

# Annual report card: Offense

## Quarterbacks

### Aaron Rodgers

From a statistical measure, it might be a stretch to ask for anything more from a first-year starter. Rodgers finished fourth among all NFL quarterbacks in passing yards (4,083), sixth in passer rating (93.8), seventh in completions (341) and 10th in completion percentage (63.6) while throwing 28 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. Sometimes held the ball too long, which accounted for some of the 34 times he was sacked. Handled the Brett Favre saga with class and poise, battled through a significant injury to his throwing shoulder without missing a start and appeared to win over his teammates and fans. Failed to deliver even one late fourth-quarter drive to win a game, though he can't be faulted for two missed game-winning field goals (the 52-yarder at Minnesota and the 38-yarder that was blocked at Chicago). Ranked a pedestrian 14th in the league in fourth-quarter passer rating (87.8) and threw five of his interceptions in the fourth quarter. Had the third-highest penalty total on the team with seven (five delay of game, two intentional grounding).

**Grade: B-minus**

### Matt Flynn

Rookie seventh-round pick surprisingly won the backup job, but it may have been more to the ineptness of his competition than his own play. Did show a good pocket presence, an ability to make plays on the run and better-than-expected arm strength, though he doesn't throw with top-end velocity. Failed to move the team in his only meaningful playing time, completing just 2-of-5 passes for 6 yards in two series at Tampa Bay after Rodgers' shoulder injury.

**Grade: Incomplete**

### Brian Brohm

Rookie second-round pick was the most disappointing member of the 2008 draft class. Never showed the ability to make quick decisions and accurate throws while under pressure. Never got the game to slow down for him in training camp or preseason games, which was why he was relegated to the No. 3 job behind Flynn. Has a stronger arm and better physical tools than Flynn but needs a strong offseason to overtake him.

**Grade: Incomplete**

## **Running Backs**

### **Ryan Grant**

Started slowly after his contract dispute kept him out of the first week of training camp and a hamstring injury kept him out most of the preseason. Didn't appear completely over the injury until after the bye, ran with his head down early in the season and fumbled three times in the first seven games. Finished ninth in the league in rushing (1,203) but had the second-lowest average (3.9 yards per carry) of any back in the top 20 in yards after averaging 5.1 yards per carry last season. Didn't show the explosiveness or the ability to break tackles like he did in 2007, when he rushed for more than 1,110 yards in the final 12 games (including playoffs). Lost more yardage this year – 35 runs for a net loss of 83 yards compared with 22 for minus-35 last year. Dropped two passes of the 22 times he was thrown to (a drop percentage of 9.1) and was charged with allowing three sacks on failed blitz pickups.

**Grade: C**

### **Brandon Jackson**

Never got regular work because of the team philosophy of using just one back in running situations, so he was relegated largely to third-down duties. Ranked fifth on the team in receptions (30) but dropped 10.1 percent of the passes thrown to him (down from 13.6 percent last season) and gave up two sacks. Took over as the primary back against Carolina (Nov. 30) and rushed for a season-high 80 yards on 11 carries. Averaged 5.5 yards on 45 carries but missed the final two games due to a wrist injury.

**Grade: C-minus**

### **DeShawn Wynn**

Made the most of his second chance after starting the season on the practice squad. Remained relatively healthy, which was an improvement from his injury-filled rookie season, and flashed in the regular-season finale against the Lions, when he scored on a 73-yard run. Did a solid job in blitz pickup and didn't allow a sack. Caught the ball all three times it was thrown to him.

**Grade: D-plus**

### **John Kuhn**

The fullback played in all 16 games and converted his first four third-and-1 rushing opportunities of the season but couldn't get into the end zone on third-and-goal in the final minutes of the loss to Carolina. Dropped two of the eight passes thrown to him but caught two touchdowns in the red zone. Responsible for 3½ minus-yard runs. Also played well on special teams except for a holding penalty that wiped out Will Blackmon's 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Houston (Dec. 7). Finished sixth in special teams tackles (12).

**Grade: C**

**Korey Hall**

Missed five games due to a knee injury that limited his effectiveness but still finished tied for fourth in special teams tackles (13). Not as versatile a fullback as Kuhn and didn't have a rushing attempt. Caught all seven passes thrown his way, including a tough catch for a 1-yard touchdown in Week 1 against Minnesota. Responsible for one minus-yardage run.

**Grade: C-minus**

**Kregg Lumpkin**

Undrafted rookie made the opening-day roster and looked solid early, when he had a 19-yard rush and caught three passes for 22 yards, including a 12-yard screen that helped set up a touchdown at Detroit (Sept. 14). Injured his hamstring in practice and was placed on injured reserve Oct. 11. Was injury prone in college, too.

**Grade: Incomplete**

**Receivers****Greg Jennings**

Finished fifth in the Pro Bowl voting among NFC receivers (the top four make the roster) on the way to becoming the Packers' top playmaker. Was thrown to a team-high 140 times (tied for ninth most in the NFL) and finished 16th in the NFL with 80 catches and sixth with 1,292 yards to go along with nine touchdowns. His average of 16.2 yards per catch was tops among the top 19 in the league in receptions. Dropped eight passes (or 5.7 percent of the times he was targeted, which was up slightly from his 3.6 percent last season). Three of those drops came in the finale against Detroit. Played in all 16 games for the first time in his three-year career.

**Grade: A-minus**

**Donald Driver**

Failed to lead the team in receiving yards for the first time since 2004, but still managed 74 receptions for 1,012 yards and five touchdowns. Was targeted 115 times, 27th most in the NFL, and dropped six passes (twice as many as last year) for a drop percentage of 5.2. Turns 34 next month but remains in the Packers' future plans with a base salary of \$3.9 million for 2009. Played in all 16 games for the fourth time in five years. Had five penalties (tops among the receivers), including three holds.

**Grade: B**

**James Jones**

Never recovered from a preseason knee injury in which he tore his posterior cruciate ligament, which led to a nerve problem that bothered him late in the season. Was productive when healthy with 20 catches for 274 yards (a 13.7 average) and one touchdown but missed six whole games and parts of others. Dropped only one of the 30 passes thrown to him for a drop percentage of 3.3. Needs to remain healthy to hold down his spot as the No. 3 receiver.

**Grade: D-plus**

**Jordy Nelson**

Rookie second-round draft pick showed steady improvement and became a popular target for Rodgers, who threw to Nelson 54 times (third most on the team). Finished fourth on the team with 33 receptions for 366 yards and two touchdowns. Dropped just one pass to post the lowest drop percentage (1.9 percent) among the receivers. Should push Jones for the No. 3 spot next season. Played in 16 games.

**Grade: C-minus**

**Ruvell Martin**

The best blocker among the receivers only caught 15 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown, the lowest marks of his three NFL seasons. A favorite among the coaches and the quarterbacks because of his work ethic and try-hard mentality but had a drop percentage of 11.5, the highest among the receivers and tight ends.

**Grade: D-plus**

**Shaun Bodiford**

Spent the entire season on injured reserve after undergoing back surgery in July.

**Grade: Incomplete**

**Tight Ends****Donald Lee**

Followed his best season in 2007 with just an average showing in 2008. Receptions dropped from 48 to 39, yardage from 575 to 303, yards per catch from 12.0 to 7.8 and touchdowns from six to five. Was targeted 13 fewer times but drop percentage more than doubled from 3.2 percent to 8.0 percent. Also slipped as a blocker and allowed 2½ minus-yardage runs.

**Grade: C-minus**

**Tory Humphrey**

Played in all 16 games after missing all of 2007 due to a leg injury but made a minimal contribution with 11 catches for 162 yards. Was the only one of the tight ends and receivers not to drop a pass but is no guarantee to make the roster next season.

**Grade: D**

**Jermichael Finley**

Youngest player on the roster was a non-factor until the last two games, when he caught a 35-yard pass at Chicago (Dec. 22) and two passes for 29 yards and a touchdown in the finale against Detroit. More was expected of the third-round draft pick, but the raw talent had trouble putting his athleticism to use. Was credited with only one official drop in 12 passes thrown his way but misplayed several others

**Grade: D**

**Evan Moore**

Undrafted rookie from Stanford was off to a solid start in training camp but spent the season on injured reserve after he sustained a knee injury in the second preseason game.

**Grade: Incomplete**

**Offensive Line****Daryn Colledge**

One of the most improved players on offense. Started all 16 games (14 at left guard, one at left tackle and one at right tackle) and though he has played guard and tackle, appears to be the left guard of the future. Made huge gains in the weight room to improve his overall strength. Was charged with six sacks (second most on the team) after giving up 3½ in 13 starts in 2007 and committed six penalties (four false starts, one hold, one ineligible man downfield). Tied for second on the team by allowing 5½ minus-yardage runs.

**Grade: B-minus**

**Scott Wells**

Battled injuries most of the season but started the final 14 games at center. Has earned the trust of the coaching staff to make the right line calls. Committed only one penalty (a hold) and was responsible for three sacks after giving up only 1½ in 2006 and 2007 combined. Allowed four minus-yardage runs.

**Grade: C-plus**

**Mark Tauscher**

Started the first 13 games at right tackle but tore the ACL in his left knee, the same injury he had in 2002. Scheduled to be a free agent in March but could be re-signed at a bargain basement price and given the opportunity to win his job back. Had an up and down year but allowed just two sacks after giving up a career-high six last season. Committed three penalties (two holds, one illegal formation). Was better in pass protection than in run blocking. Tied Colledge for second with 5½ minus-yardage runs.

**Grade: C-plus**

**Jason Spitz**

Best position might be center even though he played mostly at right guard. Likely will be locked in a training camp battle with Wells for the starting center spot next season.

Started all 16 games at three different positions and gave up only one sack after allowing just a half sack last season. Was responsible for a team-high eight minus-yardage running plays, although none came during the first three games of the season when he started at center. Committed four penalties, but cut his holding calls in half from last season with two and had two false starts.

**Grade: C**

**Chad Clifton**

Remains a top-level pass blocking left tackle even though he gave up a team-high 7½ sacks in 15 games – up from 3½ in 16 games last season. Had one horrible game against Jared Allen at Minnesota. Run blocking remains shaky at best even though he was responsible for only 1½ minus-yard runs. Probably has another year or two left in him despite chronic knee problems. Committed a team-high nine penalties (five holds, three false starts, one illegal formation) after being flagged just three times in 2007.

**Grade: C**

**Josh Sitton**

Rookie fourth-round pick likely would have been the opening-day starter at right guard if not for the knee injury he sustained in the third preseason game. Started two games at right guard and held up well for a rookie, allowing just a half sack. Allowed one minus-yardage run. Committed three penalties (two holds, one unnecessary roughness). A tough mauler who will be hard to keep out of the starting lineup next season.

**Grade: C-minus**

**Tony Moll**

Late-season audition to replace Tauscher at right tackle ended after two starts when he was benched. In 14 games (including five starts), allowed three sacks and was penalized more than anyone but Clifton. His eight infractions were three false starts, three ineligible downfield (including one that wiped out a 68-yard touchdown pass to Driver in the season opener), one tripping and one hold. Allowed three minus-yardage runs. Might have a hard time making the roster next season.

**Grade: D**

**Allen Barbre**

Second-year pro lost out to Colledge in a training-camp battle for the left guard spot and then played parts of three games at left guard. Didn't give up a sack and committed two penalties (one hold, one false start) in limited action. Small-college player still viewed as a developmental guy with a future in the league.

**Grade: Incomplete**

**Breno Giacomini**

Rookie fifth-round pick made major strides during the season after a poor training camp when he struggled with the basics of pass blocking. With a good offseason in the weight room, could compete for the right tackle spot next season.

**Grade: Incomplete**

**Nevin McCaskill**

Guard signed off Philadelphia's practice squad on Dec. 11 did not play.

**Grade: Incomplete**