



## **Professional Football Researchers Association**

740 Deerfield Road  
Warminster, PA 18974  
[www.profootballresearchers.org](http://www.profootballresearchers.org)

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**Name:** Laverne 'Lavvie' Dilweg

**Position:** End

**Teams:** 1926 Milwaukee Badgers, 1927-34 Green Bay Packers

### **Quick Hits:**

- Six-time consecutive, consensus all-pro. Only Don Hutson, among all ends, had more between 1920 and 1960 (10).
- Four-time consecutive, unanimous all-pro. Only Don Hutson, among all ends, equaled that between 1920 and 1960 (4).
- The Green Bay Packers won three NFL Championships while Dilweg was with the team. The 1965-67 Green Bay Packers are the only other franchise in NFL history to win three consecutive NFL Championships.
- Dilweg intercepted 27\* passes over his career. No other pre-modern era end currently in the Pro Football Hall of Fame comes close (Bill Hewitt has 2). He currently has the NFL record for interceptions in a career for a defensive end. Four times, he led all ends in interceptions for the season (1928-1931). Once, he tied for the league lead in interceptions among ends (1927).
- Graded in five statistical categories (interception percentage, receptions/game, yards/game, yards/reception, and touchdowns/game), Dilweg had the best overall grade among all ends for five consecutive years (1927-1931). He ranked better than Hall of Fame ends Red Badgro and Ray Flaherty over the same time period.
- Of the pre-modern era ends that played at the same time, and are currently in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Dilweg ranks first in receiving yards (2,069), second in receptions (123, Wayne Millner had 124), and first in yards-per-reception (16.8).
- A member of the All-Decade team for the 1920s. One of only two members of that team (Hunk Anderson) that is not in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

\*Statistics are incomplete from this era. Dilweg and others may have more than listed.

### **Analysis:**

It can be argued that Lavvie Dilweg was the second best pre-modern era end that played the game, behind Don Hutson. Dilweg was a beast on defense. He was excellent at stopping the run. He could clear out blockers for his teammates or tackle any runner near him. He also had the flexibility to drop back into coverage and play the pass. His 27 interceptions far exceeded every other all-pro end of his time and is currently first all-time in NFL history in interceptions for a defensive end. He has two interception returns

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for touchdowns, which ranks second among all pre-modern era ends (Guy Chamberlin – 3). That was just his defensive skills.

Offensively, he was productive, even though ends of his day primarily blocked and were not receivers. However, if you compare him to other pre-modern era ends currently in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Dilweg would rank third in receiving touchdowns and third in total offensive touchdowns.

### **Testimonials:**

- Pro Football Hall of Fame member Red Grange stated: “I have always rated Dilweg as the greatest end who ever brought me down.”
- The editors of *Total Football: The Official Encyclopedia of the National Football League* listed Dilweg as one of the 300 Greatest Players of All-Time, stating, “Lavern Dilweg, by nearly all contemporary accounts, was the best end in pro football almost from his first game in 1926 until his last in 1934.”
- Legendary football historian Bob Carroll stated, “You could make the case that the stuff he did after football was a little more important in the whole scheme of things than playing end for the Green Bay Packers. And none of that changes the fact that at a particular time and place in the long history of football, nobody played end better than Dilweg.”
- In *The Hidden Game of Football: The Next Edition*, authors Bob Carroll, Pete Palmer, John Thorn and David Pietrusza developed a rating system used to rank early players based on total number of years played, number of championship seasons, and all-pro selections. Dilweg was in the first group of players, which the authors commented, “the first group represents those players who would seem to have all the necessities for Hall of Fame selection.” Of the three ends in the first group, Dilweg was ranked below Don Hutson and ahead of Bill Hewitt, both members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame ends Guy Chamberlin, Ray Flaherty, Red Badgro and Wayne Millner did not make the first group.

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