

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

# VARSITY

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"I FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN A VERY GOOD SPOT."

## COMFORT ZONE

FROM HIS FAMILY TO HIS FOOTBALL TEAM,  
GARY ANDERSEN IS SETTLED IN FOR HIS SECOND SEASON



## COVER STORY

# GARY ANDERSEN: YEAR 2

After a successful debut season at Wisconsin, head coach Gary Andersen feels right at home as the new-look Badgers prepare to take on LSU in front of a national audience.



## FEATURE

## DYNAMIC DUO

Kinley McNicoll and Rose Lavelle return to the Badgers following a successful World Cup run.

## LUCAS AT LARGE

## THEIR TIME IS NOW

Redshirt freshmen Chikwe Obasih and Alec James are ready to contribute on UW's d-line.



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# VARSIITY

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## A year later, time is now for Obasih and James

**O**n the eve of Wisconsin's 2013 season opener, Chikwe Obasih and Alec James met friends at the Memorial Union Terrace, one of the most idyllic spots on the Madison campus in late summer.

Neither had a care in the world. Obasih, a defensive end from Brookfield Central, and James, then an outside linebacker from Brookfield East, were redshirting as true freshmen.

Since they weren't on the travel roster, they weren't obligated to stay at the team hotel the night before the Badgers faced UMass on Aug. 31 at Camp Randall Stadium.

"We were at the Terrace just hanging out," Obasih said. "It was 8:30 on Friday night when we got the call from Coach

Strickland. We put him on speaker phone and we thought we were in trouble."

That was not the case at all. Ben Strickland is the UW cornerbacks coach and chief in-state recruiter. And he just wanted them to know that they were technically already on the clock for 2014.

"When you know you're being redshirted," Strickland said, "sometimes there's a little bit of the attitude, 'Well, I've got a year to get ready, I'm still a year away, this year is not important.'

"I was just reminding them to make sure they took advantage of every day so they're ready for the (playing) opportunity when it comes. I remember what it was like being in their shoes."

Strickland, a former walk-on cornerback and team captain,

also hails from Brookfield Central. He was definitely ready when injuries created a void in the secondary and he had to take over as a starter.

"Every kid, whether they red-shirt as a freshman or not, is important to this program," he said of the strong developmental component that exists here. "I just wanted to remind them of that, too.

"Especially with in-state kids, I believe they're the heartbeat of this program. How they go, the rest of the team goes. They have to continue to push themselves and take on a leadership role."

Strickland definitely got their attention. In Obasih's words, "He told us to be ready because a year from now, they'll be depending on us. We were thinking about it all last year on the scout







team.”

Here’s what James heard, “He (Strickland) just said, ‘There are going to be a lot of expectations on you guys next year. Don’t take the scout team stuff lightly. Take those reps and be ready.’”

One year later, ready or not, it’s time to show what they’ve got. Obasih, No. 34, a starting defensive tackle, and James, No. 6, his backup, will make their collegiate debuts Saturday against LSU.

“It’s finally here now,” said Obasih, slowly measuring his words to allow them to sink in. “It’s a nervous feeling. It’s an anxious feeling. It’s an exciting feeling. It’s everything.”

On Monday, Wisconsin coach Gary Andersen estimated that as many as 14 freshmen — first-year or redshirted freshmen — would travel to Houston for the AdvoCare Texas Kickoff at NRG Stadium.

**STRICKLAND ON OBASIH & JAMES:**  
**YOU CAN SEE BOTH OF THESE GUYS GETTING BETTER. NOW, IT’S TIME TO SEE IF THEY CAN PLAY ON GAME DAYS.**

Any nervousness or anxiety would be completely understandable, especially for Obasih and James who will be giving up considerable weight and experience to LSU’s offensive line.

A year ago, Obasih was listed at 6-3, 235, James was 6-4, 220. They added much-needed bulk over the winter and summer conditioning periods. Obasih is up to 265, James is hovering around 260.

“They’ve been putting good weight on me, not just pizza and burgers,” James said. “It’s not like I feel a lot slower or I’ve lost step. I feel like I’m

taking on blocks better and I’m more stout on the line.”

Speed over size is being stressed because they still don’t have much of the latter. Not by comparison to LSU’s offensive left tackle La’el Collins (6-5, 321) and guard Vadal Alexander (6-6, 340).

“At 265, there’s enough weight where you can stand your ground and get in your gap,” Obasih said. “We want to be fast on this D-line, we all want to get out of our stance and have good steps.”

Fifth-year senior Warren Herring, one of the leaders on the UW defense, cited Obasih’s and James’ daily jousts in practice with tackles Rob Havenstein (6-8, 333) and Tyler Marz (6-5, 325).

“They’ve been able to stick their nose in there with some of the bigger guys on our O-line,” Herring said. “And they’ve shown tons of improvement since the spring, especially against the run.”

But can they hold up physically against LSU and everybody else on the schedule? As friends and roommates, Obasih and James will have plenty to talk about during their college football orientation.

“That’s what they came here for — to play (against these types of opponents),” Strickland said. “You can see both of those guys getting better. Now, it’s time to see if they can play on game days.” ■





# Opportunity awaits in early season clash

**W**hen you open the season against a quality opponent like LSU, it motivates the players more during the offseason than if you have an FCS school or someone who doesn't have the same reputation.

And, quite frankly, in this day and age with the advent of the College Football Playoff, you're going to upgrade your nonconference schedule. Everybody has to do it, and you're seeing that.

The other day, someone said to me, "If you lose to LSU, your season is over."

I said, "Are you kidding me? You still have at least 11 to play and you haven't played a conference game yet, so you've got everything laid out in front of you, whether you win or lose."

What's going to happen Saturday night is that you're going to find out where you are when this game is over. When I was coaching, I thought some of the early season games helped us grow.

In '92, we played at Washington and they were the defending national champions. We went out there with a really young group, a group that took us to the Rose Bowl the next year.

Looking back on that game, if Darrell Bevell had started at quarterback, we would have had a chance to beat them because they were playing man

coverage and they couldn't cover Lee DeRamus.

Even though we lost (27-10) it showed us that we could compete on the road against a very good team. They had to play hard because our kids got after them and they weren't intimidated.

In '97, we opened with Syracuse and lost big (34-0) but it was one of the better teams that they had with Donovan McNabb and a number of other players that would go on to the NFL.

It was Ron Dayne's sophomore year and we had a very young offensive line. Most of them were starting their first game. But that team still went on to win eight games and played in a January 1 bowl.

Syracuse showed us how far we had to go, it gave us a measuring stick, it showed us where we were. You don't go into games like that wondering, "What if we lose? What are we going to do now?"

That has nothing to do with it. You never go into a game thinking that way. You go in and try to play well and you see how your young guys respond to whatever happens.

I think we'll be a good team this year and very competitive with a lot of freshmen and sophomores on the roster. Yet we also have a group of juniors and seniors that have won a lot of games.

The important thing is, I want to see us get better as the season goes on. I've been asked about Melvin Gordon and how much better he can get. Some have questioned whether he can catch the ball.

He hasn't caught many, but he hasn't had many thrown to him. He has run between the tackles, he has shown his speed, he has run with power. To be a complete back, he has to catch some passes.

From what I've seen of Corey Clement, he has really practiced well. He's a strong runner, he really runs through things and it looks like he's thicker. He could be a punishing back.

This should be an exciting college football season. I know being involved on the inaugural playoff selection committee is very special to me. It seems like we've been prepping for this for a long time.

I want to do a good job with it and I plan on being well-versed and prepared for our weekly meetings in Dallas. I will leave on Monday mornings and return to Madison on Tuesday afternoon.

It's going to be busy with the meetings, our games and getting all of our other teams going with the start of the school year. But I'm ready for it. I've always felt this was the best time of the year. ■



# Fresh faces on a big stage for UW and LSU

For Wisconsin and LSU to play in this Saturday's made-for-TV matchup in Houston speaks well to what the Badgers have accomplished in the last two-plus decades. Perhaps in a perfect world, this would be a true home-and-home series, but there should be no shortage of atmosphere at NRG Stadium this weekend.

When these two programs meet again at Lambeau Field in 2016, it should be plenty loud at the home of the Packers.

Saturday's game is neutral in name only. This will be a road game, just not in a stadium nicknamed Death Valley. It will be quite the test, especially with all the young players who will be making their collegiate football debuts.

Both the Badgers and the Tigers will be introducing a number of new players. While Wisconsin is moving on without Jared Abbrederis, James White and Jacob Pedersen, LSU is trying to replace an offense that featured a 3,000-yard passer (Zach Mettenberger), a pair of 1,000-yard receivers (Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry) and a 1,000-yard rusher (Jeremy Hill).

That collection of LSU talent became the first in SEC history to post those lofty numbers in the same year.

But they are gone. Like the Badgers, the Tigers will be counting on those whose roles

will increase dramatically from 2013, or they will count on players seeing the field for the first time.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that we could see close to two dozen freshmen. Some will be on special teams, while several others likely will play prominent roles on offense and defense.

For the Badgers, some of the new faces will include defensive linemen Chikwe Obasih and Alec James as well as safety Lubern Figaro. On offense, expect to see rookie receivers George Rushing and Natrell Jamerson work into the rotation. The same goes for Troy Fumagalli at tight end.

Rafael Gaglianone, a freshman from Sao Paulo, Brazil is in line to handle field goals and extra points.

The kicking matchup alone is intriguing. LSU sophomore Colby Delahoussaye was nearly perfect last fall, making 13 of his 14 field goal attempts. On PATs, he was 56-of-57.

That makes him a seasoned veteran.

Rookies to watch for the Tigers include a running back named Leonard Fournette. Many in the recruiting world considered the 6'1", 224-pounder the nation's top prospect coming out of high school. There are some who compare him to Adrian Peterson.

Some other freshmen who

could help the Tigers sooner than later include receivers Avery Peterson, D.J. Clark and Trey Quinn. Speed appears to be a common theme with this freshman class.

On defense, LSU returns seven starters, but it will be young at the defensive tackle spots. Talented, but young. The best news for the Tigers is that they expect 290-pound tackle Quentin Thomas to play. This after he suffered a biceps injury early in camp that had some wondering whether he would miss the entire season.

With so much youth on the field, it could make for some interesting moments. "Youth is awesome," said Gary Andersen, who adds "and something is going to happen."

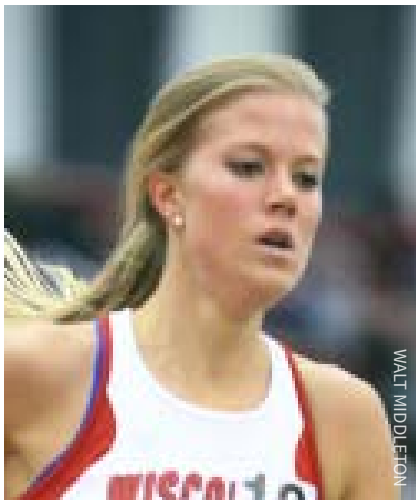
Is it a big game? Sure, but Andersen is careful not to make it more than just that — a game. With months to prepare, it is important not to put too much on your plate. That means coaches as well as players. "You can start chasing ghosts if you allow yourself," Andersen said.

True to his keep-it-simple philosophy, Andersen's message is concise — "You have to block. You have to be efficient. You have to stay ahead of the chains."

On Saturday night, the Badgers will get their first opportunity of the season to accomplish those goals. ■



# WHAT IS YOUR 'FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL' TRADITION?



WALT MIDDLETON

**EMMA-LISA MURPHY**  
Junior • Women's XC

“ Ever since kindergarten I have had my picture taken with either my siblings or friends the morning of the first day of school. So this year, I'll be taking the annual first day of school portrait with my roommates.”



JOHN FISHER

**COREY CLEMENT**  
Sophomore • Football

“ The night before school starts I always have to have a family talk. My mom and I always sit down and think of long-term goals for the year and if I can complete them, then I had a successful year. For college, I just try to be prepared and it's worked out for the best for me. I still had a great (grade-point) average, over a 3.30.”



**MICHAEL VAN VOORHIS**  
Senior • Men's XC

“ I like to go on a run to Picnic Point and then grab breakfast at Mickey's Dairy Bar.”



DAVID STLUKA

**MARISSA MERSCH**  
Senior • Softball

“ I actually have a funny story from freshman year here at UW. It was the first day and I got to my 8:50 a.m. class in social science and I got my notebook out all ready for my first college class. After 20 minutes, I realized I was in the wrong class and there were only 30 kids in the class. So, I had to awkwardly get up during the lecture and leave.”





## DREW CONNER

MEN'S SOCCER

*Midfielder Drew Conner played an integral role in the Badgers reaching their first NCAA tournament in nearly two decades last season, starting all 21 games and finishing second on the team in assists (7). A team captain this season, the junior from Cary, Illinois, looks to share his advice and experience with a young UW team that features 12 newcomers.*

**You were part of a memorable ride last year that culminated in an NCAA tournament berth. What was one of your favorite memories or matches from last season?**

“It has to be between the Indiana and the DePaul games. Our game against the Hoosiers was a comeback win in front of a great home crowd. Not to mention they were defending national champions at the time. The DePaul game was unique, too, because we tied the game at the very last second and ended up winning in overtime. I’ve never been part of a game that came down to the actual last second.”

**What were you up to this offseason? By all accounts, you had a busy and successful summer.**

“This summer I was playing with the Chicago Fire PDL team. The team is made up of a lot of the best college soccer players across the country. Towards the end of the summer I got the opportunity to train with the professional team, which was a great experience.”

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### ALL ABOUT DREW

**Class:** Junior

**Hometown:** Cary, Illinois

**Height:** 5-11

**Position:** Midfielder

#### Honors

##### 2013

- Second team All-Big Ten
- Started all 21 games
- Recorded nine points (one goal, seven assists)
- Ranked second on team in assists
- Ranked third on team for minutes played
- Two game-winning assists
- One game-winning goal

##### 2012

- Big Ten All-Freshman Team
- Started 18 games
- Recorded five points

##### Prep

- No. 1 player in the Midwest
- No. 30 player in U.S. by Top Drawer Soccer
- 2011-12 Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year
- 2012 Northwest Herald Player of the Year



# SETTLING IN

With his family firmly entrenched in Madison, year two of the Gary Andersen era is marked by familiarity

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



**b**EHIND GARY ANDERSEN'S OFFICE DESK, there's a framed picture of Andersen hugging wife Stacey after his 2010 Utah State team upset BYU, 31-16, snapping a 10-game losing streak in the series that dated back to 1993.

"That's the one picture," said Andersen, the second-year Wisconsin coach, "that completely keeps me grounded."

A week earlier, San Diego State had completely dismantled Utah State, 41-7.

The Aggies' record fell to 1-3 in Andersen's second season in Logan, Utah.

The pressure was taking a toll; Andersen was pushing himself to the limit, and beyond.

That following Monday morning, Andersen blacked out and fell in the bathroom of his home.

Stacey heard the loud noise, found him on the floor and was petrified.

He was lucky. He cracked two vertebrae in his neck. It could have been much worse.

"You realize that it," he said of his all-consuming job, "is not that important sometimes."

It was a hard lesson to learn for Andersen, who was forced to wear a neck brace for a month.

"I missed most of the week of practice and the kids came out and played their tails off (against BYU)," he said, still marveling at the memory of that home win on Merlin Olsen Field.

"That picture," he said, pointing to a shelf behind his desk, "reminds me, 'Don't push yourself too hard ... nor the kids ... nor the assistant coaches.'"

There are framed pictures of the kids throughout Andersen's eighth floor office in Camp Randall.

Oldest son Keegan played tight end at Utah State, got married this summer and moved to Madison to be a graduate assistant on defense for the Badgers. He's coaching linebackers with his dad.

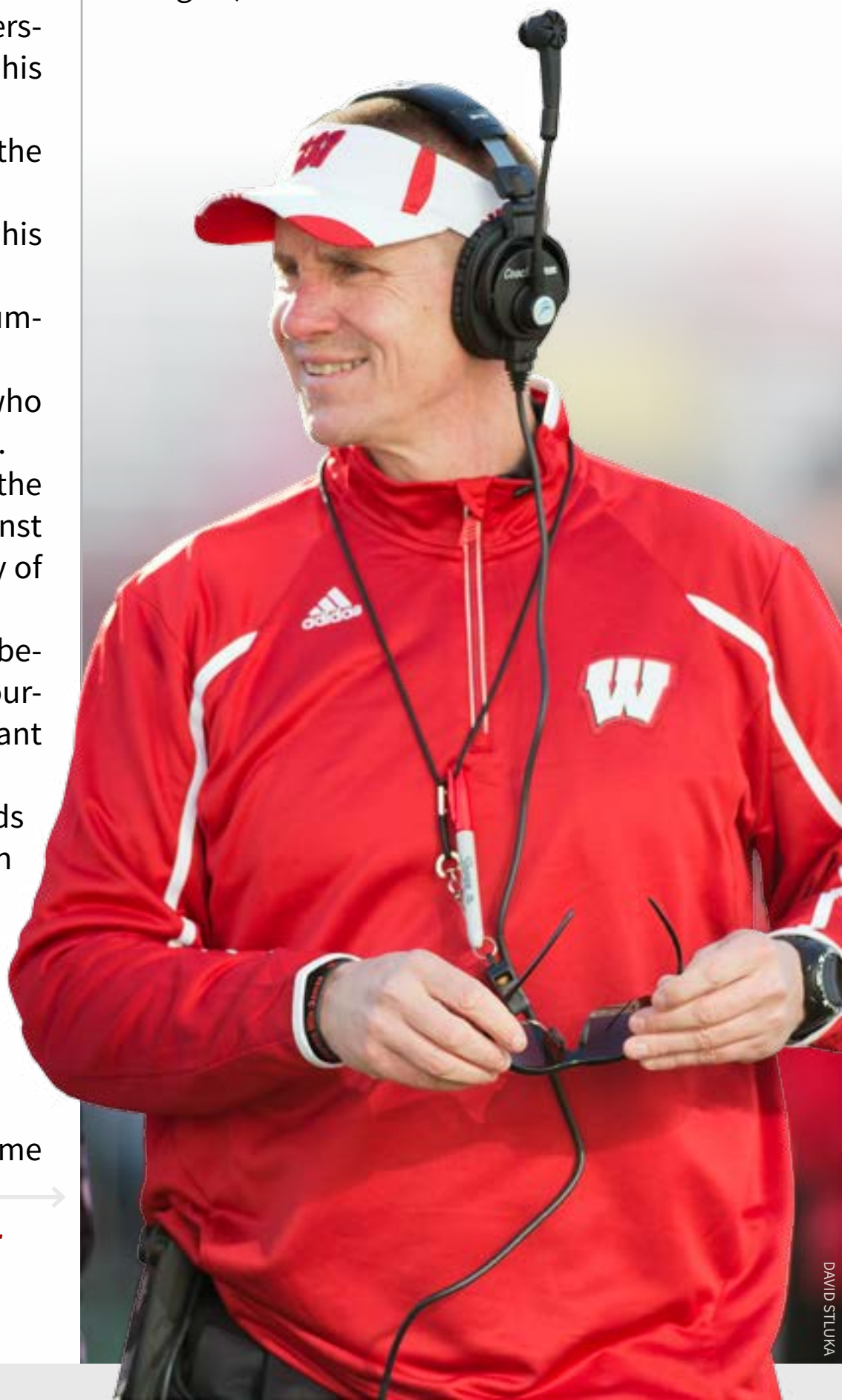
The Andersen twins are both living at home

now, too.

Chasen Andersen is a freshman linebacker at Wisconsin, while Hagen Andersen is planning on taking on-line classes. He recently left Weber State after transferring there from Utah State.

"He went through two-a-days at Weber," Gary Andersen said of Hagen, a wide receiver. "And to make a long story short, it was the third time that his knee has gone out on him.

"I'm glad that he has made the decision (to quit football), much like Vontae (Jackson, a sophomore tailback who made the same decision after suffering another knee injury with the Badgers).



**Gary Andersen was one of just five first-year head coaches to win at least nine games at his new school last year.**



“He (Hagen) is going to get started in school again and find a direction in his life where he wants to head. It’s football season now, he might hang around here (Madison) for a little bit.”

Keegan and wife Jennifer live less than 15 minutes from Gary and Stacey and the twins.

“It been awesome,” Gary Andersen said of the entire family relocating to Madison. “It’s something that I never guessed would have happened.

“When we accepted the opportunity to come to Wisconsin and be a Badger, we just thought it was going to be Stacey and me. Now, we’ve got our three kids with us and a daughter-in-law.

“That’s a pretty good deal,” he said, breaking into a big smile.

.....  
**T**he candy jar on Gary Andersen’s desk is full. The one on the other side of the room is empty.

“That’s not good,” he said.

There are two doors to Andersen’s office, the “back door” leads to the assistant’s offices.

The back door is always open and the players pop in and take candy on their way to meetings.

“I would hate this office if that door wasn’t right there,” he said, motioning to the back door, “because I couldn’t leave it open and I couldn’t see the

kid’s faces. That would bother me.”

There used to be a “curse cup” or jar on Andersen’s desk.

**“THERE’S A POINT WHERE YOU FEEL THE KIDS BELIEVE IN YOU AND I SUPPOSE PART OF THAT IS BEING ACCEPTED BY THEM. YOU HAVE TO LET THEM UNDERSTAND THAT YOU REALLY ARE WHAT YOU SAY YOU ARE.”**



“We don’t have it anymore,” he said. “We’ve improved in that area.”

The more he thought about it ... “We probably still should have it,” he added, laughing.

Any coach who swore was obligated to throw a buck into the curse cup.

“When we made bad decisions with our language,” Andersen confirmed, “we’d put it in there.”

Whatever money was collected was earmarked for the group and lunch at the end of the season.

“Kids are far from perfect, just like our coaches,” Andersen said. “But it does matter (the type of language that is used) especially when we have little faces and little ears around us (at practices).”

Sometimes it’s unavoidable; especially because it’s such an emotional sport.

“That’s part of the drill,” Andersen agreed. “But it still doesn’t make it right, either.”

After a recent practice, the players were “penalized” because of a sloppy locker room.

The penalty was a series of crunches.

“Coach Simon,” he said of the UW’s strength coordinator Evan Simon, “assured me that his little workout would remind them to throw their cups in the garbage can or straighten up a chair.

“I would hope the people who donated the

“*The most important thing to me is the relationships that you can build and the things that you talk about.*”

# FAMILY. TRUST. BELIEF. THAT TAKES”

money (for the locker room) could walk in there at any time and be proud. If not, it’s an issue. And it was unacceptable to our standards of what we want.

“It helps you stay organized,” he said of the lesson that he was teaching. “It gives you responsibility. It’s kind of who you are. I’m not saying you have to be the neatest person in America.

“But they’re borrowing that locker for a short period of time and it’s their responsibility to take care of it. Almost every locker in there has a name plate of a former player.

“It’s the same way I feel about my office. It’s our house, right? So it should be clean.”

Andersen is feeling much more comfortable in his eighth-floor office.

“A year does amazing things,” he said. “The most important thing to me is the relationships that you can build and the things that you talk about. Family. Trust. Belief. That takes time.

“You just don’t make that stuff up. I think our kids believe that now. So, in turn, we can push them harder in life, we can push them harder academically, we can push them harder in football ...

“And we can also hug them harder,” he emphasized.





“WE’RE ALSO INVESTED IN CHANGING KIDS’ LIVES. AND, ULTIMATELY, IF WE DO THAT THEN WE’LL BE SUCCESSFUL COACHES.”

....

**A**ndersen’s office has many framed pictures of his kids.

There are pictures of Jared Abbrederis, Chris Borland and James White, among others.

“It just reminds me of that first senior class that was here that helped us get through the adjustment,” Andersen said. “They were loyal kids and those pictures are going to stay up there.”

When did Andersen feel like he “turned the corner” in his first season at Wisconsin?

“About halfway through the year,” he said. “We had been through some good days; we had been through some bad days. But I felt I could go to the seniors on the leadership committee.

“I could go to Chris Borland and communicate with him. I could do likewise with Ethan Armstrong, Beau Allen and Ethan Hemer. I could really go up to Ryan Groy and communicate.

“I could ask him, ‘How are you feeling, Ryan?’ and he would really tell me instead of just, ‘I’m good coach.’ There was a point where I felt we

were starting to sink in as a staff, a team, a family.

“There’s a point where you feel the kids believe in you and I suppose part of that is being accepted by them. You have to let them understand that you really are what you say you are.

“I think there’s a process that goes into that with the fans, too,” Andersen continued. “You just don’t come in and make yourself a Badger in one day to a fan that is a true Badger fan.

“There’s going to be a wait and see. Are you going to win games? Are you going to take care of our kids? Are you going to do things right?

“We’re invested to make the fans happy with what the kids do. We’re also invested in changing kids’ lives. And, ultimately, if we do that then we’ll be successful coaches.”

So how successful are the Badgers going to be in 2014? Does Andersen know what he has?

“We know a lot about them,” he said of the players, “but to say, ‘This is who we’re going to be’ or to say ‘This is how many games we think



that we can win' ... I don't think we can say so (right now).

"How we are going to handle adversity with the senior leaders and our youth will be a defining moment. How athletic are we? We're pretty athletic against ourselves. But how are we against others?"

"Overall, I would say we have better team speed, which we need because we don't have a linebacker who plays like Borland or a wide receiver who plays like Abbrederis and can replace them."

What do they have? Andersen was asked to fill in the blanks or complete the thoughts.

Your strongest position group is ...

"Offensive line. Hands down. Some may say the running backs. I would say the O-Line."

You will be balanced on offense if ...

"We can throw the ball on third down consistently."

You will hold up physically against the run if ...

"We have six defensive linemen that can be technically and fundamentally sound snap after snap."

You will be better defensively because ...

"We'll make more big plays ... more TFLs, sacks, fumbles. We'll not necessarily be more aggressive. But we'll have more big plays."

Tanner McEvoy and Joel Stave will give you an opportunity to ...

"That's a good one. We have two quarterbacks who can play and they will give us an opportunity (to have success) so we won't have to adjust the offense during the season for a youthful quarterback who's not prepared for the moment."

The thing that you really like about this team is ...

"Is the way they care for each other. I would say right now that's the No. 1 thing."



  
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Andersen, like most coaches, is married to certain phrases or sayings.

“These are all things that I always try to hit the kids with as we go forward,” he said.

You will find some of his favorites on his office wall.

One reads, “The chief cause for failure (and unhappiness) is trading what you want most for what you want at the moment.”

Said Andersen, “I’ve had that one forever.”

In other words, his own words, he said, “Set a goal and don’t lose sight of those goals.”

There’s more handwriting on the wall, such as, “Don’t follow your passion, follow your effort.”

Noted Andersen, “These sayings are all something that I’ve asked the kids to understand.”

Nobody, according to Andersen, has been giving greater effort than tailback Melvin Gordon,

who returned for his junior year because he wanted to be “great.” He has shared that goal with everyone.

Gordon has a higher profile today than he had at the end of last season and interviewers have walked off impressed, including one national writer who was blown away by Gordon’s presence in comparison to all of the other top players in college football that he had interviewed.

“Melvin has handled it all — I hate to use the word professional — but he has handled it all like a professional,” Andersen said of the growing media attention for the Kenosha native. “He has put this team first. He doesn’t have an agenda.

“A few nights ago, Melvin texted me out of the blue. He just wanted to communicate what his expectations were for himself and what he liked or didn’t like about that day’s practice as far as his own performance. He pushes himself now, and it matters.

“My response to Melvin was, ‘I know how hard you’re working. I know what you’re doing out there. You’re a great team leader. Just keep going on through the process.’ He has been awesome.

“It’s fun to be around a kid who will communicate that to you,” Andersen went on. “The care factor is there and that goes back to the whole thing with the kids. I hope they feel like they all can communicate with us as coaches. We want to help them be the best that they can be.”

Andersen served up one final thought on Gordon, whose name has surfaced on many preseason Heisman Trophy lists. “Melvin has been great with these young kids,” he said. “They look up to him in a good way, and that’s a good guy to look up to.”

Andersen had one of those guys in his life — his dad, Phil Andersen; a

**“(Gordon) has put this team first. He doesn't have an agenda.”**





good guy and mentor.

The most meaningful keepsakes in Gary Andersen's office are the American flag that draped his dad's casket and Phil Andersen's dog tags; he was a World War II vet, the Battle of the Bulge.

There's also a football on the shelf that the Utah players signed after Andersen's father passed away (Gary Andersen was then a Ute assistant).

"That means a lot to me," said Andersen. "Those things are important."

Phil Andersen surely wondered what his son was thinking in 1988 when he took a job with Wally English at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana.

Gary Andersen had just left the University of Utah and was working as a grad assistant/volunteer coach at Ricks College, where he had been a JUCO All-American.

Ricks (now BYU-Idaho) was in Rexburg, Idaho; a world away (1,818 miles) from Hammond, which is about 50 minutes from Baton Rouge and the campus of Wisconsin's first opponent, LSU.

But when English called with an offer — \$10,000 — Gary Andersen couldn't refuse.

"Yeah, I'm ready to go," he told English.

English was trying to revive football on the

Southeastern Louisiana campus. Andersen, one of two assistants, began making contacts and recruiting players for the start-up the following season.

"We tried to bring back the program, but it didn't happen," Andersen recalled. "They pulled the carpet out from underneath us before we really got started and canceled the program. We got the word maybe two or three days before Thanksgiving.


"That was my first taste of coaching. I'll never forget it. Stacey and I loaded up the car, grabbed a U-Haul and drove straight back to Utah from Hammond (a 28-hour drive). A couple of days later, I told my dad that I was going to keep coaching and he was like, 'You're crazy.'"

Gary Andersen thinks about his dad just about every day.

"He just taught me to be who I am," he has repeatedly said.

He may also think about that saying on the wall: Don't follow your passion, follow your effort.

After all, it has led Gary Andersen, now 50, to that eighth-floor office in Camp Randall Stadium.

"I feel comfortable," he was saying now. "I feel like we're in a very good spot." 





# PLAYING

# BIG

McNicoll, Lavelle hope experience on the world stage translates into success for the Badgers

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



armed with the results of the Big Ten's pre-season poll, Wisconsin women's soccer coach Paula Wilkins tested her players on how they might handle the expectations before revealing them.

"How much do the preseason rankings matter?" she asked.

The general response was "nothing at all."

That was good, Wilkins thought to herself, especially in light of what happened last season.

Nebraska was picked ninth in the 2013 preseason coaches' poll and ended up besting Iowa, 1-0, in the Big Ten championship game. The Hawkeyes had been tabbed for sixth place.

"So we're good with it?" posed Wilkins, giving the impression she wanted to let her players down softly with the results, maybe even hinting at a second-division projection for the Badgers.

The general response was "Yeah, no problem. So how bad was it? How low?"

Wilkins summarily informed them "We're

picked No. 2" behind conference favorite Penn State.

The general response was what she hoped it would be.

"They all said, 'It doesn't mean a thing,'" Wilkins related. "It doesn't mean anything because last year all those rankings were wrong. We just need to take care of the things we need to take care of. I really liked the fact that it doesn't really mean anything to them.

"The biggest thing we talked about is that it (the high preseason rankings) means that we'll probably get some people's best games because they have respect for us. So we're not going to sneak up on anyone and we have to be better than expected."

The Badgers, who return 10 starters, enjoyed a strong opening weekend at the McClimon Soccer Complex. Goalkeeper Genevieve Richard blanked Oregon 1-0 in the season opener — it was her eighth career shutout — and Kodee Williams got the game-winner in a 2-1 overtime





▲ KINLEY McNICOLL PHOTOS: Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play

decision over Tennessee.

“Getting two wins at home definitely boosts our confidence,” said Rose Lavelle, a sophomore midfielder from Cincinnati, Ohio. “We all feel like we have such great potential, especially after coming up short last year. We’re coming back with a new focus and motivation to do even better this year.”

For the fifth straight season, the Badgers reached 10 victories in 2013. But they lost five of their last seven matches, including a 2-0 defeat to Penn State in the Big Ten tournament.

“We were all disappointed with our season,” admitted Kinley McNicoll, a junior midfielder from Oakville, Ontario.

Along with Richard and Williams and Cara Walls — three of the five returning senior starters — Lavelle and McNicoll will have a loud say on how this season turns out. Not that they’re loud. “They’re both very humble and unselfish kids,” Wilkins said. “They complement everyone here pretty well.”

Lavelle and McNicoll have practiced only a handful of times with their teammates since getting back to Madison after participating in the FIFA Under-20 Women’s World Cup in Canada. Sixteen teams from six qualifying tournaments competed at venues in Edmonton, Moncton, Montreal and Toronto.

“It was an awesome experience doing what I love for the country that I love,” said Lavelle, who scored her first international goal in Team USA’s 3-0 win over China. The Americans advanced to the August 16 quarterfinals where they were beaten by North Korea in penalty kicks.

“When you play at an international level, you can always

take that experience and apply it elsewhere,” said McNicoll, who was the captain of Team Canada which also advanced to the quarterfinals. The Canadians were eliminated by Germany, the eventual World Cup champion.

How different is the international game from what is played in the Big Ten?

“It’s a much faster pace,” Lavelle said. “It’s more of a puzzle at that level.”

She also singled out the “organization and tactical awareness” of the elite teams.

“The North Koreans were very technical, very good on the ball,” McNicoll chimed in. “The Germans were just so strong and direct. Different countries played different types of football.”

In turn, McNicoll and Lavelle brought a different tempo to the Oregon and Tennessee matches.

“Sometimes they were just at a different pace,” Wilkins acknowledged. “The game slows down for them a little bit more. At the international level, they’re put under a little more pressure



from other teams, so they have to make quicker decisions and their movement is a little different.”

Citing all of their months of preparation for the World Cup, Wilkins is focused now on keeping McNicoll and Lavelle as fresh as possible. “We have to manage their bodies and a little of their minds,” she said. “It can be very fatiguing, so we’re going to keep it light for them.”

In January, Lavelle was the MVP (the Gold Ball winner) of the qualifying tournament, the CONCACAF Championships in the Cayman Islands. “Anytime you put on the U.S. shirt, it’s a great honor,” she said, “It definitely gives us more confidence knowing that we can compete at that level.”

McNicoll can relate, and yet she was overwhelmed when selected Team Canada’s captain.

“Going into this tournament (the World Cup), and it started a long 19 months ago, preparing for it, we just took it one month at a time and I had no expectations,” McNicoll said. “It’s a huge honor to be named captain ... (pause) ... it’s not even something I can put into words.”

Wilkins expected her to react that way.

“She’s just so humble and she doesn’t know why everyone makes such a big deal out of it,” she said. “To represent your country and be a leader is pretty cool — just that experience of dealing with teammates and understanding that you can lead people and make them believe.”

Last season, McNicoll led the Badgers in scoring (25) while also leading the Big Ten in assists (13). She enjoys being a distributor, too. “That’s fair to say,” she confirmed. “I’ve kind

of embraced that role as a midfielder. It’s what I’ve been known for: the work ethic to get on the ball and distribute.”

McNicoll assisted on Williams’ overtime goal against Tennessee.

“It’s something I’ve done ever since I was little,” she said of her playmaking abilities. “I’ve never been that striker to just take on three or four players and shoot and score. I’d definitely say I’m more of a distributor than goal scorer.”

Lavelle, who opened the scoring in the Tennessee win, has seemingly never struggled to score goals. At Mt. Notre Dame High School (Reading, Ohio), she was the all-time leading goal scorer with 57. In her freshman season with the Badgers, she accounted for the second-most goals (6) on the team.

“I’m not at all surprised. She’s a great player,” McNicoll said.

Lavelle stands only 5-4. How does she do it? How does she manage to score so much at ev-

▼ ROSE LAVELLE PHOTOS: Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play





ery level of competition? “I don’t know,” McNicoll said. “Probably because she’s so fast and very technical. To play soccer you don’t need to be big and huge and strong. Sometimes being little helps.”

Beyond that, Lavelle didn’t know how to handle it when she was called a goal-scorer.

“Oh, wow, thanks,” she said politely. “I really don’t consider myself one.”

Lavelle was not only first-team All-Big Ten, she was the Freshman of the Year in the conference.

It was the first time a Wisconsin player had been so honored.

Nonetheless, Lavelle went into the season with modest aspirations.

“I didn’t really feel like I had to prove anything,” she said. “I just played because I loved it.”

But there was the suggestion that she would have trouble with the physicality of the Big Ten.

“I did hear that,” Lavelle said. “Obviously, I wanted to prove that my size is not an issue.”

How does she generally deal with the ques-

tions about her height?

“I don’t really worry about it too much,” she said. “I don’t have much growing left.”

It certainly hasn’t impacted her effectiveness. “Consistency is the biggest thing with Rose,” Wilkins said. “We talked about her ability to communicate and direct people in the Tennessee game. Last year, she was a bit passive about that. With the national team, she got that vocal part down a little bit more.”

While it would be easy to cast Lavelle as the goal-scorer and McNicoll as the distributor, Wilkins refused to go there. “They can do both,” she insisted. “I won’t label them one way or the other because they’re going to need to do both for us

to be successful.”

Based on what she saw out of her team last weekend, Wilkins is encouraged by the momentum that was generated. “Anytime you get wins, I think you generate it (momentum) because people get in a different frame of mind,” she said. “But I think the best is still yet to come from this group.”

**“ANYTIME YOU GET WINS, I THINK YOU GENERATE (MOMENTUM) BECAUSE PEOPLE GET IN A DIFFERENT FRAME OF MIND,” WILKINS SAID.**  
**“BUT I THINK THE BEST IS STILL YET TO COME FROM THIS GROUP.”**





True freshman Lubern Figaro is expected to be the Badgers' starting strong safety vs. LSU

## Freshmen figure to be a factor in opener

Badgers will utilize several newcomers vs. LSU

**A**youth movement was inevitable with the departure of 26 seniors from last year's team, but the group of Badgers that take the field Saturday in Houston will certainly have a different look than the one that left the field in Orlando on Jan. 1.

Between the offense and defense, a total of 23 freshmen and sophomores fill the Badgers' first depth chart of the season and a pair of true freshmen — SS Lubern Figaro and K Rafael Gaglianone — are slated for their first career starts vs. No. 13 LSU in the AdvoCare Texas Kickoff.

"This is abnormal for what I'm used to, as far as this number of kids playing," UW head coach Gary Andersen said.

Wisconsin lists just 10 seniors in its initial two-deep, with only nine teams in the country having fewer seniors among their top two units. That means opportunity will be there for the newest Badgers.

"We'll have probably 11 (freshmen) that will have a very good opportunity getting into the first game; about 14 of them that will travel with us," Andersen said. "Those aren't all true freshmen, but they're freshmen. They've been here a year at most.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### SCHEDULE

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

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

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## Badgers not buying into preseason hype

UW ranked No. 6 heading into opening weekend

**A** lot of talk about the Badger volleyball program this season has been about its incredible run to the NCAA championship match in 2013. But that talk hasn't hit the program itself.

"I'll be honest with you, we literally have not talked (preseason rankings) one time," second-year head coach Kelly Sheffield said. "We haven't mentioned it in a meeting, a practice, one on one. There's been zero mention of a ranking, a poll."

"We haven't even talked about our goals this year because I think everybody just knows what they are."

What those goals are is to win a Big Ten and NCAA championship, something the Badgers came just a few points short of in 2013.

"Well, ultimately, we didn't accomplish our goals," Sheffield said of 2013. "You're trying to win championships Big Ten Championships, national championships — and you're just embracing the new season. That's the beauty of the new season."

Wisconsin enters the 2014 season ranked sixth in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) national preseason poll and is picked to finish third in a preseason vote of Big Ten

### SCHEDULE

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

*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.

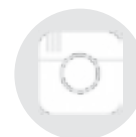
*Pac-12/Big Ten Showcase, Seattle, WA:*

Sept. 18 vs. USC 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 19 at Washington 10 p.m.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



# Badgers look to captains for leadership

With 12 new faces, experience at a premium

**T**he Wisconsin men's soccer team certainly looks a lot different than it did this time last season. The dynamics and personnel have certainly changed dramatically for the Badgers.

There's the departure of 14 from a team that earned the fifth-most wins in program history (14) last season. A large recruiting class of 12 joins the fold in Madison. Two new, formidable opponents in Maryland and Rutgers are on the schedule.

More than ever, Wisconsin head coach John Trask is relying on his upperclassmen to set the tone.

Fortunately for Trask, he can place that trust this season in team captains Jacob Brindle, Drew Conner and Adam Lauko.

"The three of them are learning the ropes concerning what it takes to be a captain here at Wisconsin," Trask said. "All three have tremendous leadership qualities. To see them mature and accept the responsibility has been exciting for the coaching staff."

The three make up a veteran core that returns with the experience of winning big games and guiding the Badgers to their first NCAA tournament appearance in 18 years last season.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

## SCHEDULE

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

### RECENTLY

Aug. 17	<b>UIC</b> <i>(Exhibition)</i>	W, 1-0
Aug. 22	at Creighton <i>(Exhibition)</i>	L, 2-4
Aug. 25	at Notre Dame <i>(Exhibition)</i>	L, 1-5

### COMING UP

Aug. 29	<b>San Francisco</b>	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	<b>Xavier</b>	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	at George Mason	6 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Georgetown	Noon
Sept. 12	<b>Rutgers</b>	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	<b>St. John's</b>	7 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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# Confidence high as Badgers open season 2-0

UW hosts two more games this weekend

**D**on't let recent history fool you. While the Wisconsin women's soccer team began its season 2-0 for a third-straight year, it's not something so easily earned. In fact, it's happened just six times over the past 16 seasons.

This season, it's the product of a veteran-laden group of Badgers that were all smiles last weekend after earning a pair of wins over Oregon and Tennessee at the McClimon Soccer Complex in Madison.

Kicking things off with a 1-0 shutout of Oregon Friday night, UW followed up with a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over Tennessee on Sunday. Senior Kodee Williams stepped up and delivered the knockout punch by netting the golden goal just over a minute into the first overtime period.

A dramatic win, it came as less of a surprise to head coach Paula Wilkins, who sees something in this group special: confidence.

The Badgers have their mind set on how the story of this season will be written, and they're ready to do whatever it takes to make that happen.

"I always say that big players do big things in big games,"

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

## SCHEDULE (2-0)

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

### RECENTLY

Aug. 14	at Marquette <i>(Exhibition)</i>	W, 1-0
Aug. 22	<b>Oregon</b>	W, 1-0
Aug. 24	<b>Tennessee</b>	W, 2-1 (OT)

### COMING UP

Aug. 29	<b>S. Dakota St.</b>	5 p.m.
Aug. 31	<b>Northern Iowa</b>	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	<b>Nebraska</b>	7 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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## Excitement grows as schedule is announced

Home slate includes Duke, Michigan State, Iowa

**T**he Kohl Center will host one of the hottest tickets in town this season.

With the Wisconsin men's basketball team coming off its first Final Four since 2000, the team was already figured to be one of the main attractions in Madison heading into the 2014-15 season.

Now, mix in plenty of preseason hype, four-of-five starters returning and a home schedule that includes matchups against the likes of Duke, Michigan State, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Purdue.

That's one exciting recipe for hoops.

It's easy to see why the season ticket renewal rate for 2014-15 was the highest it's been since 2010-11, with 97.5 percent re-upped and ready for more and 824 new requests for season tickets fulfilled.

Those lucky enough to claim a ticket learned a little more about the games they'll be seeing this weekend when the Big Ten Conference announced its complete 2014-15 league schedule last week. Included was the 18 conference dates for the Badgers this season.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### SCHEDULE

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

Oct. 26	<b>Red/White Scrimmage</b>	1 p.m.
Nov. 5	<b>UW-Parkside</b> <i>(Exhibition)</i>	TBA
Nov. 14	<b>Northern Kentucky</b>	TBA
Nov. 16	<b>Chattanooga</b>	TBA
Nov. 19	<b>Green Bay</b>	TBA
Nov. 22	<b>Boise State</b>	TBA
<i>Battle 4 Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas:</i>		
Nov. 26	vs. UAB	6 p.m.
Nov. 27	vs. Florida or Georgetown	TBA
Nov. 28	vs. TBA	TBA

[> View Complete Schedule](#)

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## U.S.-Canada marked by Cardinal and White

Seven Badgers suit up on international stage

**A** lot of people spent last week cooling off with the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, but seven Wisconsin women's hockey players took to the actual ice as the U.S. and Canada U-22 teams met for a three-game series after almost two weeks of training. The U.S. swept the series, defeating Canada 2-1 on Thursday, 6-0 on Friday and 3-2 on Sunday, but several Badgers on both teams shined on the international stage.

Former UW netminder Alex Rigsby played a big role in the United States' sweep, as she had a goals-against average of 0.50, a save percentage of .971 and had a shutout in Team USA's 6-0 win on Saturday night.

The lone goal that Rigsby gave up in the series came thanks to Canada's Blayre Turnbull, as the Badgers' captain beat her former teammate on a 2-on-1 rush to score her first goal as a member of the national team.

"It was great to get my first goal but it would have been better to get a win during the series," Turnbull said.

Incoming freshman Annie Pankowski recorded two assists and played on Team USA's top line. A member of the U.S. national team a year ago, she was one of two UW freshmen to ap-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

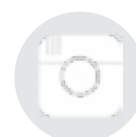
### SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 26	at Lindenwood	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Lindenwood	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	at MN-Duluth	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	at MN-Duluth	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	<b>Ohio State</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	<b>Ohio State</b>	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	<b>Minnesota</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	<b>Minnesota</b>	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Bemidji State	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Bemidji State	4 p.m.
Oct. 31	at North Dakota	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at North Dakota	3 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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## OPENING ACT

**AUGUST 31, 2000:** Walk-on Josh Hunt returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown, the second-longest punt return in school history. The Badgers defeated Western Michigan 19-7 in their season opener.

### -MORE THIS WEEK-



#### NEW CARPET

**AUGUST 26, 1969:** A new synthetic playing surface called Tartan Turf was installed in Camp Randall Stadium. The previous playing surface had turned black in spots when the old green fiber tips broke off. The turf was installed by 3M and sprayed green.



#### EN GARDE!

**AUGUST 31, 1972:** Anthony Gillham was named the men's fencing coach at Wisconsin. He would also become the women's coach in 1974. Gillham had an 18-year record of 246-100 in men's fencing and a 225-61 mark in 16 years of coaching the Badger women.



#### EIGHT IS GREAT

**AUGUST 31, 2007:** Now in her eighth season, the Paula Wilkins era in women's soccer officially began as she coached her first game in the Cardinal and White. The Badgers played Vanderbilt to a 0-0 double-overtime draw in the opening round of the Georgia Invitational.