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Posted July 6, 2007

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Packers to practice at City Stadium

One-time training visit will be fundraiser for children's museum

By **Kelly McBride**
kmcbride@greenbaypressgazette.com

Die-hard railbirds will find themselves on the other side of the river July 31 when the Green Bay Packers go old-school with a training camp practice at Green Bay East High School's City Stadium.

It will be the first time in more than 50 years the Packers have practiced at the stadium, which was the team's home field from 1925 until 1956. Packers Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Bob Harlan, Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt and Green Bay School District Superintendent Daniel Nerad announced the plan at a Thursday news conference.

"This season we're going to be honoring Lambeau Field, on its 50th anniversary," Harlan said during the news conference, held in front of City Stadium. "And we thought that as we're paying a great



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Green Bay Packers Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Bob Harlan, left, shares a laugh with Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt on Thursday before a news conference announcing that the Green Bay Packers will be practicing July 31 at historic City Stadium at Green Bay East High School. Evan Siegle/Press-Gazette

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tribute to the finest stadium in the National Football League, we should also pay attention to our previous home, which sits right behind us.

"We played here for 32 years. We won six NFL titles while playing in this wonderful stadium, and greats like Curly Lambeau, Don Hutson and Tony Canadeo achieved greatness on this field."

The July 31 regular practice will begin at 6:30 p.m., with related activities beginning at 6 p.m. The Packers may add temporary seating to the 2,300-seat stadium, because of an anticipated high level of interest.

The practice will be free and open to the public, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. The event also will be used as a fundraiser for the new Green Bay Children's Museum, set to open downtown in 2008.

"There's been a lot of tradition brought to this community by the Packers," Schmitt said of the old City Stadium days. "Something that was done during that time is, they would pass the hat. ... We're going to continue that tradition at this practice, and we're going to pass the hat to help another great community entity, and that's the Children's Museum."

Team officials are working with the city on security and crowd control issues, said Craig Benzel, the Packers' director of marketing and corporate sales.

Temporary bleachers also were erected at City Stadium in September 2005, providing seating for 7,000 people when East and Green Bay West played the 100th game in their football rivalry.

City Stadium's capacity at its peak was slightly more than 25,000.

Adding to the anticipated crowd, the Green Bay Bullfrogs are scheduled to play that night. First pitch will be at 7:05 p.m. at nearby Joannes Stadium.

East High School is looking forward to having the Packers back, East principal Ed Dorff said Thursday.

"It draws positive attention to a very positive place," Dorff said.

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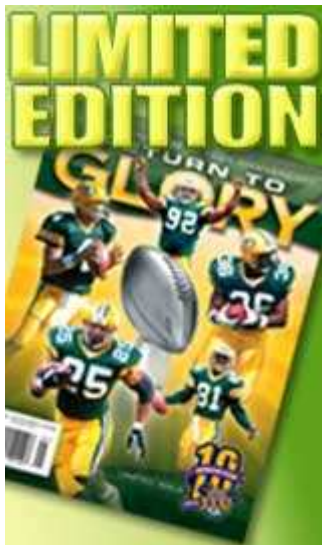
Packers training camp at old City Stadium

If you go

Activities begin at 6 p.m. July 31, with practice starting at 6:30 p.m. at City Stadium. The event is free and open to the public and serves as a fundraiser for the planned Green Bay Children's Museum.

Share your memories

The Green Bay Packers have created countless memories for their fans the past half-century. The tailgates, the championships, the all-time greats — what do you remember most? The Green Bay Press-Gazette wants your stories for upcoming features on the 50th anniversary of Lambeau Field and the 40th



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"And a very positive partnership that's endured for many, many years."

anniversary of the Ice Bowl. Sum up your favorite memory in 200 words or less, then e-mail it to yoursports@greenbaypressgazette.com or send it to:
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