

Ex-Buff Mason Crosby savoring Super Bowl ride

Kicker one of two former CU football players for Packers

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/01/2011 08:06:33 PM MST

Just a few ticks left on the clock. Score tied 28-all. Mason Crosby jogs on the field and rips a 47-yard field goal through the uprights to give the Colorado Buffaloes a three-point victory over in-state rival Colorado State.

The kick, which capped a stirring fourth-quarter comeback on that September afternoon in 2005, is one that will be fresh in Buffs fans' minds for many years to come.

Turns out it's also the cool mindset and mojo from that 21st-birthday boot that Crosby -- a fourth-year kicker with the Green Bay Packers -- still tries to harness when he thinks about big kicks these days.

Given a similar opportunity in the Super Bowl on Sunday, he'll no doubt be trying to channel the same kind of focus as he steps up with a shot to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers. That doesn't mean, however, that he won't take just a second to soak in the atmosphere surrounding such an occasion.

"I love what I do," Crosby said in a telephone interview with the Camera this week. "If I get an opportunity, I just want to embrace that moment. ... It's going to go right through the uprights. There's no doubt about that in my mind."

Crosby is one of two former Buffaloes who are members of the Packers' squad this season along with linebacker Brad Jones, who is on the injured reserve.

Just like during his record-breaking career at CU, Crosby and his big leg have proven about as dangerous as any around in the NFL even if not the most accurate.

Including a game-winner against the Eagles in his rookie debut in 2007, he has hit 78.1 percent of his regular season field goals. He went on in his rookie year to land the NFL scoring title with 141 points. His 397 points heading into 2010 were the most in NFL history for a player in his first three seasons. And his 18 points in the playoffs this season top the league.

He admits, though, that he's come a long way in his four years in the pros. Most notably, he said, he's learned how to handle the adversity that the ups and downs of an NFL season can bring.

"I've found a little peace this year," said the 26-year-old Crosby, whose wife Molly gave birth to their son Nolan in August.

Crosby and the Packers finished a game shy of the Super Bowl his rookie year, and he said getting so close and missing out has made him savor this year's run even more.

The injury-plagued squad had an up-and-down season and squeaked into the NFC playoffs as the No. 6 seed before upsetting division winners Philadelphia, Atlanta and Chicago to reach Sunday's big game.

"You never know when that chance is going to come," Crosby said. "I think this team has fought so hard this year. It's nice to be on a team that's not afraid to grind it out and find ways to win."

Crosby said the days since advancing to the Super Bowl have been a bit of a whirlwind. Even in a town like Green Bay that is already football-mad, he said he and his teammates' celebrity status was heightened last week while they were still in town practicing.

He said there's also been plenty of time spent securing tickets for family and friends and working out other logistics.

As a Texas grade-schooler in the 1990s, it was tough for Crosby not to grow up a Dallas Cowboys fan as "America's Team" won three Super Bowls in a four-year stretch. So suiting up for the Super Bowl in Cowboys Stadium in front of

friends and family on Sunday will be an almost perfect scenario for the Georgetown, Texas product.

Adding to the special occasion is the fact that Packers players voted Crosby one of six team captains for the playoffs, meaning he'll get the unique opportunity to walk out to midfield before the game for the coin toss.

"You look at those guys but you never really think of that situation," Crosby said. "I'm going to be a captain in the Super Bowl. That's pretty cool."

Close Window

Send To Printer

All Things Broncos — Blogs — The Denver Post

FEBRUARY 1, 2011, 5:09 PM

Former Buffs kicker Mason Crosby wants to be Super Bowl hero

By **JEFF LEGWOLD** |  No Comments

DALLAS — Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby said Tuesday he's already "visualized" making the game-winning kick in Sunday's Super Bowl, just in case he's actually asked to make the game-winning kick in the championship game.

"You want that to happen," Crosby said. "You want to be able to have those kind of kicks in this kind of game. This is the pinnacle of where you can be as a player, of where the organization can go as a team."

The Super Bowl hasn't come down to a kicker very often, but there are some of the more memorable plays in the game's history on the list.

A total that includes Scott Norwood's miss that has lived well beyond his career and almost put him into hiding after his playing days while Broncos coach John Fox saw his chance at a title disappear when the Patriots' Adam Vinatieri made a kick with nine seconds remaining in the Big Game for a 32-29 win over the Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

But Crosby has lived the life of a kicker for quite some time and understands what comes with it. And he says playing a Super Bowl in his home state, with his parents and three grandparents in the stands Sunday has inspired him.

"As soon as I started to get into kicking long-term, when it became something I was going to try to do, this was the moment you dream about," Crosby said. "You think about making the big kick."

More from All Things Broncos

- [Knowshon at the Super Bowl](#) ^[1]
- [Former Bronco Trevor Pryce a fan of Fox](#) ^[2]
- [A Super Bowl weather report Pat Bowlen would love](#) ^[3]

All Things Broncos Recommends

- [CU quarterback Tyler Hansen's promise to Buffs fans](#) ^[4] (All Things Colorado Sports)
- [Is a jump to 5A in Valor Christian's future?](#) ^[5] (All Things Colorado Preps)
- [East's Collier a welcomed addition to state's prep basketball scene](#) ^[6] (All Things Colorado Preps)

Recommend On 

[7]

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS BRONCOS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/broncos/2011/02/01/former-buffs-kicker-mason-crosby-wants-to-be-super-bowl-hero/6793/>



Published on *San Francisco Examiner* (<http://www.sfexaminer.com>)

[Home](#) > Super Bowl could come down to a few good kicks

Super Bowl could come down to a few good kicks

Comments (0)

Forget tundra and the Ice Bowl. Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby is just fine with the idea of kicking indoors for the Super Bowl.

Close the Cowboys Stadium roof, shut out the wind and keep the ice outside. It all makes Crosby's job that much easier.

"Obviously, we play in a tough environment at Lambeau," Crosby said. "We play in a lot of cold games. We get used to it as much as you possibly can. When you go inside, you don't have to worry about footing, the wind, just the elements in general. You can go out there and just kick the ball, trust where it's going to go, your technique and not have to make too many adjustments as far as the elements are concerned."

The Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers appear to be fairly well matched going into Sunday's Super Bowl, each with a high-powered offense and stingy defense. So the game could come down to the feet of Crosby or Steelers kicker Shaun Suisham.

Packers special teams coordinator Shawn Slocum says Crosby is used to dealing with worse weather than most kickers. So any pressure he might feel Sunday will be mitigated by near-perfect kicking conditions.

"He is a very talented guy with a big leg," Slocum said. "He has to deal with some wind conditions that a lot of the guys in indoor stadiums or in the South don't have to deal with. He has done a great job with that. His mindset is excellent in dealing with that. Fortunately, we are going to be playing in a game where the weather conditions are going to be pretty favorable Sunday."

Suisham is a journeyman who struggled while kicking in several NFL camps since entering the league in 2005. But, he might have finally found a home in Pittsburgh. He replaced the popular and once-reliable Jeff Reed in November and finished the regular season 14 of 15 on field-goal attempts.

"I love it in Pittsburgh," he said. "I love Heinz Field. I love the fans. I love everything about Pittsburgh and I'm so happy to be there."

Suisham, who missed a 43-yard field goal in the divisional playoff against Baltimore, shakes his head at the fact he could decide the outcome of a Super Bowl.

"Three months ago, I was out of work," Suisham said. "You get used to playing football, that's what you do, and you worked for it every week. When you're out of it, certainly it's uncomfortable when Sundays come around and you're at home."

If either offense stalls outside field goal range, pressure will shift to the punters.

Both teams will be familiar with Jeremy Kapinos, who was sitting at home two months ago, waiting anxiously for another chance at the NFL.

Then, his phone rang and it was the Steelers. They needed a fill-in punter after Daniel Sepulveda was injured, and Kapinos was on a flight from Arlington, Va., the next day.

A few tryout kicks and he had the job.

"I certainly wasn't thinking that this was where I was going to end up," Kapinos said, "but I was pretty confident that if something came up and I had the opportunity, I'd take advantage of it."

After all, he expected to be punting for the Packers and helping them make a championship run. Instead, he wasn't re-signed last season and went home angry. After a one-week stint earlier this season in Indianapolis, he now gets a chance to help beat the Packers team that rejected him — in the Super Bowl, no less.

"The past is the past," Kapinos said. "I think my emotions fall more with the fact that this is the Steelers and because I went to Penn State. A lot of my friends and teammates are Steelers fans and you always hear about them, so that means more to me than anything else."

Kapinos, who averaged 41.1 yards in regular-season games with the Steelers, could play a pivotal role Sunday by helping establish field position against the tough Packers defense. It could be the perfect capper to a journey that has led him to 11 NFL camps.

Green Bay's Tim Masthay knows about uncertainty. The first-year Packers punter was a standout at Kentucky and signed with Indianapolis in 2009, but was cut during training camp. He was working as a part-time tutor when the Packers signed him to a reserve/future contract in January 2010.

He got off to a shaky start but has been perhaps the Packers' most improved player in the second half of the season. Masthay played a critical role against the Chicago Bears, holding him to three punt returns for 16 yards in the NFC championship game.

But, Masthay will be just fine if he doesn't see the field at all Sunday. The Packers' offense was so potent in their Jan. 15 playoff victory at Atlanta that Masthay didn't have to punt once.

Masthay practiced at Cowboys Stadium this week, and hasn't gone too far out of his way to get advice on how to handle the pressure of playing in the Super Bowl.

"There is a quote that I can remember from college that our coach used to say, and I think about still all the time: 'Don't give up what you want the most for what you want at the moment,'" Masthay said. "That hasn't been something that I just used this week, but something that I've carried with me for a long time and always will."

[NFL](#) [Sports](#) [Events](#) [Football](#) [NFL Super Bowl](#) [Professional football](#) [Sports](#) [Sports](#)
[business](#) [Sports transactions](#) [AP](#)

Source URL: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sports/nfl/2011/02/just-kicks-super-bowl-could-come-down-feet-0>

From Georgetown to the Super Bowl: Mason Crosby

Updated: Friday, 04 Feb 2011, 10:21 AM CST
Published : Friday, 04 Feb 2011, 10:02 AM CST

Georgetown, TX - Deep in the heart of Texas is something you may not expect -- a pack of rabid Green Bay Packers fans. Well, maybe not rapid exactly.

The ladies at "Grooms at Carolyn's" are especially fans of one player...not quarterback Aaron Rogers...not linebacker Clay Matthews...their favorite is the kicker!

"We like it when he kicks a bunch of extra points," said Ashley Fraser.

Like any super fanatic, Ashley Fraser knows everything about Mason Crosby.

"He was just born athletic. It's one of his natural talents," Ashley said.

She has his earrings -- homemade by the way -- his jersey and even a miniature cutout.

All the boy dogs at Grooms get Packers bandanas. The girls get green and gold.

"Our parents have always volunteered and so we were raised to give back," Ashley said.

Mason's from Georgetown. Ashley is his sister.

"I don't know if you ever expect him to make it into the NFL," Ashley said.

There's another pocket of fans at his alma mater, McCoy Elementary, where there's a big dose of green and gold Mason mania.

Teachers made t-shirts for the Super Bowl. They're using him as an example.

McCoy counselor Paula Doerfler says he signed autographs when he stopped by the school. He also taught kids how to set goals.

"His mottos were 'Be a Champion' and 'Dream Big'. We, as educators, try and pick up on anything that can be a teachable moment," she said.

This is "Dream Big, Be a Champion" week at McCoy. Students wrote their goals on footballs.

One students says he wants to be a punter and place kicker in the NFL.

Mason was All-American at Colorado University. Now he's in his fourth season as a pro kicker.

He frequently visits Georgetown to volunteer for several organizations. He's making his hometown proud and doing his family right.

Advertisement

cricket
SMART meets
VALUE

\$55 a month

UNLIMITED NATIONWIDE 3G DATA COVERAGE
INCLUDES TALK AND TEXT

NO SIGNED CONTRACTS

KFOXTV.com

Green Bay Kicker Has Roots In Sun City



Green Bay Kicker Has Roots In Sun City

[Daniel Novick](#) - KFOX News Weekend Anchor/Reporter

Posted: 4:35 pm MST February 1, 2011 Updated: 6:16 pm MST February 1, 2011

ARLINGTON, Texas -- [Visit our Super Bowl Section](#)

Tuesday was Super Bowl Media Day at Cowboys Stadium, and KFOX 14 is the only television station from El Paso that's in North Texas for all of Super Bowl week.

KFOX 14 was able to track down one player with an El Paso connection.

Amongst the throngs of reporters and players at Super Bowl Media Day, somewhere in all the madness was the man who could bear the entire weight of his team if the game turns out just right.

Mason Crosby is the kicker for the Green Bay Packers.

"My first kick when I get on the field is going to be just as important as my last one, and I think it's going to be nice to get on the field that first opportunity and hit a ball and see it go through," said Crosby.

But what about that last one, that last kick in the biggest game of his life? Crosby related it to golf.

"Say you're trying to break par or something and it's like 'OK, I either make this or miss it and I shoot under 72,' and you just got to make that putt," Crosby told KFOX 14.

Crosby has a long football history. His father, Jim, was a running back for the UTEP Miners.

Crosby said his dad used to talk about memories of El Paso when the Sun City didn't live up to its name -- the icy and cold days.

"One time they pushed cars off the road when they were coming down the hill near the stadium. Him and some big guy they'd get there and they'd slide down the ice and they'd knock them off the road," said Crosby.

Copyright 2011 by [KFOXTV.com](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

