

Numbers game favored Green Bay's offense

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Green Bay - The 2004 season featured a high-flying offense, a record-setting defense (for ineptitude) and some wild and wacky moments for the Green Bay Packers. Here's a look inside the numbers at the season that was:

OFFENSE

The Packers finished third in the NFL in total offense, behind only Kansas City and Indianapolis. Green Bay set a franchise record in averaging 397.3 yards per game, breaking the mark of 385.8 held by the 1983 team.

The Packers threw for a franchise record 4,449 yards in 2004. That came after they set the team rushing record (2,558) in 2003.

Green Bay ran for 1,908 yards in 2004, a drop of 650 yards from the '03 season.

Green Bay led the NFC and was fifth in the NFL with 424 points - an average of 26.50 points per game. That mark was the sixth best in franchise history, eclipsed only in 1962 (29.64), 1996 (28.50), 1961 (27.93), 2003 (27.63) and 1983 (26.81).

The Packers allowed just 14 sacks, tied with Indianapolis for the lowest in the NFL. That total also broke the previous team low of 17 set by the 1972 and '74 squads during 14-game seasons. The previous low for a 16-game season came in 2003, when the Packers allowed 19 sacks.

Green Bay established franchise records for first downs (354) and completions (382). The old records were 342 first downs in 1989 and 375 completions in 1994.

The Packers were second in the NFL in third-down conversions at 47.3%. Minnesota led the way, picking up 52.3% of its third downs.

Brett Favre threw for 4,088 yards and 30 touchdowns. It marked the fourth time in his career Favre exceeded 4,000 yards and the eighth time he reached 30 TDs, but just the second time it happened in the same season.

Favre extended his record for consecutive starts to 205. Ron Jaworski sits in second at 116. Indianapolis' Peyton Manning is third at 112.

Favre is in second place all-time in career touchdown passes (376) and career pass completions (4,306). He's also in third place in career passing yards (49,734) and career passing attempts (7,004). Dan Marino holds the record in each category, with 420 touchdown passes, 4,967 completions, 61,361 passing yards and 8,358 passing attempts.

Favre finished the year with a 92.4 quarterback rating, the fifth highest total of his career and the 10th best mark in the NFL this season.

Javon Walker's 12 touchdowns were the most by a Green Bay receiver since Antonio Freeman caught 14 TD passes in 1998 and tied him for the seventh most by a Green Bay receiver in a season. Walker's 89 receptions and 1,382 receiving yards both ranked fifth all-time among Packers receivers.

Donald Driver set personal-bests in receptions (84), receiving yards(1,208) and touchdowns (nine).

Ahman Green has eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark for the fifth consecutive season, although his 1,163 yards were his fewest ever as a Packer. Green is 1,359 yards behind Jim Taylor for most rushing yards in Packer history.

Walker had a league-leading 31 catches on third down. Thanks largely to Walker, the Packers converted 37.4% of the time when it was at least third-and-6. That was the best mark in the NFL.

Green ranked sixth in the NFC in first downs with 72. Walker was 11th (63) and Driver finished in a tie for 12th (59).

Green had the longest play of the season, running for a 90-yard touchdown against Dallas. Walker had the longest passing play of the season, catching a 79-yard touchdown pass against Indianapolis.

Green went 7 for 8 when carrying the ball on third and one (87.5%) and ranked seventh in the NFC. Six players, including former Packer Dorsey Levens, converted 100% with a minimum of four carries.

Green Bay had 69 plays of at least 20 yards (58 passes, 11 runs) and 15 plays of at least 40 yards (13 passes, two runs).

The Packers went three and out on 43 of their 182 drives (23.6%). Green Bay's average drive was 5.79 snaps and they scored a touchdown every 23.42 snaps.

Green Bay scored just 30 points on its 16 game-opening drives. The Packers were much more proficient at the start of the second half, when they scored 55 points on their 16 drives.

The Packers scored 30 touchdowns on 52 trips inside the 20-yard line. Their conversion rate of 57.7% ranked fourth in the NFC and 10th in the NFL.

The Packers most prolific down was fourth, where they averaged 7.9 yards on their 14 attempts. Green Bay averaged 7.1 yards on third down, 6.0 yards on first down and 5.4 yards on second down.

DEFENSE

Green Bay ranked 25th in total defense, its lowest mark there since 1983. The Packers also finished 23rd in points allowed after placing 11th there the previous season.

The Packers forced just 15 turnovers, the lowest number in franchise history. Green Bay's eight interceptions were also a franchise low.

Green Bay allowed more passing touchdowns (33) than any team in franchise history and had the lowest-ranked passing defense of any Packers team since the NFL expanded to 26 teams in 1970.

Opposing quarterbacks finished with a 99.1 rating against Green Bay, the highest figure a Packer team has ever allowed.

Opponents drove inside the Packers' 20-yard line 44 times and scored touchdowns on 28 of those trips (63.6%). That left the Packers ranked 29th in red zone defense, with only the New York Giants (72.0), Oakland (71.9) Dallas (71.1) faring worse.

The Packers allowed 74 plays of at least 20 yards (60 passes, 14 runs) and 16 plays of at least 40 yards (12 passes, four runs). Nate Burleson's 68-yard touchdown pass in Week 15 was the longest play the defense allowed.

The Packers had five defensive scores. Darren Sharper had interception returns at Detroit and at Chicago and a fumble return against Jacksonville. Ahmad Carroll and Michael Hawthorne had fumble returns against St. Louis.

Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila's 131/2 sacks tied a personal-high set in 2001. "KGB" has 501/2 sacks over the past four years, trailing only Michael Strahan of the New York Giants (56) and Simeon Rice of Tampa Bay (531/2) in that category.

About the only area the Green Bay defense excelled in was its play on third down, where it ranked ninth. Opponents converted 35.0% of their third downs, the lowest number by a Green Bay defense since 1997 (33.2%).

Nick Barnett's 162 tackles tied for fourth most total tackles in team history. Mike Douglass set the mark with 180 tackles in 1981.

Na'il Diggs had 19 tackles against the New York Giants, the most by any Packer player in a single game.

Al Harris had 28 passes defensed, breaking Doug Evans' record of 27 set in 1995.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ryan Longwell went 24 for 28 on field goals (85.7%) and finished in a tie for sixth in accuracy. Longwell also had four game-winning kicks, but had just two touchbacks all season.

Green Bay's average starting field position was its own 29-yard line. The average start was their opponents was the 32.

The Packers ranked 21st in punt return average (7.7) and 14th in kick-return average (21.7). Green Bay was 20th in punt return coverage (8.9) and 10th in kick-return coverage (20.2).

Robert Ferguson had the longest kick return of the season, a 71-yarder against Indianapolis in Week 3. Antonio Chatman had the longest punt return of the year, a 28-yarder against Jacksonville.

The Packers finished the season with four kick returns of more than 40 yards. Green Bay also allowed four kick returns of at least 40 yards, with the long coming by Detroit's Eddie Drummond on Oct. 17.

Bryan Barker ranked 31st in net punting average at 33.4.

Michael Hawthorne led the Packers with 19 tackles on special teams, followed by Ben Steele's 17.

OVERALL

The Packers won their third consecutive divisional championship, the fourth time in franchise history that happened. Green Bay also notched "three-peats" from 1960-'62, 1965-'67 and 1995-'97. The biggest difference? The other streaks included at least one world championship.

The Packers lost a home playoff game for just the second time, but also the second time in their last three outings. Green Bay was 13-0 at home in the playoffs before 2002. But since then, the Packers have lost to Atlanta and Minnesota and are now 14-2 all-time in home playoff games.

Green Bay finished with its worst home record since 1991 and its best road mark since 1972. The Packers were 4-5 at home after going 2-6 in '91 and 6-2 on the road after going 6-1 in '72.

The Packers ranked 27th in turnover differential at minus-14. St. Louis, which was the NFL's worst in the giveaway-takeaway department at minus-24, was the only team to rank as poorly as Green Bay and still make the playoffs.

The Packers were 7-0 in games they led at halftime and 3-7 in those they trailed.

The Packers had 116 penalties accepted. That was the most by a Green Bay team since Forrest Gregg's final squad in 1987 had 135 penalties.

Mike Sherman went just 3 for 9 in instant replay challenges and lost the last four times he threw his red flag.

Green Bay spent 368 minutes, 16 seconds in the lead. It trailed 370 minutes, 41 seconds.

Punter B.J. Sander and offensive lineman Steve Morley were inactive all 16 games, most on the team. Brad Bedell (10), Chris Johnson (8) and Kenny Peterson (7) rounded out the top five.

Linebacker Nick Rogers was signed - and waived - on three different occasions, more than any other player. Rogers' roller coaster in Green Bay finally ended when Indianapolis signed him off waivers on Dec. 22.