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SPORTS

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LABOR OF LOVE

It's Jordan Love's turn to take over in Green Bay after three seasons learning behind Aaron Rodgers.

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The Green Bay Packers are a crockpot team in a microwave league when it comes to seasoning a quarterback for the toughest job in all of sports. And that makes Jordan Love the NFL's most intriguing player — and most unpredictable wild card in a wide-open NFC North — as the league kicks off its 104th season with the Lions visiting the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs on Thursday night (7:20 p.m. Ch. 11).

Weeks after the fickle 49ers gave up on 23-year-old Trey Lance's future after 262 snaps in eight games over two seasons, the steadfast Packers are handing their post-Brett Favre/Aaron Rodgers/first-ballot-Hall-of-Fame-QB-for-31-seasons era fate to the 24-year-old Love after 157 snaps in 10 games over three seasons behind Rodgers, who's

JORDAN LOVE

The Packers' new starting QB completed 63.6% of his 33 preseason passes with three touchdowns and no interceptions in three games.

now with the Jets.

Lance started four games, which is the same number of high draft picks (three first, one third) the 49ers spent to move up and select the Marshall, Minn. native third overall in 2021. Love has started one game since the Packers spent a fourth-rounder to move up four spots to take him 26th overall in 2020.

"It's not easy for a first-round quarterback to come in and have to wait his turn in today's NFL," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "That doesn't happen, in my opinion, often enough in this league. I do think there would be a much higher success rate amongst these quarterbacks if you allowed them to develop and learn. See **LOVE** on C5 ▶

Off and running:
 State's top cross-country athletes gear up. **C2**

Punchless Twins can't provide KO:
 Guardians take finale of three-game series. **C3**

Gophers won't sleep on Eastern Michigan:
 MAC team will arrive with confidence. **C6**