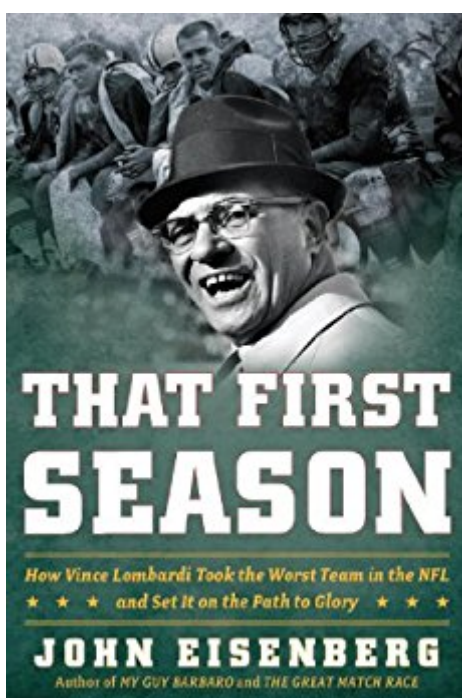


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# That First Season: How Vince Lombardi Took The Worst Team In The NFL And Set It On The Path To Glory



## Synopsis

The story of a team, a town, and a leader: Vince Lombardi's first year as head coach of the Green Bay Packers, and how he turned them into a powerhouse. The once-vaunted Green Bay Packers were a laughingstock by the late 1950s. They hadn't fielded a winning team in more than a decade, and were close to losing their franchise to another city. They were in desperate need of a savior and he arrived in a wood-paneled station wagon in the dead of winter from New York City. In a single year, Vince Lombardi—the grizzled coach who took no bull—transformed a team of underachievers into winners and resurrected a Wisconsin city known for its passion for sport. He would lead them to championship to championship, and bring out the best in players including Bart Starr, Jim Taylor, Willie Davis, Forrest Gregg, and many more. From an award-winning sportswriter, *That First Season* is a compelling read about perhaps the most compelling coach ever to stride an NFL sideline. (Washington Times). "Richly detailed in seamless prose, this is historical sportswriting at its finest."—Lars Anderson, New York Times bestselling author of *The Mannings: The Fall and Rise of a Football Family*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Over the years I have read just about every book I could find on Coach Lombardi, from his time with the Giants through *Run to Daylight* and *Instant Replay* and on to the Redskins. This is as good as any of them, an in-depth look at Vince and the building blocks he had to work with (or add) upon arriving at Green Bay. Rather than make it sound like the Packers were destined for success (the smug *Sports Illustrated* orientation), this piece takes you step by step through the process and allows you to see where mistakes or mishaps could have or did happen. While not necessarily the point of the book, it is quietly instructive on one way to make a dynasty. This must have taken tons of time to research and put together, with minute details from nearly 60 years ago. It is effectively paced and written, I really have only positive things to say about it. If you'd like to know more about Vince, the Packers, or just putting a winning football team together, this book is right up your alley.

Imagine Vince Lombardi showing up as a coach of an NFL team and not being a popular selection. This happened after the 1958 season, when the Green Bay Packers had one win, ten losses, and one tie. Green Bay had not enjoyed a winning team in more than a decade. That First Season, which is a historical overview of the first season when the Green Bay Packers were led by a first-time head coach, Vince Lombardi. In order to tell the story with the full impact it deserves, the experienced sports writer and author of *That First Season*, John Eisenberg, provides a historical perspective on the small city of Green Bay, the failing football team, and then describes how Vince Lombardi led the unpopular team of underdogs to greatness. The ownership structure of the Packers was unique and there were many challenges facing the NFL team. The team is owned by the people of Green Bay, who feared the Green Bay Packers would be moved to a different city since the franchise was in jeopardy. Vince Lombardi was so strict, that he told a player he needed to lose twenty pounds or be gone. The player lost ten pounds, and although he was one of the better players, he was let go. There was no doubt who was in charge of the Green Bay Packers. The previous coach was undisciplined, didn't care about working hard, and tolerated a losing attitude. This reviewer has really enjoyed the book and recommends *That First Season* to anyone who likes football and is interested in the history of the game. The book is unique because the author includes the perspectives of many people who were involved during that first season such as the players, other coaches, members of the media, and Vince Lombardi's son. It is a fascinating read to be given a view of how a very strict, extremely disciplined, organized, focused, repetitive, striving for perfection coaching style took players who were marginal at best and turned them into Hall of Famers

Book Cover: I enjoyed this book cover with the image of Vince Lombardi on the cover. \*STAR\*Story: This biography was created from a combination of several different resources. It is compiled in such a way that tells you about how Lombardi came to be the coach of the Green Bay Packers and walks you through how he whips them into shape. \*STAR\*Author: I think John Eisenberg did a fantastic job of putting all of this together and having specific plays from certain games in the book. \*STAR\*Characters/Relationships: It was great to see how Lombardi interacted with everybody but also how they felt about him. \*STAR\*Cleanliness: There were several choice words used throughout this book. Overall Review: I am definitely glad that I was able to read this book. It gave me more knowledge of the Green Bay Packer history and what they are all about. It also promoted hard work and determination will get you where you want to go. I would recommend this book to anybody who loves the Green Bay Packers or enjoys reading about football games.

I'm a sports fan that wasn't sure this would be a book that would keep my attention (being that I'm not a Packers fan). With the easy to read format, it took no time at all for me to be hooked and get through the entire book in a day or two. Well worth the read.

Being a Green Bay Packer fan since I was 10 years old (I'm now 60), this book delivers both some history and entertainment. Being a lifelong Vermonter, I'm often asked "why a Packers fan?" It was 1955 and as kids, in my neighborhood, we played a lot of pickup games where we played as members of our chosen pro team. I chose the Packers because they were the champions year and year out back then. This book brings me back to those days, players, and one very special coach who made me proud to call the Packers mine - both then and still today. John Eisenberg has added the person's and personalities I never knew about my heroes to round out what every Packer, if not every football fan, can appreciate about the legends of the game. The Super Bowl trophy, after all, is named the Lombardi Trophy.

This book is great, hands down. If you are in a leadership position at any business, a teacher, a coach, love football, love the Green Bay Packers, admire Vince Lombardi, or just like history about football, this is a book you must have in your collection. The first season of the Packers with Vince Lombardi was captured in this book so that the average reader can get a good look at how Coach Lombardi worked at turning around the Packers program. There are some great insights and ideas for coaches and teachers as well as leaders alike that can really help. I would recommend reading it

for fun and then reading it again at some point to study ideas that you believe may help you in your endeavors. Personally, I love this book and believe that any one who is involved in football in any way should read this book.

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