2018 Packers Individual Report Card:Defense

By Bob McGinn
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DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (8)

Montravius Adams (19.9%): As a third-round draft choice in 2017, the Packers had every reason to expect a lot more production after two seasons. All they've really gotten was a flash of promise late this year against the Bears, Jets and Lions. Until then, Adams had been a liability at the point of attack and a non-factor as a pass rusher. Successful defensive linemen must give great effort, and until Games 14-16 Adams didn't show much tenacity or second effort. Scouts questioned his intensity coming out of Auburn. Adams is fairly quick off the ball. At times, it does enable him to play across the line against the run and capture an edge as a rusher. Only at the end did he begin to use his hands getting off blocks against run and pass. He also started seeing the ball faster, hustling out of the pack and getting downfield in the screen game. The Packers have two powerful run stuffers in Kenny Clark and Tyler Lancaster. They need another interior pass rusher, but it takes a special breed to do that. **Grade: D.**

Fadol Brown (3.7%): The Raiders, with a thin defensive line, considered Brown too hard to handle and cut him after he played 175 snaps in eight games (17 tackles, two pressures). The Packers claimed him on waivers and gave him 39 snaps in four games. He's definitely deserving of a long look in 2019. Brown (6-4, 282) wasn't drafted out of Ole Miss in April 2017 due in part to a left foot injury that some scouts considered chronic. He spent his entire rookie season on Oakland's practice squad. Brown can run (4.90) and jump (34-inch vertical) but lacks upper-body strength and ideal bend. Perhaps his best attribute is an arm length of 35 inches. "He's a big man who can run," an AFC scout said in April 2017. "Body control is average. High-maintenance kid. He's stiff-ankled and stiff-kneed. If you got tight ankles, which means you can't bend, you got problems." Brown was on his best behavior in Green Bay and did play hard. He flashed the ability to penetrate against the run and the twitch and extra effort necessary to pressure the passer. He also made his presence felt on special teams. **Grade: D.**

Kenny Clark (67.8%): If one was to disagree with the NFC Pro Bowl picks for the interior line (Aaron Donald, Fletcher Cox, Akiem Hicks) that didn't include Clark, another might disagree with Clark beating out Damon Harrison, Eddie Goldman and Linval Joseph for primacy at nose tackle on the All-NFC North team. No matter how you slice it, GM Ted Thompson made a stellar selection when he drafted the UCLA NT 27th in 2016. For the second straight year, Clark was the team's best player on defense. The Packers shifted and stemmed their front more than they have in years in an attempt to mess up blocking schemes. Frankly, it didn't matter when it came to Clark. He was all but immoveable whether he was being blocked by one man or two. Because of his height and strength Clark's game always has been leverage. It's an all-day chore to displace him. This season, under the tutelage of line coach Jerry Montgomery, Clark was better with his hands and found the ball even more. He also made distinct strides as a pass rusher, improving his pressures per snap rate from one in 63.7 snaps as a rookie and one in 35.2 in 2017 to one in 27.2 this season. He also was a workhorse, logging 83.8% playing time through the first 12 games before an elbow injury sent him to injured reserve for the final three games. Despite the missed time, Clark still finished with a total of 26 ½ pressures that led the team. The last two defensive linemen to achieve that feat were DT Mike Daniels (31) in 2013 and DE Aaron Kampman (49) in '08. Clark missed just four tackles, batted down three passes and had only one penalty. His three takeaway-producing plays tied for second on defense. **Grade: A.**

Mike Daniels (39.4%): Daniels will be entering the final year of his contract but clearly there's no reason for the Packers to talk extension. He'll be 30 this spring and is coming off a year in which he missed the last 6 ½ games with a foot injury. Until 2017, Daniels had been highly durable. Then he missed two games with a foot injury last year before not playing a down in 2018 exhibitions because of a thigh injury. Some personnel people fret about how long smaller players (Daniels stands 6-0 ½) that play big for their size will last. This was the second straight disappointing season for Daniels as a pass rusher. His pressure rate (one every 19.5 snaps) led the defensive line but just two were sacks. Opponents doubled Daniels more than Clark, and it worked. Against the run, Daniels always has taken a lot of chances. Those gambles in the past often led to stops in the backfield. This year, Daniels posted just one-half tackle for loss after averaging five in the previous five seasons. His tackle per snap rate of one every 16.1 ranked fifth among the sixth D-linemen. That rate was the lowest of his career. He has never created many turnovers (six in his career) but didn't have any this season. **Grade: C+.**

Tyler Lancaster (25.5%): Of the 14 nose tackles that were drafted in April, only Vita Vea, the 12th overall pick, had more traits earmarking him for a successful career in the NFL than Lancaster. Identifying and signing Lancaster as a free agent at the conclusion of the draft represented one of Brian Gutekunst's finest personnel moves. Lancaster didn't stand out in August and was cut. Promoted from the practice squad to the 53 after five games, he became a regular part of the rotation in Game 8 and improved as the season wore on. It's not a stretch to think Lancaster could be a starter next season. At 6-3 ½ and 313, Lancaster looks like another run-of-the-mill shock absorber. True, he can function well in that role. He wasn't as hard to move as Kenny Clark but there wasn't that much of a difference. Like Clark, he used his hands to disengage from blocks and then showed burst to the ball. His tackles per snap rate of one every 8.21 ranked second at the position. What makes Lancaster's future bright is the speed (5.03), athleticism (9-5 broad jump) and smarts (Wonderlic of 33) that aren't readily apparent unless his play is studied. He plays with a degree of swagger that was appealing. Lancaster's pass rush wasn't much (two pressures, one every 90.3 snaps). Given his tools, however, he shouldn't be a lost cause in that department. **Grade: C.**

James Looney (1.8%): Looney was drafted in the seventh round in the hope that he could recreate some of the interior pass rush that he showed as a three-year starter at California (8 ½ sacks). He didn't make a play all summer and was released before being brought back on the practice squad. He spent the last six games on the 53, playing 19 snaps in the last three games and again failing to make his presence felt. **Grade: Incomplete.**

Dean Lowry (65.6%): This was Lowry's best season in a three-year career as a fourth-round draft choice from Northwestern. His pressure total increased to 15 after he posted 8 ½ as a rookie and 11 in 2017. Handicapped by short arms (31 inches), he overcomes them with ideal size (6-5 1/2, 296), all-out hustle down in and down out and improved awareness. He played every game for the third straight season and led the club in batted passes (four). As a run player, Lowry does what he's told and is a consistent performer. He's stymied as a rusher against double teams. When single-blocked, however, his pressure frequency rose. On a defense that desperately needed leadership, Lowry was one of the few members that stepped forward. **Grade: B-.**

Muhammad Wilkerson (10.8%): It's likely that defensive coordinator Mike Pettine lobbied to procure Wilkerson as a "street" free agent on the first day of the signing period in mid-March just as he pushed the Jets to draft him late in the first round in 2011. Pettine finished one for two, and there doesn't seem to be any point trying with Wilkerson on another contract. From the start of training camp it was apparent the former Jet Pro Bowler would only go so far when it came to working hard. Wilkerson collected $37 million from the five-year, $86 million extension the Jets handed him in July 2016. After two desultory, post-money seasons New York cut ties and the Packers decided to try with a one-year, $4.7 million ($1.5M guaranteed) deal. Instead of leading the young defensive linemen, he often was last reaching drills in practice and then last going through the line. He had his money. His days as a hungry player were over. After a dud of a training camp Wilkerson started three games and lasted 115 snaps before suffering a season-ending ankle injury that required surgery. Among his six linemates, he ranked fourth in pressures per snap (one every 57.5) and sixth in tackles per snap (one every 19.3). He showed only a trace of pass rush. When he did make tackles against the run, it was less shedding at the point and more falling into or engulfing ball carriers. Now 29 and coming off a significant injury, there's no reason to think he'd be any more motivated in 2019 here or anywhere else. **Grade: D.**

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS (5)

Kendall Donnerson (0.0%): The Packers took a late seventh-round flyer on Donnerson, a pass rusher at NCAA Division II Southeast Missouri State. He understandably appeared tentative in 61 exhibition snaps, was cut and immediately brought back on the practice squad. Even after promoting Donnerson for the final four games, the coaches never felt comfortable giving him a snap on defense. Donnerson was drafted off his pro day numbers: 40 time of 4.48, vertical jump of 40 inches, broad jump of 10-11. In order to contribute, he will have to overcome a Wonderlic score of 9 and become fully comfortable with Mike Pettine's defense. **Grade: Incomplete.**

Kyler Fackrell (58.6%): Until mid-season Fackrell was fourth in playing time at outside linebacker. Then Nick Perry went down and Fackrell moved ahead of Reggie Gilbert to start opposite Clay Matthews. Fackrell was the ultimate finisher. Although he ranked just third at the position in pressures per snap (one every 38.9), his 10 ½ sacks led the team. When Fackrell got there, he rang the bell. Besides his 10 ½ sacks, he had just two knockdowns and 3 ½ hurries. His 16 pressures were just 3 ½ more than he had during his three-sack season of 2017, when he had one pressure every 35.8 snaps. On a down-in, down-out basis, Fackrell was never somebody opposing offenses needed to take away. Having said that, none of his 10 individual sacks were of the garbage variety. From snap to sack, Fackrell's full sacks came in 4.4, 3.2, 2.3, 3.5, 2.7, 3.5, 3.9, 2.9, 3.8 and 4.3 seconds. His full-sack victims were RT Jordan Mills, LT Dion Dawkins and RT Conor McDermott of Buffalo, LT Andrew Whitworth of Los Angeles, RT LT Zach Sterup of Miami, LT Duane Brown (two) and an unblocked bootleg against Seattle, LG Spencer Long of the Jets and LT Taylor Decker of Detroit. Fackrell didn't generate a turnover and batted down just one pass. His 2 ½ tackles for loss ranked fourth at the position. He was up and down playing the run, missing too many tackles (nine). His sack total screams starter but everything else about his game suggests rotational backup. **Grade: C+.**

Reggie Gilbert (45.7%): Gilbert's respectable finish in 2017 engendered hope. When given ample playing time to produce this season he came up a little short. Perhaps the best part of his game was setting the edge. He led the position in tackles per snap (one every 11.1), had the fewest misses (three) of the top four outside linebackers and had 3 ½ tackles for loss, 2 ½ more than Fackrell. His 14 ½ pressures left him with a better pressure rate (one every 33.5) than Fackrell's. The Packers probably did a disservice to Gilbert later in the season by asking him to drop in coverage so much. Gilbert, an undrafted rookie from

Arizona in 2016, already has beat the odds. Not only did he have to make the conversion from defensive end to outside linebacker, he also had to overcome a lack of speed (4.88), relatively short arms (32 ½) and small hands (9 1/8). He'll be competing hard again come summer. **Grade: C.**

Clay Matthews (71.1%): Health isn't the reason why the Packers aren't expected to re-sign Matthews. He played all 16 games, and even at 32 still remains in excellent shape. Obviously, his genes are world-class. No, the reason the Packers almost certainly will move on from their 10-year former superstar is lack of production. He was responsible for one takeaway, the lowest total of his career. He didn't bat a pass for the first time since 2009. He had four penalties, equaling his career high. His 23 ½ pressures were the lowest total of his career other than 2013, when he had 21 in merely 11 games. Matthews' 10 missed tackles were the most of his career when he was playing outside linebacker. He ranked fourth among outside linebackers in tackles per snap (one every 18.4). His 3 ½ sacks were a career low. Of the three 20+ passes allowed by outside linebackers, he was responsible for two. It is true that Matthews dropped more in coverage under Mike Pettine than Dom Capers. His 76 drops compared to 15 in 2017 and 18 in 2016. After Matthews sought a change his drop total of 57 in Games 1-8 dipped to 19 in Games 9-16. On individual rushes Matthews was double-teamed on 23.4% of passes, down from 28.5% in 2017. In Matthews' glory years, he found ways to beat these double-team rates: 35.2% in 2010, 37.8% in '11 and 36.2% in '12. Some in the league maintain that Matthews still could do just about whatever he wants: set the edge, chase from the back side, even play inside linebacker. My view is that Matthews wouldn't want to play inside because of all the coverage, collisions and full-field reads involved. Matthews would have to become reenergized to restart his career, and with the millions he's banked it's unlikely to happen, especially in Green Bay. **Grade: C+.**

Nick Perry (28.3%): Unlike Matthews, declining production is only half of reason why Perry might well have taken his last snap for the Packers. He sat out the entire off-season and most of training camp after ankle surgery, and then was lost for the last 7 ½ games with a knee injury. He would leave Green Bay never have played all 16 games in his seven seasons. Perry is a professional. He's not milking anything. His attitude is good. Even though he's a physical specimen his body just isn't cut out for the rigors of pro football. This year, Perry didn't do much of anything. His career-low total of 6 ½ pressures left him fourth at the position in per-snap production (one every 46.3 snaps). Usually the most active tackler, he ranked just third in tackles per snap (one every 12.04 snaps) and had just one for loss. He'll be 29 in April, but it's a very old 29. Termination would mean eating $11.1 million in salary-cap proration but also would remove $24.2 million in base salaries from 2019-'21 and a $4.8M roster bonus due March 16. **Grade: D-.**

INSIDE LINEBACKERS (5)

Oren Burks (11.5%): When Jake Ryan blew out his knee July 30, Burks basically became the next man up alongside Blake Martinez. Over the next five months Burks would prove he wasn't ready. Based on his disappointing rookie season, who can say if he'll ever be ready? The Packers thought so highly of Burks that they traded up in the third round to select him. He did show promise in 28 snaps against Pittsburgh in the second exhibition before a shoulder injury knocked him out of the next four games. By then, Antonio Morrison had been acquired and was playing on run downs. Burks played more than the ex-Colt in Games 4-7, and he also started Game 8 against New England. But his performance was so weak that Morrison played more than him in the last eight games. Even with the Packers just playing out the string, the coaches still wouldn't play Burks. In those final eight games he received merely 18 snaps from scrimmage. Burks did have success on special teams; scouts rated him one of the NFC North's two best core players in the kicking game. Maybe the coaches asked him to do too much by placing him in too

many packages. He can run (4.62), and it looks like he can tackle in space. Yet, Burks was exploited in coverage too often because he was out of position or late reacting. Some scouts said he was tight and mechanical in his movements at Vanderbilt. He scored a solid 24 on the Wonderlic but that test sometimes doesn't translate to football learning. As an in-the-box run defender, Burks got knocked around and knocked back too often. In a season-high 28 snaps against San Francisco, the 49ers ran right at him for 44 yards. He's a chicken fighter who at this point doesn't have the power to take on and then shed blocks. **Grade: D.**

James Crawford (0.1%): No team signed Crawford after his senior season at Illinois until the Packers needed a camp body and called Aug. 8. In a major surprise, he ended up making the team. Furthermore, he was active for all 16 games. His total of 333 snaps on special teams was 67 more than anyone else. His 13 tackles were a team high, and he finished third in tackles per snap (one every 25.6). He is physical. Crawford started just 16 of 36 games for the Illini largely because he lacked instincts and feel. The main reason he played just one snap from scrimmage as an inside linebacker in Green Bay was concern regarding his assignments. Whether Crawford can ever be efficient enough to make a lot of calls and reads remains to be seen. He did score 22 on the Wonderlic. **Grade: D.**

Blake Martinez (98.6%): One of Mike Pettine's motivations for using a safety instead of a second inside linebacker on a large number of downs was to insure that Martinez wouldn't get matched against better tight ends. Pettine saw what happened the year before when Dom Capers exposed Martinez downfield. Having to use Martinez in zone coverage was bad enough. He allowed 7 ½ plays of 20 yards or more, an increase from 4 ½ last year and 2 ½ in 2016. Of the 4 ½ touchdown passes allowed by linebackers, he was charged with two. Once again, Martinez proved to be a safe haven for teams seeking advantageous matchups and easy completions in the hook zones and flats. His average speed contributes to below-average range. He doesn't play to that 4.67 clocking of March 2016. No matter his durability factor, and it has been exceptional, the Packers shouldn't be satisfied with Martinez as their every-down linebacker. He can't be categorized as a smart player, either, and at times appears to lack accountability for his mistakes. Were it not for an ankle injury at New England that cost him 15 snaps Martinez would have played every down. Although he led the team in tackles again (147) he finished second at his position in tackles per snap (one every 7.14). He made four tackles for loss, a decrease from nine in 2017. Martinez led the team in missed tackles with 17, a decrease of five from last season. After finishing second on the team in turnover-producing plays with four a year ago he didn't have any this year. He tied for the team lead in dropped interceptions with two. He broke up 11 passes in 2017 compared to just four in '18. Probably the best part of Martinez' game was rushing the passer. In a team-leading total of 78 blitzes he finished with 15 ½ pressures, including five sacks. He had 5 ½ pressures in 65 blitzes the year before. With Martinez entering the final year of his contract the Packers have time before deciding if they want him in control of their defense for years to come. **Grade: C.**

Antonio Morrison (28.1%): Morrison actually had a slightly better tackles per snap rate (one every 7.12) than Martinez. He was fairly effective on cross blitzes as well. He came up with 3 ½ tackles for loss while missing eight, which was a much higher rate of miss than Martinez. No matter how hard Morrison tried, and his effort level was considerable, his 5.12 speed will never cut it. The Colts reached that conclusion after they drafted him in the fourth round in 2015 and then traded him to Green Bay Aug. 26 for CB Lenzy Pipkins. There's little doubt that the Packers came to see it, too. He just can't get to the sideline on running plays, can't cut off running backs and wideouts on screens and can't break fast enough on stick routes to the tight end. Morrison will smash anything that moves. He loves tattooing fullbacks on iso's. He also made too many mistakes against run and pass. For a player of his caliber, he probably

talked too much as well. Morrison has another year left on his modest rookie contract. Until the Packers improve their personnel there's no reason not to invite him back. **Grade: D.**

Jake Ryan (0.0%): Ryan was participating in the fourth practice of training camp when he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and underwent season-ending surgery. He blew out the same ligament playing for Michigan in the spring of 2013. He'll be an unrestricted free agent in March, and coming off the knee injury his market value shouldn't be high. He'll also turn 27 later this month. Ryan is a two-down run player with minimal value on special teams. If Ryan doesn't have to worry about making calls he has been effective playing hard and getting through trash. Remember that he played outside linebacker in his first four collegiate seasons before moving to the middle as a senior. Partially as a result, Ryan still doesn't see the game as fast as he should. **Grade: Incomplete.**

CORNERBACKS (8)

Jaire Alexander (71.4%): Alexander started 11 of the 13 games that he played and joined Denzel Ward on the all-rookie team. The only other cornerback from Green Bay to make the all-rookie squad (it was first selected in 1974) was Casey Hayward in 2012. Until Games 14-15, when Alexander elected not to press and played soft, he attacked his assignment with gusto and played with an appealing competitive fire. He's quick, fast and aggressive. After a slow start due in part to injury, he became the starter near mid-season when Kevin King went down and had a stretch of several games in which the Packers couldn't have asked for more from a rookie corner. He led the position in passes defensed per snap (one every 50.7) and was second in tackles per snap (one every 10.0). He drew just two penalties. He covered tightly at times. As the season wore on Alexander became less effective. He finished with a team-high yield of 12 passes for 20 yards or more, a number exceeded only by Damarious Randall (13 in 2015) among Green Bay cornerbacks since 2010. Sometimes he peeked in the backfield and was burned by double moves. Sometimes he gambled and lost. Sometimes his height (5-10) hurt him at the ball. Injuries knocked Alexander out of three games and sidelined him for three more, which was reminiscent of Randall's fragility. For this defense to go anywhere next season the Packers need Alexander to step forward, perform like a legitimate No. 1 corner and play 16 games. **Grade: B-.**

Bashaud Breeland (30.9%): The Packers were able to sign Breeland off the street in late September for close to minimum wage. Based on his performance in seven games (five starts), he wouldn't warrant a contract worth much more than that. Breeland played 79.3% of the snaps for Washington from 2014-'17 but the Redskins thought so little of him that they just let him walk away. In a lesser role for the Packers, Breeland's current employer might take the same approach. As unfair as it might be, Breeland plays like the 4.6 40 that he ran for scouts five years ago. Lack of speed was a major reason why he allowed 4 ½ plays of 20 yards or more, the fifth-highest total in the secondary. It also contributed to why his penalty-ridden ways in Washington continued in Green Bay. He's grabby, and his five penalties were second most for any player on defense. When asked to play outside, he was almost a penalty waiting to happen. It's rather apparent that Breeland loves to play the game. He's a good tackler (two misses). He's tough. And in a year when the cornerbacks intercepted merely four passes, he led with two as well as in takeaways with three. He finished second to Alexander in passes defensed per snap (one every 54.8). There are things to like about Breeland along with the limitations that cannot be ignored. **Grade: D.**

Tony Brown (27%): Three games into Brown's career in Green Bay he had three penalties (one was for taunting, another for a late hit out of bounds) and looked like a good bet to be on the first flight out of Austin Straubel. Mike McCarthy stood by the former Alabama nickel back and by the final two games of the season Brown had become a starter, whether by default or not. Nick Saban kept the undisciplined but intelligent Brown (Wonderlic of 31) around for four years because of his speed (4.35) and potential. Brown did become more of a pro as the season went on, drawing two penalties on special teams and none on defense in the last 10 games. He also did a better job of not getting beat deep and improved his press technique on the perimeter, where he almost never had lined up for the Crimson Tide. Brown allowed just one TD pass and one play for 20+ yards. A strong tackler, he missed four and led corners in tackles per snap (one every 9.6). His speed was much more noticeable as a gunner/holdup man on special teams than on defense. He didn't play to his 40 as a corner. His speed is straight-line. Brown has always exuded confidence. If he can stay out of his own way, he might become a player. That, however, is a big if. **Grade: C-.**

Davon House (2.7%): House played two injury-free seasons in Jacksonville but his return to Green Bay in March 2017 was ruined by thigh, shoulder and back problems. In 2018, he lasted 30 snaps in three games before a shoulder injury landed him on injured reserve. House is an excellent locker-room presence. He'll be 30 in July and undoubtedly still wants to play, but at this point it seems unlikely another team would bring him in. **Grade: Incomplete.**

Josh Jackson (67.5%): Many rookies get better the more they play, at least until December. In Jackson's case, he played his best ball in August and September before his season fell apart. The Packers drafted Jackson in the second round even though he lacked speed (4.53), started only one season at Iowa and used a side-saddle technique that would require major adjustment in the NFL. Scouts also questioned his willingness to run support and tackle reliably. Every scout loved his eight interceptions in 2017. In training camp, Jackson played well and personnel people across the league took note. As the season got going and the competition stiffened, Jackson's many deficiencies began to crop up. By the end, the coaches were playing free agent Tony Brown ahead of Jackson after opposing quarterbacks picked on him for weeks. It was rather apparent that Jackson's focus and effort diminished as the season progressed. He was benched at mid-season after his grabby coverage style led to an excessive number of penalties. He finished with seven, the most for any player on defense. Jackson allowed seven passes of 20 yards or more, second most behind Alexander, and three touchdown passes, the most for a corner. He did rank third among the five corners in passes defensed per snap (one every 55.2) but never intercepted a pass (he dropped one) and didn't create a turnover. Jackson was never used as a safety, but given his size (6-0 ½, 196) there is speculation that safety might be his eventual position. However, the lack of urgency and aggressiveness in his play, at least in Year 1, makes that seem an unlikely possibility. Jackson certainly isn't physical enough to play in the box. As a post safety he'd be involved in less rough stuff, but even centerfielders must tackle. His tackling was sketchy, at best; six of his seven misses came in the second half of the season. Jackson's year was a disappointment, to say the least. **Grade: D.**

Natrell Jamerson (0.0%): Jamerson, a one-year starter at Wisconsin, arrived off waivers from Houston on Dec. 5. He played 10 games for the Texans with 78 snaps on defense and 89 on special teams. The Texans claimed Jamerson off waivers from the Saints, who drafted him in the fifth round but let him go Sept. 2. In two games for the Packers, Jamerson made three tackles in 23 snaps, a rate of one every 7.7 that easily led their special teams. He's another one of those workout warriors (4.42 40) that the Packers gravitate toward. **Grade: Incomplete.**

Kevin King (28.6%): Another year, another wasted season. The Packers have played 32 games since drafting King atop the second round in 2017. He has played in 15 games with 11 starts. Because of injury, King has failed to finish five of those 15 games. In all, he has played merely 32.4% of the defensive snaps. GM Ted Thompson acted in conjunction with the team's medical and training staffs in drafting these damaged goods. King reported with a bad left shoulder that hindered him for the Washington Huskies and throughout his rookie season, eventually leading to season-ending labrum surgery in December 2017. In 2018, a right shoulder injury knocked him out of the first three exhibition games. During the season, groin, chin and hamstring injuries forced him out of games, and the hamstring eventually sent him to injured reserve for Games 13-16. It should be obvious that King's body wasn't ready for the NFL, and if he doesn't get a lot stronger his career will flame out fast. He needs to focus and become a pro in every way. At 6-3, King looks fabulous on the hoof. Yet, even when he has been on the field, his performance has been uneven. Despite limited playing time he allowed 2 ½ TD passes, second most among cornerbacks. He was fourth at the position in tackles per snap (one every 13.8) and last in passes defensed per snap (one every 101.3), a major decline from one every 47.8 as a rookie. At the same time, King did make perhaps the biggest play a corner made all year when he smothered the 49ers' Marquise Goodwin on a long pass and intercepted to set up the game-winning field goal. He's leggy, and as a result sometimes backs well off receivers and then lacks the twitch to break suitably on the ball. No one can say with any degree of certitude where King's career is headed. **Grade: D+.**

Will Redmond (0.4%): Played four snaps before going on injured reserve Dec. 22 with a shoulder injury. Green Bay is his third team. The 49ers took him in the third round of the 2016 draft despite the fact he probably wouldn't be ready after a blown ACL in Game 7 of 2015 for Mississippi State. Missed half of the 2017 season with an ankle injury. Flashed cover skills and speed for the Bulldogs but certainly hasn't been the same player since October 2015. He's undersized at 5-11, 186. **Grade: Incomplete.**

SAFETIES (6)

Kentrell Brice (60.7%): Given first crack at becoming Morgan Burnett's successor, Brice could hardly have had a worse season. In the first six games he was at least partially responsible for touchdown passes of 75 (Stefon Diggs), 46 (Paul Richardson) and 67 (Marquise Goodwin) yards. After Ha Ha Clinton-Dix was traded, Brice got hurt in the next game. Soon thereafter, the Packers tried to get him off the field until a plethora of injuries to other players forced him back into the lineup for much of the final month. In all, Brice allowed 5 ½ touchdown passes, a team high, and five plays of 20 yards or more. Last season, in 27.4% playing time, he yielded just two 20+ plays and no TD passes. After three seasons the Packers should know what Brice is. Despite phenomenal testing numbers he just can't play the game. At 5-11 ½, Brice plays too big for his body and is always getting hurt. He missed 10 games with groin and ankle injures in 2017, then was knocked out of three games and sat out two more with knee and ankle problems this year. With his tremendous power through the hips and exceptional courage, Brice can and does knock ball carriers back. But he's really just a hitter, not a tackler. He doesn't run through the ball carrier and thus ends up whiffing too often. Brice missed 15 tackles, a total second on the team to Blake Martinez and nine more than he had a year ago. He marches to his own drummer, blows assignments and can be overly sensitive to criticism. His ball skills and deep reaction ability are lacking. He defensed just one pass every 215.3 snaps, a rate almost three times worse than what he produced in 2017. As weak as the Packers are at safety, there's little reason to make Brice an offer as a restricted free agent. **Grade: F.**

Ibraheim Campbell (10.5%): Just when Campbell was earning extensive playing time, if not a starting job at safety, he suffered a knee injury in Game 12 and was lost for the season. What Tyler Lancaster was to the defensive line, Campbell might have become to the secondary. That is, an unheralded free agent with a legitimate future. Arriving on waivers from the Jets at mid-season, Campbell played 13, 53 and 46 snaps in his three games before going down. In the end, Campbell led the safeties in tackles per snap (one every 5.6) and didn't miss a tackle. At the same time, he didn't give up anything of substance in coverage. A four-year starter at Northwestern, Campbell was drafted in the fourth round by the Browns because of his toughness, moxie (Wonderlic of 26), adequate physical skills and love for the game. Yes, Green Bay was Campbell's fifth team, but that doesn't hide the fact he displayed value from scrimmage and special teams in much the same vein that Jermaine Whitehead did before his release on Nov. 6. Campbell will be an unrestricted free agent in March. It wouldn't cost much to bring him back. **Grade: C.**

Raven Greene (4.0%): An undrafted rookie from James Madison, Greene surged in late August to beat out a passel of veterans for the final berth in the secondary. After watching early and then playing special teams only for six games, he played 30 snaps at safety in Game 9 and 14 more in Game 10 before suffering a season-ending ankle injury. The Packers would have had a good read on Greene because he definitely would have played down the stretch. Greene lacks height (5-11) but has 4.53 speed and demonstrates adequate range out of center field. It looked as if he communicated better and reacted faster than Kentrell Brice or Josh Jones as well. Like Campbell, he didn't miss a tackle or allow a substantial gain in coverage. He also finished fourth on special teams in tackles per snap (one every 26.8). The sample size from scrimmage (43 snaps) is small but Greene has a chance to become a capable backup. **Grade: D.**

Josh Jones (47.1%): Before Clinton-Dix was traded, Whitehead was cut and Brice was found lacking all Jones did was play special teams (two penalties in the first eight games; he had five in the kicking game as a rookie). Defensively, the Packers didn't trust him to follow assignments and be in the right place at the right time. In the last nine games Jones played 82.2% of the snaps, giving Mike Pettine a long look at the Packers' second-round draft choice in 2017. It wasn't encouraging. Jones looks good and tests great, but he doesn't think well on his feet and needs constant direction. In a straight line, he runs very well. But the Packers have discovered that he's a stiff-hipped athlete who struggles to change direction. In turn, he can't provide consistent coverage. Despite playing extensively at inside linebacker, Jones didn't have a tackle for loss. He missed eight tackles, one more than as a rookie, and was responsible for 3 ½ plays of 20 yards or more and 1 ½ TD passes. He did improve his rate of tackles per snap from one every 10.4 to one every 8.4. Jones is a liability in the post. He does provide a degree of physical play near the line, but certainly not enough to count on as a starter in 2019. **Grade: D.**

Eddie Pleasant (8.1%): The revolving door at safety opened for Pleasant Nov. 28 with Campbell and Greene out of commission. He was issued jersey No. 35, a rarity in that it also had been Whitehead's number in the regular season. In fact, Pleasant was similar to Campbell and Whitehead: marginal range, better in the box. Pressed into service three days after arrival because of the injury to Campbell, Pleasant dropped a pass lobbed into his arms in the waning minutes by Arizona's Josh Rosen. If Pleasant makes that interception, the Packers beat the Cardinals and Mike McCarthy probably lasts the entire season. A valued special-teamer for six years in Houston, Pleasant is a tough guy and has always loved to play. However, he kept messing up, whiffing on an easy sack of Mitchell Trubisky in Chicago on a play that ruptured into 23 yards and allowing Zach Zenner to go 30 yards on a screen in the finale. Pleasant is what he is at 30, a band-aid as a football player ready for his next career in life. **Grade: D-.**

Tramon Williams (99.5%): No one could say he didn't earn his money in Year 1 of his two-year, $10 million contract ($3.5M guaranteed). Of the Packers' 1,064 snaps on defense, the old pro was out there for 1,059. In the first six games, he started outside at corner. In Game 7, he manned the slot so Jaire Alexander could join Kevin King outside. Two days later, when Ha Ha Clinton-Dix was traded and the Packers were hemorrhaging home-run balls, Williams basically played free safety the rest of the year. With Williams displaying his trademark discipline the deep ball into the middle of the field basically went away. He stayed deep as the deepest almost to a fault. On the other hand, Williams didn't make any plays. Besides nary an interception for the first time in his 13-year career, he finished last among the safeties in passes defensed per snap (one every 264.8). He also didn't tackle well. He missed 10, which was second to Brice at the position, and provided too much hidden yardage by excessive back-tracking against break-out plays and not taking a stand. Williams, who will be 36 in March, certainly will honor his contract for 2019 and perform to the best of his ability. For an extra cornerback-safety, the Packers could do worse. **Grade: C.**