

# Theft of Packer tickets is like a blind-side blitz

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Larceny seems too weak a word to describe it.

And \$138 doesn't really reflect the value.

The jargon of police logs can't blunt the enormity of the crime.

This wasn't simple theft. This was the theft of four tickets to Lambeau Field on a sunny Sunday afternoon in September -- section 25, row 35, seats 1-4.

This was theft of Packer tickets.

Debra Staack of Shorewood wasn't feeling well last Saturday so she decided to leave her Packer tickets in her mailbox for friends to pick up so they could go to Sunday's game.

And then the tickets were gone.

A neighbor saw a young man, perhaps a door-to-door salesperson, in the vicinity at the time. The nefarious Packer backer is still at large.

Fortunately for Staack's friends, this wasn't the first time in football history that Packer tickets have been stolen, and the Green Bay police were prepared to handle the emergency.

When she called them, Staack got hold of Specialist Peter Lemorande, who took a personal interest in her case.

"He was very nice. He said, 'Come on up,'" she said.

Lemorande explained that her friends should go to the will-call window at Lambeau Field with a

copy of the Shorewood Police Department report. If her friends had any trouble getting new tickets, they should have a police officer radio Lemorande. He was going to be at the game.

On duty or as a fan?

"He didn't say," Staack said.

Her friends got new tickets without any trouble and, hoping to solve the crime, went to the seats to see who they would find.

"There were two nice men and two boys," Staack said.

According to her, the conversation between her friends and the men in the seats went like this:

"Can we ask, where did you get these tickets?"

"We bought them."

"Are you from Shorewood by any chance?"

"Oh, my God. They were stolen, weren't they?"

One of the men had bought them from a young man who appeared at their door.

Staack refused to tell the name of the man who bought the stolen tickets, saying she doesn't want to get anybody in trouble for buying scalped tickets.

"I kept telling the cop, 'I don't want anybody kicked out,'" she said.

"It turned out well. The Packers have a way of dealing with this. The cops, the Packer organization, everybody was very nice."

It's a touching example of how cheeseheads can come together in a time of tragedy.