

Packers Give Lombardi OK On Move To Washington

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers handed Vince Lombardi his release from his contract Wednesday night, allowing him to take control of the Washington Redskins.

"With regret, the resolution was unanimously adopted," Dominic Olejniczak, president of the Packers, said after the first emergency meeting of the Board of Directors in 10 years.

"To a man, the entire board

felt like the Executive Committee had felt — that there wasn't anything we would not have done to have kept Vince Lombardi," Olejniczak said.

The president of the Packer corporation said there was considerable discussion among board members on whether the club should be reimbursed by the Redskins. He said no terms are being asked.

"It is difficult to measure the

true value of compensation," he said. "I would not cheapen this deal by measuring it in money or a couple of players."

"Lombardi has served us well, far and above the call of duty, and we felt it would be a dog-in-the-manger attitude if we were to stand in his way of obtaining a very profitable and substantial interest in the Washington ball club."

Lombardi was in New York

Wednesday night where he received the Jack Mara Sportsman of the Year Award from the Catholic Youth Organization.

The Washington Redskins, pulling perhaps the coaching coup of the century by capturing Lombardi remained mum Wednesday night on what price they paid for him.

Estimates placed the rich package as high as a million dollars in stock and long-term salary.

Lombardi, the most successful coach in pro football today, will be executive vice president, coach and part-owner of the Redskins, who haven't had a winning season since 1955.

He is expected to get anywhere from five to 13 per cent of the club stock at a bargain basement price.

Edward Bennett Williams, Redskins' president who masterminded the raid on Green Bay,

said a formal announcement would be made at a news conference Thursday.

Williams refused to confirm speculation that Lombardi will be paid up to \$110,000 annually on a contract running five years or more, and will get one million dollars worth of stock at half price.

Reliable sources said Lombardi will not fill the post of general manager, but will name his own

man for that job to handle field finances and related matters.

Still undecided was the fate of Otto Graham, coach and general manager of the Redskins last three years.

Graham has two years left his rich contract, with an option to renew for five more. The Redskins would have to pay \$200,000 to fulfill the contract term ending through 1975.



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