

FEBRUARY 7, 2011, 3:33 PM

Mason Crosby in the CU record book after Packers' Super Bowl win

By **NICK GROKE** |  No Comments



[1]

Packers kicker [Mason Crosby](#) ^[2] hits a 23-yard field goal late in Sunday's [Super Bowl](#) ^[3]. (AP)

[Mason Crosby](#) ^[2] accounted for seven of Green Bay's 31 points in Sunday's [Super Bowl](#) ^[3]. Four PATs and a 23-yard field goal with 2:07 remaining for the Packers' final points. In a six-point victory over Pittsburgh, you could spin that factoid to say Crosby won the game for Green Bay.

Maybe that's a stretch. But Crosby did become the fourth former Colorado player to score in a [Super Bowl](#) ^[3], a tidbit courtesy of CU's associate AD [Dave Plati](#) ^[4]. Crosby joins three other former Buffs to score in the [Super bowl](#) ^[3]:

[Cliff Branch](#) ^[5], who scored three [Super Bowl](#) ^[3] TDs as a wide receiver for the Raiders, over three games, all victories, in 1976, '80 and '83.

[Cullen Bryant](#) ^[6], who running back who scored on a one-yard run for the L.A. Rams in a [Super Bowl](#) ^[3] loss to Pittsburgh in 1980.

And [Boyd Dowler](#) ^[7], a wideout who had a memorable 62-yard TD catch from Bart Starr for the Packers in [Super Bowl](#) ^[3] II in 1968.

Crosby and Packers teammate Brad Jones, a linebacker who was on injured reserve to end the year, are the 30th and 31st Buffs to win [Super Bowl](#) ^[3] rings.

There was one other former Front Range player in Sunday's game. Steelers' defensive end [Aaron Smith](#) ^[8], a former standout for [Northern Colorado](#) ^[9] and Sierra High in Colorado Springs, missed winning a ring. But he may be back. The Steelers have 10-1 odds to win next year.

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super bowl xlv

Former Buff Crosby gets his kicks — five of them to score

By Mike Klis and Jeff Legwold
The Denver Post

Posted: 02/07/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 02/07/2011 07:36:44 AM MST

ARLINGTON, Texas — Now the world knows a team can win it all with Mason Crosby.

That's what playing for a world champion does for a guy.

Crosby, the former thunderleg of the Colorado Buffaloes, had a relatively easy time of it in helping the Green Bay Packers defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV on Sunday at Cowboys Stadium.

Crosby made four extra points, which are 20-yard kicks, and one field goal from 23 yards.

The field goal came with 2:07 remaining and meant the Steelers could not settle for a game-tying field goal in their final drive. They would

have to score a touchdown.

"After the game, I was thinking that was probably the hardest 23-yard field goal of my career," Crosby said.

Battered but unbowed.

The Packers finished the regular season with 15 players on injured reserve, a total that included six starters.

So it was fitting that to win the franchise's fourth Super Bowl, the Packers had to overcome their share of injuries Sunday night.

"We've overcome adversity all year," Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings said.

Cornerback Charles Woodson fractured his collarbone just before halftime and did not return to the lineup. He spent much of the second half standing in the Packers' bench area with his arm in a sling.

Cornerback Sam Shields (shoulder) played just one play in the second half, and wide receiver Donald Driver left the game with an ankle injury and did not return.

For the Steelers, cornerback Bryant McFadden was limited with a hip injury, and offensive tackle Flozell Adams had a shoulder injury examined during the game. Rookie wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders suffered a foot injury in the first half and did not return.

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A team effort.

When Jennings and Nick Collins scored in the first half, it gave the Packers an NFL-record 11 players who scored a touchdown in the postseason.

The Jordy comeback.

It was difficult to get overly excited about the breakout game of Packers receiver Jordy Nelson, who had nine catches for 140 yards and a touchdown. What made it tough is he dropped at least three passes.

"I will tell you right now when you look back at this game, you are not going to see the drops," Nelson said, smiling.

Special problem.

Packers punt returner Tramon Williams muffed the first punt of the game. He stayed away from a low punt late in the fourth quarter that he should have caught. He then picked up a personal foul penalty. Instead of Green Bay starting at midfield, it started at its own 13.

Seat troubles.

The NFL had to relocate about 850 ticket holders because some temporary seating areas at Cowboys Stadium were not completed by kickoff. And 400 ticket holders who were affected could not be relocated to seats inside the stadium and will receive refunds of three times the face value of their tickets — or \$2,400 total each.

The NFL released a statement that read, in part: "The safety of fans attending the Super Bowl was paramount in making the decision and the NFL, Dallas Cowboys and City of Arlington officials are in agreement with the resolution. We regret the situation and inconvenience that it may have caused. We will conduct a full review of this matter."

A Matthews ring.

His father, Clay Jr., played 19 seasons in the NFL and never won a Super Bowl.

His uncle, Bruce, was a Hall of Famer who played 19 seasons in the NFL and never won a Super Bowl.

Packers linebacker Clay Matthews III just finished his second season, and with Sunday's victory, he has now already won a Super Bowl.

"I guess I got the proverbial monkey off the Matthews' back," the youngest Matthews said.

New members.

Shannon Sharpe, who was selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, took part in the pregame coin flip at midfield. Most of the other members of the Hall's Class of 2011 also were on hand.

The best offense . . .

It wasn't great football that created the drama in Super Bowl XLV. It was the suspense over which

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of the teams could self-destruct more completely. In the end, the Steelers won that battle and lost the chance to win a league-best seventh Super Bowl.

Phil Sheridan, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Shunned no more.

Ignored out of high school by every major-college program in the country. Only got a chance to play big-time college ball because the coach was on a recruiting trip looking for someone else. Almost dropped completely out of the first round of the 2005 draft. . . . You want a quarterback who has had to earn it every single, solitary step of the way? Aaron Rodgers, say hello to the top of the world, young man.

Bob Glauber, Newsday

Rodgers comes up fighting

The difference between Aaron Rodgers and Ben Roethlisberger in Super Bowl XLV was punishment. Rodgers gave it; Roethlisberger took it. *Dan Pompei, Chicago Tribune*

Injuries can't deter Pack.

It was a masterful performance by a Green Bay team that limped through the season and wound up putting 15 players on injured reserve.

Sam Farmer, Los Angeles Times

Thunderfoot.

For most of the first two quarters, the Steelers' most effective offense came from a player who does not play offense at all. It came from punter Jeremy Kapinos, who pinned down Green Bay whenever the offense stumbled.

Greg Bishop, The New York Times

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