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## Notebook: Camp Practice No. 11

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Bill Huber  
PackerReport.com

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Mason Crosby dials long distance three times, and updates on injuries, B.J. Raji and Michael Vick from Tuesday morning.

For one morning at least, [Mason Crosby](#) performed like the Pro Bowl kicker that the Packers believe he's capable of becoming.

Crosby went 3-for-3 on Tuesday morning, connecting twice from 53 yards and once from 58. It was easily his best performance of the summer.

"There's been some things this first week-and-a-half where we had to adjust and get a little more work and make sure that timing is there," Crosby said. "That's just part of training camp. The ability to work on things and go back on film and correct them, I feel like I did that today."

Special teams coordinator Shawn Slocum is challenging Crosby by mixing things up. Sometimes, he's working with the No. 1 snapper-holder combo of [Brett Goode](#) and [Matt Flynn](#). Sometimes, it's with [Duke Preston](#) and [Durant Brooks](#). Sometimes, Crosby is facing a rush. Sometimes, he's not. By keeping Crosby on his toes, Slocum is trying to get Crosby ready for whatever challenges the regular season brings.

On Monday, Crosby made only 6-of-9 attempts, including a miss from 28 yards. He and Slocum checked the film and made adjustments, and Slocum joked that when a kicker is missing to the right, sometimes the best fix is to aim a little further left.

"There's usually not a ton that looks different," Crosby said of watching the film.

### Long, long list of injuries

It's a good thing there's an 80-man roster, or it would have been difficult accomplishing anything during the morning's shorts-and-helmets practice.

Along with defensive end [Cullen Jenkins](#), nose tackle [Ryan Pickett](#), left tackle [Chad Clifton](#), center [Scott Wells](#) and safety [Atari Bigby](#) continuing on their one-a-day schedule with a padded practice scheduled in the evening, outside linebackers [Jeremy Thompson](#) (groin and shoulder), [Clay Matthews](#) III (hamstring) and [Brad Jones](#) (back, PUP), inside linebacker [Nick Barnett](#) (knee, PUP), receivers [Ruvell Martin](#) (groin) and [Patrick Williams](#) (hamstring),



August 11, 2009

## Notebook: Crosby works out training camp problems

*By Pete Dougherty*

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Maybe Mason Crosby solved the problem with his kicking early in training camp.

♦ <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20090811&Kategori=PKR0205&Lopenr=908110803&Ref=PH> target="new" style="color:#72A440;">>Photos: Green Bay Packers training camp practice, Tuesday morning, Aug. 11, 2009

♦ <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20090811&Kategori=PKR0205&Lopenr=908110810&Ref=PH> target="new" style="color:#72A440;">>Photos: Green Bay Packers training camp practice, Tuesday evening, Aug. 11, 2009

Crosby was only 29 of 39 on live field-goal attempts in training camp going into Tuesday, including a 6-for-9 on Monday low-lighted by a 28-yard miss. The common factor? Nine of his 10 misses were wide right.

So Crosby and special-teams coach Shawn Slocum scrutinized practice videotape and determined he'd been lining up too wide for his soccer-style windup, and pushing the ball a little too far right.

On Tuesday morning, in live field-goal drills that simulated a late drive and kick at the end of a half or game, Crosby crushed the ball while going 3-for-3 on long kicks that had several yards or more to spare: a 53-yarder, a 58-yarder and a 53-yarder.

"Just a little alignment," Crosby said. "We looked at a couple things, tightened it down, then when out there and hit the ball well."

The Packers have been surprised at Crosby's erratic kicking early in camp, though he said he's been striking the ball well. Along with technical flaw, Crosby also is adjusting to changes at holder this year because of the Packers' uncertainty at punter.

Most NFL teams use the punter as the holder because they can work on their timing almost any time during practice, whereas a regular position player has individual, group and team drills. The Packers don't know who their punter will be – Jeremy Kapinos and Durant Brooks are in a tight competition, and if neither performs well the Packers could end up with a player released by another team.

With that unknown, they're using backup quarterback Matt Flynn as the primary holder, and Brooks as the No. 2. Crosby's 28-yard miss Monday came with the backup holder and snapper, though there were no obvious errors on the play. The Packers now are occasionally pulling Flynn from quarterback drills to get in a few holds before live kicking.

"We're figuring out ways to get (Flynn) out, get reps, and make sure we feel consistent and comfortable," Crosby said.

## Capers upstairs

[<<Back](#)



## Green Bay Packers **Packers Get Crosby's Kicks on the Up and Up**

Updated: Aug 11, 2009 05:21 PM MDT

The Green Bay Packers will be out on Ray Nitschke Field again Tuesday night.

Fans might watch closely to see which injured players return to practice, but they should also watch closely when kicker Mason Crosby takes the field.

Crosby has had an up-and-down camp, missing three more kicks Monday with a variety of snappers and holders.

But Tuesday morning he made an adjustment and nailed all three of his kicks -- two for 53 yards and another for 58 yard.

"I want to get it right all the time. Practice is practice, but I want to be 100 percent every day. When they don't go right, I work on it, watch extra film," Crosby said.

"Yesterday we started with our second snapper and the tempo was off a little bit. Mason began to wait for the ball for just a second, but when we went back to Brett Goode the timing was better. But he needs to deal with it and he will," special teams coordinator Shawn Slocum said.



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# Tuesday camp report

By [Bob McGinn](#) of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: Aug. 11, 2009

## THUMBS UP

The dog days of training camp arrived Tuesday night. The legs of RB **Brandon Jackson** suggested that. Back from injury after a 10-day hiatus, Jackson was playing the game at 78 rpm's while everyone else was at 45 rpm's. OLB **Aaron Kampman** had reason to be as tired as anyone on the field. For a week now, he has been forced to take a gargantuan share of the repetitions because three of his five teammates at the position have been out with injuries. "We've got to make sure we don't overwork him," defensive coordinator **Dom Capers** said at mid-day. So in the last period of the night, with the crowd thinning and enthusiasm among players beginning to ebb, Kampman came to the fore like the true professional that he is. Twice in a 19-play red-zone drill, he eluded RT **Allen Barbre** and would have sacked **Aaron Rodgers** if he wasn't in a red jersey. Slowly but surely, Kampman's heart and effort are helping him overcome the dramatic change in positions at age 29. "He's doing everything we're asking him to do, and doing it pretty well," said Capers. "He's made really good progress in terms of the transition."

## THUMBS DOWN

Running back is one of the most competitive positions, with five legitimate players battling for three jobs. One of them, **Kregg Lumpkin**, did himself no favors with a poor showing Tuesday night in just the second one-on-one blitz drill of camp against the inside linebackers. Actually, the backs - running backs and fullbacks - held their own in a drill that favors the defense, almost breaking even with a 7-8 record. But Lumpkin dragged them down by going 1-4. He was killed inside by **Brandon Chillar** and **Desmond Bishop**, lunged badly against **Danny Lansanah** and fell off Bishop. His only victory came against Bishop. The three fullbacks finished 5-2. The drill ended with rookie FB **Quinn Johnson** pancaking Lansanah.

## BOUNCING BACK

A day after missing three times in nine attempts, **Mason Crosby** answered his critics Tuesday morning. Three times Crosby had to race onto the field in simulation of a long field-attempt with no timeouts. Kicking with little or no wind, Crosby was good from 53, 58 and 52 yards. "Sometimes you have to go through some tough times to get your focus," ST coach **Shawn Slocum** said. Crosby said he has had some problems because he's made adjustments to his steps from a year ago. He is lining up more straight behind the ball. "Whenever I'm pushing it right I'm just not closing off," said Crosby. "It was a very easy adjustment (from Monday)."