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Packers

# Thursday training camp report

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#### THUMBS UP

Mason Crosby started training camp making just six of his first 11 kicks (54%), which caused a lot of consternation among fans who quickly remembered his late-season slump last year. Now that seems like months ago. Crosby has not only continued his resurgence, now he's on a roll. Crosby converted all six of his kicks Thursday night. Add in his field goal Saturday night against the Cleveland Browns, Crosby has made 13 straight kicks and 21 of his last 23 (91.3%). "I thought Mason had a nice night," coach Mike McCarthy said. "I just think it helps when you have regularity in your operation." The Packers have decided to have one of the punters be Crosby's dedicated holder for each game. Last week it was Tim Masthay. Chris Bryan held all six kicks Thursday and will be the holder against the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday night. It also hasn't hurt Crosby that the Packers have been putting him in advantageous situations. His longest kick during his streak prior to Thursday was 45 yards. He did connect from 53 on Thursday, but Crosby had a strong wind at his back.

## THUMBS DOWN

Speaking of rolls, quarterback **Aaron Rodgers** rode his 12-of-13 performance against the Browns into an extremely sharp week of practice. Too bad the same can't be said of his backups, **Matt Flynn** and **Graham Harrell**. Both were intercepted twice in the evening session. Harrell can be excused because he has worked with some players who won't be around in a week and is usually running a scout team. Flynn should have been intercepted at least twice more, but defenders couldn't come down with the passes. While Flynn showed marked improvement during last season's camp, he appears to have regressed this season. Most of his struggles have come from indecisiveness. Rodgers is getting his passes off more quickly, but Flynn is often seen double-clutching passes or scrambling out of the pocket because he's not confident in his decisions. Perhaps Flynn turned a corner late in practice when he directed a touchdown drive during the two-minute drill. He threw strong, accurate and decisive back-to-back passes to **Brett Swain**, one on fourth down. Another well-placed ball on fourth down to **Patrick Williams** in the back of the end zone gave the offense the win.

# **REST PERIOD**

WR **Donald Driver** and CB **Charles Woodson** worked the scout teams Thursday night, a sure sign that they won't be playing against Seattle. It's probably not a bad idea to hold them out. Why risk the health of two valuable veterans, especially given the length of the trip and game against Indianapolis scheduled for four days later.

#### PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

The coaches had not seen a team blitz as much in the exhibition season as Cleveland did Saturday. So what can the Packers expect against the Seahawks? Who knows? "They didn't blitz a whole lot last week so maybe this is their blitz week," McCarthy said. "I think when you put in a new defense it kind of comes that way. They played a very basic defense against Tennessee, so maybe they'll work exclusively on their pressure packages. Which is fine, I think it's great work for us."

# INJURY REPORT

LB **A.J. Hawk** sprained his ankle in the morning, finished the practice, but did not take part in the night session. McCarthy was unsure whether he would play Saturday against Seattle.

Veterans of seven years or more and players coming off surgeries were given the morning off, but all of them returned at night. S **Will Blackmon** (knee) and DE **Ron Talley** (knee) practiced in the morning in pads and took off the shells for practice at night. OL **Evan Dietrich-Smith** returned to practice in the morning.

DT **Justin Harrell** was excused from both practices for the birth of his child. McCarthy said Harrell had been cleared to practice after missing Tuesday with back tightness. It has not been determined whether he'll play against the Seahawks.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

S **Derrick Martin** was having a great time at practice, keeping a running chatter all through the night session. When Driver caught a ball in traffic, he yelled out, "Don't touch him, don't touch him."

TE **Spencer Havner** spent the day in a green uniform, which means he was playing defense instead of offense. Havner played linebacker last week to help out an injury-depleted unit. He may have to play a lot Saturday if Hawk can't play.

Rookie OL **Bryan Bulaga** took the majority of his snaps at left tackle in place of **Chad Clifton** in the morning but took the majority at left guard in the evening.

WR **Jeff Moturi** was waived off the injured list earlier this week.

# **SCHEDULE**

There is no public practice Friday or Sunday. The next open practice is with shells at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

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