the Divisional round.

MON., NOV. 21, vs. MINNESOTA (8 p.m., ABC): With memories of Antonio Freeman's incredible overtime catch to defeat the Vikings in 2000, *Monday Night Football* returns to Green Bay to televise probably the fiercest current rivalry in the NFL.

- In the rain on Nov. 6, 2000, Freeman somehow caught Favre's deflected pass on the ground, after battling Cris Dishman, then got up and turned the play into a 43-yard score.
- It's Minnesota's first trip to Lambeau Field since the Vikings ended Green Bay's 2004 season in the playoffs, 31-17. It's also Minnesota's first trip to Green Bay with former Packers safety Darren Sharper.

SUN., NOV. 27, at PHILADELPHIA (3:15 p.m., FOX): The Packers look to rebound from a pair of tough losses in their initial two trips to Lincoln Financial Field.

- The teams are meeting in Philadelphia for a third straight season because both teams won their divisions last year. Had Green Bay or Philadelphia finished in a different standing (first, second, etc.), the Packers would be traveling to meet a different NFC East foe in 2005.
- Mike Sherman has knocked off the defending NFC champion each of the last two years (wins at Tampa Bay in 2003 and at Carolina in 2004). In fact, Sherman is 6-0 against teams that played in the Super Bowl the previous season.

SUN., DEC. 4, at CHICAGO (12 noon, FOX): The Packers can match the NFL record by winning a 12th consecutive road game against a single opponent:

12	L.A. Rams	at San Francisco	1969-80
	San Francisco	at L.A./St. Louis Rams	1987-98
11	Green Bay	at Chicago Bears	1994-2004 (current)
10	Miami	at Buffalo	1970-79
	Miami	at Baltimore/Indianapolis Colts	1978-87

- While not frequent, this isn't the first time league has waited until December to pit the Packers against the Bears. In 1998, the clubs didn't meet for the first time until Dec. 13, then finished off the season series two weeks later. It also happened in 1983 (Dec. 4, Dec. 18).

SUN., DEC. 11, vs. DETROIT (7:30 p.m., ESPN): ESPN returns to Lambeau Field for another late-season prime-time game that figures to be at least as cold as the network's last trip to Green Bay, in December, 2002, for a Vikings game.

- Take away Green Bay's 1994 playoff win over Detroit, and the Packers' 13 straight regular-season home wins over the Lions ranks tied for first among active NFL streaks (Elias Sports Bureau):
- Longest active streaks, consecutive home wins vs. a single opponent, regular season only:

13	*Dallas over Arizona
13	Green Bay over Detroit
12	*Pittsburgh over San Diego
12	Green Bay over Tampa Bay
11	Washington over Detroit

*—Arizona defeated Dallas at Texas Stadium in 1998 playoffs; San Diego defeated Pittsburgh at Three Rivers Stadium in 1994 playoffs.

MON., DEC. 19, at BALTIMORE (8 p.m., ABC): The Packers debut at M&T Bank Stadium, what figures to be the 41st venue in which Favre will have played a regular-season game.

- It's Green Bay's first trip to the city in exactly 23 years, since a 20-20 tie with the Baltimore Colts at Memorial Stadium, Dec. 19, 1982. A few months before the Colts would draft John Elway, the Packers couldn't hold off a late Baltimore rally, and the Colts scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to force overtime.
- For the second straight season, the Packers play on Mike Sherman's birthday. In 2004, the Packers hosted Jacksonville on Dec. 19, a 28-25 loss.

SUN., DEC. 25, vs. CHICAGO (4 p.m., FOX): In Green Bay's first franchise game on Christmas Day, the Packers host the Bears in an intriguing nationally televised contest.

- It's Lovie Smith's first trip to Lambeau Field since he established beating the Packers as his No. 1 goal, and delivered last Sept. 19.
- The Packers are 19-3 against Chicago since 1994, one of the most successful stretches vs. a single opponent in NFL history.
- Favre looks to throw for a touchdown against Chicago in a 27th straight game, extending his NFL record.

SUN., JAN. 1, vs. SEATTLE (3:15 p.m., FOX): Another frequent opponent of late, the Seahawks make their fourth trip to Green Bay in three seasons (counting preseason and postseason). The clubs met at Lambeau Field in the 2003 regular season and playoffs, and the 2004 preseason.

- Ted Thompson, who has strong ties to both organizations, and built the nucleus of Seattle's roster through the last five drafts, faces his former club for the first time as Packers general manager.
- Favre meets his former coach, Mike Holmgren.
- Green Bay plays its second franchise game on Jan. 1. The Packers defeated the Dallas Cowboys at the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1, 1967, to win the '66 NFL championship.