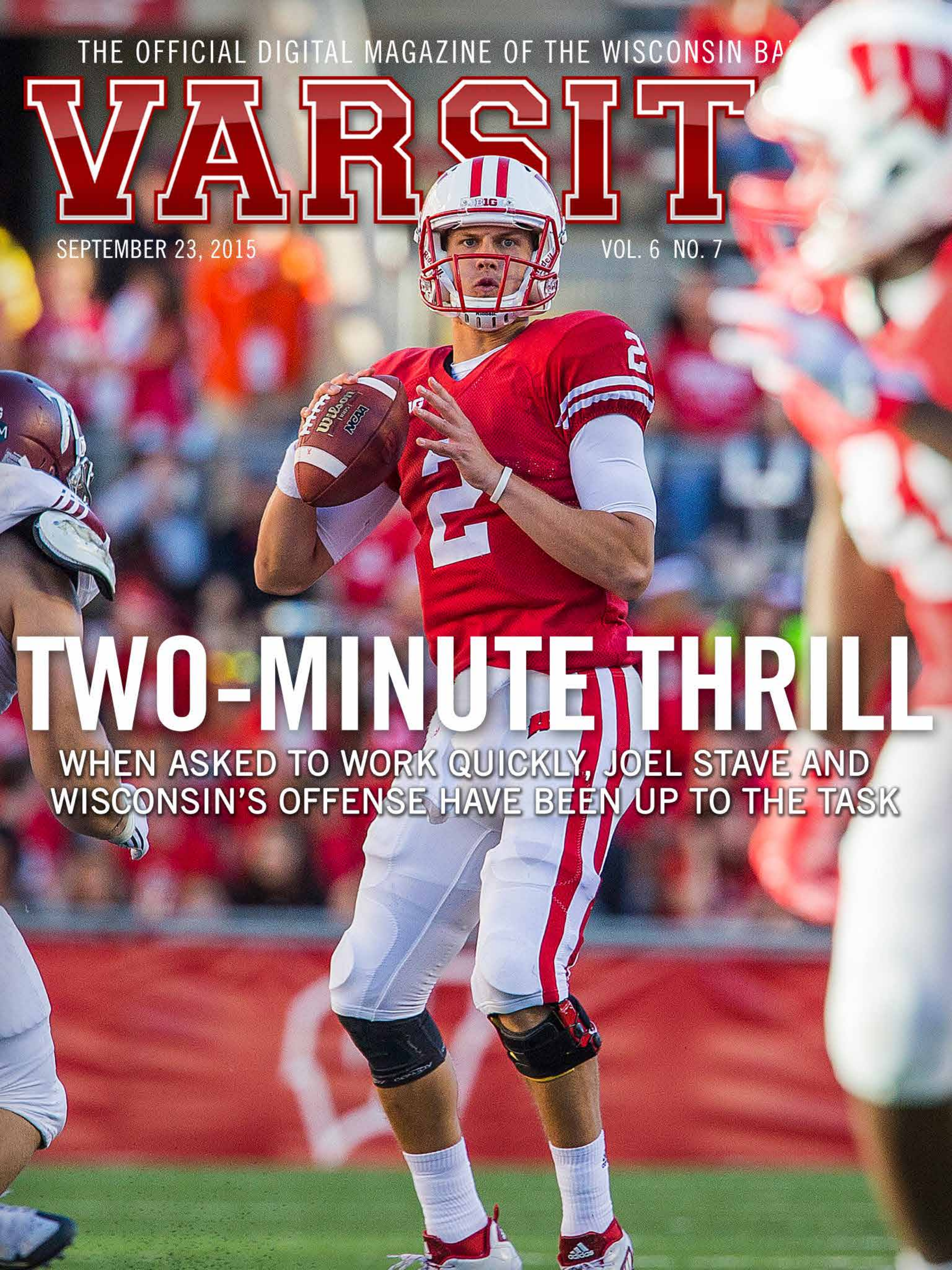


THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BASKETBALL

VARSI

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

VOL. 6 NO. 7



TWO-MINUTE THRILL

WHEN ASKED TO WORK QUICKLY, JOEL STAVE AND WISCONSIN'S OFFENSE HAVE BEEN UP TO THE TASK



COVER STORY

THIS IS ONLY A DRILL

Time is of the essence when directing a two-minute drill, but for Joel Stave and the Badgers, there's no need to rush — especially when working quickly comes naturally.



WOMEN'S HOCKEY

DRIVE FOR FIVE

Their journey toward a title starts with a trip out West, but Mark Johnson won't let the Badgers' eyes wander too far down the road just yet.

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HELLO AGAIN, HENRY

When former players sprung a surprise visit on Henry Mason last weekend, what wasn't surprising was how much they still care for their coach.



-SCROLL FOR MORE-

VARSIITY

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Caring comes as no surprise with Mason

When Henry Mason heard from Lee Evans, he didn't think there was anything suspicious about Evans coming to Madison for a football game and wanting to get together. For 12 seasons, Mason was Wisconsin's wide receivers coach and Evans was one of the best receivers and players that Mason recruited, along with Chris Chambers — the other half of the Bedford, Ohio, connection with Evans.

Last Friday, Evans met Mason at Camp Randall and got him to walk over to Heritage Hall. An unsuspecting Mason stepped into the trap — a surprise party celebrating his 20th anniversary; two decades of service to the football program. It was a “gotcha” moment for the 59-year-old Mason, who was greeted by his wife Debbie, family (mom, broth-

er, niece, cousins), friends and former UW players.

“They got me,” Mason said with a sigh. “They got me bad.”

And he loved every minute of it. And so did everyone who was there to honor him. That included the coach who hired him. “To hear the players speak to the experience that they had here and what Henry meant to them was special,” said UW athletics director Barry Alvarez, who admitted the biggest surprise was that Mason didn't get wind of the tribute and was genuinely surprised.

“Besides being a great person and someone who really related to the kids well, he was an outstanding coach and recruiter,” Alvarez said. “The kids trusted him. They knew that he cared about them and not just as football players. They felt very comfortable going to him with

different things. He had a great relationship with a lot of players, and not just his receivers.”

When Mason looked around the room, he saw players that he had mentored. Most have aged well — from Evans and Chambers (who got in town late because of a flight delay) to Jeff Mack, Mike Echols, Jonathan Orr, Johnny Sylvain, Brandon Williams and Brandon White, among so many others. And let's not forget John Favret, a defensive end out of Cleveland. “First guy recruited,” Mason said.

As an assistant, he respected the game, and his players. And now they were returning the respect. “It was almost a tear-jerker because we feel like he has done so much for this university,” Chambers said. “He's a real person; he tells it like it is. Everything is built on toughness and he knows how to get the guys to



where they need to be; he knows how to push their buttons the right way.”

Chambers remembered his first meeting on campus with Mason. “When I came in as a freshman, he asked if I wanted to play defensive back or receiver,” he recalled. “I said, ‘I want to catch touchdowns.’ He said, ‘Then, you have to learn how block first.’ So I learned how to block and I was able to catch some touchdowns (16 TDs among his 127 career receptions). It worked out for me.”

As it did for Williams, who finished with a school-record 202 catches. “He was able to balance me out but not put my fire out,” said the receiver known as B-Will. “He was able to focus my energy in the right places. He never tried to stagnate my imagination and exuberance for the game. But he always kept it real. You always felt like he was doing it because he wanted you to be better as a man and as a player.”

That was, indeed, Mason’s goal as a coach and a teacher. “You wanted to be stern with them, but you wanted to be fair,” he said. “On one end, you’re the guy that they have to follow. On the other end, you want to be able to sit down and chew the fat with them and relate. They saw both sides — the guy who’s the boss and the guy who’s teaching them how to work and have fun at the same time.”

As a recruiter, Mason had guidelines. “You really followed your gut on whether you thought

the player could come in here and be successful, and not so much just on the field,” he said. “This is a different place, a special place. But it also takes a certain type of individual. Spending time with the kids and family, you’d get a better feel for whether they could make it here or not. Usually, they’d do well.”

CHRYST ON MASON:

“I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO WORK WITH HENRY; I KNOW WHAT KIND OF COACH HE WAS. HE WAS DEMANDING BUT HE CARED TREMENDOUSLY ABOUT THE PLAYERS. HE COACHED THEM OFF THE FIELD AS MUCH AS ON THE FIELD.”

Most of them are still doing well. “That was the biggest thing that I took from it (the reunion) — how well they are all doing,” Mason said. “It’s real interesting, but the guys who put in the work and listened and took direction while they were here, they’re the ones who are doing really well right now. I was happy to see them and really proud of the fact that they’ve all taken care of their business.”

In July of 2007, Mason suffered a spinal cord injury that ended his career as a coach. For the last seven years, he has been working out of the football offices as the Director of Player Personnel and External Relations. It has been an all-encompassing assignment of working with NFL

scouts, Big Ten officials, high school coaches, alums and a diversity group. “I do a lot of things that keep me busy,” Mason said.

Nobody appreciates his contributions more than Alvarez. “He understands what we’re all about,” he said of Mason and his thorough knowledge of the football program, the campus and the community. “Paul (Chryst) wants to use him more as a springboard, and in a lot of different ways to where we can get our current players to know him better and trust him like the older players did.”

Chryst definitely has a role in mind for Mason. “He can add so much to this program,” he said. “I was fortunate enough to work with Henry; I know what kind of coach he was. He was demanding but he cared tremendously about the players. He coached them off the field as much as on the field.

“He knows people, he knows players. He knows their competitiveness and how to help them grow.”

When Mason scanned the room Friday, he couldn’t help but smile, and laugh. “I was actually thinking, ‘There’s a lot of money in this group,’” he said. “All the guys are doing really well, they’ve got decent jobs and families.”

Evans, 34, brought his 7-year-old son with him. “Looks fast,” said Mason, who still has a discerning eye and soft spot in his heart for all of his “kids” — and now theirs, too. ■



Night is always right in Camp Randall

When we learned the Badgers' game this week against Hawaii would be at night, the first thought was simple — it's about time.

Believe it or not, it has been three years since the Badgers have played a home game after 7 p.m. It was against Utah State. Thank you again, Kenzel Doe, who returned a punt for a touchdown to spark a Wisconsin rally.

When most of us think about night games, we recall Oct. 10, 1998, against Purdue. The shootout. Drew Brees chucking it 83 times, with four of those passes landing in the hands of Wisconsin defenders. All-America cornerback Jamar Fletcher returned one of those 52 yards for a touchdown. It was the difference in the game as the Badgers celebrated Homecoming with a 31-24 victory.

Of course, that night also was when House of Pain's "Jump Around" became a big deal at Camp Randall. For those in attendance, you know the story. For the rest of you, let us simply say it caught on quickly. To this day, it remains enjoyable to look at the visiting radio booth to see how the out-of-town crew reacts when the press box starts to sway.

Believe it or not, there have been just 12 home night games since that evening. One dozen games, but no shortage of mem-

ories.

In the 2002 season opener against Fresno State, a Mike Allen field goal with two minutes to play gave the Badgers a 23-21 win. A sophomore safety named Jim Leonhard picked off two passes. The walk-on from Tony, Wisconsin, ended the year with 11 interceptions en route to being named an All-American.

Who can forget Oct. 19, 2003, when defending national champion Ohio State came to town? The day started warm and humid. Then it rained, and the temperature took a nose dive. So did the Buckeyes' hopes for an unbeaten season. Schabert to Evans. That is all Badgers fans need to hear. After starting QB Jim Sorgi was knocked out of the game, back-up Matt Schabert hooked up with Lee Evans for a 79-yard touchdown connection that rocked the stadium.

Two years later, in the Big Ten opener of Barry Alvarez's final season as head coach, Wisconsin knocked off nemesis Michigan. So many times the Badgers had been close, but on that September 24th night in Madison, running back Brian Calhoun was lights-out, rushing 35 times for 155 yards. His efforts helped set up John Stocco's 4-yard quarterback draw in the final half-minute.

In 2009, the Badgers opened the season against Northern Illinois. It was Scott Tolzien's first

career start under center. His offensive coordinator was Paul Chryst, who was in no mood to mess around. On Wisconsin's first play from scrimmage, Tolzien went downtown, connecting with Issac Anderson for an 80-yard touchdown.

Memorable stuff, but perhaps the "game of games" under the lights took place on Oct. 16, 2010. It was 18th-ranked Wisconsin vs. No. 1 Ohio State. As hyped a regular-season tussle as this campus had witnessed since the "Dayne Game."

And it was a perfect night, starting with the opening kickoff. Thank you again, David Gilreath. To this day, I believe his 97-yard return to the house resulted in the loudest roar I have ever heard at Camp Randall.

It was crazy. The entire evening was crazy — in the best kind of way.

Look, any home game is good. As mentioned before in this space, it is like a party. But a night game? C'mon. Try to beat it. Good luck.

If you have a ticket, get here nice and early. Walk the campus. Visit the Square. Take it all in. You have all day. Then make your way to the stadium. Stop where you would like along the way. The grills will be going. The music will be cranked up.

Welcome to Game Night, Wisconsin Style. Often imitated. Never duplicated. ■



Flat Bucky is back

Popular mentorship program for third-graders returns for another year

The popular Flat Bucky Mentorship Program is back, offering another school year of mentoring by University of Wisconsin student-athletes for third grade classrooms across the state of Wisconsin.

Last year, the Badgers Give Back program unveiled the Flat Bucky with great success, pairing more than 130 UW student-athletes with classrooms throughout Wisconsin. Flat Bucky was inspired by the popular children's books "Flat Stanley." Participating classrooms create a Flat Bucky and their assigned student-athlete travels with their Flat Bucky around campus, to practice and to competitions. The student-athletes post photos to their special Flat Bucky Instagram account for the class to follow. The Instagram posts are paired with motivational messages encouraging the class to work hard in school. While the premise of the program is the same, there are some new improvements to Flat Bucky for 2015-16.

"Flat Bucky was a huge success in its first year, but we knew there were ways we could make it even better going into its second year," Wisconsin Athletics Director of Community Relations Jackie Davenport said. "We wanted to tailor the student-athletes' messages even more this year, so we created monthly themes for their posts to follow. We hope these changes continue to encourage participating classrooms to work hard in school."

The program is now centered on monthly themes, which student-athletes will follow through their posts to their Flat Bucky Instagram accounts. Themes for the year include: school on the road, organization, study tips, time management, respect, listening, healthy eating, finding role models and educational activities to do outside of school. In addition to these monthly themes, classrooms will write journal entries about their assigned student-athlete's post and that month's lesson.

Classrooms also have optional monthly activities that coincide with the month's theme. The activities are not

- SCROLL FOR MORE -



IF YOU WERE GIVEN \$5,000 TO SPEND IN ONE STORE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU SHOP AND WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?



ADAM ROCKWOOD
Sophomore • Men's Hockey

"I think I would go to Lululemon to spend the money. I'd pick that store because I like their clothing, but I don't own a single item from Lululemon because it is so expensive."



SYDNEY RIDER
Junior • Women's Tennis

"I'd probably pick a store like Nordstrom or somewhere that has a lot of variety. If you go to Nordstrom you could get athletic clothing or nice clothes, shoes. Lots of options."



MICHELLE CHEUNG
Junior • Women's Golf

"If I had \$5,000 I would probably spend it on shoes... maybe heels from Steve Madden. Steve Madden is a shoe store found all over the world and it has a lot of colors and I like colors. I don't really have a favorite store in Hong Kong. It has stores just like here. I don't really shop like crazy."



LAURYN GILLIS
Sophomore • Volleyball

"If I was given \$5,000, I would go to Urban Outfitters and I would buy the whole store — dresses, candles, skirts, socks, anything I could find. I would probably go to the sale area first and get some finds."



DAVID STLUKA

DANNY WESTERMAN

Last June, Wisconsin alumnus Danny Westerman returned to Madison as the 17th head coach in UW men's tennis history. Westerman comes to the Badgers after a successful nine-year stint at the University of Denver, where he led the Pioneers to the NCAA tournament in each of the last three seasons. From 1998 to 2002, Westerman enjoyed one of the most successful playing careers in UW history. One of just five Badgers to earn All-Big Ten honors three times, Westerman also claimed the prestigious Big Ten Medal of Honor in 2002.

What was it like receiving the call about the UW head coaching position?

"It was very exciting. I was flattered that they called me about it, but it was also nerve-racking at the same time. I loved my time at Denver, but returning to Wisconsin is a dream come true. I had to make sure I didn't get ahead of myself, because I really wanted the job, but I still had to go through the interview and search process. There's no better feeling than to return to your alma mater and coach the program you love so much."

Why was returning to UW right for you?

"It just made sense in so many ways. My wife is from Madison, her family is still in the area. We both went to school at UW and loved every minute of our collegiate experiences. We have two little kids and they're still at a good age to make the move. Beyond that, though, I got into coaching because of my experiences here and how positive it was, from tennis to academics to social life. Wisconsin and Pat Klingelhoets gave

ALL ABOUT DANNY

Position: Head coach

Year: First season at UW

Career: 10th season as head coach

Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.

Alma Mater: Wisconsin, 2002

QUICK Qs FOR DANNY

Favorite Madison restaurant?

"Tornado Club."

UW friend from another sport?

"Former hockey player Brad Winchester, who is also my brother-in-law."

Why UW?

"Growing up in California, I got to know former Badger Steve Lovett and he called the UW coach, Pat Klingelhoets and told him to recruit me. Coach Klingelhoets offered me to come for a visit, and the very next week I committed. I instantly fell in love with Wisconsin."

Non-tennis hobby?

"Watching L.A. Lakers games. I've been a fan of the Lakers ever since I was watching games with my dad since I was probably 4 years old."

NOT SO FAST...

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE WHEN IT COMES TO DIRECTING A TWO-MINUTE DRILL BUT, AS JOEL STAVE AND THE BADGERS HAVE PROVEN OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH — ESPECIALLY WHEN WORKING QUICKLY IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON FROM THE START.

BY MIKE LUCAS // UWBADGERS.COM





LAUREN ARNDT

Joel Stave didn't run a traditional two-minute drill at Whitnall High School. From his perspective, he ran a 48-minute drill, the length of a regulation prep game.

"We were kind of an up-tempo, spread offense," Stave explained. "So on some level, it's always like a two-minute drill when you're in that kind of system."

Quizzed on his earliest recollection of running a two-minute drill at Wisconsin, he replied with no uncertainty, "In practice ... In spring ball ... In 2011 ... It went pretty good for me."

Back then, he was a freshman walk-on and early enrollee; a mid-term high school graduate. Thirty-four games and 31 college starts later, it's still going pretty good for Stave.

The two-minute drill has become a weapon in his arsenal. "It's something," said Stave, a fifth-year senior from Greenfield, "I've always kind of enjoyed."

The most recent example of Stave's effectiveness in guiding the offense into scoring position at the end of the half took place last Saturday in a 28-3 win over Troy University. After a Troy punt, the Badgers took over on their own 10-yard line with 3:17 left in

the second quarter. Initially, they weren't in hurry-up mode.

"It really wasn't the same mechanics as our normal two-minute drive," Stave acknowledged. "There was never quite that same sense of urgency (because of the time remaining)."

Stave completed passes of 20 yards to Rob Wheelwright and 6 yards to Austin Traylor but the Badgers were guilty of a 15-yard personal foul penalty. That made it first-and-25 from the UW 15.

And that created a different sense of urgency because of the field position. But Stave took it all in stride and went about his business without flinching. And his teammates followed his lead.

"He never gets rattled," said senior wide receiver Alex Erickson, who has been Stave's favorite target the last two years. "He's always calm back there and that really translates to the rest of the guys. When you see him calm, you remain calm and everybody stays on the same page."

"I didn't feel rushed or panicked even after we got the penalty when Joel came back to the huddle," said senior tight end Austin Traylor, who added that



LAUREN ARNDT

“

“HE NEVER GETS RATTLED,” ERICKSON SAID OF STAVE. “HE’S ALWAYS CALM BACK THERE AND THAT REALLY TRANSLATES TO THE REST OF THE GUYS. WHEN YOU SEE HIM CALM, YOU REMAIN CALM AND EVERYBODY STAYS ON THE SAME PAGE.”

Stave reinforced something that head coach Paul Chryst preaches, and that is, “We still have an opportunity” regardless of down and distance.

Stave’s body language in these situations speaks volumes for his poise, maturity and confidence.

“He’s just always positive,” said senior left tackle Tyler Marz, who was guilty of the infraction on that late second quarter drive. “He never gets too high or too low. He’s calm, he’s cool and especially in the two-minute drill he just gets the ball out and gets up (to the line) and calls the next play.”

Stave didn’t waste any time getting the offense back on track against Troy. He got out of the first-and-25 hole by connecting with Erickson on a 21-yard pass play.

That set up a manageable second down (second-and-4) and a 9-yard completion to Jazz Peavy. Another big hit to Erickson — this one for 45 yards — left the Badgers with a first-and-goal from the 10.

After Stave came up empty on a throw to Erickson, wide receiver Reggie Love rushed for 6 yards on a new play whereby he lined up in the backfield and took a handoff.

On third-and-goal, the right-handed throwing Stave rolled to his left, got around the corner thanks to Marz, who tied up the defensive end, and scored on a 4-yard run; his second career rushing touchdown.

The seven-play drive covered 90 yards and it gave the Badgers some breathing room, a 14-3 lead over Troy. Stave completed 4 of 5 passes and actually threw for 95 yards because of the penalty.

The week before, he engineered two such marches against Miami University. As a result, in the final 3:30 of the first half over the last two games, he has gone 11-of-14 for 196 yards.

The Badgers have gone 3-for-3 on those possessions — with two touchdowns and a field goal.

“It’s nice to be able to push the tempo,” Stave said, “and get some points before half.”

.....
Chryst has fielded questions on the two-minute drill at each of his last two Monday press conferences. And both of his responses reflected a sense of humor. Or was he just telling the truth?

After the 38-0 shutout of Miami University, he was asked, “What are some of the essentials in your mind to be able to successfully run a two-minute offense?”

Without missing a beat, Chryst said, “Move the ball in as short of time as possible, and score.”

That drew laughter and a more detailed explanation from Chryst, a former prep quarterback.

“You’ve got to get it rolling,” he said. “And it’s really what I just said — you’ve got to move the ball and you’ve got to have composure. I thought Joel did a really nice job.”

The Miami circumstance was unique because the Badgers got the ball on their own 7-yard line with 2:42 left before halftime. After back-to-back Taiwan Deal runs of 9 and 4 yards, Chryst called a timeout with 2:10 on the clock.

“You don’t want to give the ball back with time (remaining),” Chryst said. “So there’s kind of a two-minute mode and there’s a four-minute mode and I thought once we got a little breathing room ... we could hopefully get something going.”

“It’s guys communicating and having poise,” he said of the factors involved in moving the chains during this sequence. “We had Rob (Wheelwright) with an underneath crossing route and we had Dare (Ogunbowale) twice on a check down.”

Besides Wheelwright and Ogunbowale, Stave also completed passes to Erickson and Tanner McEvoy on what was a nine-play, 93-yard touchdown drive culminating with a 15-yard strike to Wheelwright with 50 seconds remaining. Stave was 5-of-6 for 85 yards on the series.

After a quick three-and-out by Miami, the Badgers got another chance to tack on points from

their own 49 with 23 seconds left. Stave went back to work and found Wheelwright for gains of 16 and 15 yards setting up a 38-yard field by Rafael Gaglianone on the final play of the first half.

“Sometimes people panic and try to push the ball down the field,” opined Chryst, who reiterated that you have to be willing to take what is given and it’s still all about “poise and guys executing.”

The topic was broached again Monday.

Chryst was asked, “What goes into having success in the two-minute drill and how much do you guys work on that during the week?”

With the ball on the batting tee, clearly in his wheelhouse, he reacted accordingly by noting, “We work on it every week, and we also work on third-and-medium every week.”

That drew more laughter since Chryst had just finished discussing UW’s 3-for-10 performance on third down.

“What made it successful is guys making plays,” Chryst went on. “You want your players to be prepared for as many situations that come up and that’s something that fits Joel’s personality. He’s not a guy that gets rattled but you’ve still got to make plays.”

On his way back to his office Monday, he talked more freely about his two-minute offense and that advance work that goes into it. “One of the areas that I love in the off-season,” he said, “is (researching) any area that impacts the game — trying to study it and seeing how you can coach it better, how you can get the players to understand it better.”

But it’s so fundamentally simple with the two-minute drill because it all starts with getting that first first down, he emphasized.

“When you think about the things that I emphasize, they’re not really earth-shattering,” he said with his typical deadpan expression.



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“But you can’t move down the field unless you get a first down. It helps players when you focus on more immediate things. And the most immediate thing is finding a way to get that first first down.

“There’s no doubt when we’re talking about trying to move the ball, oftentimes a long way in a short time, you’re worried about time,” Chryst continued. “But I also think you can waste a lot of time. It’s worth taking a second or two (before the snap) ... in valuing time, you need to take a step back and just breathe and see what it is, so you don’t waste that segment of time.”

Since UW graduate assistant coach Jon Budmayr played quarterback for Chryst at Wisconsin, he has a working understanding of what Chryst wants from Stave in the two-minute offense.

“It’s a mad rush to get on the ball and get the play called,” Budmayr said, “but then Joel has got to digest, ‘OK, this is what I’m seeing (out of the defense),’ instead of rushing into that snap. And he does a great job of getting everybody lined up, getting everybody in their spots. He takes a quick snapshot of what he’s seeing on defense and he goes out

and plays.

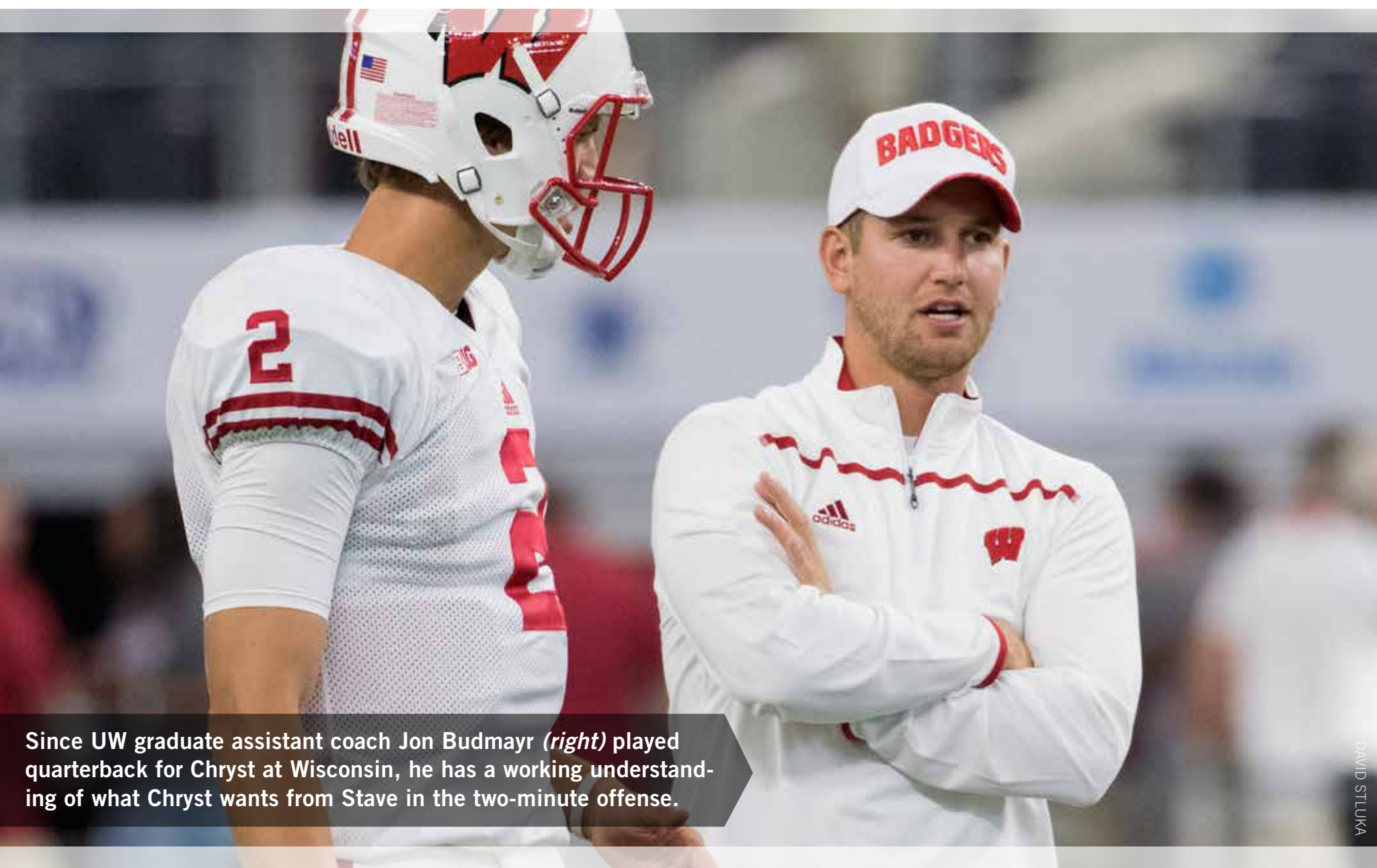
“There’s a sense of urgency with every possession, but there’s the understanding of what we need to get done and where we need to get to on the field with the two-minute drill.

Stave tries to have that awareness on every snap.

“Regardless of what the play is, run play or pass play, you just want to see what they’re doing (defensively), see how their safeties and corners are playing, so you can get a feel for their guys,” Stave said. “You can watch them on film as much as you want but there’s always something different about being on the field with them as opposed to watching them in a film room.

“You’re gathering information throughout the game and constantly trying to learn more and more about your opponent as the game goes on,” he said in prepping for a two-minute drill. “A lot of it comes down to just trusting the plays, trusting your preparation, knowing that defensively they don’t have a ton of time, either, they’re not going to come out with some crazy, complex blitz and shifts.”

During practice, Chryst will put his quarterback in



Since UW graduate assistant coach Jon Budmayr (*right*) played quarterback for Chryst at Wisconsin, he has a working understanding of what Chryst wants from Stave in the two-minute offense.

DAVID STLUKA



TRAYLOR ON STAVE:

“COMMUNICATION IS DEFINITELY A BIG PART OF THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL. JOEL IS VERY CLEAR; HE DOES A GREAT JOB OF ECHOING THE CALLS FROM THE SIDELINES AND HE REPEATS IT A COUPLE OF TIMES. HE DOES A GOOD JOB GIVING US TIME TO GET SET AND MANAGING THE CLOCK.”



DAVID STLUKA

charge of the two-minute play-calling.

“I’ve done that with most of the quarterbacks, but some don’t want it,” Chryst said. “I’ve been around some freshman quarterbacks and some sophomores that don’t want to have it yet. I’ve done that in games, too, with quarterbacks. I did that with both Scotty (Tolzien) and Russell (Wilson). I’ll tell them, ‘I’ll always have something if you need it.’”

“But they know,” Chryst said of what will work and what won’t for a certain opponent and defense, “by the time we play the game. They know as well as anyone what we’re trying to do. In a lot of situations, Joel knows it’s going to be either this (play) or that one. If he knows that, then, it’s my philosophy to call the one that he feels best about.”

As a player, Budmayr got a taste of these practice labs.

“Once you got comfortable with the offense, Coach Chryst would turn it over to us,” he said. “It was a chance to get a feel for it. How well do you know this? It puts you in that situation where you’ve got to think fast. I always enjoyed it because there was more added pressure than just your situational stuff that is scripted already. You have to put yourself in the moment to see what you could do.

Stave appreciates getting the keys to the offense in practice. “He (Chryst) will let me call it,” he said. “And it’s a fun way for me to learn what works and what doesn’t. It’s a fun challenge because it’s really not something I’ve done before where they’re trusting that you know the offense well enough to get everybody lined up and get the right protection and just keep it rolling.”

The picture that is painted on Tuesday and Wednesday is usually the same on Saturday.

“Because Joel will take over the reins and he’s calling the plays and running tempo on his command, it’s nothing new when we get to the game,” Erickson said. “It’s something we’ve already worked on a lot, so we’re out there just basically running the drill.”

“To practice the two-minute drill,” Traylor said, “and to see it come to life is pretty good.”

But none of this will translate successfully in a game without one critical element.

“Communication is definitely a big part of the two-minute drill,” Traylor said. “Coach Chryst always talks about how it’s better to waste a couple of seconds before the play then after the play in commu-

nicating and executing. Everything is intensified, so when you're doing all of this communication is the key. Joel is very clear; he does a great job of echoing the calls from the sidelines and he repeats it a couple of times. He does a good job giving us time to get set and managing the clock."

Erickson, a high school quarterback, took it one step further, citing "communication and knowing the situation." Such as down and distance. "That's key because you're competing against the clock," he said. "As a receiver, you have to know when to get down and when to get out of bounds." And after a catch, he said, "You hand the ball to the ref every single time and get lined up to hear the quarterback's call ... Joel is a communicator. He makes sure we're all set and we know what we're doing."

Time is of the essence for Stave in terms of his pass protection and getting the time to throw.

"It's something we take pride in," Marz said of the two-minute drill. "We focus on that (protection) every day and that's obviously huge when you're trying

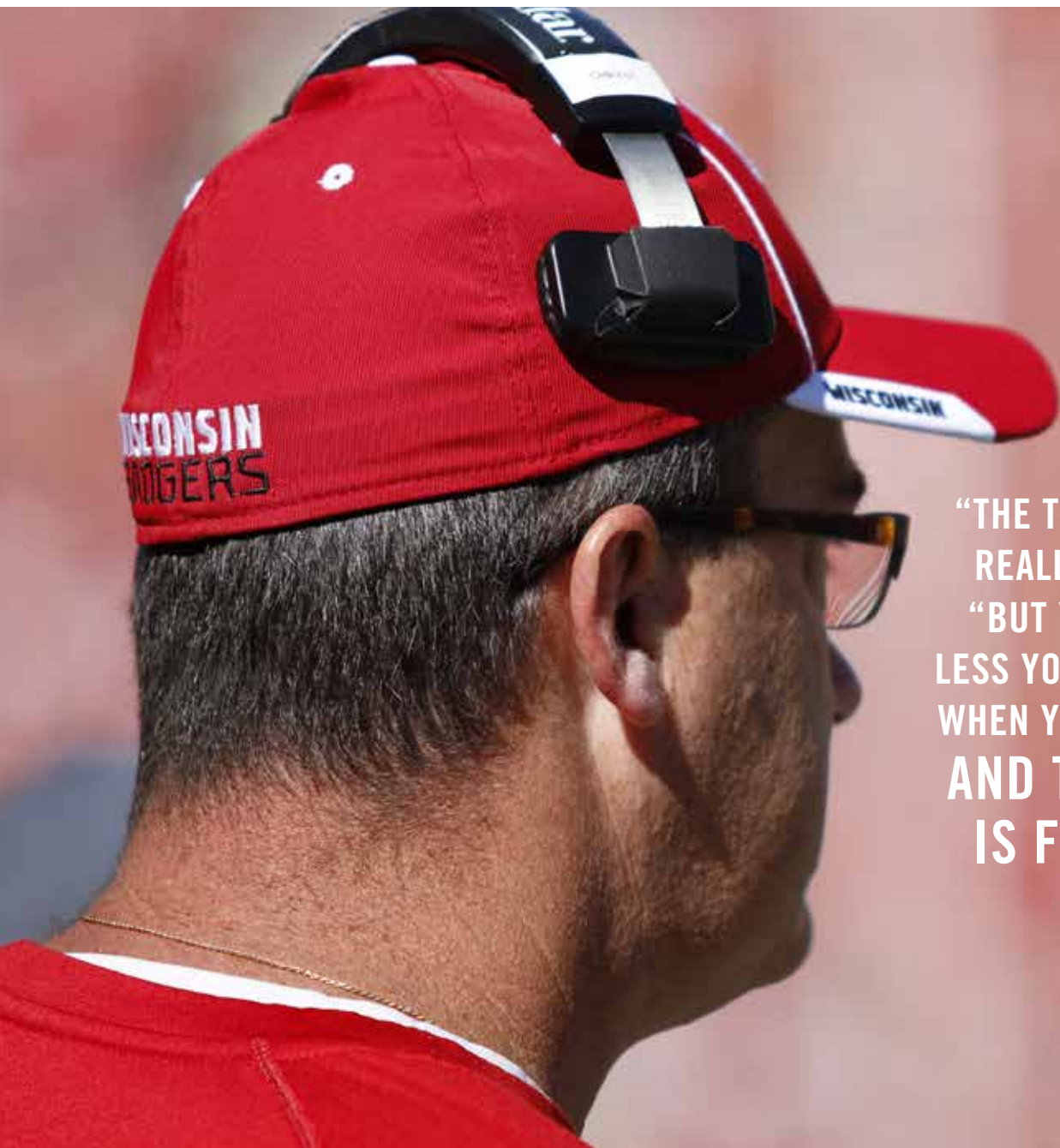
to get the ball down the field. Joel knows the offense just as well as the coaches, so he can make the calls and the reads and do his thing. If every guy focuses on their job we can move the ball pretty efficiently."

But Stave can't afford any negative yardage plays, any sacks.

"You don't want to be in third-and-long situations," said center Dan Voltz. "If you can stay out of those, you're going to be in pretty good shape. It's just being focused. You kind of approach it like you do any drive. You want to get first downs and drive the ball, and we do a good job of doing that."

Everybody runs a two-minute offense. What separates Chryst's model from others? Budmayr singled out the preparation and play-calling. "We have a package of two-minute plays that we know like the back of our hand," Budmayr said. "We apply it to what they're playing on defense. He (Stave) has plays that he feels good with and he knows he has an answer for what they come up with (defensively)."

Watching NFL games on Sundays has provided



“

“THE THINGS THAT I EMPHASIZE, THEY’RE NOT REALLY EARTH-SHATTERING,” CHRYST SAID. “BUT YOU CAN’T MOVE DOWN THE FIELD UNLESS YOU GET A FIRST DOWN. IT HELPS PLAYERS WHEN YOU FOCUS ON MORE IMMEDIATE THINGS. AND THE MOST IMMEDIATE THING IS FINDING A WAY TO GET THAT FIRST FIRST DOWN.”

LAUREN ARNDT

Stave with another frame of reference. “Every week,” he said, “there are six or seven games that come down to a final two-minute drive. You get to watch the best players in the game operate that drive and it’s much tougher at that level because the clock doesn’t stop on a first down.”

Less than two weeks ago, he watched Dallas quarterback Tony Romo execute the two-minute offense against the New York Giants. “You see Romo using check-downs,” said Stave, pointing to a tailback running a shallow crosser. “You hit those little underneath routes, the guys can run and make plays in space. Once you start doing that and get the ball rolling, you can get the defense on its heels.

“Most importantly,” he said, “you’ve got to get the ball moving, whether that’s with a run or whether that’s with a pass — and you’d like your first pass to be a completion. Once you get a little bit of a rhythm as an offense, you can open it up and start surveying the field.”

A two-minute drill at the end of the half can lead to much bigger things later on. “When you get the

chance to run it before halftime, a chance to work it a little,” Stave said, “it’s good for everyone when the end of the game comes and you need a touchdown or a field goal.”

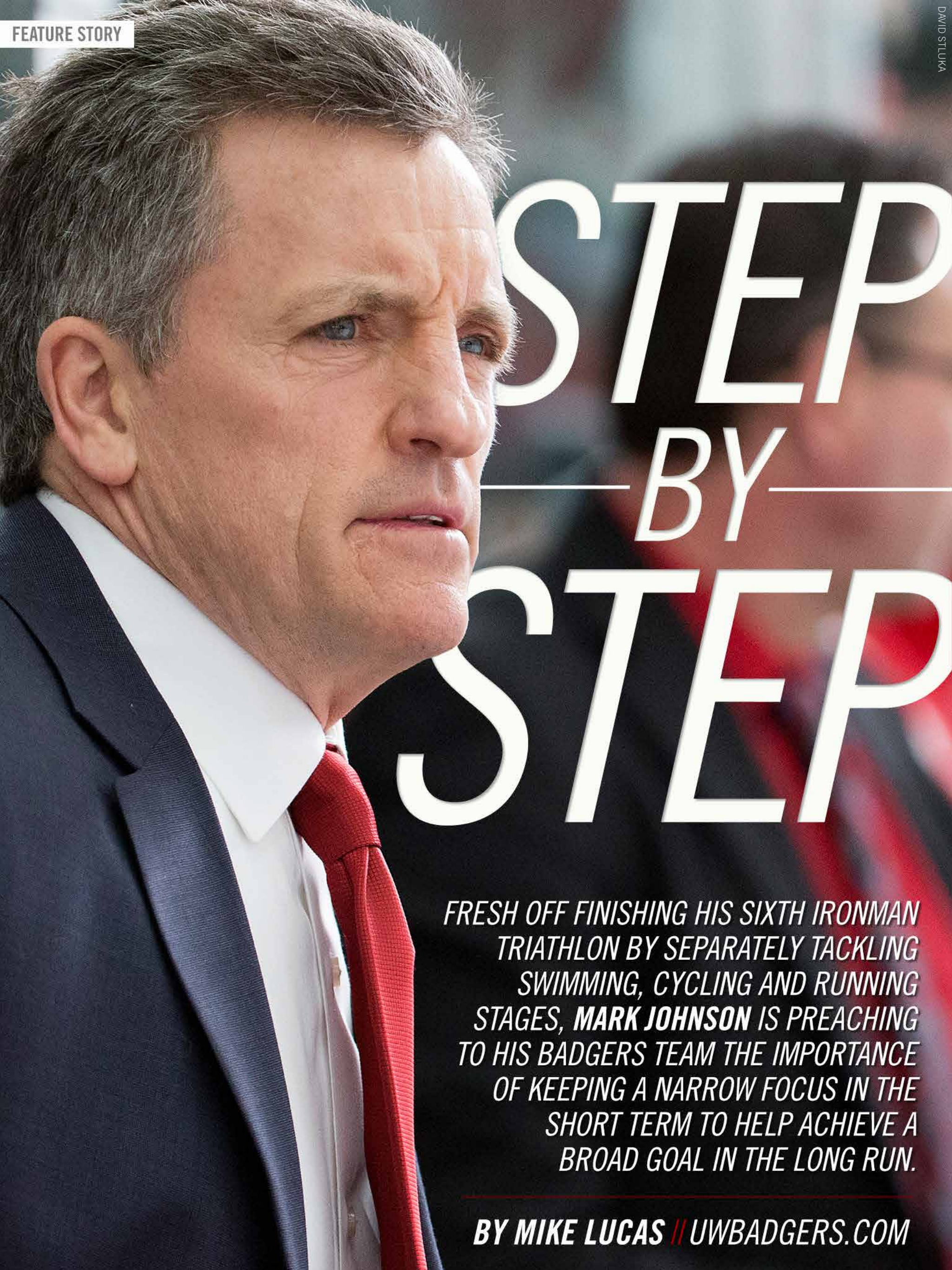
Said Erickson, “You have to have confidence that when you need to drive down the field to put some points on the board to win the game with a touchdown or a field goal, you can do that. Everybody has the confidence, everybody believes and you can go out there and execute it.”

Everybody on offense is trying to make a play. But so is everybody on the opposing defense.

“That’s what is on my mind,” said UW safety Michael Caputo. “You’re thinking, ‘You have to make a play; get an interception, cause a fumble, get a PBU.’ That’s what has to go on in your head. But you also have to do it through the rules of the scheme of the coverage that is called.”

So what makes Wisconsin’s two-minute offense and its triggerman so effective?

“He makes quick decisions and the right ones,” Caputo said of Stave. “It’s that plain and simple.”



STEP BY STEP

*FRESH OFF FINISHING HIS SIXTH IRONMAN TRIATHLON BY SEPARATELY TACKLING SWIMMING, CYCLING AND RUNNING STAGES, **MARK JOHNSON** IS PREACHING TO HIS BADGERS TEAM THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING A NARROW FOCUS IN THE SHORT TERM TO HELP ACHIEVE A BROAD GOAL IN THE LONG RUN.*

BY MIKE LUCAS // UWBADGERS.COM



During an 11-year NHL career, spanning 669 games with five different teams, Mark Johnson was rarely, if ever, penalized. That was his makeup as a pro, celebrated Olympian and college All-American.

So you can imagine how out of character it was for Johnson, the Wisconsin women's hockey coach, to be assessed a penalty, a five-minute major, no less, while riding his bike.

During the recent Ironman Wisconsin triathlon, which was staged in Madison and its environs, Johnson received a blue card for drafting within 10 meters of another cyclist.

"I'm going about 12 miles per hour into this headwind," Johnson recounted, "and I looked over at the guy (an event official) and I said, 'Really? Do you think I'm trying to draft somebody?'"

Laughing, the 58-year-old Johnson demurred, "I got a penalty, can you believe it?"

Fair or foul, he had no recourse but to serve it.

"So I got to Cross Plains," he said, "and they've got these big yellow tents, the penalty box. You stop in there and the guy gives you a stopwatch and when it hits five minutes, you get out of the

box. I was feeling shamed."

He completed the Ironman in a little over 16 hours — finishing just behind his son, Patrick. "It was his first time," said Johnson, who was competing for a sixth time. "I've been in the 14's before, generally between 14 and 16 (hours), depending on the weather and how much conditioning I've done."

The physical demands are obvious for a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run.

"The nice thing about doing them (triathlons) every other year," Johnson said, "is that once you sign up, you have to get yourself in pretty good shape. If you don't, you're not going to survive. So it keeps you pretty fit. As you get closer to race and you're extending yourself, it makes you feel good."

Johnson hasn't gained an ounce since leaving the

NHL in 1990. “When I was retired,” he said, “I was probably in the 168-170-pound range, depending on what time of the year it was. I usually went into camp around there but over the course of the long season and number of games, I’d drop a few.”

There are so many attractive elements to the Ironman that it keeps Johnson coming back for more. “Obviously having it in Madison, it’s a big part of the community and it’s well-supported,” he said. “It’s a great event, there’s a lot of energy. We had a little entourage this year from women’s hockey.”

That group included director of hockey operations Paul Hickman, former UW skater Carla Pentimone, and three seniors on last year’s team: shot-blocking defenseman Katarina Zgraja and high-scoring forwards Karley Sylvester and Brittany Ammerman, the 2015 Hockey Humanitarian Award winner.

Sylvester and Ammerman were the Badgers’ second- and third-leading scorers, respectively.

The mere mention of their names got Johnson thinking about his 13th team at Wisconsin.

“Up front, the question will arise, ‘Who’s going to get the puck in the net?’” Johnson posed. “We lost a lot of offense from last year’s graduating seniors. Now it’s time for other kids to step up. If we get a contribution from many different people, by committee, in the process we should be pretty good.”

The Badgers return their leading scorer, Annie Pankowski, who was named the national Rookie of the Year, the first UW player in school history to be so honored. “She’s what you would call a player who has the ability to get the puck in the net,” said Johnson, who knows something about that skill.

Along with Pankowski’s scoring, the Badgers can bank on goaltender Ann-Renée Desbiens, who posted a 26-6-4 record and tossed

14 shutouts last season. “You start from the net out,” Johnson said. “Having Ann-Renée back, having her healthy and ready to go, is a big piece.”

Senior defenseman Courtney Burke is another returning veteran and team captain.

“She (Burke) has watched Brianna Decker and Decker watched Hillary Knight,” Johnson said of the program’s royalty and line of succession. “It’s sort of one of those things where you can pass the torch on the next group. She has learned from our past players and now it’s her opportunity.”



Courtney Burke



Sophomores Clark, Pankowski and Wellhausen skated on an all-freshman line late last year.

“For Courtney, and all the seniors, they know it’s the last hurrah of their college careers. And they probably worked a little bit harder over the course of the summer knowing they have maybe 40 games left here. I know that they’re excited.

“I just see a group with real good chemistry,” Johnson continued. “We had a lot of players stay this summer; they get along. What I really enjoy about them is that they’re not afraid to work, whether during the summer getting themselves ready for the school year or since we’ve been on ice this fall.

“We’ve had four or five days with them in small sessions and they come to practice with a smile on their face every day. That’s the fun part of what we do, when you get a group that is committed and wants to get better. It makes getting on the ice and working with them more enjoyable.”

Defending NCAA champion Minnesota, anchored by forward Hannah Brandt, the preseason WCHA Player of the Year, was tabbed to win the league by a vote of the league coaches. The Gophers got six

first-place votes. The Badgers, who were picked for second place, got two.

In each of the past two seasons, Wisconsin has been eliminated by Minnesota in the semifinals of the Frozen Four by margins of 3-1 and 5-3. “We put ourselves in a great position at the end,” said Johnson. “We just have to figure out how to outscore our opponent in that last game.”

Last season, the Badgers won 29 games and the WCHA Final Face-Off. “The big thing for us now,” Johnson said, “is to stay focused on a weekly basis. I tell them, ‘Don’t get ahead of yourselves. Bring those work habits every day. If you do that, you will give yourself a chance to be successful.’”

Johnson doesn’t believe in a sophomore jinx. Good thing. Pankowski, Baylee Wellhausen and Emily Clark skated on an all-freshman line late last year. “And they played as well as anyone on our team,” Johnson said. “So you’ve got those pieces coming back ...”

And that’s a good starting point to go along with a proven goaltender, the chemistry, the work ethic and



JOHNSON ON HIS CURRENT TEAM:

THAT’S THE FUN PART OF WHAT WE DO, WHEN YOU GET A GROUP THAT IS COMMITTED AND WANTS TO GET BETTER. IT MAKES GETTING ON THE ICE AND WORKING WITH THEM MORE ENJOYABLE.”



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let’s not forget the tradition — four national championships under Johnson. “Our journey now,” he said, “is to get a feel for where we’re at as a team and then try to get better.”

In this regard, the upperclassmen will have a say in how good the Badgers can be, Johnson said.


“A bunch of seniors are going to get a chance to play more than they have, whether it’s Rachel Jones, Katy Harding, Erika Sowchuk or Kim Drake,” he pointed out. “They look good. Now it’s trying to get them off to a goodstart, build up some confidence in their game and let it grow through the year.”

When the Badgers open their season against Providence College in San Jose, California, Oct. 2-3, Johnson will be able to rely on a coaching staff that has stayed intact with the return of associate head coach Dan Koch and assistant coach Jackie Friesen. Continuity is always a positive in this area.

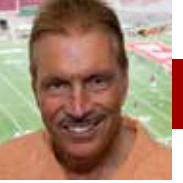
“That’s another exciting part for me,” said Johnson, who has a 360-71-34 career record (.810). “Dan and Jackie do an outstanding job and it’s fun to watch them continue to grow. They’re a big part of what we do, whether it’s recruiting or what we do on and off the ice. They’re very important to us.”

Asked if he takes a personal inventory at the end or the start of a season, measuring his level of contentment with what he’s doing, Johnson said, “If you had the same group every year like you do in professional sports, you might have to challenge yourself every summer to get motivated.”

But that’s not the case here. There’s a turnover every year, and new motivations.

“You get a chance to work with new kids and meet new families,” he said. “The fun part about what we do is going on the ice and practicing and trying to put together a team that can get better over the course of the winter. If we’re able to do it, you sign up and do it again the following year.” 





Orr steps in, steps up for UW defense

Freshman quickly finding his way as contributor in linebacker rotation

Wisconsin inside linebacker Chris Orr was planning on calling his older brothers with the news. Zachary Orr is a second-year linebacker with the Baltimore Ravens; Nick Orr is a second-year safety at TCU. The news? Baby brother is growing up.

Orr, a true freshman from DeSoto, Texas, took over for starter Leon Jacobs after he was ejected from Saturday's game for targeting. Unruffled, the 6-foot, 228-pound Orr wound up leading the Badgers with 14 tackles (11 unassisted) in a 28-3 win over Troy at Camp Randall Stadium.

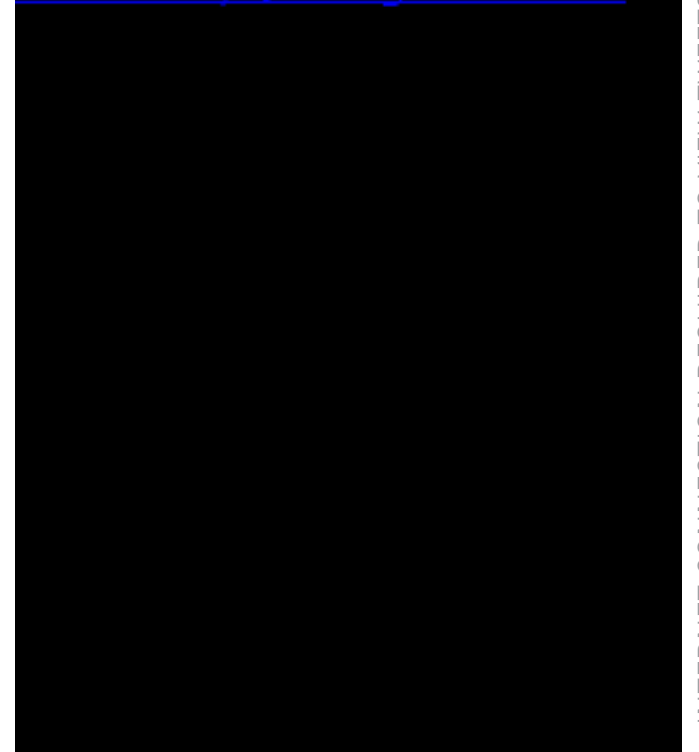
"My brother (Zach) played Troy when they were in the same conference (the Sun Belt)," said Orr, who had six tackles through the first two games combined against Alabama and Miami University. "I'm going to ask him how many tackles he had against them and see if I got more."

The answer is yes.

In 2012, Zachary Orr was a starting linebacker at North Texas — coached by former UW assistant Dan McCarney — and had 11 tackles and an interception against the Trojans. Orr finished his career with 365 tackles, the third-most in school history. (North

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Rematch with Lions looms large for UW

Badgers look for first win over top-ranked Penn State in seven meetings

There are opponents for the Wisconsin volleyball team, and then there is Penn State.

The Nittany Lions have had Wisconsin's number the last couple of years, winning the 2013 NCAA championship match over UW, 3-1. In a rematch of the title tilt, the teams opened the 2014 Big Ten Conference season with PSU winning 3-0 in Madison. Penn State then eliminated the Badgers from NCAA tournament play for a second-straight year, downing Wisconsin 3-1 in an NCAA regional final.

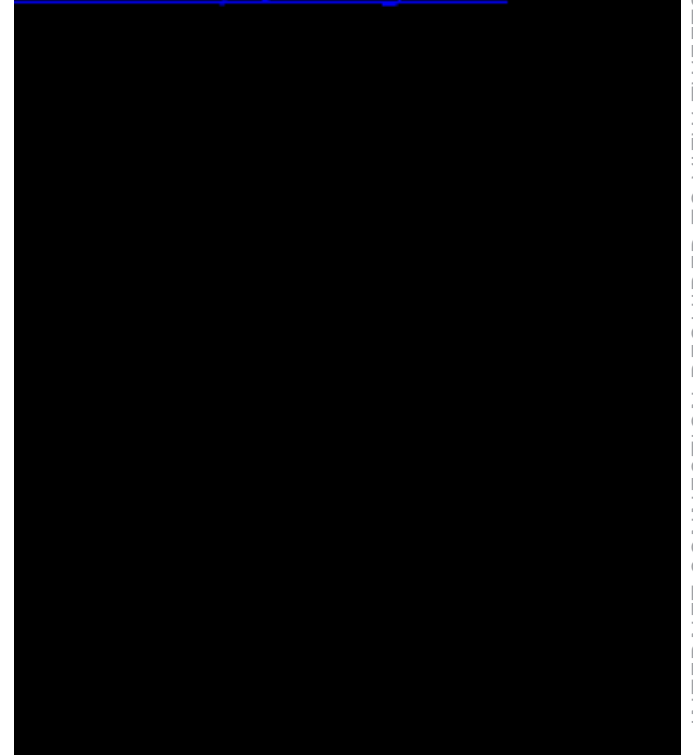
This week offers another chance at redemption for the Badgers as they open the Big Ten season on the top-ranked Nittany Lions' home floor. Wisconsin and Penn State kick off the conference season on Wednesday at 6 p.m. from Rec Hall in University Park, Pennsylvania, in a match that airs live on Big Ten Network.

"We go into every match believing that there is a way to win and we go into every match believing that we can win," UW head coach Kelly Sheffield said. "It doesn't matter if it's (Penn State) or whoever else..."

"Our goal is to try to compete for a national championship and you're going against a team that has won the last two. Although

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Badgers could take step forward this week

Riding consecutive road wins, Wisconsin looks to build on win streak at home

Things are all out in front of the Badgers this week. While it's going to be anything but easy, Wisconsin returns home riding a two-game win streak with the opportunity to extend it over a three-game homestand.

What will the young Badgers do with this kind of opportunity? Regress? Or seize it and take a step forward? That's the question.

Coming off a four-game road stretch that included a trip to the West Coast, then consecutive trips to the East Coast, UW head coach John Trask believes the recent challenges and rigors will serve the players well this week.

"We've really challenged these guys," Trask said. "They say adversity makes you stronger. We're looking forward to being back at McClimon. I think these guys have gotten hardened a little bit more.

"I think we're well on our way. I like this team. There's a great personality. There's an electric athleticism to them and a strength to them. While still relatively young, we're really looking forward to the challenges in front of us."

Those challenges included a non-conference test against SIU-Edwardsville — an NCAA tournament team last year — on

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LEONARD CEDERHOLM

Wilkins believes process leads to success

Veteran Wisconsin coach working to help Badgers maximize potential this season

It's about the process.

Wisconsin head coach Paula Wilkins firmly believes that to be the case, especially this season for a group of Badgers going through somewhat of a transition period. Key players are back, yes, but they're being called on to serve in new roles. There are new faces joining them, too, with as many as five new Badgers in the Starting XI this season.

Wisconsin opened Big Ten play on the road last weekend, falling to No. 4 Penn State before rebounding with a shutout of No. 20 Ohio State in a scoreless draw. While there were encouraging signs on the trip, UW returns home to the McClimon Complex with one thing on its mind: results.

"These two Big Ten home games are going to be very crucial for us in terms of getting points," Wilkins said of UW's weekend games against Indiana and Purdue. "Right now with the Big Ten, it's going to be very competitive with every single game. I'm looking forward to the challenge with the team."

The challenge Wilkins refers to has been this season's test of finding the right combination and roles to produce goals. Junior midfielder and all-around stud Rose Lavelle leads UW with four

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Badgers show up big in the Big Apple

Pack running helps Wisconsin sweeps team titles at Iona Meet of Champions

It was a successful weekend for the Badgers in the Bronx, as both the Wisconsin men's and women's cross country teams took home team titles at the Iona Meet of Champions last Saturday.

Both teams ran together — and both teams walked out together with trophies.

The women's five scorers all crossed the line in the top nine, combining for 26 points to pick up the Badgers' second team win of the year. Leading the way for UW was redshirt freshman Shaelyn Sorensen, who won her second-consecutive race in 22 minutes, 15.3 seconds.

"I think we stuck to the race strategy really well for the first half of the race," Sorensen said. "We had a pack of six working really hard together and leading in a dominating fashion. The back part of the course was a very hilly, which is something we don't usually compete on, which I liked, but that's what definitely split the group up.

"I was happy with how controlled the effort felt and am looking forward to our next race."

"Our team took advantage of the opportunity to learn more

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INSIDE WOMEN'S HOCKEY

BY A.J. HARRISON ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



Practices mark start of season for Badgers

With the season two weeks away, UW got on LaBahn Arena ice last Saturday

Last Tuesday marked the first official day of fall, which means hockey season is just around the corner for the Wisconsin women's program.

The Badgers held their first official practice of the season last Saturday at LaBahn Arena prior to being recognized on the field at UW football game against Troy in honor of their 2015 WCHA playoff championship. The team had an off day on Sunday before resuming practice on Monday.

"We've been off to a really good start, moving quick and fast," junior Mikayla Johnson said. "We're trying to get back into game mode and doing more line drills and game situation-type drills to get us ready for our first game."

"Practices have gone pretty well," sophomore Baylee Wellhausen said. "We're working our butts off, we're working really hard. We are moving the puck well, team chemistry is great, so I'm excited to see what we can bring to our first game in two weeks."

Wisconsin will have 10 practice sessions before departing for San Jose, California, to face Providence College, Oct. 2-3. UW and Providence will meet at 9 p.m. (CT) on Oct. 2 before concluding the series Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. Both games will be played

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