

Packers stay perfect at home, drop 49ers 25-15

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Lambeau mystique lives on. Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes as the Green Bay Packers stayed perfect at home in the playoffs with a 25-15 victory over San Francisco on Sunday.

The Packers (13-5), who advanced to face the St. Louis Rams next week, improved to 13-0 at home in playoff games. Favre improved to 31-0 in starts at Lambeau Field with the temperature 34 degrees or colder.

It was 28 degrees at kickoff Sunday, and Favre was 22-of-29 for 269 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Favre guided Green Bay on a 93-yard touchdown drive after Tyrone Williams' interception of a deflection by Mike McKenzie with five minutes left and the Packers clinging to an 18-15 lead.

Ahman Green capped the TD drive with a 9-yard run.

For a time, the Niners made Packers coach Mike Sherman pay for his questionable decision to go for a 2-point conversion that failed with Green Bay ahead 15-7.

The Niners tied it at 15 on Tai Streets' 14-yard touchdown and his wide-open catch on the two-point conversion with 12 minutes left.

But Ryan Longwell, who had his first extra point blocked in the first quarter, kicked a 45-yard field goal with 7:02 left for an 18-15 lead.

The Packers, who surrendered an average of 170 yards rushing the last four weeks — all to nonplayoff teams — shored up their run defense with linebacker Nate Wayne (back) and nose tackle Gilbert Brown (foot) returning to health.

The 49ers ran for just 71 yards, and comeback player of the year Garrison Hearst finished with just 42 yards on 13 carries.

Favre hit fellow Pro Bowl selection Bubba Franks with a 19-yard touchdown pass with 3:26 left in the third quarter, one play after Bradford's 51-yard catch.

That made it 15-7, but instead of sending out Longwell, Sherman went for 2, and it failed when Donald Driver was tackled shy of the end zone after a reception.

That made it a one-possession game, and the 49ers quickly made Sherman pay for his questionable call when Jeff Garcia (22-of-32 for 233 yards) drove San Francisco 61 yards in six plays for the tying touchdown and two-point conversion.

Longwell kicked a 26-yard field goal for a 9-7 lead when Green Bay's opening drive of the second half stalled at the 8.

Miami trumped by wild card Ravens, 20-3

MIAMI (AP)—Bruising defense, a grinding ground game and one pivotal pass put the Baltimore Ravens one victory closer to a possible return to the Super Bowl.

Baltimore scored on touchdown marches of 90 and 99 yards and allowed only 151 yards to beat the Miami Dolphins 20-3 in a wild-card playoff game Sunday.

The Ravens, who needed a win last week over Minnesota to make the playoffs, advanced to a second-round game Sunday at AFC Central champion Pittsburgh.

Baltimore won at Pittsburgh 13-10 on Nov. 4, but lost 26-21 at

home to the Steelers on Dec. 16.

It was a painfully familiar ending for the Dolphins (11-6). They are the only team to reach the playoffs each of the past five years, but they've made an early exit every time by a combined score of 161-16.

Miami still hasn't advanced to the AFC championship game since the 1992 season or the Super Bowl since the 1984 season.

The Ravens played the sort of smothering defense that took them to the NFL title last year. Miami's lone score came after Baltimore fumbled the opening kickoff, and the Dolphins man-

aged just one first down in opening 23 minutes.

The defending champion also showed surprising power on offense, rushing for 25 yards and converting 10 of third downs. Terry Allen carried 25 times for 109 yards and a score, and Jason Brock added 65 yards in 10 attempts.

The Ravens went ahead with a 17-play, 90-yard march that began midway through the period and took 8:51. Allen scored on a 4-yard run, capping a drive that included seven first downs on third down.

A bold call helped the Ravens put the game away in the second period. Nursing a 7-3 lead, facing a third-and-1 at the Baltimore 10-yard line, Elvis Goode fooled Miami by throwing a pass to Travis Taylor, who beat Paul Surtain for a 45-yard gain.

Eight plays later, again on third down, Taylor beat Surtain for a 4-yard touchdown catch. The two drives were the longest of the season for the Ravens.

The Ravens' defense slipped this season from its 2000 level but was still ranked No. 2 in the NFL, and it was in fine form against Miami. Baltimore star the Dolphins' feeble game, blanketed their receiver.

Miami's Lamar Smith rushed for 158 yards last week against Buffalo, was limited on six carries.

The road to the Super Bowl



SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

Aggies

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Tiffany Moore swept the distance events, winning both the 500- and 1000-yard freestyle. Megan Zack rounded out the first place finishes by sweeping both the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions.

The most dominating team performances of the day came from four Aggie freshmen. Patterson, Ashley Roark, Christina Thompson and Dia Gentile swept the top four spots in both the 100- and 200-yard backstroke events.

"I was really happy with how we all swam because we just got back from our training trip," said Courtney Patterson, a freshman from Plano, Texas. "We all

worked really hard there so coming in and winning this meet and going 1-2-3-4 in the backstroke in the 100 and doing as well in the 200, it shows a lot about our team. We knew we had the ability to win today, but even after the training trip, we still stood up and raced well."

The meet with Kansas was a solid win over a conference opponent that the Aggie swimmers will see

again later this season when Texas A&M hosts Big 12 Championships in February.

"This is huge for us because they're obvious conference rival," Ho said. "Not only that, but record isn't as good as we would have wanted to be this year."

The Aggies will travel to Baton Rouge, La. to face Louisiana State University.

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Applications are available in Henderson Hall Rm. 115. Applications are due Monday, January 28 at 12 noon for this semester's training class.

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