



GREEN BAY

# FOR OVER 60 YEARS, YOUNG FANS HAVE OFFERED PLAYERS BIKE RIDES TO AND FROM TRAINING CAMP PRACTICES

## TRADITION PRE-DATES THE VINCE LOMBARDI ERA

- At this time, the oldest record of the bike tradition is a photo published in the Sep. 10, 1958, edition of the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*
- The Packers rode the bikes from their locker room outside of what was then Green Bay City Stadium (now Lambeau Field), through the east parking lot to the practice field across Oneida Street
- Today, the riders take a similar route, still crossing Oneida Street to get to the practice field complex



**Anyone Know These Packer Fans?** —Before school started, young Packer fans used to wait outside the Packer dressing rooms to offer players a bike ride to the practice field. A photographer doing a feature for a national advertisement snapped this picture.

But he didn't get the names of the boys who appear with Don Mellhenny and Bobby Dillon. Anyone who knows who the boys are is asked to call the Sport Department, *Press-Gazette*. The ride to practice is mostly downhill.

## TRADITION BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

- Kids have a unique opportunity to meet and get to know players
- Focuses on the youth; helps mold the next generation of NFL fans
- Players and kids build relationships that go beyond the bike path

Packers center **Corey Linsley** randomly chose 10-year-old Travis's bike to ride during his rookie year training camp. The two then rode together every day of camp for over five years. Their families became close friends, with the Linsleys spending their first Thanksgiving in Green Bay with Travis's family. When Travis's dad was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis, leaving him in a coma, Linsley and his wife, Anna, organized a benefit to raise money for their friends.



## KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES ARE INCLUDED

- Players push wheelchairs and ride adapted bicycle to make sure every child can take part in the tradition



## ANYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

- Kids offered rides to Texans and Ravens players when the Packers hosted the visiting teams for joint practices.



## FAMILIES BRING THEIR CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE

Packers rookie quarterback **Aaron Rodgers** chose to ride John's bike in 2005, and did so every day of camp until he was named the team's starter in 2008. John moved from California to Wisconsin when he was 10, catching Rodgers's attention at practice by wearing all Cal Bears gear. As bike buddies, the two talked about life, California, music and football. Outside of training camp, Rodgers would attend some of John's middle school football games. John said his friendship with Rodgers was important, "I was an only child growing up, so he kind of filled that big brother void in my life."

