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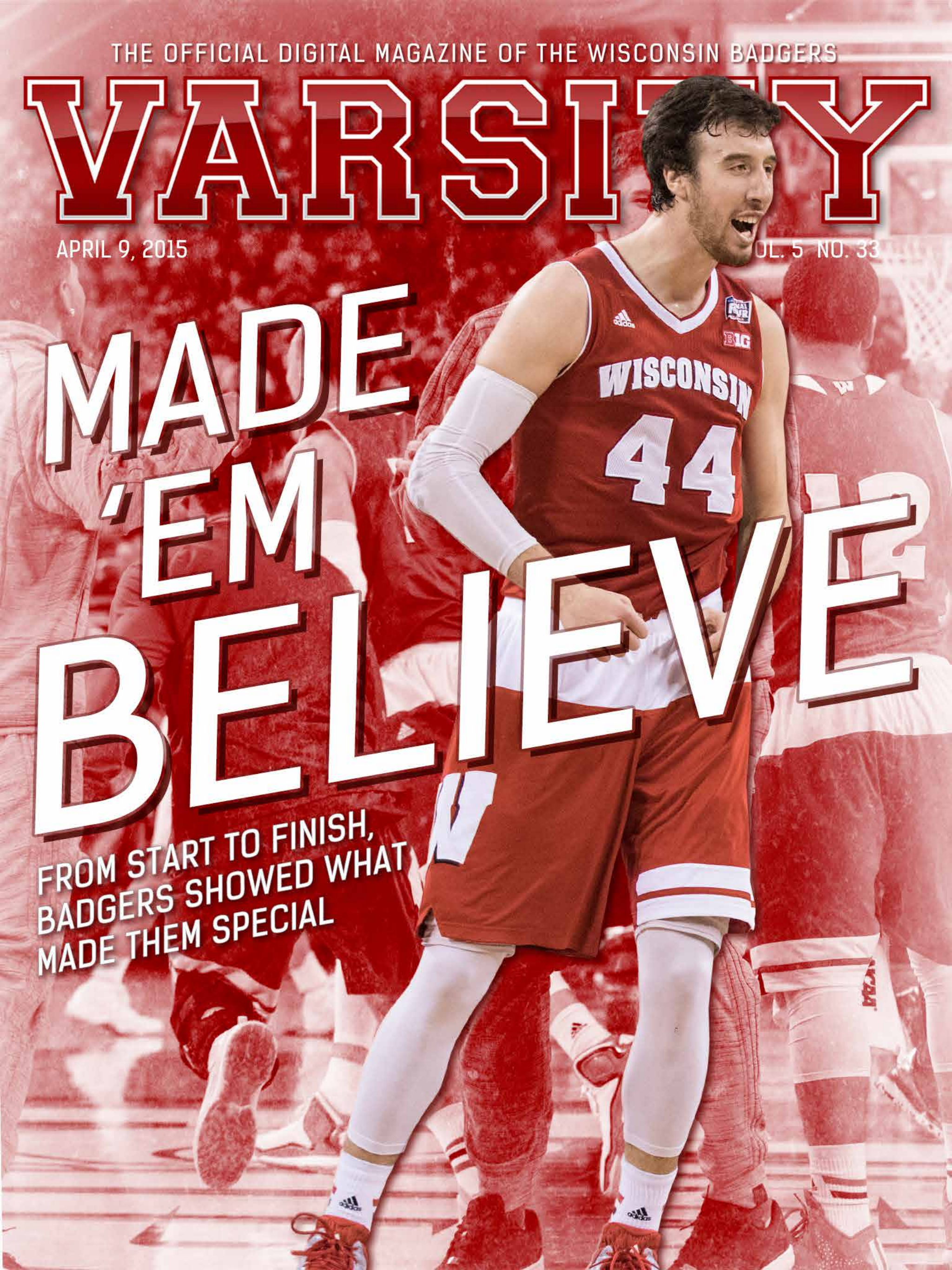
VARSITY

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VOL. 5 NO. 33

MADE 'EM BELIEVE

FROM START TO FINISH,
BADGERS SHOWED WHAT
MADE THEM SPECIAL





DAVID STLUKA

COVER STORY

MORE TO COME

The Road Ends Here. So said the signs all around the Final Four. While the book has closed on this remarkable run for Wisconsin, a new cast of characters is ready to write the next chapter.



DAVID STLUKA

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MADE 'EM PROUD

So they fell short of the national title. These Badgers will be remembered for a list of achievements that transcends their on-court success.

LUCAS AT LARGE

MISSING THE MESSAGE

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VARSIITY

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Final Four shows officiating worth a look

The last time they lost a game, the team charter was forced to make an emergency landing in Pittsburgh en route from Baltimore to Madison. There were no such unscheduled side trips after Monday night's loss to Duke in the national championship game, though UW coach Bo Ryan was greeted by a basketball official when he got aboard the plane in Indianapolis. How about that for timing?

Eric Curry is a former Big Ten ref who's now working games in the Pac-12 and Mountain West conferences. He's also the vice president of sales for Sun Country Airlines. That's why he was on the flight; it was not to console Ryan after the Badgers were subject to some uneven officiating. They were called for two fouls in the first half, 13 in the second half. They were averaging 12.7 per game.

It was the biggest disparity between halves of a title game since at least 2004, according to STATS LLC. Not that those statistics were available to Ryan while speaking to CBS courtside reporter Tracy Wolfson following the loss, but he did mention that there was an adjustment factor for his players because "there was more body contact in this game than any game we played all year."

In a more subtle way, perhaps, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski had

also brought up how the game was being officiated during his interview with Wolfson at the end of the first half. The Blue Devils "adjusted" by outscoring the Badgers, 12-3, from the free throw line in the second half. Predictably, Ryan didn't have to wait long to field questions on the officiating during his post-game press conference.

"BOTH TEAMS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO FEEL THAT THERE'S A QUESTION OR TWO," RYAN SAID. "YOU HAVE TO GO WITH THE FLOW."

After begging off answering — "You can't say anything about the officiating. C'mon, are you trying to set me up?" — he was prodded into saying something which he did, benignly, about the offense, not the defense, getting the benefit of the doubt. "Both teams are always going to feel that there's a question or two," he said. "Sometimes games are played differently and you have to go with the flow."

Ryan was well within his jurisdiction to voice his disappointment in that manner since everyone else saw the same things — inconsistent to bad officiating — during the Final Four. Take





DAVID STLUKA

away the judgement calls, specifically the block-charge riddle, and these crews still had trouble administering the rules correctly to plays that were right under their collective noses. Video confirmed as much.

Even the NCAA supervisor of officials, John Adams, admitted that he was tempted to jump into the fray after the title game zebras botched an out-of-bounds possession call because of a replay snafu. Adams was last seen deferring on the grassy knoll. Apparently, no one had access to the Zapruder film. If these are the elite, all-star crews, what does that say about those who didn't make the cut?

Meanwhile, Ryan was treated

like a piñata by national pundits and talk show hacks for using the phrase "rent-a-player" in response to a question about how hard it was going to be for him to say goodbye to his senior class. To Ryan, a rent-a-player is a fifth-year senior who has completed his undergraduate degree at one school and transfers to another school to complete his playing eligibility.

Russell Wilson famously used the graduate transfer exemption to join the Wisconsin football program. He was on campus for about six months. "If other people do that, that's OK; I like trying to build within," said Ryan, who was not seeking a referendum on the policy as much as

he was answering the question by shedding light on why it was so hard to say farewell to players who had been invested for four and five years.

It has been widely misconstrued that Ryan was casting dispersions over the coaches that recruit "one-and-done" players who come out of high school and play one season of college basketball before turning pro. Kentucky's John Calipari and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski fall under that category of coaches, with Krzyzewski coming to the dance a little bit later than others. Krzyzewski went on the record when he recruited Jahlil Okafor that he was a one-and-done; so now is Justice Winslow and maybe Tyus Jones.

Ryan can speak for himself. But it didn't seem to be his intention to suggest that his system was better than Calipari's or Coach K's or any others. In fact, during a joint presser with Calipari, Ryan defended the right of all students, not just athletes, to leave school at their discretion. "In college, if people are stepping away," he said, "I don't call it dropping out; they're stepping away to pursue their passion."

Maybe it didn't come out the way that he wanted. Maybe too much was made out of nothing. Maybe Ryan thought that he was taking a charge and everybody else called him for a block. Fitting, huh? ■



Our unique group captured imaginations

I thought our basketball team captured the imagination of the entire country; we turned into America's team, especially when we played Kentucky. Everyone was rooting for us except for Kentucky's fans.

It was easy to see why that might happen. Once people got a chance to see the personality of this team, they enjoyed the antics of our guys and how loose they were and how well they performed.

What a great season. In addition to playing a good Oregon team that wanted to avenge last year's loss in Milwaukee, we wound up playing all the blue bloods on our tournament run.

We had to beat a very good North Carolina team, a really good Arizona team and a ridiculous Kentucky team — the favorite to win it all — just to get to the championship game and Duke.

As good as the atmosphere was on Saturday night when we handed Kentucky its first loss of the season, it was not comparable to what it was like on Monday after our fans took over the city.

Everywhere you looked, you saw red. It was mentioned to me several times that Lucas Oil Stadium was the equivalent of the 1994 Rose Bowl where we played UCLA. I called that Camp Randall West, and I did have a flashback on Monday in Indianapolis.

Unfortunately, we lost to Duke like we had won some of

the other games. We went cold down the stretch and they made most of the plays — like we had against Arizona and Kentucky.

But it doesn't take away from what this team has accomplished this season and the success that they had in sweeping the Big Ten regular season and tournament titles. That's not easy to do.

You have to take your hat off to the seniors for what they achieved in going to back-to-back Final Fours and for the leadership that they gave this group.

I was telling somebody Sunday how great of a job Bo Ryan has done in handling this team during March, when all you need is one bad stretch or an opponent catching fire and you're out.

I read where the NCAA head of officials, John Adams, thought about stopping the title game himself to correct a video replay decision. He said he had never done it before and didn't want to set precedence. All you can ask is that they get it right.

During Bo's postgame comments, he talked about how much the seniors have meant to the program and how much he has enjoyed developing each of them over four and five years.

He pointed out that he doesn't go after "rent-a-players," his term for fifth-year seniors who transfer into a program for only one year after graduating from another school. He doesn't believe in that. And that's all he

was saying. It's just too bad that his comments were taken out of context by so many and assumed to be a shot at another program. Everyone is so quick to jump the gun and criticize without knowing how it was said.

Indy did a phenomenal job in hosting the Final Four. It's built for events like this. You park your car once and you don't get back into it until you leave. Everything is within walking distance.

The city came alive on Friday with bands playing and fans from the four schools roaming around and taking advantage of all the entertainment and food options.

It's really impressive to me, a former football coach, how basketball has used the Final Four as a celebration of its sport. You couldn't go anywhere without running into a coach.

I would like to see football do something similar by holding the coaches convention on the same weekend of the College Football Playoff championship game.

Our CFP selection committee meeting was held in Indy last week and we had good discussions. We indoctrinated two new members and talked about procedure and what we had learned from last year.

I'm looking forward to watching some football practices as Paul Chryst wraps up the spring. But I don't think anyone will soon forget the great ride that we had in basketball. I won't. ■



Feeling fortunate to follow these Badgers

It was setting up to be a perfect ending. So agonizingly close.

It seemed the script was playing out just right. Monday's national championship game was tied with five minutes remaining. The numbers suggested the Badgers had the Duke Blue Devils right where they wanted them.

In the last four years, when the Badgers were tied or in the lead with five minutes to play, their record was 117-3. In this postseason, the Badgers simply owned the final five minutes of their games. Going into the title game, the numbers were staggering — Wisconsin shooting nearly 64 percent from the field, 11 of 15 from three-point range, and better than 80 percent from the foul line at crunch time.

And let us not forget the Wisconsin defense forcing not one, not two, but three shot clock violations against previously unbeaten Kentucky.

Unfortunately, in the final game of this wildly entertaining NCAA tournament, it was the other team making the plays down the stretch. Sometimes veteran savvy can make the difference. Other times a freshman plays like an upperclassman. Such was the case for Duke on Monday, when all of the second half scoring came from first-year players. If you are good, you are good, and when it was needed most, it was the Blue Devils who were special.

There has been plenty of talk about the officiating in this Final Four. In basketball, there is much talk about officiating every season, but clearly the chatter ramps up in postseason. On the replay review regarding whether Bronson Koenig or Duke's Justice Winslow last touched the ball before it went out of bounds, it certainly would be good to know why the officials did not get the same camera angles that millions of TV viewers were able to see.

I AM ONE LUCKY DUDE. ACTUALLY, ALL OF US WHO FOLLOW THE BADGERS ARE LUCKY.

Whatever the case, Duke deserves credit. I do not want to use this space to rant about calls or non-calls. Every team, every fan base, tends to believe the whistle favors the other guys. It is human nature.

Meanwhile, I have been confused by some in the media who determined Bo Ryan was taking a shot at Duke and other programs for taking “one-and-dones” — players who leave after their freshman year.

After the game, a reporter asked Ryan about his senior class and how difficult it is to say goodbye.

“Oh, without a doubt. All the seniors that I've had — hard to

say the word. But every player that's played through the program, OK, we don't do a rent-a-player. You know what I mean? Try to take a fifth-year guy. That's okay. If other people do that, that's okay. I like trying to build from within. It's just the way I am.”

The Badgers coach is on record as not being a fan of fifth-year transfers. He has made that clear. You can agree or disagree with him, but that was the topic. It seems rather clear.

So it goes. During this tournament, the national media has poured a lot of love on the Badgers. They have earned the praise. I would hope the Badgers and their fans will not allow some misguided commentary by columnists, talk show barkers and others to spoil what has been a great ride.

A 66-10 record. Two Big Ten trophies. Back-to-back Final Fours. A program full of engaging personalities. It has been a privilege to watch and describe this dedicated group. I am sad the season is over, but I will forever celebrate this team's achievements.

For those who tuned in for our broadcasts, we thank you. For those of you reading this, I thank you.

I am one lucky dude. Actually, all of us who follow the Badgers are lucky.

See you down the road. ■



GABRIELA PURMAN

*Women's lightweight All-American **Gabriela Purman** hails from Wayland, Massachusetts, and comes from a rowing family. Her brother, Will, competed on the lightweight team at Delaware. Just a sophomore, Purman was the varsity lightweight stroke in her first season with the Badgers last year.*

You were named an All-American last season and stroked your boat to a second-place finish at Eastern Sprints. What was it like experiencing so much success in your first season as a Badger?

“Freshman year is fun, because as volume increases from the high school level to a Division I program, you start to see faster numbers. That momentum kept driving me forward, setting personal records on a continual basis, and I was excited to be going fast. A crucial point for me last year was seeing what I was capable of and knowing what I want to achieve in my coming seasons as a Badger. Our team’s goal is to be national champions once again. I had no idea what to expect coming into Wisconsin, but I’m competitive and I was going to try to make an impact. I am still trying to make an impact.”

Did having an older brother that rowed at the collegiate level help you to adjust from from the high school level?

“He is certainly an inspiration to me, as I secretly work to try

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT GABRIELA

Year: Sophomore

Height: 5-7

Hometown: Wayland, Mass.

QUICK Qs FOR GABRIELA

If you could join any other team, which would you choose?

“The track team. I love racing and am probably not coordinated enough for some other sports.”

What’s your favorite class you’ve taken at UW?

“I don’t have a favorite, but I’m currently taking a philosophy class about contemporary and moral issues that I really enjoy. It has changed some of my opinions about certain current moral dilemmas in society.”

What are your goals for the future, rowing-based or academic-wise?

“Rowing-based, I want my team to dominate the lightweight rowing division by winning IRAs. Academic-wise I want to graduate with a high GPA, learn a lot and love what I’m learning.”

What’s your favorite place on campus?

“Memorial Union Terrace.”



**MORE
TO COME**

AS AN UNFORGETTABLE SEASON ENDS, THE FINAL FOUR ALSO SERVES AS THE START OF THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR A WISCONSIN BASKETBALL PROGRAM THAT HAS BEEN UNQUESTIONABLY ELEVATED BY ITS REMARKABLE TWO-YEAR RUN AND THE CAST OF CHARACTERS THAT MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM



▲ **TAP TO WATCH** - Wisconsin vs. Kentucky Final Four Highlights

Ethan Happ sat alone with his thoughts in the Wisconsin locker room. And he really was alone. With clusters of media reps, four and five deep, engulfing the locker stalls of Sam Dekker and Nigel Hayes and Bronson Koenig, the 18-year-old Happ sat alone on his Final Four folding chair in a far corner of the room after Monday night's 68-63 loss to Duke.

"We had such a great group of guys, from top to bottom, that really believed in themselves," said Happ, an impressive-looking freshman redshirt from Rock Ridge High School in Taylor Ridge, Illinois, "and that's something that we definitely want to take forward to next year — to truly believe in ourselves and see how far that

can take us."

That strong belief and selflessness took the Badgers to the Big Ten regular season and tournament titles, a second consecutive Final Four and the NCAA championship game where they played in front of 71,149; what was mostly a sea of red at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. That they came up short in the closing minutes against the Blue Devils didn't diminish what they accomplished.

"It was like a dream to watch a team come together the way these guys did and to be a part of it was something special," Happ said. "But this is the toughest part — seeing how hard these guys worked and then seeing it come to an end. This



Happ's classroom was the practice gym. Throughout the season, he also went to school on how Kaminsky performed so well on game days despite the attention that he received. "Frank has taught me so much just by watching him play in games," Happ said. "In the practices, he has been real outspoken on what I need to do better. There's so much that I can take away from all of these seniors."

To this end, he was referencing Wisconsin's three other departing players: Josh Gasser, Traevon Jackson and Duje Dukan. "From Josh

ETHAN HAPP:
It was like a dream to watch a team come together the way these guys did and to be a part of it was something special. This is not the way we wanted it to end. But that's something I can also take away from all of this; along with how hard these guys worked, I know the time they put in.

is not the way we wanted it to end. But that's something I can also take away from all of this; along with how hard these guys worked, I know the time they put in."

The 6-foot-9, 230-pound Happ was an integral contributor on the scout team. Matched daily against Frank Kaminsky, he showed enough flashes to lead everyone to believe that he will slide into a starter's role. "He's had some unbelievable practices where he has been maybe the best player out there," said UW assistant Gary Close. "He has a lot of raw skills and a great motor."

and Trae, it's their mentality, it's their toughness that I take away from both of them," he said. "From Duje, it's just the way he scraps; it's almost guaranteed that he's going to get a foul called against the other team when he goes into the game."

It didn't necessarily work out that way in the second half of the Duke game for Dukan or any of his teammates; the Blue Devils shot 16 free throws to Wisconsin's three, and that foul disparity was not lost on the UW players who were now being grilled on every facet of Monday's loss, particularly since the Badgers have annually fouled less than anybody in college basketball.

"We felt we were playing such solid defense (in the NCAA tournament) and I guess that we weren't," said Nigel Hayes. "We were fouling their guys driving to the rim. We knew that was what they wanted to do and we weren't able to take that away. We felt we were in position and doing all the right things, but the fact that they were still getting rewarded for their drives was

frustrating.”

Hayes was then asked if he planned on returning for his junior season.

“I’m nowhere near good enough,” he said, “to do anything else besides come back.”

A frontline combination of Hayes and Happ could help soften, if not offset, the loss of Kaminsky and potentially Sam Dekker, who will forgo his senior season and enter the NBA draft. Hayes took significant strides as a rebounder and 3-point scoring threat between his freshman and sophomore year and his continued development would be one of the keys to next season’s team.

Quizzed on his role evolving, Hayes said, “I don’t know about a role. I just know that I need to get better. It definitely wasn’t good enough today (Monday night) to help my team win and that’s evident by the fact that we’re in here talking about a loss.”

Was this loss harder to swallow than last year’s loss to Kentucky? “Definitely worse,” he said. “We just lost in the national championship game.”

And he didn’t blame anybody else for not getting it done; instead he blamed himself for not doing more. When it was pointed out to Hayes that Dekker had taken the same responsibility for not doing enough to beat Duke, he said, “That’s just the type of players that we are, that’s the type of program we are and that’s the type of head coach (Bo Ryan) that we have.

“We don’t want to blame other people; we definitely take the responsibility for what we didn’t do out there on the court. Sam will take responsibility for the shots that he missed; he knows that he’s very capable of making those and he has proven that. And that goes for the layups that I missed and the other plays our teammates didn’t make. They’ll definitely hold





▲ **PAN & ZOOM:** TAP PHOTO ONCE TO ENABLE, THEN EXPLORE

themselves accountable for them.

“This is extremely tough,” Hayes was now saying of the Duke loss. “As hard as we worked, and every team can say the same thing, but we worked extremely hard to beat the teams that we beat — the best in awhile — to get to this spot.”

(Hayes was right; Wisconsin joined Maryland’s 2002 squad as the only No. 1 seed to reach the national title game by defeating the highest possible seed in each round — a No. 16, No. 8, No. 4, No. 2 and No. 1.)

“We were so confident and we knew this was our year to win and the fact that it didn’t happen will definitely be tough to deal with.”

But nobody will have to cope with this alone, Hayes emphasized. “We’re a close team, basically a bunch of brothers,” he said. “It’s easier to console one another or keep each other’s heads up. Everyone is definitely hurting inside by us not reaching our goal but with the type of teammates that we have, we’ll be able to pick each other up.”

Hayes agreed that this season’s team would be remembered for many things. Beyond the

awards, the accolades, he said, “We’ll be remembered for how much of a brotherhood this team was, just how close we were and how much fun we had with one another on and off the court. The happy-go-lucky funniness originated from the sophomore class and we’re still here, so we can replicate it.”

One of the sophs, Bronson Koenig, was not having much fun revisiting details of the Duke loss for waves of reporters and sportcasters, one of whom wanted to know if the level of disappointment in losing the championship game was anything he could have imagined. An emotional Koenig did his best to stay composed before saying it was tough because “we were so close to achieving our goal.”

Next season, Koenig will anchor the Badgers’ backcourt with the graduation losses of Gasser and Jackson. “They’ve taught me so much,” Koenig said. “Since I’ve been here, they’ve seen something inside of me that a lot of times I couldn’t see myself and they’ve done a great job of bringing that out of me, and I credit them with the success I’ve had this year and last year, too. I’m going to miss them.”

On what he will remember the most from this group as a whole, he said, “The team comradery that we built, the chemistry and everything like that; just knowing what it takes to win and winning in the regular season and winning in the postseason. We were one step closer this year than we were last year and we’re proud of that. I love the seniors that are going but we’ll be ready to go next year.”

Jordan Hill will be among the guard candidates and the California-bred sophomore redshirted this season with that in mind. “I think the biggest thing that I’ve taken from all of this is that hard work does pay off,” he said. “If you can come together as a group of men and really commit yourself to become better in every facet of the game, on and off the court, you can accomplish something great.”

Gasser and Jackson mentored Hill. “They set

a great example for me,” Hill said. “And I think I can step into a leadership role next year because they were our leaders, they were the guys who spoke up and set the example, along with Frank and Sam. It’s going to be different (without them). But we have to come with the mentality that we don’t want anything less than this at Wisconsin.”

Hill admitted that it was challenging to watch everything play out from a seat on the bench. “I was itching to be out there playing so I could help my team,” he said. “It was killing me that I couldn’t be on the

court but it was definitely a good learning experience as far as understanding how things happen, the speed of the game, and what things need to happen at different times of the game.”

What was this season’s greatest lesson? What has future application? “Time is fleeting,” Hill said. “You’ve got to take advantage of things

“THE SENIORS HAVE TAKEN THIS PROGRAM TO HEIGHTS THAT IT HASN’T SEEN BEFORE AND THEY’VE SET THE BAR AS FAR AS WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED HERE,” GARD SAID. “THEY LEAVE THIS PROGRAM ON UNBELIEVABLE FOOTING. THEY LEFT THEIR MARK.”





while they're on the table. People can stay a lot of things about this (Duke) game that may or may not have gone our way. But it was there, it was there for the taking for both teams. And we didn't do what we needed to do down the stretch.

"Regardless of the factors that we can't control," he said without specifically mentioning the officiating, "there were things that we could control, such as turnovers and getting the best shot possible. Those were things that we can always control and I don't think we connected on the things that we needed to do (over the final five minutes)."

Zak Showalter, who sparked the Badgers to a win over North Carolina, will be another candidate to fill one of the backcourt vacancies. "It has been a dream come true," he said of Wisconsin's season-long run to 36 wins. "Obviously, we wanted that dream to end a different way. But it has been a blast all the way through just spending time with these

guys, this family of ours; it has been awesome."

The seniors have also left their mark on Showalter. "They taught us so much over the last couple of years," he said. "Just watching what Josh does every day and how much he loves this game and this team and the people in this program, I've learned so much from him and how to treat basketball the right way and how to play hard

from Frank and all the guys. I just thank them for everything."

Wisconsin associate head coach Greg Gard, who has had such a major impact in the recruitment of these players, was of the same mindset as Showalter. "The seniors have taken this program to heights that

it hasn't seen before and they've set the bar as far as what can be accomplished here," he said. "They leave this program on unbelievable footing. They left their mark.

"Whenever you leave somewhere," he said, "you want to leave it better than what you found it and those four seniors walking out of this door

WHAT WAS THIS SEASON'S GREATEST LESSON?

"Time is fleeting," Hill said. "You've got to take advantage of things while they're on the table. People can stay a lot of things about this (Duke) game that may or may not have gone our way. But it was there, it was there for the taking for both teams."

this year have left the program better than when they walked in four and five years ago. I can't say enough about what they've done and how they've carried the torch. They've all done it in a very humble and proper way and have been great role models."

Gard confided that part of the sting from Monday night was "knowing that this is the last time you're going to be together, as a group, as a team." But the returning players, he noted, are in a better place today for "seeing how it all played out at the end (against Duke) and what we need to do to get better" and for just having encountered and experienced all that they did on the road to Indy.

"We probably won't have to say a whole lot to them just because of the memories and the path that these guys have taken," Gard said. "They understand how much work it takes and the guys who have been redshirting (Happ and Hill) are now going to be stepping into the limelight; it's their time to move for-

ward. They understand the commitment and how much it takes to be successful.

"For the younger guys in the program, the loss does have a little burn to it, too; this will sting a little bit when they look back in the rearview mirror. But it will also fuel them during the off-season when the guys are working out. And when they're feeling like going home or stopping, maybe it will be the little extra that they need to continue moving forward."

The Final Four turned out to be a twice-in-a-lifetime experience for this accomplished band of players that made school history. "And we still have a bitter taste in our mouth right now just like we did last year," Showalter said. "So that's going to motivate us and we're going to work hard this summer and offseason and be ready to go again next year."

In the far corner of the locker room, Happ sat alone.

After being approached and prodded for a comment, he said, "We want to get back here."

He was not alone with that thought. 





DAVID STLUKA

Lucas: More than anything, Badgers made 'em proud

Title eludes Wisconsin, but special team has its place in history

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

A nearly inconsolable Frank Kaminsky rode in the back end of a golf cart from the locker room to the obligatory post-game media conference here Monday night following Wisconsin's loss to Duke in the national championship game.

Kaminsky, the most decorated player in school history, had his jersey pulled up over his face to cover red eyes, red from crying. An hour later, he was hugging his mom and dad in the lobby of the Omni Hotel after the Badgers returned from Lucas Oil Stadium to cheers and whistles. You didn't have to read lips to assume that Frank Jr. was consoling Frankie III, and 6-foot-10 Frank Jr. is not one to mince words or condone tears; he's a man's man and he knew that his 7-foot son had been the "man" all season — and Frankie was again against the Dukies by scoring 20 points and pulling down 11 rebounds, his 14th double-double of the season.

But it wasn't enough, not on this night when the Blue Devils, especially Tyus Jones, made more plays than the Badgers down the stretch.

Basketball can be cruel and unforgiving. After winning the final five minutes against Kentucky on the strength of a 15-4 run, a trademark all season, it was Duke, not Wisconsin, that made the winning plays down the stretch; which is the only thing that separated these No. 1 seeds who played to the championship

“
This is where the road ended on a heckuva ride, a ride like no other for the most successful team in UW history.
They made 'em believe if they hadn't already. Along the way, they also made 'em smile and laugh at their youthful innocence and antics.

”

-SCROLL FOR MORE-



GREG ANDERSON

Young Badgers growing throughout spring

Wisconsin faces Loyola-Chicago this weekend

The Wisconsin men's soccer team has been hard at work this offseason building on the experience gained last fall. Among the youngest teams in the Big Ten Conference last season, the Badgers are a group that is green and growing and could be poised for a breakout fall in 2015.

The Badgers have already notched one win this spring season in a 3-0 result against Green Bay back in early March. Drew Conner scored twice — once on a penalty kick — and Tom Barlow tacked on another score as UW blanked the Phoenix in a rematch of a 1-0 UW win last fall.

“After a few months of training, the players are very excited to have a chance to compete again,” Wisconsin head coach John Trask said. “We have been pushing hard in the areas of conditioning and weight training this offseason. Many of the young guys have already made significant strides in their development.

“The spring season gives the coaching staff a great opportunity to continue to evaluate the group going into the season.”

That evaluation continues this weekend, when Wisconsin travels to face Loyola-Chicago. Kickoff Saturday is set for 1 p.m.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SPRING SCHEDULE

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

RECENTLY

March 7 **Green Bay** W, 3-0

UPCOMING

April 11 Loyola-Chicago 1 p.m.

April 18 Drake TBA

April 25 Western Illinois 1 p.m.

May 2 Milwaukee 11 a.m.

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GREG ANDERSON

Badgers underway with spring schedule

Wisconsin hosts Illinois in Madison on Sunday

As the season shifts in Madison and the temperatures begin to come around, so too has the Wisconsin women's soccer team for its spring schedule.

Fans interested in checking out the team will get a chance this Sunday, when the Badgers host Big Ten foe Illinois for a spring game at the McClimon Complex.

Wisconsin and Illinois faced off twice last season, with the squads playing to a scoreless tie during the regular season before UW earned a 2-0 win in the opening round of the Big Ten tournament. The Badgers went on to win the Big Ten tournament title for the first time since 2005.

The Badgers dropped a 1-0 result to the Chicago Red Stars of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) in their first spring match. The game was an interesting meeting not only for the opportunity to play a professional team, but also because the Red Stars suited up two former UW standouts in Cara Walls and Michele Dalton.

Sunday's game in Madison will provide a look at how the Badgers are progressing in their efforts to replace key contributors from last year's squad. All-American and Big Ten Goalkeeper of

SPRING SCHEDULE

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

RECENTLY

Mar. 20 Chicago Red Stars L, 1-0

UPCOMING

April 12 **Illinois** 12 p.m.

April 18 vs. Minnesota 12 p.m.

April 25 at Marquette 11 a.m.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Badgers dipping toes in water to start year

UW opens season in races against Syracuse

There are just 47 days between the first time 11th-ranked Wisconsin races this Saturday in Ithaca, New York, against No. 14 Syracuse and the start of the 2015 Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships.

The Badgers will get their first taste of racing in five months this weekend and will use that to see some payoff for the hard work they've put in over the winter. The racing will also help the team begin to learn which group of rowers make their boat move the fastest over 2000 meters.

"On Saturday, we race Syracuse for the first time in my memory in a dual race," UW head coach Chris Clark said. "Syracuse, climate-wise, has a lot in common with us and we both have struggled to find races early enough against teams in our league. Both our squads often look a lot different in a couple of months — hopefully in a good way — so the early races, while very import, are just the first step on a long road."

Wisconsin will put together crews for the weekend that will not have had much time together. With rowing, one could consider it the ultimate team sport, so time together as a crew can be part of what makes a boat move quickly. The Badgers will

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| April 11 | at Syracuse
<i>Ithaca, N.Y.</i> |
| April 17-18 | at Stanford Invitational
<i>Redwood City, Calif.</i> |
| April 18 | Minnesota/MSOE
<i>Madison, Wis.</i> |
| May 2 | Boston University/
MIT/Northeastern
<i>Baraboo, Wis.</i> |
| May 17 | at EARC Championships
<i>Redwood City, Calif.</i> |

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Time for UW to get rowing in New Jersey

Season begins at national championship site

After months of indoor training, the Wisconsin lightweight women's rowing team is more than ready to hit open water.

The first competition of spring for the Badgers will be the annual Knecht Cup in West Windsor, New Jersey. The course is familiar, being that it is where Tenzin Khangkar, Julia Glueck, Katie Rosoff, Gretchen Miron and Megan Oechsel brought home a national championship in the four at last season's Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships. The team will be back to the course for IRAs this season, as well.

Head coach Lisa Schlenker is ready for spring season to get rolling.

"We are traveling with three boats worth of athletes and one spare," Schlenker said. "We had a productive spring break training and are looking forward to getting lots of races in to enhance our time on the water."

The team spent its latest training trip at Melton Lake Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, preparing for what's to come. With five months of a frozen Lake Mendota and seemingly non-stop erg tests under their belt, the trip meant a week to come together

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

April 11-12 **Knecht Cup**
West Windsor, N.J.

April 18-19 **Boston Round Robin**
Boston

May 3 **EAWRC Championships**
Cherry Hill, N.J.

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

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DIAMOND CROWD

APRIL 15, 2007: A then-school-record 1,097 fans packed Goodman Diamond to see the softball team's doubleheader against Purdue. Wisconsin lost the first game against the Boilermakers, 4-3, but won the second game of the twinbill, 6-5.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



BLAKE FOR BAKER

APRIL 9, 2010:

Center Blake Geoffrion heard his name called on the Ford Field ice rink at the Frozen Four and became Wisconsin's first Hobey Baker Memorial Award winner.



WNBA BOUND

APRIL 9, 2008:

Jolene Anderson was the third player in UW women's basketball history to be drafted into the WNBA, going No. 23 overall to the Connecticut Sun.



OH MY, OMOLE

APRIL 14, 2006:

Junior Demi Omole won the 100 meters at the Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville, Tennessee, setting a school record with his blistering run of 10.11 seconds.