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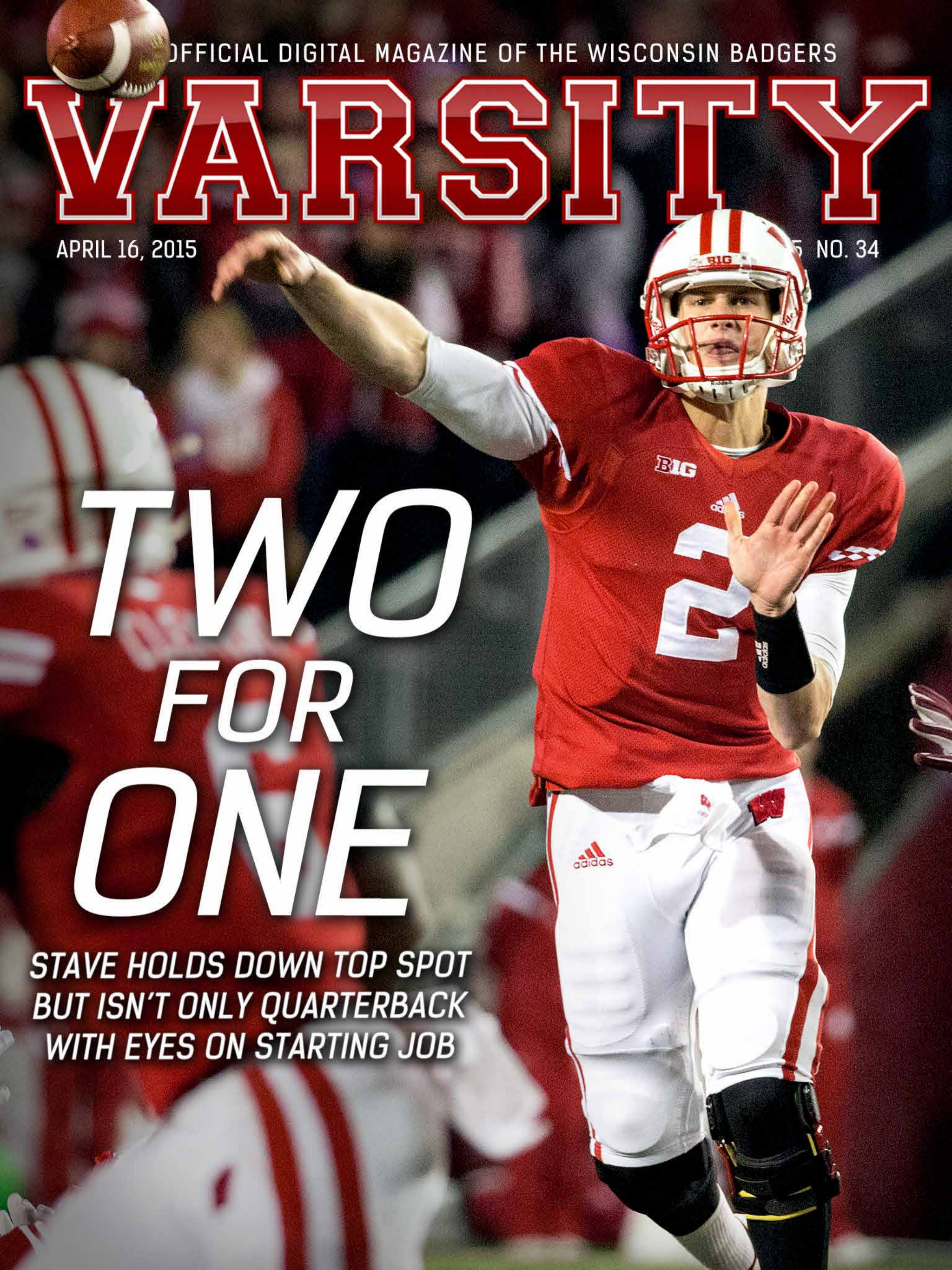
VARSI

APRIL 16, 2015

NO. 34

TWO FOR ONE

*STAVE HOLDS DOWN TOP SPOT
BUT ISN'T ONLY QUARTERBACK
WITH EYES ON STARTING JOB*





COVER STORY

TWO IS ONE

He's already been named the Badgers' No. 1 quarterback, but Joel Stave is no stranger to competition and knows he isn't the only one in the QB room with eyes on the starting job.



WIDE RECEIVERS

CATCHING UP

Ted Gilmore likes the potential of his wide receivers group, but the Badgers' first-year coach is ready for some playmakers to step forward.

LUCAS AT LARGE

CHRYST'S CREW

New head coach Paul Chryst looks at spring practice as an opportunity to set the stage for his first season at the helm of his alma mater.



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INSIDE TRACK & FIELD

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Chryst's crew finding its way in spring

Jim Leonhard popped into Paul Chryst's office to say hello. Some 30 minutes later, they were still catching up and chatting; Leonhard, 32, the former All-America safety now retired from the NFL after 10 seasons of proving everybody wrong for not drafting him, and Chryst, 49, the Wisconsin coach whose door is always open — especially to anyone that has ever worn a “W” on the side of his helmet.

“That’s one of the things that really makes this place special — I love it — and I’m happy that they want to be back,” he said of returning alums. “I want our players to know about those who came before them and made this place special and I want the former players to know that this is still their place. I would love to try and get more players back — to be around as much as they want to get involved.”

It’s not like Chryst is drawn to time machines or living in the past. It’s quite the contrary actually. Reconstructing the Leonhard conversation and most others, he said, “We didn’t once talk about something that happened before. It’s not about the old days, it’s not about reminiscing. Football is the vehicle that brought us together. What maintains relationships is everything but football.”

Shortly after Leonhard left

Chryst’s office, Melvin Gordon burst into the room with his ever-present smile and chided Chryst for not yet putting anything on the walls and for still having empty bookshelves. Even though he was hired nearly four months ago, there are few personal belongings beyond a small framed picture of his late father, George, behind his desk and a grouping of family photos.

“I WANT OUR PLAYERS TO KNOW ABOUT THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE THEM AND MADE THIS PLACE SPECIAL AND I WANT THE FORMER PLAYERS TO KNOW THAT THIS IS STILL THEIR PLACE.”

“Got my dad,” he said, looking around. “Got my family shots. That’s about it.”

Fixing his eyes on a flat screen, he said, “Got my film. It’s probably all I need.”

He wasn’t stretching the truth. But there is one thing that Chryst needs before he can assess the immediate future. He needs time to figure out what kind of team this is going to be. It’s his greatest challenge. “And it’s what you knew it would be,” he said. “That’s truly getting to know the players, not just the names, but getting to know them as people. You’re always a better coach when you do.”

It’s a time-honored process. “To do it right, it takes time,” Chryst asserted. “Relationships aren’t just something you announce by saying, ‘I trust you and you trust me.’ You can watch all the film you want. But getting a chance to work with them on the field and understanding how they learn — and what’s the best way to teach them — is the biggest challenge.”

Without bringing up the word — transition — he addressed his sensitivity to it. “I would never want to script it this way but I lived that as a player; I had three head coaches,” said Chryst, who played for the late Dave McClain, Jim Hilles and Don Morton. “Just a couple of years ago, I went through it and I’m surprised by how many things we went through at Pitt are helping me transition back to Wisconsin.”

At this point in the transition and/or spring it would appear that the defense is ahead of the offense, which really shouldn’t be surprising, and hasn’t been from Chryst’s point of view. “It’s ahead because of personnel,” he said, “and it’s ahead with some of the schematic continuity. If you were to ask me, ‘Who are some of your leaders on the team?’ I would say, ‘They’re on that side of the ball.’”

That continuity is due to Chryst retaining Dave Aranda as



Wisconsin's defensive coordinator. When Aranda took over the defense two years ago, he made the conversion from the 4-3 to 3-4. "And there's that natural continuity as far as coaching and players," Chryst said. "We've got some guys at different spots that have been good players on good defenses and teams that have won."

Chryst singled out Vince Biegel and Joe Schobert at outside linebacker, Darius Hillary at cornerback and Michael Caputo at safety. They bring a little maturity to the defense. All but Biegel are seniors. He volunteered a few other names. "Sojourn (Shelton) has had a good spring, he needs to finish it out," he said. "And Tanner (McEvoy) is learning how to become more of a complete safety."

Wisconsin will line up with Shelton, a junior, and Hillary at the corners; and McEvoy, a senior, and Caputo at the safeties. The secondary will be the most experienced and battle-tested position group, particularly if some backups develop. "Up front," Chryst said of the D-line, "we've gotten better and we have guys who have played significant snaps. We hope to have strength in numbers."

Conversely, the Badgers are extremely green and thin at inside linebacker. "We're talking about having enough guys who are older and who have been in the system," Chryst said of

the overall defense. "Now we have to fill in some blanks and there are some opportunities. I couldn't tell you right now who all 11 starters will be. But it's like that most springs. That's what kind of makes it exciting."

On offense, Chryst knows the running attack will revolve around tailback Corey Clement, who nearly rushed for 1,000 yards (949) last season while getting 196 fewer carries than Gordon. Beyond Clement? "I've been impressed with Taiwan's (Deal) progress," said Chryst. "I think Dare (Ogunbowale) has chance to have significant role on this team and we've got two young ones coming in."

Jordan Stevenson (Dallas,

Texas) and Bradrick Shaw (Birmingham, Alabama) have outstanding high school resumes and it will be interesting to see how long it takes them to get into the mix. Meanwhile, the Badgers are well-stocked at fullback with fifth-year senior Derek Watt, Austin Ramesh and Derek Straus. Considering the lack of depth at tight end, Watt looms as a valuable wild card for Chryst.

"Derek is smart and you can use that word again — maturity. You can tell he's got an idea of what to expect and how to approach it," he said. "We've got to keep pushing his envelope to see what he can do, what's in his wheelhouse. Austin (Traylor) is



Corey Clement

approaching the spring like a senior who wants to maximize his final year and I remember Fume (Troy Fumagalli) jumping out at me watching bowl prep.”

Rest assured the Badgers will get the most out of their tight ends; they always have when Chryst has had something to say about the game-planning. The offensive line is more of a work in progress. Senior left tackle Tyler Marz and junior center Dan Voltz are the returning starters. “Tyler has played a ton of football, good football,” he said, “and Dan seems more of a veteran than he is.”

The guards are fifth-year senior Ray Ball, who played well against Auburn, and freshman redshirt Michael Deiter, who has taken snaps at center. Sophomore Hayden Biegel is at right tackle, along with Beau Benzschawel, a redshirt fresh-

man. Jon Dietzen, a freshman guard, is going through his orientation this spring. “We’re very inexperienced (on the right side),” Chryst said. “But I love their approach.”

As far as the passing game, Chryst knows what quarterback Joel Stave can do. The wide receivers are more of a mystery. “Haven’t really seen Jordan (Fredrick, who has been injured) other than tape,” he said. “Alex (Erickson) has been our most consistent. Rob (Wheelwright) and Reggie (Love) have certainly shown flashes. We have to get them to understand who they are.”

In addition, he said, “They have to take advantage of this opportunity that is in front of them. I think they’re willing to do that.”

He has seen that willingness in many of his unproven players.

More often than not, though, if asked for a timetable on their growth, he will say, “We will continue to find out more about them.” In sum, he conceded, “I don’t know if we can write the story right now.”

He was specifically referencing the offense. But it’s not the only unwritten chapter. Pressed to fill in the blank, “We’ll be a good football team next fall if...” Chryst hesitated to say anything. Like his good friend and mentor, Bo Ryan, he was unwilling to look that far ahead, not with so much ground yet to cover over the next couple of weeks. “Right now, we have to find out who we are,” he said.

He was handed another fill in the blank, “I will be happy the way the spring played out if...” This time, he had an answer: “If we know who the significant contributors will be, not necessarily the starters,” he said. “Once you know your personnel — not who’s going to start against Alabama — then you can build it around them. This spring we will accomplish getting the systems implemented.”

From there, he suggested, “You can start tweaking and adjusting and playing to it (the systems). I don’t know if it’s the right way. But it’s the way I know and believe in. Once you know who the guys are, then you can adjust to what you are going to ask of them. And that’s where getting to know players is so important for me.”

It’s the first step in creating the relationships that are so everlasting to Chryst. ■



BRIAN MASON

Joe Schobert

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE SHOW ON TV?



MARK SEGBERS

Soph. • Men's Soccer

“I would have to say my guilty pleasure TV show is *Friends*. First of all, because how can you not like a show with Jennifer Aniston in it? Secondly, everyone dreams of living with their five best friends. It's a great blend of comedy and drama. Not to mention, Jennifer Aniston is in it — yes, I know I said that twice.”



MADDIE ROLFES

Fr. • Women's Hockey

“*Criminal Minds* is my guilty pleasure because I like to solve the crime throughout the show. I get so addicted watching the show and always end up watching five episodes in a row.”



CANNON CLIFTON

Soph. • Men's Swimming

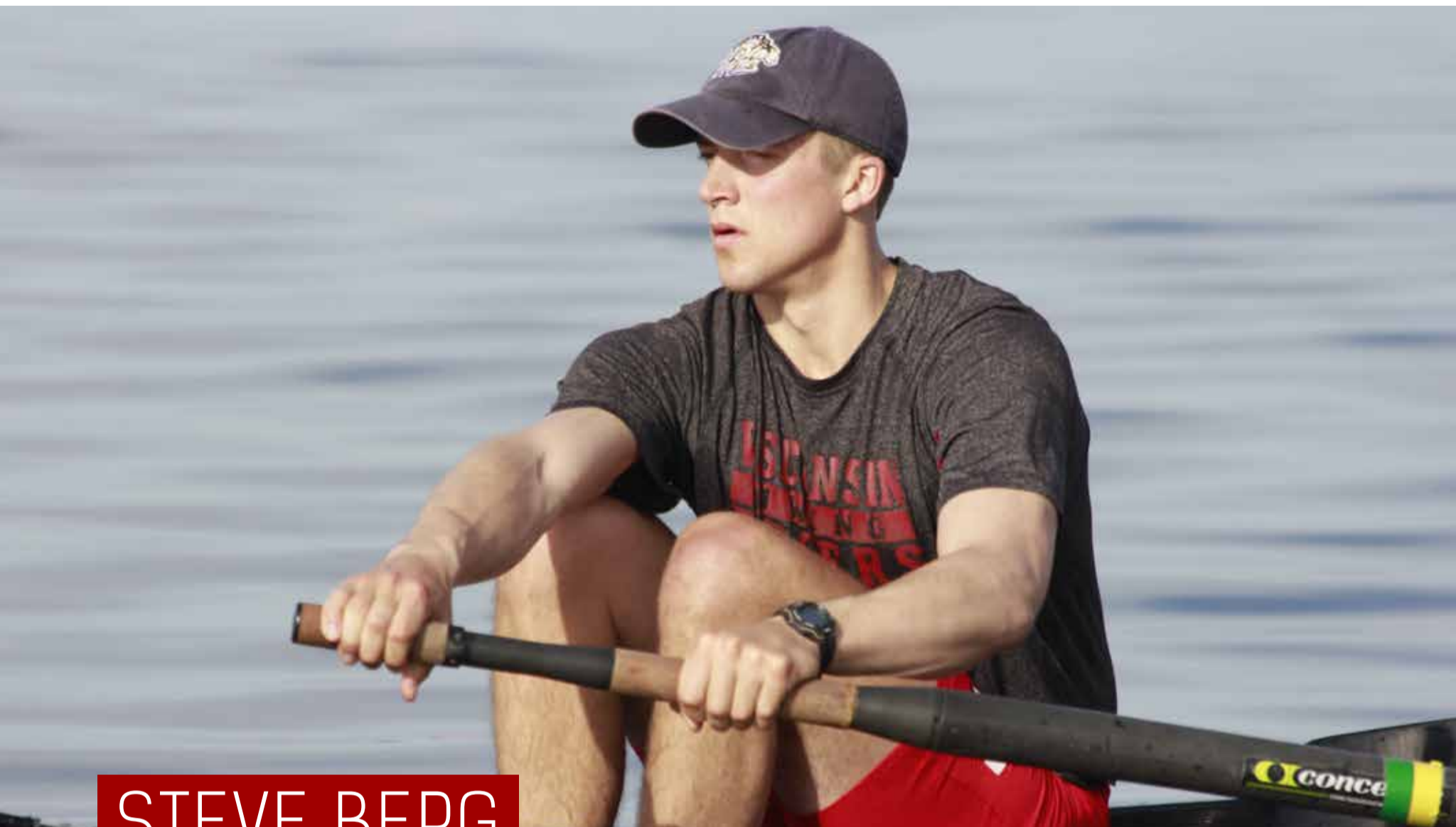
“My guilty pleasure TV show is for sure *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, mainly because the show is filled with so much drama. Another reason is that ‘Lord Disick’ (Scott Disick) says some hilarious one-liners. My 15-year-old sisters get me re-hooked on the show every time I go home.”



ASHLEY VAN ZEELAND

Junior • Softball

“I would have to say *The Bachelorette* because I like to think that I live vicariously through the bachelorette.”



STEVE BERG

A senior mechanical engineering major, **Steve Berg, Jr.**, is a native of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, who helped the Badgers open their 2015 season last weekend by racing in the second varsity eight against Syracuse in Ithaca, New York. The Badgers travel to California this weekend for the Stanford Invitational before playing host to races May 2 at Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo.

As a Wisconsin native, what does it mean to compete at UW?

"I grew up rooting for the Badgers. My father graduated from UW-Madison so I've always had a lot of Badger pride. I chose to come to UW-Madison because of the mechanical engineering school. I was actually a volleyball player in high school. I was approached by the (rowing) coaches at SOAR and I decided to try out. After graduating high school, I knew that I wanted to still be an athlete and rowing provided a unique opportunity. I take great pride in the Motion W on my uniform because I am so proud of what it academically and athletically represents."

You earned a 4.0 last semester but had a pretty unique 'class' schedule in your mechanical engineering program. Can you explain it?

"As an engineering student it is common to spend a semester

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT STEVE

Year: Senior

Height: 6-1

Hometown: Wauwatosa, Wis.

QUICK Qs FOR STEVE

Favorite TV show?

"Top Gear."

Favorite Babcock Dairy ice cream flavor?

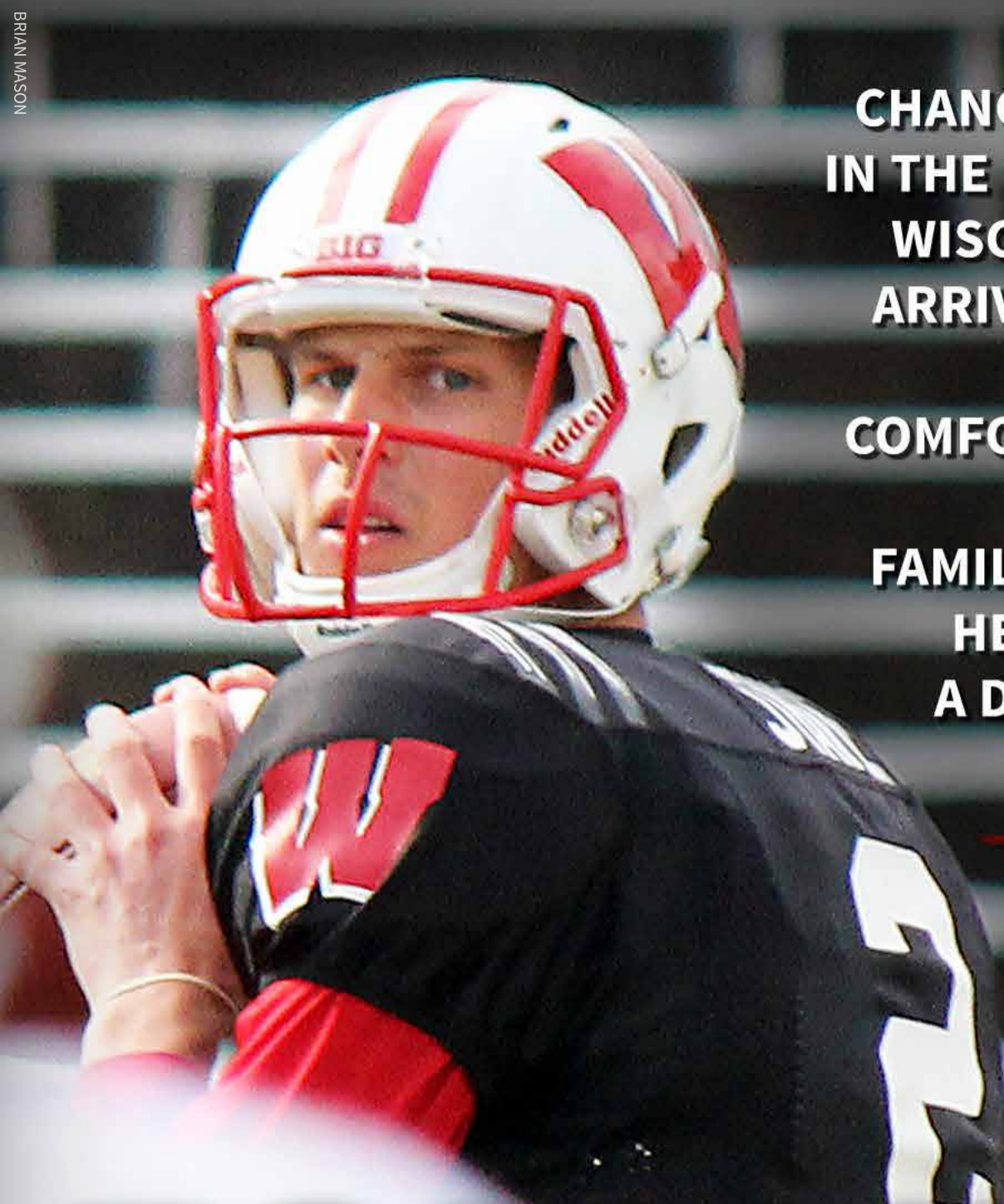
"Union Utopia."

You're stranded on an island with two teammates. Who would you want to be stranded with?

"I can't decide on just two."

Favorite quote from coach Chris Clark?

"Coach Clark uses an ATM metaphor quite often that I find quite powerful. It goes something like this: 'You've been making deposits all summer and fall and now it's time for you to make a big withdrawal!'"



CHANGE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT IN THE QUARTERBACKS ROOM AT WISCONSIN SINCE JOEL STAVE ARRIVED ON CAMPUS, BUT THE FIFTH-YEAR SENIOR IS AS COMFORTABLE AS EVER THANKS TO THE RETURN OF SOME FAMILIAR FACES AND THE ROLE HE'S EARNED AS LEADER OF A DEEP AND DIVERSE GROUP OF SIGNAL-CALLERS.

BY MIKE LUCAS
UWBADGERS.COM

FORWARD PROGRESS



DAVID STLUKA

Wisconsin quarterback Joel Stave has been feeding off the momentum; the momentum of an upset win over Auburn in the Outback Bowl; the momentum of the UW basketball team's memorable run to a second consecutive Final Four and its appearance in the national championship game. The latter "mo" was clearly inspirational for Stave, who came in as a freshman with Frank Kaminsky and Traevon Jackson.

"As a (football) team, and me, personally, we couldn't be more proud of them and the things they did," said Stave, pointing to the "goal of winning Big Ten championships" and their sweep of the regular season and tournament titles. "They went on to the Final Four and reached the highest game in their sport. That's everything you work for. And to see the way they excited the city and student body was exciting for us, too. There's a lot you can build off, especially being friends with a lot of them."

Kaminsky was the consensus National Player of the Year. His first-team All-America counterpart/classmate in football was Melvin Gordon, the Heisman runner-up and Doak Walker Award winner. The Badgers had lost four straight bowl games, including three Rose Bowls, before rid-

ing Gordon's 251 rushing yards and three touchdowns to a 34-31 overtime win over No. 19 Auburn in Tampa, Florida.

"It's definitely better than the other way around," Stave said of the positive karma from postseason success and the attendant momentum that was generated within the program after Barry Alvarez left his AD office and coached the team against the Tigers. "When you're coming off a bowl loss, there's not that same excitement when you immediately come back for winter workouts. I was real excited to get back going again (this year). It never hurts when you win games."

It only hurts when you can't do anything about winning.

Stave was a study in perseverance last season. After losing the starting assignment in training camp to Tanner McEvoy and subsequently misplacing his touch in the passing game, he rallied from the adversity to regain his job and win seven consecutive starts to help lead the Badgers to the Big Ten West Division title. Over the last four games of the regular season, he completed 67 percent of his passes for 619 yards and five touchdowns.

On what he took from the way everything

played out, Stave said, “We did a really good job of closing out games. Down the stretch, Iowa, Minnesota and Auburn were all games that came right down to the wire and offensively and defensively we were able to make some plays. That’s the kind of thing we need to carry over (to this year). If we’ve got a shot to win at the end, we have to make those plays.”

Between the bowl and the start of spring practice, Stave focused on his physical development. “I wanted to get stronger and a little heavier,” he said. “I’ve put on about 10 pounds, I’m 225. I had lost a little bit of weight throughout the season and I wanted to get that back, along with some strength back. Throughout the winter, we did a good job of working on our timing and chemistry with our receivers.

“We just have to continue to work on that through spring ball. Not every day is going to be perfect. But we have to take the good with the good and the bad with the bad and learn from everything. In doing that, we’re going to set ourselves up for a good summer. This team has got a lot of good pieces in place, a lot of good players. We just need to take it one step at a time.”

•••••

The first step has obviously been transitioning back to Paul Chryst, who has returned as Wisconsin’s head coach after two years at Pittsburgh. Chryst had been the UW offensive coordinator and Stave was among the players that he recruited as an invited walk-on. The Chryst offense is noticeably different from what was run previously by Gary Andersen and coordinator Andy Ludwig.

“There’s not very much carryover from one offense to the other as far as terminology or how it’s being called,” Stave said. “There are different reads and different route concepts.”

He paused and considered what he was saying, and the ongoing transition began to sink in even more. “It’s a quite a bit different, I guess.

“There’s not very much carryover from one offense to the other as far as terminology or how it’s being called,” Stave said. “That’s what spring ball is for, it’s an opportunity to continue to work and learn.”





BRIAN MASON

CHRYST ON BUDMAYR:

“I really feel fortunate to have Jon around. I did give him a lot of responsibilities (as a grad assistant). Our job is to have the best staff and what really makes the best staff is the best group that can help your players, and **Jon has been a heckuva asset in that role.**”

people’s heads are still not turned, when they’re not looking yet. That’s one thing Coach Chryst is adamant about.”

When Stave arrived on campus, Jon Budmayr was entering his fourth year in the program. The timing of their reunion is ideal. Although he had shown tremendous promise as a high school quarterback when healthy (the operative phrase), Budmayr dealt with a series of injuries and medical setbacks during his star-crossed career.

After getting his UW degree in December 2013, he joined Chryst’s staff at Pittsburgh as a graduate assistant coach. Chryst showed the utmost

faith and trust in Budmayr, too.

“He provides a unique perspective,” Chryst said. “The system always evolves but there is a system and he has been on both ends of it, so that’s helpful to the players. He complements me; the technical parts of it (coaching). I really feel fortunate to have Jon around. I did give him a lot of responsibilities (as a grad assistant). Our job is to have the best staff and what really makes the best staff is the best group that can help your players, and Jon has been a heckuva asset in that role.”

Chryst had so much confidence in Budmayr that he didn’t replace his full-time quarterbacks coach at Pitt, Brooks Bollinger, after the ex-Badger left the profession to pursue some business opportunities.

That’s what spring ball is for, it’s an opportunity to continue to work and learn.”

Stave was exposed to the X’s and O’s from Chryst his first year, Matt Canada his second, Ludwig his third and fourth and now he will have Joe Rudolph as offensive coordinator for his fifth year. “I’ve got four different offenses in my head right now and a few different coordinators,” Stave said. “I’ve got to stay in the film room and make sure I’m learning from every practice.”

Chryst has already challenged Stave on several fronts. “He’s really pushing me to get the ball out on time,” he said. “That all starts with my feet and getting my feet going a little quicker. I have to anticipate throws more. If you watch the pros, they’re getting the ball out when

“The way we did it last year, we both kind of tag-teamed that quarterback group in working with them,” said Budmayr, a product of Marian Central Catholic in Woodstock, Illinois. “He (Chryst) was very heavily involved in the meetings and the game-planning and he kind of let me take over the individual work on the field. It was nice because we were all speaking the same language.”

Budmayr is serving in the same capacity with the Badgers; he’s a grad assistant overseeing the quarterbacks. “It’s good because they’re going to learn a ton from Coach Chryst; he’s one of the best around,” he said. “And then I can be a sounding board for them. They can come and talk to me and we can bounce different things off as far as coverages and things I’ve seen from playing within the offense.”

Stave couldn’t be happier with the setup. “I really like working with Jon Budmayr,” he said emphatically. “He has really helped me a lot; he’s a great resource for me. He knows the offense well, he knows the game really well and it has been fun to work with him.”

Stave is not the only quarterback who feels that way about Budmayr’s presence.

“It’s different than just a coach-player relationship,” said junior Bart Houston. “It’s a friendlier relationship; you can talk to him about anything.”

“I try to go to him at least once or twice a week,” said redshirt freshman D.J. Gillins. “He helps me during practice and if I’m confused or if I need help, he’s always there for me.”

“He’s another great guy who knows what he’s doing,” said freshman Alex Hornibrook. “He

has been here (Wisconsin) before and that helps a lot just from seeing things through his eyes.

“You get the dual perspective of the player and coach,” said freshman Austin Kafentzis. “He can feed it to you that way and Coach Chryst can feed it to you from his coaching perspective.”

Coaching seemed like the natural progression for Budmayr. “First and foremost, there’s my love for the game, I’m very passionate about it,” he said. “I wanted to play as long as I could and then once I couldn’t play any longer I still wanted to be around the

game. Coach Chryst was a huge influence. He taught me so much as a player when I was here and I carried that with me into coaching.”

It’s hard to imagine him doing anything else. His dad, Rick, has been the sophomore football coach at Marian Central and his brother, Brody, has assisted him, while his mom, Jackie Bud-

“They’re going to learn a ton from Coach Chryst; he’s one of the best around,” Budmayr said. “And then I can be a sounding board for them. They can come and talk to me.”



Alex Hornibrook

BRIAN MASON

mayr, has been the women's basketball coach up until recently. "So it's kind of in my blood," Jon Budmayr said.

Four years ago, Stave and Budmayr hit it off immediately as competing quarterbacks. "We spent quite a bit of time together then; now it's kind of a similar veteran quarterback/young quarterback relationship," Budmayr said. "Joel has been great. He'll come up after practice and we'll run through the film and talk about it. Same thing with Bart. He's into it. He wants to learn and get better."

Even without McEvoy, now a full-time safety, and Connor Senger, now a receiver, the quarterback room is still a very competitive place with just about every region of the country represented from Stave, a Cheesehead (Greenfield); to Houston, a Californian (Dublin); to Gillins, a Floridian (Jacksonville); to the early freshmen enrollees, Hornibrook (West Chester, Pennsylvania) and Kafentzis (Sandy, Utah); to junior walk-on Thad Armstrong (Ottawa, Illinois), the younger brother of former UW linebacker Ethan Armstrong, who's now a grad assistant on

Chryst's staff.

"It's a great group of guys, a nice mix of personalities," Budmayr said. "It's a group that wants to work — every single one of them. They're all up here (the coaches' offices) spending a lot of time trying to learn this offense; especially when we got here, they were chomping at the bit to get the playbook.

"That's what you love to see, that kind of gym rat mentality. They just have to continue to get better and continue to grow on the field. As they learn the system, things will slow down for them."

Budmayr got to know the 6-foot-4, 215-pound Hornibrook after he committed to Pitt. What he saw out of Hornibrook in summer camp, he's seeing now. "He's just really smooth, relaxed, calm," Budmayr said. "He's got a great demeanor. Not much gets to him, so when he jumps into the huddle, he's ready to roll. And that's what you love about the kid, especially for someone who's supposed to be a senior in high school."

Budmayr can speak to the challenges of being a mid-term high school grad having gone



Houston has appeared in eight games during his career at UW but has only attempted four passes, including his first touchdown toss last season.



through it himself. He enrolled at Wisconsin in January of 2009 and went through spring drills. “I know where he’s at with the school work, the social life and the changes that come with that and football,” said Budmayr, also speaking for Kafentzis. “It’s a different world than where you’re coming from and he has handled it with great poise. I’m excited for these next couple of weeks to see him keep growing.”

That holds true for all the quarterbacks who are trying to push Stave.

“I’ve tried to improve every day and focus on things that I can control,” Houston said. “They’re hitting us with a lot of stuff but I’m doing well with the playbook and my throws are getting better. The routes are a little different; there are little intricacies to every route.

“But the offense fits me better because I’m dropping back more and there are more progression reads. I’ve learned a lot of football in

the past three months from Coach Chryst. Nothing against Coach Lud (Ludwig), but it’s a different philosophy with different ways of attacking coverages.”

Would this qualify as a new lease on life for Houston?

BUDMAYR ON THE QUARTERBACKS:

“It’s a great group of guys, a nice mix of personalities. It’s a group that wants to work — every single one of them. That’s what you love to see, that kind of gym rat mentality. They just have to continue to get better and continue to grow on the field.”

“Very much so,” he said. “A new birth, a new chance.”

It’s the first chance for Gillins to really show what he can do after redshirting last fall.

“Staying patient is the biggest thing I’ve learned since being here; I’m pretty hard on

myself and I’m just taking it each day at a time,” said Gillins. “My goal during the winter was to get bigger, faster and smarter. And that actually happened. I’m up to 205 and I’m quicker.”

Gillins’ biggest adjustment this spring has been to the playbook. “The terminology, just calling the plays in the huddle and the cadence,” he said. “You’d be surprised how hard that really is.”

Kafentzis is going through another adjustment: taking snaps under center after being a shotgun quarterback. “It’s more about me getting anxious and pulling away too quick than not getting the snap,” he said. “The exchange was tough at first but I’m getting the hang of it and it’s getting better.”

Chryst made his point after Sunday’s practice. The quarterbacks took snaps up and down the field, 200 yards of snaps. The freshmen are learning what it takes to get up to speed.

“What I really focused on this winter was eating healthy and drinking water,” Kafentzis said. “Back home, I ate what I wanted; it was a free-for-all. When I came here, I’m more on a budget and you want to buy stuff that’s actually good for your body. Coach Kolodziej (Ross, UW’s strength coach) says your body is like your sword and you want to keep it sharp and ready for battle. I’m trying to do that.”

The quarterback competition seems to agree

with everybody.

“It has helped me a lot,” said Hornibrook, a lefty. “It’s not like you can lay back, you have to work for reps and throws. So I’m just trying to get as many reps as I can, keep my head down and keep working. Whenever Coach puts me in, I try to make the best of it. He’s a great teacher and if you don’t know what you’re doing, he’ll help you. It’s easy to understand what he’s talking about.”

This spring, Chryst didn’t waste any time on small talk; instead he confirmed Stave as his starter.

“I love the way he has approached the transition,” Chryst said. “He has played a lot of games here (21-7 as a starter) and you can tell the experience. I think he’s now getting comfortable with a new system and maybe a different approach to things.”

All of which is adding up to positive momentum. **W**



BRIAN MASON



CATCHING UP

Wide receiver is a position of focus once again at UW, and with first-year coach Ted Gilmore calling the shots, Wisconsin's wideouts have a new outlook on their ability to help the Badgers build a more multi-faceted offense.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield and John Stanford. Colorado's D.J. Hackett and Derek McCoy. Southern Cal's Roberts Woods and Marqise Lee. Classic combos; dynamic duos, receiving duos.

Wisconsin's first-year wide receivers coach Ted Gilmore has helped mentor some impressive tandems during his coaching journey, which has now led him back to the collegiate ranks.

After three seasons with the Oakland Raiders, Gilmore was happy to return to his roots. Prior to his NFL stint, after all, he spent nearly two decades coaching at this level and he loved the challenges.

"I don't know if I forgot or I took it for granted," he admitted, "how much you wear a lot of different hats in the molding and shaping of college kids and I missed that.

"That was one of the main reasons why I wanted to come back to the college game because I

felt I was doing more managing (as a pro assistant) than teaching.

"And I wanted to get back to teaching," stressed the 48-year-old Gilmore, who has been encouraged by the results this spring. "The guys have been sponges; they've been very receptive.

"They're up in the office all the time asking questions and that tells me that it's very important to them and they just want the information. So I'm trying to provide and give it to them."

Mentoring is nothing new for Gilmore, who had one of his own in Phil Ramirez, a youth coach. "And that gentleman is still in my life to this day — 40 years later," said Gilmore, a Wichita, Kansas, native.

"I learned at an early age that players don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. He (Ramirez) kind of laid the foundation for me."

Along the way, he also learned that good play-

ers hate to lose. That has been the common denominator between all of the impact wide receivers that he has coached.

“They just don’t want to lose, and I’m talking about individual periods or in drills,” he said.

“The competitiveness with those particular guys who have that edge to them is they want to win everything.”

That goes for the former Purdue combination of Stubblefield (who had 325 career receptions, at one time the NCAA record) and Standeford (who had 266 catches).

“Standeford was always faster than the fastest guy and had the ability to separate at the end,” said Gilmore, who was a member of Joe Tiller’s staff with the Boilermakers.

“Stubblefield was probably the most heady player I’ve ever been around. He was very savvy, very smart. He wasn’t the fastest guy but he could stop on a dime and he had a full catching radius.”

“I don’t know if I forgot or I took it for granted,” Gilmore admitted, “how much you wear a lot of different hats in the molding and shaping of college kids and I missed that. That was one of the main reasons why I wanted to come back to the college game.”

Hackett and McCoy combined for 141 catches to set the Colorado single-season combo record. “(Hackett) was the most controlled big man as far as knowing how to use his body,” Gilmore said.

In 2011, Gilmore was named Wide Receivers Coach of the Year by Football Scoop. That year Woods and Lee combined for the most catches in USC history and the most in the BCS: 184.

“(Woods) was probably the best route-runner I’ve ever coached,” Gilmore said. “I’d love to say that I took credit for it, but, no, that young man worked at it. He was tough, too.

“Out of everyone I’ve coached, (Lee) was probably the most athletic guy. He might not have been as detailed as some of the others but his athleticism made up for it.”

Given this backdrop, what are Gilmore’s expectations for the UW receiving corps?

“As long as they’re willing to put in the time and effort, we can take the next jump,” he said. “That’s all I’m asking from them. Let’s not cheat the game; let’s make the commitment and work hard.

“All of them are trying and putting in the time. Like I told them at the end of practice, ‘Let’s not worry about a mistake. But there is one thing you can control and it has nothing to do with coaching.’”





BRIAN MASON

He then expounded on controlling “your effort and attitude that you bring to the field.”

Last season, Alex Erickson led the Badgers in receiving with 55 catches for 772 yards and three touchdowns. The next three in line were Sam Arneson (29 receptions), Melvin Gordon (19) and Kenzel Doe (17).

“He’s better than I thought, that’s the best compliment I can give him,” Gilmore said of Erickson, the only returnee among the top four receivers.

“Watching his tape, I said, ‘OK, he’s a try-hard guy; he’s going to do all the right things.’ But he’s got something to him. He has been our most consistent guy to this point.

“I’ve got to get the other guys to match his consistency and close the gap. There may be some that flash more quick twitch or show more speed, but they don’t play as fast as him.

“He’s smart, tough, dependable. That’s his edge. First and foremost, I told him, ‘Protect your job.’ And I told the rest of them, ‘Take his job.’ That’s the environment we’re trying to cre-

ate.”

Tight end Troy Fumagalli and tailback Corey Clement have the second most receptions behind Erickson among returning players. Each had 14 last season.

Among the returning wide receivers, Jordan Fredrick had 13, George Rushing had five, Reggie Love had two and Rob Wheelwright and Krenwick Sanders had one apiece.

Love caught the ball well Sunday. Gilmore liked what he saw, especially when he caught the ball over the middle. “I’m trying to get Reggie to recognize what kind of player he is,” he said.

The instruction has been fundamental to what it will take for Love to be a contributor.

“You’re not going to run away from everybody,” Gilmore told him. “You’re a big, strong guy and you’ve got to play big. You’ve got to use that body. You’re going to have to make those traffic catches.”

After witnessing him do it, Gilmore reiterated afterwards, “He can’t lose his focus in traffic and he has to embrace that role. He’s got to get com-

fortable doing that.”

Wheelwright got off to a good start this spring before suffering a minor injury that sidelined him last week. “He has got to learn how to take care of his body,” said Gilmore, “and do the things maintenance-wise so he can stay out there.”

In his absence, Jazz Peavy, a redshirt freshman from Kenosha Tremper, made up some ground by producing some much-needed consistency in back-to-back practices, Gilmore said.

“My challenge to him,” he added, “I want to see more of him up in my office, I want to see him spending more time on football learning the game and looking at the big picture.

“He’s doing some good things and I need him to take that next step in his growth. From that standpoint, you never know where we’re going

to plug him in.”

Gilmore is waiting on the freshmen, too, Rushing and Sanders.

“Honestly, by the end of the spring, I hope they have the offense down,” he said of his objectives, “because if we have the offense down with them, then we’re talking steps.

“I keep reminding myself that this is their first spring ball. I keep telling myself that because we’ve got to close that gap and they’ve got to grow up

in a hurry. I’ve got to remember they’re young.

“If they can learn the offense coming out of the spring, we have the summer to do some things and by the time they come to training camp, I’m hoping they can play fast.”

Tanner McEvoy is the X-factor. McEvoy is no longer a quarterback but he’s starting at safety. He could also wind up playing some wide receiv-

“The group is benefiting from Ted Gilmore and his coaching style,” Chryst said. “He’s firm, he’s patient. He’s not trying to impress anyone around him (by yelling), but he’s going to hold them accountable. He cares.”



er, a position that he excelled at in high school.

“Right now, we’re doing some stuff with Tanner after practice,” said UW head coach Paul Chryst. “He’s an intriguing guy to me. We’ve had a lot of question marks at the receiver spot, to be honest.

“So I kind of wanted to see how that shakes out this spring (with the receivers) and that would help define what we can get, or what we need to get, out of Tanner.

Regardless of how that turns out, Chryst is convinced the receivers are in good hands. “The group is benefiting from Ted Gilmore and his coaching style,” he said.

How so? “He’s firm, he’s patient,” Chryst said. “He’s not trying to impress anyone around him (by yelling), but he’s going to hold them accountable. He cares.”

Gilmore and Chryst had not worked together before. Their link was Chryst’s brother, Geep, who was a graduate assistant coach at Wyoming when Gilmore played there.

Gilmore’s other connection to the Wisconsin staff was offensive coordinator Joe Rudolph. Gilmore and Rudolph coached together at Nebraska for one year.

“It was probably my first year in the league (NFL),” Gilmore said, “I made some calls to people and told them if the right situation comes up, I’ll come back to college football.

“People thought I was crazy. But, for me, it’s about relationships. I know what I’m chasing now. In my conversations with Joe and Paul, and it was a three-week process, Paul made it very clear to me.

“He said that it starts with people first. And that’s what he was looking for. I’m a people per-



“I learned at an early age that players don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care,” Gilmore said.


son and I refuse to give up the notion that we can’t have enough good people in this business.”

Gilmore was looking for something else when he interviewed with Chryst.

“I was looking for stability,” he said. “I have a 15-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son. My goal is that I’d love to get them through high school and not have to move. That’s what I’m trying to do.

“My family has given up so much for me during my career and now I’m hoping I can give back to them. And this place (Wisconsin) attracted me. I admired it from afar.

“I like the way the program is built on smart, tough, dependable kids; guys that want to go to school and do the right thing.

“You want to recruit a certain kind of kid — guys who are going to compete their tail off. And that’s what this program is about.” 



Ammerman wins Hockey Humanitarian

Senior raised \$30,000 for Kenyan soccer league

Brittany Ammerman accomplished a lot in her years at the University of Wisconsin, winning the 2011 NCAA championship, capturing two WCHA playoff titles and collecting a pair of WCHA regular-season crowns.

In the record books, history will note that Ammerman, a gifted forward, scored the 10th-most goals in program history, collected the 12th-most points and that her 160 games played were the fifth most in school history.

But Ammerman's biggest accomplishment wasn't achieved on a rink in the United States -- it actually took place half way around the globe. Ammerman, a gender and women's studies major with a pre-medical concentration, founded the Nikumbuke Women's Soccer League in rural Kenya. In the midst of leading the Badgers on the ice while also balancing a rigorous academic load, Ammerman found time to raise more than \$30,000 for equipment for the upstart league.

For her efforts, Ammerman was named the 20th recipient of the BNY Mellon Wealth Management Hockey Humanitarian Award last Friday in a ceremony in conjunction with the 2015 NCAA Men's Frozen Four in Boston.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (29-7-4, 19-6-3)

Home games in **bold**.

WCHA First Round

Feb. 27 **St. Cloud State** W, 5-1

Feb. 28 **St. Cloud State** W, 4-1

WCHA Final Face-off

March 7 #8 North Dakota W, 4-1

March 8 #10 Bemidji St. W, 4-0

NCAA Quarterfinal

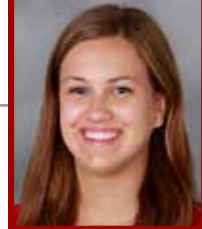
March 14 **#5 Boston Univ.** W, 5-1

NCAA Frozen Four

March 20 #1 Minnesota L, 3-1

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





JACK MCLAUGHLIN

Stewart is the Badgers' ace in the hole

Resilience of 'TPS' is making all the difference

To have an ace up your sleeve means to have something useful in reserve. It means to have a special trick available. In cards, you want to hold the aces and be in control. There's a reason why the No. 1 pitcher is called the ace. In the big games, you want to play your ace. You want to do what you know will bring success.

For the Badgers, junior Taylor-Paige Stewart is not just the ace, she's been the whole deck of cards.

After throwing a complete game against Iowa last Saturday, 144 pitches and eight strikeouts to be exact, the Calabasas, California, native was called upon to lead off the bottom of the seventh inning at the dish.

The Badgers trailed by one (4-3) and the pressure was on both sides as Stewart swapped her glove for a bat and did the unthinkable. She blasted a solo home run over the left field wall and tied up the ballgame. The dinger was the first home run of her career at Wisconsin. No better time to knock one out of the park, right?

UW hadn't seen a pinch-hit home run since Stefanni LaJeu-nesse's tater against Michigan on May 11, 2013.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (18-23, 3-10)

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

RECENTLY

April 10	Iowa	L, 16-4
April 11	Iowa	W, 5-4
April 12	Iowa	L, 3-2
April 14	Green Bay	W, 6-2
April 14	Green Bay	L, 15-9

COMING UP

April 17	at Illinois	5:30 p.m.
April 18	at Illinois	1 p.m.
April 19	at Illinois	12 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





Trio of former Badgers shine on big stages

Jorgensen wins her eighth-straight WTS title

With the weather warming up outside, a trio of former Badgers are staying busy this month in the running world.

Gwen Jorgensen continued her amazing eight-race winning streak on the World Triathlon Series (WTS) circuit with a win last weekend in Australia, Mohammed Ahmed made his professional debut with the Bowerman Track Club and two-time Olympian Matt Tegenkamp prepares for Monday's Boston Marathon.

Jorgensen won the ITU World Triathlon Gold Coast to claim her 11th career title, finishing the 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike and 10-kilometer run course in 1 hour, 56 minutes, 59 seconds. Her U.S. teammates Sarah True and Katie Zaferes finished second and third, completing the second podium sweep in WTS history.

"I don't think you ever have a perfect race but I was really thrilled to come out of the water and be in the front pack right away," Jorgensen said in a post-race interview. "I mean, 1-2-3 for Team USA, it couldn't get any better ... to be able to stand up there and hear our national anthem with all three girls —

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

RECENTLY

April 3-4	Stanford Invitational
April 3-4	Sam Adams Invitational

COMING UP

April 18	LSU Alumni Gold
April 23-25	Drake Relays
April 23-25	Penn Relays
April 23-25	Triton Invitational
May 2	Musco Twilight
May 8	Wisconsin Twilight

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





DAVID STLUKA

Young Badgers learning to win in Big Ten

Badgers boast most league wins since 2011

Year two under head coach Tina Samara has been marked by significant improvement for the Wisconsin women's tennis team. A season after finishing 7-13 overall, the Badgers boast a winning record (10-9) in 2014-15 and have already won four Big Ten matches (4-5) for the first time since 2011.

However, perhaps the most impressive, and maybe most important, development has been UW's emerging depth. With a lineup consistently made up of two juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen, the Badgers are finding strength all the way down the roster.

"One of the reasons we're improved is because there aren't just one or two players that are getting better," Samara explained. "Everyone is stepping up and we aren't always winning at the same spots of the lineup."

That depth was on display on April 5 when the Badgers dropped the doubles point to Iowa but rallied back by winning four of six singles matches. Perhaps even more impressive, one of the points didn't come from UW's wins leader, Lauren Chyryha, who is 23-9 on the season, including 14-5 at the No. 1 sin-

WOMEN'S TENNIS (10-9, 4-5)

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

RECENTLY

- April 10 **#58 Illinois** L, 3-4
- April 12 **#23 Northwestern** L, 1-6

COMING UP

- April 17 **#52 Indiana** 3 p.m.
- April 19 at **#28 Purdue** 12 p.m.



MEN'S TENNIS (7-15, 3-6)

RECENTLY

- April 11 at Michigan State W, 4-3
- April 12 at Michigan L, 2-5

COMING UP

- April 17 **Northwestern** 6 p.m.
- April 19 **Illinois** 12 p.m.



-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Competition takes a big step up for Badgers

Split UW squad races at home, in California

The 11th-ranked Wisconsin men's rowing team got its spring underway with racing last week against No. 13 Syracuse and the Badgers got off to a solid start, upending the Orange in the varsity eight.

The competition takes a decided step up this week when the Badgers take part in the Stanford Invitational on Saturday and Sunday in Redwood City, California.

UW opens with second-ranked California and also faces No. 14 Stanford and No. 17 Oregon State during its trip west. The Badgers will race their varsity eight, second varsity eight and freshmen eight boats while in California.

"Syracuse and us are similar crews," UW head coach Chris Clark said. "We are trying to establish and get a toe hold and take it to the next level. We haven't done that in a few years. I would say we were well matched against Syracuse, whereas Cal is on another level right now. We are going to find out in another week or so who is faster, Cal or Washington, but their speed, the times they are turning in, they are a well-oiled machine.

"We have five guys at this point in the first eight who have

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

- April 18-19 **at Stanford Invitational**
Redwood City, Calif.
- April 18 **Minnesota/MSOE**
Madison, Wis.
- May 2 **Boston University/MIT**
Baraboo, Wis. (Devil's Lake)
- May 3 **Northeastern**
Baraboo, Wis. (Devil's Lake)
- May 17 **at EARC Championships**
Redwood City, Calif.

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HIGH HONORS FOR HARDER

APRIL 19, 1944: Chosen second overall by the Chicago Cardinals, Pat Harder became the Badgers' highest-ever selection in the NFL draft, a mark that still stands. He played for the Cardinals for four years before spending three seasons with the Detroit Lions.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



DOUBLE THE RECORD

APRIL 21, 2010:

In a doubleheader against South Dakota, Molly Spence drove in a school-record seven runs in a 10-2 win before Letty Olivarez logged a UW record 17 strikeouts in the 5-1 nightcap win.



CRISP CHRIS

APRIL 21, 2006:

Chris Solinsky ran the second-fastest 5000 meters time in UW history, recording a runner-up finish at the Oregon Invitational in 13 minutes, 27.94 seconds.



TWO-LAP TEAR

APRIL 21, 1990:

Senior Suzy Favor won the 800 meters at the Mt. SAC Relays in 2:01.95, the fastest mark in the country at the time. Junior Sue Gentes finished sixth in a personal-best time of 2:04.14.