2019 Grades Defense

By Bob McGinn

Defensive line (5)

Montravius Adams (17.8 percent)
During his three seasons at Auburn, Adams was coached by Randy Garner, one of the best defensive line coaches in the collegiate game. The Packers drafted Adams in the third round knowing he was something of an underachiever who hadn't learned how to read blocking combinations and take on double-teams. The same problems that led scouts to question Adams at Auburn have remained in Green Bay. He has poor block awareness. He shows his chest, gets high and gets blown out more than his teammates. One NFC North personnel called him the "weak link" of the Packers' three-man front when he was on the field. What Adams can do is get off the ball quickly. He probably would have been a better fit as a 3-technique in a 4-3 system. Even then, he isn't an aware football player. Adams has had his chances: 65 snaps in 2017, 212 in '18 and 206 in '19. His minimal career production – 6 ½ pressures, one tackle for a loss – is telling. As thin as the Packers are upfront, it wouldn't be surprising if he returns for the final year of his contract. **Grade: D-**

Kenny Clark (84.0)
In 2010, the last championship season in Green Bay, B.J. Raji put together the best season of his six-year career and one of the best by a Packers nose tackle. In 1,070 snaps, he amassed 33 pressures, including 7 ½ sacks. He also had 78 tackles (4 ½ for a loss), three batted passes, five missed tackles, no penalties and a pivotal pick-six interception in the NFC Championship Game at Soldier Field. Following in Raji's footsteps, Clark posted his best season in 2019. In 974 snaps, he amassed 38 pressures, including seven sacks. He also had 94 tackles (4 ½ for a loss), no batted passes, 10 missed tackles and six penalties. Clark's production picked up after a slow start due in part to ankle, calf, knee, back and shin injuries that caused him to be listed on the injury report eight times in the first 10 games (once as questionable). Without Clark, this unit would have been a disaster. In his one-big man front on near-certain passing downs, coordinator Mike Pettine almost always had Clark on the field just to maintain order and lane integrity. Many times, the biggest runs by the opponent came with him on the sidelines catching his breath. He plays with tremendous leverage, enthusiasm and pride. Against double-teams, he can stack, shed and slide into the tackle. Against one-on-one blocks, Clark can either invert his man or win on an edge. Clark has made his greatest strides as a rusher. At times, he was borderline unstoppable walking back centers and guards. One reason why he didn't have even more pressures was the lack of rush from the other 300-pounders. He's everything any team could want in an interior player. The Packers will be rewarding Clark with an immense contract extension, possibly near the end of the preseason. **Grade: A-**

Kingsley Keke (9.3)

The Packers kept veteran Fadol Brown around in September as a sixth 300-pounder just to make sure Keke was ready. Then Brown was released and for the rest of the season, Keke and Adams traded places as the No. 4 and No. 5 defensive linemen. Their body types, strengths/weaknesses and production were comparable. Keke can get up the field. He flashed movement. He gave effort. Probably the reason he didn't play more was his inability to hold the point better. He will need to develop more of a plan as a pass rusher and get in the weight room (his bench press at Texas A&M pro day was only 20). With his arm length (34 ½ inches) and speed (4.95), Keke has potential. **Grade: D**

Tyler Lancaster (38.1)

Lancaster began to play full time in Game 11 of 2018 after Mike Daniels suffered a season-ending foot injury. The free agent from Northwestern kept his job this season, remaining ahead of middle-round picks Adams and Keke. Lancaster has excellent athletic testing numbers but they haven't been reflected in his play. In Year 2, he slipped in tackles per snap (one every 8.21 in 2018 to one every 10.5 this season), in tackles for a loss (two in 2018, 1 ½ this year) and in pressures (three in 2018, 2 ½ this year). Lancaster is girthy, smart (Wonderlic score of 33) and strong. The best nose tackles manage to stay square, disengage and make the tackle, occasionally in the backfield, and when pass shows collapse the pocket. So far, Lancaster generally has stood his ground and slid into his fair share of stops. **Grade: D+**

Dean Lowry (62.9)

Lowry is two inches taller than Lancaster. It helps him compensate for having short arms (31) and small hands. Despite his height, Lowry plays well with his hands, maintains leverage and sheds blocks occasionally. He fights double-team pressure and for the most part, he's competitive against the interior run. His total of 11 pressures was four shy of his total in 2018. He is neither quick off the ball nor explosive in his movements. He is smart (Wonderlic of 31) and a hustler in pursuit. His value on the rush is flinging his arms up in the throwing lanes. In July, the Packers paid him as a mid-level starter. His four-year, $22.35 million extension contained $6M in guarantees. **Grade: C**

Outside linebackers (4)

Kyler Fackrell (40.5 percent)
He's a poor man's Bryce Paup. Opponents certainly didn't have to game plan for Fackrell, but they couldn't take him for granted, either. Some of the numbers and the eye test suggest he played as well as last season. With a career-high 21 pressures in 469 snaps (one every 22.3), his pressure rate exceeded that of last year (16 in 623, one every 38.9). The big difference, of course, was that Fackrell registered 10 ½ sacks in 2018 compared to just two in '19. Fackrell started the last half of 2018 for the injured Nick Perry. This season he held on as No. 3 ahead of top pick Rashan Gary. Other than Weeks 3-4, Fackrell played more snaps than Gary in every game. He doesn't have a go-to move. His pressures generally are the result of a never-quit attitude and an ability to slip off blocks. Fackrell isn't as good in the run game. He will get stuck on blocks. Some teams feel they can run at him. Still, he missed just four tackles in 2019, five fewer than a year ago. On some third downs Fackrell operated as a standup linebacker in the middle, and in that role often would abort his rush and drop into coverage lanes. At 6 foot 5, he's probably too leggy to play inside linebacker. Nevertheless, if the Packers elect to re-sign him either before or during unrestricted free agency, an even more versatile role would be something for the staff to consider. Fackrell isn't a big-play threat with just two takeaway plays in four seasons. At the same time, his value is enhanced by just 3 games (all in 2016) missed due to injury.
Grade: C

Rashan Gary (22.2)
What the Packers are saying now is what the coaches at Michigan said about Gary during his three-years there. That is, emphasizing the potential of the player while excusing his production. The Packers acquired another Reggie Gilbert with the 12th selection in the 2019 draft. Last season, the undrafted Gilbert, who like Gary spent his collegiate career (Arizona) playing with his hand down, ranked second at the position with one pressure every 33.5 snaps (14 ½ in 486) and had one tackle every 11.1 snaps. This season, Gary ranked fourth at the position with one pressure every 34.3 snaps (7 ½ in 257) and had one tackle every 8.0 snaps. Gilbert had 3 ½ tackles for loss whereas Gary had none. Gilbert batted down two passes whereas Gary had none. Gilbert missed three tackles whereas Gary missed four. To clear the way for Gary, the Packers traded Gilbert to Tennessee on Aug. 29 for a seventh-round draft choice; he played 294 snaps and posted one sack. The Packers took Gary over such players as Panthers OLB Brian Burns (No. 16), Giants DT Dexter Lawrence (No. 17), Titans DT Jeffery Simmons (No. 19) and Broncos TE Noah Fant (No. 20), all of whom had much better rookie seasons and would have filled major needs in Green Bay. It isn't that Gary doesn't give effort. He might pursue as well as anyone on the defense. He also plays with violent hands and considerable body snap in the run game. As a rusher, he might have an even more explosive takeoff than Za'Darius Smith, and his speed to the corner is outstanding. Then nothing happens. Gary doesn't seem to know how to fight pressure. He needs a second move, something inside. He flies off the ball on passing downs seemingly without much of a plan and ends up getting neutralized down after down. He's fast,

powerful and tries hard. He's just never produced. The Packers took a player with a Wonderlic score of 9 and asked him to think his way through the transition to a foreign position. What ensued was wholly predictable. He's just so raw in everything that he tries to do. On 24 occasions, Gary was allowed to play from a three-point stance and rush on passing downs. He's better suited for defensive end in a 4-3 base scheme; it would be a waste of talent if the Packers bulked him up 30 pounds and asked him to play in their 3-4 base front. At this point, Gary's best role might be inside with his hand down on passing downs. Problem is, Mike Pettine prefers playing with just one man down in those situations, and that's Kenny Clark. **Grade: D**

Preston Smith (83.7)

As a Redskin from 2015-'18 Smith was always a good, solid player. He just didn't quite get the sack (25 ½). This season he found a way to finish. His total of 14 sacks was among his 45 ½ pressures, or one pressure every 21.3 snaps. His 14 sacks included 12 full and four halves. Normally rushing off the left side, Smith used his long arms (34 inches) and big hands (10 5/8 inches) to his advantage. Almost all of his sacks came around the corner. He'd extend his arms, work his hands in unison with his feet and slip around the right tackle before exhibiting an impressive closing burst to his quarry. As the quarterback's cadence became predictable during a game, Smith would risk an off-sides penalty by anticipating the snap count. That tactic brought him four sacks between 2.2 and 2.5 seconds. His victims were Broncos RT Elijah Wilkinson (twice), Lions RT Ricky Wagner and Panthers RT Taylor Moton. The majority of his sacks came one-on-one against the right tackle. In evaluating Smith, some teams saw straight-line speed, twitch and explosiveness. They worried far more about Za'Darius Smith. In the end, Preston drew less blocking attention as the No. 2 rush OPTION and wound up with almost as many sacks. Smith wasn't a dominant player against the run but generally set a reliable edge. There were occasions when he muscled up against tight ends and tossed them aside. He averaged one tackle every 12 snaps and missed nine, the third-highest total in the front seven. His effort and pursuit were average. Smith played better early in the season than late. His four-year, $52 million ($16M guaranteed) signing was shrewd. He won't be 28 until November. **Grade: B**

Za'Darius Smith (84.6)

Ranks as one of the finest non-draft player acquisitions in franchise history. Based on impact and production through Year 1, he was underpaid as part of the four-year, $66 million ($20M guaranteed) contract that he signed to depart Baltimore in March. Just 27 (he won't be 28 until September), Za'Darius had never played anywhere close to this level in a complementary role in four seasons for the Ravens. His 65 ½ pressures (15 ½ sacks, 23 ½ knockdowns, 26 ½ hurries) this season represented remarkable production. Beginning with the 1998 season, I've charted hurries in addition to knockdowns and, of course, the official statistic of sacks. From 1998-2018, the highest pressure total (playoff games included) was 58 ½ by Aaron Kampman in 2007. Clay Matthews' best was 55 in 2010. Since Matthews posted 48 in 2012, the only player with more than 40 was Julius Peppers with 43 ½ in 2014. Za'Darius' total of 65 ½ is the most by a Packer in those 22 years. He amassed these

numbers despite 34.4 percent double-teaming on individual rushes (stunts not included). He was singled 301 times, doubled 158 times and ran 95 stunts (he dropped into coverage 10 times). Matthews faced career-high double-teaming of 37.8 percent in 2011; last season, he was doubled just 23.4 percent. Opponents devoted all kinds of attention to Za'Darius but were largely unsuccessful because of his diverse skills. Some opponents insisted he was even more effective rushing inside than outside. For the first half of the season, he would frequently align in a three-point stance over a guard; later, he preferred standing up over a guard. In all, his hand was down on 109 plays. Lesser guards had fits dealing with his quickness and the two-way option. Just 5 ½ of his sacks came on classic rushes up the field. His bull rush was lethal. He conquered two blockers to record three sacks. Unlike Preston Smith, the prime beneficiary of all the attention paid his counterpart, Za'Darius had just two sacks in sub-3 seconds (2.9 using power against Cowboys LT Cameron Fleming, 2.8 going up the field against Chiefs LG Martinas Rankin). Despite short arms (32 5/8), he kept winning with speed (4.78), strength and quickness. Za'Darius brought a physical presence to the front that was somewhat reminiscent of the brooding, intimidating SLB Wayne Simmons in the mid-1990s. Thus, it was inexplicable to see him lying on the field seven different times with apparent injuries that required the service of the medical staff but never sidelined him for more than a handful of plays. Za'Darius also led the club in tackles for a loss with five, made 86 tackles in 980 snaps and missed only six. He made a lot of plays all season stepping inside against the run. When he tried that against the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game, 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan anticipated it and made him look bad by repeatedly circling his end for substantial gains. Despite all his pressures, he was involved in just one turnover play. When the ball was past him he usually shut it down and wouldn't chase. Za'Darius outplayed Chicago's Khalil Mack this season. **Grade: A**

Inside Linebackers (5)

Curtis Bolton (0.0 percent)
An undrafted rookie free agent from Oklahoma ($7,000 signing bonus), he suffered a knee injury in the third exhibition game and spent all year on reserve/injured. In 78 snaps over 2 ½ exhibition games, he missed three tackles, made a couple of hard hits and intercepted a pass. A one-year starter at Oklahoma, he was a dynamo on special teams for three years. Undersized (6 foot, 228 pounds), competitive, fast (4.57 seconds in 40), tries to play physical, likes the game, feisty on the practice field. Worth another look. **Grade: Incomplete**

Oren Burks (6.0)
The old saw of "Looks like Tarzan, plays like Jane" was never more appropriate. Burks had it all leaving Vanderbilt: speed (4.62), vertical jump (39 ½), broad jump (10-11), arm length (33 3/8), short shuttle (4.15), 3-cone (6.82) and Wonderlic score (24). Some teams throw all those numbers into a computer and come up with overall size/athletic rankings. In the 2018 draft, one club had Burks third behind the Bills' Tremaine Edmunds and the Cowboys' Leighton Vander Esch but ahead of the Bears' Roquan Smith, the Colts' Darius Leonard, the 49ers' Fred Warner and the Titans' Rashaan Evans, all of whom were drafted before Burks. The Packers felt so good about Burks that they traded a fifth-round pick to Carolina to move up from No. 101 (first selection, fourth round) to No. 88. Burks started each of his two seasons injured before returning after a few games to considerable curiosity. He looks every bit the part. What's telling is that in both seasons coordinator Mike Pettine felt compelled to get Burks off the field after a few games of considerable exposure. As a rookie, Burks played just eight of his 122 snaps in the last four games whereas this season he played only 15 of his 69 in the last six games. The coaches didn't trust that Burks knew the playbook. He made too many mistakes. He wasn't ready to play, and he certainly wasn't ready to make the calls. There's book smart, and then there's football smart. At the same time, Burks wasn't physical against the run or effective in coverage. Mind you, the Packers were grasping at straws at inside linebacker opposite Blake Martinez. Instead, they felt better playing veterans other teams had discarded. In a situation made to order for a third-round draft choice to emerge, Burks was deemed worthless other than for his role on special teams. In the kicking game, he led the club in tackles with 12 in 289 snaps, second on the team. **Grade: D**

B.J. Goodson (26.3)
When Burks and others flopped during the 2018 training camp, the Packers traded for Antonio Morrison. Fifty-three weeks later, they acquired B.J. Goodson as a Band-Aid. Morrison (6-0 ½, 233, 5.12) had been a fourth-round pick (No. 125) by the Colts in 2016. Goodson (6-0 ½, 240, 4.65) had been a fourth-round pick (No. 109) by the Giants that same year. Morrison played 299 snaps and made 42 tackles (3 ½ for loss, eight misses). Goodson played 305 snaps and made 52 tackles (one for a loss, four misses). An unrestricted free agent, Morrison was never signed by another team. The same fate might

await Goodson, who will be an unrestricted free agent in March. Goodson is a stiff, two-down thumper, just as Morrison was. He's a better athlete than Morrison and probably was more harmonious in the defense, but the impact of the two players was equally minimal. **Grade: D+**

Blake Martinez (98.4)
A myriad of factors influences the overall performance of a defense. In two seasons under Mike Pettine, the Packers have ranked 18th in yards twice and 22nd followed by 23rd against the run. Players have come and gone, but Blake Martinez (selection No. 131 behind Goodson and Morrison in that fourth round of 2016) has played more snaps (2,189 of a possible 2,223) than anyone else. Now the Packers seem poised to let Martinez walk as an unrestricted free agent, and therefore force themselves to get better through the draft or, possibly, free agency. Martinez will sign for a hefty salary somewhere else. Some teams value and respect his durable, productive performance as a 3 ½-year starter with 595 tackles, including 223 this season. He's an achiever. He has wrung every ounce out of his ability. With his thick, indestructible build, Martinez was always there in the middle of every defensive set. He wore the electronic helmet. He communicated the call from Pettine. Martinez wasn't always accountable for his many mistakes. He blew his share of run fits and coverages. Many of his tackles were downfield. He wasn't nimble or speedy enough to run through successfully, his speed to the sideline was marginal and he rarely exhibited the violent hand usage or strength to shed an interior lineman and stop a ballcarrier dead in his tracks. He made just 3 ½ tackles for a loss in 2019, third on the team behind Za'Darius Smith and Kenny Clark. He also missed 19 tackles, on a par with his last two seasons. Still, Martinez got a ton of backs down before they could get to the safety level. He didn't have much knockback compared to many other ILBs but he usually got them down. That's important. In man coverage, he had limitations when matched against speed and quickness. In zone coverage, he could flip his hips and carry deeper routes sufficiently so as not to be a total liability. Never a playmaker, he was responsible for just seven turnover plays. His total of seven pressures as a rusher this season was down from 15 ½ a year ago. He's a box player with short arms (31 5/8), someone who got worse the further away he was from the box. The Packers don't think Martinez made an impact and think they can do better. Time will tell if they're right. **Grade: C+**

Ty Summers (0.0)
It was a mistake not giving some regular-season playing time to Summers. Minus Martinez, Summers will get a shot at one of the two openings at linebacker, and it would be instructive if the organization knew if he had progressed after an up-and-down exhibition season. It was his combination of size (6-1 ½, 241), speed (4.52) and smarts (Wonderlic of 27) that led the Packers to draft him in the seventh round. Summers played more snaps (249) on offense or defense than anyone on the team in August, and more snaps (351) on special teams over the 18 games. In the first two exhibition games, he missed almost as many tackles (seven) as he made. In the last two, he missed just one. Summers showed range chasing down scrambling quarterbacks. He delivered half a dozen hard hits. On

special teams, his speed covering kicks in the middle of the field stood out. He finished second with nine tackles. Now it remains to be seen just how good his instincts are and if his short arms (31 ½) limit him in coverage. **Grade: Incomplete**

Cornerbacks (6)
Jaire Alexander (97.1 percent)
He isn't a shutdown corner but he's a good player. Alexander followed his solid rookie season with a solid second season. Almost every team in the league except those with a rigid height requirement would love to have him. He's the Packers' best defensive back, and he can get better. Alexander's level of play didn't change much in 2019. He still took too many chances and lacks eye discipline. But he can cover some of the better receivers man-to-man. He won't back off and can run. Alexander possesses a singular, invaluable quality for a corner: he isn't afraid. He'll compete regardless of the opponent or the score. Alexander is much better playing press coverage than he is playing off. The Packers knew Alexander would have trouble at the ball because he's just 5 foot 10, and that has proven true. He also doesn't judge the deep ball overly well. His saving grace is that he will battle for all he's worth downfield. Alexander allowed 6 ½ touchdown passes, a team-high and the most by a corner in Green Bay since Damarious Randall gave up 8 ½ in 2016. He gave up just 1 ½ as a rookie. Alexander must stop peeking so often into the backfield and stick to his man. He hasn't been much of a playmaker, with just five turnover plays (three interceptions) in 31 games. He did lead the club in passes defensed with 24. As a tackler, he's willing but not dependable. His 15 misses ranked tied for third on the team and were more than double his total of seven in 2018. For the position, his total of four penalties in 31 games is exemplary. **Grade: B-**

Ka'dar Hollman (0.4)
The Packers took a shot in the sixth round based on his height (5-11 ½), weight (196) and speed (4.38). His four snaps from scrimmage came in one game, and he added 33 more on special teams. Ranked lower on the depth chart than Chandon Sullivan, Josh Jackson and even Tony Brown before his departure. Played 91 snaps in three exhibition games. Tackled well against the Texans but kept getting beat deep against the Chiefs. A three-year starter at Toledo. Probably better playing press than off. **Grade: Incomplete**

Josh Jackson (8.9)
Started the season as the fourth corner but was quickly passed up by Sullivan and was even inactive for two games at midseason. The main knock on Jackson as a second-round draft choice from Iowa in 2018 was lack of speed (4.53). So far, it has been too much for him to overcome. Because of the receiver's two-way go from the slot, Jackson isn't quick enough to cover a wideout inside. He has to play outside. He has size but has been erratic in coverage because of the speed deficiency and his urgency to hunt those interceptions that were once so plentiful in the Big Ten. Injuries in the secondary forced Jackson to play 35 snaps in Dallas, but his inability to cover ancient TE Jason Witten was glaring. Two weeks later against Oakland he looked positively awful late in the game. Other than late-game stints against the Giants and Redskins, he never played from scrimmage again. Should the Packers give him a look at safety before relegating him to the bust bin? Possibly, but the suspicion is he's not nearly physical enough to succeed inside. Jackson's main contribution was as a punt gunner in seven of the last eight games. **Grade: D-**

Kevin King (79.4)

His first two seasons ended on injured reserve because of shoulder and hamstring injuries. Then he sat out the four exhibition games this year with another hamstring issue. If King proved anything in 2019, it was that he could play through his chronic shoulder problems and be there for his team. His only absence was Game 12 in Washington when the coaches exercised caution and rested his shoulder. Based on Year 3, King has progressed enough to be regarded as a middle-of-the-road corner. His length (6-3, 32-inch arms) creates release problems for some wideouts. Alas, his height causes him to struggle at the top of routes when he's on an island. He's leggy, lacks a degree of quickness and can be late-breaking on short-to-intermediate routes. King can't be fully trusted in zone coverage. He guesses more on route combinations than a good corner should. In man coverage, he's better playing from the bump zone than off. King led the team in interceptions (five) and dropped interceptions (three). He also led the team in turnover plays with six after having just two in 2017-'18. His pass defensed rate of one every 46.0 was slightly better than Jaire Alexander's (one every 46.9). King led the secondary in tackles for a loss (2 ½). He allowed 2 ½ TD passes, same as last season. He missed 13 tackles compared to five a year ago and he was penalized just twice, although four others were offsetting. If King can stay on the field and tighten his game, he could be just about everything that the Packers would want at the position. **Grade: C-**

Chandon Sullivan (32.9)

When training camp dawned, Sullivan might have ranked eighth at corner. By the time the season ended he was third or fourth. When the Eagles cut Sullivan five days after the 2019 draft the Packers shrewdly scooped him up four days later. Sullivan made the Eagles as an undrafted rookie (a whopping $51,000 in guaranteed money) in 2018 out of Georgia State, logging 87 snaps from scrimmage and 54 on special teams. He had run a slow 40 at the combine (4.62) before improving to 4.54 in a private workout. His vertical jump (40 ½), broad jump (11-2) and Wonderlic score (24) all were impressive. After playing the second-most snaps from scrimmage (217) during the 2019 exhibition season, he was a special-teamer only until Oct. 6 in Dallas when injuries hit Kevin King and Tony Brown. Mike Pettine went with Sullivan over Jackson and Hollman to man the slot. Then Sullivan made the defensive play of the game with an athletic interception of Dak Prescott. That performance catapulted him into the No. 4 cornerback job the rest of the way. He never played more than Tramon Williams, but he almost always played extensively. Sullivan was reliable: no penalties, just two missed tackles, two turnover plays, one TD pass allowed and a pass defensed every 47.6 snaps, just behind Alexander and King. He isn't a mirror-and-match cover guy but he's tenacious in the run game and steady in zone coverage. **Grade: C**

Tramon Williams (71.3)

He earned every bit of the two-year, $10 million ($3.25M guaranteed) contract that he signed to leave Arizona in March 2018. With free agency approaching, it seems unlikely the

Packers would bring him back. Any team could do worse. Williams is a true professional: skilled, unselfish, motivated. His instincts for cornerback are off the charts. As the slot nickel all season, he compensated for declining speed and athleticism with stealth and film study. Usually, he was a step behind when covering both vertically and horizontally. Most of his 11 passes defensed were the result of getting to the right spot because of feel. He did have five penalties, and the rest of the secondary committed just six. At times, he held to avoid giving up a TD. He missed just four tackles, but there were other instances in which his lack of size, strength and abandon stopped him from closing on the ball carrier. He does have good ball skills, possibly the best in the secondary. His five turnover plays were second on the club. As Williams prepares to turn 37 in March, there isn't much left in the tank physically. Mentally, he probably could play to 40 and beyond. **Grade: C-**

Safeties (5)
Adrian Amos (97.6 percent)
In 2015, Amos got himself drafted in the fifth round by running a blazing 4.45 seconds in the 40 at the Penn State pro day. He had run considerably slower at the combine. He was described by some scouts as a straight-line speed guy. Today, he's just a straight-line guy minus the speed. Amos gave the Packers 1,131 of a possible 1,159 snaps at a position that was a disaster area in 2018. Whether that was worthy of a four-year, $36 million ($12M guaranteed) investment as an unrestricted free agent from the Bears is subject to debate. In size, speed and playing style, Amos is similar to Morgan Burnett. After his one poor season (2013), however, Burnett was a more valuable player for four straight seasons than Amos was in 2019. What is Amos' forte? One NFC North personnel man described him as "kind of the Blake Martinez of safeties." By that he meant Amos is reliable, tough and unspectacular. Amos might have slightly more burst than Burnett but didn't play with his confidence, instincts and ability to play the ball. The closer Amos (6-0 ½, 214) aligned to the box, the more comfortable he was. He attacked the run both as the extra man in the box as a safety or alongside Martinez in a linebacker look. Amos had the fewest missed tackles (nine) of the starting defensive backs but didn't deliver many bone-jarring hits. He recorded only two tackles for a loss. In coverage, he's too stiff at this point to match up with good tight ends, let alone a wide receiver. You don't want him getting isolated in the deep middle against a wideout, either. Amos didn't have a penalty all season. He gave up just one touchdown pass. As a pass rusher, he was sent more times (28) than any defensive back and registered 3 ½ pressures. With Amos entering his sixth season, the Packers can only hope they can get another year or two of starting service from him without significant drop-off. **Grade:**
C

Ibraheim Campbell (16.9)
Last year, in a three-week stint (Games 10-12), Campbell probably outperformed Kentrell Brice, Raven Greene, Josh Jones and Eddie Pleasant among the motley collection of safeties that tried to play opposite Tramon Williams. He tackled well, stayed on-point in coverage and handled himself professionally. Cleveland's fourth-round pick from Northwestern in 2015, Campbell caught Mike Pettine's eye as a player that he could count on. Thus, even after Campbell suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in Game 12, the Packers were willing to wait for his rehabilitation to be complete before bringing him off the physically unable to perform list and installing him as the nickel linebacker opposite Martinez in the final nine games. Greene had manned that position in the first two games before going down. Even if Greene had stayed healthy, Campbell might have played ahead of him upon his return. With Greene finally active for the NFC Championship Game, Campbell continued in that role and Greene was inactive. Campbell is strictly a box guy. He's smart (Wonderlic of 26), plays hard and loves football. He doesn't run fast, isn't a great athlete and can be slow to match in zone coverage. He tackled well (two misses) and generally was in the right spots. An unrestricted free agent, Campbell will be 28 in May. **Grade: D+**

Raven Greene (6.0)
With Campbell on the PUP list, Greene logged most of his 56 snaps alongside Martinez in the opener at Chicago's Soldier Field. He showed promise both playing the run and rushing the passer before suffering a major ankle injury on his 15th snap of Game 2. If Greene can stay on the field, he might become a contributor. He also missed the final 6 ½ games as a rookie in 2018 with another ankle injury. At James Madison, he missed most of one season (2014) with a tibial stress fracture and had back problems in 2017. Greene is another smart player (Wonderlic of 24) who picks things up quickly and displays leadership qualities. He has sufficient speed (4.53) to operate in the middle of the field and has tackled well. His size (5-11, 197) and injury history are the negatives. **Grade: D+**

Will Redmond (25.8)
Played his most snaps (299) in a season since 2015, his senior year at Mississippi State and one that was cut short by a torn ACL in Game 7. A cornerback in college, Redmond was drafted in the third round by the 49ers as a slot nickel. Versatility is his primary attribute. When Greene went down and, a few weeks later, Darnell Savage got hurt, Redmond started two games at free safety and played more than 20 snaps in four others in the deep half in sub defenses. His size (5-11, 186) is a detriment. Still, he was an eager, at times reckless hitter. Missed too many tackles (nine) but also led the safeties in tackles per snap (one every 9.7). Exposed by tight ends at midseason and played much less down the stretch. Served as a punt gunner in 11 games, including eight of the last 11. Finished second on special teams with 10 tackles but also tied for first in misses with four. **Grade: D+**

Darnell Savage (84.7)

If not for an ankle injury that cost him 2 ½ games, Savage would have played almost every snap. A first-round draft choice, he joined a team without a free safety and became an immediate starter. Even after 982 snaps, it's hard to say what the Packers have. The Earl Thomases of this world are few and far between. Size (5-10 1/2, 198) will always be a drawback. Savage likes flying downhill from deep. His courage is obvious. However, there were too many times that he would torpedo down and miss his attempted kill shot either because of minimal size/strength or technique. He will have to temper his recklessness and understand that as the last line of defense his No. 1 responsibility is to get the guy down. Savage missed 15 tackles while averaging one tackle every 13.6 snaps, fifth-best among the five safeties. He had just 1 ½ tackles for a loss. With 4.35 speed, some scouts expected him to cover down from the slot as he frequently did at Maryland. He's athletic but not that athletic. When he was asked to play man coverage he struggled to mirror and match, especially against tight ends. As a deep-half player, Savage needs to tone down his overaggressive tendencies. With his eyes in the wrong places, he was fooled a lot by play-action fakes and ended up jumping receivers that weren't his responsibility. He did show signs of improvement late in the season. Savage has top range, moves fluidly and shows the ability to transition. His two forced fumbles led the team, and he wasn't penalized. The first of six safeties selected in the first two rounds, Savage didn't play as well as the Rams' Taylor Rapp (No. 61) and the Chiefs' Juan Thornhill (No. 63). The Packers gave up two fourth-round picks so they could move up from No. 30 to No. 21 to choose Savage. If he can play over his size, finds some eye discipline and becomes a more secure tackler, Savage can become a capable player because the speed and explosiveness are there. **Grade: C-**