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Tuesday, November 27, 2012

## Bears sign Andre Gurode

By Michael C. Wright  
ESPNChicago.com

Looking to bolster depth up front after losing right guard [Lance Louis](#) on Sunday for the season with a torn ACL in his left knee, the [Chicago Bears](#) on Tuesday announced the signing of veteran guard/center [Andre Gurode](#), a five-time Pro Bowler.

The signing of Gurode comes on the heels of the Bears losing two starters in the 28-10 win over the [Minnesota Vikings](#). Louis suffered his season-ending injury after sustaining a blindside hit from Vikings defensive end [Jared Allen](#). Starting left guard [Chris Spencer](#) also suffered a knee injury against the Vikings, but his timetable for recovery is approximately one to two weeks, according to a source familiar with the situation.

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The Bears also waived veteran defensive tackle [Amobi Okoye](#), in addition to signing offensive lineman Derek Dennis and receiver Dale Moss to the practice squad.

While Gurode, 33, possesses All-Pro pedigree in addition to being named to multiple Pro Bowls, he joins the Bears as a backup, according to an NFL source. With Spencer expected to sit, it's likely the Bears will continue to use former starting right tackle [Gabe Carimi](#) at guard for Sunday's game against the [Seattle Seahawks](#) opposite veteran [Edwin Williams](#), who replaced Spencer when he suffered the knee injury against the Vikings.

Prior to the signing Tuesday of Gurode, undrafted rookie [James Brown](#) -- who was inactive during Sunday's win over the Vikings -- represented the only backup option remaining on the active roster. Brown still hasn't yet played in an NFL game.

"We just keep playing the way we're playing," left tackle [J'Marcus Webb](#) said Tuesday, just before news surfaced of Gurode's signing. "We're a unit. We've been together now for X amount of weeks, X amount of years. We have to continue to look like it and play like it; play as a unit, and not as one."

The attrition at Halas Hall hasn't diminished morale, Webb said.

"The mood of the team is great. We're sitting real nice," Webb said. "Seattle is in our way. We can't let injuries

or anything like that (keep) us from reaching that ultimate goal. We're at home, and we have to play like we're at home. The past weeks before last week were a little rough. We feel good. We're going to continue to strive for excellence."

Selected to five consecutive Pro Bowls from 2006-10 as a center for the [Dallas Cowboys](#), Gurode last played for the [Baltimore Ravens](#) in 2011. After Gurode missed the majority of training camp in 2011 recovering from offseason knee surgery, the Cowboys cut him after the preseason and he signed with the Ravens that September.

Gurode started five games for the Ravens in 2011, and has made 127 starts over his career.

The Bears also worked out linebacker [Aaron Curry](#) at Halas Hall on Tuesday, according to a source familiar with the situation.

*Information from ESPNChicago.com's Scott Powers contributed to this report.*

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www.chicagotribune.com/sports/football/bears/chi-chicago-bears-sign-andre-gurode-20121127,0,2615470.story

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### Bears add veteran lineman Gurode

By Brad Biggs, Tribune reporter

7:21 PM CST, November 27, 2012

It has been a long time since Andre Gurode suited up as a reserve for the Ravens in the AFC championship game last season, but the 34-year-old still went to the gym five days every week, hoping for a phone call.

It finally came from the Bears and Gurode performed well enough in a tryout Tuesday at Halas Hall to be signed to a contract two days after the team lost two guards to injury in Sunday's victory over the Vikings and a week after guard Chilo Rachal was moved to the reserve list for the remainder of the season.

The Bears placed defensive tackle Amobi Okoye on waivers and have one spot remaining on the 53-man roster. The club also put linebacker Aaron Curry, the Seahawks' fourth overall pick of the 2009 draft, through a tryout. The Raiders released Curry last week.

Gurode, a five-time Pro Bowl performer for the Cowboys where he primarily played center, does not know what his role will be. The Bears placed Lance Louis on injured reserve with a torn ACL and Chris Spencer has a knee injury making his availability for Sunday's game against the Seahawks unknown.

"It's all about faith," Gurode said. "You have to be really centered in God and his word, be really diligent and stay ready because you never know what could happen.

"No one has said anything to me yet about what my role is supposed to be. I am just excited to be with the franchise."

Gurode spent nine seasons with the Cowboys before he was a salary-cap casualty in 2011 just after he had undergone arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. Gurode hooked on with the Ravens and played in 13 games with five starts at left guard. He had a tryout in September with the Lions but primarily has been waiting.

"I didn't have a chance to rehab after my surgery last year to really get my body right and in tip-top shape," Gurode. "I've been working out so when a team called, I would be ready to play."

Gurode last played guard regularly in 2004 but spent enough time at the position last season that he will be comfortable. Now, it's about getting into his iPad playbook, which he will get Wednesday morning.

Okoye was let go after he fell out of favor. Nate Collins surpassed him on the depth chart and he has been inactive four of the last five games. He made four tackles and had one sack in six games. It's unknown if the Bears will have interest in defensive end Jason Babin, whom the Eagles waived Tuesday. He has 51/2 sacks after totaling 18 a year ago. The Bears could place a claim for him but at 8-3 they are far down the priority list for the waiver wire. Babin is due \$1.64 million for the final five games if claimed.

Wide receiver Dale Moss, an undrafted rookie from South Dakota State, and guard Derek Dennis, an undrafted rookie from Temple, were signed to the practice squad. Wide receiver Raymond Radway and guard Chris Riley were released from the practice squad. Offensive linemen Robert Griffin and Lonnie Edwards received tryouts.

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Newly acquired Bears lineman Andre Gurode (65) with the...

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