

Press Times

DECEMBER 2022

PACKERLAND™



Packerland is not affiliated with or sponsored by Green Bay Packers Inc. For official information on the Green Bay Packers professional football team, go to the official website, located at www.packers.com.



A FAVORITE PACKERS EMPLOYEE
Andy Gruber, who has worked for the team
for 29 years, is loved by players and coaches.



You had me at
Aloha
Win your share of over
\$37,000 IN CASH & PRIZES!

EARN ENTRIES DECEMBER 4 - 31

Drawings on Saturdays, December 10, 17, 24 & 31

One winner will be drawn every 30 minutes from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
and 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm for the final drawing on December 3.

Win a roundtrip to Hawaii
valued at
\$10,000 + \$1,000 CASH!



MENOMINEE
CASINO RESORT

Where the Winners Play

N277 Hwy. 47/55 • Keshena, WI 54135
800-343-7778 • MenomineeCasinoResort.com



Must be a Players Club member, membership is FREE. Must be present to win. For complete rules see Guest Services.
Menominee Casino Resort reserves all rights to alter or cancel any promotion at any time without notice.

Publisher: Patrick Wood
Publisher Emeritus:
Christopher Wood
Group Manager: Dave Wood
General Manager: Mike Hollihan
Editor: Greg Bates
gbates@mmlocal.com
Graphic Designer: Cody Papp

VISIT US ONLINE
www.packerlandpride.com



Facebook:
facebook.com/PackerlandPride

**SUBSCRIPTION
INFORMATION:**

Subscription Department
PO Box 408
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-4360

SUBSCRIBE ON-LINE AT
WWW.SHOPMMLOCAL.COM

**Mail \$19.95 for a one
year subscription
(6 issues - Sept. - Feb.)**
to PO Box 408,
Waupaca, WI 54981

**ADVERTISING
INFORMATION**

310 W. Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
920-265-4872

Mike Hollihan
mhollihan@mmlocal.com

**PACKERLAND
MAGAZINE IS
DISTRIBUTED BY:**

Bullseye Distribution

**PACKERLAND MAGAZINE
IS PUBLISHED BY:**



The Press Times
310 W. Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
920-499-1200 and



MMC
MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS

Local Media | Better Results

Multi Media Channels LLC
310 W. Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
920-499-1200
tschreiber@mmlocal.com

© Copyright Multi Media Channels
LLC 2022. All Rights Reserved.
No part of this publication or any
of its contents may be reproduced,
copied, modified, or adapted
without the prior written consent
of Multi Media Channels LLC.

FROM THE EDITOR



Andy Gruber and Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers have a special relationship. The two text on a regular basis.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

It's been a disheartening season thus far for the Packers, that's for sure.

The team had big expectations heading into the year with its much-anticipated defense but an offense that was unproven after the departure of star wide receiver Davante Adams.

Well, the loss of Adams has been detrimental, and quarterback Aaron Rodgers hasn't been able to find any receivers to fill the massive void. A once electric offense is as mere shell of itself these days.

Defensively, the Packers haven't lived up to the hype. A friend of mine joked after the Packers dropped to 3-6 that the defense only looked dominant in early-season practices because it was taking on the stagnant Packers' offense. There might be a lot of truth in that.

With a rough season, the Packers could land a top-10 draft pick. That's something the team hasn't done since the 2009 Draft when it selected B.J. Raji at No. 9. Two years later, the Packers won the Super Bowl.

Green Bay has not picked in the top five since taking A.J. Hawk in 2006.

It's tough when the Packers have such a bad season that they land a high draft pick, but that's maybe exactly what this franchise needs. Maybe it has the opportunity to draft the top wide receiver in college? Maybe it picks Rodgers' heir apparent at quarterback? I'm not sure Jordan Love is the answer at this point. Green Bay has been extremely fortunate to have a Hall-of-Fame-caliber player behind center for the last 30 years.

Any way this season turns out, let's hope it's for the best for the franchise.

In this issue of Packerland, writer Rich Palzewicz sat down with longtime Packers employee Andy Gruber. He has been helping out the team

since 1994 and is equipment manager Gordon "Red" Batty's right-hand man. Gruber, who has a cognitive disability, has become a favorite of Packers players over the years. He's extremely tight with Rodgers, who exchanges text messages with Gruber on a regular basis. Gruber is a fascinating person who has lived a fascinating life being around the Packers' organization for nearly 30 years.

Also in this Packerland, writer Kevin Damask introduces you to diehard Packers fan and memorabilia collector Courtney Duchow. She once met Randall Cobb — at Walmart, of all places — and got an autograph of the Packers great. That started her fascination with collecting player autographs and memorabilia. "Man cave" has become a common term for a man who decks out a room with certain hobby-related attire. What Duchow has is a "woman cave." And it's pretty impressive.

We also have a historical piece about an exhibition game that was played in 1949 when former Packers came back to raise money to save the team. It was a quite a spectacle as 15,000 fans packed City Stadium. It's quite a story too about how the franchise was saved.

If you have any story ideas, please reach out to me — gbates@mmlocal.com. I'd love to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to read about in future Packerland issues.



E-mail:
gbates@mmlocal.com

Mail:
310 West Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

f Find us on
Facebook **twitter**

Social media:
facebook.com/PackerlandPride
www.twitter.com/packerlandpride

Features

6 Favorite employee

Longtime Packers employee Andy Gruber is a player and coach favorite. Gruber has a rare chromosomal disorder.

10 Save the franchise

An exhibition game in 1949 helped raised funds to keep the Packers franchise moving in the right direction.

12 Ultimate 'Woman cave'

Almond, Wis., resident Courtney Duchow has amassed quite a Packers collection over the years. Her passion started with a random bump into Randall Cobb.

15 New HOF inductees

Jordy Nelson and Josh Sitton will both be inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame next season. Both players were part of the team's last Super Bowl victory.

On the cover...

Andy Gruber holds up a championship belt with Packers players looking on after a practice this season. Gruber is a player and coach favorite having worked for the Packers for 29 years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREEN BAY PACKERS



AFFORDABLE AUTO GREEN BAY, WI



- Quality Used Vehicles
- Honest Sales
- Great Customer Service
- A+ BBB Rating

**Great Selection of Late Model Cars,
Dependable Pickups & Luxurious SUV'S!**

619 Mather St. • Green Bay • 920-432-3100
www.affordableautoinc.net

187246

'One of the guys'

Longtime Packers employee is a favorite of players, coaches

Andy Gruber and Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers have a special relationship. The two text on a regular basis.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

BY RICH PALZEWIC
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

Players and coaches come and go, but one thing has been constant for the Green Bay Packers during the last 29 years: Andy Gruber.

A Green Bay West graduate, Andy started working in the equipment room with the Packers in the early 1990s when he was just 16 years old and still in high school.

His duties are partly overseen by equipment manager Gordon "Red" Batty, who has 42 years of NFL experience, including 29 with the Packers.

"The scale of Andy's work was much different back then," Jackie Gruber, Andy's mother, said. "He would work Saturdays and do games — it was on a much smaller scale. Once he graduated, it was a slow process to get where he is today."

Jackie said Andy folds "quite a few" towels, but there's always something new and different.



Gruber has worked with many coaches, including Matt LaFleur, during his 29 seasons with the Packers.

“It all makes Andy feel like he’s a big part of the team,” she said. “I hope he can continue with things for his entire working life.”

RARE CHROMOSOMAL DISORDER

Andy, now 44, was born with a rare chromosomal disorder called 18q deletion syndrome.

Not much is known about the condition, so funding is lacking, partly because so few people are affected by it.

In Andy’s case, 18q affects his speech, digestive system and feet.

“Andy is missing a piece of his 18th chromosome,” Jackie said. “People have millions of genes in their body, and Andy is missing only 300-500. His body doesn’t make normal myelin — the

covering on the nerves. He has a lot of medical issues, but his feet were mostly affected. His body is aging.”

Andy has endured 14 surgeries in total, but his last major one occurred when he was 9.

“Andy’s feet have been rebuilt, so we’re grateful it’s been so long since he’s had anything major done,” Jackie said. “Now it’s more maintenance and limiting his hours. I worked with his doctor, and we came up with a plan. Except for gamedays, he only works six hours a day now, four days a week. At first, Andy was reluctant, but now he understands it’s for the best. He teases me and says, ‘I don’t work too much.’ The reduced hours have helped dramatically.”

In the past, Andy might have worked nine or 10 days straight during training camp.

“Andy just loves it so much, so it was hard to take some of that away from him,” Jackie said. “The Packers have been amazing and understanding about the whole thing.”

BROTHERLY LOVE VISIT

When Andy was 16, he and his mother traveled to the University of Philadelphia as part of the Human Genome Project.

“It was the project where the U.S. government spent about a gazillion dollars to map all the chromosomes in the human body,” Jackie said. “They flew us out there for a week and called Andy their ‘crowning jewel’ because he was the highest functioning person with 18q they had dealt with. There are people with smaller breakpoints who are more affected than Andy.”



Gruber enjoys it when he gets the chance to break down the team after practice.



Gruber takes the time to get a photo with Robert Tonyan, left, and Aaron Jones.

RED BATTY

Before his work with the Packers, Batty spent 13 seasons (1981-93) in the same position with the then-Houston Oilers.

He began his career in 1974 at age 14 as a ball boy for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.

Six years later, he was elevated to the position of equipment manager for the Alouettes.

Jackie said Red is almost like another dad to Andy.

“Red is a master at giving Andy new responsibilities and duties,” she said. “Red

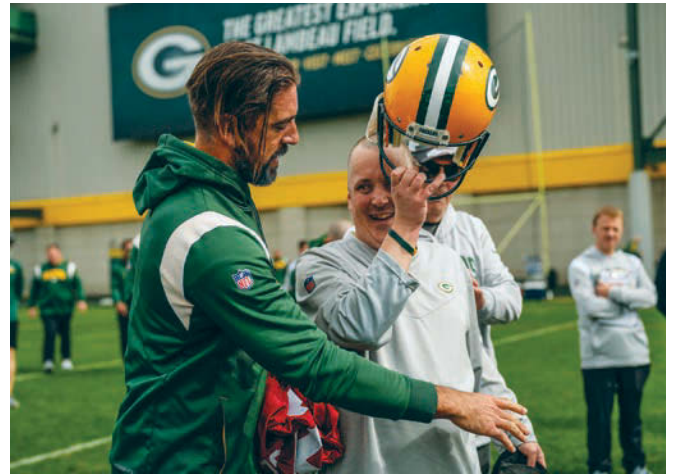
runs things by me to ensure Andy is OK with it. Once the new season starts, Andy will come home and say, ‘Guess what I’m doing now?’ Andy has a little OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) and pretends to understand situations he might not. But Red gets Andy — he loves him. He’s been good to us and part of our family.”

Jackie said the whole equipment staff has been amazing.

“Most of the guys have been there for ages, so I know I can send Andy to work and not have to worry about him getting bullied or taken advantage of,” she said.



Packers coach Matt LaFleur is excited to get a hug from Gruber.



Rodgers hands Gruber his helmet and jokes around with him after a practice.

“He’s in a safe place with people who love him, and he loves them. He looks forward to going to work.”

HOW ANDY GOT THE JOB

How Andy got the job with the Packers is a story in itself.

“My husband Larry used to own a cabinet company with his brother,” Jackie said. “At the time, Red was probably only with the team for a year when it was still the old stadium. Red needed some remodeling done in the locker room, so Larry and his brother were measuring things up and got talking with Red because training camp was going to be starting.”

Around that same time, Jackie said Andy was aging out of a summer parks program he did, so she and Larry were wondering what the next step for their son was.

“It was just casually mentioned how much Andy loved the Packers,” she said. “To this day, Red still loves to tell the story that he wanted to bring Andy in for a week — let him come in and have some fun. Andy has been there ever since.”

FAVORITE PLAYERS

Since Andy got the job in the early ’90s, thousands of players and several coaches have come through the organization.

“Andy loves when they have alumni games so he can see his buddies,” Jackie said. “He recently had the neatest experience when Donald Driver had his softball game this June. Red made it all happen

— he brought Andy along as part of his equipment staff to hang out with Donald, Antonio (Freeman) and Brett (Favre).”

Andy has his favorite players of today as well.

“He and Aaron (Rodgers) are very tight,” Jackie said. “He’s also close with special teams coach Rich Bisaccia and receiver Sammy Watkins. He lets us know who’s nice and who’s not.”

Jackie said they’ve had candid discussions with Andy about not overstepping his boundary with players and communication.

“He knows it’s cool he has Aaron Rodgers’ phone number, but we’ve drilled it into him that no one else can have that,” she laughed. “It’s taken some training, and he’s proud of what he does — he’s one of the guys.”

A LOUD FAN

Jackie said Andy is like many other Packers fans — loud when he watches away games at home.

“He gets pretty crazy,” she laughed. “He also does a lot of officiating.”

Other memorable moments

Andy has gotten to experience several other memorable moments in his 29 years with the team, including traveling to Arlington, Texas, in 2011 for Super Bowl XLV, a 31-25 victory for the Packers over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“Andy has to be watched, so he hasn’t gone to many away games,” Jackie said. “At the time (of the Super Bowl), Larry’s sister, Sue, worked part-time with the Packers. They arranged it so Sue could

go, and she was able to take care of Andy. The plane left early in the morning game-day and came back like 24 hours later — it was a quick trip.”

Jackie said when the world was different before Sept. 11, 2001, and the rules weren’t quite the in the NFL, Andy got to experience five or six away games.

“He went to a few preseason games, but it’s much harder now,” she said.

Andy is also portrayed in the art area in the upper portion of the Lambeau Field Atrium.

“It’s a picture of Andy with Frank Winters and Brett with his first paycheck,” Jackie said. “He was 16 at the time. He and Frankie were good buddies.”

JACKIE’S FAVORITE STORY

With being around Lambeau Field so much in the last 29 years, Jackie also has her favorite story.

“Andy was always involved with Special Olympics with his dad, who coaches softball and basketball,” she said. “It was (1998) when running back Dorsey Levens was holding out during training camp. Larry had a firm rule — just like sports today — that if you missed practice, you didn’t start the game. When Dorsey came back, they had this board showing who was starting.

Andy walked by Dorsey and a bunch of other players and said, ‘You’re lucky you don’t play for my dad’s team.’ Dorsey said, ‘Why is that?’ Andy responded, ‘Because on my dad’s team, if you don’t practice, you don’t start.’ The guys roared and teased Dorsey the whole season.” 🏈

TRAVEL TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA IN 2023

WITH FELLOW READERS OF
THIS PUBLICATION

DISCOVER & EXPLORE
The French Riviera, with Tours
MMC on this awesome guided
8-day journey



For more information and a full brochure,
please contact Craig Howard with
Adelman Discoveries at 559-999-7593

**Registration
Extended!**

BOOK & SAVE

~~\$3,599 PER PERSON~~

\$3,399

if deposited by Dec. 31st

Departs March 16, 2023

GO TO TOURSMMC.COM FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP

The game that saved the Packers

A special all-star Thanksgiving Day exhibition in 1949 raised funds to keep franchise afloat

BY KEVIN DAMASK
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

Imagine Charles Woodson coming out of retirement to line up against Allen Lazard, or Ahman Green dusting off the cleats to try and burst past Kenny Clark. How cool would it be to see Chad Clifton put on the pads one more time to battle Rashan Gary in the trenches?

For Packers fans back in 1949, this type of scenario became reality. On a blustery, snowy Thanksgiving Day 73 years ago, a reported 15,000 fans packed City Stadium in Green Bay to watch Packers legends of the past tangle with the teams' current stars. Billed the Packer All-Star Game, the contest wasn't much more than a glorified touch football exhibition but it turned out to be perhaps the most important game in franchise history.

It saved the Packers.

Organized by the team and the Packer Backers organization, the charity game raised \$35,647.20 (\$436,482 in today's dollars) to provide the Packers enough money to keep playing during the 1949 season. Mired in a \$90,000 debt, the game and subsequent fundraising drive, didn't generate enough cash to propel the franchise into the black, but it did allow the team to play its final three games against the Chicago Cardinals, Washington and Detroit, as well as pay its players.

From 1929-1944, Green Bay won six NFL championships. By the late 1940s, however, the Packers' success had dwindled and fans became less interested. In the age before lucrative television contracts, NFL teams relied heavily on revenue from ticket sales. In 1949, the team was fumbling toward to a 2-10 season and fans weren't flocking to the gate to buy tickets.

In fact, on Nov. 20, just four days before the charity game, Green Bay drew only 5,483



In this undated photo, the Packers have a practice in front of several fans. In 1949, the Packers held an all-star charity game that raised money to save the team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM OF BROWN COUNTY

fans in a matchup against the Steelers at Milwaukee's State Fair Park. Pittsburgh crushed the Packers, 30-7. The Packers were in deep financial stress, so much so they asked top players to take pay cuts and some to play for free, according to team historian Cliff Christl. Opposing teams weren't drawing money when they played Green Bay, City Stadium was small and out-of-date and impatient owners were ready to boot the Packers out of the NFL.

"The Packers never really announced or at least there were no direct quotes that I've found where they admitted that if they didn't raise a certain amount of money, they would have to shut down before the season was over. But reading between the lines, everything suggests that," Christl said in a phone interview with Packerland. "They needed to raise \$50,000 within two weeks. It was basically an intra-squad game but they dubbed it an 'all-star game' to sell tickets."

Packers legends returned for the game — including Don Hutson, Johnny Blood and Arnie Herber — from three different championship eras and celebrated the team's 30-year history. Even Curly Lambeau, in his final season coaching in Green Bay, harkened back to his playing days, hitting the field for a few plays.

With the field blanketed in snow, the Veteran Blues, quarterbacked by Jug Girard, outpaced the Newcomer Golds, led by quarterback Stan Heath, 35-31.

Sixty-six total points was considered a high-scoring affair back in 1949, but Christl said very little defense was played in this

intra-squad game.

"The players basically put forth no effort," Christl said. "It was almost a touch football game. They weren't going to risk injury, so they were really just going through the motions. But I think the fans left happy."

The competition wasn't fiercely intense, but it appeared the players did have fun. In a bout of horseplay,

Ted Fritsch, a bruising full-back, staged an impromptu wrestling match with offensive tackle Ed Neal as the game ended.

"The sight of 210-pound Fritsch flipping the 290-pound Neal with some little assistance over his shoulder

to the snow-covered ground was little short of hilarious," reported Lee Rimmel of the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

Running back Tony Canadeo, the team's biggest star in the late 1940s, told Christl back in 1996, "That was the only game I ever played in where only one guy hit the ground, and he slipped. We didn't want to play it, but we played it. It was tackle, but it was brush tackling. It was like playing touch ball, except touch ball was rougher. You know what it was? It was a damn loyalty thing by the fans. They knew what we were doing, they understood. They just came to put some money in the pot."

Jack Kirby, a halfback/defensive back for the Golds, told Christl in another interview, "It was kind of a phony game. Nobody tried. It was the old-timers vs. the new guys. The old-timers were just kind of going through the motions."



Christl

Fans did delight in watching Herber reconnect with his favorite target, Hutson, several times in the all-star spectacle.

"The aerial duo was the scourge of the NFL from 1935-40," wrote Rimmel. Girard, the team's starting QB in 1949, also fired five touchdown passes that afternoon.

While it was reported by the Press-Gazette the game and charity drive before the event reached the team's goal of \$50,000, Christl said it was actually a lot less than that. However, the 11-day campaign brought in donations from Washington, D.C. to Idaho and kept the franchise from cancelling the rest of its season. Christl believes that would have doomed the Packers from returning for the 1950 season and beyond.


Fans were also treated to prizes as the team gave away more than 1,000 gifts during the Thanksgiving contest, including a refrigerator and a 1930 Buick sedan.

The Packer Backer group, led by local businessman Jerry At-

kinson, didn't promote the event until mid-November, less than two weeks before the game. Nonetheless, about 500 workers hit the streets across northeast Wisconsin and the Fox Valley selling tickets and bringing in donations.

"I'm sure it was a pretty exhaustive two weeks trying to sell it," Christl said.

"They should make this an annual event," began Rimmel in his coverage for the Press-Gazette. But, despite the Packers struggling mightily through most of the 1950s, another "all-star" event never graced the field. Along came Vince Lombardi in 1959, drastically changing the team's fortunes.

"Basically, on one hand, it was a grand gesture on the part of the people of Green Bay, they saved their team. There is no question it was a critical time in Packers history," Christl said. "On the other hand, the game was a farce and I don't know if anybody wanted to repeat that." 



CARD & COIN
COLLECTIBLES EST. 1992

**We Buy and Sell
Gold & Silver and
Vintage Packer items!**



2208 S. Ridge Rd. #102, Green Bay
920-498-0050
cardandcoingreenbay.com

**American
Antiques & Jewelry**

2545 W. Mason St
Green Bay, WI 54303
(920)498-0111 AAandJ.com

**CASH FOR
GOLD**

Always Buying
JEWELRY, COINS & FIREARMS

Showroom Expanded!
Come see what is NEW!



**TNT'S
SPORTS BAR & GRILL**
FOOD • FUN • FRIENDS

BUY 1 GET 1
HAPPY HOUR
2-7PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Karaoke
Saturday's
9:00 PM - Close

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11:00AM - 2:00AM
Friday & Saturday 11:00AM - 2:30AM
Serving food seven days a week 11:00AM - 9:00PM

**Packers, Brewers, Bucks,
& Badgers Game Day specials**

2511 W Mason Street, Green Bay 54303 • 920-857-3670

Fan turns passion into vast collection



Chance meeting with Cobb inspires Packers 'woman cave'

Courtney Duchow has a vast collection of signed Packers memorabilia in her Almond, Wis. home. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

BY KEVIN DAMASK
SPECIAL TO PACKERLAND

Spend only a few minutes inside Courtney Duchow's home in Almond, Wis., and it's easy to see she has a deep passion for sports.

Duchow's "woman cave" is stocked with basketball and gymnastics memorabilia, but it's clear which team she pulls for on NFL gamedays — the legendary Green Bay Packers.

Duchow's basement is filled with wall-to-wall Packers memorabilia from signed photos to life-sized cardboard cutouts. Duchow grew up a Packers fan — one of her fondest memories is celebrating the

Super Bowl XXXI victory in 1997 — but her fandom reached a new level when she lived in Appleton about a decade ago.

A chance meeting with wide receiver Randall Cobb at Walmart gave her a unique idea as she was planning her wedding to husband, Cory Duchow.

"I ran and got a football and had him sign the ball before I even bought it," Duchow said in a phone interview with Packerland. "Then I was thinking, 'This would be something cool and unique to throw out

at our wedding. Let's see how many autographs I can get on this football,' so that's really where it kind of came about."

By the time the couple got married on

May 23, 2015, Duchow's ball featured more than 30 signatures from Packers players.

"And it all started on a fluke," Duchow said.

After the random encounter with Cobb, Duchow went on to meet 47 members of the Packers' 53-man roster. Living in Appleton gave her close access to the Green and Gold. Before the COVID-19 pandemic halted most in-person events, Duchow attended TV shows featuring players as guests, autograph meet-and-greets, charity events and really stocked up on signed memorabilia at training camp practices.

Her collection includes signed mini



A chance encounter with Randall Cobb at a Walmart sparked Duchow's passion for collecting Packers items.

Duchow has collected a number of Packers' autographs at the annual charity softball game in Grand Chute.

helmets, cleats, bobbleheads, a few cardboard cutouts, kicking tees signed by Mason Crosby, jerseys and much more.

Duchow, who works at the Almond-Bancroft School District, isn't afraid to share as well.

"Every year, we give out a prize for the top reader, so I usually pick out one of the signed items to give out," Duchow said. "Morgan Burnett signed a jersey that he signed to 'Almond-Bancroft's top reader.' That was cool."

Duchow's woman cave is divided into three areas. One wall consists of gymnastics memorabilia, including an autograph from Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas, another wall is devoted to hoops (Duchow is a huge Michael Jordan fan), while the other is a shrine to the Packers. One shelf includes several signed softballs from attending the annual Packers softball games at Neuroscience Group Field at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute.

"Everything kind of has its own little



Duchow loves collecting photos of her favorite Packers players and moments of all time.

spot downstairs," Duchow said.

Out of all her prized memorabilia, Duchow most values items signed by Crosby. She said the Packers kicker has always been nice during their meetings

and takes a few minutes to get to know the fans.

Duchow first met Crosby during an appearance on his radio show about five years ago.



A Packers wine holder is a nice addition to Duchow's collection.

"Not many football fans are fans of the kickers," Duchow said. "We had ordered his jersey and he was just in awe that people were wearing his jersey. Normally, it's the star quarterback or wide receiver. I just love my stuff signed by him because he was so appreciative he had fans."

Even Crosby's mom, who attended the show, was thrilled to see fans' affection toward her son.

"We had to take a picture with her, too," Duchow said. "She's like, 'My son never has fans!' He's just a really down-to-earth guy; kind of a country guy, which I've always really liked."

While she enjoys collecting signed items, Duchow said her real passion is meeting players, past and present. The opportunity to snap a photo with one of her gridiron heroes and engage in a quick conversation are the memories Duchow cherishes.

"In that five-minute span you can really learn a lot about players, which is kind of weird," Duchow said.

While her vast Packers' collection is filling up her basement, Duchow can always make a little more room for a rare



The game room at Duchow's house features some nice signed Packers helmets.



Duchow also has a nice collection of bobblehead dolls to go along with her Packers' items.

piece of memorabilia. She's on the lookout for more game-worn cleats and would love to hang a practice jersey to her Green Bay wall. Duchow has attended Packers Family Night games but has yet to catch a game-worn jersey.

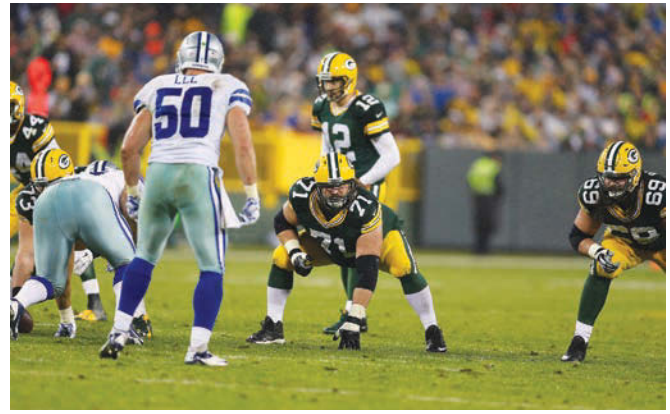
"I've always wanted to win one — you know, the ones that are all stinky and sweaty," Duchow said. "But there's not a lot from the Packers Pro Shop that I don't already have."

And, she's passing along the collector's bug to her daughter, Cambria. When Duchow found out she was pregnant with a girl a few years ago, she hung a couple of framed pink Packers onesies to her daughter's bedroom wall. Signed, of course.

"Sometimes I feel like she's a pawn," Duchow joked. "Can you come and sign this for my little girl?" — even though it's really for me." 🏈



Nelson catches a touchdown pass during the Packers' game against the Detroit Lions during the 2016 season.



Josh Sitton, at left guard, was a durable offensive lineman for the Packers during his tenure.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

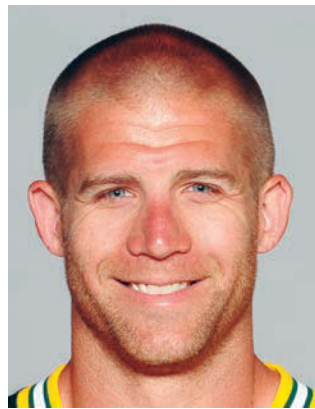
Nelson, Sitton to be inducted into Hall

The Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame Inc. will induct former Packers Jordy Nelson and Josh Sitton at the 52nd Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, announced today by Packers Hall of Fame Inc. President Tom Konop. The banquet is scheduled to be held Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023, in the Lambeau Field Atrium.

Information about tickets for the banquet, which begins with a cash bar at 4 p.m., with the dinner and program to start at 5:30 p.m., is still being finalized and will be released in the near future.

Nelson was selected by the Packers in the second round (36th overall) of the 2008 NFL Draft out of Kansas State. He played nine seasons (2008-14, '16-17) in Green Bay and appeared in 136 regular-season games with 88 starts.

He ranks No. 4 in team history in receptions (550), No. 6 in receiving yards (7,848), No. 3 in touchdown receptions (69) and No. 4 in 100-yard receiving games (25). Nelson is the only player in team annals to record three seasons with 13-plus TD receptions (2011, 2014, 2016). He and WR Sterling Sharpe (1992-94) are the only players in franchise his-



Nelson

tory to register three straight seasons with 85-plus receptions (2013-14, 2016). Nelson posted 1,250-plus receiving yards and 13-plus touchdown catches in the same season three times in his career (2011, 2014, 2016), the fourth most in NFL history.

Nelson was selected to the Pro Bowl and named second-team All-Pro by The Associated Press for his performance during the 2014 season in which he set career highs in receptions (98) and receiving yards (1,519) while also hauling in 13 touchdowns.

After missing the 2015 season due to a knee injury, Nelson became the first Packer to be named the NFL Comeback



Sitton

Player of the Year by AP after registering 1,257 yards on 97 receptions (13.0 avg.) with a league-high 14 receiving TDs in 2016. In the Super Bowl XLV victory, Nelson became just the fourth receiver in Super Bowl history with nine-plus receptions for at least 140 yards and a touchdown.

Nelson finished his career playing one season (2018) with the Oakland Raiders.

Guard Josh Sitton was originally selected by the Packers in the fourth round (135th overall) of the 2008 NFL Draft out of the University of Central Florida. He played eight seasons (2008-15) in Green Bay, starting 112 of 121 regular-season games and all 13 post-

season contests in which he appeared.

From 2009-15, he started the most games (110) by a Packers offensive lineman. During his time with the Packers, Sitton was named to the Pro Bowl three times (2012, '14-15) and earned second-team AP All-Pro honors three times (2013-15).

Sitton was named the 2010 Offensive Lineman of the Year by the NFL Alumni Association and was selected as a Pro Bowl alternate in 2010, 2011 and 2013. He was a key member of teams that won a Super Bowl (XLV) and four division titles, finished with 10-plus wins six times and made the playoffs seven times.

Sitton blocked for offenses that ranked in the top 10 in points seven times and in the top 10 in yards six times. He helped protect QB Aaron Rodgers during seasons where he was named NFL Most Valuable Player by AP twice (2011, '14), a Pro Bowler (2009, '11-12, '14-15) five times and first-team All-Pro two times (2011, '14).

Sitton finished his career starting 26 of 27 games played for the Chicago Bears (2016-17) and Miami Dolphins (2018). 🏈

Let The Experts
In Our Grill Department
Help With All Your
Tailgating Needs.



2110 S Ridge Road, Ashwaubenon, WI 54303 • 920-497-6231

2548 Glendale Ave, Howard, WI 54313 • 920-434-1079

104778