

# Packers individual report card: Special Teams

*By Bob McGinn of the Journal Sentinel*

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## SPECIALISTS

**MASON CROSBY:** There was only one game-winning situation. It came in Game 9 against Detroit, from 52 yards with 5 seconds left. Crosby's kick was horribly low and short, and the Lions left with their first victory at Lambeau Field in 24 years, 18-16. It was the only blot on Crosby's third straight strong season. Crosby tied for 15th in FG accuracy (85.7%) before going 4 of 4 in the playoffs. Besides the Detroit misfire, his misses were from 44 (a few feet wide left), from 41 (off the left upright) and from 49 (blocked because Letroy Guion blocked poorly). He also was one of just five full-time kickers to bat 1.000% (41 of 41, counting playoffs) on extra points. According to Elias Sports Bureau, his average distance of made FGs (36.6) ranked 16th and his average distance of FG attempts (38.0) ranked 14th. He kicked off 84 times for distance, averaging 70.9 yards and 3.78 seconds of hang time (46 touchbacks). Re-signing Crosby should be a top priority. **Grade: B-.**

**BRETT GOODE:** The game at Oakland was his 137th in a row since taking over long-snapper duties in September 2008. He suffered a torn ACL covering a punt in the first quarter against the Raiders, finished the game, had the leg examined and underwent surgery Dec. 28. He's an unrestricted free agent. **Grade: C.**

**RICK LOVATO:** The Packers passed up several veteran snappers and signed Lovato, a rookie from Old Dominion who until the call came was working for his father and uncle in a New Jersey sub shop. His only blemish in what could be labeled four big games was a false-start penalty. Now the Packers must decide whether to go with the younger, cheaper alternative in Lovato or the more proven and expensive Goode. **Grade: C.**

**TIM MASTHAY:** Masthay's net punting average of 40.4 (40.1 in all games) broke Jerry Norton's team record of 39.2 that held for 52 years. In 89 punts, the opponents' long return was 23 yards. He followed instructions to kick directionally all season. Masthay bounced back from his worst season (37.0 net) with possibly his best. That doesn't mean he didn't have some poor punts. His average hang time of 4.09 seconds, down slightly from last year and significantly from 2012 (4.35), reflected inconsistency that might cause the Packers to sign another camp challenger. Masthay ranked 25th in gross average (43.9), 23rd in touchback rate and 31st in inside-the-20 rate. He had no snafus as Crosby's holder and converted a fake punt with a 7-yard run. **Grade: C.**