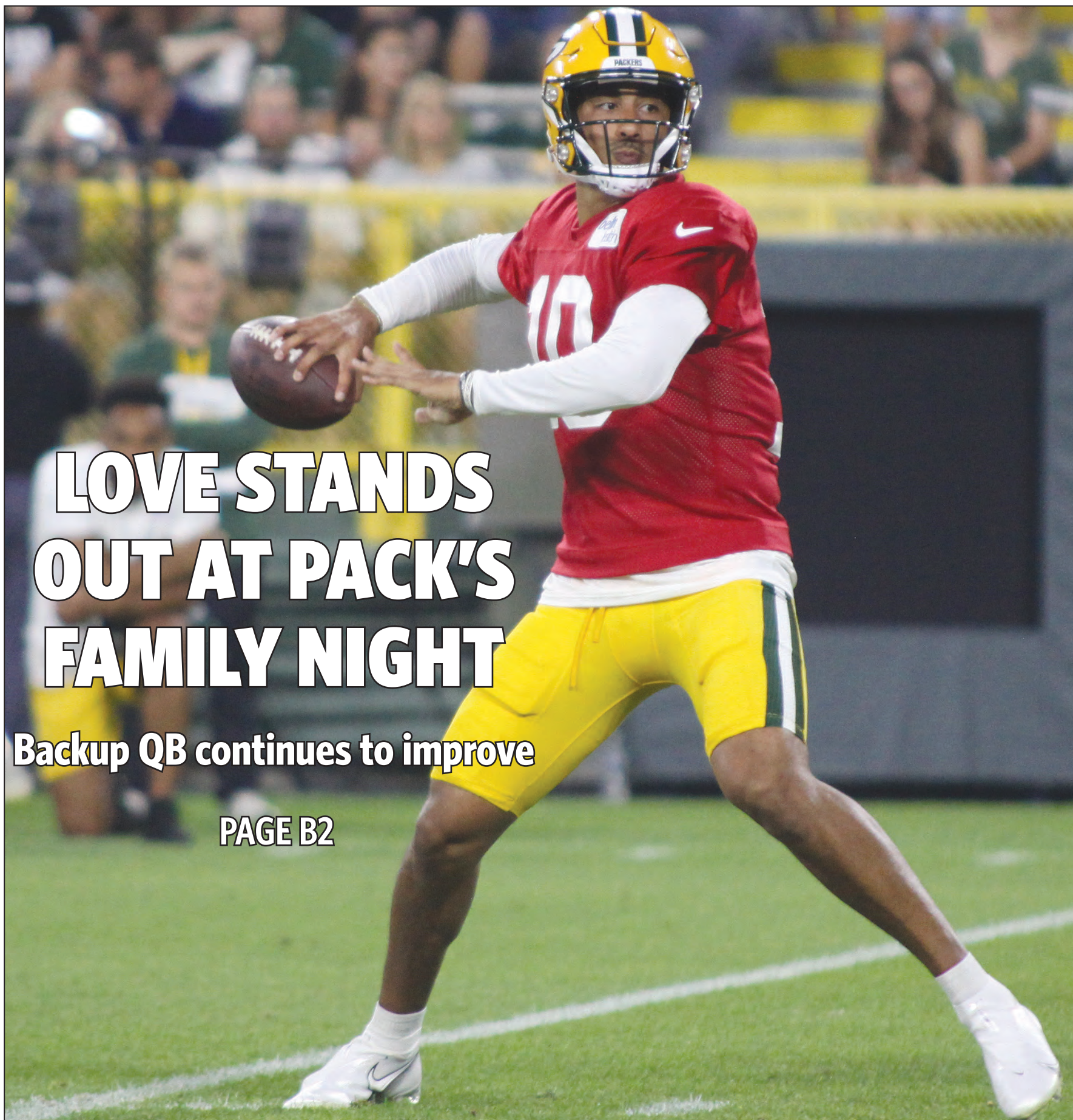




LOVE STANDS OUT AT PACK'S FAMILY NIGHT

Backup QB continues to improve

PAGE B2

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love prepares to pass the ball during the team's Family Night practice on Aug. 5 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

PRO FOOTBALL

Jordan Love shows development at Family Night

QB highlights night with 54-yard TD pass

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love talked about his development, as well as how Family Night can prepare the team for preseason games after their biggest practice of the year was held Aug. 5 at Lambeau Field.

Love, who is entering his third year in the NFL, has only appeared in six games over the past two years in supporting Aaron Rodgers in back-to-back MVP seasons.

“Jordan has done a nice job,” said Green Bay Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. “It has been promising — he has been doing a good job, and I think he did it again tonight. Jordan has shown a lot of growth in my eyes.”

One of the biggest highlights of Family Night came when Love connected with rookie wide receiver Samori Toure for a 54-yard touchdown down the middle of the field.

“That was one of those plays where it should be a big play if everything works out,” said Toure. “We had cover 4, which put me one-on-one with the defensive back, and I just used my speed, made a good break and Jordan made a great throw.”

Love walked through the play call of the touchdown pass, as well as what he saw when completing the pass.

“We had a deep post on the back side, and we had the coverage where the safety was cheating the three receiver side,” said Love. “It was just one of those things where I let the ball go. I think that the defensive back was guessing it was going to be a shorter route, and he cut it.”

Due to Family Night being just a practice, pass rushers did not tackle or hit Love when he threw the strike to Toure. He used this throw as a developmental stepping stone from last year.

“Going back to the Lions game last year, I had a throw with a guy in my face that I missed,” said Love. “It could have been a big play. That is something that I looked at in the offseason to get better. I have to stand in the pocket, take hits and still be able to make those throws. There is still growing room in those passes, though.”

He acknowledged that such a



Green Bay Packers quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers (12), Jordan Love (10) and Danny Etling (19) lead the team to the field for the Family Night practice on Aug. 5 in Green Bay.

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Green Bay Packers cornerback Jaire Alexander catches the ball during the team's Family Night practice on Aug. 5 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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throw would probably be tougher with real opponents.

“If that pass was in a live game, it may have been different,” added Love. “I would definitely be taking a shot right there. But as long as I can get it out there and make some type of throw, then they will be able to make plays on it.”

Love went on to talk about what happens as a quarterback when the pocket collapses.

“When you have pressure, it is just about making a good decision,”

said Love. “Obviously you have to be as accurate as you can. Whether I am taking those shots downfield or throwing a check down, I am trying to focus on that throw to make it as accurate as possible.”

Much like LaFleur and Toure, Juwann Winfree shared positive thoughts on Love's NFL progression.

“I have really been impressed by Jordan's poise out there; he looks like that he has been there before,” said Winfree, a wide receiver. “This is his third year, and the growth has

been tremendous. I am excited to see the player that he is becoming, and it should be a good future.”

Love showed his excitement for being able to play against other teams, as opposed to going against the Packers' defense day after day.

“You are always looking forward to that,” said Love. “You get in these situations in practice, where everyone is telling you that that play would have been a sack, but in a live game they might not have gotten me. So it is just exciting to getting back to live.”

Finally, Love shared his excitement about playing under the lights at his second Family Night. During his rookie year, the 2020 Family Night was canceled amid the pandemic.

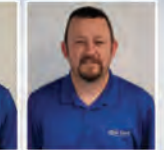
“My first year being the COVID year, that was tough,” said Love. “Being able to see this and to see the atmosphere at Lambeau is awesome. Driving in, I am thinking that this is a just practice, but the place is sold out. There are not too many places like this.”

Having a practice in front of a home crowd can only boost the team's preseason preparation, Love said.

“I think that a practice like this in front of fans is a different vibe,” said Love. “There is a little more energy, juice and crowd noise. It is nice to see what a game is really like out there.”

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Rieck replaces Holsey as Witt-Birn coach

Team coming off deep postseason run

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School football team will have a new head coach this season after one of its best showings in school history.

Bernard Holsey was the head coach for the Chargers last season when the team finished just one win short of a state appearance. Jason Rieck, the team's former offensive coordinator, was tabbed the team's new coach for the upcoming season after Holsey resigned to take the defense line coaching spot with the Arkansas Attack of Major League Football (MLFB).

"He is a highly-committed coach," said Witt-Birn athletic director Chris Nier of Rieck. "He has been an assistant football coach since 2017 under coach Holsey and was strongly recommended by Bernard at his time of resignation."

"Jason is also the head baseball coach and has taken it upon himself to lead our strength, speed and agility program in the summer," Nier continued. "He is an active official in basketball, line judge in volleyball and often works the clock for JV and varsity basketball games. He basically will do anything needed in the athletic department."

Along with his experience as an assistant for the Chargers, Rieck also coached in Stevens Point. He was an assistant varsity coach for Stevens Point Area Senior High, ran the football program for grades 7-9 and was the coach for a ninth grade team.

Rieck took over as Witt-Birn's baseball coach this past spring and has coached the Legion team a couple of summers, including this year when the team qualified for state. He still plans to coach the baseball team in the spring but could possibly pass the Legion coaching duties off to someone else in the future if the right candidate were to emerge.

He's excited to try and continue the football success that Holsey and the Chargers have recently achieved.

"The program is in a great place right now," said Rieck. "We did lose some seniors but also had a lot of younger players get experience last year that will pay off this year."



Jason Rieck, third from left, addresses the football team during a Division 5 state semifinal game against Aquinas on Nov. 12 in Wisconsin Rapids. Rieck has taken over as the Chargers' head coach.

TINA BACON

They saw what needs to be done and the work it takes to get that far in playoffs. Everyone is excited for this season, and I hope to continue the progress the program has made the last couple years."

Even though the team will have some turnover after the loss of some impact seniors, Rieck doesn't plan to make many drastic changes to how things are run; he's anticipating a smooth transition to his role as head coach.

Rieck said that he wants his teams to be built on "teamwork, hard work, great effort, pride in our athletic program and school and themselves."

Under Holsey, Witt-Birn made it to the postseason four times.

Witt-Birn had made the playoffs 17 times in its history before Holsey took over, but the current team was also struggling to win more than a game or two a year. It didn't take Holsey long to turn the team into a playoff contender again, with last year serving as the highlight of his run as the head coach.

Holsey called the 2021 season "an extremely special thing to me," as he was able to deliver on a promise he made when he took over to help the team return to consistent winning seasons.



Bernard Holsey takes the field prior to the football team's Division 5 state semifinal game against Aquinas on Nov. 12 in Wisconsin Rapids. Holsey resigned as the team's head coach after the 2021 season.

TINA BACON

team bounced back by winning a defensive battle against Stratford and then hit its groove by winning the rest of its regular season games, followed by three playoff games.

Holsey added that the most recent team was willing to do whatever it took to come away with wins, while always being confident in the plans laid out for them and that they could beat anybody they faced.

Unfortunately for Holsey, there was a financial issue that halted the MLFB. Even though the coaching opportunity didn't go exactly as he'd hoped, Holsey had no regrets.

Holsey, who played the defensive line professionally for four NFL teams, said he took the position to challenge himself. He knew he could coach high school athletes, and he wanted to see if he could also help out players with college or even some professional experience.

He said he didn't have to change any aspects of the way he coached, and reports from the team's training camp were that he was turning the position group into a tenacious one.

While his immediate future isn't exactly known, Holsey is hoping to get back into coaching in some fashion.

BABA HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

East-West Division

Little Falls 15

Caroline 1

Little Falls kept its perfect season alive with a convincing win over Caroline on Aug. 5 in Caroline.

Carter Kurki earned the win on the mound after striking out six batters over seven innings. Braiden Behnke was dealt the loss.

Hunter Gruenwald powered Little Falls at the plate with a grand slam among his two hits. Kurki also homered and joined Kyle Finger, Jenner Gullixon and Scott Aasen with two hits.

Aaron Hoffman posted two of Caroline's seven hits.

Gresham 4

Marion 2

Gresham doubled up Marion on Aug. 7 in Gresham.

Paul Murphy earned the win for Gresham. Lukas Pecore homered to lead the team at the plate, while Cody Reimer tallied two hits.

Joe Weyenberg was dealt the loss on the mound. Mitch Elandt and Jake Westphal each doubled for Marion.

Gresham capped the regular season with an 8-5 record, while Marion finished 5-8.

Clintonville 13

Tilleda 1

Clintonville moved to 9-4 on the

season after a lopsided win over Tilleda on Aug. 7 in Tilleda.

Turner Doornink led Clintonville with three hits, including a homer. Keenan Doornink, Jaden Doornink, Nate Morse, Mitch Ebben, Andy Lederer, Hunter Vollmer and Lean Ebben each chipped in two hits.

Vollmer also earned the win on the mound. Zach Fehrman took the loss on the hill for Tilleda, which ended the year 3-10.

Caroline 18

Leopolis 0

Caroline routed Leopolis on Aug. 7 in Leopolis. Caroline capped the regular season with a 7-6 record, while Leopolis went 1-12.

Aaron Hoffman earned the win on the mound and also tallied three hits at the plate. Presley Rosenow hit two home runs, a grand slam and a three-run shot, while Braiden Behnke tallied four hits.

Justin Reminger added three hits for Caroline, while Neil Hoffman and Tyler Marquardt recorded two each.

Nate Laude was the losing pitcher for Leopolis.

Neopit earns forfeit win

Neopit moved to 9-4 on the season after picking up a forfeit win over Shawano on Aug. 7.

Shawano ends the year with an 0-13 record.

Tigerton, Little Falls game postponed

The Aug. 7 game between Tigerton and Little Falls was postponed

ONLINE

Visit www.bababaseball.com/index.html for up-to-date standings and statistics from the BABA.

because of wet field conditions in Little Falls. A makeup game had not be scheduled as of press time.

Regardless of the outcome of the game, Little Falls would win the West Division as it was 12-0 before the contest. Tigerton was in second with its 10-2 mark.

Northern Division

Birnamwood 11

Hatley 10

Birnamwood earned a wild win over Hatley on Aug. 5 in Birnamwood. Chandler Fochs delivered the game-winning single for Birnamwood.

Brad Knoblock earned the win on the hill and led Birnamwood with four hits at the plate. Mason Meverden tallied three hits, while Austin Rekow and Fochs had two each.

Simon Stewart was the losing pitcher. Wyatt Brown clubbed two homers among his three hits for Hatley. Kyle Zblewski, Nick Cotter, Dan Schubring and Mitch Danielski each tallied two hits.

Birnamwood finished the year 5-7, while Hatley also finished 5-7.

Aniwa 4

Eland 2

Aniwa doubled up Eland on Aug. 7 in Aniwa. Both teams finished the regular season at 8-4.

Kody Szews earned the win for

Aniwa, while Tyler Nelson took the loss.

Nolan Hoppe led Aniwa with three hits at the plate, while Ryan Govek had two knocks.

Joe Buss, Zach Bembenek and Alex Bembenek all recorded two hits for Eland.

Antigo/Polar 4

Elderon 2

Antigo/Polar also moved to 8-4 on the season after toppling Elderon on Aug. 7 in Antigo. Elderon fell to 7-5.

Mason Gray delivered the game-winning hit in the eighth inning, clubbing a grand slam. Eli Fleischman tallied three hits, while Cole Kuenzli had two.

AJ Kirsch picked up the win on the mound, while Trevor Groshek took the loss.

South Central Division

Green Lake, New London split pair

New London and Green Lake split a doubleheader on Aug. 7 in New London. Green Lake won game one 1-0, while New London won 2-1 in game two.

Cole Boge earned the win for Green Lake in game one, pitching all seven innings. Jared Danke drove in the game's lone run and tallied two hits.

Myles Porter was the losing pitcher in game one. New London's Cheyvn Aus picked up the win in game two, with Andrew Parker posting two hits at the plate.

Derek Zamzow was the losing pitcher in game two for Green Lake.

DAIRYLAND LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Cecil 11

Nichols 10 (10 inn.)

Grant Bouche drove in the game-winning run to cap Cecil's high-scoring win over Nichols on Aug. 7 in Cecil. The Mudhens outit the Nitros 17-12 in the contest.

Noah Beilfuss and Bouche led Cecil with three hits each. Isaac Boldt, Cole Anderson, Tucker Bouche and Greg Belongia each added two hits.

Beilfuss earned the win on the mound after pitching an inning. Joey Wagerster was the losing pitcher.

Shawano 7

Navarino 6

Shawano rode a five-run fourth

FYI

A story on the Dairyland and BABA playoff schedule can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

inning to a tight win over Navarino on Aug. 7 in Shawano.

Chase Henning homered and drove in three runs for Shawano, while Hunter Hoffman and Ashton Henning had two hits each.

Cole Nelson earned the win, while Ashton Henning, Riley Acra and Kasey Kristof also pitched for the Lobos.

Ryan Boettcher drove in a pair for Navarino, while Kyle Finger led the team with three hits. Finger took the loss on the hill, with Boettcher and Spencer Dauphany also pitching.

2 games postponed

Two Dairyland games scheduled

for Aug. 7 were postponed.

The Bonduel, Hortonville game in Manawa and Waupaca, Hofa Park matchup in Waupaca were both postponed. Results from those games can be found on teams' Facebook pages.

Hortonville 11

Shawano 1 (7 inn.)

Hortonville rolled to a win over Shawano on Aug. 5 in Manawa. Shawano scored first, but Hortonville scored nine times in the fifth frame to take control.

Will Salaman drove in three runs on three hits for Hortonville. Kole Ellenbecker drove in two runs on two hits.

Mason Thiel was the winning pitcher after striking out seven batters in a complete game effort.

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