

Annual report card: Coaching/personnel moves

Coaching

Mike McCarthy and his staff never solved the team's major shortcomings – the lack of an explosive running game, porous run defense, an ineffective pass rush and special teams breakdowns. In some cases, especially on defense, the coaches weren't given enough playmakers. The Packers committed the second-most penalties in the NFL. The offensive staff did well to develop Aaron Rodgers into a capable starting quarterback, and the staff as a whole kept the team together and playing hard until the end despite little to play for in the final weeks. Moving Charles Woodson to safety was a mistake that shouldn't have gone on for three games.

Grade: C-minus

Personnel moves

General Manager Ted Thompson made the correct call to go with Rodgers over Brett Favre, but he could have prevented the public relations nightmare by trading Favre before training camp began. Instead, it created a circus atmosphere in late July/early August. He also should have gotten Ryan Grant's contract done in the offseason, which would have allowed Grant to participate fully in the offseason program. Biggest error was overestimating what he had on the defensive line, and it turned a position of strength into a one of weakness. Poor play on the defensive front was the largest single reason for the 6-10 record. Made a good free-agent pickup in linebacker Brandon Chillar, who was the team's best linebacker. Didn't get much from his rookie class. Made a major mistake by cutting punter Jon Ryan for Derrick Frost, who probably shouldn't have lasted as long (12 games) as he did.

Grade: D-plus