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FAVORE

BY MIKE BEACOM

PACKERS

For 16 years, Wisconsinites have claimed Mississippi native Brett Lorenzo Favre as one of their own. Packer fans have enthusiastically shared in his many triumphs, and they've defended his shortcomings as if he were a sibling.

When he arrived, we all took notice. When he decided to say goodbye, we all shed a tear and shared a day's worth of memories with those closest to us.

While other quarterbacks may have won more Super Bowls or committed fewer mistakes, no NFL quarterback ever created so much excitement on the field or drew as much respect from opposing fans as #4.

Now, as he enters a new stage of life—one that figures to bring new rewards and new challenges—those Packer fans in Wisconsin [and elsewhere] have nothing but the very best to offer to the man who, as Antonio Freeman so eloquently put it, is synonymous with the 'G' on the side of the Packer helmet he wore all those years.

October 10
1969

Brett Lorenzo Favre is born in Gulfport, Mississippi to parents, Inan and Bonita Favre.

Southern Mississippi recruits Favre to play defensive back. Early into his freshman season, Favre earns a starting job—at quarterback.



1987

July 14
1990

Favre survives a bad automobile accident that will later require surgery to remove 30 inches of his small intestine.



September 8
1990

A quick healer, Favre returns well ahead of schedule to upset Alabama.

April 20
1991



Favre is selected by the Atlanta Falcons with the 33rd pick in the NFL Draft, one spot ahead of where the New York Jets select Louisville quarterback Dronning Nagle. Jets Personnel Director Ron Wolf had preferred Favre.



the PANEL ▶▶▶▶

Those who know Favre well recently took some time with Inside Wisconsin Sports to reflect on the career of the Packer great...



▶▶▶▶ **Bus Cook** has long been Favre's agent. He also represents several other marquee NFL players.

▶▶ Wide receiver **Antonio Freeman** caught 57 touchdowns during his eight seasons in a Packer uniform.

▶▶ **Al Jones** is a sports reporter for the Sun Herald in South Mississippi. He has covered every stage of Favre's career.



▶▶▶▶ **Bud Lea** covered the Packers for the Milwaukee Sentinel from 1954-1995. He has since covered the team as a writer for Packers Plus.

▶▶ **Steve Mariucci** was the Packers' Quarterbacks Coach during Favre's first four years with the team, 1992-95. Mariucci now serves as an analyst for the NFL Network.



▶▶ Defensive tackle **John Randle** chased NFL quarterbacks for 14 years. Some of his most memorable moments were as a Minnesota Viking chasing after Favre.



▶▶▶▶ **Bart Starr** is a Packer legend. Like Favre, he spent 16 years as Green Bay's quarterback.

▶▶ **Ron Wolf** was the Packers General Manager from 1991-2000. One of Wolf's first moves was to broker a trade with Atlanta to bring Favre to Green Bay.

Recently hired as the Packers General Manager, Wolf scouts Favre during Green Bay's trip to Atlanta.

February 20
1992

Favre completes his first career pass—to himself—in a loss to Tampa Bay.

September 20
1992

Favre's streak of consecutive starts begins against Pittsburgh.



December 1
1991

Wolf ships a first-round pick to Atlanta in exchange for Favre, who had played very little as a rookie.



September 13
1992

In relief of an injured Don Majkowski, Favre finds a streaking Kitrick Taylor for a game-winning 35-yard touchdown with less than a minute remaining.



September 27
1992

forever
FAVRE

What is **1** thing the general public
DOESN'T KNOW
about Brett that they should? >>>

WOLF: His preparation, how important the game is to him and his level of respect for it.

RANDLE: One thing they know, but probably don't know the full extent of, is how much he really cares about his family. He appreciates them and the support they've given him throughout his career. That's not true of a lot of players in the NFL. But his family life was so strong that I actually think it helped him to be successful on the field.

COOK: Brett really cares about people. It's not the material possessions that matter to him, it's friendship and loyalty.

JONES: It starts with his life at home. He's a dedicated father and a great husband to Deanna. All people see is him on Sunday afternoons, but he's also a hands-on type of father when it comes to Breleigh's education.

MARIUCCI: Brett is a great husband and great dad. The two places that he enjoys the most are being in the stadium and at home with his family. He's definitely a homebody.

FREEMAN: When people ask, "Is he the real thing?" I always tell them yes. He's a real and genuine guy.

February 7
1993



Favre becomes the youngest quarterback ever named to the Pro Bowl.

Playing in Detroit's Silverdome, Favre's last-second touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe gives Green Bay its first playoff win in 11 years.

January 8
1994

July 15
1994



The Packers ink Favre to a five-year extension.



What single trait or skill separates
BRETT FROM THE GAME'S
 other all-time great quarterbacks? ▶▶▶

RANDLE: He was very competitive, not just for a quarterback, but Brett could have been a defensive lineman or a linebacker. If he was winning or losing, when you hit him, you knew he was going to get back up.

FREEMAN: He never really called anybody out. I probably dropped the most balls of any receiver and he never said a word. I mean, look back at that playoff game last year against Seattle after Ryan Grant had those two fumbles. He could have [jumped all over Grant] but he didn't do that. You don't think he was angry? But he didn't act it. He's always just continued to go about doing his job. I think that says a lot about who he is.

WOLF: I always thought that when he took the field it somehow lifted in his team's favor. What that was, I don't know — charisma, leadership — but whatever it was, he had it.

STARR: His style of leadership. I've never seen anyone else with a level of enthusiasm so strong that it sweeps the entire team up with him.

In beating Pittsburgh, the Packers record their first of seven division titles during the Favre era.

January 1
1996

At a press conference Favre acknowledges his addiction to painkillers. He enters a Kansas treatment facility the following day.



Favre is honored as the NFL's Most Valuable Player, the first of three straight MVP awards.

December 24
1995

May 14
1996

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FAVRE



Where do you feel he will best
FIT INTO THE GAME
of football now that his
playing career is done? >>>

MARIUCCI: He may get back to Green Bay for a game or two each year or a special event, but Brett's probably going to be more distant from football than some guys because like he said in his press conference, he's given everything that he's got and I think he's going to take a break from football. He's not one of those guys that wants to get into coaching or management, that's not him.

FREEMAN: Maybe as a spectator on his couch. I think he'll use his time to get away from the game.

LEA: Well, one thing I can't see him doing is TV work. You have to wear a blazer and nice clothes, and he doesn't do that. It's not who he is.

FAVRE By the NUMBERS >>>

- 61,655** career passing yards (NFL record)
- 8,758** career attempts (NFL record)
- 5,377** career completions (NFL record)
- 442** career touchdown passes (NFL record)
- 402** most passing yards in one contest (Dec. 5, 1993 loss to Chicago)
- 288** career interceptions (NFL record)
- 275** consecutive starts, including post-season play (NFL record)
- 253** consecutive regular season starts (NFL record)
- 212** quarterbacks who have started for other teams during Favre's streak
- 160** regular season victories (NFL record)
- 99** yards of his longest scoring strike (to Robert Brooks in a game against Chicago, 1995)
- 40** game-winning drives
- 39** post-season touchdown passes (second only to Joe Montana)
- 36** consecutive games with at least one touchdown pass (second to Johnny Unitas' streak of 47)
- 22** playoff games, in the 15 years prior to Favre's arrival, Green Bay had played in just two post-season games
- 20** consecutive completions versus Detroit on Nov. 22, 2009 (Packer record)
- 16** 3,000-yard passing seasons (NFL record)
- 3** Associated Press MVP awards (NFL record)
- 2** quarterbacks drafted ahead of him in the 1991 NFL Draft (Dan McGwire and Todd Marinovich)
- 1** Lambeau Leap (Oct. 20, 2006 versus Arizona)

July 14
1996



After 14 years together, and on the six-year anniversary of his auto accident, Favre marries Deanna Farnsworth.

Favre leads Green Bay past New England in Super Bowl XXX.



January 26
1997

July 25
1997

As a reward for bringing the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to Green Bay, the Packers hand Favre a new seven-year deal.

Despite a three-touchdown performance from their quarterback, Green Bay is unable to beat Denver in Super Bowl XXXII.



January 25
1998

November 7
1999



Starting in his 117th straight game, Favre breaks Ron Jaworski's record for most consecutive starts at the quarterback position.

Favre reaches the 30,000-yard passing mark in a loss to Carolina.

December 12
1999



Fill in the blank: Had Brett STAYED IN ATLANTA

COOK: He might not have been able to develop like he was able to with Mike Holmgren, who was tolerant of his youth and inexperience but who saw something special in him. Fortunately, he was traded and got to play in the right city with the right coach.

MARIUCCI: They would have realized that he could contribute to that team. It would have been a matter of time before they figured it out and he got an opportunity because he needed an opportunity when Don [Majkowski] got hurt. Who knows where his career would have taken him, but my guess is that he probably would have had a good career down there as well.

JONES: I think he probably would have been out of the league in two or three years. Green Bay was the perfect fit for him. The city opened its arms and accepted him and he needed that at that time.

WOLF: Look, he was a tremendous player. At some point [in Atlanta] that would have showed. I thought he was the best player in the 1995 NFL Draft and he's proven that to be true.



December 24
2000

Favre signs a 10-year deal, symbolizing his desire to end his career in Green Bay.



100
WINS

Favre records his 100th win as a starting quarterback.

February 28
2001

October 7
2002

A day after losing his father, Favre has one of the most memorable performances in NFL history, throwing for 399 yards and four touchdowns on an emotional Monday night.



4

On a Monday night in Chicago, Favre reaches the 40,000-yard passing mark. The 34-21 win that evening makes the event all the more special.

December 22
2003



399
YARDS

Favre's brother-in-law, Casey Tynens, is tragically killed in an ATV accident. Soon after the tragedy, Deanna Favre is diagnosed with breast cancer.

October 6
2004

On a Monday night in Green Bay, Favre records his 200th consecutive start in a win over the Rams.



November 29
2004

farewell
FAVRE



What is the best Brett Favre

PRANK YOU'RE AWARE OF? ▶▶▶

COOK [laughing] I've got some, but I better not talk about them.

MARUCCI I remember once Brett and Iy [Detmer] were messing around in the locker room, throwing water on each other and Brett took Iy's helmet and threw in the toilet. Brett, however, didn't realize it had one of those in-helmet radio-receivers in it, and it got ruined the day before the game. That was like a \$6,000 bit.

JONES I don't know if it's necessarily a prank, but I was a pallbearer at his father's funeral and our group was the first to the grave site. Brett arrived and he had one arm around Deanna and one around his mother and they walked up beside us. I had my sunglasses on because I had been crying a bit, and he looks over and says, "For Christ sake Al, you look like a MOB hitman." That pretty much says it all about Brett.

FREEMAN I remember [the three amigos] played a prank once. They put Icy Hot on this guy's jock, rubbed it in and put it on the inside of his helmet. I won't name the guy. Well, practice started and we got to moving around. All of a sudden the guy says, "It's hot out here. Is it just me?"...he realized it wasn't just sweat coming off his head and down there, and finally he put two and two together. He had to leave practice and get himself together.

August
2005

Hurricane Katrina ravages through the southeast. One of the many losses includes the Favre family home in Mississippi.

Favre's five-yard touchdown to Greg Jennings gives him 400 for his career.



September 24
2006

September 16
2007

In beating the Giants, Favre records his 147th win as a starting quarterback to surpass John Elway for most all-time.

A touchdown pass to Jennings gives Favre No. 421 for his career, surpassing Dan Marino for most all-time.



September 30
2007

November 4
2007

Favre helps Green Bay beat the Kansas City Chiefs. Favre becomes just the third NFL quarterback to post wins over all 31 teams.

On a pass to Donald Driver, Favre surpasses Marino for most career passing yards in NFL history.



December 16
2007

top five

RIVALS ▶▶▶

BRETT Favre never backed down from a challenge. Arguably the best case of this came in a 1998 meeting with Tampa Bay when Favre was blindsided by Buccaneers DE Regan Upshaw. Unfazed by the devastating hit, Favre jumped to his feet and began to get Upshaw on the helmet, almost to say, "Nice hit. That all you got?"

Exchanges such as those with opposing defenders were common throughout Favre's career and served as the building blocks for side stories within the game. Everyone wanted a piece of Brett Favre, sometimes he was knocked down, but he always got right back up.

During his 16 years as Green Bay's starting quarterback, countless crated men chased after Favre, but only a few got the best of him—every now and then. Here is the list of Favre's top five all-time rivals.

1. WARREN SAPP

The exchanges between Sapp and Favre are well-documented, and the image of a helmet-less Sapp roaming around the corner to get to Favre is one of the defensive lineman's most memorable clips. One of football's most hated rivalries while Green Bay and Sapp's Tampa Bay clubs were both fighting for AFC Central Division supremacy, the bad blood turned into mutual respect over time. The two met one more time, almost serendipitously, in December of this past year. Now that both are retired, Sapp can chase Favre into the Hall of Fame.

2. JOHN RANDLE

Favre might care to remember Randle's commercial in which he chased around a chicken-dancing Favre jersey. On the field, decked out in the face paint of a griffin madman, the defensive tackle's ferocious pass rush disrupted Green Bay every time they visited the MetLife Dome (arguably Favre's greatest inanimate adversary). In a career that boasts 137.5 sacks, Randle got to Favre 11.5 times—more than any other defender Favre faced.

3. CHRIS HOWAN

As a motivational tool, Howan hung Favre's No. 4 jersey in his locker. Prior to the 2001 season, Howan was quoted as saying, "I want him to feel me. I want to be breathing down the back of his neck. I want him to feel so anxious that maybe he'll throw an interception." The response was classic Favre. "I'm sure he's given a lot of thought to me. That's fine. Get in line. There's a lot of people who want a piece of me." Howan's obsession with Favre—bizarre as it was—is what stands out in an otherwise forgettable career.

4. BRIAN URLACHER

The week Favre announced his retirement, Urlacher called Favre the game's all-time greatest quarterback, during the night years the two men shared the field together. Urlacher probably called him a few other things, too. In their final meeting, Favre gifted Chicago's middle linebacker with a misguided pass that Urlacher turned into the only interception return for a touchdown of his career. Of course, as Urlacher pointed out, Favre got the best out of Urlacher's Bears during much of this rivalry.

5. ROBERT PORCHER

The Lions' defensive end gave Favre fits during his 13 years in the league, including a two-sack performance near the end of his career. After a 2011 sack, for which Porcher was assessed a roughing call, Favre got up and challenged the 6'3", 266-pound defender.

What about his career is not so WELL DOCUMENTED but deserves to be? ▶▶▶

RANDLE: He didn't come into the league like most quarterbacks. He was in Atlanta, then he was a backup to Don Majkowski. No one expected anything great to come from him.

COOK: His leadership. That team last year was very young. It would be a good debate whether they would have responded to another quarterback the way they responded to Brett.

FREEMAN: The majority of his touchdowns and completions went to guys drafted in the third round or later—myself, Robert Brooks, Donald Driver, Mark Chmura... [Joe] Montana had [Jerry] Rice and so on. We didn't have that headline. [Favre] just did it with whoever they put in front of him.

STARR: Again, I look at his leadership. If you observe what he was able to do with the youngest team in the league over the past two seasons, it's amazing. I think he deserves a lot of credit for that. I've also always been impressed with how accurately he is able to throw the football when off-balance and under pressure. Because of his great arm strength and his quick release, he is able to throw in awkward situations better than anyone I have ever seen.



March 4
2008

During an emotional press conference, Favre says goodbye to his many fans. "It's been a great career for me," he tells reporters, "but it's over."



The Packers officially announce Favre's retirement.

March 5
2008

10 *favorite* FAVRE MOMENTS ▶▶▶

Each week, it seemed, Brett Favre escaped a collapsing pocket and bought just enough time to find a streaking receiver downfield; each week he took a tumble, only to jump back up and redeem himself. But, of the hundreds of jaw-dropping plays and thrilling moments belonging to who can arguably be tabbed the game's greatest showman, here are the 10 we believe to be his finest...

1. ONE MEMORABLE MONDAY NIGHT

A day after the passing of his father, Favre turned in one of the best performances of his career. To the credit of the players around him, his teammates refused for the night to end any other way. Favre completed 22 of 30 passes for 399 yards and three-fourth touchdowns in a nationally televised game in Oakland. Even the Raider fans couldn't help but to applaud.

2. BLOOD AND GUTS

No one questioned Favre's toughness during his first few seasons, but on a Christmas Eve in 1995, his grit became legendary. On one play, the Steeler defense hit Favre so hard that he coughed up blood on the sidelines; unfazed, on the next play, he found tight end Mark Chmura for a one-yard score, helping Green Bay to a 24-19 win and its first NFC Central title in more than two decades.

3. THE START OF THE JOURNEY

Favre's first great Packer moment is often short-changed simply because it happened before most of Wisconsin knew much about him. But his game-winning touchdown strike to Krick Taylor to beat Cincinnati in September of 1992 is also one of the most thrilling plays of his career. Perhaps what made the scene most memorable, though, were Favre's hysterics during the celebration that followed.

4. BEARING THE PAIN OF A BRUISED HIP

During a Halloween 1994 contest against rival Chicago, Favre endured adverse conditions with a badly injured hip. Slow him down? Nope. Favre gained a career-high 58 yards rushing, 36 of which came on second-quarter scoring run, in the 33-6 victory.

5. FAVRE FINDS BRADFORD ON FOURTH DOWN

After Minnesota's Randall Cunningham found Randy Moss with less than two minutes remaining, the Packers seemed doomed in Week 3 of the 1999 season. But Favre rallied the team under first-year coach Ray Rhodes. On a fourth down, and with no timeouts to work with, he found Corey Bradford for a 23-yard touchdown with just 12 seconds left to give Green Bay a 23-20 win. That moment shines from an otherwise forgettable season for Favre and the Packers.



6. THE HEAVE

The Packers were only beginning to find success when they ventured into the Silverdome on January 8, 1994 for a playoff game against Detroit. Trailing in the final moments, Favre rolled to the right side of the field in what appeared to be nothing more than a broken play. Then, at full speed, Favre turned his body and heaved a long pass to the opposite corner of the field where wide receiver Sterling Sharpe sat, awaiting the game-winning touchdown.

7. FAVRE'S DIVE

With the team's record delicately hanging at 7-7, Green Bay needed to beat Favre's former team, Atlanta, to preserve any hope of landing in the 1994 playoffs. Trailing 17-14 with only a few ticks left, Favre tucked the ball and launched his body into the end zone for a playoff-clinching victory.

8. FAVRE BEATS THE MINERS

To get over the hump, Green Bay first needed to knock off a top contender. In the second round of the 1996 playoffs, Favre took his teammates to San Francisco where they pummeled the defending Super Bowl champion 49ers, 27-17. Favre completed 75% of his passes that day (25-

of-28) for 299 yards. It was the first real mark of achievement for a young club [and its young leader].

9. FAVRE'S HISTORIC TOUCHDOWN

No one was sure whether any quarterback would ever eclipse Dan Marino's touchdown total of 420 after the legendary Dolphin hung up his cleats. On Sept. 30, 2007, Favre notched No. 421 with a 16-yard strike to Greg Jennings. In Favre fashion, he then flung Jennings onto his back afterward and carried him around in the celebration. Perhaps fittingly, Favre's greatest statistical moment occurred in the one venue that had been the least kind to him throughout his career—the Metrodome.

10. BRINGING THE TITLE BACK TO TITLETOWN

Favre has broken numerous records, won countless awards, and he's made dozens of mind-boggling plays. Only once has he been a Super Bowl champion. The play often replayed from Green Bay's win over New England in Super Bowl XXX is Favre's first quarter lob to Andre Rison to get things started. Amidst a career of shining moments, Favre's moment of triumph in New Orleans is the pinnacle.

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