

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

# VARITY

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## WORTH THE WAIT

WHEN MELVIN GORDON HEARS HIS NAME CALLED AT THE NFL DRAFT, IT WILL BE A MOMENT YEARS IN THE MAKING



NFL DRAFT

PREVIEW



DAVID STLUKA

COVER STORY

# THE NEXT CHAPTER

Melvin Gordon ran off the field for the final time at Wisconsin a winner, with an Outback Bowl victory one of the many goals he realized by returning to UW. Now, it's on to the NFL.



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RUNNING BACKS

## NEXT MEN UP

Corey Clement has learned from the best. Now it's his time to lead as Wisconsin's running backs look to continue a tradition of excellence.

LUCAS AT LARGE

## FISCAL FITNESS

Playing pro sports doesn't guarantee wealth, a message former Badger Brandon Williams wants to share with athletes everywhere.



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# VARSIITY

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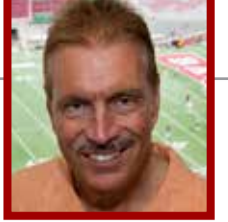
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# Helping pros find firm financial footing

**B**randon Williams never set out to write a book, at least not the book that he wound up writing.

Narrowing the message was the game-changer for one of Wisconsin's all-time receiving leaders who has never been at a loss for words on his formative years in St. Louis, his student-athlete experience in Madison, his four seasons in the National Football League or his role as analyst on Big Ten Network.

"The whole premise of me writing the book was to educate, engage and entertain as many athletes as I possible could about how they really can attain financial freedom," said Williams. "With all the statistics we see, all the issues with athletes losing money, I was part of that statistic.

"I was a guy who really struggled with money once I left the league. I lost a lot of money. I ended up having to file for bankruptcy. And, from that point, I vowed to myself that I would get financially educated ... so I really dug in and learned."

That eventually inspired Williams to write *Millionaire Mindset: Seven Principles*

*athletes Need for Financial Freedom*. The principles are 1) How to build a team; 2) Picking the right financial advisor; 3) How to build your brand; 4) Networking to the net worth; 5) Creating multiple streams of income; 6) Lifestyle management, 101; and 7) Who is Uncle Sam? The book is scheduled for release on May 21.

"I'm not giving people financial advice, I'm not doing that," Williams emphasized. "I wanted to write a book where a 14-year-old high school freshman could understand what I'm talking about

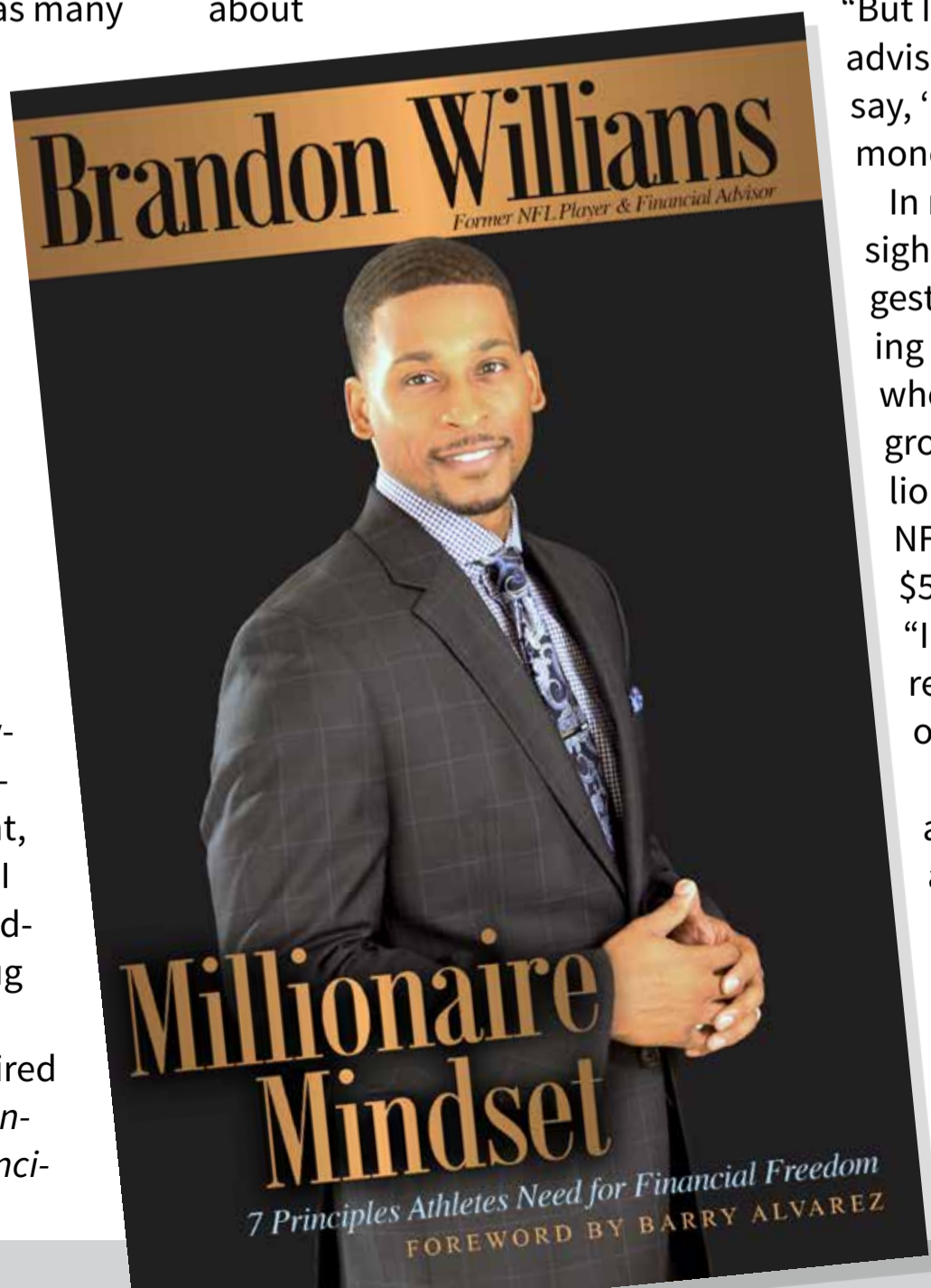
and understand how he or she can start to build on their financial freedom at that age. You can build your team, and you can start understanding what financial advisors do and how they can help you."

Williams could have used that help after he was taken in the third round of the 2006 NFL Draft. Back then, the San Francisco 49ers were intrigued by his resourcefulness as a kick returner and a wide receiver, one of the most prolific in UW history with 202 catches; matched

only by Jared Abbrederis. "But I never had a financial advisor approach me and say, 'I want to manage your money,'" he recalled.

In retrospect, the oversight was costly. "My biggest mistake was not having a plan," said Williams, who estimated that he grossed a little over a million during his short-lived NFL career, including a \$500,000 signing bonus. "I was never spending recklessly, but I was overextending myself.

"I bought this person a house and I bought a house when I should have rented. I bought a car because I was bored. I invested in some businesses that didn't pan out. They weren't necessar-





ily bad investments, I just put in too much money up front. I didn't have a team of advisors that are so critical."

When it all bottomed out financially, it led to some introspection, some soul-searching.

"I just kept asking, 'Why? How did this really happen?'" Williams remembered. "Six months ago, I had money and I was living this lifestyle. How did it all

fall apart? And then I realized it didn't just fall apart six months ago, it fell apart before I even got drafted because I didn't have the right education on how my life was going to change once I went to the NFL and got a lot of money."

Once he got back up on his feet, he was motivated by the reality of it all. "I didn't want other guys going through the

same things that I did," said Williams. "I tried to create a consulting company, if you want to call it a company. And I had a mentorship program where I would talk to athletes and tell them about how they needed to handle their money or just give them advice."

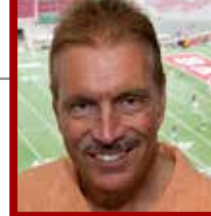
After breaking down the landscape, he thought, "I've got to come at this industry from the inside and work my way out" so he became a certified financial advisor by going through the training program with Morgan Stanley. He had a lot going for himself. "I'm an African-American, a young male and a former player; I'm not like the typical advisor," he agreed. "That will get me to the door ... maybe."

But it was not enough for Williams, ever the competitor. "I had to figure out, 'How can I separate and elevate myself in this industry?'" he posed. "I looked at it just as I would in football as if I was preparing for a game and getting ready to play in the Rose Bowl. I wanted to dominate the cornerback or safety that was playing against me, I want to really dominate them."

That spawned the next question. "How can I go toe-to-toe with an advisor who has 20 years of experience and more money than me and more ability to kind of swoon players?" he asked. "This industry is not for the faint of heart. It's like being



DAVID STLUKA



an agent but we don't get the cache, we don't get the push-back of agents, per se. So I felt I could affect more change by making myself more credible."

As part of this process, developing a playbook for life and financial freedom, Williams tapped into his people skills as a wealth management advisor for Northwestern Mutual while embracing the "Athletepreneur" concept. Elevating his profile was the impetus behind his desire to write a book that would revolve around inspirational sayings ("You cannot love life until you live the life you love").

That was Williams' original intent, a quote book to spur reflection and meditation. But before a speaking engagement in Kansas City, he was alone in his hotel room, beating himself up for forgetting to bring his tux, when he was moved in another direction. "All of a sudden," he said, "I walked over to the desk and grabbed a notepad and pen and I started writing the outline for *Millionaire Mindset*."

And he was off and running. Or, rather, he was off and writing. Between late January and late March, he worked on the book, writing mostly late at night or on weekends. With his day job as a financial advisor, along with a wife and three kids at home, he had to juggle his schedule and budget his time. "And there were times when I didn't want to write," he said.

"But I had to fight through it."

It didn't hurt to have a model in mind. "My case study for the book was my brother," he said of Walter Powell, a second-year wide receiver and return specialist with the New York Jets. Powell, a sixth-round pick choice out of Murray State, was

**"I WAS A GUY WHO REALLY STRUGGLED WITH MONEY ONCE I LEFT THE LEAGUE. I VOWED TO MYSELF THAT I WOULD GET FINANCIALLY EDUCATED ... SO I REALLY DUG IN AND LEARNED."**

taken by Arizona in the 2014 draft. "Everything I've been telling him and teaching him since he was a freshman in college is in the book," Williams said.

UW athletic director Barry Alvarez wrote the forward. Williams' senior year coincided with Alvarez's final season as a Hall of Fame coach. Brian Calhoun and Williams were the playmakers on an offense that was crafted and coordinated by Paul Chryst, who's back leading the program, much to the delight of Williams, a fan of Chryst's playbook.

Williams now has one of his own — for financial freedom. ■





## DEANNA LATHAM

*Deanna Latham leads Wisconsin into Iowa this weekend as the Badgers compete at the Musco Twilight. The 2014 Big Ten pentathlon champion and UW's school-record holder in the 60 hurdles, Latham is a three-time All-American and is one of 10 seniors on the Badgers' roster. This weekend's event in Iowa City marks the penultimate regular-season meet for UW, which then hosts the Wisconsin Twilight on May 8 before heading to East Lansing, Michigan, for the 2015 Big Ten Outdoor Championships.*

### What is the most difficult aspect of the heptathlon?

"The mental aspect I think is tough. There's going to be some days where the events are going really well, and there's going to be some days where they're not, because you can't focus on one of them. The progress is a lot slower (with seven events) than that of other athletes and other events, so I just think you have to be patient and you have to be tough. There's going to be weeks where you're hurting really bad and you just have to push through it. The mental struggle is maybe even more difficult than the physical struggle."

### Do you have any pre-competition rituals?

"I used to have a lot in high school, but in college, no so much. I mean there's little things that I do before each attempt or each event. In the hurdles, I look at the hurdles hoping to

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

### ALL ABOUT DEANNA

**Year:** Senior

**Event:** Pentathlon (indoor), Heptathlon (outdoor)

**Hometown:** Newbury, Massachusetts

### QUICK Qs FOR DEANNA

**Favorite heptathlon event?**

"100 hurdles."

**Dream vacation spot?**

"There's so many places I want to go. I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I've recently really been wanting to go to Greece. I've always wanted to go to Europe, so Greece."

**Favorite sports team?**

"New England Patriots."

**Biggest pet peeve?**

"When people don't recycle, especially when there's a recycling bin right there and people just put stuff in the trash. Sometimes I will literally take it out of the trash container and put it in the recycling."

**Favorite board game?**

"Sorry."

**What's your spirit animal?**

"Giraffe."

# MORE THAN A DREAM

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

WHEN MELVIN GORDON HEARS HIS NAME CALLED AT THE NFL DRAFT, IT WILL BE A MOMENT YEARS IN THE MAKING AND THE PAYOFF OF COUNTLESS HOURS OF WORK INVESTED IN REALIZING HIS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL.





**M**elvin Gordon has gone Hollywood. Sort of. But it's not what you think. Filming a 30-second television commercial for Speed Stick Gear deodorant was not what the former Wisconsin tailback thought it was going to be, either.

"It was tough, it was a lot of work," he said with a sigh. "You put a lot of hours into it."

But he also thought the experience was "cool" and he walked away from the studio shoot "liking the way they set it up." That went for the script, too. Gordon's camera presence was undeniable. When his football playing days are over, it was suggested, he might have a future in acting and ads.

"I heard that," he said with a shy grin. "I did pretty good for the first time."

The "Defy the Doubt" commercial opens with Gordon taking a handoff on a darkened practice field and it quickly segues to Gordon sitting in front of a flat screen at 11:23 a.m., eight hours before the draft. ESPN analyst Mel Kiper is the only voice that you hear as it shifts from scene to scene.

"The past two years," Kiper says, "have not seen one running back selected in the first round of the draft. That certainly puts a lot of pressure on Melvin Gordon III to justify the selection ..."

During a behind the scenes look on the set, Gordon addressed just that. "For the people who don't think I can go first round," he says, "I've been doing what I need to do to prove you wrong ...."

• • • •

**M**elvin Gordon doesn't want to be That Guy; the one that unexpectedly falls in the National Football League draft; the one that waits anxiously in the green room for his cell phone to ring; the one that has every twitch and wiggle, every wince and groan analyzed after every selection.

Gordon's circumstances are different from those of Cal's Aaron Rodgers, who fell to No. 24 and Green Bay in 2005 and Notre Dame's Brady Quinn, who dropped to No. 22 and Cleveland in 2007. Rodgers and Quinn were free-falling quarterbacks. Gordon is a running back, an endangered species.

"You think about that," Gordon said of the potential to be drafted lower than projected, "even though you feel like you're in a position to go in the first round. That's always kind of in the back of your head; running backs haven't been taken in the first round in two years ... I'll probably be nervous."

Nervous, he reiterated, because that position group has been so



devalued in the NFL. Until now. That first round drought is destined to end Thursday night in Chicago. “I hope so,” said Gordon, who will be present for the festivities at the stately Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.

Not since the 2012 draft have any running backs heard their names called in the first round: Alabama’s Trent Richardson went No. 3 to Cleveland, Boise State’s Doug Martin went No. 31 to Tampa Bay and Virginia Tech’s David Wilson went No. 32 to the New York Giants.

In 2013, North Carolina’s Giovani Bernard was the first running back taken; he went in the second round, No. 37 overall, to the Cincinnati Bengals. In 2014, Washington’s Bishop Sankey was the first running back off the board; he also went in the second round, No. 54 to Tennessee.

In almost every mock draft, including Kiper’s, Georgia’s Todd Gurley and Gordon are tabbed

for the first round. Despite undergoing ACL surgery last November, Gurley has been among the highest climbers the last month or so. ESPN’s Todd McShay now has Gurley going No. 6 to the New York Jets.

Kiper has slotted him much lower; as low as No. 19 to Cleveland, a projection that is subject to change — based on Gurley’s medical clearance to be ready for camp — when Kiper releases his final picks.

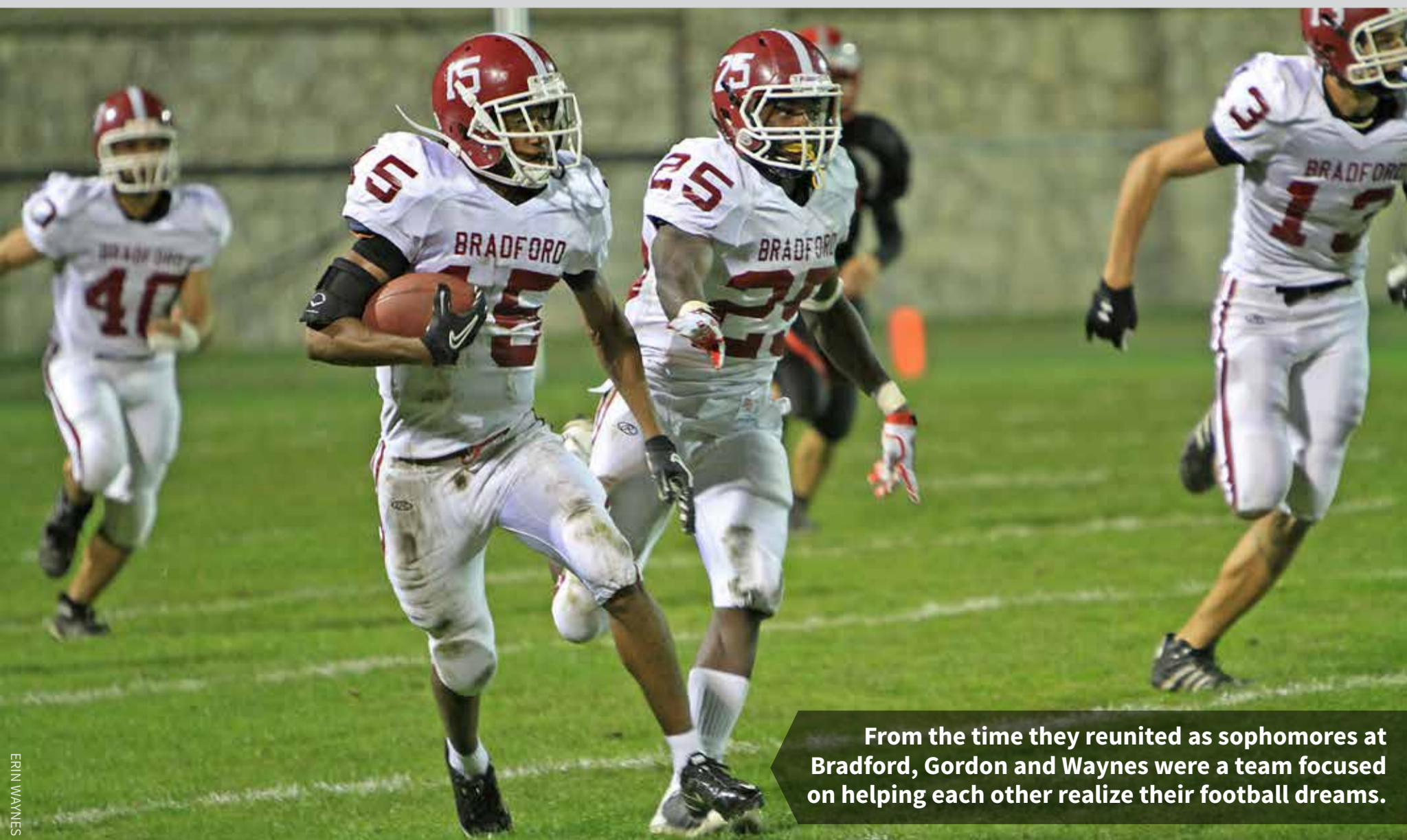
McShay had Gordon being selected No. 19 by Cleveland; Kiper had him being taken No. 24 by Arizona.

McShay and Kiper do agree on one player’s draft

status. Both have the Minnesota Vikings taking Michigan State cornerback Trae Waynes with the No. 11 pick overall. Waynes and Gordon are childhood friends from Kenosha, the pride and joy of the city and Bradford High School.

The last time prep teammates were drafted in the first round in the same year was 1990. It

**“FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DON’T THINK I CAN GO FIRST ROUND,” GORDON SAID, “I’VE BEEN DOING WHAT I NEED TO DO TO PROVE YOU WRONG ....”**



**From the time they reunited as sophomores at Bradford, Gordon and Waynes were a team focused on helping each other realize their football dreams.**



has only happened five times. Waynes and Gordon would be the first tandem from Big Ten programs. The funny thing about it, Gordon envisioned this happening when they were both in middle school.

“We talked about it every year and really harped on it when we got to high school our sophomore year,” Gordon said. “I didn’t know if I would be gone (drafted) before him or he’d be gone before me. We just both knew that we’d be in the position we’re in today — and we worked hard to be.”

Gordon wants to be drafted before Waynes. He wants to be drafted before Gurley, too.

“I’m cool with Todd, we’re in a group chat together,” Gordon pointed out. “We’re just competitive; it’s the nature of the game. And I’m competitive with everybody, not just Todd, but competitive with any position (group). I’m competitive with my best friend Trae.”

Gordon would have gotten the jump on both Gurley and Waynes if he had left Wisconsin after his redshirt sophomore season (his third year) and entered the NFL draft. Gordon led the nation and set the school record by averaging 7.8 yards per attempt; he rushed for 1,609 yards and 12 touchdowns.

**GORDON ON HIS DECISION TO STAY AT UW:  
“You have to do what your heart tells you to do. Honestly, my heart told me to stay. It just came down to my choice and I felt there were some things I still needed to do and work on before stepping to the next level.”**

“I was close to leaving,” said Gordon, who split carries almost evenly with James White in 2013. “I thought about it because it was an opportunity to play in the NFL. That’s your dream sitting there; you have it in your hand, you have to take it because you never know what can happen (if you don’t).”

Gordon conceded that he was passing up “an opportunity for a lifetime.” Yet he was glad that he went back for his junior season with the Badgers, even though some critics were hard on him, the most vocal of which were saying that he was making the wrong decision for the wrong reasons.

“You can’t listen,” he said. “You have to do what your heart tells you to do. Honestly, my heart told me to stay. I had people tugging on

me both ways to stay and go. It just came down to my choice and I felt there were some things I still needed to do and work on before stepping to the next level.”

It could not have possibly worked out better in 2014.

“Oh, man, it worked out perfect for me,” he enthused.

Gordon was the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy, the Doak Walker Award winner and the leading rusher and scorer in college football. He rushed for 2,587 yards, just 41 shy of Barry Sanders’ all-time single-season record, and that included 408 yards against Nebraska on 25 carries in three quarters.

“There were some things that I achieved this year that I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish if I had left early,” said Gordon, who’s hoping his legacy will inspire others to do the right thing. “Hopefully people will remember me for a long time and they’ll put something up with my name on it.”

Like jersey No. 25. At the very least, Gordon should be in the discussion to have his name put up alongside of his retired number in Camp Randall Stadium; an argument that can be expanded to include how much positive attention

that he has generated for this football program and school. Priceless.

“You have to take pride,” he said, “in setting the example for younger kids coming up.”

Gordon can also be proud of his priorities. What do you think his greatest memory is?

“The bowl game, winning the bowl game,” said Gordon, who carried the Badgers to their first postseason triumph since 2009 by running for 251 yards and three touchdowns in a 34-31 overtime victory over Auburn in the Outback Bowl. Not bad for someone who missed bowl practices after taking ill.

“I won Big Ten championships and went to Rose Bowls and that felt good. But winning that bowl was the best feeling; it was something I had never felt before, and it ended that little drought that we had ... winning the Doak (Walker) was special ... but the bowl win topped all of that.”

It meant more not only because he impacted UW’s bowl history, but because there was something personal behind it. “It was doing it,” Gordon said, “while I was the guy and I was the guy leading the team without Montee (Ball) and James (White). That was special and something I’ll never forget.”



••••

Kiper's voice comes across loud and clear on the Speed Stick commercial.

"I don't think anyone doubts his ability as a runner," Kiper says, "but will he be able to become a consistent threat out of the backfield? There are some mental parts of his game that will need improvement to excel at the next level. Adequate just doesn't cut it in this league."

Gordon has no problem with the critiques, especially regarding his pass-catching ability.

"That's just what Mel Kiper and all of those guys have been bringing up. That it's something I struggle with or that's something I need to work on," Gordon said. "I understand their position and why they say it. They just didn't see that many (receiving) reps and I didn't have that many opportunities.

"But we caught the ball every day in practice with Coach (Thomas) Brown. We caught the ball all the time. We ran all the routes and they threw us the ball in practice. When it came to the games, we just ran the ball because that's what we did best. I'm not nervous at all about it."

In all his interviews with NFL teams, one question kept coming up.

"They wanted to know if I can pass protect," said Gordon. "That's big because in this league if you don't keep that quarterback off the ground you won't be in (the game). That's a question that they ask every back. Can you pass protect and pick up those blitzes?"

Gordon is confident in his blocking. He's confident, period. That certainly rang true during the behind-the-scenes YouTube segment on the Speed Stick set. "Self-confidence? It means a lot," he said, later adding, "At the end of the day, talk is cheap. Talk ain't going to get you nowhere."

And that's why he will continue to work and

grind.

"You can't make the plays that you want to make without confidence," he said last week from the football offices in Camp Randall. "You need that confidence to be successful. And if you don't have the confidence that your coach has confidence in you, then that's when you make mistakes."

It can be a vicious cycle and Gordon tried to describe why.

"If you feel, 'If I make a mistake, I won't play again, so I've got to go out there and I've got to be perfect,' that's just not football," he said.

"You're going to make mistakes; I don't care how good you are or how long you've been playing.

"I wasn't confident when Montee and

**"The nerves haven't really kicked in yet. But I'm excited to know where I will be living and who my future teammates will be. I'm more excited than nervous."**





DAVID STLUKA

James were here,” he went on. “During my red-shirt freshman year, my coach (Thomas Hammock) took me out of a game after I fumbled. And you kind of lose confidence a little bit when that situation happens.

“Last year, I knew that I was ‘the guy’ and the team knew it and you could just tell that everybody had confidence in me and they looked for me to make plays, and when they did show that confidence in me that just gave me more confidence in myself.”

The Nebraska game was the perfect illustration. Gordon fumbled twice and lost them both. And then he went on to break the FBS single-game rushing record. “My coach (Brown) was still confident in me,” he said, “and it gave me confidence to know I could prove to the team that I could overcome it.”

Since the NFL scouting combine, Gordon has been busy auditioning for teams. “When you actually get to talk to the staff, it’s interesting,” he said. “It’s almost like an official visit; it’s almost like recruiting all over again. I enjoy talking to the coaches. It’s just the flying around that kind of gets me.”

Right now, he’s looking forward to finding out where he’s going to land — on the draft board and on the NFL map. “The nerves haven’t really kicked in yet,” he said. “But I’m excited to know where I will be living and who my future teammates will be. I’m more excited than nervous.”

Gordon’s mother, Carmen, will join him in Chicago. She was in Orlando for the College Football Awards show. She was in New York for the Heisman presentation. She was in Dallas for the Doak Walker ceremony. She has seemingly always been at his side. She even attended practices at least once a week in Madison.

“She has been with me the whole way,” he said. “She has meant a lot. She has been at every game, she didn’t miss one. Even when I was redshirt freshman and I wasn’t playing, she was at every game supporting me and my teammates. Her support is everything. Not every kid gets that.”

Gordon only wishes that his dad, also a Melvin, could be in Chicago.

“But he’s still incarcerated,” he said softly.

The elder Gordon — or “Big Bo” — is serving time at a low-security Federal Correctional In-

stitution in Elkton, Ohio, 45 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. In 2012, he was sentenced for his involvement in a northern Illinois cocaine-dealing ring. Father and son talked a few days ago.

“I wasn’t ever mad at my father,” MGIII said. “I knew that he made some decisions for me and my brother to have a better life; there were some bad decisions, but he did it to help support his family. I understood that. My father was everything to me, as well as my mother.

“Before he had to go, he was at every game; he was right there with my mom my redshirt freshman year. He was there at the Rose Bowl. He didn’t see me play as ‘the guy’ but leading up to this he was at everything. He didn’t miss a high school game or a game in Little League or a track meet.

“I love my father and I respect him. Obviously, he made some decisions that cost him time away from his kids. But I still love him. And he still supports me. He still texts me or e-mails me before games and tells me what I need to watch for. It was like he was there for me, even if he wasn’t.”


After verbally committing to Iowa, it was Big Bo

who influenced his son to stay closer to home. “He said that I was going to be a special player regardless of where I went,” MGIII recounted. “But he just felt like Wisconsin was the right fit. And he hasn’t led me wrong so far.

“He’s actually one of the people who wanted me to stay (in school) another year. He said, ‘If you stay, I promise you — and I feel it in my heart — that you can go first round.’”

That may all come to fruition Thursday night for Melvin Gordon.

“It’s going to mean everything now to have this opportunity of a lifetime,” he said, knowing he passed it up a year ago. “Only a small percentage of guys go to the NFL and I’m part of that group. It’s going to be such a relief knowing that my dream is here, still alive. I don’t want to get off Cloud 9.

“I don’t know how I’m going to react when I hear my name called,” confided Gordon, who just turned 22. “Hopefully, I can keep it together. Will I cry? You never know. But I want to continue having this dream. I’ve always wanted to be a special player — a player that people can remember forever.” 



“IT’S GOING TO BE SUCH A RELIEF KNOWING THAT MY DREAM IS HERE, STILL ALIVE. I DON’T WANT TO GET OFF CLOUD 9.”



# STEP BY STEP

WITH MELVIN GORDON'S SIZEABLE FOOTPRINTS AS HIS GUIDE, **COREY CLEMENT** HAS ASSERTED HIMSELF AS THE NEXT MAN TO LEAD ONE OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS POSITION GROUPS: **RUNNING BACK AT WISCONSIN.**

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





DAVID STLUKA

Once Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst was done talking with the entire team following Saturday's spring game, Wisconsin's players broke down in position groups. The running backs circled assistant John Settle, who spoke briefly before instructing Corey Clement to break the huddle.

"That used to be Melvin's role," Clement said of former tailback Melvin Gordon. "It's kind of crazy to think that the last time we broke the huddle after the bowl game, Melvin was there. And now it's me leading our group. I'm in Melvin's shoes and I have to fill them."

Clement called everybody up; they meshed hands above their heads and broke on "Dog pound."

"That's our mentality," Clement explained. "We have to account for each other in the group."

Per tradition, Gordon went through a similar huddle transition after James White graduated.

"Obviously, I had to break it down and I used to be shy," Gordon said. "I had to learn how to

be a vocal leader. I don't think that will be a problem with Corey. He's a vocal guy. He just wasn't in this position before, and now he is. It will definitely come a lot easier for him than it did for me.

"He just has to be ready to lead a team. He didn't have that much pressure on him in the past because I was there in the backfield. But he's the guy now. And he's got to be ready for that. He's got to be ready for guys being dependent on him when things get hard."

As a true freshman, Clement had the benefit of learning from both White and Gordon. He got to pick up the offense at his own pace while rushing 67 times for 547 yards. A majority of the yardage was spread over four games: UMass (101), Tennessee Tech (149), Purdue (83) and Indiana (108).

Last season, Clement nearly doubled his carries (132) and rushed for 949 yards (67.8 per game, 6.5 per carry) on the strength of four games over 100, including a career-high 164

against Illinois and 105 against Auburn in the Outback Bowl. But he was still overshadowed by Gordon's record-smashing season.

Who wouldn't be? Moreover, Clement had 196 fewer carries. But he still made the most of it.

"I think Corey will be special," Gordon said. "He'll do some things I didn't do just by how he sets up guys to make them miss and with his power and with how low he plays. Corey can be special catching the ball. I feel like he can do it all. He has hit long runs, 70-yarders, he's an explosive playmaker, too."

Clement had a 75-yard run his first season and a 72-yarder last year.

"Coming in, I knew about Corey and I knew he was talented and had a lot of ability," said Set-

tle. "I was interested to see how well he was going to learn and how well he was going to retain things and if he could be a leader in our group after losing a guy like Melvin Gordon.

"And he proved to me that he could do all of those things."

Clement warmed immediately to Settle, who's on his second tour of duty with the Badgers.

"He has been more of a straightforward coach; every time I ask him a question, he's got the answer," said Clement. "His blueprint is off the charts, just the way he comes in every day and works and introduces us to new things implementing some of the stuff from the NFL and college."

Settle played four seasons in the NFL with the Atlanta Falcons and was the first undrafted running back in league history to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season (1988). He also had coaching stops with the Carolina Panthers and Cleveland Browns before joining Paul Chryst's staff at Pitt last year.

"He doesn't throw too much at us at once but every time we come in, we have a purpose each day that we're going to attack," Clement said. "I felt I got a lot better mentally this spring — allowing myself to strain more and finish harder during practice. But I have to get my stamina up."

By design, Clement didn't take any reps Saturday. "I got enough (hitting), especially in the two scrimmages that we had prior, basically that was my spring game," he said. "So I wasn't too bummed out that I didn't get any carries because I got a feel for it (contact) the week before."

By not playing Clement, Settle was able to evaluate the other tailbacks under game conditions.

"In my mind," Settle said, "it's a



**"Every time I ask him a question, he's got the answer,"** Clement said of Settle. **"His blueprint is off the charts, just the way he comes in every day and works and introduces us to new things implementing some of the stuff from the NFL and college."**

BRIAN MASON



Taiwan Deal



Dare Ogunbowale

stiff competition between Dare and Taiwan.”

Dare Ogunbowale, a junior from Milwaukee, and Taiwan Deal, a redshirt freshman from Capitol Heights, Maryland, are competing for that No. 2 spot behind Clement. Neither hurt themselves in the spring game. Ogunbowale had 11 rushes for 86 yards and two touchdowns; Deal had 15 carries for 76 yards.

“I think I was able to show the coaches I can be a consistent player,” said Ogunbowale, a walk-on and converted defensive back. “That was my biggest goal coming into the spring — being a reliable player on all downs. It’s really just about getting on the field and helping the team any way I can.”

Ogunbowale was a pleasant discovery in 2014. “My role was to finish out the game and make sure we kept the ball,” he said. And the 5-foot-11, 188-pound Ogunbowale did so with flair against Bowling Green (14 carries for 94) and Nebraska (10 for 62). “Ball security was my

biggest thing.

“Now obviously my role has expanded a little more. It’s a lot different and it’s just exciting to be a part of this running back unit. With just being able to think like a running back and feel like a running back, then I’ll be able to play like a running back. That’s something I’m still working on.”

Addressing Ogunbowale’s 55-yard touchdown run Saturday, Settle said, “It goes against all that I believe in, but it worked. I always cringe when a running back cuts across the field because I visualize a

D-tackle hitting him right in the earhole.

“But it was good to see him have some success, and he fed off of it (the first score), and then he went out there and had another one (touchdown). He’s a talented young man and I think he’s going to help us down the road.”

Ogunbowale, like Clement, has taken to Settle’s approach. “He’s a teacher and that’s what I needed more than anything,” he said. “He

**“IN MY MIND,” SETTLE SAID,  
“IT’S A STIFF COMPETITION  
BETWEEN DARE AND TAIWAN.”**

**“Competition is everything,”** Ogunbowale said.

**“And being a running back at Wisconsin, that’s just something you’re going to have to deal with.**

**I love the competition because it brings out the best in everyone.”**

has made sure to teach us from the ground up. He has taught us about defenses and how to read them, which is going to help us. It has been definitely good.”

With some more seasoning, more repetitions, how good can Ogunbowale be? “He’s got some real good instincts,” Gordon said. “He’s a smart player and that’s what is keeping him ahead. He can make people miss easy and he’s got quick-twitch muscles out there when he’s rolling.”

Ogunbowale isn’t easily intimidated, either. “Competition is everything,” he boasted. “And being a running back at Wisconsin, that’s just something you’re going to have to deal with. I love the competition because it brings out the best in everyone.”

Ogunbowale and Deal have been jockeying for position on the depth chart. “We’ve been making sure we push each other on the field and off the field,” Ogunbowale said. “Taiwan is like a little brother to me and he’s going to be a great running back. I’m excited to see him doing well.”

Deal bounced back this spring after a slow fall. “I feel like I accomplished a lot,” he said, “just by learning the offense and being more comfortable and patient. I gained more weight and I got stronger. I feel like I accomplished all of that and it’s something that I can keep building on through the summer.”

Settle would like to see the 6-foot, 216-pound



BRIAN MASON

Deal concentrate on a few areas. “I’d like to see him have better balance and stay on his feet a little more,” he said. “There were a couple of runs (Saturday) where he had the opportunity to go a long ways and he ended up hitting his foot on the turf.

“He’ll do some things throughout the summer leading up to camp. We’ll get him running the ropes and help him become more aware of clearing his feet and how to pop his knees and that type of thing. He has talent. He’s a bigger guy and he’s able to bring that physical presence to the group.”

Gordon has seen Deal’s upside. “He’s just a bull,” he said. “He runs hard but he’s got some speed to get those 40-yarders. He just has to get ‘it’ and he has to understand how to work. He’s still trying to figure that out right now. Once he realizes how good he can be, he will start mak-

ing strides.”

Junior college transfer Serge Trezy is still an unknown in the tailback competition after starting the spring on defense. What is known is that UW’s incoming freshmen are skilled. Jordan Stevenson (Dallas, Texas) and Bradrick Shaw (Birmingham, Alabama) both attended Saturday’s intrasquad game.

“It was good to see those two young men,” Settle said. “They came in bright eyed; they wanted to see exactly what they are going to be doing when they get here in the summer. It’s always good when they can get around the guys and get a feel for the environment. I’m excited to work with them.”

The 5-11, 217-pound Clement conceded that he really doesn’t know too much about Stevenson and Shaw. “I just know them by name,” he said with shrug. “I’m sure that’s how James and Melvin knew me — by name only — until I came in here and showed them what I can do.”


And now, with Gordon’s departure, he has in-

herited the leadership responsibilities.

“A lot of guys are going to be looking at me for the right answers,” said Clement, a junior from Jersey. “That’s where I’m going to have to be confident in everything I do and say. I don’t have anyone else to look up to. That’s kind of the hard part because I used to look up to Melvin for the answers and he’d tell me what to do.

“Now, it’s my opportunity. I thought I was ready (last season) but now I feel a lot more ready. I got a chance to talk with Melvin more about the things that he used to do during the offseason and I’m

just going to work my butt off to do those same things.”

In preparing for the 2015 season opener against Alabama — “It will make me work 10 times harder this summer” — Clement is driven by those same things that fueled Gordon this past year. “I want to show what I can do,” Clement said. “And I’m not going to let anybody down.” 

**“NOW, IT’S MY OPPORTUNITY,”  
CLEMENT SAID. “I WANT TO SHOW  
WHAT I CAN DO. AND I’M NOT  
GOING TO LET ANYBODY DOWN.”**



# TESTING THE WATERS

THE BADGERS WELCOME A NUMBER OF TOP COLLEGIATE TEAMS TO DEVIL'S LAKE THIS WEEKEND FOR A REGATTA THAT ALSO SERVES AS A CHANCE TO PROVE WISCONSIN'S MOST POPULAR STATE PARK HAS A FUTURE IN HOSTING BIG-TIME RACES.

BY CHRISTIAN BLATNER ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

It is the most popular state park in Wisconsin, known for its beauty and recreational options. From hiking to the top of its large bluffs, to rock climbing, swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, camping, scuba diving and birdwatching, Devil's Lake is a magnet for outdoor lovers. Now, add collegiate rowing to the list of activities.

For the second time in four years, the Wisconsin rowing program will host a race at Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, with the May 2-3 competition featuring three women's teams and six men's programs.

Wisconsin, Boston University, MIT, Northeastern, Georgetown and Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) will compete on the men's side, while the women's races will include the Badgers, Michigan State and Minnesota.

This will be the first time the women's squad has raced at Devil's Lake. With its high bluffs, the course is well protected from the elements.

"Racing at Devil's Lake is something that

(Wisconsin men's) coach (Chris) Clark has been talking about for a long time," UW women's head coach Bebe Bryans said. "When I got up there as a hiker, with my dogs, just the beauty of the place and the length of the water looked just about right. Also when I was up there, the wind was blowing pretty hard and it was flat, or pretty flat, (on the water).

"So that is a combination of circumstances that doesn't come along every day, and the men have had good success up there in the past, so we decided why not?"

The men's team previously raced at Devil's Lake in 2012. After forecasting high winds on Lake Mendota for their races against Boston University, Dartmouth and MIT, the Badgers moved their races about an hour north.

"When we first approached the state park people in 2011 or 2012," Clark said, "I didn't understand how state parks worked. I thought, it's a pristine place, it's the most popular state park, maybe they don't want anyone there, ex-

cept people hiking and boating. I didn't realize they want the parks to have uses and as a revenue producer."

"We are pleased to be able to partner with the University of Wisconsin for this unique event," said Dan Schuller, Wisconsin State Parks and Trails director. "There is actually precedent for this kind of competition at Devil's Lake dating back to the late 1800s when races were held for the enjoyment of area resort visitors."

The Wisconsin men will compete for the Jablonic Cup and Cochrane Cup, while the women will race for the Burnin' Blade and The Hammer.

The Jablonic Cup is named after longtime UW head coach Randy Jablonic (1969-97) and has been contested by Wisconsin and Boston University since 1989. The Badgers have won 20 of 24 races, but BU currently owns a two-year win streak in the race for the cup.

As a rower, Jablonic was a part of the Badgers' 1959 Intercollegiate Rowing Association varsity

eight title — the school's second of eight wins in the event.

The Cochrane Cup is named after Admiral Edward L. Cochrane, former president of MIT and director of the Navy's Bureau of Ships. Wisconsin has raced for the cup since 1961 against Dartmouth and MIT, though this marks the third-consecutive year the competition will include just the Badgers and MIT.

UW owns victories in nine consecutive races for the Cochrane Cup, and 36 of 54 races all-time.

The Wisconsin openweight women will race for the Burnin' Blade when they take on Minnesota. The schools have raced for the trophy for four years, with the Badgers winning three times, including last season. The trophy (*pictured below*) goes to the winner of the varsity eight race between UW and the Gophers.

**"It's an incredible place,"**  
Clark said of Devil's Lake.  
**"It can howl there and you can row, and it's very fair."**



**“IF THIS GOES WELL WE ARE PRIMED TO HOPEFULLY HOST THE BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE,”** BRYANS SAID.



In addition, the winner of the novice eight race between the two schools is awarded The Hammer. Wisconsin has won all four races in the rivalry.

Because of the geography surrounding Devil's Lake, which creates great course conditions for rowers, there is promise it could host even bigger events in the future.

“It's something that the Big Ten women's coaches are excited about because if this goes well — and we're pretty much all in here — we're putting in a really good race course,” Bryans said. “All the mechanics will be in place, we're racing Big Ten teams up there, so if this goes well we are primed to hopefully host the Big Ten championships in the very near future.”


Clark added more praise for the Devil's Lake course.

“It's in a bowl,” Clark said, “and it can howl,

but the waves don't build up too much. Really, it's a championship venue.

“There is a place in Lucerne, Switzerland, called the Rotsee. It's a bigger version of the Rotsee. It's an incredible place. It can howl there and you can row, and it's very fair. That's another problem with rowing courses. Invariably if you win something, and it's even slightly unfair, it's because you got the good lane. I've heard that many times.”

Teams will launch from the south shore, which will also serve as the finish line.

Fans should enter the park near the South Shore Visitor's Center. Entry fee is \$7 for vehicles with Wisconsin license plates and \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. More information is available at [DevilsLakeWisconsin.com](https://www.devilslakewisconsin.com), including a [map of the park](#) and [directions to the south shore.](#) 





TAMARA FLARUP

## Record run: Badgers NCAA-bound again

UW competes in third-straight NCAA regional

**W**ith the calendar flipping to May, Wisconsin finds itself in what has become a familiar situation — preparing for postseason play.

For the third-straight year, a program first, UW will compete in one of four NCAA regional tournaments May 7-9 to determine the final 24-team field for the NCAA championships.

The Badgers were announced Monday as the No. 14 seed in the NCAA St. George Regional, which sends UW back to another familiar place, Entrada at Snow Canyon Country Club. The course in St. George, Utah, plays host to the annual BYU Classic, which Wisconsin won in 2011 and 2013 before placing third in 2014.

“We are really excited to have the opportunity to continue our season and compete in the St. George Regional,” UW coach Todd Oehrlein said. “I’m proud of our entire team and the way they worked this season. It’s a great accomplishment for a young team.”

Six teams and three individuals will advance from each regional to the NCAA championships, which will be held May 22-27 at Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Florida.

### SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

#### RECENTLY

- Feb. 8-10 UCF Challenge
- Feb. 22-23 Westbrook Spring Invt.
- Mar. 15-17 Wildcat Invitational
- April 13-14 Silverado Showdown
- April 24-26 Big Ten Championships

#### COMING UP

- May 7-9 **NCAA Regionals**

[> View complete schedule](#)

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## Vast improvement story of UW's season

Four seniors set the standard as records fall

**W**hen Wisconsin wrapped up its fifth-place finish at last week's Big Ten championship, the showing served as a fitting end for the Badgers.

UW's finish was its best at the Big Ten meet since 2007, capping a season of vast improvement for a Badgers team that boasts a bright future despite saying farewell to four seniors who have raised the stock of the program during their tenure.

Wisconsin finished tied for fifth out of 14 teams in the Big Ten Championship April 24-26 in Newburgh, Indiana, which is the best conference finish since 2007. The Badgers scored a 31-over 297-294-295-297—1183 at the Big Ten championships in Newburgh, Indiana, which tied the eighth-best 72-hole score in school history. It was an improvement of five places over UW's finish in 2014.

In addition, the Badgers clinched the second-best scoring average in school history with their 293.25, which was just .03 strokes off the record of 293.22 set during the 2004-05 season.

For the first time since 2006, the Badgers also won a tournament, claiming the NYX Hoosier Invitational April 11-12 in Bloomington, Indiana, with a 1-over 286-279-288—853. The

### SCHEDULE

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

#### RECENTLY

- Feb. 15-16 **Big Ten Match Play**
- March 9-10 **Palmetto Intercollegiate**
- Mar. 29-31 **Hootie at Bulls Bay**
- April 11-12 **NYX Hoosier Invitational**
- April 18-19 **Boilermaker Invitational**
- April 24-26 **Big Ten Championships**

[> View complete schedule](#)

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DAVID STLUKA

## Three seniors are leaving a lasting legacy

Trio have changed Badgers program for better

**A** total of 133 wins. A .624 winning percentage. Forty-seven Big Ten Conference wins. Ten wins over ranked opponents. The numbers speak for themselves when trying to describe the impact this year's senior class has made for Wisconsin.

Maria Van Abel, Marissa Mersch and Megan Tancill will end their Badgers careers as the second-winningest class in school history. But after a tough season, they have proved that the wins haven't been the most important accomplishments in their time at UW. They have been the stepping stones to help build Wisconsin softball into a thriving program in the future.

"(The program) has seen tremendous growth. I can't even imagine how much work and energy these coaches have put in before we got here," Van Abel said. "It's just been amazing. When we came in, the cultures were changing and the coaches were doing their best to get things back on track.

"And what they've done in the last five years has been unheard of really when you think of where the program was. So it's on the rise and that's really exciting as a senior going out knowing that you're leaving the program in such good hands,

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE (19-28, 3-14)

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

#### RECENTLY

April 24	<b>Nebraska</b>	L, 13-5
April 25	<b>Nebraska</b>	L, 3-2
April 26	<b>Nebraska</b>	L, 9-0

#### COMING UP

April 29	<b>Minnesota</b>	4:30 p.m.
	<b>Minnesota</b>	Time TBA
May 1	at Rutgers	2 p.m.
May 2	at Rutgers	Noon
May 3	at Rutgers	11 a.m.
May 5-10	Big Ten Tournament	
	Columbus, Ohio	

[> View complete schedule](#)

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# Wisconsin turns focus to Musco Twilight

UW stays close to home after busy weekend

**A**fter a busy weekend scattered across the nation, the Wisconsin track and field program stays close to home this week, sending athletes to the Musco Twilight in Iowa City, Iowa, on Saturday.

A majority of the Wisconsin runners went to the Penn Relays in Philadelphia and excelled on one of the sport's most historic stages. Wisconsin ran in the 4xMile Championship of America, and placed fifth in 16 minutes, 24.01 seconds. The Badgers also had three relay teams — the men's 4x100, men's 4x400 and women's 4x400 — advance to finals.

"The Penn Relays are a big carnival," UW Director of Track & Field Mick Byrne said. "There were a lot of big-name programs and there was great value being there, especially from a recruiting standpoint as it gave us a lot of exposure on the East Coast.

"The men's 4xMile was awesome, it was on national TV, and seeing freshman Joe Hardy take the bull by the horns with 300 meters to go against some of the best against the country, it was incredible. It is going to give him a ton of confidence."

A group of decathletes and pole vaulters competed at the historic Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, and Zach Ziemek, who's

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

## SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

### RECENTLY

April 22-25	Drake Relays
April 23-25	Penn Relays
April 24-25	Triton Invitational

### COMING UP

May 2	Musco Twilight
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Wisconsin Twilight</b>
May 15-17	Big Ten Outdoor Championships
May 28-30	NCAA West Preliminary Round

[> View complete schedule](#)

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## Youthful Badgers still learning how to win

Tests come in pair of cup races at Devil's Lake

**R**owing, by its nature, is an eye-pleasing sport. When it is done correctly, the fluid motion of four or eight rowers in unison gliding across placid water, in what from a distance appears like effortless movement, can be calming.

With a backdrop venue like Devil's Lake State Park, in Baraboo, Wisconsin, it could be downright entrancing.

The No. 15 Wisconsin men's rowing program hopes to hypnotize spectators this Saturday and Sunday when it races in a couple of its long-time rivalries. It has No. 6 Boston University in its race for the Jablonic Cup, which the Terriers have won the last two years. The Badgers also race for the Cochrane Cup against MIT, a race that UW has won nine consecutive seasons. UW will also take on No. 7 Northeastern on Sunday.

If the Badgers do please the eye this weekend, it will be with the help of one of the tallest varsity eights UW has fielded.

"Our top five guys are taller than the basketball team on average: 6-11, 6-10, 6-9 and three or four guys 6-8," UW head coach Chris Clark remarked. "But I noticed there are a lot of guys in the NBA that are 6-1, so it's not all about the height. I was excited there for a while.

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

May 2	<b>Boston University/MIT</b> <i>Baraboo, Wis. (Devil's Lake)</i>
May 3	<b>Northeastern</b> <i>Baraboo, Wis. (Devil's Lake)</i>
May 17	at EARC Championships <i>Redwood City, Calif.</i>
May 29-31	IRA National Championships <i>West Windsor, N.J.</i>

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## Getting faster is the goal at Devil's Lake

Badgers fine-tuning boats before Big Tens

**W**hen asked about her team's goals this weekend in its first races at Devil's Lake, Wisconsin head coach Bebe Bryans was quick to answer.

"Go faster," Bryans said. "That is the main focus for all our boats. To go faster. So we are ramping up our race plans a little bit."

That of course begs the question: how does one get faster? The answer was just as quick from Bryans.

"Pull harder," Bryans said, smiling.

"Work on rate and race plan a little bit," she added. "We've been staying pretty low with our stroke rate. We've been incrementally bumping up things as we go. We want to keep the power and bump the rate."

"We are playing with the rigging a little bit, too, and we have a crew consistent enough to do that and have some results that make sense. That is pretty exciting."

It sounds like tinkering would be a good way to describe what the women's openweight team is doing right now after some of its early-season success. Another way a coach might do that is to change personnel in some of the boats to see if there is a way

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| May 2     | <b>Minn./Michigan St.</b><br><i>Baraboo, Wis. (Devil's Lake)</i> |
| May 16-17 | Big Ten Championships<br><i>Indianapolis</i>                     |
| May 29-31 | NCAA Championships<br><i>Gold River, Calif.</i>                  |

[> View complete schedule](#)

### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





## Depth to carry the day at Eastern Sprints

Freshmen sprinkled all over lineups for UW

**A**fter taking a week off following a successful beginning to spring racing, the Wisconsin lightweight women's rowing team will head to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, for its conference championships, the Eastern Association of Women's Rowing Colleges Championships — better known as the Eastern Sprints.

While the grueling winter was spent indoors erging with a frozen Lake Mendota the only thing in sight, the Eastern Sprints is one incentive the Badgers use to motivate themselves in the midst of all of their hard work.

Wisconsin has a tradition of placing well at Eastern Sprints, and the results this far into the season seem to be congruent with those expectations. The Badgers have eight Eastern Sprints titles in the varsity lightweight eight and have won seven of the past 10 crowns, the most recent being in 2012 when Wisconsin topped Bucknell by over four seconds.

Last season, Wisconsin placed second in the running for the Konrad Ulbrich Lightweight Points Trophy, finishing with 53.7 total points. The title went to No. 1-ranked Radcliffe, which totaled 54.3 points.

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

April 18-19 **Boston Round Robin**  
*Boston, Mass.*

May 3 **Eastern Sprints**  
*Cherry Hill, N.J.*

May 29-31 **IRA National Championships**  
*West Windsor, N.J.*

[> View complete schedule](#)

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BRANDON HARRISON

# Badgers punctuate impressive spring season

UW ends with 4-1 win Sunday for 3-1-1 record

It's been a productive spring season for the Wisconsin men's soccer team. In fitting fashion, the Badgers' hard work and progress was punctuated with a 4-1 spring victory over in-state rival Marquette last Sunday.

UW scored twice in the first half and twice again in the second half to earn an impressive result to close their spring season at the McClimon Complex.

"It was a good weekend," UW head coach John Trask said, "as we also played a competitive game against Western Illinois on Saturday and were able to evaluate quite a few players and give playing time to many guys who aren't in the first 11. Then, we were able to turn around on Sunday and play Marquette at home in front of our fans at McClimon."

With a nice crowd on hand, freshman Christopher Mueller highlighted the scoring with an impressive free kick (seen in video above) that put the game out of reach late in the second half at 3-1. Team captain Drew Conner tacked on with a penalty kick minutes later, giving UW the 4-1 result.

Also scoring were Mike Catalano and Isaac Schlenker, who accounted for UW's first-half tallies.

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

## 2015 SPRING SCHEDULE

Home games in **bold**.

March 7	<b>Green Bay</b>	W, 3-0
April 11	vs. Loyola-Chicago	W, 1-0
April 18	at Drake	T, 0-0
April 25	at W. Illinois	L, 1-0
April 26	<b>Marquette</b>	W, 4-1

[> View complete schedule](#)

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## FIRST ROUND TRIO

**APRIL 30, 1985:** UW had three first-round picks in the 1985 NFL Draft, the most in program history. Al Toon was the 10th overall pick by the New York Jets while Richard Johnson was taken at No. 11 by Houston and Darryl Sims at No. 20 by Pittsburgh.

### -MORE THIS WEEK-



### JOE GOES

**APRIL 28, 2007:**

Offensive lineman Joe Thomas was taken third overall in the 2007 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns. Thomas has gone on to be an eight-time Pro Bowl pick for the Browns.



### HIGH ON THE HORSE

**JANUARY 27, 1955:**

Heisman Trophy-winning running back Alan Ameche was taken No. 2 overall in the 1955 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts, matching the highest pick in Wisconsin program history.



### WAITING FOR WILSON

**APRIL 26, 2012:**

QB Russell Wilson had to wait until the third round of the 2012 NFL Draft before he was selected by Seattle. In his first three seasons, Wilson has led the Seahawks to two Super Bowls.