

Two Packers Golden Girls to receive dance awards

Two former Green Bay Packers Golden Girls whose careers in dance education have enriched Wisconsin's heritage, will be honored Thursday at a Dance Awards Ceremony and Reception in Madison.

The event, sponsored by the Wisconsin Dance Council, will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Madison Club, 5 E. Wisconsin St.

Karen Cowan, Green Bay, will receive the WDC Margaret H'Doubler Award for outstanding contributions as a teacher and educator in dance, and **Mary Jane Sorgel**, Sturgeon Bay, will receive the WDC Lifetime Achievement Award.

A professor emerita of dance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Liberal Studies and the Arts, Cowan advocated dance education in schools while serving nearly four decades as executive director of the WDC.

She remains active in the council as historian and representative to Wisconsin Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

She has received numerous recognition and distinguished service awards as well as the Arts Education Career Award presented by the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education and the UW-Extension Award of Excellence.

An original Golden Girl, she continues to support the team on a volunteer basis.

Sorgel became the head drum majorette and founder of the Green Bay Packers Golden Girls after winning the National Baton Twirling Championship. She was a dance student at age 4 and a dance teacher by high school.

She and her talented dogs have appeared on David Letterman's show twice, Animal Planet's "Pet Star with Mario Lopez," and on Sally Jessy Raphael's show. Golden Girls memorabilia was recently put on display at the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame.

The Golden Girls performed from 1961 through 1972.