



SPORTS

B1

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Packers start to move on without Brett Favre a no-show as Rodgers takes over

By CHRIS JENKINS

GREEN BAY — With the Brett Favre stand-off still simmering, Aaron Rodgers took his place Monday as the Packers' new starting quarterback.

Rodgers is trying to ignore what has become a daily soap opera involving the three-time MVP. Favre is considering filing for reinstatement with the NFL and reporting to camp this week, a move likely intended to pressure Green Bay to grant him his release — something the Packers refuse to do — or trade him.

The NFL had not received reinstatement paperwork from Favre as of Monday evening.

"I feel like this is really between Brett and the organization, and I'm just trying to stay focused on the things I can control," Rodgers said after the team's first practice at camp.

General manager Ted Thompson spoke twice with Favre on Saturday, for about 45 minutes each time. They decided it would be best for Favre to stay away from Green Bay for now.

"We still have not gotten to the point where we agree on what the best option is," Thompson said Monday. "We have sort of agreed to disagree, and at that time he suggested he would probably delay coming to training camp

for at least a couple of days to see how things worked out."

The Packers aren't going to allow Favre to play for an NFC North rival and aren't going to trade him without getting value in return. And Favre might not want to play for any of the teams showing interest, a group that includes Tampa Bay and the New York Jets. Thompson acknowledged talking to other teams.

"There have been some 'kicking of tires'-type conversations," he said.

Favre wants to be released, something Thompson opposes. The Packers hold Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season.

"A release just doesn't make a lot of sense from the Packers' point of view," Thompson said. "I've not heard many people say that's a good option — even people that would like to hang me in effigy outside."

The Packers have filed tampering charges against Minnesota, suspecting Favre's latest flip-flop on his future was spurred mainly by interest from the Vikings.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is trying to help the sides reach a settlement.

"I'm glad to see that there are productive

See No-Show, B2



Associated Press

Green Bay Packers quarterbacks Matt Flynn (left) and Aaron Rodgers throw passes during the team's first training camp practice on Monday in Green Bay.

Grant also absent on camp's first day

GREEN BAY (AP) — If it wasn't for the daily twists and turns of the Brett Favre unreirement saga, this would be considered a really big deal: Running back Ryan Grant does not have a contract in place and skipped the first practice of Green Bay Packers training camp Monday morning.

Grant, an exclusive rights free agent, is seeking a long-term deal with the Packers but talks appear to have broken down. Grant's agent, Alan Herman, told the Wisconsin State Journal on Sunday that the team's offer of a six-year deal that included \$1.75 million in guaranteed money was "insulting."

Grant, obtained in a trade with the New York Giants just before the start of the 2007 season, took over as the starter in midseason and went on to rush for 956 yards and eight touchdowns. Grant then rushed for 201 yards and three touchdowns in the Packers' divisional playoff victory over Seattle.

"It's a negotiation. It's ongoing," Packers general manager Ted Thompson said. "We do not negotiate in the press. We don't think that serves a purpose. We aren't necessarily offended by the fact that some agents like to do that. But we're working through it. Ryan is a good man, a good player, and we're going to try to get him back in here."

Thompson didn't offer a timeline: "It's sort of, the cake is cooked when it's cooked."

Packers coach Mike McCarthy praised Grant's approach to the contract situation during the offseason — he participated in the Packers' offseason workout program but sat out practices — but said it was important for him to get into camp.

"These practices are important," McCarthy said. "I think everybody realizes that. My understanding is both sides are working diligently to make this work. I appreciate the way Ryan went about the offseason and kept on top of everything we did here. I'm just looking forward to getting Ryan back here."

Until then, Grant's absence means additional practice repetitions with the No. 1 offense for a group of running backs that includes Brandon Jackson and Vernand Morency.

JOLLY'S ISSUES: Packers defensive lineman Johnny Jolly said his recovery from offseason shoulder surgery is complete. But his legal problems are still lingering.

Jolly was arrested and charged earlier this month with felony drug possession after, according to a criminal complaint, he was caught with at least 200 grams of codeine. A court hearing in Houston has been rescheduled for Aug. 27, one day before the Packers' final pre-season game.

"I'm just focused on football right now," Jolly said. "I'm here, playing football. I can't worry about that. I'm worried about my job while I'm here. That's all I can take care of right now."

Jolly said he apologized to McCarthy and his teammates.

Jolly hurt his shoulder in the Packers' Nov. 18 game against Carolina and sat out the remainder of the season. He then had surgery in the offseason.

NOTES: The Packers placed wide receiver Shaun Bodiford on injured reserve with a back injury Monday. The move reduces that Packers' roster to the league-mandated 80-player minimum ... Cornerback Tramon Williams sustained a hip flexor in Monday night's practice but McCarthy didn't seem to think the injury was serious.

Game 1 goes to Cubs

By COLIN FLY

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Derrek Lee doubled with one out in the ninth to score Alfonso Soriano and the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 6-4 on Monday night to take a two-game lead in the NL Central.

In the opener of a four-game series between the NL's top two teams, the Cubs prevailed in a back-and-forth contest to improve to 32-26 at Miller Park since it opened in 2001.

With the game tied at 4, Brewers closer Salomon Torres (5-3) struck out Kosuke Fukudome, but ran into trouble by walking Soriano and pinch hitter Mike Fontenot.

Lee then flared a double to right, scoring Soriano. After an intentional walk to Aramis Ramirez and a strike out of Geovany Soto, Mark DeRosa's infield single scored Fontenot to make it 6-4.

The Brewers had tied the game at 4-4 with a solo homer by pinch hitter Russell Branyan with two outs in the



The Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers' Jason Kendall (left) gets the tag on Chicago Cubs' Derrek Lee (25) in the fifth inning Monday in Milwaukee. The Cubs would still get six runs across home plate, winning the opener of a key four-game series.

seventh off Bob Howry. They couldn't mount another comeback in the ninth against reliever Carlos Marmol, who picked up his fifth save after working around a two-out walk. Soriano made a jumping catch near the wall

on Gabe Kapler's fly ball to deep left to end the game.

Reliever Chad Gaudin (2-1) earned the win with a scoreless eighth.

Chicago overcame an 8½-game deficit last June to win

the division by two games over Milwaukee, and this year Chicago's biggest lead has been 8½ games on June 16 only to have the Brewers catch the Cubs in the division Saturday before losing Sunday to fall a game back.

With the four-game series, both teams get to showcase their best pitchers, continuing Tuesday when NL All-Star starter Ben Sheets (10-3, 2.87 ERA) squares off against Cubs ace Carlos Zambrano (11-4, 2.96).

Timberjacks end preseason humming along

PESHIGO — After chopping down their two pre-season opponents by a combined score of 89-8, the M&M Timberjacks are revved up and ready to start the regular season.

The Timberjacks crushed the Bay Area Vipers 47-0 at Peshtigo Saturday afternoon.

A voracious defensive effort set the tone as the Timberjacks forced seven turnovers, also getting several standout offensive and special teams plays to help take a 40-0 lead at halftime.

Tony Sims set up the winning TD quickly, tore through the Viper line on a bad punt snap and buried the punter at the Bay Area 18. Tailback Randy Hoheneder closed out a six-play red zone scoring drive with a two-yard run to put the home team ahead for good.

Drew Buyarski made a spectacular shoestring of Hoheneder pass on fourth down for a 20-yard scoring reception to push the lead to double digits, prior

to Hoheneder firing a perfect spiral to Zak Shutte for a 48-yard scoring strike.

With the Viper defense keying on Hoheneder, the Timberjacks crossed them up as fullback Dan Ries found Dale Svoboda open for an 11-touchdown to build the lead to 27-0.

The shellshocked Vipers took another hit from the riled-up Timberjack defense on the next play when cornerback Rob LaCrosse picked off a pass and raced 60 yards to paydirt behind some great downfield blocking. LaCrosse is the first player in the two-year history of the Timberjacks to score a defensive touchdown.

Before the Vipers were able to catch their breath from chasing LaCrosse, Hohender stepped into front of another pass and burned Bay Area with a 50-yard touchdown dash.

The Timberjacks intercepted six passes in the first half and knocked the steam out of the Vipers.

Ries finished off the Timberjacks' first possession of the second half by ramming over from the 1-yard line.

The Timberjacks offensive and defensive linemen dominated the trenches to keep the ball in the hands of the T-Jacks for most of the second half.

Hoheneder completed three of six passes for 75 yards and he rushed for 60 yards on 15 carries. Ries bulled his way to 61 yards on 16 carries and he completed a pass. Shutte piled up 56 yards on just eight carries.

Defensively, Buyarski and LaCrosse each picked off two passes, while Hoheneder and Ryan Wortner also had interceptions. Heath Berman recovered a fumble and Joel Wortner had a sack.

The Timberjacks open Wisconsin State Football League play Saturday against Oostburg in a 6 p.m. game at Oostburg. The Timberjacks lost to Oostburg in the first round of the playoffs last season.

Four Stingrays swim to Summer Nationals

MARINETTE — Brittany Meyer, Kelsey Sipple, Maddie Rastall and Kate Motykowski will have chance to make their mark together or individually beginning today through Friday at the Summer Nationals.

The M&M Stingrays' foursome — which has Meyer and Sipple making their final berth, as Matykowski and Rastall make their first trip — along with coach Stephanie Wallgren, will be in College Park, Md. for the competition. As a group, they'll be battling as the 38th seed out of 93 teams in the 200-meter freestyle relay.

"These girls swam their hearts out to crush the quali-

fying time by more than two seconds," said Wallgren, of the group's effort at Brown Deer earlier this month.

Meyer, Sipple and Rastall will each also battle as individuals in the 50 backstroke on the University of Maryland campus. Meyer, who graduated from Peshtigo High School in late May, is the highest seeded on the trio at the 30th position out of a loaded 166-competitor field.

Meyer will also be competing in 100 and 200 backstrokes while Sipple, set to begin her senior year at Menominee, will battle in the individual 50 butterfly and 50 freestyle.



EagleHerald/Zac Britton

Participating as members of the M&M Stingrays in the Summer Nationals in College Park, Md. from the tri-city area are (from left to right) Maddie Rastall, Brittany Meyer, Kelsey Sipple and Kate Matykowski. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)