

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

VARSITY

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PLACE IN THE SUN

FOLLOWING A 10-WIN SEASON AND A DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP, WISCONSIN'S SENIORS WANT LEGACY THEY LEAVE TO INCLUDE BOWL VICTORY





DAN SANGER / ICON SPORTSMAN

COVER STORY

ONE LAST THING...

The Badgers' senior class is among Wisconsin's most accomplished — including this year's 10 wins and division title — but they have unfinished business when it comes to bowl games.



VARSITY GAMEDAY

OUTBACK BOWL

Flip your way through the digital game program to get set for the Badgers' Outback Bowl matchup with Auburn.

LUCAS AT LARGE

THINKING AHEAD

Traevon Jackson put in plenty of work in the preseason with his mind squarely on how it will help the Badgers come the postseason.



STEVE GOTTER

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Wisconsin Athletic Communications

Kellner Hall, 1440 Monroe St.,
Madison, WI 53711

VIEW ALL ISSUES

Brian Lucas

Director of Athletic Communications

Julia Hujet

Editor/Designer

Brian Mason

Managing Editor

Mike Lucas

Senior Writer

Matt Lepay

Columnist

Drew Scharenbroch

Video Production

Amy Eager

Advertising

Drew Pittner-Smith

Distribution

Contributors

Paul Capobianco, Tam Flarup, Kelli Grashel, A.J. Harrison,
Brandon Harrison, Patrick Herb, Diane Nordstrom

Photography

David Stluka, Neil Ament, Greg Anderson, Steve Gotter,
Jack McLaughlin, Cal Sport Media, Icon Sportswire

Cover Photo: Brian Mason

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VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com

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Preseason work for postseason success

Traevon Jackson did his homework for his final Big Ten season. There was a trip to the Philippines and a two-week exhibition tour with Athletes in Action followed by three days in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with Los Angeles Clippers star Chris Paul and many of college basketball's elite point guards.

During his summer journey, spanning late July and early August, the 22-year-old Jackson was able to compare notes and share experiences while honing his skills in the company of such contemporaries as Green Bay's Keifer Sykes, North Carolina's Marcus Paige and Gonzaga's Kevin Pangos.

There was also the opportunity to measure up to one of the NBA's finest. TJacks12 meet CP3. "He had a moment where we were playing four-on-four and he was losing," Jackson said of Paul, "and he went on a streak where he just turned it on and scored 10 in a row. Nobody could stop him."

The camp instructors included Elfrid Payton of the Orlando Magic and Isaiah Thomas of the Phoenix Suns, the long and short of it — Payton is 6-foot-4, Thomas is 5-9. "There was a lot of drill work," Jackson said. "A lot of ball-handling and shooting; ball screen stuff, making reads; a lot of film work."

Paul's overall commitment to the campers impressed Jackson. "He was there every day playing with us and doing the drills with us, too; he was really involved," he said. "One of the things he does really well is pay attention to details and it was good to implement that in my game."

"IF YOU CAN GET THROUGH THESE TRIALS NOW, HOW MUCH MORE WILL IT HELP YOU DOWN THE ROAD?"
JACKSON POSED RHETORICALLY HE KNOWS THE ANSWER.



Jackson was the only Big Ten guard at the camp. Besides Sykes, Paige and Pangos, the diverse talent pool ranged from VCU's Treveon Graham to Washington's Nigel Williams-Gross; from Florida's Kasey Hill and Georgetown's D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera to Wichita State's Ron Baker and Fred VanVleet.

Jackson and Paige had a connecting point in Paige's older sister, Morgan, a former member of the Wisconsin women's basketball team. "It was cool talking to him because I'm really good friends with Morgan," said Jackson, who also got to visit with Marcus at the Battle 4 Atlantis in the Bahamas.

All in all, it has been a whirlwind start to Jackson's senior year. Make that "worldwind" because he got a chance to see another side of the world in the Philippines. "The main thing was going there and spreading the Gospel through basketball," Jackson said. "And it was sweet to see the response."

Athletes in Action coach and chaplain Morris Michalski, who also serves as the "life coach" for Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, assembled the team which featured Jackson, Butler's Kellen Dunham, Texas Tech's Toddrick Gotcher, Gardner-Webb's Jerome Hill, Texas A&M's Alex Caruso, et al.

Reflecting on the trip, Jackson



said, “There were a lot of mud houses and homeless. But the people were so grateful for what they had; if they had food on the table, it was fine. It helped put into perspective how life isn’t necessarily about what we have or don’t have, if you can find joy and peace.”

When the Badgers open Big Ten competition Wednesday against Penn State at the Kohl Center, Jackson will be able to draw on his accumulated knowledge and what he has experienced as a heavily-scrutinized point guard — the good and bad — from his 80 career starts and 103 game appearances.

In what areas does Jackson feel like he has improved the most over the past four seasons? “I would say the biggest

thing is mentally,” he said, also citing the “need to always get better” in his skill set development. “It’s all confidence, knowing how to fight through the trials and tribulations.”

Jackson was exposed to just that type of scenario in last season’s Final Four matchup against Kentucky. He had an open, pull-up jumper to win the game. But he missed. “I’ve probably shot it 100 times since,” he said of the same exact shot, “and I’ve probably made it 95 times.”

Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan put the ball in Jackson’s hands for a reason. “I was down for a couple of days afterwards,” said Jackson, who has knocked down his share of clutch shots. “I didn’t hit that one — that’s all

I can say. I thought it was a good shot, I really did. And if I get it again, I’ll hit it.”

That speaks to his confidence. “A lot of that is being able to learn from it and move on from it,” he said. “It’s understanding how it creates perseverance and endurance knowing that eventually the prize you’re waiting for is not necessarily the game itself but life in general.”

That also speaks to the bigger picture. “If you can get through these trials now, how much more will it help you down the road?” he posed rhetorically. He knows the answer.

And he knows what will be asked of this Badgers team. “To win a championship,” he said. “And, honestly, that’s the main goal.” ■





We'll have Badgers ready for bowl

Attitude is very important in bowls. Who's the game more important to? Who really wants to be there? A lot of times teams are disappointed with how their season ended and it shows in their play.

Our attitude has been very good. The kids have been great and all of our coaches have done a really nice job. They have been good in game-planning and very professional and focused.

They've also been very organized. When we were still in Madison, they even had developmental practices for the kids that haven't played, the redshirt kids and the walk-ons.

This has been totally different from the last time I took over as the interim coach before we played Stanford in the Rose Bowl. That was a very difficult situation. Some coaches were going with Bret Bielema to Arkansas. Some had a chance to go to NC State with Dave Doeren. Some didn't have jobs. Guys didn't know who to trust.

There were some hard feelings and a lot of closed doors during office hours. Who was staying? Who was going? The kids were good but it was hard to prepare for the game.

After Gary Andersen left, the thing I tried to do was communicate with the assistants. We talked about how we were going to run practice and what my role was going to be.

We also talked about what their role was going to be and what I expected out of them. I told them if they had any questions that Walter Dickey and I were always here for them.

A couple of them thanked me after we met. That was important and very telling. It took a lot of stress away because they knew the lay of the land and what was going to happen.

Once Paul Chryst was hired, he was going to interview anyone who wanted to stay and he was going to give them a legitimate interview. Anyone on the staff who wanted to do that had the opportunity.

I really didn't think I would coach again. When the seniors asked me, I initially said "No," because I didn't feel comfortable. But they said, "Sleep on it."

They came back to my office the next morning to ask again. When you think about it, why are we here? We're here for the kids, we're here for the student-athletes, that's the bottom line.

If it's important to them that I coach, then I have to do it. The way I look at it, I can make decisions in the game and I can give guidance and direction.

I do want to insert myself more than I did last time. I made some suggestions but I was overruled. I should have been stronger and I kicked myself after the game and I'm kicking myself now.

There may be some things I

ask them to do during the game. I think these coaches will listen. I told both coordinators I want the game plans in and practiced before we left for Tampa, and we did that.

What I've tried to do is get the players' strength back. I've changed what they were doing in terms of strength and conditioning.

We've changed their lifting and lifts. I felt that in the three weeks leading up to the bowl we could add a little strength and get the guys feeling stronger, along with getting them healthier.

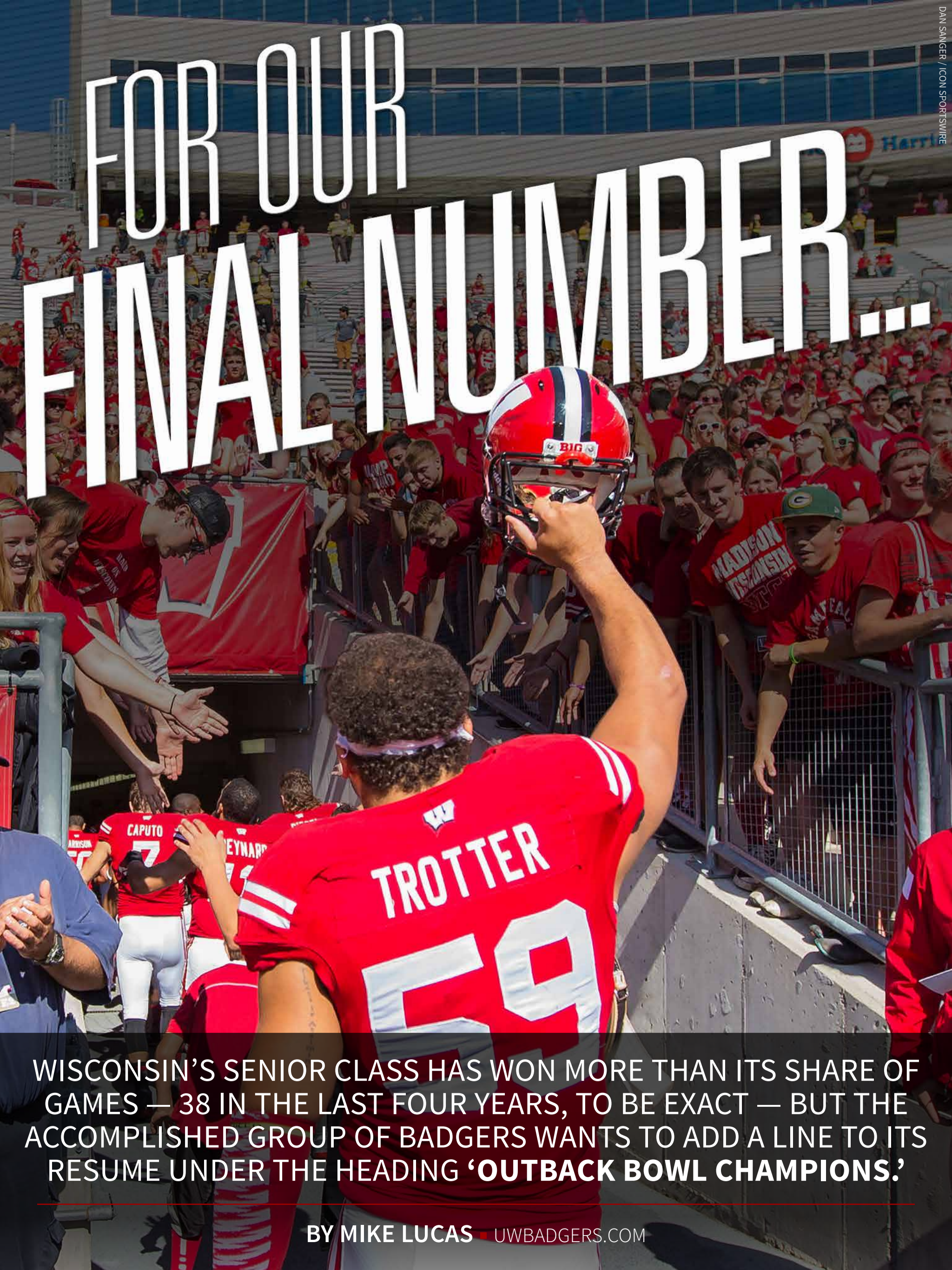
We were a shell of ourselves in the Big Ten championship game. I didn't think we were very strong and we had injuries affect our offensive line. We definitely struggled blocking people.

But one of the things I addressed with the players is that they had to get that game out of their system. I told them, "You've got to get your confidence back. You won 10 games. You're a good team."

Bowls are rewards and I also told them, "You've got to have a little fun."

I want them to play well. I want them to play like I know they can play. I want them to have fun. I want them to go out there and turn it loose and play like they're capable of playing, that's all.

I don't want any superhuman efforts. I just want them to play well. If we do, we'll be fine. ■



FOR OUR FINAL NUMBER...

WISCONSIN'S SENIOR CLASS HAS WON MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF GAMES — 38 IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TO BE EXACT — BUT THE ACCOMPLISHED GROUP OF BADGERS WANTS TO ADD A LINE TO ITS RESUME UNDER THE HEADING **'OUTBACK BOWL CHAMPIONS.'**



AFTER A RECENT BOWL PRACTICE IN Madison, Jacob Pedersen mingled with some of his former Wisconsin teammates, mostly seniors, who may not have been aware of his indirect link to history.

Besides serving as a reliable pass-catching and blocking tight end for the Badgers, a four-year starter, Pedersen has something the current players covet; the experience of taking part in a bowl win.

“No one has to do anything special,” he suggested, “as long as every guy does their job.”

While redshirting as a freshman in 2009, Pedersen witnessed a 20-14 victory over Miami in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Florida, the last time that the Badgers celebrated after a postseason game. There have been many near-misses since then, including three frustrating losses in the Rose Bowl.

“I think we’ve had the teams to do it (win) but it always felt like the ball wouldn’t bounce our way,” Pedersen said. “If you look at the Rose

Bowls, it was always that one play. You have to be able to take that next step and make that play, and we haven’t been able to do that.”

The string of one-possession losses began in the 2011 Rose Bowl when TCU hung on for a 21-19 win that was sealed when the Badgers failed on failed two-point conversion after driving 77 yards on 10 plays, nine runs, capped by Montee Ball’s 4-yard touchdown with two minutes remaining.

On the two-point play, Paul Chryst, then the UW offensive coordinator, dialed up a pass and Pedersen was wide open in the end zone but quarterback Scott Tolzien’s throw was batted down at the line of scrimmage by TCU linebacker Tank Carder. The Horned Frogs then ran out the clock.

Tolzien credited TCU for doing what good teams do: find a way to make a play when the game is on the line. Pedersen has reiterated that he would have traded all 104 of his career receptions and 17 career touchdowns for that

one catch that would have potentially sent the Rose Bowl into overtime.

As much as that hurt, Pedersen acknowledged, it didn't sting as much as last season's 34-24 loss to South Carolina in the Capital One Bowl. "If I was to tell this team anything, especially the seniors," he said, "it's that you don't want that taste in your mouth going out with a loss in your last game."

Nearly a year removed from that setback, Pedersen admitted that it's still tough to swallow.

"I still do have that taste," he said. "You think back on your career and one of the things that you ultimately go to right away is your last game. I thought we were controlling South Carolina. We were running on them and I thought we were going to come out with a win."

Melvin Gordon and James White combined

to rush for 175 yards through the first series of the third quarter and Wisconsin led 17-13. After Derek Landisch forced a fumble, recovered by Ethan Armstrong on the South Carolina 31, the offense stalled and the Badgers missed a 42-yard field goal.

The Gamecocks parlayed that defensive stop into a 75-yard scoring drive to take a 20-17 lead. Another stop — the Badgers came up short on fourth-and-1 from the South Carolina 26 — was the springboard to another Connor Shaw-directed scoring march and a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Although Wisconsin's Kenzel Doe counter-punched with a 91-yard touchdown return on the ensuing kickoff, the Badgers were sputtering on offense without starting quarterback Joel Stave, who had injured his shoulder on the UW's final series of the third quarter.

The last three UW drives ended with turnovers: two interceptions and a fumble.

"You look back and think, 'OK, what could I have done differently? And what could we have done to win that game?'" said Pedersen. "Those are the thoughts that you always have. I had a great time here at the University of Wisconsin. But it's definitely important to go out with a win."

After signing with the Atlanta Falcons as an undrafted free agent, Pedersen was released in training camp. But he has not given up yet on his dream to play in the NFL. While visiting with the seniors after practice, he encouraged them to keep working towards realizing theirs — a bowl win.

"These guys are a good team and they've had a good season so far," Pedersen pointed out. "As long as they go into this (Outback Bowl) game prepared and hungry, as long as every guy takes care of their job, I have no doubt in mind that they can win this game."

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DAVID STLUKA

"As long as they go into this (Outback Bowl) game prepared and hungry," Pedersen said, **"as long as every guy takes care of their job, I have no doubt in mind that they can win this game."**

Sam Arneson was one of only three true freshmen to letter on the 2011 team that lost a wild shootout to Oregon in the Rose Bowl. The Badgers had their chances and share of bad luck. “There was that freak fumble that doesn’t roll out of bounds,” he said. “A yard from the sideline and it dies.”

Trailing 45-38 in the fourth quarter, Russell Wilson connected with Jared Abbrederis on a 29-yard pass, but Abbrederis fumbled when tackled on the Oregon 27. Normally the impact of the collision would carry the loose ball past the boundary. But it didn’t move, and Michael Clay recovered for the Ducks.

“It’s little things like that,” said Arneson, now a senior tight end. “When you play in big games against quality opponents, it’s going to be little plays here and there that make the difference. We’ve been so close but we haven’t come out on the winning end.”


Arneson was recently scrolling through some film on his iPad when, much to his surprise, the

2013 Rose Bowl against Stanford popped up on his screen. Another painful memory, another tough loss. “I had played a lot in that game,” he said, “so I decided to watch to see how far I’ve come.”

He also wanted to refresh his memory on what specifically happened in that game, which featured UW athletic director Barry Alvarez functioning as the interim head coach replacing Bret Bielema, who had taken the Arkansas job. For starters, the Badgers fell behind 14-0 in the first quarter.

Yet, they still put themselves in a position to pull off the comeback. Trailing 20-14, they got the ball with 4:23 left. Melvin Gordon picked up 11 yards on first down to give them some momentum. Four plays later, they had a second-and-5 from the Stanford 49 with a little over two minutes remaining.

Sporting a perfect 3-0 record in the UW’s three previous trips to Pasadena, Alvarez confided afterward, “You’re at midfield with a chance to



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- SAM ARNESON



▲ TAP TO WATCH - Today in Tampa: Badgers visit Busch Gardens

win the Rose Bowl. I just felt like maybe we were a team of destiny. Curt's run the two-minute offense pretty well."

Curt was Curt Phillips, the UW quarterback. Phillips tried to get the ball to Pedersen, who was running a hook about 10 yards downfield. But the pass was tipped at the line by Stanford's Josh Mauro and intercepted by nickel back Usua Amanam to end the threat. It was the only turnover of the game.

Such has been their fate — and/or Pedersen's since he was targeted on throws in two of the three Rose Bowls that could have resulted in game-changing or momentum-shifting plays had they not been deflected. While all of this may be ancient history, there are still lessons to be learned.

"These seniors," Pedersen instructed, "just have to dig deep and know that they're basically playing for themselves right now and they have to think about what it would mean to them and the Badger program to go out with a win. They have to know that's the most important factor."

Arneson is on board. "This team is bound and

determined to come through this year," he said. "That's what we've been talking about — how we want to go out and how we want to finish our careers. It's going to be guys stepping up in big-time situations that are going to make a difference."

Focusing on Auburn, he feels like the legacy of this senior class is still to be determined.

"Obviously, we've done some good things this year as a team," he said. "Winning the West and that stretch of games at the end of the season was pretty special. We had the snow game with Melvin (rushing for 408 yards against Nebraska) and one of the biggest Axe games (with Minnesota) in awhile.

"But it comes down to, 'What have you done lately? And how are we going to finish it? How are we going to be remembered?' That's what we're looking at now. The bowl can take us from a good team to a great team. That's something that we want to be remembered as."

Defining their legacy can be personal to each of these Wisconsin seniors.

"We want to leave a good legacy, we know

that, but we don't talk about it because we know what we have to do," observed defensive lineman Warren Herring. "This group hasn't had a bowl win since we came in so we definitely want to finish off the season strong.

"I watched last year's bowl game just to see where we were as a defense. You have to give credit to South Carolina; they won the game. The one thing that is different is that we have a lot more younger guys this year who have to step up and play and we have to make sure they're ready to go."

Offensive tackle Rob Havenstein sounded uncomfortable addressing a legacy.

Does he think about it? "Maybe a little, but not too much," he said. "The legacy is made by a whole bunch of days put together. We make sure we go out there and compete every day; just win the practice, win the day. We'll string together a whole bunch of those days. That's how you build a legacy."

But safety Peniel Jean believes the Badgers are approaching another judgment day.

"It's that time of the year to get a win — we've been stressing that a lot — about getting that bowl win since we haven't won since 2009 against Miami," said Jean, a Florida native. "That feels like a decade ago. We want to leave on a good note; I want to leave as a winner.

"We gave a lot of effort against South Carolina



but there were definitely some mental busts. It wasn't anything physical or a case of not being fast enough. But we had a few busts in the secondary and D-line and those are the little things that they (the Gamecocks) took advantage of."

The seniors are obviously not lacking motivation.

"We've got nothing to lose," reasoned linebacker Derek Landisch, "and we're definitely motivated to win a bowl game. You want to lay it on the line for each other

and do something that people in Wisconsin football haven't done in many years. As seniors, we want to go out right.

"We've played some very good opponents (in bowls) and I think the preparation has always been there. We need to go out and execute and have some fun and enjoy the bowl because it is a reward. Those were all games that were winnable and we were confident in.

"I'm not a big, 'would have, could have, should have' guy. You don't lose football games on just one play.

It's a combination of things over 60 minutes, a combination of plays that cost us in those Rose Bowls. And I definitely think of tackling last year, I don't think we tackled as well as we should have."

That was seconded by linebacker Marcus Trotter.

"Coach (Dave) Aranda has talked specifically about it (tackling) with the South Carolina

DEREK LANDISCH:
"We're definitely motivated to win a bowl game. You want to lay it on the line for each other and do something that people in Wisconsin football haven't done in many years. As seniors, we want to go out right."



game,” Trotter said. “We missed some open field tackles. Make the tackle, and it’s second and long. Miss, and it’s second and short. It might not look big on TV, but the missed tackles all accumulate.”

There were plenty of whiffs in a humbling 59-0 loss to Ohio State in the Big Ten title game.

Each of the seniors took it particularly hard because they didn’t recognize the product.

“I don’t think the defense has lost its confidence,” Landisch said. “We knew that wasn’t us. Personally, I feel just as confident going out there with these 10 guys as I did before the Ohio State loss. It wasn’t us and we’re still angry about it and we have something to prove.”

“A loss like that hurts, no doubt,” said Arneson. “It wasn’t our football team, it just wasn’t us. I don’t think we lost confidence. But it’s something that we’ve got to learn from. It was more of a lesson. They were hot that day, we were not; we were the farthest thing from it. But we’ve moved on.”

Concluded Havenstein, “We lost the game but we can’t let the same opponent beat us twice.”

The Badgers also lost their head coach, Gary Andersen, who left for Oregon State.

It didn’t take long for the seniors to focus on who they wanted as an interim coach for the

bowl.

“It took about three seconds after our team meeting to decide that we wanted Coach Alvarez to steer the ship,” Havenstein said. “It was something that we wanted but it was completely up to him. Any time you get to be around a high-caliber coach, a high-caliber guy, a Hall of Fame guy, it’s what you want.”

That was echoed by his classmates.

“It means the world to me,” said Landisch, a native Cheesehead from Nashotah. “As a Wisconsin kid, it has been a dream to play for him. I pinch myself that it has been twice now. He’s so selfless the way he comes down from his athletic director’s position to coach.

“Coach Alvarez is the definition of what Wisconsin football is. He built the program and put it on the map. We couldn’t thank him enough as a senior class, and it means a lot that he’s coaching.”

Observed Arneson, who was raised in Merrill, “As a kid who has grown up in this state and seen what he did for Wisconsin football, there’s no other guy you would want to be playing your last game under. It means a lot that he’s willing to do this for us. It will be pretty cool having him out there.”

• • • •

Prior to his two interim assignments, Alvarez's final game as Wisconsin's head coach was against Auburn in the 2006 Capital One Bowl. Sparked by Brian Calhoun (213 rushing yards), John Stocco (301 passing yards) and Brandon Williams (173 receiving yards), the Badgers shocked the Tigers, 24-10.

That was a very talented but underachieving Auburn team.

The one that the Badgers have drawn in the Outback Bowl is far more explosive.

"They have athletes," Herring said. "But we have athletes, too."

The Tigers just have more of them at key skill positions.

Auburn has averaged 37.8 points, 296.1 rushing yards and 495.7 yards of total offense in 26

games under head coach Gus Malzahn, who's viewed as one of the most innovative playcallers in college football. Malzahn is all about pace or tempo. The Tigers had 90 plays in a 55-44 loss to Alabama.

"If they're getting on the ball fast," said Herring, "we have to get on the ball with them."

The Badgers have spent extra time on conditioning during their bowl prep.

"We have to limit their big plays down the field," Jean said. "They're not just going to run the routes that get 10-yard gains.

They're going to try and get touchdowns and 50-yard gains. We have to eliminate big passes and runs. They have a very high skill level and their quarterback is great."

Nick Marshall is the consummate dual-threat

"COACH ALVAREZ IS THE DEFINITION OF WHAT WISCONSIN FOOTBALL IS. HE BUILT THE PROGRAM AND PUT IT ON THE MAP. WE COULDN'T THANK HIM ENOUGH AS A SENIOR CLASS, AND IT MEANS A LOT THAT HE'S COACHING."





QB. In just two seasons at Auburn, he has thrown for 4,291 yards and 32 touchdowns while rushing for 1,848 yards and 23 scores. Marshall has three career games with 200 yards passing and 100 yards rushing, including two this season.

Besides possessing a tremendous receiving corps — including Sammie Coates (6-2, 201), Quan Bray (5-10, 915) and Duke Williams (6-2, 216) — Marshall has a special weapon at tailback in Cameron Artis-Payne, who led the SEC in rushing with an average of 123.5 yards per game.

Coates, who had five catches for 206 yards against 'Bama, and Williams, who has been rehabbing an injury, are considered to be first-round draft picks. Bray is the first player in school history with a rushing, receiving and punt return touchdown in the same season.

Auburn's strength on offense has been Wis-

consin's weakness on defense. The Tigers dig the long ball; they're extremely adept with their vertical passing game.

Marshall threw for a school-record 456 yards and three touchdowns against Alabama.

And it all starts with how they start every play — with how quickly they put the ball in play.

“The biggest challenge is that they're so fast,” Trotter said of their offensive pace. “When the ref blows the whistle, they're hiking the ball. We just have to make sure we get lined up and play ball. We're going to be breathing hard that's for sure. Might as well. Last game. Might as well have a hard one.”

Trotter broke out into laughter.

On defense, the Tigers have given up a lot of yards and points, which resulted in Malzahn firing his defensive coordinator at the end of the season and hiring former Florida coach Will



ARNESON ON COACH CHRYST:
“I couldn’t be happier for him or Wisconsin football. This is where he wants to be and he’s someone who’s going to be here for a long, long time. I’m really excited to see that.”

start to his program. I’m very excited about what the future holds.

“I can’t say enough positive things about Coach Chryst. He’s a Wisconsin guy — through and through. And he wins the right way. He understands what it takes to be successful here academically, on the field and socially. And he’s going to recruit guys who want to play Wisconsin football.”

Landisch was not alone

Muschamp, who will not officially take over the defense until after the bowl — though he has been utilized as a consultant.

“They’re fast and physical guys and they make plays all over the place,” Havenstein said of an Auburn defense that has intercepted 19 passes and had 10 TFLs in a win over Mississippi. “They’re very talented up front. They shoot off the ball and play with great pad level and hands. It will be a great test.”

These seniors have endured more than their fair share of tests over the last four and five years.

Especially when it comes to coaching transitions.

So in addition to cementing their legacy, Landisch said, “We also want to put Coach Chryst in the right spot as far as coming off a bowl win next season and giving him a jump-

in those thoughts.


“I’ve known Coach Chryst for a long time, my dad played with him and he recruited me,” Arneson said. “I couldn’t be happier for him or Wisconsin football. This is where he wants to be and he’s someone who’s going to be here for a long, long time. I’m really excited to see that.”

Said Herring, “He’s built off what the program is built off, so it’s a perfect fit.”

Said Havenstein, “He’s going to get Wisconsin to where he wants it to be.”

These seniors, of course, can lend a helping hand by taking care of some unfinished business.

“I know he’s going to lead in the program in the right direction,” Trotter said of Chryst. “But the biggest thing for me is (pause) ... that’s next year.

“We have to finish this year the right way.” 



STEVE GIOTTER

Kaminsky taking over as Big Ten play opens

Senior is reigning Big Ten Player of the Week

As the Badgers begin their “second season” Wednesday vs. Penn State, they’ll do so on the wave of a five-game win streak and impressive play from senior Frank Kaminsky. Wisconsin wrapped up non-conference play with a 12-1 record — just the third time under Bo Ryan UW has started 12-1 or better — and head into Big Ten play looking for more of the same.

“It’s all Big Ten games from here on out to the end of the regular season,” Bo Ryan said after Sunday’s 68-56 win over Buffalo. “Let’s see how we do in the next 18.”

“We’ve accomplished a lot of things,” Kaminsky added. “We obviously would like to be undefeated. That’s the goal of the season, to win every game, so we’ve gotten better and better as it has progressed. We’ve still got a lot to work on.”

One of the many things Kaminsky has accomplished is position himself as one of the nation’s top players. He further bolstered his campaign by racking up 25 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks against Buffalo. That came on the heels of a 14-point, eight-rebound effort at Cal and was enough to net him Big Ten Player of the Week honors.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (12-1, 0-0)

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

RECENTLY

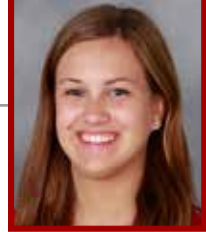
Dec. 10	at Milwaukee	W, 93-54
Dec. 13	Nicholls	W, 86-43
Dec. 22	at Cal	W, 68-56
Dec. 28	Buffalo	W, 68-56

COMING UP

Dec. 31	Penn State	Noon
Jan. 4	at N’western	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	Purdue	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Rutgers	TBD
Jan. 15	Nebraska	8 p.m.
Jan. 20	Iowa	8 p.m.

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JACK MCLAUGHLIN

B1G competition ahead for the Badgers

Conference season starts with an exciting win

The Badgers look to continue their two-game winning streak after posting two consecutive home wins against Oral Roberts and Michigan. Wisconsin opened the Big Ten Conference season with a win for the second straight season after Sunday afternoon's 63-53 victory over the Wolverines.

The Badgers held Michigan to just 53 points, 17 points below its season average of 70.5 points per game and the Wolverines second-lowest point total of the year. Wisconsin shot 8-of-14 (57.1 percent) from 3-point range, its second highest percentage and makes of the season, marking the third time this season that Wisconsin has shot better than 50 percent.

The Badgers explosive shooting was fueled by two of UW's junior starters and best friends, Nicole Bauman and Tessa Cichy.

Bauman, a 5-10 guard, shot 50 percent (5-of-10) from the field and 4-of-7 (57.1 percent) from 3-point range. The New Berlin, Wisconsin, native had a career high and game high 21 points in Sunday's victory against Michigan. Her four made 3-point field goals was a game high for a Badger player this season.

Cichy had a record-breaking day of her own, tying her career high with 14 points. She also dished out a career-high five as-

SCHEDULE (5-6, 1-0)

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

RECENTLY

Dec. 6	Marquette	W, 89-64
Dec. 10	at Florida	W, 51-48
Dec. 13	at Green Bay	L, 53-43
Dec. 20	Oral Roberts	W, 70-52
Dec. 28	Michigan	W, 63-53

COMING UP

Jan. 1	at Northwestern	1 p.m.
Jan. 4	Minnesota	2 p.m.
Jan. 6	Penn State	8 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Indiana	1 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Purdue	6 p.m.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



LARRY RADLOFF

Healthy Badgers challenged to open 2015

Three No. 1 teams on slate to start 2015

Everyone enjoys a good vacation. It clears the mind. It is refreshing.

The Wisconsin men's hockey team appears to have made good use of their holiday breaks in past seasons, coming back from a couple of weeks off to start the second portion of their campaigns off with quality play.

In fact, the Badgers are 11-0-3 in their first regular-season weekend in action following the holidays over the last seven seasons. The Badgers are 17-3-4 in the previous 12 seasons during the Mike Eaves' coaching era (since 2002) in their first weekend back in action.

For that stellar record to continue, UW will have to overcome No. 5 Michigan Tech (14-4-0), who was ranked No. 1 in the country earlier this season. The Huskies began the season 10-0-0.

It looks like the Badgers will be adding some reinforcements in their attempt to begin the 2015 with success. Junior defenseman Eddie Wittchow, who has missed the past seven games due to an injury, and freshman forward Adam Rockwood, who has missed the last four games because of an illness, both appear poised to return to the lineup.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (1-10-1)

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

RECENTLY

Nov. 28	Ferris State	T, 1-1 (OT)
Nov. 29	Ferris State	W, 5-3
Dec. 5	Penn State	L, 5-2
Dec. 6	Penn State	L, 4-2

COMING UP

Jan. 2	Michigan Tech	7 p.m.
Jan. 3	Michigan Tech	7 p.m.
Jan. 9	Boston Univ.	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	Boston Univ.	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Minnesota	8 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Minnesota	5 p.m.

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