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**FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS -  
MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014

## GRUMPY CAT LOVES SARAH PALIN: THE PACKERS IN FREE AGENCY - PART II

Having a bad day?



Well, so is Grumpy Cat, who somehow became famous after photo and videos of her un-Photoshopped face became viral in 2012. Believe it or not, Grumpy Cat just became 2. Yeah, I'm not terribly excited about that either. But for some reason, I almost pulled the trigger on one of this Grumpy Cat toy:



I look like Ha Kung feels basically every morning.

It just goes to show that just about anything can be famous. Silly things like Tebowing. Or deep fried Oreos. Or the Kardashians. Or Snooki. Or



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B4



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Sarah Palin. Just kidding, I actually like deep fried Oreos. But I digress.



Giving the thumbs up is still cool, right?

In 2013, the Packers had several unexpected occurrences much more surprising than Sarah Palin's rise to stardome (and actually, her skit on Jimmy Fallon was *kinda funny*). Yet, as we discussed before, they still managed to make the playoffs. Perhaps unfortunately, some of those players who stepped up in 2013 are on their way out the door. Since we discussed who the Packers **Kept last time**, let's now turn to significant players who the Packers have **Ditched** in free agency so far.

### Ditched



*Evan Dietrich-Smith – C*

Evan Dietrich-Smith, 27, was a standout at center for the Packers in his first full season as a starter since joining the Packers in 2009. He started by filling in for the declining Jeff Saturday in 2012 and continued to excel in 2013. He was a solid foundation for the Packers offensive line. He had surprising quickness for a center and showed great work ethic as a starter. Of course, that all goes away in 2014.

The Buccaneers managed to grab Dietrich-Smith in free agency adding to an impressive new offensive line. Unfortunately for the Packers, this leaves a void at center since the Packers don't have a tested backup. In fact, without some help in free agency or in the draft, the primary prospect would be 2013 draft pick JC Tretter, who hasn't even played a single regular season snap yet because of an ankle injury. Losing Dietrich-Smith may be the most significant loss for the Packers this off season.

*James Jones – WR*

The Packers have been known for its aerial attack for quite some time, and 2013 wasn't any different as the Packers were 6th in passing yards per game (266.8) even with Rodgers out for a significant number of games. Much of that is due to Rodgers being so dominant when he wasn't hurt, and part of that was due to the Packers receivers. And since Randall Cobb was out for 10 games last season, James Jones was an even more significant part of that. Jones lost a step entering is age 30 year, and he only had 817 yards and 3 TDs in 2013, but he's a solid WR that can bring consistency to any receiving core. And since Jones has left for the Raiders, we'll find out if it was Jones who was good or the Packers' system that made him useful. Jarrett Boykin should take over as WR3, and as long as Cobb stays healthy, the Packers shouldn't miss Jones much. But the Packers know better than most teams the impact of unexpected injuries, which could make Jones' departure more significant

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than we think.

#### *Marshall Newhouse – OT*

After losing Dietrich-Smith, losing another consistent part of the offensive line is the last thing the Packers need. Unfortunately, that's what happened when Marshall Newhouse left for the Bengals. Newhouse was a solid part of the Packers offensive line due to his versatility and being able to play both sides of the offensive line. He was solid in pass protection and in opening gaps for the run game, but lacked facing power rushers. Bryan Bulaga should be back from his knee injury and slide back in at right tackle, making Newhouse's departure less significant, but it's never good to lose a good versatile back up.

Now that we've looked at who the Packers have **Ditched**, next time we'll discuss significant players who the Packers have **Picked Up** in free agency. Be sure to tune back in because I promise you that the next article will be more entertaining than Snooki eating deep fried Oreos with Grumpy Cat. OK, I lied, nothing could be more entertaining than that.



*By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)*



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