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CHARLEY WALTERS: Greer Bay Packers great Jerry Kramer misses Brett Favre

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Jerry Kramer was a five-time all-pro right guard, teammate of hall of fame quarterback Bart Starr, played on five NFL championship teams and is a member of the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame. In town the other day to play in ex-Twins hall of famer Harmon Killebrew's charity golf tournament, Kramer said he's still puzzled by the Packers' reluctance to allow future hall of fame star QB Brett Favre to return to the team. Packers. "I understand the Packers are looking for a mature, experienced quarterback to back up Aaron Rodgers, which seems like a really good idea," Kramer said. "And they had a mature, experienced quarterback in Brett Favre. If the New York Jets trade Brett Favre to Minnesota, they would be required to give up three first-round draft picks. That indicates there is a certain value in Brett Favre if he comes to Minnesota.

"But in Green Bay, he's not of any value? In fact, we (the Packers) will pay him \$20 million not to play. Now, doesn't that make a lot of sense? There's something going on about this whole thing that we don't know about. There's something emotional, or some kind of grudge, or something in there that doesn't make sense that we haven't heard about yet.

"So, on the surface, this is the dumbest thing that we've ever seen."

Kramer, 72, played 11 seasons for the Packers.

"Green Bay, for the first time in years, is in a position where their whole football team is in pretty good shape — their defense is playing well, their offensive line's intact, their young receivers are coming, they've got a running back or two, and the only question mark is a quarterback.

"Now, Aaron may be wonderful, and he certainly looked good against Dallas (in a game last season when Favre was injured), and I'll give you all that. But we don't know — bottom line is we don't know how he's going to play. And that's the only question mark on the team.

"So if you're going to try to go to the big dance, why don't you keep the kid who can take you there? And, if you have to put him down in the middle of the season and let the other kid play, so be it. But you cover yourself; you take your shot, you do your thing. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me."

Kramer is a big Favre fan.

"I believe in Brett," he said. "I've watched him long enough and he's got so many talents ... the improvisation aspect of his game. Already with the Jets, the receivers are saying, 'You better be awake; he'll hold you accountable. You better be on your game or he'll embarrass you.' He's going to upgrade the whole team, bring some focus and excitement."

Minor league outfielder Joe Gaetti, 26, whom the Twins acquired from Oakland last week and who is the son of former Twins third baseman **Gary Gaetti**, hit a home run in his first at-bat for Class AA New Britain.

Former Augsburg College goaltender Jason Shaver, 35, grandson of retired hall of fame former North Stars play-by-play voice **Al Shaver** and son of Gophers hockey play-by-play voice **Wally Shaver**, has been hired to do play-by-play for the Chicago

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Wolves of the American Hockey League. Last season, Jason broadcast for the Wild's Houston Aeros team.

Shamrock's pub in St. Paul has obtained 150 tickets with plans to run buses to Monday night's Twins-Oakland game at the Metrodome, where Cretin-Derham Hall graduates **Joe Mauer** of the Twins and **Jack Hannahan** of the A's will play against each other. Hannahan, the former Gopher who has been playing third base and some games at first base, is hitting .223 but has 23 doubles, second on the club.

Fox Sports Net Timberwolves analyst Mike McCollow has been traveling between New York City and Stamford, Conn., to do live Olympic basketball analysis on nbcolympics.com.

Pat Carroll, Wally Chapman, Joe DeVoe, Tom Kelly, Hilary Homeyer Lunke, Tom Presthus, Bob Savre and **Kate Riley Smith** will be inducted into the Edina High School Hall of Fame on Oct. 2 at Edina Country Club.

Tom Hardy, Richard Reynolds, Robert Lewis and **Ray Muetzel** will be inducted into the St. Paul Central "C" Club Hall of Fame at the school's 90th annual banquet Sept. 23 at O'Gara's Pub.

Four-time Olympic gold-medal swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg will instruct at an Oct. 12 clinic at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center.

Former Stillwater High basketball standout George Regis is a prominent music entertainment attorney in New York City.

Look for former Richfield High center Xavier Crawford, 6 feet 11, to play basketball for Cal State-Northridge this season.

Eddie Robinson's NCAA record for most college

football games coached (588) while at Grambling is on schedule to be broken in the third week of the season Sept. 20 against Concordia (Moorhead) by St. John's legend **John Gagliardi**.

Former Mounds View basketball player and assistant coach Mark Sembrowich, who has left Yale University as a men's basketball assistant, will be working with new assistants **Dick Davey**, **Rodney Tentiain** and **Mike Schrage** on **Johnny Dawkins'** staff at Stanford.

Longtime Twins scout Larry Corrigan has key position evaluating talent for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Vikings and longtime coaching/scouting assistant **Sid Pillai** have quietly parted ways.

DON'T PRINT THAT

Glen Perkins, who is 9-3 for the Twins this season and starts today against Seattle in the Metrodome, believes part of his effectiveness is a result of pitching more like he did when he was with the Gophers.

"When I got into pro ball, I kind of lost my changeup and just went fastball-curveball, and in the lower levels of the minor leagues, I got away with just throwing fastballs," the Stillwater graduate said. "But now, I'm getting that changeup back in there and mixing speeds, more like I did in college when I had those good couple of years there."

Perkins won 19 games in two years for the Gophers. "Honestly, I think I might be rounding into what I was when I was there," he said.

Former Twins pitcher Carlos Silva spent some of his \$48 million contract with the Mariners hosting an extravagant party at his suburban Minneapolis home Thursday, a day before he got bounced by the

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Twins in the Metrodome.

Gophers 6-10 freshman Cole Iverson appears to be more ready to play physically in the Big Ten Conference this season than teammate **Ralph Sampson III** , a 6-11 freshman.

Ex-Vikings coach Mike Tice is being mentioned as a prospect for the upstart United Football League, which is said to be willing to pay head coaches \$1.5 million annually. Tice earns \$1.1 million as a top assistant with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Former Gophers NCAA wrestling champion and mixed martial arts fighter Brock Lesnar' company, which he owns, is named "DeathClutch, LLC."

New University of South Dakota offensive coordinator Gordy Shaw , a former Gophers recruiting whiz, has 10 scholarships offers out to Minnesota prep players.

OVERHEARD

Packers hall of famer Jerry Kramer, on talk that QB **Brett Favre** might have ended up with the Vikings, laughing: "They (Packers) were at least smart enough to know that the Green Bay fans would kill the general manager and everybody in the organization, I guess."