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FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS - MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013

## SUN TZU AIN'T GOT NOTHING ON ME: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIRST WEEK OF 2013 PACKERS CAMP

Have you ever heard the saying "keep your friends close and your enemies closer?"



I always thought that Micheal Coreleone first said that in the Godfather Part II. Which, by the way, is part of one of the most amazing movie trilogies ever made. I mean, how can you NOT like a movie trilogy that includes a horse head in some guy's bed? And in case you didn't know, after Francis Ford Coppola tried over 30 different horse head props (and where in the world do they sell horse head props? And why do they have over 30 different horse head props there? And are there other animal head props there? And why in the world have I never been to this place?), he actually got a REAL horse head from a New Jersey slaughterhouse? Actually, now that I think about it, I'm feeling a little ill. But I'll hold off until after I finish the article. Don't say I've never done anything for you. But I digress.

And although Sun-Tzu said something close, turns out that quote was actually from Machiavelli in "The Prince", which apparently is the definitive guide for how to be a dictator. I had no idea there was such a thing. Otherwise I would have read it a long time ago. But my point is I know that all us football nuts love to watch preseason camp and make predictions as to how our favorite team is going to do. But what I like to do is keep an eye on my LEAST favorite team, because I like to know how they're going to compare once the season starts. And for me, as you all probably know, that's the Green Bay Packers.

So here are a few minor observations from Packer's training camp over the first

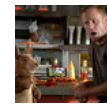
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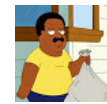
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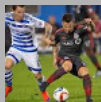
The Ravens stole one against New England last week. Here's a look at week 4 matchups.



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week based on the reports I've seen.

**Running Backs**



Although there are several running backs currently on the roster, we all know that as long as Eddie Lacy doesn't fall flat on his face in the preseason, he should get the majority of the carries in week 1 going forward. But that doesn't mean there isn't room for speculation.

Both Eddie Lacy and Johnathan Franklin have looked good in camp, so far, according to the Packer's training camp notes, but it's interesting how the two workloads are being divided. Lacy appears to be being used as a primary down back, whereas Franklin is used in more change of pace type situations. In addition, Franklin took a large number of the returns on punt drills and did not drop the ball once, at least in the portions of camp open to the public. Looks like Franklin may be used on special teams to take advantage of his shifty speed in addition to getting him looks in space on offense. Then again, Twitter blew up last Monday when pictures surfaced showing Lacy potentially overweight. Coach McCarthy attempted to quell rumors by stating that "Going through the (conditioning) test, he was fine," and that "If we had any concern about any of our guys, they wouldn't be on the field." There hasn't been much more on this, so looks to be a red herring. In fact, according to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Lacy was the "standout" player at Saturday night's intrasquad scrimmage.

Interestingly, although Lacy totaled 65 yards on 8 carries and played 17 snaps, one more than James Starks and two more than Franklin, James Starks actually started (followed by Lacy, Franklin and Alex Green). I'm assuming this is more out of respect for the "veteran" than anything else. Also, looks like early positive reports on Green's performance in camp, especially taking the ball to the outside, won't be changing anything. Of course, Green was also responsible for the only fumble in 11 on 11 drills during the first week of Packers camp, being stripped by defensive tackle Johnny Jolly, so maybe Green will be relegated to mop up duty during the season.

Bottom line, in my opinion, the depth chart hasn't changed with Lacy at the top, potentially being used in a 70/30 split with Franklin, and a hand full of leftovers for Starks and Green, particularly with DuJuan Harris on the PUP list and questionable for the start of the season. And we may see Franklin taking over punt returns from Randall Cobb, leaving Cobb with kick returns.

**Wide Receivers**

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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The typical strength of the Packer's offense, its aerial corps, has actually been the biggest concern so far in camp.

On the first Friday of camp, undrafted rookie Sederrick Cunningham injured his wrist battling cornerback Micah Hyde for a deep ball. Cunningham, who was seen wearing a sling, missed the remainder of the week of camp with the wrist injury. On the first Saturday of camp, Charles Johnson and Kevin Dorsey both had injuries that kept both out of camp for the rest of the first week. Johnson fell as his left leg got caught underneath him while he tried to come out of a slant route to catch a pass. Dorsey's injury is more concerning, as he pulled up limping after running a route without any apparent contact. Non-contact injuries generally point to ligament strains, so hopefully it doesn't turn too bad for Dorsey. With the two seventh-round draft picks out, Jarrett Boykin and Jeremy Ross are making a run at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> wide receiver spots. Even Jordy Nelson ended up on the injured list missing Friday's practice with knee soreness, which may be related to when Nelson hurt his knee being pushed out of bounds against Minnesota last year at Lambeau Field. He didn't miss any games because of it, so hopefully for the Pack this isn't more severe than what he had then. But perhaps this awesome commercial for Wisconsin with Jordy Nelson will make up for all the bad news - <http://lombardiave.com/2013/08/02/jordy-nelson-wisconsin-green-bay-packer/>. All I can say is I want what he's having.



And of course the big news in Packers camp so far is the loss of Left Tackle Brian Bulaga to a torn ACL. That leaves the Pack with Marshall Newhouse, last years every week starter and poorly rated blind side protector. If nothing else, it certainly seems like a downgrade for both the ground and air attack.

As we move on through the preseason, I'm sure these situations will develop. And I'll be keeping an eye on the Bears and the Packers. Of course, I'd love to hear what you all think about those two teams so far as well. I just hope you won't be making me an offer I can't refuse.



By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: [@Rhihan](#))

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