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Packers tee it up for charity

By [Dave Lubach](#)

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KOHLER — Nobody denied it. The Green Bay Packers know their situation appears bleak at 0-2.

But the players who took part in Tuesday's team golf invitational at Blackwolf Run hope all it takes to right the season is one good game.

At least that's the message players were trying to hammer home to their concerned fans.

Luckily for Packers fans, most of whom are still stammering after Sunday's game, the team is looking ahead, not behind.

"The big thing is, our backs are against the wall, but it only takes one game to get out of it," said wide receiver [Donald Driver](#). "We just have to put the last two games behind us and get ready for next week."

A number of Packers players — minus one notable golf fanatic and regular participant, quarterback [Brett Favre](#) — and other members of the organization participated in the event that benefits various charities and player foundations.

And although the purpose of the day was to raise money for charity, there was no denying the Packers know their season is teetering on the brink heading into Sunday's home game against Tampa Bay.

"(The losses) are out of my mind, but it's been tough sledding," said right tackle [Mark Tauscher](#). "We seem to put ourselves in a big hole and have to dig ourselves out.

"This is a deep hole, and all we can do is put in the time and keep plugging along."

Playing golf with Packers fans, even during a slumping start, can be a pleasant experience.

"It's going to be fun getting to know the members of my group," said Driver, just after his first tee shot of the day. "By the ninth hole they'll probably want to get rid of me."

Rookie quarterback Aaron Rodgers hasn't played a down in the first two games this season, but is doing what he can to reverse the slide.

"All I can do is help improve the team during practice with the scout team, which I take seriously," said Rodgers. "This is a good team with good guys, we just have to turn it around."

The first step in doing that comes at practice today. But first, the players turned their attention toward taming the River Course and supporting their charities.

Three of the players in attendance Tuesday — Driver, Tauscher and kicker [Ryan Longwell](#) — participated on behalf of their causes.

Driver created the [Donald Driver](#) Foundation, which offers assistance to homeless mothers and underprivileged children in Wisconsin and his native Texas. He is also helping displaced families from Hurricane Katrina by helping them find homes.

Over the past two years Driver has sponsored the purchase of four homes — two in Green Bay and two in Houston — to give to homeless mothers.

"We really want to do five in Wisconsin and five in Houston," Driver said.

This year Tauscher started the "Trifecta Foundation," which stands for Tauscher's Reading Initiative For Every Child To Achieve.

"I came up with the name at the Kentucky Derby," said Tauscher, who's also participating in a fundraising campaign for St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield that involves cutting his long hair at the end of the season. "I hit a trifecta there."

The Trifecta Foundation is aimed at funding reading programs in Milwaukee, Madison (where he played college football at Wisconsin) and Green Bay.

"There are a lot of reading programs that are underfunded, and there's not a lot of money in the budget for them," said Tauscher, a native of Auburndale.

Longwell, a scratch player widely regarded as the Packers' best golfer serves as an honorary chairperson for Cerebral Palsy, Inc.

He was unavailable to the media during the allotted time Tuesday, but his golf game wasn't missing.

"It's Ryan, no doubt," said backup quarterback [Craig Nall](#) about who's the team's best player. "He's the one guy nobody can touch."

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