

The Oldest Rivalry

Excitement was in the air on Thursday when the Chicago Bears took the field against the Green Bay Packers for the start of the National Football League season, which is celebrating its' 100th season.

This is the greatest rivalry in the NFL and the game could not be at a better time. Both teams had a bitter ending to their season's last season that have been on their minds for a whole year.

The Packers are coming off a below average year going 6-9 in 2018 and a big part for that was star quarterback Aaron Rodgers was not playing 100 percent healthy the entire season. The Packers struggled and did not make the playoffs and Rodgers knew that was on him.

As for the Bears, their season ended at the hands of the Philadelphia Eagles in the Wild Card round when Cody Parkey's 43-yard field goal was blocked by Eagles defensive tackle Treyvon Hester securing the Eagles to move on to the next round.

Once both teams took the field, it was a defensive battle from the start. Both offences started slowly and never gained momentum throughout the game. The Packers defense stood tall the entire contest and only allowed three points, allowing the Packers to escape Soldier Field with a 10-3 victory over their biggest rivals and a huge win to start the 2019 season.

The Bears running game never got going and was a big part of why they could not score. David Montgomery lead the team with six carries for 18 yards while Mike Davis took five carries for 19 yards. The Bears offensive line never got a push that would open up holes for the backs and the Packers secondary was locked in on Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky, which caused him to really struggle, completing only 26 of 45 passes for 228 yards with an interception.

For the Packers, Rodgers was the key to this matchup and the only way the Bears were going to win was if their defense could slow him down. He ended up completing 18 of 30 passes for 203 yards and a touchdown.

After the first quarter, the Bears were leading 3-0 when kicker Eddy Pineiro made a 38-yard field goal with 4:09 remaining. Finally, after a long drive for the Packers, Rodgers floated the ball up to Jimmy Graham for an 8 yard touchdown pass that would give Green Bay the lead 7-3 heading into halftime.

The last score came with 5:15 remaining in the fourth quarter when Packer kicker, Mason Crosby nailed a 39-yard field goal to go up 10-3. The Packers defense remained strong and never let the Bears get anything going on offense.

"I think we made a lot of people aware of what this defense can be tonight," Packers linebacker Preston Smith said. If the Packers defense continues to dominate games, they have a real shot at winning the Super Bowl under first year Head Coach Matt LaFleur.

Once the Bears figure out what to do on offense, they will continue to get better, but this season lies all on Trubisky and how well he does. They have a lot of work that needs to be done to get to where Chicago is trying to go.

The Bears next game will be in Denver when they will lineup against the Broncos while the Packers will look to continue their winning ways when they face the Minnesota Vikings at Lambeau Field for their home opener.