

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

VARSITY

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WHAT'S NEXT

SUPER SOPHOMORES SOJOURN SHELTON, NIGEL HAYES AND LAUREN CARLINI LEAD THE WAY INTO A SEASON FULL OF PROMISE FOR A WHOLE NEW CROP OF BADGERS



COVER STORY

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Some are new faces and some made an immediate impact as freshmen last year. But for all the Badgers featured in this year's "What's Next" issue, expectations are high for 2014-15.



LUCAS AT LARGE

NO TIME TO SLEEP

After leading the Seahawks to a Super Bowl title, Russell Wilson has no plans to rest on his laurels.

BEHIND THE DESK

#THANKSFANS

Director of Athletics Barry Alvarez looks back at another outstanding year for the Badgers, both on and off the field.



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Varsity

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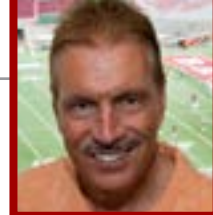
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Wilson hopes to leave no doubt about future

Russell Wilson unconsciously fidgeted with the Super-sized ring on his right hand. You could tell the former Wisconsin quarterback was still unaccustomed to calling so much attention to himself with a piece of jewelry on his finger, no matter the crowning achievement that the ring symbolizes in the NFL.

"I try not to be too flashy," pleaded the 25-year-old Wilson. "I like to go under the radar."

That's not the easiest thing to do anymore when you're the starting quarterback for the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks and one of the most recognizable athletes in the sports world and beyond.

"Wearing this Super Bowl ring is truly special," Wilson was saying. "I don't wear it often, but when I do, I think of the sense of sacrifice, I think of the togetherness that our team had and I think of our commitment as players. We always said, 'Leave no doubt' and that's what we did."

In late June, Wilson returned to Madison to stage his one-day passing academy at Camp Randall Stadium and the McClain Facility. While here, he visited with athletic director Barry Alvarez ("I wore the ring for him so he could check it out") and he attended a dinner honoring multiple UW legends.

The ring is stunning. The

three-dimensional "green-eyed" Seahawks logo radiates with 65 round diamonds and one neon Tsavorite surrounded by gemstones, 12 to be exact, which is the magic number in the Pacific Northwest. There are 12 gemstones, 12 feathers, 12 flags, all in honor of the "12th man."

On the inside of the ring, there are some engraved messages to go along with the Tiffany & Co. copyright. The aforementioned "Leave No Doubt" has the top line under which there is "24/7." There's the final score of Super Bowl XLVIII: "Sea 43, Den 8." And there's one last message, "What's next?"

Indeed, what's next, not only for Wilson, but everyone featured in this issue of *Varsity*? What's next for Sojourn Shelton and Corey Clement in football? What's next for Nigel Hayes and Bronson Koenig in basketball? What's next for Lauren Carlini in volleyball and Ann-Renee Desbiens in hockey?

Wilson made it clear that he knows what's next for the Seahawks. But in moving forward, he couldn't help but think back to the time, however limited, that he spent on this campus and in this community and how all of those experiences helped shape so many things in his life.

"Whenever I land in Madison, it's a special moment for me. It's surreal," he said. "Every time I come on this campus, it's some-

thing special. It's one of those things where I will always have a huge place in my heart for Wisconsin. I love the school and I love the people here."

After transferring from NC State, after giving up his professional baseball dream, how far away was Wilson from being an NFL quarterback when he took his first snap with the Badgers? "I don't think I was far," he said softly. "I wasn't far at all."

Especially after he uncovered some missing pieces to his own personal QB puzzle during the 2011 season; a mix of incredible highs and gut-wrenching lows. "Playing in another conference (the Big Ten) and having to learn a whole new offense helped me improve for the NFL," Wilson claimed.

Laughing, he recalled, "I used to put plays on the back of note cards and carry them around everywhere and the guys used to look at me funny. And, then, I'd run plays late at night in Camp Randall. I usually got in somehow or I'd ask someone to let me in. I've always been big into visualization.

"Playing with the (UW) offense, and the style of play, is similar to what we have in Seattle," he went on. "How we spread out guys with the Seahawks is more like NC State. But the fierce running attack that we have with the Seahawks is very similar to what we were doing



when I was here.”

While everyone felt that Wilson had to prove that he was tall enough to play quarterback in the NFL, he looked at it differently. “You’re always an unknown,” he said, accepting his fate. “I trusted the fact that my talent was going to take me where I needed to go, and it was just going to work.”

So much has seemingly changed in his life since Wilson was drafted in the third round, the 75th player overall, by the Seahawks. But how much has he changed? “I really don’t consider myself a celebrity,” he said innocently, if not naively. “I just try to be as normal as possible.”

It’s quite the challenge. In late May, the *Seattle Times* polled its readers: “Do you like Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson with a fuller head of hair or his new, very close-cropped look?” This was after Wilson showed up for the team’s visit to the White House with the latter, along with a goatee.

Wilson is news, never more so than after he filed for divorce, which he revealed on the Seahawks web site. Wrote one *Seattle Times* columnist, “Probably no other player in Seattle would have warranted any coverage of a dissolving marriage.”

But ...

“But Wilson is not just the most prominent athlete in Seattle,” Larry Stone opined, “he might well be the most promi-

nent citizen in Seattle. And, as the quarterback of the Super Bowl champion, he has reached the national stature of a superstar.”

Asked about the concessions, if any, that he has made to carrying such a “prominent” profile, Wilson said, “There’s always a challenge of privacy. But I don’t try to worry about it too much. You always hope people respect that part of your life.”

What about the Wilson brand? What has gone into that? What brand, he questioned. “I guess I have one; that’s for someone else to answer,” he said. “I just try to be who I am. I try to be very humble. I try to put the things I love most first. God has truly blessed me over and over again.”

Wilson has been pleased with American Family Insurance and how it has represented him and supported his passing academy. “It’s a great company and huge in my life, especially in terms of helping the kids,” he said. “They find ways to make a difference in kid’s lives and that’s really spectacular for me.”

Committed to making that difference himself, Wilson has conducted his camp in Madison, Richmond, Virginia, Raleigh, North Carolina, Vancouver, B.C., and Los Angeles. He also has three sessions in Seattle, all dedicated to teaching fundamental skills to youngsters, ages 9 through 17.

“There was a kid named Lavelle and he ended up winning the MVP (in Madison),” Wilson said. “About a week and a half ago, he found his mom on the kitchen floor. She had passed away. As we were eating lunch together, he asked me, ‘What was that first song you played today?’”

Wilson always has music playing during his camps. “It was Michael Jackson and ‘I’ll Be There,’” he told him. “Lavelle said, ‘That was my mom’s favorite song.’ God works in mysterious ways. There’s a story like that from every camp. That’s why I run the camps. How can I affect that one kid and his life?”

It was something that he learned at home from his late father, Harrison, who passed away in 2010. He can’t look at his Super Bowl ring without thinking of him and the lessons that were taught. Such as “Never get too down, never get too high, just always stay focused on what your mission is.”

And never take anything for granted. “You never know when this game can be taken away from you,” he said. “You never know when you may get hurt or something bad is going to happen. So you have to take every day and practice as hard as you can because you don’t know if you’ll see it again.”

So what is next for Russell Wilson? “Defend the ring,” he said resolutely, leaving no doubt. ■



Putting a bow on another terrific year

With the 2013-14 school year coming to a close, we have all had time to reflect on what was a tremendous year to be a Badger. I hope you are as proud as I am of the accomplishments of our student-athletes, coaches and staff, both on and off the field.

Athletically, there were a number of things to celebrate, with three of our teams advancing to championship weekend. First-year head coach Kelly Sheffield did a marvelous job in guiding the volleyball team's run to the national title game. Our women's hockey team continued its tradition of success by reaching the Frozen Four for the seventh time in nine years. And we won't soon forget the men's basketball team's magical march to the Final Four in Arlington, Texas.

In all, 18 of our 23 teams advanced to postseason play. Gary Andersen's first season was punctuated by another January 1 bowl game appearance, the men's soccer team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1995 and behind a strong senior class, the softball team made back-to-back NCAA appearances for just the second time in school history.

The men's hockey team had quite a debut in the inaugural Big Ten campaign, winning the league's playoff title with a stirring comeback win in overtime

against Ohio State. And speaking of conference titles, the men's track and field team continued its dominance, sweeping the indoor and outdoor Big Ten crowns for the 12th time in program history.

It all added up to a top-20 finish in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup, which recognizes success among all sports. That broad-based success is something we strive for each and every year.

Our nearly 800 student-athletes also continue to excel in the classroom as they combined for a cumulative grade-point average of 3.02 for the academic year. Seven teams either set or tied their highest term or cumulative team grade-point averages, 209 Badgers earned academic all-conference honors and our streak of consecutive years with at least one CoSIDA Academic All-American was extended to 35, tied for the second-longest active streak in the country.

In the community, our Badgers Give Back program is the envy

of many athletic departments around the country. Our student-athletes volunteered an astounding 8,100 hours in 2013-14 as nearly 80 percent of them participated. They truly recognize the importance of being involved in the community and giving their time, and how it can especially impact a young person's life.

We take pride in developing well-rounded student-athletes and that's why I was excited about the completion of the Stephen M. Bennett Student-Athlete Performance Center in January. Due to the tremendous generosity of a number of our donors, we were able to build a facility that touches our student-athletes in numerous ways, with a new academic center, state-of-the-art sports medicine facilities, renovated locker rooms and expanded weight rooms.

As we look ahead to 2014-15, I would be remiss if we did so without thanking all of our fans. In addition to all of our accomplishments, we again ranked among the nation's leaders in attendance, with six different sports placing among the top 20 in the country. That's a true testament to the great support we have.

Thanks for all you do in support of the Badgers. ■

[Tap here to watch the thank you video.](#)



Without further ado, on to the football

With another college football season upon us, we welcome a new era. Again. Gone is the BCS. Gone is the 12-team Big Ten. Gone are the Legends and Leaders divisions.

This year, we welcome the College Football Playoff, a four-team postseason event that is sure to have fans talking and debating all year long.

This year, the Big Ten welcomes Maryland and Rutgers. The Badgers will see both programs this fall. The Terps are Wisconsin's Homecoming opponent. The following week coach Gary Andersen will take his team to Piscataway, New Jersey, to face the Scarlet Knights.

Finally, the conference divisions are now simply East and West, with the Badgers residing in the West.

Of course, there are other moving parts in the world of college fun and games, from the O'Bannon case to the authority of the Power 5 conferences. What it all means is very much open to speculation. Whatever the case, the next few years figure to be quite interesting.

Yet, while change is evident, there are aspects of college sports that remain much the same. Specifically, I am referring to the anticipation of another year.

Fans want to know about the

quarterback competition. How are the young receivers coming along? Can they replace Jared Abbrederis? Will the defense fill the void left by Chris Borland, who was as good a linebacker as any in school history.

And, how do you pronounce that freshman kicker's name again, Rafael Gaglianone? (it's HA-fy-el GAHG-lee-ah-no-nee).

After a recent practice, a group of loyal donors to UW Athletics viewed a 2013 highlight video. As you might guess, players such as Abbrederis, Borland and James White had starring roles.

**YES, THERE ARE CHANGES
IN THE COLLEGE SPORTS
LANDSCAPE. BUT WHAT
REMAINS THE SAME IS
THE FUN OF LOOKING
FORWARD TO ANOTHER
SEASON.**

In 2014, it is time for a new group of players to make their mark. Perhaps no single player can be the next Abby, but between some of the veterans and an exciting looking group of newcomers, the receiving corps has a fair amount of promise.

Finding the next Chris Borland is much easier said than done. It might be asking a bit much for one player to do everything Borland did. He was a tackling machine and a master at forcing a fumble. He also could kick an

extra point, and he even completed a pass.

OK, so the coaches might try to avoid putting that heavy a workload on the returning linebackers, but collectively, this athletic group believes it has the goods to cause trouble for opposing offenses.

This should be a fun group to watch develop. I have gone this deep into my blog without mentioning Melvin Gordon, who is a big play threat every time he touches the ball. Sophomore Corey Clement had a taste of the college game last year. Now he is ready for more.

During the offseason program and throughout training camp, thoughts of the opener with LSU were never too far away. As excited as any player gets for the start of a season, the Aug. 30 date with the Tigers in Houston has a way of making everyone fight through fatigue.

Soon, the Badgers will have the opportunity to make those months of hard work pay off.

Yes, there are changes in the college sports landscape. But what remains the same is the fun of looking forward to another season.

So bring on the 14-team Big Ten. Bring on the East and West divisions. Bring on the College Football Playoff.

And bring on another season — finally! ■

WHO ON YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO HAVE A BREAKOUT SEASON IN 2014-15?



JOSH GASSER

Senior • Men's Basketball

“I’d say **Vitto Brown** and/or **Zak Showalter** could both be surprises. Vitto could add a lot size and physical presence to us inside. He’s really gotten a lot better since last season at understanding the game overall. And with us losing Ben Brust, there could be guard minutes available and Showy could be a guy who doesn’t need to score a lot but comes in and does the dirty work and bring toughness to the team.”



CARA WALLS

Senior • Women's Soccer

“I would say **Becca Harrison** has been looking really good so far. She has great technical ability and a high soccer IQ. I think she will really be able to help us break teams down offensively this season.”



MELVIN GORDON

Junior • Football

“I’d say **Kenzel Doe**. He’s been working really hard, has been one of the leaders on the team this summer and has been really standing out (in fall camp) as a guy who makes plays. I’m anxious to see what he does. He’s a small receiver but he plays big. He’s been waiting for a while, but this is his opportunity to step up and I think he’s ready to take the role.”



LAUREN CARLINI

Sophomore • Volleyball

“I think **Haleigh Nelson** is going to have a break out year this season because she has been working really hard during off season. She’s been working on all aspects of her game, not just the hitting part of things. She knows she’s expected to do a lot more this year and she’s embracing that role.”





IVY MARTIN

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

A senior from Madison, Ivy Martin had a monumental summer. The Wisconsin sprinter recently held her own against some of the best in the world at the 2014 Phillips 66 National Championships in Irvine, California, and was one of 30 women who qualified for the U.S. national team for the 2014 Pan Pacific Championships. Martin will compete in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle and 100-meter butterfly at the event, which is set for Aug. 21-25 in Australia. Martin won a pair of Big Ten titles for the Badgers last season and earned All-America honors in three events at the NCAA championships.

What was the experience like to swim at the Phillips 66 National Championships?

"I always love swimming at the big national meets like the Phillips 66 National Championships. There is so much competition. It's really valuable to have opportunities to race some of the best swimmers in the country and the world."

What are you most looking forward to about the Pan Pacific Championships in Australia?

"This will be my first international meet and first meet with Team USA. I'm just really excited in general for all of the new things I will be experiencing. I'm excited to meet people and race people from all around the world. But, I'm most excited to have the honor of sporting the red, white and blue."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

ALL ABOUT IVY

Class: Senior

Major: Psychology and Sociology

Hometown: Madison, Wisconsin

Height: 5-8

Events: Sprint Freestyle

Birthday: July 29

Personal Bests

50 Free: 21.58 (2/19/2014)

100 Free: 47.78 (2/19/2014)

200 Free: 1:49.89 (2/8/2014)

50 Back: 25.97 (2/8/2014)

100 Fly: 52.80 (2/19/2014)

Honors

2014

- Big Ten Champion (50 Free, 100 Free)
- Big Ten Swimmer of the Championships
- First-Team All-Big Ten
- Academic All-Big Ten
- CSCAA First Team Scholar All-American
- Big Ten Swimmer of the Week (3)

2013

- Big Ten Champion (50 Free)
- First-Team All-Big Ten
- Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club Sportswoman of the Year
- Big Ten Swimmer of the Week (2)

WHAT'S NEXT

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM



WHAT'S NEXT →



**SCROLL DOWN
TO READ EACH
"WHAT'S NEXT"
FEATURE**

**LAUREN
CARLINI**

ONE OF LAUREN CARLINI'S EARLIEST role models was Kelly Murphy. When Carlini was in the eighth grade, Murphy was a senior at Joilet (Illinois) Catholic High School. Despite their age difference, they played on the same club team and Carlini remembered saying, “I’ll never be as good as this girl. She was amazing.”

Now consider all the thoughts that were racing through Carlini’s mind when she began training with the U.S. National Team in late May and one of her teammates was none other than Murphy. “Now here I’m setting for her,” recounted Carlini, still in awe. “It’s just crazy to realize how far I’ve come.”

It’s even crazier to retrace the similar steps that have been taken by Murphy, 24, and Carlini, 19, to reach this intersection in their respective volleyball careers. Both Illinois natives were the Gatorade National Player of the Year. Both were tabbed as the nation’s No. 1 recruit by PrepVolleyball.com.

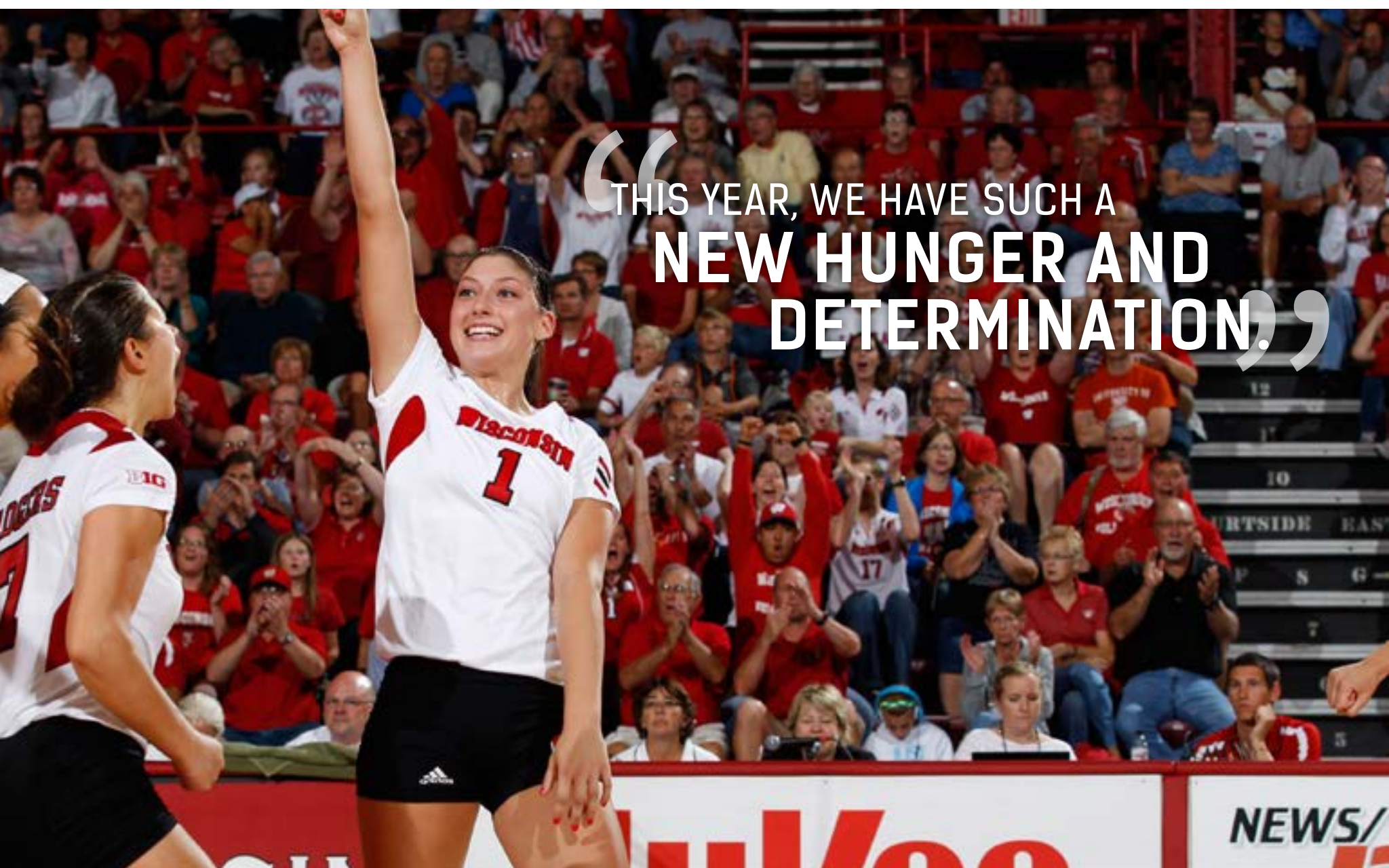
Murphy was the national Freshman of the Year

in 2008 and a two-time first-team All-American at Florida, while Carlini, who hails from Aurora, was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year and a second-team All-American last year. She was also a catalyst in Wisconsin’s memorable run to the NCAA final.

After reaching such rarified heights — the Badgers lost to Penn State in the championship match — Carlini was quickly brought down to earth when she joined the national team in Anaheim. Not only was she the youngest player in the training camp, she was the only college player.

“I was in awe and intimidated at the same time,” Carlini said. “I can’t remember a time when I was this nervous to play volleyball. I tried to mentally prepare myself before I got out there. But it was harder than I thought it was going to be just adjusting to the system and how the veterans run things.”

The first scrimmage was particularly eye-opening and painful from Carlini’s perspective. “It was probably the worst I’ve ever played vol-



“THIS YEAR, WE HAVE SUCH A
**NEW HUNGER AND
DETERMINATION.**”



leyball,” she confided. “Everyone after the match came up to me and said, ‘I could tell you were really nervous and you looked shaky out there.’”

Carlini felt so bad about her performance that she went up to her middle blocker, Lauren Gibbemeyer, a former Minnesota star, and apologized. “I had zero middle connections,” Carlini recalled, “and I looked at her and said, ‘I’m so sorry ... that was awful.’”

Carlini received immediate reassurance that she belonged despite the rocky start.

“Everyone was like, ‘Lauren, calm down, everyone has been there,’” Carlini said.

The 26-year-old Gibbemeyer then delivered the most meaningful words.

“You just played in your first big-girl match,” she advised Carlini. “It will get better.”

Carlini was able to finally exhale; especially after UW coach Kelly Sheffield arrived in Anaheim.

“Kelly came out the next week,” Carlini recounted, “and he said, ‘Look, it’s alright, you have no pressure on you. Everyone else is expected to perform well. You’re in college still and you have plenty of time to get to that (national team) level, so just go out there and play.’”

Sheffield has the pulse of all of his players and understood what Carlini was going through. “Look, the kid works, she’s coachable, she’s very team-oriented,” Sheffield emphasized. “With that said, she has probably always been the best player on every team that she has been a part of.”

And now she was on the opposite end of the food chain; a newbie competing with older and more accomplished Olympic-driven athletes. “There are not a lot of times in her career where she’s ever had to experience that,” Sheffield said. “Now, she’s having to dig and fight and scratch.”

National team coach Karch Kiraly, a volleyball legend, encouraged Carlini to keep battling. “He was really helpful and supportive as far as he knew what was going on and the position that I was in,” said Carlini, noting that the Hall of Famer would offer instruction, “This is what you need to do.”

Carlini also came under the wing of national team setter Alisha Glass, an international savvy 26-year-old who won three NCAA titles at Penn State. Carli-

ni learned by watching her techniques. “Her hands are exactly the way they want them to look,” she said. “Trying to do that myself helped a lot.”

Gaining the trust of players like Glass was part of the challenge for Carlini. “At first, she was a little standoffish, which I completely understand,” Carlini said. “As we got to know each other a little bit more, it was like, ‘OK, Lauren, this is what you need to do. Calm down.’”

Carlini was with the national team for three weeks, which entailed practices Monday through Friday even when half the group was playing at a tournament in Switzerland. After the only other college player, USC’s Ebony Nwanebu, went home because of an injury, did Carlini feel like an outsider?

“When I was in the gym, I didn’t feel like that; I felt involved, I felt like I was a part of the team or at least I felt like I was trying to train with them,” she said. “Outside of the gym, it was a little harder. You’re living by yourself in an apartment and thinking, ‘OK, what do I do at the end of the day?’”

“But the volleyball experience was more important than anything. I got to know some of the girls who just graduated from college (like Iowa State’s Kristen Hahn) and I kind of clicked with them a little bit and went where they went.”

One of the rewarding experiences for Carlini was her exposure to the Starlings, a volleyball club and organization dedicated to opening doors nationwide for underprivileged youngsters. The national team members interacted, on and off the court, with the Starlings every Monday and Wednesday.

“It was not only about the volleyball,” Carlini said. “It was about talking to them and getting to know them. It left an impression because it

shows how you can affect people around you and how what you do is valuable to others. It’s not just about your own little world.”

As for the tempo of play, the pace during practices, it was a world of difference. “It was very fast,” Carlini said. “I remember Kelly tweeted something about how the ball doesn’t go over the top of the antenna, and he was right. Whenever you’re on the court, you’re pushing it as fast as you can.

“I definitely think we can speed up our system. There are a few plays that I would like to incorporate. Kelly was there for a few days and it really helped for me to be able to talk to him and see what he was seeing. We kind of talked about it (how she was playing) and figured some

FROM COACH SHEFFIELD:

LOOK, THE KID WORKS, SHE’S COACHABLE, SHE’S VERY TEAM-ORIENTED. WITH THAT SAID, SHE HAS PROBABLY ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST PLAYER ON EVERY TEAM THAT SHE HAS BEEN A PART OF.





things out.”

By the end of her third week in Anaheim, Carlini had found her competitive niche — so much so that Kiraly invited her to stick around for two more weeks of training, which was above and beyond the original commitment to the national team.

The fact that she had put herself in a position to warrant such an offer was pretty heady stuff. “(Kiraly) sounded really excited about it,” she said, “and I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, what am I going to do?’ I was so 50-50 at that point that I told him I’d give him an answer after the scrimmage.”

Carlini had a strong showing. It was a day-and-night difference from her first scrimmage.

“I felt really confident about my play,” she said. “Karch came up to me and said, ‘Look, you were the best setter out there tonight, I’m really proud of you. You’ve made great progress. What’s your answer?’ I said, ‘Thank you very much for the offer, but I want to get back to my team.’”

“Going out on a high note with the scrimmage was a good way to go. I got what I wanted out of it. I got my toes wet, I got my foot in the door (with the national team) and they know what I can do. What’s two more weeks going to do for me? That was my thinking.”

Based on what he saw out of Carlini in the

training camp, especially how she handled the upgrade in competition and the speed of play, Sheffield said, “The more you’re able to see a game that quick, it slows down in some other way. It will benefit her in a lot of ways we just don’t know yet.

“She has to keep getting better and there are a lot of ways that she can do that. She has been working on her serve; I think defensively she can get better; she can become a better attacker and a better blocker; her choices can get a lot better, along with her location.

“She’s got a ways to go and she’s working hard to get there.”

Carlini doesn’t mince words when it comes to identifying what’s next.

“A national championship — no ifs, ands or buts about it,” she said. “This year, we have such a new hunger and determination. Coming in second place is one of the most painful things just because you’ll never forget how that feels when you lose that final point.

“The other team is going crazy and everyone starts crying and you’re just standing there in shock. I don’t think any of us ever want to feel that way again, so we’ll all do whatever it takes throughout the summer and preseason and season to win...”

She already filled in the blank. 

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE

WHAT'S NEXT



ROMANA KRISKOVA
& ERIN JULEY

ROMANA KRISKOVA DID HER BEST TO follow the 2013 NCAA national semifinals in Seattle. But there were some logistical challenges in getting the results since Kriskova was at home last December when Wisconsin was upsetting Texas and Penn State was beating Washington to set up an all-Big Ten final.

Home is Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia.

So when the Badgers and Nittany Lions were getting underway at 6:30 p.m. (Pacific Time Zone), it was 3:30 a.m. in Liptovsky Mikulas, a popular tourist destination on the Vah River in northern Slovakia, not far from the Jasna ski resort in the low Tatra Mountain and 200 miles from Bratislava, the capitol.

Seven months later, Kriskova is now in the process of making herself at home in Madison with her new teammates in the Wisconsin volleyball program. “I really feel welcome on this team,”

Kriskova said. “I love my teammates. They’ve been unbelievable.”

After two seasons at Virginia Commonwealth University — where she was the 2013 Atlantic 10 Conference Player of the Year and an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore — Kriskova is anxious to begin anew in the Big Ten Conference as one of two transfers who could have an immediate impact on the Badgers.

The other is Erin Juley, a two-year starter at Long Beach State.

“We’re both doing our best to fit in,” said Juley, who’s from La Grange, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. “It’s not like we’re coming in here as freshmen and it’s like, ‘Mold us.’ We have our techniques and we’re kind of morphing it all together and trying to take the best of both (worlds).”

Juley and Kriskova each have two years of eligibility remaining. This summer, they’ve been



Junior **Erin Juley**, from La Grange, Illinois, played her past two years at Long Beach State.



Junior **Romana Kriskova** is from Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. She played two seasons at Virginia Commonwealth University.

rooming together, along with senior Julie Mikaelsen, who's coming off an injury redshirt. Mikaelsen is originally from Askim, Norway. "It's like we should have a reality TV show," Juley kidded.

Kriskova is still dealing with an obvious cultural adjustment. She's only been in the United States since 2012. "I wanted to play American volleyball because it's completely different from the European style," she said. "I just wanted to try something new, something different."

She went through a transition at VCU and now, she's going through another one at Wisconsin. "Her English is pretty good — better than mine sometimes," said Juley, laughing. "She's doing great. I know how hard it is for me; I can't imagine how hard it would be for her. It's such a big change."

UW coach Kelly Sheffield has been pleased by the way they've meshed.

"That's cool, that's what you want," he said.

"You want your older kids embracing and helping out the kids that are coming in and it seems like those guys (Juley, Kriskova and Mikaelsen) have been running around like they've been friends for years.

"You want your team to be like a family. It's not all competitiveness and ripping each other's heads off. You want people having each other's back and supporting each other and enjoying being around each other. We talk about it that way and it's nice when that happens.

"These are kids (Juley and Kriskova) that have experience and could be taking playing time from kids who played here last year. But it's neat to have a culture in place where those kids aren't threatened. They bring them into the family saying, 'You're one of us. We'll take care of you.'"

Juley has definitely found that to be true.

"It has been amazing; I feel like I've known (her teammates) for a very long time," she said.





As a true freshman at Long Beach State, Juley led her team to a Big West Conference-best .252 hitting percentage. She ranked third in the conference with a 10.61 assist per set average.

“We’ve been clicking really well. Honestly, I can go up to any of them and I know something personal about them. We all get along. It’s one of the reasons I came here, the team culture is great.”

Her family was another reason for transferring closer to home, especially since her dad is a UW alum. “He’s a die-hard fan,” Juley said. “I’d always watch Badger sports (growing up). I’ve been away from my family for a long time and I’ve been doing well. But it’s attractive to want to come back, too.”

When Juley was 13, she left La Grange each summer to attend volleyball camps in California. Her club coach, John Trojaniak, was friends with Long Beach State coach Brian Gimmillaro and recommended that Juley learn from Gimmillaro and his assistant, Debbie Green, a two-time Olympian.

Green, now retired from coaching, is viewed as one of the greatest setters of all-time.

“I committed (to Long Beach State) when I was a sophomore,” Juley said. “I had played on a club team (in Illinois) where I wasn’t shown that much and I was just kind of playing for fun, so I didn’t get a lot of (national) exposure. I kind of sneaked in there and it worked out really well.”

As a true freshman, ready or not, Juley took over as the Long Beach State setter because of a lack of production at the position. And she sparked the 49ers to a Big West Conference-best .252 hitting percentage and finished the season with a 10.61 assist per set average that ranked third in the conference.

In retrospect, Juley admitted, “I probably shouldn’t have played my freshman year.”

Physically, she felt it took too much of a toll on her surgically-repaired left knee, which she first injured in high school. “I’ve had three knee surgeries (overall),” said Juley, who played in two matches before taking a medical redshirt as a sophomore at Long Beach State. “It took forever to heal after that.”

Nonetheless, a resilient Juley bounced back to start all 29 matches last season for the 49ers.

But there were some differences of opinion on what was next for her within the program. Gimmillaro wanted to move in another direction. “And if I wanted to continue my career, I had to leave,” Juley said.

While contemplating her options, she contacted Sheffield. “I called him up and asked, ‘What’s your opinion on this?’” said Juley, who liked what she heard about the UW program and transferred. “It’s not how I saw my college career going. But it just turned out to be the best situation for me.”

Sheffield wasn’t about to dissect the details of her transfer or why such a good player would be available. “Here’s what I know,” he said. “I know she’s talented, I know she’s experienced and I know she has loved this (Badger) program since she was a little kid.”

Asked about her knee, Juley said, “It’s feeling great — the best it has in years — which is good.” There are no second-guesses, either. “I don’t regret it at all. I learned so much,” she said. “It was great living in California and to have mentors like Debbie Green and Misty May-Treanor. Who gets that?”

May-Treanor, a three-time Olympic gold medalist, coached Long Beach State to a national championship in beach volleyball and Juley was a member of that team. “On the sand,” Juley said, “you’re very vulnerable and you have to be good at everything ... you can’t hide on the court.”

Besides the sand feeling good on her knees, it felt even better to be coached by a living volleyball legend in May-Treanor. “She expects a lot and she’s demanding,” Juley said. “But she taught you how to be a better player and a better person. She brought out the best in everyone.”

What drove Juley while she was rehabbing from knee surgery is what is still driving her today. “That I love volleyball — a lot — I will not give up, if it’s what I want,” she said. “I thought about staying and ending my career there (at Long Beach State). But I wanted to end on a good note, on my terms.”



During her two seasons with VCU, Kriskova was the 2013 Atlantic 10 Conference Player of the Year and an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore.



Moreover, the 21-year-old Juley said, “I want to bring out all that I have left to give because I didn’t feel that I was done.” Competing is something that excites her and she expressed that to Sheffield. “It’s the truest thing I’ve ever said,” she insisted.


That is, “How fun the gym is going to be because of how competitive it’s going to be with how much we’re going to push each other. It’s going to be such a talented and hard-working gym. That’s what I want out of this college experience. I want to help these guys win a national championship.”

Sheffield fully understands the role of competition in grooming a roster and title contender.

“Last year’s team had a nice run but we didn’t have much depth at all and we were pretty beat up,” Sheffield said. “This year, we have some depth and we have some options. We’ve got the ability to maybe play some different styles that will make the preseason interesting.

“Romana brings some heat — she’s got a really big arm. She can attack with a lot of velocity and she can serve; she puts a lot of pop on the ball. We don’t have a lot of players who can get up there and bounce the ball and rip it the way that she can.”

Kriskova suffered a slight setback during pre-season camp as she had to undergo arthroscopic surgery on her left knee on Aug. 11 to clean up some lingering issues. She is expected to miss a couple of weeks of practice but Sheffield expects her back on the court early in the season.

“Erin gives us another great setter in the gym (to go along with Lauren Carlini),” said Sheffield. “She’s got a lot of high-level Division I starting experience and that’s going to make our gym better. I know we’re bringing in two transfers that absolutely love to play the game and absolutely embrace the moment.” 

“ROMANA BRINGS SOME HEAT – SHE’S GOT A REALLY BIG ARM,” SHEFFIELD SAID. “ERIN GIVES US ANOTHER GREAT SETTER. I KNOW WE’RE BRINGING IN TWO TRANSFERS THAT ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO PLAY THE GAME.”

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE



WHAT'S NEXT

NIGEL
HAYES

bY WINNING THE BIG TEN'S SIXTH MAN of the Year award as a freshman, Nigel Hayes pulled his weight, and then some. And he was back at it again during the first day of off-season conditioning.

Hayes was dragging 250 pounds across the floor from Point A to Point B and back again to Point A. The backward sled pull was the idea of a resourceful second-year UW strength coach Erik Helland.

It was a pretty simple test if not task. "It doesn't have to be complex," Helland said with a mischievous grin. "It's really just kind of a fitness, core strength thing."

Trying to catch his breath afterward, Hayes pointed out, "We did not do this last fall; this is brand spanking new to us. And it's real. And that's all I'm going to say ... it's a real workout."

Helland was happy to hear that; really happy. "He thought that was hard?" he posed rhetorically. "That's all right."

It was harder for some than others. Sophomore guard Jordan Hill struggled to finish. Upon Helland's urging, Hayes made sure that Hill knew that someone would always have his back.

"He (Helland) said to us, 'No one gets left behind,'" Hayes explained. "So I had to go save my teammate, my brother. I had to get him out of the burning building with the fireman carry."

Hayes put Hill across his shoulders and carried him to the locker room. Both were laughing.

• • • •



College basketball analyst Dick Vitale may have put more weight on Hayes' broad shoulders – the weight of expectations – when he singled Hayes out as a sophomore to watch for 2014-15.

"I love his athleticism and there were times he showed flashes of brilliance," Vitale opined on ESPN.com. "I believe he will be a superstar before he leaves Madison."

Qualifying his "Elite Eight" list as a group of players who will have increased responsibilities as sophomores, Vitale added, "Next season, teaming up with Frank Kaminsky, Hayes should be special."

Michigan's Zak Irvin, Florida's Kasey Hill and Virginian's London Perrantes were among the listed players that Vitale suggested "need to excel to move their respective teams forward."

DICK VITALE ON HAYES:
"I LOVE HIS ATHLETICISM
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STAR BEFORE HE
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If that sounds like pressure, the 19-year-old Hayes says that he's tone-deaf.

"My biggest expectation always comes from my mother (Talaya)," he said. "She has the highest expectations for me – higher than any fan or any media could ever put on me."

Hayes is from Toledo, Ohio and he knows his mom will be keeping score. "If I go out there and do well and I keep her happy with the way I play," he said, "I'm sure you guys will enjoy it as well."

At the end of the spring semester, Hayes went home and Talaya definitely took care of his eating habits. When he returned to Madison, he was much trimmer – about 12 pounds lighter.

"I feel great," said the 6-foot-7 Hayes, who was 248 pounds at his heaviest as a freshman. "I just started eating better. I've been told to eat better in the past but I didn't really care (to change)."

"I love my junk food and my sweets and my ice cream and cake and what not. But I knew it would be better if I was lighter because it would make me faster and allow me to jump a little higher."

"I would be able to do things better out there on the court. So I went home and got serious for a month and ate really healthy," he said, beaming with pride. "Now, I'm about 230."

Helland was also smiling at Hayes' accomplishment, especially since it was self-initiated.

"It was something Nigel felt comfortable doing," he said of the weight loss. "I think he had to clean up his diet more than anything else. He probably ate some things that weren't productive for him."

"He'll gain it back, but we want him to gain it back in

a positive manner. You want it to be good lean mass. Is it good weight? If he improves his dietary habits, it's a positive all the way around."

Hayes is counting on "replacing fat with muscle" and "toning up" and "probably ending up getting stronger and quicker" by the time the Badgers reconvene for practices in the fall.

It may take him that long – or longer – to get over the 74-73 loss to Kentucky in the NCAA semi-finals. He has yet to watch the video of the game. And he doesn't plan to anytime soon.

"But it's still on my mind," said Hayes, who picked up a couple of fouls in the first half and played only seven minutes against the Wildcats; the fewest minutes that he had played all season.

"I was talking about it with a couple of guys back home," Hayes said of reaching the Final Four, "and they kept asking me, 'How was it?' I was telling them, 'It was very surreal.'"

"It's a cliché thing to say, but it's cliché for a reason, because it's really true. Guys always say, 'It's like a dream.' And it really was."

Hayes saw the Kentucky game as both a team highlight and lowlight to the season.

"Not many teams, let alone many freshmen, get to experience a Final Four," he said. "Looking back on the year, we got to do a lot of things that people never get to do; I was blessed."

On the other hand, he said, "Losing to Kentucky was the lowest point to the season. I was sitting in the locker room after the game and thinking, 'Did we really just lose?'"

"Up until then (in the NCAA tournament), every time we went into locker room, it was after a great win. So we just lost?" posed an incredulous Hayes. "What do we do now?"

It didn't take long for Hayes to come up with an answer.

"We know the work that we put in to get to that spot," he said of the national semifinals. "We also know what it would take to get past that spot. Hopefully next year we can play an extra game."

Over the long haul last year, Hayes did quite a bit to help drive the Badgers to North Texas. Appearing in all 38 games, he averaged 17.4 min-



utes, the most by any player coming off the UW bench.

Hayes ranked second to Indiana's Noah Vonleh among Big Ten freshmen with a 9.8 scoring average in conference games. Vonleh, the 9th player taken overall in the NBA draft, averaged 11 points.

"It was a great learning experience as far as everything involved in the game of college basketball," said Hayes, who joined Jason Bohannon as the only UW players to win the Sixth Man award.

"I'm working on what I've learned during this off-season to try to get better ... there are things I've noticed, the little nuances I've picked up, and I'm sure it will help me immensely."

Hayes admitted that he underestimated the value of game experience at the collegiate level. In fact, he thought it was kind of overrated prior to getting to Wisconsin.

"I always felt that if you can play, you can

play," he said. "But I think the experience I have will help me in large ways next year because I will know what to expect, especially during Big Ten play."

In conference games, Hayes shot 54.6 percent from the field; only Minnesota's Maurice Walker (.626) and Iowa's Melsahn Basabe (.602) shot better. Hayes would like to expand his range this year.

"I've been telling myself that I have to make sure I continue to work hard – that's how I can become a better player," said Hayes. "That's what I'm focused on this off-season: major improvement."

"Personally, and my mother can attest to this, I felt like I really didn't have that great of a freshman season. So if I can be better than I was last year, it will be exciting to see what I can do."


Critiquing himself, he said, "I didn't dribble well; I didn't shoot well; I didn't shoot free throws well; I didn't play defense that well; and I didn't get up and down the court that well."

"To the level I'm trying to reach, you try to hold yourself to a higher standard. No one wants to go out there thinking 'I'm the 16th-best player.' Everybody wants to be the best player on the court."

"And I felt that I was not the best in a lot of games last year which is why I'm going to be working extra hard (this off-season) striving to be the best."

"If I can get better than I was last year, it will be exciting to see what I can do."

How much better can Nigel Hayes get?

"I don't know," he said. "It just depends on how hard I work. It's all up to me." 

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE

“THAT'S WHAT I'M FOCUSED
ON THIS OFF-SEASON:
**MAJOR
IMPROVEMENT.**”



WHAT'S NEXT



BRONSON
KOENIG

THERE WAS A SNAPSHOT OF BRONSON Koenig against Kentucky that was worth saving for a photo album from his freshman season; not so much for what it meant alone but for what it may foreshadow.

Less than four minutes into the Final Four semi-final, Koenig replaced Ben Brust and was on the receiving end of a pass from Traevon Jackson, who had snared a rebound off a missed 3-point-er.

Koenig got behind the Kentucky guards and scored on the fastbreak to knot the score. (For the record, the Badgers outscored the “more athletic” Wildcats, 5-2, in transition points overall.)

“When I got that lay-up,” Koenig recalled, “I thought it built my confidence.”

Shortly after the first TV timeout, Koenig then made a jumper to push the Badgers into the lead which they would hold on to and expand into a 40-36 halftime advantage over Kentucky.

Koenig ended up playing 16 minutes in the

half and scored 11 points on 4-of-9 shooting from the field (he was 1-of-4 from beyond the 3-point arc). He had one assist, one steal and zero turnovers.

It was a picture worth framing.

Koenig was one of three UW players in double-figures during the first half. Sam Dekker had 12 points and Brust had 10. Defensively, the Wildcats smothered Frank Kaminsky and limited him to only one field goal attempt.

Meanwhile, Kentucky’s ballyhooed freshman guards, the Harrisons, Aaron and Andrew, combined for just seven points in the first half. Koenig had temporarily stolen some of their thunder.

“I had played against them and I had seen them play and I knew that I could play with them,” he said of the Harrisons. “I knew we needed to score and I knew that I was playing against freshmen.

“I just felt kind of free and open out there. I knew that I could compete and I could play.

▼ **PHOTOS:** Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play



In the Final Four game against Kentucky, Koenig played 16 minutes, scored 11 points and had an assist and a steal.

Coach (Bo) Ryan kind of let me do what I normally do. He trusted me and that made me feel good.”

Although Koenig played just four minutes in the second half, he left a lasting overall impression with his assertiveness on such a grand stage in Texas.

“It showed I’m capable of doing it,” he said. “Now, it’s on me to go out there and do it every game. It’s one of the things I want to work on – consistency – just being that same player most nights.”

With Brust’s graduation loss, the principle beneficiaries could be Nigel Hayes and Koenig, depending if the Badgers go big or small. Both were key components in last season’s eight-man rotation.

When Brust scored a career-high 29 points against Minnesota in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten tournament, Hayes and Koenig showed off their promise by combining for 29 points.

Hayes completely took over the game during one stretch in the second half, scoring seven straight points. Neither Maurice Walker, nor Elliott Eliason could match-up with Hayes in the paint.

Koenig was an unlikely contributor in that he had accounted for just four points in the previous four games combined, including a 13-minute stint at Nebraska where he failed to even take a shot.

After making all five of his field goal attempts against the Gophers, four from 3-point distance, Koenig conceded, “The rim looked 10 feet wider and I was being aggressive.”

There were other games in which he attacked with confidence. At Green Bay, he made all three of his shots and scored seven points. At Iowa, he

had 12 points, making five of seven field goals.

In the NCAA tournament, Koenig made the most of his playing time and scoring chances. He had five points against both Oregon and Arizona, taking just six field goal attempts and making four.

Kentucky was potentially a breakthrough game if he can build on it.

“I definitely believe that I can,” Koenig said. “I’m always learning.”

What was his takeaway in general from his freshman season? What did he learn?

“Just how to play college basketball. It’s a lot different than high school and AAU,” said Koenig, who won two state titles at La Crosse Aquinas as a sophomore and a senior.

“I know more about the little things and how to play for Coach Ryan. You just have to know what he likes and doesn’t like and you have to

“EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING. I GAINED A LOT OF REALLY GOOD, POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FROM LAST YEAR.”





go out there and try to make him happy.

“Because the point guard is the quarterback of the team, he (Ryan) looks at him as the team leader and that’s what I want to be. Steady improvement, I’d say, is what I have to do next.”

UW strength coach Erik Helland has his own thoughts on what’s next for Koenig, who got off to a slow start this summer due to a late spring bout with mono.

“He has to continue to develop his speed and power if he’s going to compete against the elite point guards,” Helland said of the 6-3, 190-pound Koenig.

“He’s not a bad sized guard at all,” he went on. “For him, it would not be productive to be, let’s say 220. But playing at 200 is probably what I would expect with his normal growth and development.

“He’s the kind of kid that you just don’t try and slap weight on. It all has to translate to perfor-

mance. Does he move better on the floor? Is he more durable? Is he more efficient?

“With all of these young guys, these are long-term investments. Last year you laid a foundation. In Year 2, you start to make some inroads into more performance-oriented measures.”

As a UW freshman, Koenig got off to a slow start physically. He injured his hamstring while running track in high school and that may have led to some back issues that curtailed his training.

“I had back problems for about five months and that hindered me pretty much the whole summer

(last year),” he said. “I wasn’t able to do any extra work and it put me behind.”

During the time that he was trying to get back up to speed, and into the swing of things with the Ryan system, it wasn’t like Koenig could hide because of his stature as a prep athlete.

“BECAUSE THE POINT GUARD IS THE QUARTERBACK OF THE TEAM, (COACH RYAN) LOOKS AT HIM AS THE TEAM LEADER AND THAT’S WHAT I WANT TO BE.” KOENIG SAID. “STEADY IMPROVEMENT, I’D SAY, IS WHAT I HAVE TO DO NEXT.”

“First of all, you have to understand the state of Wisconsin,” said Ryan, the venerable head coach. “Every fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth grade tournament that was ever played in Platteville, La Crosse, Madison, Stevens Point, Eau Claire ...

“Every tournament that young man (Koenig) went to, people would say to me, ‘Hey, there’s this little guard out of La Crosse that’s just killing people.’ So, for Bronson, it wasn’t like he’s someone that all of a sudden appears on the state scene.

“People knew about his ball-handling skills and his ability to see the floor. And they knew what kind of a competitor he was. That’s what I like about him. He’s a good, tough competitor. He pays attention in the video room, he keeps a good notebook. He’s pretty perceptive.

“It’s amazing how tough of a competitor you are, the more things you grasp in a short period of time, because you figure out a way to be successful ... the game was probably a little quicker for him in the beginning but he knows now that he can compete and he’s ready to get more. I like hungry people.”

Koenig certainly has an appetite for learning.

“Experience is everything,” he said. “I gained a

lot of really good, positive experience from last year. I learned a lot from every game – every home game, every away game – every environment that I was put into. I felt it taught me a lot.

“Obviously, it was a big adjustment (to the Big Ten). It was like playing against a bunch of all-stars basically every game; the best of the best. And you have to play defense, you can’t just play offense. You have to be strong enough to guard pretty much everybody on the opposing team.

“I’d like to work on my flexibility and be more mobile this season. I want to get my hips more flexible so I can get down and play better defense and improve my lateral quickness. I definitely want to get stronger and I know I’ll accomplish that.”

Koenig realizes that outsiders will be looking at him to replace Brust whose departure has left a significant void in the lineup. “There will be more of a need for me to produce,” Koenig said. “Ben was a good leader, he led by example and I’ll have to step in and fill that role a little bit more.”

A role that could wind up being shared by Hayes and Koenig. 

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE

“I DEFINITELY WANT TO GET STRONGER AND I KNOW I’LL ACCOMPLISH THAT.”



WHAT'S NEXT

CAYLA
MCMORRIS

WISCONSIN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

W coach Bobbie Kelsey raved about her “anticipatory skills” and, sure enough, freshman guard Cayla McMorris intercepted the thought before it was completed.

You’re not ... (pause) ... “Not the biggest, I know,” said McMorris, politely filling in the blank.

Although she’s listed at 5-10, McMorris insisted, “I’m 6-feet.”

At the start of summer school, she weighed all of 147 pounds.

“She’s skinny to me,” Kelsey agreed with a chuckle. “But she’ll gain, they all do.”

McMorris played “big” as a high school senior. Really big. She averaged 21.6 points and helped lead Park Center High School (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) to the Class 3 state championship.

“I played mostly power forward,” she said, “because I was one of the tallest girls on the team.”

Did you say power forward?

“I know,” she said, also anticipating where that thought was headed. “Most of my life I’ve played out of position because I was always the tallest player. I played center when I started AAUs.”

As her game developed, McMorris began attacking the rim from the wing more and more.

“She’s very quick,” Kelsey said. “Her first step is really quick. Her anticipatory skills and instincts for the game are very high. That’s why she was so highly-touted coming out of high school.

“She could have gone to a number of different places but she felt like this was the place for her.”

McMorris attracted plenty of in-

terest from Big Ten Conference programs. She had scholarship offers from Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. By choosing Wisconsin, she became Kelsey’s first top-100 recruit.

“With those achievements come expectations,” said Kelsey, who will be going into her fourth season with the Badgers. “But she’s still a freshman, so we’re not going to put any extra pressure on her. We have enough veterans to step in (next season). But, of course, you want your freshmen to contribute. Still, you don’t know (about them). They’re not used to the physicality and the pace.

“But Cayla is smart. She will catch on quickly. She has athleticism and the talent to earn some playing time. I wouldn’t go as far as saying she would be starting. I don’t know who’s going to start. But I definitely have the idea in mind that she will be a good contributor to what we’re trying to do. Rankings don’t mean everything but

▼ **PHOTOS:** Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play



At Park Center High School (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), McMorris averaged 21.6 points and helped lead her team to the Class 3 state championship.

she's ranked for a reason."

Two recruiting services, Swish Appeal and Prospect Nation, had her ranked as a Top 50 recruit. Shortly after McMorris signed her national letter of intent, Kelsey called her a "program changer."

"Whenever you get a top rated player, especially your first one, you think that more are on the way," Kelsey said. "She has earned her ranking and it's a big get for us because she's going to get better."

And better and better for years to come, Kelsey said, her voice trailing off.

Reacting to being labeled a "program changer" by Kelsey, McMorris admitted that it turned up the pressure on her college development "because she expects a lot from me and I'm only a freshman."

In the next breath, McMorris, who shows up as Cayla McBuckets on Twitter, predicted, "If I keep working hard, I think that I can live up to those expectations."

Ever since McMorris started on the Park Center varsity as a freshman, she has been challenged to live up to a certain level of expectations with every step she has taken during her formative years.

McMorris credited her older brothers for influencing her growth. "I know that's where I kind of get my tomboyish ways," she said. "I love them; they've helped me become the woman I am today."

She also cited the impact of her mom, a University of Minnesota grad, and her dad, who got her started playing hoops in the sixth grade. All in all, it was tough leaving home, she confided.

"I wouldn't say they influenced my decision," McMorris said. "They just gave me open-minded reasons to look at all the schools and decide

on which one outweighed the others.

"Madison was the best school for me. My dad's best friend lives here. But basically it's just the connection that I had with the coaches. I connected with them more than with the other schools.

"I really like to get up and down the floor and that's why I also think here was the best choice. This is a team that fits my style of play which is fast and up-tempo."

There's symmetry involved with her arrival in that McMorris is the highest rated prospect to join the Badgers since Taylor Wurtz, whose graduation has created a void that McMorris might someday fill.

"That's what we kind of recruited her for, we knew Taylor would be leaving," Kelsey said. "We're really counting on Cayla to step into that role as one of the bigger guards. And that's what I told her during recruiting. We're not recruiting you to sit on the

FROM COACH KELSEY:
WE'RE REALLY COUNTING ON CAYLA TO STEP INTO THAT ROLE AS ONE OF THE BIGGER GUARDS. AND THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER ... WE'RE NOT RECRUITING YOU TO SIT ON THE BENCH. WE'RE RECRUITING YOU TO COME IN AND EARN A STARTING POSITION IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.





bench. We're recruiting you to come in and earn a starting position if that's what you want.

"But, certainly, if you don't get that (a starting position), we want you to be one of the main cogs – to come into games and be aggressive and score. Cayla just has a different gear. She can get a steal and be down the floor in a couple of steps. We need that athleticism especially with Rutgers and Maryland coming into the Big Ten."

Wurtz was a consistent scorer for the Badgers. She averaged 10.8 points over 125 career games. McMorris left Park Center as the school's all-time leading scorer.

"Oh, yeah, she can score," Kelsey said excitedly. "But she's not a gunner. I wouldn't say she's out there just trying to get hers. She's not that type of person; she's not that type of player."

"She's very aggressive and she will take (the shot) if she has it, which is what I like. I don't want her looking around wondering (whether she should shoot). I want her to be aggressive."

"SHE'S VERY SMART ACADEMICALLY, SHE COMES FROM A GOOD FAMILY AND A VERY SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO MADISON AT ALL,"
KELSEY SAID OF MCMORRIS.

Kelsey conceded that freshmen, by nature, can be tentative on offense. "Sometimes they don't know when to shoot and when not to shoot," she said. "But as they play more, they'll figure it out."

McMorris has role models. She has always looked up to Candace Parker, the former Tennessee All-American, now in the midst of her seventh season in the WNBA with the Los Angeles Sparks.

"I've loved watching her since she was at Tennessee," she said. "I wouldn't say we play similar positions. She's a tall guard (Parker is 6-4) and she can post-up, which I can do, too."

Parker is the younger sister of Anthony Parker, the former Bradley star, who played nine years in the NBA and six more in Israel before retiring and hooking on with the Orlando Magic as a scout.

McMorris' recruiting class includes 6-4 transfer Rosie Gambino from Kishwaukee (Ill.) College and 5-7 guard Roichelle Marble, the sister

of ex-Iowa star Roy Devyn Marble, who's now with the Magic.

The head of the Marble clan, Roy Marble, is the Hawkeyes' all-time leading scorer.

"The new players will shore up areas that we needed to fill by losing two of our best players (Wurtz and Morgan Paige) to graduation," Kelsey said. "We really needed to strengthen our guard play."

To this end, McMorris, who just turned 18, was asked if she could anticipate her role. "I just have to watch and learn basically," she said. "I'm pretty good at adjusting."

One of the biggest adjustments, she agreed, would be adapting to the college environment. "I'm a little nervous to be basically on my own," she said. "But I have to grow up sometime."

Kelsey has no doubts that she can hold her own until she's fully grown.


"I like her toughness," Kelsey said. "She would get hit real hard and knocked down.

But she'd get right back up. She held her own as far as the physicality of the high school game and taking hits."

In the state championship game, McMorris picked up her fifth foul while trying to take a charge in the final seconds of regulation. Park Center went on to beat Marshall, 73-71, in triple overtime.

Her younger teammates, mostly freshmen, didn't want to let her down once she left the game. Such is the respect that McMorris commands from others.

"She's a good kid and I love her to death," Kelsey said. "She has a sweet demeanor but she can be aggressive on that court. She can turn it around when she steps over the line.

"She's very smart academically, she comes from a good family and a very supportive environment and she shouldn't have any trouble adjusting to Madison at all." 

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE



WHAT'S NEXT



BROOKE
FERRELL

WHEN ALLYSSA FERRELL'S REGULAR caddy was unable to loop for her at the Michigan PGA Women's Open in late June, the former Michigan State star literally had a "Plan B" in her younger sister, Brooke, a Wisconsin sophomore and a rising star in Big Ten women's golf.

"I'm there for moral support," said Brooke Ferrell, who set UW's freshman scoring record (75.34 strokes per round). "I'm pretty good at the analytical part of the game and I'll give her yardages. I'll throw up the grass (in the air) and say, 'It's probably plus-3' or 'It's only minus-2' for the wind."

"She's really good around the greens and she hits different chip shots that I don't hit yet. She also reads greens better than anyone I know. When I'm out there with her, I listen to her thought process and I watch her. I'm trying to pick up all those little things that I can incorporate into my own game."

Playing in only her second tournament since turning professional, Allyssa Ferrell placed fourth in the Michigan Open, which featured a mix of pros and top amateurs. Tying for second in the event was one of Brooke Ferrell's teammates, Kimberly Dinh, who will be going into

her senior year at Wisconsin.

Dinh shocked the field by firing a course-record 10-under-par 62 in the opening round at Crystal Mountain Resort in Northern Michigan. Dinh, who's interning this summer at Dow Corning in her home town of Midland, Michigan, topped her career best by seven strokes. She had 10 birdies and no bogeys.

Dinh and Ferrell should form a potent one-two punch next season for the Badgers, who have competed in back-to-back NCAA regionals. "We're definitely headed in the right direction," Ferrell said. "We're on the rise and we're going to continue to climb in the Big Ten."

Moreover, she has no trouble demanding more from her own game.

"I want to be the poster child of consistency," said the 19-year-old Ferrell. "I want to show up every single round and I want my coaches to know that I'm going to shoot 75 or below. There's no doubt in my mind and I want no doubt in my teammate's minds."

Ferrell also acknowledged, "Not every day is going to be a great day. There's a reason that you play five, but count four (scores). But I want my bad days to be 75 and I want my good days to be 68."





"I WANT TO SHOW UP EVERY SINGLE ROUND AND I WANT MY COACHES TO KNOW THAT I'M GOING TO SHOOT 75 OR BELOW," FERRELL SAID. "THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND AND I WANT NO DOUBT IN MY TEAMMATE'S MINDS."

Wisconsin State Women's Open on June 18 at Maple Bluff Country Club in Madison. This time, Allyssa shot the 68 to win the title, while Brooke "settled" for a 69 and second place.

"Because I was still an amateur and she had just turned pro, we had different purses and we were trying to win our respective divisions, so that's what we focused on," Brooke said. "It ended up working really well. I shot a 68 and a 69 and lost. How many times are you going to

do that?"

There are no secrets between the Ferrells who grew up playing golf together in Edgerton, Wisconsin.

"When we were younger, my dad went with us because we would fight sometimes," said Brooke, chuckling. "Allyssa and I are actually just really close as sisters and a part of that is just because of the golf. We always golfed together and that has brought us even closer.

"I would say Allyssa is more competitive; I'm a little bit more of a laid back personality. On the golf course, I'll talk to everyone and I'll laugh and joke around. On the course, Allyssa is very serious; she's very into her round. We just have different personalities."

Allyssa, a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection, holds most of the scoring records at Michigan State. Last spring, she was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year. Cornerback Darqueze Dennard, a first-round pick in the NFL draft, was the Male Athlete of the Year.

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In the third round of the Big Ten tournament, Brooke Ferrell shot a 4-under-par 68, the best score of the day. She finished in fourth place with a 221 total; three shots better than fifth-place Allyssa Ferrell, whose nine-foot putt on the final hole clinched Michigan State's third conference title in four years.

"It's hard competing against her (Allyssa) just because she's so good," said Brooke, who had UW's highest Big Ten finish since 2004. "You walk in there thinking, 'I know I could easily get beat by her, so I'm going to have to play my best golf if I want to beat her.'"

"The Big Ten was an incredible experience. We were both focused on how our team was doing. I wanted to play well for the Badgers and it was more about Michigan State winning for her. We try to look at ourselves as Team Ferrell and we try to feed off each other and not play against each other."

Team Ferrell was tied for the lead and matched in the same group for the final round of the



“I WANT TO BE THE
POSTER CHILD
OF CONSISTENCY.”

After tying for 10th in the NCAA tournament by shooting the lowest 72-hole score (283) in school history, Allyssa turned pro — inspired, in large part, by the success of another Edgerton native, Steve Stricker. She will attend the LPGA Tour Qualifying School in August.

“I don’t think I would be the golfer that I am today without having an older sister like Allyssa,” Brooke said. “She has taught me so much about the game — learning things going through college — and she has brought that knowledge back to the house.”

Allyssa and Brooke have the same swing coach, their dad, Brad Ferrell. In addition, he usually serves as Allyssa’s caddy. But he was unavailable for the Michigan Open, which opened the door for Brooke, who estimated that she’s only looped two or three times for her older sister.

“Our dad spends a majority of this time analyzing our swings and working on our golf game,” Brooke said. “He has seen us hit literally a million golf balls. He’s also acquired a bunch of knowledge over the years and the cumulative sum of that is, he knows a lot about our swings right now.”

Brooke Ferrell would like to follow in Allyssa’s footsteps someday. “As of right now,” she said,

“if all continues to go well with my golf — and if I can stay healthy — I’m planning on going pro. People keep saying how cool it would be to have a male and two females from Edgerton golfing professionally.”

Brooke pointed out Stricker has always been very supportive. Her parents went to high school with him. “The Tiziani family has been incredibly supportive, as well,” she said. (Stricker married the former Nicki Tiziani, whose dad, Dennis, is a former UW men’s and women’s golf coach.)

Handling disappointment is part of any golfer’s development because the game can be so unforgiving. Brooke Ferrell can attest to that after shooting 82-77-80 in the NCAA West Regional in May. As a team, the Badgers tied for ninth place, one spot short of advancing to the NCAA championships for a second-straight season.

“There’s one thing that can never change,” she said, “and that’s your mental approach to the game. Some days you’re going to show up and your swing is going to be there. Some days it’s not. But you still have to grind for every single shot that you can because every single shot counts.”

It could be the difference between a 68 and a 75. 

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WHAT'S NEXT →



SOJOURN
SHELTON



WISCONSIN SOPHOMORE SOJOURN

W Shelton was shown a list of the top 12 cornerbacks in college football going into the 2014 season. He was not mentioned. He was not visibly upset, either.

Shelton, a Floridian, scanned the list and recognized some DBs from “back home” including Florida’s Vernon Hargreaves III, who’s from Tampa; and Florida State’s P. J. Williams, who’s from Ocala.

Hargreaves was ranked No. 2 behind Oregon’s Ifo Ekpere-Olomu; Williams was No. 7. The only Big Ten representatives were Michigan’s Blake Countess (No. 6) and Penn State’s Jordan Lucas (No. 12).

Confident in his abilities to play the position regardless of what others think, Shelton expressed little or no emotion (rare for him) on not seeing his name listed in *Lindy’s*, a preseason magazine.

But on the prospect of someday being ranked among the “best of the best” at cornerback, he

conceded, “Yeah, sure, it definitely would be nice. That’s what the goal is. We’ll see where it ends.”

Shelton has already authored an impressive beginning by starting 12 of 13 games as a true freshman for the Badgers. He led a senior-laden defense with four interceptions in 2013.

Shelton’s four picks were the second most by a UW freshman. (Jamar Fletcher, a former All-American and first-round draft pick of the Miami Dolphins, had seven as a redshirt freshman in 1998.)

“I love ‘em (interceptions),” he gushed. “A couple of players who I grew up under told me, ‘Picks are hard to come by; they don’t come easy. When they do come, you need to get excited about them.’”

Shelton was referencing a couple of friends and mentors: Josh Robinson, a third-year cornerback with the Minnesota Vikings; and Brandon McGee, a second-year cornerback with the St. Louis Rams.

Like Shelton, McGee is from Fort Lauderdale; Robinson is from Sunrise (the same hometown as former UW safety Dez Southward). All three attended Plantation High School.

“To have four picks my first year is pretty exciting,” Shelton said. “It’s something that I want to continue to have success in. But there’s not a day that goes by that I don’t think about that play.”

That was the One That Got Away.

“The dropped pick was definitely a big one,” Shelton lamented.

The sequence took place in the final seconds of the first half at Ohio State in late September.

The Badgers had just gained the momentum after scoring on a touchdown pass from Joel Stave to Sam Arneson with 1:30 left. Although they still trailed, 17-14, things were swinging in their favor.

But the Buckeyes weren’t done attacking the UW defense. Quarterback Braxton Miller aired out two

deep throws; one to Evan Spencer was broken up in the end zone by Shelton.

Two plays later, Shelton was in a position to end the half on a high note when Miller under-threw Devin Smith; Shelton went up for the interception, but he dropped what he felt should have been a pick.

Miller made him pay on the very next play when he connected with wide receiver Philly Brown on a 40-yard touchdown with one second remaining before halftime. That made it 24-14.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in the fourth quarter, Shelton couldn’t help but think about a couple of plays that made such a big difference in Wisconsin’s 31-24 loss to Ohio State.

Besides the dropped interception, Shelton had been victimized on the Buckeyes’ opening possession when Ohio State flooded a zone with Brown on a wheel route and Spencer on a post.

“The more and more that I’ve looked at it,

the more I’ve critiqued myself, I made a bad move; I turned to the wheel,” said Shelton, who was beaten on the 25-yard scoring strike from Miller to Brown.

“If I would have stayed in position and if I was looking at the quarterback and playing my techniques maybe I could have broken up the pass ...”

His voice tailed off.

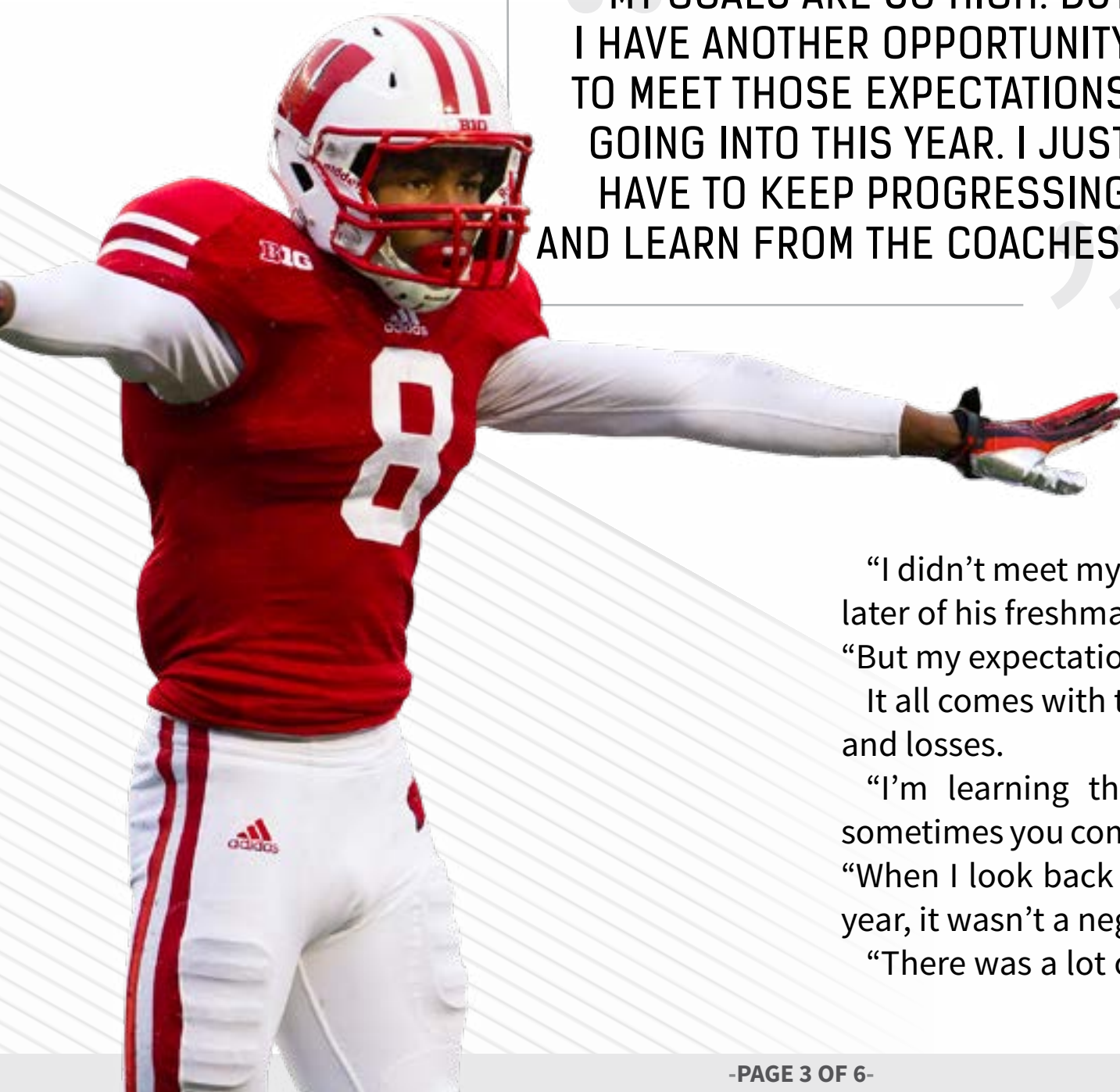
“I didn’t meet my expectations,” he would say later of his freshman orientation to the Big Ten. “But my expectations are pretty high.”

It all comes with the cornerback turf; the wins and losses.

“I’m learning throughout the process that sometimes you come up short,” Shelton agreed. “When I look back on last year, it wasn’t a bad year, it wasn’t a negative year.

“There was a lot of learning. That’s one of the

“MY GOALS ARE SO HIGH. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THOSE EXPECTATIONS GOING INTO THIS YEAR. I JUST HAVE TO KEEP PROGRESSING AND LEARN FROM THE COACHES.”



best parts about coming in as a freshman and playing. You learn and you continue to build off that.

“My goals are so high. But I have another opportunity to meet those expectations going into this year. I just have to keep progressing and learn from the coaches.”

Shelton’s baptism under fire came in his third college start and first road game. Arizona State quarterback Taylor Kelly completed 29 of 51 passes for 352 yards in a controversial 32-30 win at Tempe.

Kelly picked apart the UW secondary, primarily on boundary fade routes.

“That was probably the knockdown moment of my season,” Shelton admitted.

He also painfully remembered overreacting to a pass interference call in the second quarter. “It just wasn’t a good look on TV,” he said. “After the game, my mom even talked to me about it.”

Rachel Victor, a guidance counselor in Florida, offered her son some advice.

“She just told me to calm down and cool it – pretty much everything a coach would say,” he recalled. “My mom is a huge football fan. She watches football on all levels.

“Moms can never steer you in the wrong direction. And she just said, ‘If something doesn’t go your way, you have to do something the next play.’ I’m learning from that.

“Emotion got involved. At the same time, I was learning how to handle myself as a college athlete. Especially around the players last year (a senior-dominated defense). Even though I was the baby, I wanted to act like I was on their level.”

Sojourn Shelton is now 19. He won’t turn 20 until Christmas Day.

“I’m still a baby, it’s crazy,” he said with a sigh. But he took advantage of the process which





“I WANT TO BE A
PLAYMAKER FOR
MY TEAMMATES.”

allowed him to graduate from high school early and enroll for the second semester of classes at Wisconsin, giving him a leg up academically and athletically.

Shelton showed off his competitive instincts during the 2013 spring game. Technically, he was still a high school kid on the field and in the classroom.

“But coaches and teachers don’t want to hear that,” he said. “That was a bumpy road that first semester just getting acclimated to school and trying to stay up with football.

“But after that semester, I understood what it took to be a college student. From there, I’ve been trying to stay on top of all aspects, not just football, but in the classroom and in life, in general.

“Sometimes I look at the map and think, ‘Wow, I’m extremely far from home.’ But that’s the whole thing; living on your own and understanding you have people who can help you.

“You just have to ask for help when you need it.”

Last season’s playing experience should help Shelton get closer to some of his goals.

“I’m way more confident today,” he said. “A lot of people don’t understand how important that is for cornerbacks, but you definitely have to be confident to play the position.

“I can look back at games last year where sometimes I played a little timid just because it came with being a true freshman. Now, I believe in myself and I know I can have an impact on the team.”

Wisconsin coach Gary Andersen is counting on Shelton taking that next step, especially if he can avoid a “sophomore slump” by not being satisfied with what he has already accomplished, he added.

“I’ve talked to him about that; he’s aware of it,” Andersen said. “When you come to a school, you want to be a starter and that happened ear-

"I CAN LOOK BACK AT GAMES LAST YEAR WHERE SOMETIMES I PLAYED A LITTLE TIMID JUST BECAUSE IT CAME WITH BEING A TRUE FRESHMAN," SHELTON SAID. "NOW, I BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND I KNOW I CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE TEAM."

ly for him and he played well and held his spot down.


"To me, if I'm Sojourn, my next step as a competitor and a football player is that I want to find a way to be All-Big Ten – somehow, some way – I want to be in the mix or scenario.

"That's a good mindset for a kid who's continually competing to take those steps. I don't have any problem with that. I don't think it's selfish; it's just being driven."

Along with improving his tackling, honing his coverage techniques and gaining a better grasp of the overall defensive scheme, Shelton has some other ideas on what might be next for him.

"Honestly, I want to keep progressing and see where it all takes me at the end of the day," said Shelton, who's working on adding weight and strength. "I'm not someone who just wants to throw things out there and say, 'This will happen' or 'That will happen' because honestly we never know.

"My whole thing is listening to the coaches and progressing as a player. But when you say, 'What's next?' I do want to be one of the best corners in the Big Ten. I hear I've come up in some conversations. And there are conversations where I don't come up. I want to rise above that."

More than anything, he said, "I want to be a playmaker for my teammates. I showed that I can be one. But I came up short in certain games. Like the dropped pick at Ohio State. I could have made a game-changing play and that's something I want to work on this year – being a game-changer." 

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE



WHAT'S NEXT →



WISCONSIN TAILBACK COREY CLEMENT

W completed a 33-yard touchdown pass, one of three that he attempted during his four-year career with the Glassboro (New Jersey) Bulldogs.

Along with starting at defensive end, the versatile Clement also handled some of the place-kicking, mainly extra points, though he did make his only field goal attempt from 33 yards.

Of course, he was best known for his “Triple Crown” running exploits in Glassboro, a borough in Gloucester County, 16 miles from Camden and 20 from Philadelphia.

Clement set the South Jersey record for most rushing yards in a game (478 versus Gloucester City); most rushing yards in a single season (2,510 in 2011) and most career rushing yards (6,245).

Because he was so prolific as a runner, there weren’t many opportunities to catch the ball out of the backfield. He had eight receptions as a junior, two as a senior and just 12 total in 39 varsity games.

As the No. 3 tailback in Wisconsin’s rotation – which featured James White and Melvin Gordon – Clement caught one pass for nine yards during his freshman season; the same number as Gordon.

Clement would like to think that he can do more.

“I believe that I have wide receiver hands,” he said.

Last spring, he went out and proved it – sort of – by catching his own pass. He put it on video, too, with the help of teammate Rob Wheelwright, a sophomore wide receiver from Columbus, Ohio.

Clement later contended that he wasn’t out to prove something as much as “I was bored.”

What originally sparked his interest was seeing a high school player pull off the stunt – throw a pass downfield and then run under the football and catch his own throw before the ball hit the ground.

Since then, there have been many imitators on the internet, some more popular than oth-



ers, but none with a higher profile than the 2013 Heisman winner, Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston.

Wisconsin coach Gary Andersen was amused when he viewed Clement's video on Instagram. "It doesn't surprise me," he said. "If someone else does something, he's going to try and do it himself."

Based on what he saw last season – Clement rushed for 547 yards on just 67 carries – Andersen said, "He can run. He's a tremendous competitor and a very driven young man. It's a great one-two punch."

Gordon has moved up to No. 1, replacing White, and Clement is now No. 2. Replacing White's production as a receiver will be part of their challenge. White had 39 catches, second most on the team.

How will Andersen get the ball to Gordon and Clement?

"Through the screen game," he said, "and formations that will potentially allow them to get out on the edges of the defense in space. The offense needs to move in that direction."

Andersen wants to find different ways to get the ball on the perimeter so that opposing defenses "have far less ability to gang up on us like they did last year" by adding defenders in the box.

Clement feels like he's ready to take that next step and become a major contributor, while Andersen is confident the year of seasoning in the shadows of White and Gordon will pay dividends.

"Not redshirting, in my opinion, put Corey in a great position," he said, "because he has traveled, he has played in games, he has scored touchdowns and he has seen how two great backs prepare."

Clement definitely tried to absorb every-

thing he could from White and Gordon, which was not unlike Gordon's orientation to the UW system when he was mentored by White and Montee Ball.

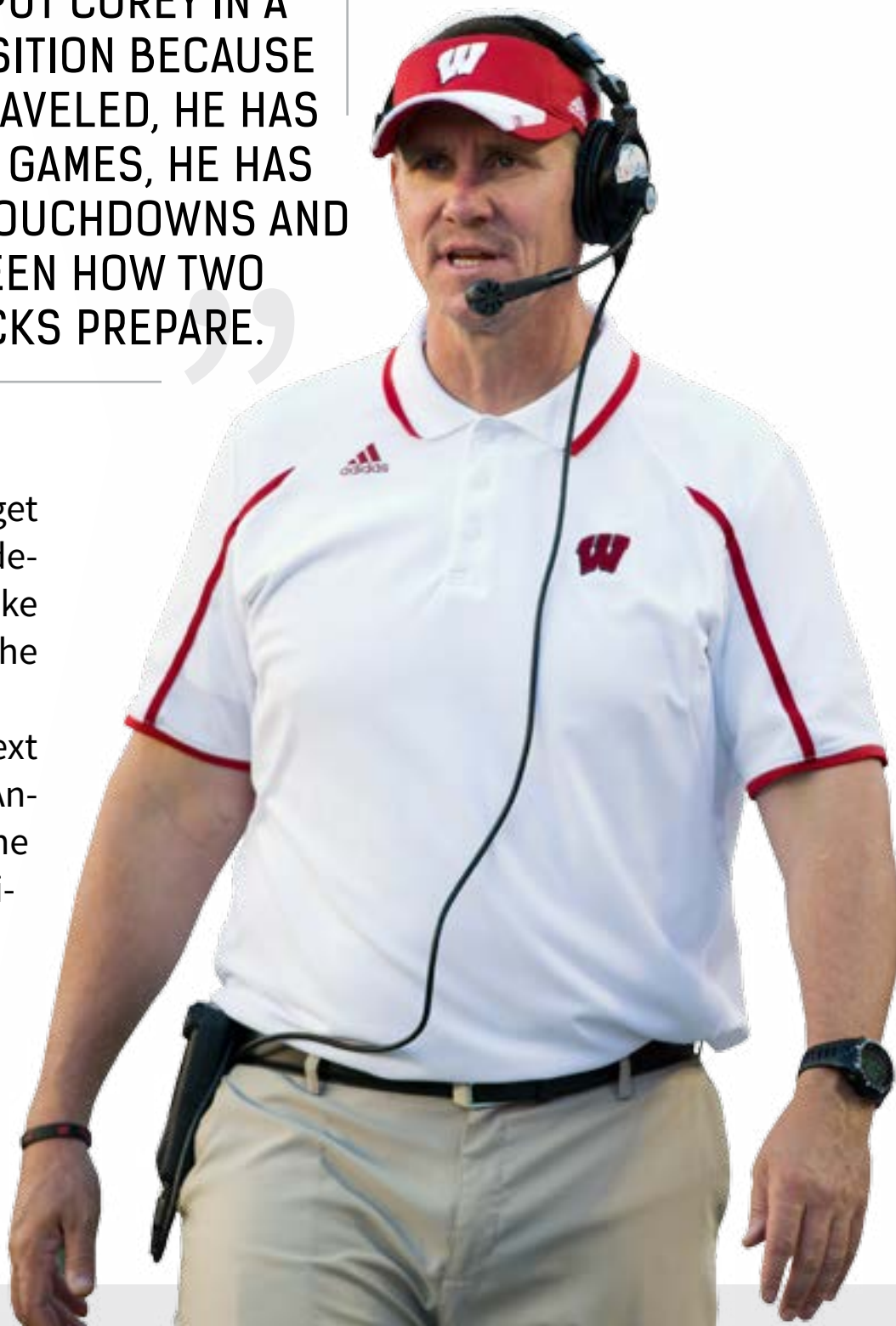
"There were a lot of ups and downs my first year but I tried to make the best of it," Clement said. "I thought I knew a lot about the game, but James actually introduced me to do a lot more."

"He's one of the best I've ever seen in pass protection. He's small but he can take on a lot of blocks. That's what they're looking for at the next level. (White was a fourth-round pick by New England).

"As far as the playbook, and study habits, and the little things, he helped me a lot. He helped me stay calm when I was getting yelled at by the coaches. Everybody gets yelled at, he said.

"And he just told me, 'Stay

FROM COACH ANDERSEN:
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humble, stay poised and be ready for the moment.”

So he was in becoming the first true freshman in school history to rush for over 100 yards in each of his first two games; blowout wins against overmatched opponents UMass and Tennessee Tech.

“I would say my expectations were fairly high, which you’re supposed to have for yourself because you want to get on the field as fast as possible,” Clement said.

“The first few games I felt like I was part of the whole James-and-Melvin thing. But I kind of got pushed back to just being the mop-up guy, I guess you would say. James and Melvin are experienced players. And I respected the coaches’ opinion to hold me back in some games.

“I kind of took being on the sidelines as helping me and I took pride in the mop-up thing and tried to make the best of what I could in the third and fourth quarter.”

Although he had limited carries in the Big Ten season, Clement still had some noteworthy moments, rushing for 108 yards and two touchdowns against Indiana and 83 yards and a score against Purdue.

“As a freshman, I learned how to be patient,” he said. “College is a whole different level than high school and I tried to hit the long shot too many times.

“That’s what I would look for in high school. But at this level, if you can get four or five yards, it’s a good play. That’s what I had to learn. You’ll get the home run. You just don’t have to chase after it.”

As the season played out, Clement got more comfortable with his role and fellow tailbacks. “Being behind James and Melvin taught me a lot,” he reiterated.

Consider their geographical frame of reference: White was a senior from Florida; Gordon, a Cheesehead, was a third-year sophomore from Kenosha; and Clement was the newbie from Jersey.

“I believe our relationship got a little closer,” Clement said of the group dynamic. “When I first got here, we didn’t connect as well because I wasn’t as familiar as to who they both were.

“I knew who they were as football players, but not as people. I believe we’ve grown a lot since then. Now that it’s me and Melvin, we know what our goals are. We also know what we’re best at.



“Melvin is a speed and power guy; I respect him for his game. Some people view me as just being a hard-nosed, downhill guy. But I have a good burst and can get to the next level (linebackers).”

Gordon and Clement will undergo a transition this year to a new position coach. Thomas Brown, a former Georgia tailback, has replaced Thomas Hammock, who has moved on to the Baltimore Ravens.

“He instantly walks in as a new coach with his SEC and Georgia background, which is a good starting point,” said Andersen, adding that he’s also walking into a stable running backs situation.

“He’s replacing a coach who has had a lot of

success and he’s at a university where that position (tailback) has had some unbelievable success.”

So he’s not looking to make dramatic changes in the operation, Andersen suggested.

“But he (Brown) has done a great job of handling Melvin and Corey and, in turn, they’ve done a great job of handling a coaching change. They realize there are some different ways to do things.”

By design, the tailbacks weren’t exposed to much contact during spring practice. At the same time, Clement felt like the game “slowed down” for him from a comprehension standpoint.

“I felt more confident and ready for it,” he said. “Knowing more about what I’m doing has made me quicker. The game was ahead of me when I first got here. Now I’m trying to get ahead of the game.”

Assessing Clement’s development from “back-up to the backup” to No. 2 tailback, Andersen said, “Now the next step for Corey is to be that ‘guy’ and prepare for the moment.”


Andersen went on to explain that Clement would no longer be in that mop-up situation – “That comfortable time of the game where he’d go in because we were way ahead.”

Instead, Andersen said that Clement’s mindset would have to be, “I’m going into the game and it’s 0-0, or 7-7, or 10-0 bad guys, who knows, and I’ve got to handle those moments. And he will.”

Clement, who will turn 20 in November, sounded excited about what’s next.

“Breakout year – I’m feeling it,” he said. “I know a lot of people have high expectations for me and I’m trying to not let anyone down.

“It’s about what me and Melvin can be and what we can excel at. It’s not just a ‘me’ thing. I believe I can complement Melvin and he can complement me.

“It all starts with the offseason and what we do then to better ourselves during the season. Hopefully we can be a great one-two punch.” 



► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE

WHAT'S NEXT



GRANT
BESSE

bY SCORING IN EACH OF HIS FIRST TWO college hockey games, Wisconsin's Grant Besse got off to a most auspicious start even for a prolific high school scorer who accounted for all of Benilde-St. Margaret's goals – all five – in the Class AA finals of the Minnesota state tournament.

“Everybody was talking about how big of a difference college hockey was,” said Besse, who was named Mr. Hockey in Minnesota as a senior to cap an illustrious prep career which saw him score 163 goals, the fifth most in state history. “After my first two games here, I was like ‘It’s not too bad.’”

He smiled. He was being sarcastic.

Besse anticipated growing pains. And that’s exactly what he experienced. After his fast start, he had just six goals over the next 34 games; more the rule than the aberration. Wisconsin’s only Hobey Baker winner, Blake Geoffrion, had two goals in 36 games his freshman year with the Badgers.

To bring context to Besse’s transition, UW head coach Mike Eaves said, “If you were looking at Grant last year, he was a little seedling in the ground and he was surrounded by big pine trees that covered the sunshine on him. Those pine trees are gone now and it’s his time to rise and shine.”

Those pines had names. Mark Zengerle. Michael Mersch. Tyler Barnes. Each of the seniors cast a long shadow. So did sophomore Nic Kerdiles who turned pro at the end of the season. Zengerle, Kerdiles, Mersch, Barnes and junior Jake McCabe, who also left for the NHL, were the scoring leaders.

Besse was the first Badger to score in his first two games since Kyle Turris in 2007-08.

Joseph LaBate and Besse are the leading returning goal-scorers. LaBate had 11, Besse had 8. “Losing some of the key guys from last year obviously there’s going to be some holes to fill,” Besse said. “But trying to do too much in the beginning of the year I don’t think will benefit anybody.”

It was Besse’s reminder to stay within himself. “Oh, he’ll go through some of that (trying to do more than he can),” Eaves said. “All young players go through that. That’s not a surprise. I know that we’ll have to deal with it. How long does he go through that process? We hope we can cut that short.”

Working towards this goal, Eaves knows the benefits of a year of seasoning. So does Besse.

“Last year, I know at times I was tentative with the system,” Besse said. “Coming straight out of high school where we really didn’t play too much of a system and coming here to Wisconsin



with coach Eaves, who's really detailed with the way he wants you to play, I had to adjust and figure that out."

Now that he has, Besse said, "It's second nature and I can focus on other parts of my game."

It obviously won't hurt that Eaves is planning on expanding Besse's role.

"We would have seen more production out of Grant last year if he had more responsibilities," Eaves said. "But we were who we were (a senior-laden team). Now that he has been around, he has seen it, he understands the pace and the strength of the players and goaltenders he's going against."

Eaves is counting on more production because of Besse's past success as a scorer.

"He can shoot the puck – it's a gift – you don't teach people to shoot the puck like that," Eaves said. "He's one of those guys that not only can shoot the puck but he'll take a shot and with good goal scorers the puck finds its way back on their stick. He'll score. He has that ability. That comes naturally."

On whether he agreed that scoring has always been a natural skill, Besse said shyly, "Yeah, I think so, for the most part. I've always enjoyed being around the front of the net trying to score goals. I think that's half the battle, wanting to do it and having the passion to go to the scoring area and do it."

"It's not always going to be a Tic-Tack-Toe play all the time. Maybe it was previously in my career. But that's something – shooting – I talked to coach Eaves about in my end-of-the-year meeting. They want me to get some more of those dirty goals in front of the net, some of the ugly ones."

On the night of March 11, 2012, Besse scored goals from many different angles and he didn't

stop scoring until he had led Benilde-St. Margaret's to a 5-1 victory over Hill-Murray in the championship game of the Minnesota high school hockey tournament at the Xcel Energy Center.

Three of his five goals came shorthanded.

"To be honest, I really don't remember it too well," Besse said of his goal-scoring explosion at the end of his junior season. "It was such an emotional high at that time and you're so wrapped up in the moment that you can't really remember what it felt like seeing those goals go in the net."

"But I will say it was an unbelievable experience – not only the game that I had – but winning the state championship, winning the Minnesota championship, that's what every youth

FROM COACH EAVES:
HE CAN SHOOT THE PUCK – IT'S A GIFT – YOU DON'T TEACH PEOPLE TO SHOOT LIKE THAT. HE'LL SCORE. HE HAS THAT ABILITY. THAT COMES NATURALLY.





**“I’M KNOWN AS A GOAL-SCORER...
AND THAT’S SOMETHING
WE’RE GOING TO
NEED THIS YEAR.”**

hockey player in the state of Minnesota looks forward to doing.

“On that top of that,” he concluded, “there was Jack and everything he went through.”

Jack is Jack Jablonski, then a 16-year-old Benilde-St. Margaret sophomore. On Dec. 30, 2012, Jablonski suffered a spinal cord injury during a junior varsity game against Wayzata. Jablonski, paralyzed from the chest down, was in attendance for Besse’s five-goal outburst in the state title game.

Besse had very little to say after the performance, choosing instead to keep the spotlight on Jablonski and his teammates. Hill-Murray coach Bill Lechner was also at a loss for words in trying to describe what Besse had done to his defense. “He made the puck bounce his way,” he finally said.

While Jablonski will write a new chapter to his life this fall in Los Angeles when he enrolls at Southern California, Besse is hoping that he can lead by example in Madison with the new Bad-

gers. “We have a great group of freshmen coming in and they will be able to contribute right off the bat,” he said.

As for the returning players, does Besse, for one, feel pressure in light of the graduation losses?

“Probably not from outside sources,” he said. “Maybe there’s a little bit of internal pressure trying to put myself in one of those spots to fill one of those holes. I’m known as a goal-scorer, I guess, and that’s something we’re going to need this year ... with all of those guys gone.”

To reach his expectations, Besse has to improve in two areas that often separate high school goal-scorers from college goal-scorers. “Time and space,” he said. “That factors into a lot of things with guys being so much bigger and being able to take space away.

“Also with that size comes speed – getting shots off.

“Goalies are so much bigger and quicker here.” One of the keys to getting better, Eaves pro-

posed, is recognizing weaknesses.


“That’s what I like about Grant,” Eaves said, “the fact that he knows, ‘I can get better and these are the areas where I can. I have to use my speed, I have to have changes of speed and I have to shoot more. Even though I’m this height and weight, I can win races battles by skating and body position.’

“It doesn’t matter if you’re 6-foot-5 or 5-foot-6,” Eaves went on, “you have to find a way to win those battles. And he’s starting to understand that now. He’s starting to get that. In a general sense what is next is the next step and the next step involves him being more of a take charge type player.”

In early July, Besse took another step towards his ultimate hockey-playing destination when he participated in the Anaheim Ducks prospects developmental camp. Besse, a fifth-round pick (147th overall) in the 2013 NHL draft, also took part in the Ducks camp last summer.

“Playing with guys of that caliber,” Besse said of the surrounding cast in Anaheim, which included his former UW teammate Kerdiles, a second-round pick, “you kind of watch what they do and you can’t help but pick up the little nuances that you can try to add to your game.”

Two years ago, the Badgers won the WCHA playoff title and their first Broadmoor Trophy since 1998. But they lost their first game in the NCAA tournament to UMass-Lowell. Last year, they won in the inaugural Big Ten championship game. But they again lost their first NCAA game to North Dakota.

So what’s next for this program? “Last year, the seniors talked about the year before and vowed they’d never let that happen again with a first round exit,” Besse said. “With it happening again, it has lit even more of fire under our guys to not let that happen three years in a row.” Time to rise and shine. 

“IF YOU WERE LOOKING AT GRANT LAST YEAR, HE WAS A LITTLE SEEDLING IN THE GROUND AND HE WAS SURROUNDED BY BIG PINE TREES THAT COVERED THE SUNSHINE ON HIM,” EAVES SAID. “THOSE PINE TREES ARE GONE NOW AND IT’S HIS TIME TO RISE AND SHINE.”

► SWIPE FOR NEXT FEATURE



WHAT'S NEXT →



ANN-RENÉE
DESBIENS

a S THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE SIBLINGS, including three older brothers, Ann-Renée Desbiens knew where she stood in the pecking order and decision-making process. She usually didn't have a choice.

That's how she became a goaltender.

"They used to play hockey and they'd need someone to shoot on," she explained.

Not that she was complaining. She kind of grew into the position. Learning the ropes from her brothers also made for an easier transition when she began playing competitively against the boys.

"That was easiest way to find competition," she pointed out.

So that's how she became an elite goalie for her age group while growing up in La Malbaie, a community of less than 10,000 on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec, Canada.

She said playing boys hockey was "the way to make sure I kept pushing myself to get better because the guys were so good and I wanted to do better than them. The game was more challenging."

Wisconsin women's coach Mark Johnson had traveled this road before with two of his former goaltenders – Jesse Vetter and Alex Rigsby –

both of whom had played on boys teams prior to college.

On his recruiting trip to watch Desbiens – who was named the best goalie in the Quebec Midget AA League – Johnson sat down with her parents, Raynold, a factory worker; and Claire, a nurse.

"I don't know any French and her parents don't know any English," Johnson said. "Her parents would ask a question, Ann would interpret, I would tell Ann, and we'd go back and forth. Interesting."

At the time, Ann-Renée Desbiens had little knowledge of college women's hockey. And she really didn't know much about Mark Johnson, even though he's a household name in U.S. hockey circles.

On the other hand, she said, "I feel like every single hockey player has watched 'Miracle.'"

The 2004 movie "Miracle" documented how Team USA won the gold medal at the 1980 Olympics. Kurt Russell portrayed Herb Brooks; Eric Peter-Kaiser, a Canadian, was cast as Mark Johnson.

"That's how I learned about him (Johnson)," Desbiens admitted.

Success translates the same in any language.

▼ **PHOTOS:** Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play



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Like most hockey coaches, Johnson's expectations generally revolve around the goaltending. It was a little bit different last year only from the standpoint of ending up with one more goalie than expected: Rigsby. Most signs had pointed to Rigsby making the Olympic team as Vetter's back-up.

"So we were trying to figure out if we needed a goaltender," Johnson said, "and how that individual was going to fit in – whether she was going to come in and be the No. 1 if Alex made the Olympic team or if she would be someone to battle for playing time if Alex didn't make it."

UW assistant coach Jackie Friesen, a Canadian native, had seen Desbiens play a few years earlier and had kept her on the radar. On the assumption that Rigsby would be going to Sochi, Russia with Team USA, the Badgers targeted Desbiens to compete for playing time with the returning goalies.

"I signed in April," Desbiens recalled. "Alex was in camp (with the national team) and we were all sure that she was going to stay there. I think that's what every person thought and why Mark wanted me to come here last year. That's what we expected. But it didn't happen like that."

Instead, Rigsby got cut and returned for her senior year. Desbiens went from potential starter to backup. "I think she wanted that first scenario where she could come in and be the No. 1 goaltender," Johnson said. "Obviously that wasn't going to be the case. But she handled it

very well."

So much so that Johnson credited Rigsby and Desbiens for making the best out of the situation.

Desbiens agreed.

"It went very well; we both understood each other," she said of their relationship as teammates and friends. "We needed to keep the best interests of the team first and we all knew that Alex was our starter. I was there to support her and I made sure that I was there if they needed me."

As it turned out, Rigsby got hurt early in the season in a game against Minnesota-Duluth and

the Badgers needed Desbiens to fill the void in the nets until Rigsby recovered from her knee injury. "When Alex got hurt," Johnson said, "Ann showcased herself and talent. She had a very good freshman year."

That was an understatement.

FROM COACH JOHNSON:
THE NICE THING ABOUT PLAYING IN A BUNCH OF GAMES LAST YEAR IS THAT ANN, LIKE A LOT OF SOPHOMORES, HAS ALL THAT EXPERIENCE WHICH IS REALLY GOING TO HELP HER BIG-TIME.



WATCH: DESBIENS' SAVE AGAINST NORTH DAKOTA

Desbiens posted an 11-1 record and pitched four shutouts. She finished with a .957 save percentage and a 1.06 goals-against-average. Both would have been school records. But she fell three appearances short of the minimum amount needed to qualify for such things.

Her only setback came in January to North Dakota. The Badgers were outshot, 36-21, in a 4-1 loss at LaBahn Arena. "That was hard, I don't like that (losing) feeling that much," Desbiens said. "But I'm going to lose some games and I need to be able to respond and come back stronger the next game."

True to her word, Desbiens came up with 29 saves the following day in helping lead Wisconsin to a 4-1 win over North Dakota. She went on to start two more games – giving up just one goal – before permanently stepping aside for Rigsby, the school's all-time leader in victories.

"The nice thing about playing in a bunch of

games last year is that Ann, like a lot of sophomores, has all that experience which is really going to help her big-time," Johnson said. "They know the rinks, they know the league, they know the players and they know the atmospheres."

"There are a lot of things they already know about and they usually come back to campus feeling more comfortable and relaxed and they can make improvements in their game. Ann is equipped with a lot of talent; she has to be able to push herself and challenge herself to be even better."

Desbiens has been training this summer with the Canadian national team program in Quebec City, a two-hour drive from La Malbaie. She has been returning home on weekends to spend some quality time with family and to work. She has a part-time job as a waitress at a local restaurant.



“EVERY SINGLE DAY
I GO ON THE ICE,
**I JUST ENJOY
THE GAME.**”

Desbiens didn't sound concerned over facing greater expectations this season in replacing Rigsby on a full-time basis. “I would say I have a different role this year, but I don't feel like it's pressure,” she said. “That's why I'm a goalie. I'm excited for a new challenge and ready for it.”

It's refreshing to hear someone speak their mind – in French or English. By her own admission, the language barrier has been a challenging adjustment; especially since the 20-year-old Desbiens didn't begin learning English until middle school; especially since only French is still spoken in her home today.

It wasn't a matter of getting homesick as a UW freshman. “I left home when I was 15 (to play hockey) so I was used to not being at home,” said Desbiens, who earned a silver medal with the Canadian U-18 team at the World Championships. “But the language was the hardest part last year.”

The first few weeks were the toughest. “When I started thinking in English, everything was easier,” said Desbiens. “My teammates were helpful

– Blayre Turnbull speaks French very well – and sometimes they'd correct me to make sure I was getting better at it.”


Certain slang words or expressions were understandably confusing to Desbiens.

“When I would translate word by word, it didn't make sense in the context, so it was like, ‘What does that mean?’” she said, adding that she felt comfortable academically because of all the resources available to students on campus. “They give you everything you need to succeed.”

Overall, Johnson was impressed with her ability to adjust, on and off the ice. “She's a very smart individual,” he said. “She hasn't been speaking English that long but she adapted to that part of it here, along with handling a lot of things with a different culture and country.”

Desbiens has learned to take nothing for granted; a universal reality of competition.

“Every single day I go on the ice,” Desbiens said, “I just enjoy the game.”

Translating that to mean it's a great day for hockey might draw a smile from Mark Johnson. 

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VIDEO: *The Camp* - Episode 1

Young receivers catching on and moving up

Trio of freshman WRs impressing during camp

Wisconsin quarterback Joel Stave saw something in freshmen wide receivers Natrell Jamerson, George Rushing and Krenwick Sanders that should bode well for their future, and his. They catch the ball.

“I’ve seen them all make nice catches,” Stave said. “You have to get off press coverage. You have to beat man-to-man coverage. And then when you do, you’ve got to be able to make a catch. Those guys can do that and they’ve all shown that.”

“They’re good athletes, they’re good players. There’s obviously a lot of room for improvement but they know that and coach (Chris) Beatty knows that and they’re working hard to get better and where they need to be. I think they’re going to be good players for this team.”

Jamerson, Rushing and Sanders all came up with catches in Sunday’s scrimmage, though Sanders’ “reception” was deemed out-of-bounds by the Big Ten officiating crew that was on hand, along with more than 5,000 fans who took advantage of the open practice at Camp Randall Stadium.

Sanders still made Stave’s point. He wasn’t able to get one foot down but he made a turning, twisting catch along the bound-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

Aug. 30	vs. LSU	8 p.m.
Sept. 6	Western Illinois	11 a.m.
Sept. 20	Bowling Green	TBA
Sept. 27	South Florida	TBA
Oct. 4	at Northwestern	TBA
Oct. 11	Illinois	TBA
Oct. 25	Maryland	11 a.m.
Nov. 1	at Rutgers	11 a.m.
Nov. 8	at Purdue	TBA
Nov. 15	Nebraska	TBA
Nov. 22	at Iowa	TBA
Nov. 29	Minnesota	TBA

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Badgers open the season ranked No. 6

Wisconsin gains respect after NCAA run

It's been nearly eight months since the Wisconsin volleyball team competed in the NCAA championship match in Seattle. Eight long months after the Badgers' magical NCAA tournament run that resulted in an NCAA runner-up finish.

Now, the Badgers are back in the gym for the 2014 season, looking to win that championship match.

"It was like a told them, it was a lot of fun being back in the gym," said second-year head coach Kelly Sheffield. "It always is. You look forward to the first day for months."

Sheffield is also looking forward to the return of a lot of familiar faces — 11 letterwinners and six starters. He also welcomes three newcomers, including two transfers.

In all, Sheffield has 15 players on his roster, a welcome change from the 2013 season when eight players missed at least three matches due to injury.

"I'm not going to get really excited about our health after day one (but) it was certainly exciting to have quite a few more people in (the gym)," Sheffield said. "We want to try to have those bodies by the end of the year. We're not going to celebrate our health right now."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

Aug. 23 **Fan Fest** 2 p.m.
Cardinal/White Scrimmage 3:30 p.m.

Big Ten/ACC Challenge, Minneapolis, MN:

Aug. 29 vs. Louisville 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 30 vs. Notre Dame 4 p.m.

Northern Colorado/Colorado St. Classic:

Sept. 5 at N. Colorado 8 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Florida A&M 12:30 p.m.
at Colorado State 8 p.m.

HotelRED Invitational:

Sept. 12 **Miami** 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 **Missouri State** 12 p.m.
Ball State 7:30 p.m.

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Schrobilgen primed for encore season

Debut season included Big Ten individual title

The Wisconsin men's cross country team is one of the most storied programs in the nation, winning five national championships, 46 Big Ten team titles and having 29 runners with Big Ten individual crowns.

Last season, Malachy Schrobilgen became the latest Badger to win an individual conference title and the first in school history to do so as a freshman. In fact, Schrobilgen was only the third freshman in Big Ten history to win the conference meet.

"One of my goals was to be top five in the Big Ten," Schrobilgen said. "But I definitely didn't want to rule out winning the title going into the season as if you do that, you have already counted yourself out. I think I kept my goals high, but reasonable, and as the season went on I realized I was progressing well and I was responding to the training and (coach Mick Byrne's) workouts."

After earning All-America honors in cross country, Schrobilgen continued his success to the track seasons, playing an instrumental role in the Badgers' Big Ten indoor and outdoor titles. At the indoor meet, he helped UW complete the podium sweep in the 5000 meters, finishing behind decorated seniors Moham-

SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 5	Badger Opener	5 p.m.
Sept. 20	Iowa Big Ten Preview	11 a.m.
Oct. 3	Notre Dame Invitational	5 p.m.
Oct. 17	Wisconsin adidas Invitational	11 a.m.
Nov. 2	Big Ten Championship	TBA
Nov. 8	Wisconsin Open	11 a.m.
Nov. 14	NCAA Great Lakes Regional	Noon
Nov. 22	NCAA Championship	11 a.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Freshman Blahnik ready to make her mark

High school career included eight state titles

Only one thrower in Wisconsin girls prep history has won eight state titles in throwing events, and she's coming to Madison this fall.

Kennedy Blahnik, the WIAA Division 3 record holder in both the shot put and the discus, dominated her competition during her four years while throwing for Algoma High School. Her worst finish during her high school career was a second-place showing her freshman season, and she became the first track athlete in state history to be recognized as the Gatorade Wisconsin Track & Field Athlete of the Year three straight seasons.

Throwing runs in her family, as her father, Dean, is the throws coach at Algoma, while her brother, Zach, throws at the University of South Alabama.

"My dad has been coaching throws for 27 years," Blahnik said. "He has been doing it long before I was along. I started throwing when I was 7 and we made it a family affair."

In addition to throwing, Blahnik was very busy in high school, playing volleyball and basketball along with playing in the band. She also competed in forensics, was a member of National Honor Society and was in the ski club.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 5	Badger Opener	5 p.m.
Sept. 20	Iowa Big Ten Preview	11 a.m.
Oct. 3	Notre Dame Invitational	5 p.m.
Oct. 17	Wisconsin adidas Invitational	11 a.m.
Nov. 2	Big Ten Championship	TBA
Nov. 8	Wisconsin Open	11 a.m.
Nov. 14	NCAA Great Lakes Regional	Noon
Nov. 22	NCAA Championship	11 a.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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New recruit Adrian Remeniuk

Strength in numbers: Badgers sign 12

Freshmen ready to continue winning culture

When head coach John Trask came to Wisconsin, he set out to build a winning culture in Madison and help UW men's soccer become one of the elite programs not only in the state, but the country.

The Badgers did more than just lay a foundation from which to build upon. They cemented it last season, earning the program's first appearance in the NCAA tournament in nearly two decades.

Along the way, the Badgers claimed three wins over top-25 opponents, earned the fifth-most wins in a season in program history (14), and took a home unbeaten streak that dates back to 2012 and extended it longer than any other team in the country (14).

Six Badgers were honored as All-Big Ten performers, including Tomislav Zadro and AJ Cochran sweeping Big Ten Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year awards, respectively.

Those feats belong to 2013, however. Cochran and Zadro — plus 12 other seniors — are gone.

Time to find out what's next.

Team captains Jacob Brindle, Drew Conner and Adam Lauko

SCHEDULE

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

Aug. 17	UIC	W, 1-0
	(Exhibition)	
Aug. 22	at Creighton	7 p.m.
	(Exhibition)	
Aug. 25	at Notre Dame	6 p.m.
	(Exhibition)	
Aug. 29	San Francisco	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Xavier	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	at George Mason	6 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Georgetown	Noon
Sept. 12	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	St. John's	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Maryland	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Marquette	7:05 p.m.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Dynamic duo showcased on world stage

Lavelle and McNicoll poised for big things

Surrounded by a veteran locker room, now filled with five seniors and seven juniors for 2014, it's easy for one to imagine the youth of the Wisconsin women's soccer team getting lost in the shuffle.

That never kept Rose Lavelle and Kinley McNicoll from shining through.

The young duo has not only proven itself to be one of the most dynamic in college soccer, the two have also shown themselves to be among the best in the world for their age. That's why both were chosen to represent their countries — United States for Lavelle, Canada for McNicoll — at the 2014 FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup in Canada this August.

Lavelle dons the stars and stripes for the USA, while McNicoll straps on the captain's armband and leads Canada into the tournament on home soil.

Earlier this year, Lavelle distinguished herself as one of the most promising full U.S. Women's National Team prospects by earning the Golden Ball for most valuable player of the 2014 CONCACAF Championships. During the championships, the Cincinnati, Ohio, native was instrumental in guiding Team USA

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

Aug. 14	at Marquette (Exhibition)	W, 1-0
Aug. 22	Oregon	7 p.m.
Aug. 24	Tennessee	2 p.m.
Aug. 29	S. Dakota St.	5 p.m.
Aug. 31	Northern Iowa	1 p.m.
Sept. 5	at Washington	8 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Portland	Noon
Sept. 12	at Mich. St.	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Michigan	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	Nebraska	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Indiana	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Purdue	Noon

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Former Badgers have Olympics in sight

James, Opitz, Weiland and Latz race for USA

The Olympic Summer Games are still two years away, but five former Badgers served notice that they could be next when the team is selected to head to Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Two of the five, Grant James and Kristin Hedstrom, already have an Olympics appearance on their resumes. James placed fourth with the U.S. men's eight at the 2012 Games in London, while Hedstrom took 11th in the lightweight double sculls. James will row on the 2014 U.S. National Team in the men's four, while Hedstrom will race in the women's lightweight quadruple sculls.

Middleton, Wisconsin, native Vicky Opitz rows in the women's eight for the second-consecutive year at the world championships, looking for a repeat gold medal.

Newcomers to the senior national team are Andrew Weiland, who will race in the lightweight men's eight, and Grace Latz, who will compete with the women's quadruple sculls. The 2014 World Rowing Championships take place Aug. 24 through Sept. 1 in Amsterdam.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

MEN'S

- Oct. 19 Head of the Charles
Boston, MA
- Oct. 26 Head of the Iowa
Iowa City, IA
- Oct. 26 Princeton Chase
Princeton, NJ
- Nov. 2 Head of the Huron
Ann Arbor, MI

WOMEN'S

- Sept. 20 Milwaukee River
Challenge

WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT

- Sept. 20 Milwaukee River
Challenge

[> View complete schedule](#)

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QUITE A DEBUT

U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME: Familiar with the Badgers from his time as assistant coach under Bob Johnson from 1969-71, Jeff Sauer returned to Madison and took the UW men's hockey team to the 1983 NCAA Championship in his first season as the program's head coach. Wisconsin won the title with a 6-2 victory over Harvard in the championship game, capping a 33-10-4 season with the Badgers' fourth NCAA title and the first of two during the Sauer coaching era (1982-2002).

—MORE HALL OF FAME BADGERS—



CUP RUNNETH OVER

U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME: After a Wisconsin career (1991-95) that garnered such accolades as first-team All-American, WCHA Defenseman of the Year and All-WCHA Rookie Team, **Brian Rafalski** helped the New Jersey Devils to the 2000 Stanley Cup, the first of three Cups over his 11-year NHL career. A member of the 1999-2000 NHL All-Rookie Team, Rafalski went on to skate in three Olympic Games, capturing a pair of silver medals in the process.



THE CHAMP IS HERE

NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME: **Jim Jordan** wrestled for the Badgers at 134 lbs. from 1982-1986 and was a three-time All-American and two-time NCAA champion. He finished his career with a 156-28-1 collegiate record and still holds the record for most career wins in school history. He has represented Ohio's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since Jan. 3, 2007.



FIRST AND ONLY

USTFCCCA HALL OF FAME: The lone Big Ten coach to guide a team to an NCAA indoor track title, **Ed Nuttycombe** retired in 2013 after winning more conference titles than any coach in any sport in Big Ten history (26) during his 30-year head coaching career. He was announced on Aug. 6 as a member of the 2014 class of the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame, where he will join Charles Nuttycombe to become the first father-son duo enshrined by the USTFCCCA.