

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

# VAMP CITY

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SOME CALL HIM SINATRA, SOME CALL HIM

## JOE THE SHOW

NICKNAMES ASIDE, NO-NONSENSE  
LINEBACKER JOE SCHOBERT  
ISN'T ONE FOR PUTTING ON AN ACT





DAVID STILUKA

COVER STORY

## BY THE BOOK

Though his recruitment to Madison didn't follow the usual storyline, Joe Schobert has become a playmaking outside linebacker by sticking to the script on the field.



LUCAS AT LARGE

### McEVROY DOUBLES UP

Is he a receiver? A safety? Why not both? Tanner McEvoy is making the most of his chance to play on both sides of the ball for the Badgers.

DAVID STILUKA

BEHIND THE DESK

### DON'T RUSH TO JUDGE

Whether you're talking about the Badgers or college football as a whole, Barry Alvarez says it's too early to jump to conclusions.



DAVID STILUKA

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-

# VARSIITY

## Wisconsin Athletic Communications

Kellner Hall, 1440 Monroe St.,  
Madison, WI 53711

## VIEW ALL ISSUES

### **Brian Lucas**

Director of Athletic Communications

### **Julia Hujet**

Editor/Designer

### **Brian Mason**

Managing Editor

### **Mike Lucas**

Senior Writer

### **Matt Lepay**

Columnist

### **Jerry Mao**

Video Production

### **Amy Eager**

Advertising

### **Drew Pittner-Smith**

Distribution

### **Contributors**

Paul Capobianco, Tam Flarup, Kelli Grashel, A.J. Harrison,  
Brandon Harrison, Patrick Herb, Diane Nordstrom

### **Photography**

David Stluka, Neil Ament, Greg Anderson, Bob Campbell,  
Pam Ruschell, Cal Sport Media, Icon Sportswire

**Cover Photo:** David Stluka

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**[VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com](mailto:VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com)**

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# McEvoy making name as two-way player

Tanner McEvoy, meet Brandon Williams. If anybody can relate to McEvoy's heavy-duty workload at wide receiver and safety — not to mention Wildcat quarterback; albeit for just one of his 73 snaps against Miami University — it would be another triple-threat like Williams who was utilized on offense, defense and special teams during a handful of games in 2003.

Williams was more than a casual observer Saturday when McEvoy started on offense and defense, especially after McEvoy became the first UW player to catch a pass and intercept one in the same game in 12 years; or since Williams pulled it off against Michigan State in '03. "I remember the interception I got," said Williams, then a sophomore. "I remember getting beat for a touchdown, too."

Williams, who led the team in receptions as a true freshman, made his debut as a two-way player a few weeks earlier by doubling-up as a cornerback to fill a void in the secondary because of injuries. The idea was hatched by defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove, who had recruited Williams out of St. Louis and Hazelwood East High School. Wide receiver coach Henry Mason broke the news to him.

"It was very casual, Mace (Mason) said, 'Hey, Cuz, they want you to play corner, what

do you think?'" recounted Williams, who didn't hesitate to sign off on it. "My reaction was, 'Any way I can help the team.' I didn't see any harm because I had done it in high school and I was still familiar with the position (defensive back). And I was excited. I was like, 'Wow, I get to do that? That's cool.'"

Williams was still in high school when Charles Woodson earned special notoriety and the 1997 Heisman Trophy for playing both ways and returning kicks at Michigan. One of Williams' contemporaries in the Big Ten, Chris Gamble, was also serving as a receiver, cornerback and returner at Ohio State. Knowing the success that they both had made it even more exciting for

Williams to get into the act.

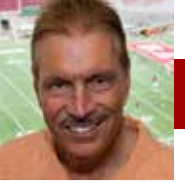
"They (the UW coaches) made it very easy for me; I'm not going to lie, I did very specific things on defense," Williams said. "I played man-to-man in our Cover 3 and I always lined up on the same side. The biggest thing was from an endurance standpoint. That was the hardest part. You'd get a little winded. But the film study and the transition wasn't hard at all. I loved it."

The Badgers were hurting in the secondary after Brett Bell (shoulder) and Joe Stellmacher (broken leg) suffered season-ending injuries, so the 5-foot-11, 170-pound Williams was thrown into the mix, ready or not. He got only a few snaps on defense against Northwestern and Minnesota before replacing Levonne Rowan at cornerback after one play in the Michigan State game.

The Badgers crushed the Spartans, 56-21. Many will remember that Lee Evans caught 10 passes for 258 yards and five touchdowns. Some will remember that Dwayne Smith rushed for 207 yards and three scores. Few will likely remember that Williams had a couple of catches and an interception off Jeff Smoker. Williams will remember getting beat by Aaron Alexander on a 30-yard TD throw from Smoker.

Alexander appeared to push off on the play. Williams,





DAVID STLUKA

ever the competitor, will definitely remember that he got away with it. He will also remember how tired he was after playing nearly the entire game at corner in addition to his other responsibilities. Over his final two UW seasons, Williams was not needed on defense, which allowed him to focus on catching the ball and returning kicks.

These days, he has a new focal point: getting his undergraduate degree from Wisconsin. He relocated his family from St. Louis to Madison for that purpose. “I always wanted to get it, but I just kept making excuses,” said Williams, who has authored a book, *Millionaire Mindset: 7 principles Athletes Need for Financial Freedom*. Asked if it was tough to return at this time, he said, “Wasn’t tough at all.”

Williams left school as the career leader in receptions with 202, a mark since matched by

Jared Abbrederis. He’s obviously delighted to be back on campus where he’s taking care of unfinished academic business. He’s also hoping to share some of his life experiences with student-athletes. He definitely enjoyed what he saw out of McEvoy last Saturday, particularly his play in the secondary.

“His impact on defense is evident,” he said.



Paul Chryst is no stranger to two-way players. In 2010, when he was the UW offensive coordinator, Manasseh Garner, a true freshman, saw spot duty at wide receiver and defensive end. In 2013, when Chryst was the head coach at Pittsburgh, another true freshman, James Conner, got some action as a pass rushing specialist though his primary assignment was toting the rock as a tailback.

Chryst was convinced that

McEvoy could handle playing both ways because of his competitiveness, football IQ, and awareness of the game. That was evident early on to Chryst, who elaborated, “He’s a pretty unique athlete ... big, skilled guy ... wasn’t quite sure how physically it would all go (against Miami) ... But he had a great week of practice and we had a good plan for him.”

Moving forward, Chryst said, “There’s some things we’ll continue to tweak. I’m not saying we’ve perfected it (the plan). But he bought into it. And that’s when you knew that he had a chance (to make it work) ... he’s pretty suited for being able to do it and he cares about the team ... he’s one of those guys that really wants to do whatever he can to help the team win and I admire that a lot.”

The Pac-12 Conference has always been a fertile spawning



# Badger Fans Bleed Red!

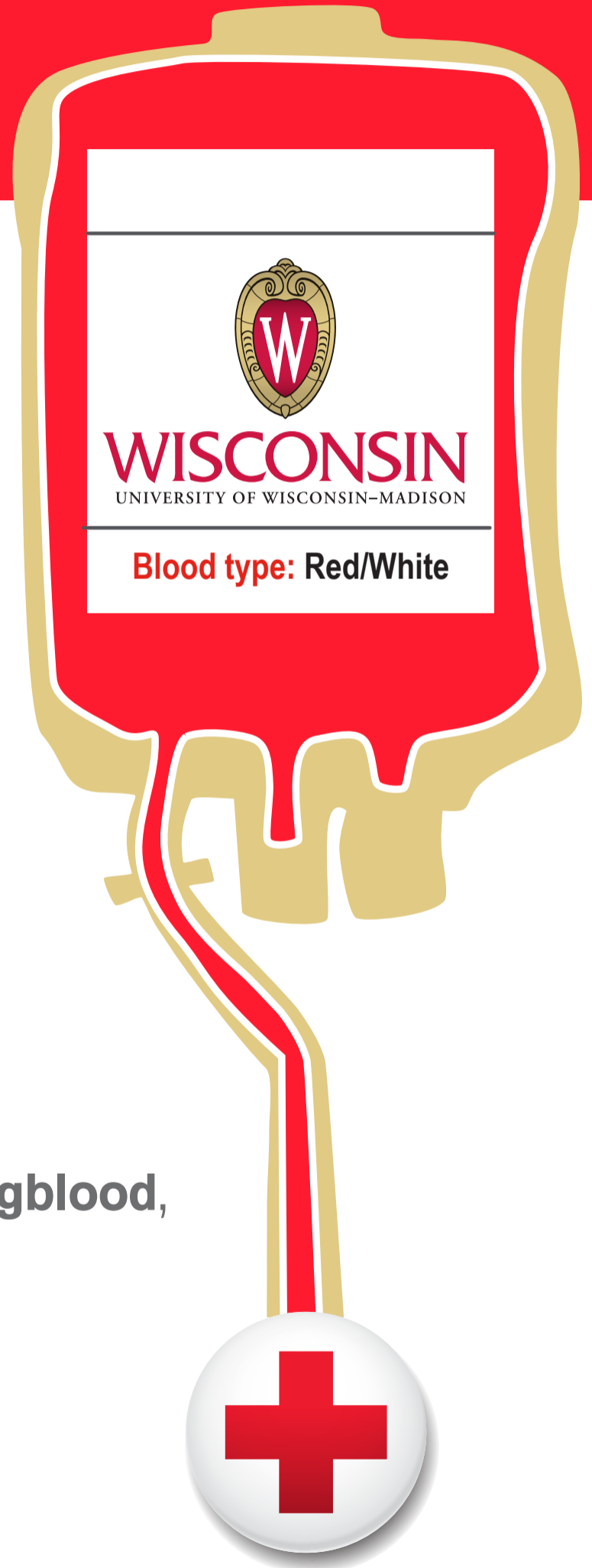
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**Ame i  
Red**



ground for two-way players. Currently, the main headliners are sharing the Los Angeles stage: USC's Adoree Jackson, who's a receiver, defensive back and kick returner; and UCLA's Myles Jack, who's a running back and linebacker. McEvoy, by his own admission, really hasn't paid much attention to what others are doing. He has been too busy.

"Each week it will get more and more comfortable," McEvoy predicted. "It's a new system for all of us and we're all feeling it out. We have some more kinks to work out and a few more opportunities to do so ... It's different. It's not every day that players are going both ways. It's definitely fun; it's an experience and I have to be able to take advantage of it."

Last year, McEvoy started the first five games at quarterback and broke the school's single-season rushing mark for that position group with 574 yards. He averaged 8.8 per carry (Oregon's Marcus Mariota averaged 5.7). To this end, McEvoy is intrigued by the prospect of taking some direct snaps again. "It's just another headache for defenses," he said. "If you put it on tape, they have to respect it."

Williams, for one, would like to see McEvoy concentrate on playing safety like he did two years ago. That's how good he thinks that McEvoy can be with his length and range. "He has the body," Williams said. "He just has to get it in his mind that he is

a safety. He has to think, 'I'm not a quarterback playing safety, I'm not a receiver playing safety, I'm a safety. This is who I am.' And he has to own it."

McEvoy's refresher course in

CHRYST ON McEVROY:

**"HE'S A PRETTY UNIQUE ATHLETE ... BIG, SKILLED GUY ... HE HAD A GREAT WEEK OF PRACTICE AND WE HAD A GOOD PLAN FOR HIM."**

playing defense was aided last week by the return of safety Michael Caputo, who was injured in the opener against Alabama. "He (Caputo) has been in a lot of situations," McEvoy said. "He knows the defense in and out. If I ever have a question, he's always there to answer everything. I think everyone feels a lot more comfortable when he's out

there."

After playing alongside of him in the secondary, Caputo has a better grasp of McEvoy's upside. "He's an athlete and he knows what he's doing out there," said Caputo, a senior captain. "I definitely like playing with him because we're always on the same page. We trust each other when we're out there. We feed off each other. There's a lot of stuff that helps him play on both sides."

Communication is the starting point. "Communication is everything," Caputo insisted. "If you have a lack of communication that leads to mistakes. That leads to blown assignments. That leads to a guy running open downfield. The more communication, the more we get people talking, the more we're on the same page, the better off we're going to be."

McEvoy has definitely got people talking. ■



DAVID STILKA



# Season too young for rush to judgment

**A**s you would expect, there was a lot of improvement from game one to game two for our football team.

Of course, the level of competition was different from one week to the next. But, defensively, we cleaned up a lot of responsibilities. We were really solid. Tanner McEvoy solidifies us in the back end. He can cover a lot of ground and make a difference in the secondary.

As the season goes along, I think he's going to be a pretty good as a receiver, too. You can also throw him in there at quarterback and start running quarterback power or quarterback read plays. Just by playing him there a little bit last week forces every defensive coordinator to prepare a little something for him, which is taking practice time away from other areas in their overall preparation.

Looking back on the opener, gap control was an issue for us at times. It's a pretty simple concept. There are so many gaps and someone is responsible for each one. Plus, you have to have it contained.

Every defense breaks down if you don't have somebody that can turn the ball to the other 10 players on the field. You should never see two defenders stacked on top of each other.

Just remember when the ball is snapped, someone is responsible for a gap and someone has to be

responsible to turn the football in. Now, you could lose leverage for a number of reasons.

Sometimes you may hit with the wrong shoulder, which would give up leverage. Sometimes you may be trying too hard. Sometimes the offensive guy is better and takes the leverage away.

This past week, I saw guys being where they were supposed to be on defense.

Offensively, I thought we were better. We covered up people better up front on the offensive line. I'm impressed with Joel Stave. He's playing with a lot of confidence. And I like the progress the receivers have made.

If we couldn't throw the ball, we'd be really struggling right now. But we have to continue to bring the O-line around and keep shuffling things until we find the right combination.

It will be good to get Corey Clement back at full strength. He just has to remember to play the game — play the play — and not try to do too much when he returns. I thought the young backs, Dare Ogunbowale and Taiwan Deal, were a little more patient last week. But there were still some cuts and reads that they could have been more patient on.

So far, I've liked what I've seen. We have the potential to be good. Defensively, we could be really good. I see a lot of teams that are capable. But it's September; it's only two weeks into the season.

Like everything else, we rush to judgement and everyone gets way ahead of themselves. People are already talking about the final four and who could be there in the College Football Playoff. But you can see how quickly things change. You're going to have upsets every week. Teams are going to continue to improve, and the teams that stay the same are going to get passed up.

You look back on last year — Mississippi State wasn't even ranked going into the season, and in the first rankings we put out as a selection committee, they were No. 1 in the country.

So you have to let it play out and not get too anxious. That's the most important thing. What I'm seeing in college football is parity; I see a lot of teams that are capable of winning.

I don't see Alabama having a weakness, but I don't know that they are invincible. We know how talented Ohio State is, but you could tell that they weren't cranked up for their Hawaii game.

When you don't play well, you have to find a way to win. That's what happens in your great seasons. You play poorly and somehow you still win; you get a bounce or whatever.

You have to get lucky sometimes because it's almost impossible to be at the top of your game every week. That's what makes the sport so exciting and entertaining. ■





# Badgers keep improving, on and off field

For those of us who have been around a while, it is never a bad idea to pause and appreciate how impressive the facilities look on the University of Wisconsin campus.

When talking to Barry Alvarez, be it on radio, television or in front of groups at various functions, we enjoy comparing the state of UW athletic facilities today to what they were when he was introduced as head football coach on Jan. 2, 1990.

Camp Randall Stadium always has had a special charm, but let's be honest: in 1990, it looked a little tired. These days, it is a much different story.

Last Friday, I wanted to make a point of taking a good look at the place. That morning, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the American Family Insurance Gate at Camp Randall. It is a very classy entrance to a building that continues to look better with age.

There is the new and improved weight room, locker room, offices and much more.

Of course, the improvements go well beyond Camp Randall. From the UW Field House to the Kohl Center. From LaBahn Arena to the Goodman Softball Complex. I could keep going, but you get the picture. The point is today's student-athletes, and the fans who attend the events, have dramatically better venues to compete in and watch the

games.

It is a topic that UW Athletic Hall of Famer Kerry Weiland brought up Friday evening. She was part of the first recruiting class in the history of Wisconsin women's hockey. She is the first player from that program to enter the school's Hall of Fame.

Weiland remembers when the team had to get dressed in the old visitors' locker room at Camp Randall. "It's not a great place," she joked. "No couches, no TVs

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**THAT IS WHAT THEY TRY TO DO AROUND HERE — GIVE THE ATHLETES EVERY CHANCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. IT MUST BE GRATIFYING FOR ALVAREZ AND OTHERS TO HEAR HOW THE ATHLETES, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, APPRECIATE WHAT IS HAPPENING.**

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or anything." They would make their way down the stairs and march to The Shell, where they would put on their skates and helmets. Finally, they would get on the ice for practice.

That was in 1999. Today, as Weiland notes, the players have it a little better, with a "hot and cold tub, a movie theatre, a beautiful locker room with a hockey rink on the floor. My hat is off to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for making it a first-

class program."

At a summer golf outing a couple of years ago, former UW and current Green Bay Packers quarterback Scott Tolzien told a similar story about the improved football facilities.

That is what they try to do around here — give the athletes every chance to be successful. With the generosity of so many individuals and businesses, that is possible.

And it must be especially gratifying for Alvarez and others on campus to hear how the athletes, both past and present, appreciate what is happening.

Finally, speaking of first class, that describes the efforts of everyone from the National W Club, UW Athletic Communications, Video Services and the folks at Union South for last week's UW Athletic Hall of Fame induction program. I tip my cap to W Club executive director Mike Cerniglia, membership and events coordinator Michelle Ballweg and operations director Doreen Dower for organizing a terrific evening.

For those in attendance, it was fun to see the videos for each inductee and hear from Weiland, Paula Bonner, Lizzy Fitzgerald Stemke, Mike Gentile, Devin Harris and Jim Leonhard (Brian Rafalski was unable to attend).

It was a very good week, and a special way to get rolling on another season of Badgers sports. ■

# WHO FROM YOUR SPORT SHOULD BE INDUCTED INTO THE UW ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME?



**DAKOTA WHYTE**  
Senior • Women's Basketball

"I think Tamara Moore should go into the UW Hall of Fame because she was a great player for Badgers women's basketball. I'm kind of biased because she was a point guard just like me, but she is a great person on and off the court and she has accomplished so much after being drafted to the WNBA. She is very passionate about the game and she was a very hard worker."



**MICHAEL CAPUTO**  
Senior • Football

"Cecil Martin ought to be the next player into the Hall of Fame. He was a fullback here and he is just a great person. He blocked for Ron Dayne and he was *the* blocker. He was the man."



**SYDNEY McKIBBON**  
Junior • Women's Hockey

"One of the next women's hockey players that I think should be inducted into the UW Hall of Fame is Meghan Duggan. Not only has Meghan impacted the sport here in Madison, but also U.S. hockey. She's an inspiration to young girls who grow up playing hockey and is a born leader. Meghan broke

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**



**MALACHY SCHROBILGEN**  
Junior • Men's Cross Country

"I think Simon Bairu is deserving of a spot in the Hall of Fame. He was a multiple-time national champion in cross country, helped the Badgers win a team national title and represented everything that makes Wisconsin track and field and cross country the proud distance running tradition it is today."







## TYSON MIEHE

*A redshirt freshman for the No. 4-ranked Wisconsin men's cross country team, Tyson Mieke finished fourth and led the squad to the Badger Season Opener team title. A Darlington native, Mieke became the first Wisconsin prep since Chris Solinsky to win three consecutive cross country state championships when he claimed Division 3 crowns in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Mieke and the Badgers head east this weekend to compete at the Iona Meet of Champions on Saturday in the Bronx.*

### What drew you to come to Wisconsin?

"I'm from Darlington, Wisconsin, which is about an hour southwest of Madison. It's a tiny town, and I always went to Wisconsin sporting events. I knew I always wanted to come here. I was a pretty decent runner in high school and Mick (Byrne) offered me a spot on the team to come here and I knew I couldn't turn down that opportunity to fulfill my dream. It was a tough recruiting class last year; I knew I wasn't the best guy coming in and that I had to make the most of my opportunity to be on the team. Things have been working out so far. I had a good redshirt year last year and I know I get to compete in the Wisconsin uniform, which is an amazing opportunity that a lot of people don't have. I'm trying to make the most of every opportunity that I have when I wear the uniform."

### You grew up on a farm. How has that impacted your life?

"Being on the farm made me who I am today. Just the work ethic and dedication and not giving up. It might be 20 below in the winter, raining, or snowing and cattle will get out. It doesn't

### ALL ABOUT TYSON

**Year:** Redshirt Freshman  
**Hometown:** Darlington, Wis.  
**High School:** Darlington  
**Height:** 5-11  
**Event:** Distance

### QUICK Qs FOR TYSON

#### Favorite NFL player?

"It's a tie between J.J. Watt and Russell Wilson."

#### Video game of choice?

"Any Call of Duty game where you are with friends. It gets pretty intense and fun."

#### Famous person from your hometown?

"I would have to say Alex Erickson, but I think I'm the second-most famous person."

#### Favorite Mick Byrne saying?

"Probably either 'Badger Tough' or 'ETG: Enjoy the Grind.'"

#### If I wasn't running, I would be playing:

"Probably basketball. I played basketball up until my sophomore year. It's something that I like to do in my free time if I'm not running."





# BY THE BOOK

*BY MIKE LUCAS // [UWBADGERS.COM](http://UWBADGERS.COM)*



**Joe Schobert satisfies his appetite for adventure by letting his mind wander through the pages of his favorite stories — he’s churned through the Harry Potter series 20 times — something that rarely happens when he’s locked in on the field. The playmaking outside linebacker isn’t one to stray from the game plan, even if he didn’t follow a typical path in making his way to Madison.**



**W**ith a natural fluidity to his movements, a smoothness that prompted Wisconsin defensive coordinator Dave Aranda to nickname him “Sinatra” after the legendary crooner, Joe Schobert tends to play outside linebacker by the book rather than doing it “My Way,” with all due respect to Old Blue Eyes.

He’s also prone to getting lost in a book.

Especially if the author is J.K. Rowling, Christopher Paolini, Rick Riordan or George R.R. Martin.

Rowling, the creator of the “Harry Potter” series, drew Schobert into the fantasy world of wizards and dragons at such an early age that he confessed “I pretended to read the first book” while he was still learning the meaning of words. But he was hooked from the beginning.

“I used to read it all the way through and then start over instead of moving on,” he said. “I would keep re-reading Harry Potter.”

An avid reader, Schobert has since expanded to other novelists like Paolini (“Inheritance Cycle”), Riordan (“Percy Jackson”) and Martin (“Game of Thrones”). And he has not limited his reading to fiction.

“I like biographies about athletes,” he said. “I like reading about different sports and seeing the process of them growing up and getting into their sport and mindset.”

During training camp, Schobert read a book on David Beckham, the iconic international soccer star. He also stayed true to his annual ritual. “At the start of every football season, I like to read Harry Potter over and see if I can get through them all,” he said of the seven novels. “I’ve probably read the whole series 20 times. But I always forget some little thing here and there. I haven’t read it for a year.”

On road trips, Schobert will immerse himself in a book on the way to the stadium. “Especially with away games, you can have a 45-minute bus ride,” he said, “so I will listen to music and pull out a book and read it on the way to the game. It’s just something to relax and get your focus off your phone and other things. It’s to kind of get ready. Once I get there, I usually start to get down to business.”

Befitting his status among the national leaders in quarterback sacks and tackles for loss, Schobert is all business on the field. In the season opener, he had 13 tackles, including four TFLs, and two sacks



against Alabama. In the home opener, he had six tackles, a sack and two hurries against Miami University. As edge rushers, Schobert and Vince Biegel are complementary bookends.

“Vince and I are always competitive in football,” said Schobert, a senior from Waukesha. “That’s a good thing about us — we’re each trying to make the most plays in our room (among the linebackers). It’s a good competition to have in practice and games. When competing with someone on your own team, I think elevates the overall play for both of us and it helps the team.”

Had it not been for a late phone call and recruiting pitch from Wisconsin, Schobert would have been playing in front of 9,865 at the indoor Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota, last Saturday instead

of playing in front of 76,535 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison.

The Badgers won, too, by landing Schobert. But they almost let him get away.

“I was going there (North Dakota) as a walk-on because they didn’t have any scholarship available,” Schobert said. “I came to them late in the recruiting process. One of my friends was going there, too. I visited, I liked it and I was going to do pre-med. That was the plan.”

It’s not like Schobert didn’t want to play for his home state school while

he was growing up in Waukesha. “Being an hour away, I never came to a game, but I would always watch them every Saturday,” he said of the Badgers. “I liked the running backs, P.J. Hill and Brian Calhoun.”

There was also much to like about Schobert as a high school running back.

During his junior season, he led Waukesha West to the WIAA Division 1 state championship by rushing for 296 yards in a 45-26 win over Stevens Point. Schobert broke the title game rushing record set by Racine Park’s John Clay, who went on to become the 10th-leading rusher in UW history.

The big-time recruiters were still unimpressed, though.

“The most I ever got was generic letters from different colleges,” he said. “I don’t know why. Maybe it was because I didn’t go to (football) camps too much. I did a little after my junior year but I still had track in the spring and I was playing summer basketball. I wasn’t really focusing on it.”

Besides North Dakota, the only other school to show any real interest was Drake.

“The coaching staff was great, I liked the campus,” he said. “But they don’t offer scholarships.”

So he crossed Des Moines off his list and added Grand Forks until ...

Until the 2012 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star Game in Oshkosh.

Schobert put on a show. Playing for the South team — which featured UW’s only two recruits, Leo Musso

“

**“I WILL LISTEN TO MUSIC AND PULL OUT A BOOK AND READ IT ON THE WAY TO THE GAME. IT’S JUST SOMETHING TO RELAX AND GET YOUR FOCUS OFF YOUR PHONE AND OTHER THINGS. IT’S TO KIND OF GET READY. ONCE I GET THERE, I USUALLY START TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.”**







and Jack Russell, in the game — Schobert had an interception on defense, four rushes for 53 yards on offense and five punt returns for 92 yards on special teams. The South won, 37-0.

After seeing him in practice, the all-star coaches were shocked that Schobert didn't have any major offers. "They'd say, 'You're only going to North Dakota? As a walk-on?'" Schobert recalled. "So they all pitched in and tried to get my name out there to whoever they knew."

One of those, Jed Kennedy, who coached Melvin Gordon and Vonte Jackson at Kenosha Bradford, even vented to a local newspaper. "How that kid is not playing major Division I football somewhere on a full scholarship, I don't get it," said Kennedy, who had moved on to Pulaski High School. "We had a dunk contest on the crossbar and he won that — did a 360 between his legs."

Reminded of that feat, which he duplicated four years later with a basketball during offseason workouts at Wisconsin, much to the astonishment of his Badgers teammates, Schobert said, "It was a football, so it was easier to palm. And it was just a goal post, so it wasn't as hard."

Kennedy also noted that Schobert had won a race between some of the South All-Stars, including Musso, after one of the practices. And, just for grins, he also threw a football 64 yards.

"I was surprised about that (winning the race) but people told me that Leo tripped at that beginning," he said. "And I did throw 60-plus, but there was a lineman who could throw 80-something."

You get the picture. Others did. He was a natural, a playmaker. After the all-star game, North Dakota State offered Schobert a scholarship and Northern Illinois talked to him about grayshirting, whereby he would have to pay his own way the first semester before going on tender.

The Badgers got their wakeup call and Bret Bielema, then the head coach, called Schobert in late July with a walk-on offer that he simply couldn't refuse. So he said thanks, but no thanks, to North Dakota. And, a week later, he was practicing with the Badgers — as a wide receiver.

"It was a little overwhelming," he said of the experiment, which lasted only three days. "I had to learn to line up with different splits on certain plays and all the route concepts."





## ULTIMATE FANS

**Deborah Mueller**  
Season Ticket Holder for 30 Years

Badger fans are like “one big family.” That’s part of the reason Deborah Mueller has remained a loyal fan throughout the years, attending games since the 1960s. She also enjoys sharing the fun with her own family, whom she frequently goes to games with. Although it’s become harder for Deborah to attend games in recent years, she loves being a part of such a great tradition!





Schobert was summarily moved to safety and then linebacker as a freshman. Although he lettered, he appeared in just five games, mostly on special teams. In retrospect, Schobert acknowledged that he has thought about having one more year of eligibility after this one if he had redshirted.

“Sometimes when I’m hanging out with all my friends, I’ll think about it,” he said. “I live with a bunch of guys who are all redshirt juniors. And it’s kind of weird because I’m a senior and they’re not.”

But he has no regrets. “Overall, I think I’ve had a good career so far,” he said. “And I’ve been healthy — and hopefully I will stay healthy. Getting out of college football healthy is a big key.”

Schobert came under Bielema’s wing for just one semester before Bielema left for Arkansas. With the arrival of Gary Andersen and his Utah State defensive coordinator, Aranda, the Badgers switched from a 4-3 defensive alignment to a 3-4 and Schobert was one of the beneficiaries.

In 2013, he made his first start at Arizona State. Schobert lined up at outside linebacker along with Brendan Kelly. Chris Borland and Ethan Armstrong were the inside ‘backers. “I remember just trying to get mentally ready to face that pace of offense,” said Schobert, who also remembered how the Sun Devils ran 93 plays during a hotly-contested and controversial 32-30 win over the Badgers in Tempe.

Schobert had five tackles and one TFL, the first of many that he has collected for Wisconsin during a productive career that has now spanned 34 games and 17 starts. None of those starts is more memorable than his overtime performance against Auburn in the Outback

Bowl last January. “I think when I was in it,” he said of his shining moment, “I didn’t really realize it (what he was accomplishing).”

After the Badgers took a 34-31 lead on Rafael Gaglianone’s 25-yard field goal, Schobert took charge. On first down, he tackled tailback Cameron Artis-Payne for a 2-yard loss. On second down, he assisted on a tackle of wide receiver Sammie Coates which resulted in no gain after a pass completion. On third down, he tackled quarterback Nick Marshall for a 1-yard loss on the tail-end of a trick play throwback to the QB. On fourth down, Auburn’s Daniel Carlson



Jed Kennedy, who coached Melvin Gordon and Vonte Jackson at Kenosha Bradford, even vented to a local newspaper. “How that kid is not playing major Division I football somewhere on a full scholarship, I don’t get it,” he said of Schobert.



missed a 45-yard field goal.

“Looking back on it, I thought it was all pretty cool,” Schobert said. “I didn’t think I really had a good game up until then; I had an OK game, but once that happened (in overtime) nobody remembered the rest of the game. It was a good sequence for me. They ran certain plays my way and I was the guy who had the chance to make the play. It was exciting and it led to that missed field goal.”

Schobert still vividly remembers “everybody running on the field and Coach (Barry) Alvarez getting hoisted on the shoulders” of UW players. Alvarez, the athletic director, took over as the interim coach after Andersen announced that he was leaving for Oregon State. Hence, the program was in transition again. But Alvarez hired Paul Chryst, who retained Aranda, who brought in Armstrong as a graduate assistant.

The continuity has all worked in Schobert’s favor.

“There is a comfort level,” he said.

First-year outside linebackers coach Tim Tibesar is known as a technician and there has been a renewed emphasis on techniques, Schobert pointed out. Armstrong’s influence as a GA has not gone unnoticed, either. “It’s nice having him back,” said Schobert, who added “I had no clue what I was doing

(as a freshman) and he’s so smart with everything football-related that he kind of helped me along.”

Today, he’s in a position to help himself.

“We can continue building on the scheme,” Schobert said. “Going into the third year (with Aranda’s defense), I know what my

role is and what my job is in terms of the structure of the defense. I know when to take chances and risks to try and make plays within the confines of our rules. We don’t have to question, ‘Could I have done that on that play?’ Instead, you can play and react.”

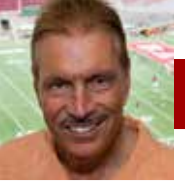
Which is now the book on Schobert. 



**“I KNOW WHAT MY ROLE IS AND WHAT MY JOB IS IN TERMS OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEFENSE. I KNOW WHEN TO TAKE CHANCES AND RISKS TO TRY AND MAKE PLAYS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF OUR RULES. WE DON’T HAVE TO QUESTION, ‘COULD I HAVE DONE THAT ON THAT PLAY?’ INSTEAD, YOU CAN PLAY AND REACT.”**







## Wheelwright, passing game riding high

Back-shoulder throws from Joel Stave, boost from Tanner McEvoy energize offense

It was *the* route in the rout. The back-shoulder fade and/or throw. And it was executed perfectly by Wisconsin quarterback Joel Stave and wide receiver Rob Wheelwright on two touchdown strikes of 13 and 15 yards in 58-0 blowout of Miami University in the Badgers' home opener.

The beauty of the pattern is that the receiver doesn't necessarily know that the back-shoulder throw is coming. It's all about reaction and the placement of the ball, and those elements diminish the effectiveness of the defensive back regardless of how tight the coverage might appear to be.

"It's just a lot of trust — you've got to trust that your guy is going to be able to react to it," Stave said after notching his 22nd win (22-8) as a UW starter. "The biggest thing is that they don't run a back-shoulder throw. They run a 'Go' (route) and they need to adjust to the ball.

"If you start running a back-shoulder route, that's when you start slowing down (as a receiver) and you start looking (for the ball) and the DB can react to it. You don't want it to be a surprise but you want them to be running the 'Go' thinking, 'I'm running past this guy' and then the ball stops him."

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GREG ANDERSON

## Sheffield sees UW getting better — maybe

Badgers wrap up non-conference season at Creighton Classic this weekend

**W**isconsin head coach Kelly Sheffield usually tells it like it is. Three weeks into the 2015 season, Sheffield likes what he is seeing out of his team — maybe.

“That maybe, just maybe, we might end up being an okay blocking team,” Sheffield said. “Maybe, just maybe ... our transition attack might end up being pretty good. Maybe, just maybe, some of the down balls, free balls, easy balls coming off the block, that we might be able to control those and come right back at our opponents with more of a ferocity than what we have done the first couple weeks.

“Those are things that we have been working on a lot that have been pretty much non-existent the first couple weeks, and we did a lot better job of that (last weekend).”

Wisconsin has won six straight matches, including going 2-0 at its own Badger Classic last weekend in the UW Field House. UW recorded its two highest hitting percentages of the season, connecting on .402 percent of its attacks against Georgia and .354 percent against Kent State.

Behind sophomore Kelli Bates, the UW offense is starting to click, averaging 14.65 kills per set while hitting .276, both marks

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## Badgers on the board in dramatic fashion

Mueller's last-second goal in double overtime got UW its first win on Friday night

“This is what it's all about.”

That's what coach John Trask was left repeating following Wisconsin's dramatic win in double overtime last Friday at Rutgers. Who can blame him? If you haven't seen the video replay of UW's game-winning golden goal scored by Christopher Mueller, do yourself a favor and check it out above.

With time winding down in the second overtime period and a scoreless draw looming, Mueller stepped up in the clutch. Taking a pass from Drew Conner, Mueller initiated a quick give-and-go with Tom Barlow. From there, Mueller beat RU goalkeeper David Greczek with a sliding strike that clinched UW's first win of the season and a 1-0-0 start to Big Ten Conference play.

Mueller's goal — which marked the first of his career — came from about 15 yards out. With the defender sliding along with him, the ball deflected up and over the reach of Greczek, bounced off both the crossbar and the left goalpost and then in to break the scoreless draw just before time expired.

“I'm just really proud of them,” Trask said of his team. “I don't want to single any one person out, because that was a total team performance. That was the type of effort and game that makes

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BRITNEY HOWARD/UK ATHLETICS

## Defense stepping up, offense's turn next

Wisconsin recorded its first shutout of the season last weekend at Kentucky

Considering it was a point of emphasis in training last week, the Badgers had to have been encouraged by their defensive performance last weekend.

Wisconsin finally earned its first shutout of the season on Sunday, playing Kentucky to a scoreless draw through double overtime. The Wildcats were no easy matchup, either, as the team has been either nationally ranked or one of the top vote-getters in the polls so far this season.

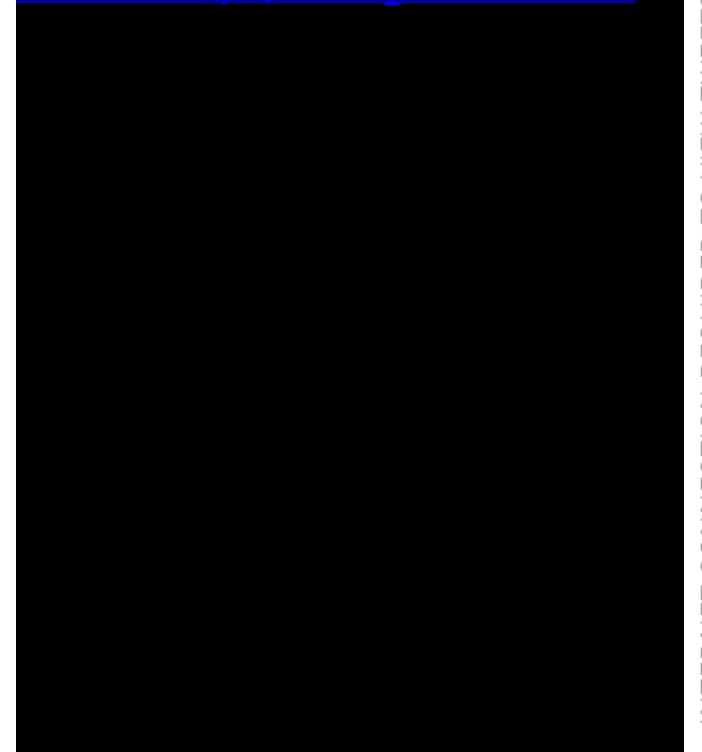
Continuing to grow and become more comfortable in her new starting role, sophomore goalkeeper Caitlyn Clem has played a big part in the newfound confidence on defense for Wisconsin. With four saves and a confident demeanor in net, Clem recorded her first career shutout on the road against Kentucky.

Clem and UW's defense gave head coach Paula Wilkins something to be encouraged about. It was a welcomed pair of performances, especially since the Badgers are preparing to head into one of their toughest road trips of the season this week. Wisconsin travels to face No. 7 Penn State on Thursday and No. 15 Ohio State on Sunday.

"With all the travel this past weekend, I liked the response that I

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## Back to the Big Apple for Byrne's Badgers

This weekend's Iona Meet of Champions marks a homecoming for Wisconsin coach

**A**fter sweeping the team titles at the Badger Season Opener, the Wisconsin cross country teams will head to the Big Apple to partake in the Iona Meet of Champions in Bronx, New York, on Saturday morning.

The meet is a familiar one for Wisconsin director of track and field and cross country Mick Byrne, who started the meet 21 years ago while serving as the head coach at Iona College.

"We are returning back to this meet that I started," Byrne said. "From my personal perspective, it is a great opportunity to go back to reacquaint with friends, as I have a lot of close friends are still working at Iona. From the team perspective, we've been in the area the past two track seasons at the Armory Collegiate Invite and our student-athletes love heading to New York City. It's a big trip, you're going to New York City."

"I'm pretty excited about heading to New York City," UW red-shirt freshman Erin Wagner said. "I've never been there before so it will be exciting to explore the city and see the sights."

The Badgers will take the subway from their hotel off Times Square in Manhattan to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx for the meet.

**TAP TO VIEW SCHEDULE**

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## UW men and women head to Milwaukee

Both squads to participate in Milwaukee Tennis Classic Friday through Sunday

The fall schedule in collegiate tennis is largely used to gain experience and build for the spring dual-match season. It usually takes the Badgers to far-off tournaments across the United States.

But when both the UW men's and women's tennis teams take to the court at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic this Friday through Sunday, area fans will get a chance to see the 2015-16 Badgers.

In its 40th year, the Milwaukee Tennis Classic is hosted by Marquette University and The Town Club in Fox Point. In addition to Wisconsin, the men's competition features Marquette, Ball State and Valparaiso. On the women's side, UW will be joined by Marquette, Cincinnati and Florida International.

Admission and parking are free for the three-day event.

The UW men open in singles action at 9 a.m. Friday vs. Valparaiso, while the women begin at 11 a.m. in singles play vs. Florida International.

The tournament is held in a round-robin format of singles and doubles. A point system is utilized, awarding the most points to the winner of each match. The singles/doubles player with the most points accumulated by the end of the last match on Sunday

### MEN'S SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**. All times CT.

#### COMING UP

- Sept. 18 **Ivy Plus**  
Milwaukee Classic
- Oct. 3 ITA All-American Invite
- Oct. 9 Princeton Invite
- Oct. 22 ITA Regional Invite

### WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

#### COMING UP

- Sept. 18 Milwaukee Classic
- Sept. 25 Gopher Invite
- Oct. 3 ITA All-American Invite
- Oct. 9 Beach Tennis Tournament

MEN



WOMEN



SCROLL





## Badgers set to host East-West Match Play

Unique event features 36 holes of stroke play and two days of match play

**T**he Wisconsin women's golf team will play host to the eight-team East-West Match Play Challenge Sept. 20-22, at University Ridge Golf Course.

The tournament mirrors the format of the NCAA championships, which combines 36 holes of stroke play to qualify the teams for two days of match play in championship and consolation brackets. Michigan hosted last year's event, which was won by Southern Methodist, in Ann Arbor. The Badgers finished fourth.

SMU returns to defend its title along with Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, Penn State, UC Davis and the host Badgers.

Play begins with 36-hole of continuous stroke play starting at 9 a.m. Sunday. The match play will resume off holes 1 and 10 Monday beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday's match play finals will begin off holes 1 and 10 at 8:30 a.m.

The Badgers enter the season just outside the Golfweek/Sagarin Top 50 at No. 55. UW returns three starters from its third-straight NCAA regional qualifying year and fourth in the last five years. The Badgers recorded the top two team scoring averages in school history the past two years, last year setting the record with 298.97 strokes per round.

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