

Street/Wery: Announcement a 'publicity stunt'

► From A-1

Tuesday's primary will narrow the mayoral field to two finalists, who then will square off in the April 5 general election to decide Green Bay's top elected leader for the next four years.

Alderman Chris Wery, who also is running for mayor, issued a statement Wednesday calling the street renaming announcement a "publicity stunt" on Schmitt's part.



Wery

Wery, whose district borders Lambeau Field, said that although he also is proud of the Packers, renaming a street for McCarthy would be an "unnecessary

expense and hassle for our residents."

"I will fervently oppose any attempt to change residential streets in my district," he said.

Wery sent a copy of his statement to other aldermen, one of whom also announced opposition to the McCarthy tribute.

Alderman Shae Sortwell said the cost of new street signs and the labor to put them up is too much in the current financial climate.

"We simply do not have the money without taking it from primary city services," Sortwell said.

Others, however, voiced support for the mayor's idea.

Alderman Tom DeWane, another candidate for mayor, said it has become a local tradition to recognize Super Bowl heroes with street names, in-

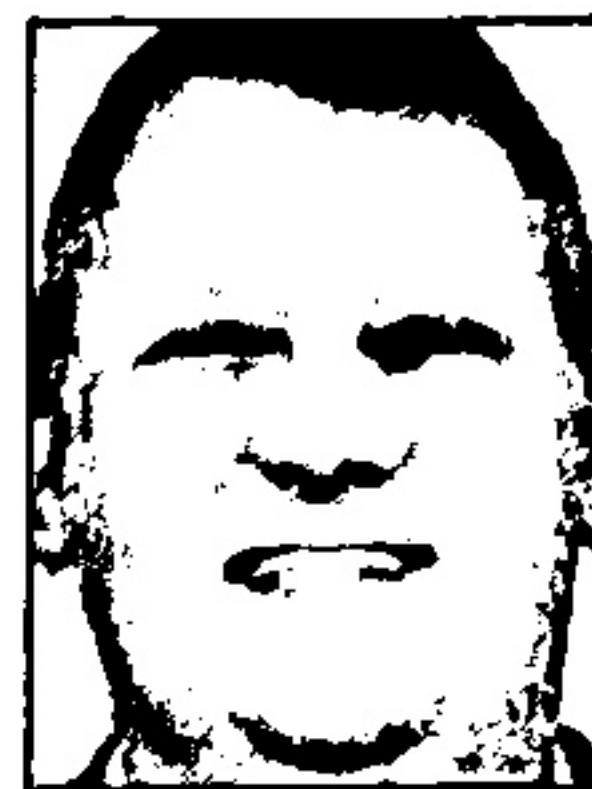
cluding former coach Mike Holmgren, quarterback Brett Favre and defensive end Reggie White.

DeWane said he would steer clear of a major street like Ridge Road. But, he added, "It's a good idea, if we can find the right street."

Alderman Guy Zima, a frequent critic of Schmitt's, said that while he questions the mayor's political motives, he would go along with naming a street after McCarthy.

"Certainly I think there's a way to recognize the coach," Zima said.

Many others on the 12-member City Council said they were undecided on the subject and wanted to



DeWane



Zima

know more about which street would be recommended, how much it would cost and whether it would

have neighborhood support.

Ken Dax, the mayor's chief of staff, said he first suggested the street renaming idea to Schmitt after the Super Bowl victory.

After seeing Wery's reaction, Dax said he feared the gesture was becoming politicized.

"We're not going to fight the aldermen," Dax said. "If they want to kill this, let them kill it."