

## MONDAY FOCUS

# Former Packer greats bring message of respect

By Steve Rundio  
Sports Editor

The first thing Gilbert Brown and William Henderson preach is respect.

"Everything is 'yes, sir' around here," Brown said. "If I'm the coach and you don't show respect, you're off the team."

The two former Green Bay Packers told Tomah Youth Football players to respect their coaches, respect their parents, respect their teachers, respect their teammates and respect themselves during an appearance Saturday at Tomah Fireman's Park. It was organized by the Gilbert Brown Foundation, which raises money for charitable causes and promotes Brown's message of solid citizenship.

The event was co-sponsored by Toro Manufacturing Community Volunteers.

Brown told the youngsters it's important to make the right choices.

"Don't let your stupid friends get you into trouble," he said. "Be your own man. Don't let them get you into trouble because they're not going to amount to anything.

It's cool to say, 'no.'"

Brown played defensive tackle for the Packers Super Bowl teams of 1996 and 1997. Henderson was a fullback on those teams. Brown introduced Henderson as a teammate who represents all the right values.

"He's one of the greatest fullbacks ever to play the game," Brown said. "He was an unselfish player -- he played on special teams for 12 years. He did whatever they asked him to do for 12 years. That's what I'm talking about -- dedication to get to the Pro Bowl and get to the Super Bowl. That's what it takes."

Henderson encouraged players to display a positive attitude.

"It starts with coming out here and having the right attitude -- smiling at your coach and saying, 'Good morning,'" he said.

Henderson said that attitude must extend toward teammates.

"If you see someone on your team who's struggling, take him aside and tell him, 'We're going to get through this thing together,'" he said.

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**W**illiam Henderson (foreground) makes a point during a talk to Tomah Youth Football players Saturday at Fireman's Park. In the background is Gilbert Brown. The two were teammates on a pair of Green Bay Packers Super Bowl teams.

(TOMAH NEWSPAPERS PHOTO BY STEVE RUNDIO)

## PACKERS: Right choices

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Henderson said the youngsters are lucky to have parents who pay for their participation in youth football. He urged them to repay their parents by respecting them at home and doing well in school.

Brown said youngsters need to know the difference between right and wrong at an early age.

"When you're with your friends and they're doing something and you know that it's wrong, don't do it," Brown said. "You be a

leader. Let them follow you."

Brown and Henderson signed autographs and posed for photos. The funds raised during the appearance go to local organizations and groups, including Camp Sunshine, St. Jude's, Sacred Heart Church, Teddy Bear Fund and Make-A-Wish Foundation. It also helps fund fun gas cards for cancer patients, autographed footballs for troops at Fort McCoy, flood victims, school supplies and scholarships.