

# Grooms can show fashion, too

By Nikki B. Godfrey  
Copley News Service

The issue of what to wear to a wedding definitely separates the sexes. The gown often dominates the wedding dreams of brides-to-be while they're still wearing pig-tails and braces, long before they've even met their betrothed.

The typical groom, on the other hand, more often than not, has last-minute nightmares about finding a tuxedo to rent and locating two matching socks in time to walk down the aisle.

The truth is that formal wear, by every definition of its name, has never had much variety of style to offer the groom. Thankfully for grooms who would like to stand out from the crowd (especially from the best man and others supporting him at the altar), designers are finally finding more ways to push the envelope of tuxedo cut and style to give the groom choices, even lightening up so much as to offer a line of formal wear adorned with the insignia of a groom's favorite football team.

It may seem a little extreme, but ardent football fans can now walk down the aisle in a Team NFL tuxedo by Lord West Formals. As Lord West Chairman Harvey Weinstein explains it, the fans who pack the stadiums and sit glued to the television watching their favorite teams demonstrate a loyalty that can be measured in excess of \$3 billion spent annually on NFL merchandise.

Weinstein says, "These fans marry, party, attend all sorts of social events... and we determined that Team NFL-inspired formal, giving extra meaning to celebrations after dark, would be well-received by millions of gridiron fans."

Brides needn't flinch at the idea. The Team NFL tuxes aren't fashioned in garish team colors — red



Subtle details, such as rounded notched lapels, help grooms stand out on their big day.

and yellow for the Kansas City Chiefs or powder blue and orange for the Miami Dolphins, for example, with a favorite player's name and number stitched on the back.

The only obvious connection to football uniforms is that the Team NFL formal wear line reflects — what else? — a broad-shouldered silhouette and all jacket linings are printed with a pattern of the official NFL shield.

Accessories such as black-satin vests, cummerbunds, ties and pocket squares do come emblazoned with the crest and helmet of each NFL team. But, Weinstein reports, for a degree of decorum during the ceremony, the vest may be

worn reversed to a black-on-black jacquard pattern.

If sports team tuxedos are not your style, there are other subtle design differences that can highlight the groom's personal appearance and also complement the bride's wedding dress. Choice of jacket style, lapel and shirt collar cut, color, accessories and even shoes can all enhance the grooms desired overall look.

Martine Midam-Aerts, fashion editor for *Brides & Your New Home* magazine, reports that black is still the prevalent color for the groom, with this season offering slight variations of ash and

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# Match attendant, bridal gowns

By Jennifer Planter  
Copley News Service

Imagine an entourage of your most cherished friends and relatives, tastefully attired as they walk down the aisle and set the stage for your own grand entrance.

Selecting stylish dresses for bridesmaids can add drama to your ceremony, highlight a chosen theme or play into the overall atmosphere you desire for the special day.

However, it's not always as easy as a trip to the nearest boutique, especially for a formal wedding with three or more attendants. But with a little forethought and extra effort, you'll arrive at a look everyone can appreciate.

## SHOPPING FOR STYLE

From the elegantly simple to the openly elaborate, the range of available styles can be overwhelming. Spend plenty of time thumbing through bridal magazines, so you'll know what you definitely do and do not like — before you hit the boutiques.

Most importantly, the bridesmaids dresses should be in line with the style and formality of the bride's gown, as well as the color scheme chosen by the bride. Consider mimicking the silhouette, length, neckline or some other aspect of the gown. The maids may wear shorter dresses than the bride, but never longer. If there is a theme, the dresses or accessories

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Tricia Seidel models a bridesmaid gown of dupioni silk floral print from PJW Brides in Exeter.

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