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FROM THE EDITOR

Off to a good start

The November issue of Packerland Pride is jam-packed with stories and pictures.

The Packers are off to a 5-1 start after recent victories at Dallas and at home against the Detroit Lions on Monday Night Football.

It's important for Green Bay to get off to a good start, especially with six of the last nine games on the road to end the season – a quirky schedule indeed.

I was fortunate to be on the sidelines for the Minnesota Vikings game at Lambeau Field Sept. 15, a 21-16 Packers' win.

The atmosphere was electric and the crowd noise deafening. I've included my article from that game.

It was not only special because the Green and Gold pulled out an NFC North Division win, but Cherry and Bart Starr Jr. were in town, along with about 50 other alumni, to honor the late Bart Starr, who died this past May 26 at the age of 85.

Cherry Starr gave an emotional speech at halftime thanking the fans of Green Bay.

It was also cool to see former Packers quarterback Brett Favre lead the Starr family onto the field at halftime.

It was an unforgettable moment for me to snap pictures of former greats Paul Hornung and Jerry Kramer.

All the heartache and pain is forgotten among Green Bay fans in regards to the messy divorce between the team and Favre in 2008.

I met with Croatian Olympian Martin Sinkovic before the Philadelphia game Sept. 26 at Lambeau. Sinkovic, who is an Olympic gold medalist in rowing, was in town attending two games.

He is a rabid Packers fan and also spent time rowing on the Fox River.

This past summer, I was able to sit down with former Packers quarterback Don Majkowski at the Packers Hall of Fame Golf Classic.

With the 30-year anniversary of the Packers/Bears "Instant Replay" game coming up Nov. 5, the "Majik Man" reminisced about the game and the 1989 season.

Delaney Wahl is a 2019 Bay Port High School graduate.

Wahl, now a student at UW-Green Bay, recently had the opportunity to meet with current Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers for a Make-A-Wish-Foundation event.

Wahl is like a lot of normal teenagers – active, smart, funny and loves to shop, but she is also living with a rare form of cancer called EHE.

You'll want to read her inspirational story on what she is personally trying to accomplish in combating the disease.

I also included pre-game fan photos in the parking lot from the Minnesota and Philadelphia games.

There are also several special stories to Packerland Pride.

Walter Rhein discusses why finding a veteran backup quarterback is difficult.

Green Bay is a perfect case in point – there are various reasons why Tim Boyle is backing up Rodgers and not a veteran.

Greg Bates has two articles this month.

The first is about former Packers long snapper Rob Davis who is now an assistant coach with the St. Norbert College football team.

Greg's second story is about three Green Bay West High School football players who took part in the Quarterback Challenge during halftime of the Minnesota game.

Kevin Boneske wrote a short story on the Packers' plans to begin heating Clarke Hinkle Field soon.

Monthly contributor Mike Jacquart caught up with former Packers kicker Chris Jacke for a question-and-answer session.

The Packers Hall of Famer is the fourth-leading scorer in team history.

Finally, Heather Graves also has two articles included.

The first is about the Green and Gold Gala event, which is an annual fundraiser benefiting the Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin.

Her second story is about Starr and how he touched so many lives.

Hear from former Packers Lynn Dickey, Paul Coffman, Larry McCarren and Gary Weaver on their interactions and thoughts about their former coach.

This is also an invitation for all to submit story requests.

I'm specifically looking for interesting stories about fans – everyone has a Packers' story.

I have gotten good requests over the last two years and have met a lot of interesting people.

Hopefully, as you read this issue, Green Bay has a few more victories under its belt and is well on its way to solidifying a playoff berth.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.
Go, Pack, go!

Rich



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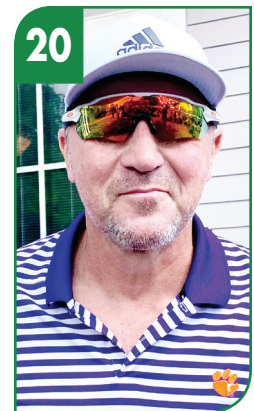
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Philadelphia came to Lambeau and left with a win.

On the cover...

From left, Brook White and Dillon Byrd from West Point, Mississippi, attended the Packers/Vikings game Sept. 15. RICH PALZEWIC PHOTO



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Rich

BY RICH PALZEWIC EDITOR

The Sept. 15 Packers/Vikings game at Lambeau Field was very exciting.

Similar to the intensity of last year's 29-29 tie at Lambeau between the teams, the atmosphere was electric.

The Packers pulled out a 21-16 victory to improve to 2-0 at the time.

It's a good reminder when attending a regular-season game compared to a preseason one – there's no comparison.

Before the game, one of the photographers on the field asked me if I attended the preseason games and if he missed anything.

I told him he didn't miss much.

The energy and crowd noise for the Sept. 15 game was deafening.

Quarterback Aaron Rodg-

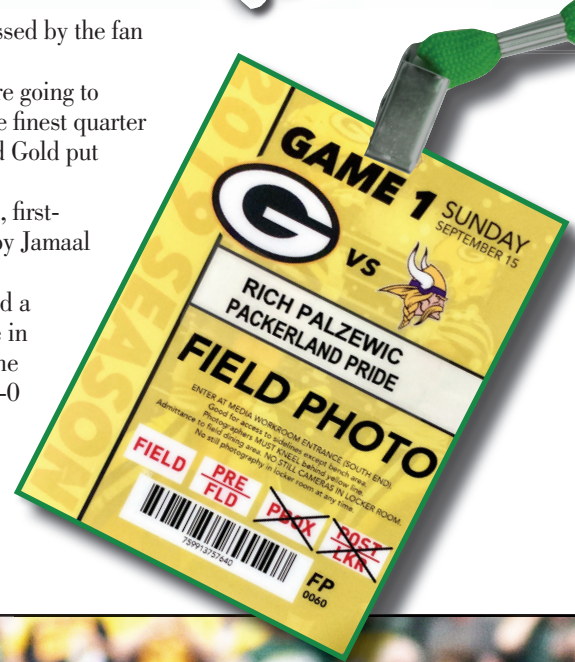
ers' plea to the crowd before the season to get loud worked.

For the entire game, I was impressed by the fan support.

The Packers looked like they were going to demolish Minnesota with perhaps the finest quarter of play I have ever see the Green and Gold put together.

Green Bay jumped out to a quick, first-quarter 14-0 lead after touchdowns by Jamaal Williams and Geronimo Allison.

After Dean Lowry recovered a Kirk Cousins fumble late in the opening quarter, the Packers went up 21-0 two plays into the second quarter on an Aaron Jones touchdown – Lambeau was going nuts.



Jamaal Williams and Davante Adams shake hands after a score.



Not only did the offense do its part, but the defense played inspired football to make the opening part of the game nearly perfect.

The excitement was short-lived after Minnesota's Dalvin Cook sprinted 75 yards on the ensuing possession to make it 21-7.

If you talk to anyone, momentum can swing during a game very quickly.

Who would have thought Green Bay wouldn't score again and stumble multiple times with turnovers, including an Allison fumble.

The Packers continued to move ball decent for the rest of the first half, and Preston Smith picked off a Cousins' pass with 4 minutes remaining until halftime.

After the interception, Smith and the entire defense ran down the field toward



Stefon Diggs drops a pass with Jaire Alexander in coverage.

Rich Palzewic Photos



the end zone I was standing in.

Once they all got there, they posed for pictures and had some fun – it was a cool moment.

Green Bay left at least a field goal off the board when they couldn't convert on a 4th-and-1 play from the 25-yard line late in the first half.

The Packers have struggled on short-yardage plays this year, as indicated by the Philadelphia game in week four.

Four cracks from the 1-yard line later, they didn't score after passing all four times.

I love football, and I don't claim to be an offensive wizard, but I'm not sure why more teams don't spread five receivers wide to get the defense out of position and run out of the formation.

Rodgers could have fallen forward a few times and gotten a touchdown – or, give it to your back and let him do the rest.

It's been a frustrating occurrence for fans over the past few years.

After a long Minnesota play took the ball inside the Green Bay red zone, the Vikings appeared to score a touchdown,



Preston Smith (91) celebrates his interception with Kevin King (20) and Tony Brown (28).

but after further review, it was determined an offensive pass-interference infraction occurred.

Watching the replay, it looked like a ticky-tack penalty.

The Vikings eventually kicked a field goal to make it 21-10 at the half, but things could have been much worse for Green Bay.

What are your thoughts on the ability to review pass-interference calls?

We all know the NFC Championship non-call late in the New Orleans/Los Angeles game last season was the catalyst for the rule change.

I don't particularly like the change – why? Because the officials are inconsistent with the reviews.

If you recall, a blatant pass-interference penalty was not called on the field in the Philadelphia game, and Green Bay wasted a timeout and a challenge on the play.

Pretty soon, coaches won't challenge pass interference anymore because they pretty much know officials won't change the call. Maybe this is the objective of the

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Aaron Jones celebrates his second-quarter touchdown with a Lambeau Leap.

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By Mike Jacquart, design by Shawn Williams

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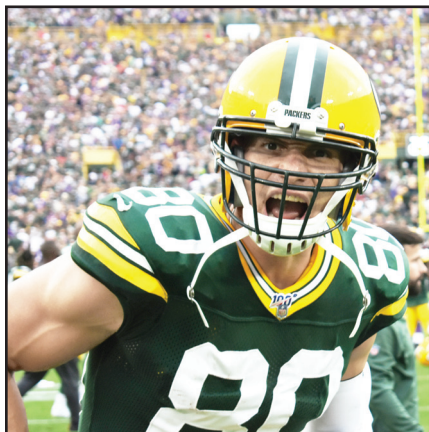
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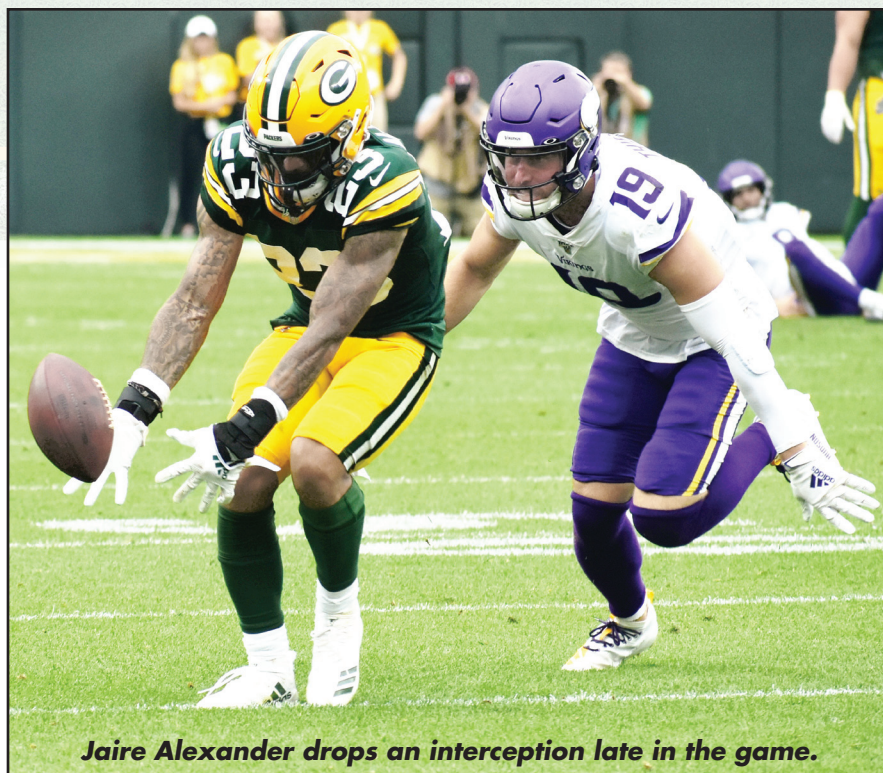
I'm not sure how long the review rule will be around if coaches feel blatant calls won't be reversed.

After another fumble by the Packers early in the third quarter, Cousins hit Stefon Diggs on a 45-yard bomb on 3rd and 13 to make it 21-16.

After Diggs was given a 15-yard,



Tight end Jimmy Graham screamed in excitement at me after the game.



Jaire Alexander drops an interception late in the game.



Rich Palzewic Photos

Kevin King secured the victory with a late interception in the end zone.

unsportsmanlike penalty for taking his helmet off, Minnesota kicker Dan Bailey missed the 48-yard extra point.

The game wasn't secured until Kevin King intercepted a pass in the end zone with about five minutes remaining in the game.

The play, which happened right in front of me, came on a 1st-and-goal situation from the 8-yard line.

It was a terrible pass by Cousins, who threw off-balance while rolling to his right with Lowry in his face.

The game itself was obviously exciting, but the Packers honored the late Bart Starr in an emotional ceremony at halftime.

Cherry Starr and Bart Starr Jr. made the trip to Lambeau, as did NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and former Packers quarterback Brett Favre.

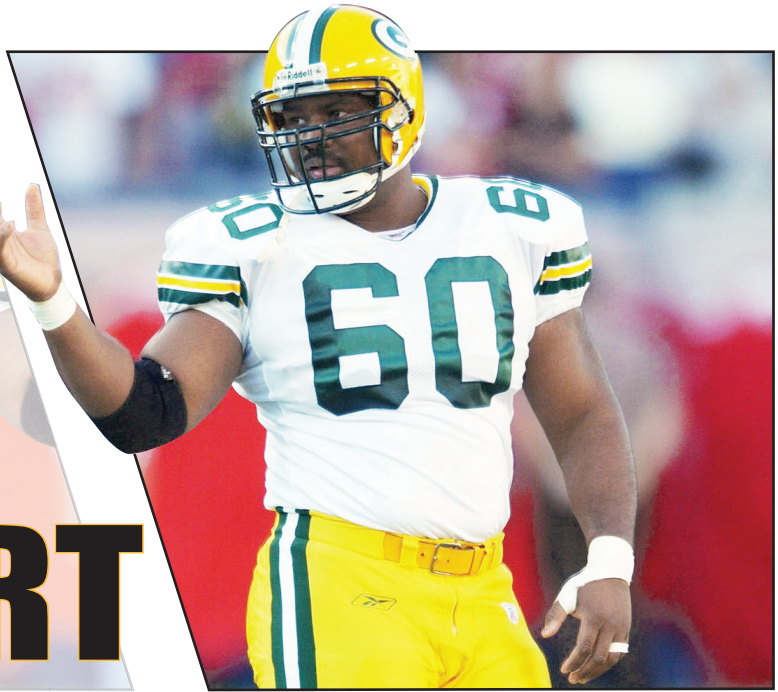
Favre led the Starr Family onto the field at halftime, where Cherry gave a wonderful speech to the fans.

It was also exciting to see many of the greats make the journey to Lambeau to honor their fallen leader, who passed away May 26 at the age of 85.

Paul Hornung and Jerry Kramer were two who passed directly in front of me.

The victory made it a good day, but seeing the alumni and the Starr Family made it a great day – one I won't soon forget. 🏈

DAVIS HAPPY AT ST. NORBERT



BY GREG BATES
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

DE PERE – Football has always been in Rob Davis’ blood.

When Davis left the Green Bay Packers in 2017 after 20-plus years as a player and then in the front office, he had the opportunity to coach his son’s youth football team.

That gig didn’t last as long as Davis expected.

“My son said, ‘Dad, my friends and I want to have fun, and you’re screaming it’s about winning,’” Davis said. “I figured I’d volunteer my time with a program that could develop young kids.”

Davis then accepted a role as the assistant defensive line coach for the St. Norbert College football team.

Two seasons into the job, it’s been a match made in heaven.

“It’s been tremendous to have Rob be with us,” said St. Norbert football coach Dan McCarty. “When you talk about one of the top guys at what he was doing in the NFL with player development, for him to be here with us with some of the player development things he did with the Packers – our guys all bought in and every eye is on him. He’s been a tremendous addition to the team for his football knowledge and his life experience. I can’t say enough about Rob and what



Former Packers player Rob Davis is now a volunteer assistant coach with the St. Norbert College football team.
SNC ATHLETICS PHOTO

he’s brought to our program.” Davis is having fun coaching college-aged players without much pressure on his shoulders as an assistant.

“I have a lot of self-induced pressure,” Davis noted. “I want what’s best for those young men, and I want what’s best for the team and St. Norbert. I don’t temper my emotions. Obviously, I’m not out there with the same reaction to a loss if I was playing for the Packers, but I feel the pain of the young men. I know how hard they work, and I know how hard

the coaching staff works. I enjoy the time I get to be around it.”

Davis, 50, was an All-America defensive tackle at Division II Shippensburg University.

Upon graduation in 1992, he spent two seasons on the New York Jets’ practice squad and then one with the Kansas City Chiefs.

In 1996, he latched onto the Chicago Bears’ 53-man roster as the team’s long snapper.

The next season, Davis signed with the Packers as a free agent and started the final 167 games – the third-longest streak in team history.

He won a Super Bowl ring in the first of his 11 seasons with the Packers.

As a former defensive lineman, get-

Davis played for the Packers from 1997 to 2007.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

ting back to coaching that position in college was a smooth transition.

“As a scout teamer in practice for years, I played defensive and offensive line at practice,” Davis said. “I was the emergency guy if we had any situations within the game, so I knew both the offense and the defense.”

Davis works alongside St. Norbert defensive coordinator Drew Vanderlin to get his linemen best prepared for Saturdays.

He talks to his guys about mental toughness, dealing with adversity and having the will to beat their opponent.

“One of the big things, when you go to professional football compared to smaller colleges, is playing with a certain physicality, playing with your hands and trying to exploit some of the things young players make mistakes on,” Davis said. “I try to teach them some of the NFL things I’ve learned over the years – whether it’s the hand-to-hand combat work, speed to power, the physicality you want to play with, playing up-tempo or walking the walk and talking the talk.”

One of the areas McCarty believes Davis helps teach his players about is attitude.

Davis said since his Pop Warner days, he’s always been an intense player.

“Rob’s a pretty serious dude, especially on game day,” McCarty said.

"I think it's the little things which matter: the pass rush and hands. All the things we're teaching them, but again, it's a different voice with a different level of experience playing at the highest level of football."

McCarty feels the players listen more intently to Davis because of his NFL background.

"Our players are like my own kids, where after a while, they tune me out from constantly hearing my voice," McCarty joked. "For him to be able to come in and share his experiences and bringing a Super Bowl ring, our guys absolutely love Rob and are totally in when he's presenting to them."

After officially retiring from the NFL in March 2008, Davis went to the Packers' front office as the director of player development/engagement.

In July 2017, Davis took his first job away from football at Pierce Manufacturing, which is an Oshkosh Corporation company in Appleton.

He is the senior director of operational excellence for the business that builds fire trucks.

Because of a busy schedule with his day job and a family, Davis isn't able to make every St. Norbert football practice.

He generally makes it to three practices a week and every game.


Davis likes the situation he's in as a

volunteer coach at the college level.

However, he isn't ruling out a more expanded role in the future.

"I always thought I was a coach at heart," Davis said. "I feel I have excellent communication skills and reliability. I also have two young kids, and I know it can be tough on the wife of a coach. You're going to miss some things, so I haven't put it as a high priority. If someone were to reach out – I've got about four more years I want to work – for a full-time coaching job, my kids will be a bit older. But right now, I'm trying to help out where I can." 🏈

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BY WALTER RHEIN
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

It's been said the backup quarterback is everybody's favorite player.

He stands holding the clipboard, awaiting a chance at action and offering the promise of a new era of football for a franchise.

The coaching staff likes to sing the praises of the backup, and the general manager (GM) tries to inflate his value to create a tempting target for multiple, high-round draft picks.

However, more often than not, when the backup finally gets his chance, the fans quickly discover the best place for him was on the bench.

The Packers entered the 2019 season with undrafted free agent Tim Boyle as their only backup to Aaron Rodgers.

Boyle beat out former second-round pick DeShone Kizer, who at least had the experience of a season's worth of winless starts for the 2017 Cleveland Browns.

Green Bay acquired Kizer to recuperate some value from former first-round pick Damarius Randall, whom they might have cut if they hadn't found a trade partner.

Though Kizer looked the part and had the resume of an interesting backup prospect, he didn't show enough improvement in his time with the Packers to warrant a roster spot.

The salary-cap era and the addition of rules to protect the quarterback have changed the roster philosophy of NFL teams.

In the past, it wasn't unheard of for a franchise to have expectations for the backup to lead the team to a championship, even after the loss of the starter.

In Super Bowl V, Earl Morrall stepped in for an injured Johnny Unitas and led the Baltimore Colts to victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

Jeff Hostetler led the 1990 Giants to a championship after an injury to Phil Simms, and most recently, Nick Foles got a win for the 2017 Philadelphia Eagles after an injury to Carson Wentz.

The Philadelphia example is interesting because it represents one of the few modern cases in the salary-cap era where a team was able to roster a veteran backup.

This was made possible because Wentz was a high draft pick still on his rookie contract, and Foles was something of a

[Above] Former Packers backup quarterback Brett Hundley was with the team from 2015 to 2017. RICH PALZEWIC PHOTO

discarded starter.

Wentz had a cap hit of only \$6 million in 2017.

Seattle represents another team that was able to capitalize on the advantage of the cap savings which come from a franchise quarterback on a rookie deal with Russell Wilson during the 2013 season.

Green Bay fans often call for management to look into signing a veteran backup quarterback, but the combination of a franchise quarterback and the salary cap makes this a difficult proposition.

For 2019, Rodgers has a cap hit of \$26.5 million.

This leaves the GM with little room to dedicate more salary-cap space to the quarterback position.

Boyle's salary-cap hit is only \$572,000, while Kizer costs the Oakland Raiders \$914,000.

Part of the problem is the quarterback position is overvalued, and it's very difficult to find a veteran at a reasonable salary.

An ideal backup is a guy who will provide competent play and help nurse a team through a two or three-game stretch while the starter recovers.

Ryan Fitzpatrick is a prototype backup, as he has shown he can put up decent numbers when given the opportunity.

Desperate GMs see Fitzpatrick as a borderline starter, and he represents a \$5.5 million cap hit for the Dolphins in 2019.

Considering the Packers had to cut a player the caliber of Mike Daniels for cap considerations, you can see how it's difficult to maneuver for a veteran backup quarterback.

The New Orleans Saints made Teddy Bridgewater the NFL's highest-paid backup in 2019 with a salary-cap hit of \$7.25 million.

Bridgewater represents the kind of player who isn't usually available, and Drew Brees is clearly on the back end of his career.

Bridgewater is a former Pro Bowler who is only 27 and became available mainly due to injury.

The Saints' dice roll on Bridgewater proved to be fortuitous, as Brees suffered a significant injury to his throwing hand in week two.

This scenario allows the Saints to evaluate Bridgewater as a potential successor to Brees at a reasonable price and could save them draft capital in the near future.

It would not have made sense for the Packers to invest so much in Bridgewater, even with all the potential upside, because Rodgers isn't as close to retirement as Brees.

Former Green Bay GM Ron Wolf always used to invest a significant amount of draft capital into the quarterback position, even with the luxury of NFL ironman Brett Favre on the roster.

The Packers would draft and develop quarterbacks and then trade them at a premium, usually to teams they wouldn't have to play frequently.

Notable former Green Bay backups who went on to have solid careers as starters include Matt Hasselbeck, Mark Brunell, Aaron Brooks and Kurt Warner (although Warner was cut from the team rather than traded).

Ty Detmer and Doug Pederson are two more backups who had brief stretches as starters for other teams.

The Packers have occasionally flirted with the idea of a veteran backup.

They brought in Vince Young in 2013, which made for a pretty interesting pre-season before he was eventually cut.

Young was replaced by veteran Seneca Wallace, who lasted 24 passes in relief of Rodgers before getting hurt.

Green Bay then started Scott Tolzien in two games before reacquiring Matt Flynn.

Prior to that, Jim McMahon was the Packers backup for the 1995 and 1996 seasons.

From 2005 to 2007, Green Bay had perhaps the best quarterback depth group of any team in NFL history with Favre as the starter and Rodgers as the backup.

The San Francisco combo of Joe Montana and Steve Young is the only comparable situation.

As great as this looked for the Packers on paper, it turned out not to be a highly-tenable situation.

As Rodgers began to develop as a legitimate starter, it created palpable friction, which led to Favre's messy divorce from the team.

A similar situation played out in New England between Tom Brady and Jimmy Garoppolo.

The Patriots eventually elected to trade the up-and-comer rather than the veteran.

Even with rules designed to protect the quarterback, an injury to the starter can quickly tank a whole season.

Green Bay seemed to be in an ideal situation in 2017 with a player they regarded highly in Brett Hundley.

Hundley was a 2015 draft pick who had the benefit of several years of development in the system.

Prior to his run as a nine-game starter for the Packers, there had been talk Hundley had shown enough in the preseason to be traded for a high pick.

Unfortunately, Hundley's regular-season play reduced his value, and he was unloaded to Seattle for a sixth-round pick.

If you have a franchise quarterback in the salary-cap era, it's difficult to afford a quality veteran backup.

This is why most GMs attempt to address the backup position with a low-round pick or free agent, even though there is a risk of inconsistent play.

It's important to acquire a backup quarterback with a small, salary-cap hit, and if he dazzles in his brief playing time, he might create a trade opportunity.

Perhaps most importantly, a low-round pick isn't likely to be seen as a threat to the established starter.

Most teams overpay for their starting quarterback.

Teams like Philadelphia and New Orleans represent scenarios where quality backups were acquired due to low expectations or injury concerns.

Rodgers represents around 15 percent of the total cap space for Green Bay.

When your starting quarterback is paid a premium salary, there's not much money left to pay a veteran backup quarterback.

With the growing average salary of star players, a veteran backup has become a luxury most teams can't afford. 🍖



Wings Easy game day recipe provided by **Season to Taste** Kitchen Store

Ingredients
4 pounds chicken wings cut into drumettes and flats
1 tablespoon aluminium free baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons garlic powder
Pinch of cracked pepper

Buffalo Sauce:
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
1/2 cup Frank's Original Red Hot Sauce
1-2 tablespoons honey

Adjust oven rack to upper-middle position and preheat oven to 450F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminium foil and set a heat-proof wire rack inside.

Pat dry chicken wings liberally with paper towels, blotting out as much moisture as you can. Transfer to large bowl.

In a small bowl, combine baking powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper together. Sprinkle mixture over wings, tossing to coat evenly.

Arrange on rack, leaving about 1-inch of space between each wing.

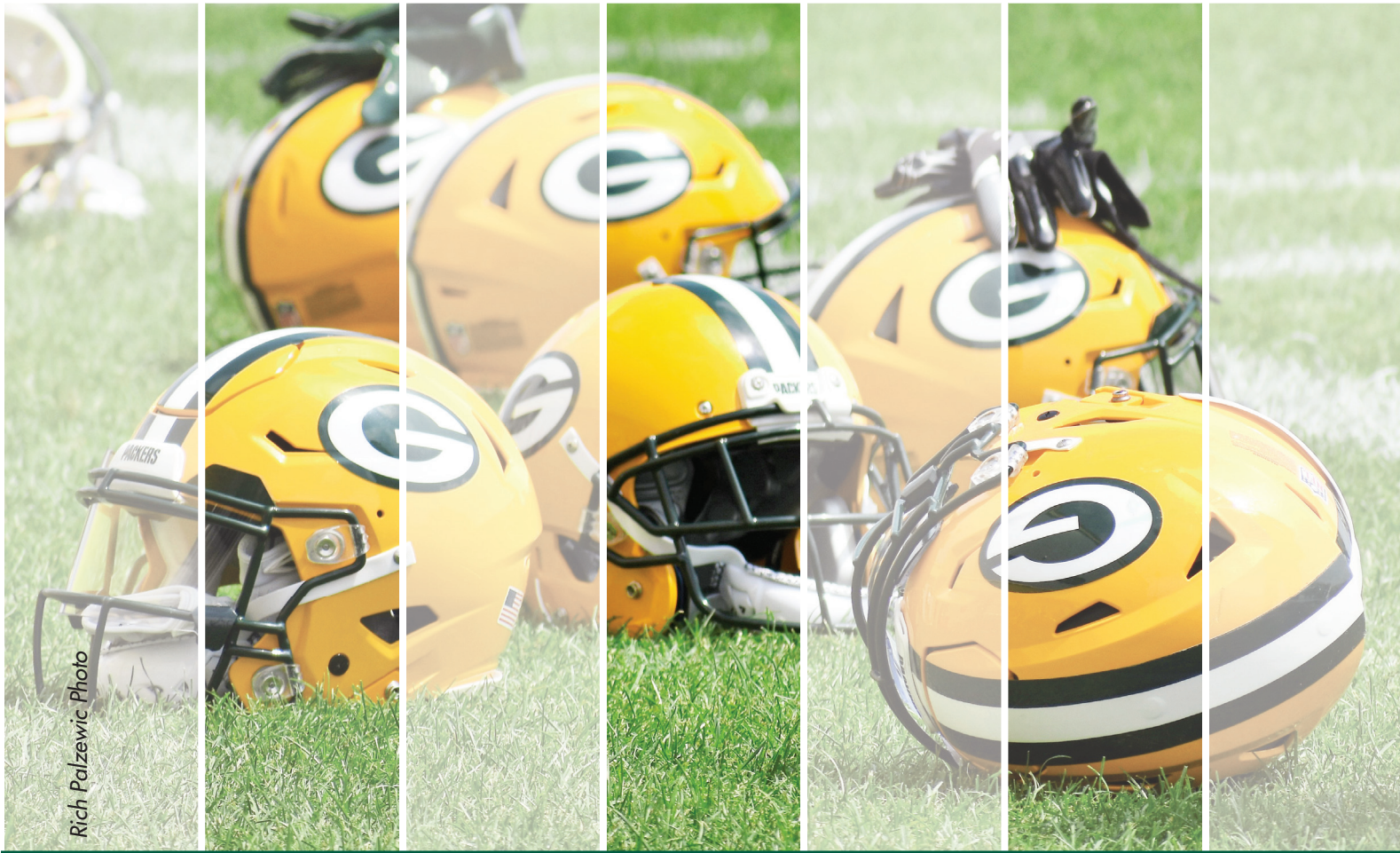
Bake for 30 minutes; turn and continue to bake until crisp and golden brown (about 20-30 minutes.)

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Rich Palzewicz Photo

Packers plan to expand storage building to heat Clarke Hinkle Field

BY KEVIN BONESKE
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

The village of Ashwaubenon's Site Plan Review Committee and Plan Commission approved a site plan in October for the Green Bay Packers to construct a 20x25-foot addition on an existing storage building to be able to heat Clarke Hinkle Field along Oneida Street.

Building Inspector Kyle Pederson said the practice equipment storage will be moved to the new addition, and the existing building space will be used to house a new boiler to heat the practice field adjacent to that building.

Craig Cornell, facility manager for Ziese Construction, which is building the addition, said the entire building will have a metal wall panel with joints 42 inches apart.

"When we originally drew this, we didn't add the concrete block unit on the bottom, because this finish is so attractive," Cornell said. "It's nice and clean

with panels, but we didn't have the time or luxury to go through a variance. We'd love to, but we don't have the time."

Construction will take place in November.

Community Development Director Aaron Schuette said the village's ordinances require a minimum of 3-foot masonry wainscoting on the bottom of the building.

Cornell said the Packers will select a color for the wainscoting.

Because the storage building is located south of the Don Hutson Center and adjacent to the Soap Products Co. structure to the east, Trustee Gary Paul said he doesn't have a problem with constructing the addition behind the existing building because many people won't even notice it's there.

"It isn't like trucks or cars are going to be back there," Paul said.

The plans submitted to the village also show a piping system to be installed underneath the field for heating.

Aaron Popkey, Packers director of

public affairs, said the heating will allow the field to be used later in the year.

"This is overall field upgrade work we've been working on the last few years and continuing into the future," Popkey said. "We're replacing the [outdoor practice] fields with the same surface we've had at Lambeau [Field]."

The other practice field to the east of the Don Hutson Center, Ray Nitschke Field, already is heated.

Popkey said Clarke Hinkle Field will have the heating system installed underneath when that field is replaced to also extend its use later into the year.

"We've had it on Nitschke Field for several years, so the guys can work outside late in the year," he said. "We're going to do the same thing with Hinkle, so we've got a couple of options there. We're replacing both practice fields [the surface] with the same type of surface.

Popkey said the building addition project is necessary to add a boiler to be able to heat Clarke Hinkle Field. 🏈

CROATIAN OLYMPIAN VISITS LAMBEAU



Martin and Manuela Sinkovic before the Sept. 26 game at Lambeau Field against the Philadelphia Eagles. Sinkovic, an Olympic gold medalist from Croatia, is also a Packers fan.

RICH PALZEWIC PHOTO

BY RICH PALZEWIC
EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Not only is Croatia’s Martin Sinkovic an Olympic gold medalist in rowing, but he’s also a rabid Packers fan.

Sinkovic and his wife Manuela had a dream come true when they visited Lambeau Field for the Sept. 22 game against Denver and the Sept. 26 contest versus Philadelphia.

The pair was able to see a win and a loss, respectively.

The 29-year-old Sinkovic won a gold medal in double sculls with his brother Valent at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and a silver medal in London (2012) in the quadruple sculls.

American football is not a popular sport in Croatia, but Sinkovic saw a game

on television in November 2016, and the Packers happened to be the team he watched that day.

“I had never seen an American football game in Europe before, especially in Croatia,” he said. “There are only a few people who watch American football in Croatia – I first thought the game was boring to watch. Once I started to watch, I liked it and gave it a try. The Packers seemed like a nice team to me, so I started watching more of their games. When the season ended, I couldn’t wait until the next September to watch them again.”

To immerse himself in the team and culture, Sinkovic took his liking of the Green and Gold a step further.

“I began to watch films about the Packers and discovered the history and everything behind it – it’s something

special,” said Sinkovic. “I’m a huge fan, and it was my dream to come to Lambeau and watch a game live. I got the time off after the World Championships and was able to come. It was perhaps the greatest 10 days of my life.”

Before arriving in America, Sinkovic sent an email to the Green Bay Rowing Club and accommodations were made for him to stay at the home of local rower Ken Dollhopf and his wife Lou Damiano.

Robinson Metal graciously donated tickets to the Sinkovics and invited them to a tailgate party.

“It will be really hard for me to explain what it was like in Green Bay and watching a game to my friends back home,” Sinkovic said. “There is a stadium in the middle of the city with houses all around. You have to be here to understand it. I hope to come back very



Sinkovic, front, with members of the La Baie Vette Rowing Club on the Fox River.

LOU DAMIANO PHOTO

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Sinkovic, far left, holds a question-and-answer session with St. Norbert College athletes. LOU DAMIANO PHOTO

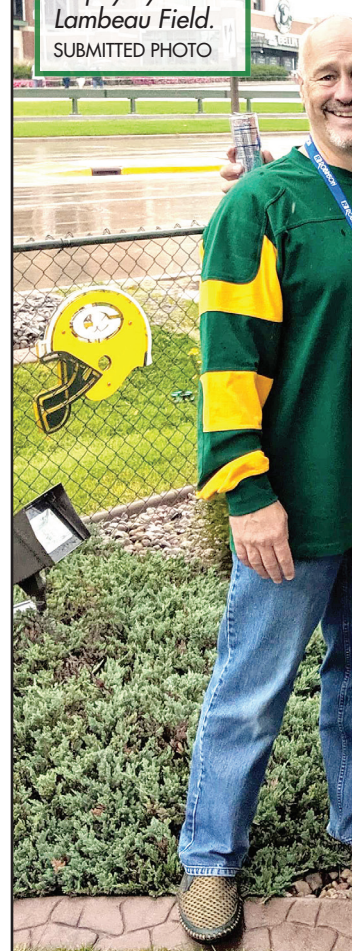
soon, maybe even the year after next.”
The couple was also able to visit Door County for a day.

“I liked Door County – it was very pretty, but I liked Green Bay better,” said a smiling Sinkovic. “The people were very friendly. We also did a stadium tour and visited the Hall of Fame.”

In addition to his Olympic prowess, Sinkovic is a six-time world champion in various rowing disciplines.

“I have also qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics,” he said. “I am hoping to bring home another gold and continue my career until the 2024 Olympics in Paris for sure. You never know – maybe even the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles,

From left, Ken Dollhopf, Martin Sinkovic, Manuela Sinkovic and Lou Damiano stand in front of the Lombardi Trophy by Lambeau Field. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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Sinkovic enjoying a shake at Al's Hamburger Shop in Green Bay. LOU DAMIANO PHOTO

but that's a long ways away and a lot of years from now."

Sinkovic started rowing about 20 years ago at the age of 9.

"I have another older brother who saw rowing on television, and he liked it," he said. "After I saw he had a good time, I started to row and Valent started rowing, too. My parents don't row but enjoy watching us when they can – it's a beautiful story."

While in Green Bay, Sinkovic was able to row with the Green Bay club three or four times to keep sharp in between going to the games.

"The Fox River is beautiful for rowing," said Sinkovic. "It's not too small or too big – we had a great time." 🏈



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Majkowski reminisces about “Instant Replay” game

BY RICH PALZEWIC
EDITOR

Nov. 5 marks the 30th anniversary of one of the most famous games in Green Bay Packers’ history – the “Instant Replay” game against the Chicago Bears in 1989.

With 32 seconds remaining from the Bears’ 14-yard line, Former Green Bay quarterback Don Majkowski scrambled to his right with Bears’ left end Trace Armstrong chasing.

Just outside the numbers, Majkowski threw a pass across his body to Sterling Sharpe for an apparent touchdown.

Lambeau went crazy, but the side official who was set up on the line of scrimmage about 50 yards across the field on the Chicago sideline, saw Majkowski’s release as over the line.

As the Bears celebrated, the replay official in the press box buzzed down to the referee to signal he was reviewing the play.

Watching the YouTube video of the play, the replay official realistically lacked the required “indisputable visual evidence” to overturn the call on the field.

Majkowski’s front foot last touched the field at the 15, a yard behind the line of scrimmage.

Majkowski jumped forward and to the side as he released the pass while going out of bounds – there’s no way to see whether the ball came out before Majkowski’s hand crossed the 14.

The sideline camera was at about the 20, long before high-definition television.

“It was a touchdown,” said a smiling Majkowski at the Packers Hall of Fame Golf Classic this past summer. “It was a close play, but in the end, the officials got the call right.”

After a long, four-plus minute wait, the call on the field was overturned.

With Chris Jacker’s extra point, the Packers won the game, 14-13.

“I can’t imagine what Lambeau would have been like if the call wasn’t overturned,” Majkowski laughed. “It was definitely the highlight of the 1989 season, and I was lucky enough to be a part of it.”

The NFL had added instant replay in 1986, rescinded it after the ‘91 season and then brought it back in ‘99 under the current coach challenge system.

The rule at the time depended solely on the ball at the point of release and not on the quarterback’s body.

If the ball was behind the line of scrimmage on release, the pass was legal, no matter where the quarterback’s feet were.

Today, the rule is both body and ball have to be behind the line.

Majkowski had turned the ball over

twice in the red zone before the score – once on a fumble and the other on an interception with 7 minutes to play.

“I remember coming off the field after the interception and (coach) Lindy (Infante) grabbed me by the face mask and said, ‘Keep your head up because you’re still going to be the hero,’” Majkowski said.

Majkowski, who played his college ball at the University of Virginia, got the ball back at his 27 with 4:44 left and moved to the Bears’ 7 with 1:26 to play.

On first down, he fumbled while getting sacked, but Packers center Blair Bush recovered.

After two incompletions, the game came down to one play – 4th and goal from the 14, with 41 seconds to play.

After the game, both teams were 5-4.

The Packers went on to finish 10-6 but missed the playoffs on a tiebreaker to the Minnesota Vikings.

The Bears won only once more the remainder of the season.

“Even though we missed the playoffs, it was still a magical year,” Majkowski said. “It brought back a lot of excitement to the city of Green Bay. Our team came into its own that season, but what I remember most is beating the Bears twice that year. I was in the right place at the right time.”

In the previous 21 seasons, the Packers qualified for the playoffs only twice and finished above .500 three times.

Going into the Nov. 5, 1989, matchup at Lambeau, Green Bay had lost to Chicago eight straight times.

Majkowski would make the Pro Bowl in ‘89 and was named second-team All-Pro.

His 4,318 passing yards also led the NFL the same season.

“It’s an honor to be in such a special group,” Majkowski said.

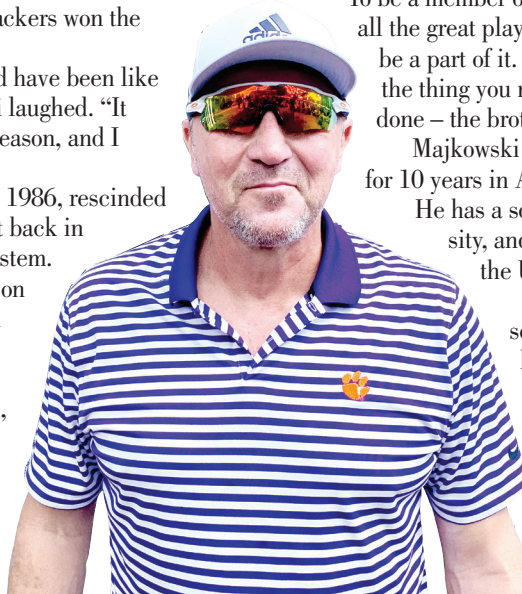
“To be a member of the Packers Hall of Fame and be around all the great players in team history – I’m truly blessed to be a part of it. You develop some great bonds, and that’s the thing you miss the most after your playing career is done – the brotherhood.”

Majkowski owned a real estate investment company for 10 years in Atlanta but is now retired.

He has a son playing baseball at Clemson University, and his daughter recently graduated from the University of Georgia.

“I’m enjoying life and love following my son on the baseball team,” said Majkowski, whose wife is from Menomonee Falls. “This is a fulltime job for me now, and I love it.” 🏈

Former Packers quarterback Don Majkowski at the 2019 Packers Hall of Fame Golf Classic this past summer. RICH PALZEWIC PHOTO



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GREEN BAY WEST PLAYERS

compete in Quarterback Challenge at Lambeau



Green Bay West High School football players Jack Hemery (22), Damion Henrichs (82) and Trey Stevens-Broadnax (3) stand with head coach John Saharsky at halftime of the Packers game Sept. 15. The trio of players competed in the Quarterback Challenge. SUBMITTED PHOTO

BY GREG BATES
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

GREEN BAY – With every step Jack Hemery took walking down the stairs at Lambeau Field, his nerves made him rattled.

He has attended a number of home Green Bay Packers games, but this was different.


This time, Hemery was going to be on the field – and even cooler, he was going to be throwing passes to two of his friends.

Hemery, the junior quarterback for the Green Bay West High School football team, along with Damion Henrichs and Trey Stevens-Broadnax, were representing the school in the High School Quarterback Challenge at halftime of the Packers-Minnesota game Sept. 15.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing,” Hemery said. “You dream about being at Lambeau, and it was cool to be out there. I was surprised at how loud it was being down on the field.”

An announced crowd of 78,416 packed the stands for the early-season matchup between the division rivals.

Those in attendance were also more rowdy with the looming ceremony in honor



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of late Packers quarterback Bart Starr at halftime.

West took on Kaukauna in the Quarterback Challenge.

The two programs were chosen for the competition because they won the Packers +1 Challenge, which awards area high schools with the highest increase in the number of students participating in football since last year.

West had the best percentage increase from 34 to 54 players.

The players received tickets to the game, and all the guys got to sit in the stands together.

When the second quarter began, the high school athletes made their way to the field to be part of the halftime show.

The West players, along with their coach, John Saharsky, stood in the corner of the end zone for the majority of the second quarter watching the action unfolding not too far away.

Once halftime started, each team had two opportunities – with alternating throws – to see which could complete the longest throw and catch.

Saharsky had a little advice for his players before starting the competition.

“I told them they’d already won,” Saharsky said. “Having us grow our program is so big. I said, ‘Go out and have fun.’ Normally, you have to tell a kid not to be nervous, but they weren’t nervous at all. They were having fun.”

West went first, as sophomore receiver Stevens-Broadnax narrowly missed hauling in a pass from Hemery.

Kaukauna converted on its first throw to put the pressure on.

“He threw me the ball when I was pretty deep, so I had to make a body catch to secure it,” said Henrichs, a senior who is one of the top receivers in the Bay Conference.

The ball traveled about 45 yards in the air.

“Jack overthrew Trey a little bit, but he wasn’t going to over-throw Damon,” Saharsky said. “It was cool to see him get out there and catch it.”

With its final throw, Kaukauna completed a longer pass to win the competition.

“You always want to win, but in the end, we received free tickets to a Packers game – it was a great game, too,” Hemery said. “There was nothing to be disappointed about.”

Henrichs was excited to haul in a pass on the grass at Lambeau.

“It was a dream come true,” he said. “Catching the ball in front of thousands of fans. It’s crazy to be down on the field and hear all the noise.”

Getting to participate in the Quarterback Challenge created a lot of buzz around the West program.

When it was announced the school was going to compete, Saharsky thought the best way to decide which three players would be picked was to have a competition within the team.

“The kids had a lot of fun after practice one day,” Saharsky said. “We were lining up like they were on the sideline and throwing those 50-yard bombs. It was fun to see them all running around.”

Once the day of the competition arrived, Henrichs, Hemery and Stevens-Broadnax said they were excited.

“It was a great opportunity,” Henrichs said. “It will be something I’ll look back on for the rest of my life. Making a catch in front of all those fans was a dream come true. I loved it.”

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Bay Port's Wahl meets with Rodgers

BY RICH PALZEWIC
EDITOR

SUAMICO – Bay Port High School recent graduate Delaney Wahl is the biggest Green Bay Packers fan she knows.

That's why getting to meet quarterback Aaron Rodgers was a special moment in time for her.

The visit for Wahl and her family was made possible by the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Bergstrom Automotive.

Make-A-Wish arranges experiences described as "wishes" to children diagnosed with critical illnesses.

Wahl is like a lot of teenagers – athletic, strong, kind, sarcastic, loves to shop and is fun.

You wouldn't guess the 18-year old is living with a rare form of cancer called Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma (EHE).

EHE is a vascular sarcoma primarily affecting adolescents and young adults.

It's characterized by unpredictable tumors which form on blood vessels, most commonly found in the arms, legs, lungs and liver.

EHE affects only a few hundred people per year.

"The Make-A-Wish kids knew Rodgers was going to be there, but we had to keep it quiet," said Wahl. "All of a sudden, he walked into the room, and I was like, 'Oh my God.' The whole time he was there, he walked around and talked to the kids and their families. It was getting close to the end of his time, and I was the last person who got to see him. I shook his hand, and said to him, 'Hi, nice to meet you – I'm Laney.' He said, 'Nice to meet you – I'm Aaron.' I had a bag of EHE Foundation stuff with a 'Team Laney' shirt in there. I told him I wore a lot of stuff with his name on the back, so I figured we could switch roles and he could wear something with my name on it. He smiled and said, 'That sounds good – that's pretty clever.' He took the time to ask me about my last appointment and learn about all the families. It was really awesome."

Before her visit with Rodgers, Wahl and her family were able to vacation in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean as part of her Make-A-Wish trip.

"It didn't seem real because it was so gorgeous," Wahl said. "My life is hectic with running the foundation, so it was awesome to go on a trip for a week and have no stress. I didn't have to worry about doctor's visits and meetings. It was so calm for my family and me."

Wahl, who moved to Green Bay in 2017 from Virginia after her father retired from the military, said she started getting shooting pains in her left arm when she was 8.

She was a full-time gymnast at the time, so the doctors treated her for tendonitis.

Eventually, the pain got to be constant, and her arm would



Bay Port High School graduate Delaney Wahl, left, stands with Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and sister Olivia at a Make-A-Wish Foundation event this past spring.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

give out.

After a few years of fighting with the doctors and not having them give her scans, it got to the point where Wahl could see a tumor on her arm because it was so big.

She was 12 at the time.

Doctors finally did a scan, and the tumor showed up.

Wahl was officially diagnosed with EHE in 2014 after being misdiagnosed early on – a common occurrence with the disease.

Due to the rarity of the cancer, there is currently no cure or set treatment plan, and funds for research are lacking.

Most funds are raised directly by the families affected.

Because of this, Wahl and her family started a non-profit – The EHE Foundation – in 2015 to raise money for research.

Wahl's type of cancer does not respond well to the typical chemo and radiation treatments, so everyone is treated differently.

As Wahl pointed out, "Some treatments work for others that don't work for me."

Wahl is currently on a drug commonly used as an anti-rejection medication for organ transplants.

She also takes anti-nausea medication before working out because getting her heart rate up so high makes her nauseous.

As long as she does her medication, she feels fine during strenuous activities.

Wahl, who was a part of Bay Port's 2018 WIAA Division 1 state championship soccer team, attends UW-Green Bay and will continue to fight for those affected with EHE.

"When I was diagnosed with EHE, there were 11 teenagers worldwide at the time who were officially diagnosed with EHE," said Wahl. "Of those 11, there are only four of us left, so that's

See **WAHL** page 26

GREEN AND GOLD GALA HONORS STARR

BY HEATHER GRAVES
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

Nearly 50 Green Bay Packers alumni – dozens who played with or played for the late Bart Starr – flooded Lambeau Field Sept. 13 for the 31st Annual Green and Gold Gala.

The gala, which benefits the Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, was one of the many events held during Alumni Weekend to honor Starr.

Jeff Vande Leest, president of the Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, said about five years ago, the organization developed the arrangement with the Green Bay Packers that the Green and Gold Gala would always be held in conjunction with Alumni Weekend.

“That is where our event took off,” Vande Leest said. “We had the excitement and enthusiasm of the alumni coming back and sharing their stories. Their willingness to mingle with the fans has been an important thing for us.”

Vande Leest said this year’s event was recording-breaking with 800 attendees – the first time the event has been sold out.

“The interest in the event was sky-high this year,” Vande Leest said. “Because the Starr family came and we honored the legacy of Bart Starr, it was a huge benefit for us.”

The money raised through the Green



A silent auction was held to raise money toward supporting programming throughout northeast Wisconsin through the family services organization. HEATHER GRAVES PHOTOS

and Gold Gala goes toward supporting programming throughout northeast Wisconsin through the family services organization.

“Not all the programs we operate are fully funded, so when there are gaps in the funding, this money allows us to be innovative, fill the gaps and meet the community needs,” Vande Leest said.

Vande Leest said the Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin is the oldest human services organization in the Green Bay/

Brown County area.

“We have been around for a long time, and I think we’ve gotten pretty good at what we do,” he said.

The evening started with an informal reception on the fourth floor of the Lambeau Field Atrium – giving attendees the chance to bid on the nearly 300 silent-auction items, as well as mix and mingle with Packers alumni.

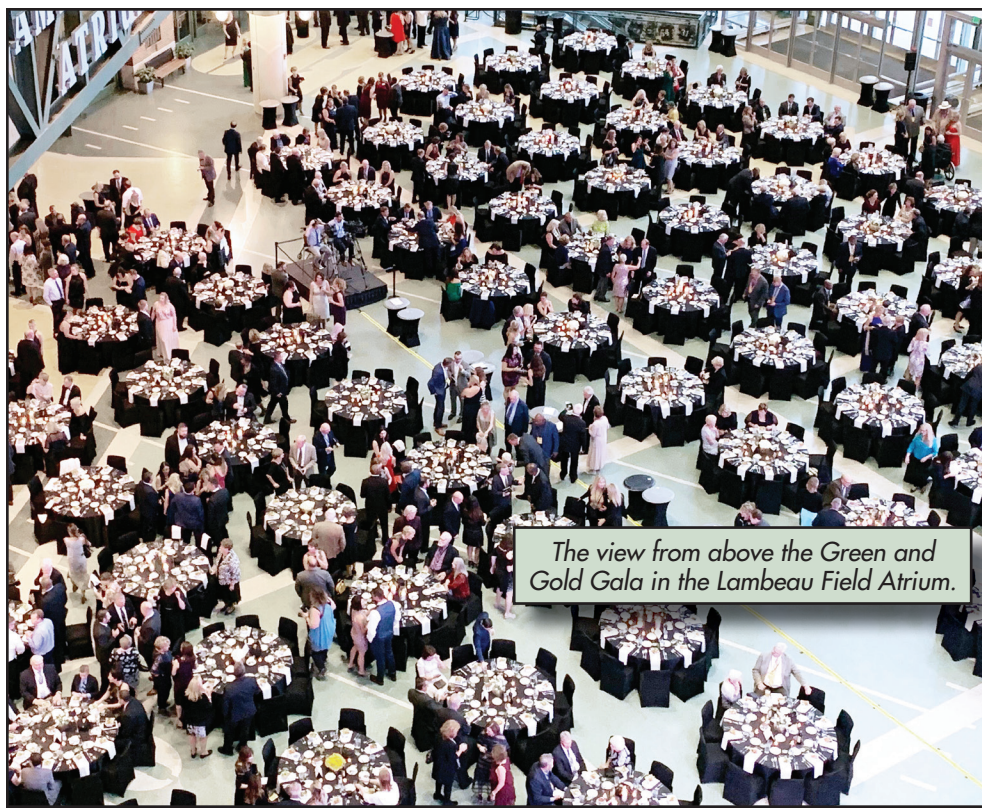
Some of the silent auction items included a ride to Lambeau Field in Starr’s 1967 Super Bowl MVP Corvette Stingray, a Packers 100 Seasons flag which flew over Lambeau Field and a variety of autographed pictures from former Packers players.

A sit-down dinner, live auction – featuring a signed Starr jersey and helmet signed by 18 NFL Pro Hall of Fame quarterbacks, including Starr and Brett Favre – and program followed.

Cherry Starr (Bart’s widow) and Bart Starr Jr. sat down with former Packers player Larry McCarren to talk about Bart Starr Sr., his life and his philanthropic efforts in Green Bay and their home state of Alabama.

The Starrs delighted the crowd with

See **GREEN AND GOLD GALA** page 26



The view from above the Green and Gold Gala in the Lambeau Field Atrium.

Q & A

with Chris Jacke

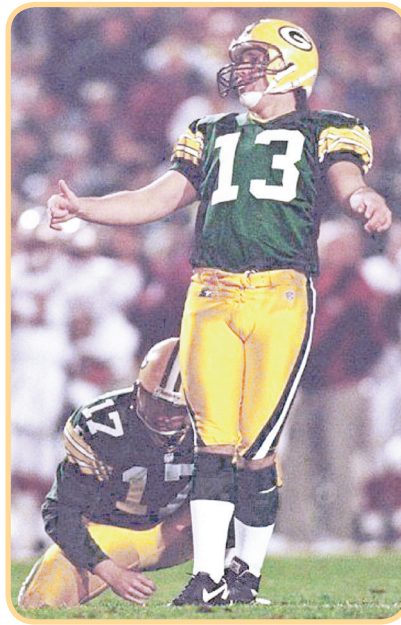
BY MIKE JACQUART
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

Editor's note: Packerland Pride contributor Mike Jacquart recently had the opportunity to interview former Packers placekicking great Chris Jacke.

Jacke, who was a sixth-round draft pick out of Texas El-Paso in 1989, discusses his Packers' career and the Player Alumni Resources LLC, which he founded in 2013 "to keep Green Bay Packers' history and tradition alive for generations to come."

Jacke, a 2013 Packers Hall of Famer, is the fourth-leading scorer in team history.

To view Jacke's player's alumni website, visit playeralumniresources.com.



Former Packers kicker Chris Jacke is the fourth-leading scorer in team history.

PACKERS HALL OF FAME PHOTO

Packerland Pride: With four, 1-point victories and a 10-6 record, 1989 was a very memorable season for the "Cardiac Pack" despite not making the playoffs. Could you tell us a little about your role as a rookie kicker in so many close games?

Chris Jacke: "Being a rookie, my eyes were wide open being the new kid on the block. Fortunately, I had several guys like Don Bracken, Don Majkowski and Brian Noble take me under their wing. The '89 season I still consider one of my favorites, learning to play in the NFL and having so many come-from-behind wins."

PP: After '89, the Packers had back-to-back losing seasons before Mike Holmgren was hired as head coach in 1992. At what point did you think, "The Pack was back?"

CJ: "It was a process, but as more players – free agents Reggie White and Sean Jones and trading for Brett Favre – decided to join the Packers, I knew it was only a matter of time before we would make a legitimate run at the Super Bowl."

PP: Of course, everyone fondly remembers the Packers' 35-21 Super Bowl XXXI win over the New England Patriots. Could you share with readers a few favorite memories from the championship victory?

CJ: "It was an incredible feeling. The team had been through so much to reach that point – player turnover, not playing in Milwaukee, watching Brett grow as a quarterback and finally beating the teams which were always there at the end like the Cowboys and 49ers."

PP: I'd like to bring readers up to speed about your role as founder and head of Player Alumni Resources LLC, which has a mission of increasing "the interaction of former Green Bay Packers players and Wisconsin sports celebrities with Wisconsin communities, organizations and fans of all ages." What made you so passionate about starting this organization, and what are some of the appearances that alumni members are involved in?

CJ: "I started Player Alumni Resources to keep the history alive of past teams and to keep the alumni connected with the best fans in sports. Alumni are available for all types of appearances, from an autograph session, golf outing, fishing trip, to complex speaking engagements. We are always open to hearing what the fans might have in mind, too."

PP: Could you tell us a little about your family?

CJ: "I am married to my wife Terri. She runs her own business consulting firm in Green Bay and works with several high-profile companies across the country. My oldest son graduated from West Point in 2016 and is currently stationed in Ft. Polk, Louisiana. My youngest son went to Loras College and is working in Green Bay. My daughter graduated from Marquette in 2017, went on to get her masters in special education at UW-Madison and is currently working in Milwaukee."

PP: It seems to me, most football fans don't remember past players quite like how Packers fans recall former Green Bay Packers. I would imagine that is special to Packers alumni. Is this part of what keeps your PAR 13 organization going?

CJ: "That's what Player Alumni Resources is all about – keeping the connection with the fans." 🍷

WAHL from page 24

what drives me to continue the fight. With any job, there are days I say, 'I don't want to do this anymore.' Working with a cancer foundation has a lot of sadness – it's a hard job. Having the motivation I'm losing friends keeps driving me."

Wahl said finding a cure is the ultimate goal, but finding a treatment plan is the first step.

"When we first started the foundation, it was grassroots and everything went through my house," she said. "We've grown to have two sister foundations – one in Australia and one in England. My mom [Julie] is the president of the foundation overall, but not everything comes through us anymore. The foundation has grown so much."

To donate to EHE, log on to fighehe.org. 🍷

GREEN AND GOLD GALA

from page 25

stories and memories of the late Hall of Fame quarterback.

"I never thought I'd be here under such circumstances, but I was so pleased when they told me what they wanted to do," Cherry Starr said. "We follow the Packers every Sunday – we're their biggest fans still. Bart would be so proud – I know he would be. I miss him so much."

Following the question-and-answer session, the family services presented the Starrs with the Billie "Irene" Kress Community Impact Award for all they've done for the communities they've been a part of.

The events honoring Starr continued Sept. 14 with a commemorative celebration at Rawhide in New London.

On Sept. 15, players, alumni and fans took time to honor the Packers great with a brief halftime presentation during the Packers win over the Vikings. 🍷

Starr left a lasting impression on many

BY HEATHER GRAVES
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND PRIDE

The history of the Green Bay Packers would not be what it is without the late Bart Starr.

From his days taking snaps as quarterback from 1956 to 1971, to his days calling plays as head coach from 1975 to 1983, the legacy of No. 15 will always live on in Green Bay.

For some former Packers players in Titledown for Alumni Weekend in mid-September, the chance to be a part of an event honoring the late NFL Pro Hall of Fame quarterback was something they were humbled to be a part of.

Former quarterback Lynn Dickey vividly recalls his first meeting with Starr after being traded to the team in 1976.

“I was lucky,” Dickey said. “I feel very blessed I got to play and be around him – me as a player, him as a coach for the eight years I was around him. It was really neat to be a quarterback and get to play for a guy who actually played quarterback. When I’d come off the field and he’d give me a hint to look for this or that, I’d think, I should probably listen to what he



From left, former Packers quarterback Brett Favre, Cherry Starr (wife of the late Bart Starr) and Bart Starr Jr. enter Lambeau Field Sept. 15. The Packers honored Bart Starr in a ceremony at halftime. RICH PALZEWIC PHOTOS

has to say.”

Former center Larry McCarren said he is often asked about Starr.

“My response always ends with Hall of Fame player, Hall of Fame human being,” McCarren said.

The weekend was the first time former linebacker Gary Weaver came back to

Green Bay and Lambeau Field since he retired.

Having the opportunity to honor his late coach made the decision to come back easy.

“Bart was a great man, and he was an outstanding person,” Weaver said. “He took me in when I got cut from the Oakland Raiders. He picked me up, brought me here and gave me a chance to play.”

Former tight end Paul Coffman said there was never a lack of hope when playing for Starr.

“He gave us hope, made us believe in ourselves, made us believe in our team and what we were trying to do,” Coffman said. “We didn’t win as many games as we hoped, we didn’t win a Super Bowl, but Bart gave us hope every day. When he came and addressed the team, we knew we had each other’s backs when we were out on the field. We were going to do the best we could for our love of football, for Bart and for each other. He instilled this in us all.”

The Packers are dedicating this season to the legendary leader with No. 15 decals on player’s helmets, on the field and on fan buttons. 🏈



Former Green Bay players Paul Hornung (15) and Jerry Kramer, right, came to town for Alumni Weekend to honor the late Bart Starr.

The Minnesota Vikings traveled to Lambeau Sept. 15, a game the Packers won, 21-16.



[Above] Tanya Hatcher, left, and Jaryd Ryan from Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

[Left] Mike Bone from Brandon, South Dakota.

[Right] Erik Hannestad, left, and Shayla Hamann from Bay City, Wisconsin.



6.



[Left] Jose Garcia from Medellin, Colombia.



Kenneth Mendez from Colorado Springs, Colorado.



From left, Karina and Gerardo Lavallo from Monterrey, Mexico.

The Philadelphia Eagles came to town Sept. 26 and left with an exciting 34-27 victory.



Nathan Plitzuweit from Green Bay.

Rich Palzewic Photos



King Queso (middle) and his court from Oconomowoc.



Aaron Starr, left, and son Zach Starr from Philadelphia.



The "100 Years Minion" made an appearance in the parking lot.

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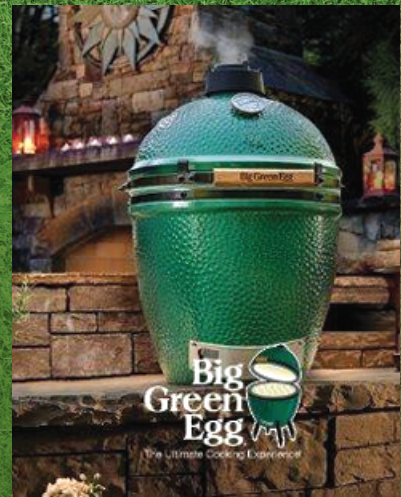
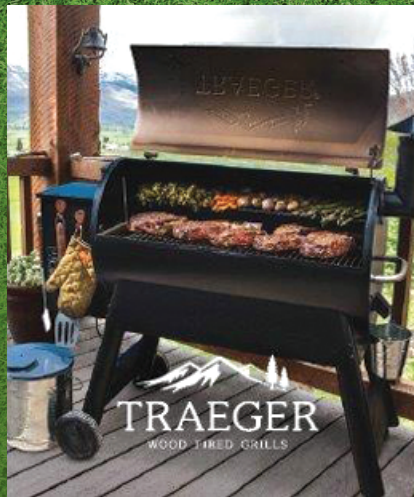
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