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***"HE'LL BE THE
VOICE OF REASON
WHEN I NEED ONE."***

- FRANK KAMINSKY



STEVE GOTTLER

COVER STORY

DID WE JUST BECOME BEST FRIENDS?

Whether it's quoting *Step Brothers* or settling their scores with a game of FIFA 15, men's basketball teammates Frank Kaminsky and Jordan Smith are anything but an odd couple.



LUCAS AT LARGE

BUSINESS AT HAND

Mickey Turner learned something on the way to his MBA — he had no business going into business when coaching was his true calling.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-

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Turner getting to the business at hand

Once Mickey Turner let go of his NFL dream after a free agent tryout with the Miami Dolphins — a short-term dream that had not really taken hold until his senior year, when he lettered for a fourth time as a tight end and served as a team captain at Wisconsin — he decided to get down to business.

Turner, a Missouri native (Camdenton), enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis and began pursuit of his MBA. Because he wasn't ready to cut all of his gridiron ties, he worked as a volunteer coach with the school's football team, a D-3 program that played the likes of Carnegie-Mellon.

"My passion kept bringing me back to football," said Turner. "I knew what I'd like to do (coach) but I just didn't know if I would be any good at it or if that was where my future was going to lie. But it was always something that I considered as a possibility (while playing for the Badgers)."

Grad school was very good to Turner, who met his wife, Katie, in St. Louis and landed a job with a Fortune 500 company. But something was missing. "All business school really showed me was that I didn't want to get into business," he said.

"The best part of my day was when I got to coach."

There was literally no mistaking the wake-up call. "I wasn't excited getting out of bed in the morning," he said, "and I didn't want to do a disservice to that company or any other by not pouring myself into it. I knew if I wanted to excel at something, it had to be something that I loved doing."

And that was coaching, he was convinced. Turner was still finishing up his degree when

he started working for Emerson Electric in January. Once he graduated in May, he knew that he had to follow his heart, so he summarily informed his bosses that he was leaving to be a "lowly coach."

Much to his surprise, they understood. So did his new bride, Katie. So did his former UW position coach Joe Rudolph, who got his MBA at Carnegie-Mellon and, not long after, left the security of the business world to enter the coaching profession



as a lowly graduate assistant at Ohio State.

Turner felt it was his calling to join Paul Chryst's staff in Pittsburgh when Chryst called. "I had just gotten married, school was finally over and I thought, 'If I'm going to do this, then this is the time,'" he said. "I knew Paul was the guy that I wanted to do it with. And I really haven't looked back since."

There was nothing glamorous about his assignments the last three seasons with the Panthers. Turner toiled as an offensive graduate assistant (which gave him an opportunity to work closely with Chryst and Rudolph), a quality control assistant and an assistant director of player development.

"I still got to stay involved with the offense and game-planning," he said, "and I got to learn all the other nuances of coaching you don't see from the outside. That was a good experience and Paul helped manage me in that respect by always challenging me with one more thing.

"There are some long hours compared to the business world where I was working 40 a week. It was double sometimes or even more during the

season. But when I got out of bed and was going to work, I had a grin on my face and a skip in my step because I liked what I was doing."

Did he ever think the road would lead back to Madison? "I'll steal some of Paul's words, 'You never really let your mind go there,'" Turner noted. "You

always have in the back of your mind, 'Man, it would be awesome to be a coach for Wisconsin, my alma mater' but you don't dwell on it."

Nine years after first arriving on campus as a tight end prospect, Turner has returned to coach the position group for the Badgers whose core returnees

include Troy Fumagalli, Austin Traylor and full-back Derek Watt. "They know what it takes to be successful," he said, "and how to win games."

That also applies to Chryst, who has rebooted with three years of experience running his own program. "Paul has done a really good job at recognizing what a head coach has to be good at," Turner said. "Each year, you see new things, little wrinkles here and there, changes in him.

"And, of course, he stills loves watching film and getting down and dirty with the X's and O's. That will always be him. It's just really fun to see a guy you're following — the leader of the group — always trying to push himself to be better. It makes us to do the same." The first order of business. ■

TURNER ON COACHING:
"THERE ARE SOME LONG HOURS ... BUT WHEN I GOT OUT OF BED AND WAS GOING TO WORK, I HAD A GRIN ON MY FACE AND A SKIP IN MY STEP BECAUSE I LIKED WHAT I WAS DOING."





Chryst making good ‘first’ impression

Big Ten football coaches and athletic directors met Monday in Chicago. Our successful bowl season was among the things discussed and there was positive feedback and an uptick in attitude.

We changed our identity as a conference and influenced the impression that a lot of the people nationally have of us. Now, it’s just a matter of sustaining or keeping it at this level.

One of the issues talked about was the possibility of an early signing date, what goes along with that and what it all entails. Everybody is skeptical, but I happen to like an early signing period.

Some of the coaches think it would accelerate your recruiting and you’d be signing guys who haven’t finished their first semester yet. In our league, you would have to be concerned with that.

My view is that with the kids that are early commits, you’d get them locked up. They’re coming, and now you don’t have to worry about them anymore because they’ve made up their minds. You don’t have to drive or fly to see them.

But you can see who’s off the board and you can concentrate on the guys who are still out there shopping for a school. I think it would free up more time and eliminate a lot of the “de-

committing.”

There are surely geographical limitations any time someone has to travel. Every once in awhile you’re going to get a kid from a warm weather state that wants to go to a cold weather state.

For the most part, the highly-recruited kids, the five-stars, want to stay close to home. They’re not going to leave warm weather areas unless there’s a tie or they like a style of play, things like that.

IF THERE’S A WORD TO DESCRIBE THE CONNECTION THAT FANS HAVE WITH PAUL, IT’S TRUST. THEY KNOW HE WANTS TO BE HERE AND THEY SEE HIM AS ONE OF THEM.

Some people think everybody has their hand up wanting to come to your school. But they want to play so their parents can see them. And I’m not making excuses for anyone in recruiting.

I’m just saying we have to know who we are and make sure the ones that can play in our state will stay with us. I know we have a formula and we have to just keep plugging away.

Paul Chryst has talked about that a lot during his speaking engagements. We had record crowds for the Big Red Rally in

Milwaukee last week and our “friendraiser” in Naples, Florida, on Tuesday.

If there’s a word to describe the connection that fans have with Paul, it’s fair and accurate to say the word is trust. They know him. They know he wants to be here and they see him as one of them.

He’s just an honest guy; he’s very down-to-earth and relates well to people. And wherever he has been lately, Paul has made a point to express how excited he is about the walk-on class.

I happen to know some of the walk-ons. I’ve seen Henry Houden play at Madison Memorial, and he’s a very athletic kid who can run. He played with Joe and Jake Ferguson, my grandsons.

I also saw Mitchell Herl, the tight end from Middleton, play. He’s a good-looking kid. Paul made a concerted effort to attract walk-ons where there wasn’t that same effort by the previous staff.

Paul understands what the walk-on program has meant to the program in the past and how it has been one of our advantages. It gave us an edge. That’s something you don’t want to throw away.

Over the last week, whether it was in Milwaukee or Naples, Paul has made a good impression with our fans. No one should be surprised. ■



Badgers continue to wear their target well

The streak began in the 2000-01 season. The streak continues today. In the latest example of the sustained success of Wisconsin basketball, Tuesday night's 65-55 victory at Nebraska assured the Badgers of their 15th-straight winning season of Big Ten play.

It is the second-best streak of its kind in major college basketball. Only Kansas has a longer run of winning seasons in league competition, which currently stands at 25 years.

You might have thought the Badgers' stretch began a year earlier. While the run to the 2000 Final Four was unforgettable, keep in mind that prior to March, it was an up-and-down season. In fact, the Badgers finished 8-8 in the Big Ten. They needed to win their final three games to reach .500.

As they say, the rest is history.

Of course, the Badgers have their sights set a little higher than a winning record in the league. What is making this season so entertaining is that every time they step on the floor, the Badgers wear a huge target. To this point, they are wearing it well.

On Tuesday night in Lincoln, a sellout crowd was ready to erupt, much like it did last March when the Huskers beat Wisconsin in the final regular season game. It was a signature victory for Nebraska.

The Huskers were looking for more of the same this time around. Since they play so much better at home than on the road, there was reason to believe they could pull it off again.



MUCH LIKE LAST YEAR'S TEAM, THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE BADGERS IS PROVING IT CAN WIN IN DIFFERENT WAYS. ALONG THE WAY, THEY ARE WINNING GAMES AT A CLIP NOT SEEN IN THESE PARTS IN A CENTURY.

The Badgers would have none of it. They scored the game's first seven points, never trailed, and led by as many as 17 before the home team made a late run. At times, the Badgers struggled down the stretch against Nebraska's press, but Wisconsin showed enough composure to score its final 15 points at the free throw line in route to the 10-point win.

Much like last year's team, the current edition of the Badgers is proving it can win in different ways. Teams such as Indiana and Iowa like to get up and

down the floor. The Badgers played that way and took care of their business.

Last Saturday, Northwestern played far more zone than usual. Playing with the lead, the Badgers were patient and won by 15.

Against the Huskers' more aggressive defense, the Badgers overcame some erratic shooting (5 of 18 from 3-point range), but outscored Nebraska at the foul line 24-7.

And the defense was good. Going into the game, the Huskers shot 47 percent from the field at home. They hit just 35 percent against Wisconsin.

At 10-1 in the Big Ten, the Badgers have maintained a firm grip on first place. They are fully aware that they still haven't won anything yet, but they are getting closer. Along the way, they are winning games at a clip not seen in these parts in a century.

The Badgers have had a couple of days to rest and recover before starting preparations for Sunday's game with Illinois. A little down time is a good thing. As the stretch drive to the regular season approaches, the target only gets bigger on the Badgers.

Then again, they probably are used to it. When a program has been winning as often as the Badgers, being the hunted just goes with the territory. ■

WHO IS YOUR CELEBRITY CRUSH?



ZAK SHOWALTER
Soph. • Men's Basketball

“Jennifer Aniston was my first celebrity crush and still is to this day. It originated from seeing her in movies, but recently I’ve started watching old Friends reruns and it has rekindled the flame. Haha.”



HALEIGH NELSON
Senior • Volleyball

“Apollo Ohno because his speed skating is an art and he's foxy.”



DREW teDUITS
Senior • Men's Swimming

“I’d have to say Cameron Diaz. Because, let’s be honest, she has it all.”



LAUREN BURICH
Junior • Women's Tennis

“We polled the women's tennis team and all agreed on the Hemsworth brothers, Liam and Chris. Liam was in *The Hunger Games* among others and Chris was Thor. The basic logic here is that two is better than one.”



MARIA VAN ABEL

Senior **Maria Van Abel** stole five bases in the Badgers' opening weekend at Kajikawa Classic in Arizona and moved into second all-time at Wisconsin with 58 career steals. The Kaukauna, Wisconsin, native also holds the second-best career batting average in school history at .339. Van Abel and the Badgers are back at it this weekend with tournament play in Corpus Christi, Texas.

What's your outlook going into your senior season?

"I think we see a lot of excitement and energy on our team, and we're just really excited to get out there and play again (this) weekend. Obviously you don't want to start opening weekend with four losses, but again, we see that as an opportunity to learn, and we are excited to get back on the diamond. I see a lot of good things and a lot of bright spots, so I'm really excited to see it come together for us. I think we can do really exciting things and surprise people this year."

What did you take away from the team's opening weekend?

"It was our first weekend outside, and we were all excited to get out there, especially for the opportunity to play together as a team in our actual competitive season. I guess the way we are trying to look at it is that, when things don't go your way, there are two ways you can look at it. You can just throw the towel in, or you can really see it as an opportunity

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT MARIA

Year: Senior

Height: 5-7

Position: Outfielder

Hometown: Kaukauna, Wis.

High School: Kaukauna

QUICK Qs FOR MARIA

Favorite TV show?

"*The Office*, because it's something I've been watching with my sisters since high school. That's kind of my go-to."

Favorite app?

"I'm not a very fun person on my phone, but I would have to say my NatGeo Wild app. I'm a huge Animal Planet person."

If you were stranded on an island which two teammates would you bring?

"I think I'm going to have to go with my fellow seniors Marissa Mersch and Megan Tancill, because the three of us are so different, so if we had to come up with something to get off of an island, the three of us could manage to do something like that. We've been through so much together, and Megan is really brainy while Marissa is super funny, so it would be a perfect combination."

PERFECTLY PAIRED

TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, POTENTIAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR **FRANK KAMINSKY** AND FORMER WALK-ON **JORDAN SMITH** CARRY VERY DIFFERENT PROFILES. INSIDE THEIR APARTMENT, HOWEVER, THE DUO HAVE BUILT A FRIENDSHIP BASED ON COMMON INTERESTS THAT PRETTY MUCH MAKE THEM ONE IN THE SAME.



BY MIKE LUCAS • UWBADGERS.COM

STEVE GOTTLIEB

When fourth-year walk-on guard Jordan Smith got the phone call telling him that he was going on scholarship for the second semester, nobody was happier than senior Frank Kaminsky, a national Player of the Year candidate. Smith and Kaminsky are not only Wisconsin teammates and campus roommates, but friends and foes, antagonists and allies; they're point and counterpoint.

"I was sitting here playing FIFA with him when he got the call," Kaminsky said, "and of course I gave him a hard time about it initially because that's just the kind of relationship that we have. But I know much it means to him and it shows that his work at this school has paid off."

FIFA 15, the highly-regarded soccer simulation, is their video game of choice and mayhem. "We've had some FIFA battles," confirmed Kaminsky. "Looking back on it — just our reaction when we beat each other — it's because we're ultra-competitive. There have been broken doors, broken blinds, broken controllers."

Resulting in depleted security deposits.

"He's a little nutty in a good way," said Smith who has roomed with Kaminsky for three years. "We're both super competitive people and it's not just in basketball. It's video games, board games, cards. And FIFA is a big part of our non-athletic careers."

Other mutual interests are Family Guy, bowling, Breaking Bad, slapstick movies, Prison Break and what Kaminsky labeled as "quirky, weird sayings." To this end, they love quoting Brennan Huff (Will Ferrell) and Dale Doback (John C. Reilly) from the 2008 movie "Step Brothers" to such a degree that Kaminsky admitted, "If we go back and forth with references and one of us doesn't understand it, then it's pretty much a failure."

But it works for them, in part, because of their give-and-take. "It's just one of those friendships that you can't really explain until you're a part of it," Kaminsky described. "It has been great. It has been like having a family member away



from home; somebody I'm not afraid to share anything with or tell anything to. He has been my best friend for the past four years.

"Let me put it this way," he continued, "I have a tendency to get upset with a lot of people and I'll get mad at Jordan and Jordan will get mad at me and we'll be sitting there and we both know we're mad at each other and I'll look at him and say, 'Do you want to play FIFA?' He'll say 'Yep' and when it's done, it was like we weren't mad at each other at all."

Like an old married couple? "Pretty much, pretty much," Kaminsky agreed. "He's not a person that is afraid to tell me something that I don't want to hear. That's just the relationship that I have with Jordan. He's not afraid to tell me anything that I'm doing wrong. He'll be the voice of reason when I need one. With some people that might be hard to do, but he's not afraid to do it."

Smith and Kaminsky have obviously been drawn together by basketball. "But I don't know if you can explain how you meet somebody and you hang out (as freshmen) and you realize that you could potentially be friends with this person," Smith said. "We started living together our sophomore year and when you spend the amount of time together that Frank and I do — obviously a ton of time — and not rip each other's heads off, that's when you know you're hanging out with a pretty good kid."

Smith is a pretty good sport, too, in those instances when they are out in public together and fans of all ages converge on Kaminsky for autographs and photos, all but ignoring Smith at times. "I'm usually the one taking the picture," said Smith, who has no problem functioning in the shadows. "It was weird at first but you get used to it and you know that it's going to happen no matter where you go. I'm sure it's even weirder for him to realize that he's kind of a big deal like he is now."

As a group, the Badgers created their own celebrity on campus with their Final Four run. "People do come up to you and talk to you and want to take their picture with you and want

"HE'LL BE THE VOICE OF REASON WHEN I NEED ONE. WITH SOME PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE HARD TO DO, BUT HE'S NOT AFRAID TO DO IT."



DAVID STLUKA

your autograph,” Smith said. “Everyone on the team experiences that to some degree. But for him it has to get a little bit annoying at some point. Just the fact he can handle it so well and put on a (smiling) face is impressive.”

Within his power and to his credit, Kaminsky has tried to limit those awkward situations. “If I’m out with my friends, I just want to be hanging out with them and I try to keep it to a minimum,” he said of filling all the requests that he receives from fans, though he understands his responsibility to them. “He (Smith) is really good about it. He’s one of those friends, no matter how big it gets (the hype), he’s still going to treat me the exact same way and I really appreciate that.”

Wisconsin associate head coach Greg Gard has watched the dynamic between Smith and

Kaminsky play out. “You have a walk-on who rarely plays and you have a candidate for player of the year in the country,” he said, “so they’re on opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of where they’re at and the attention they get and the role they play. But they both appreciate each other for who they are.

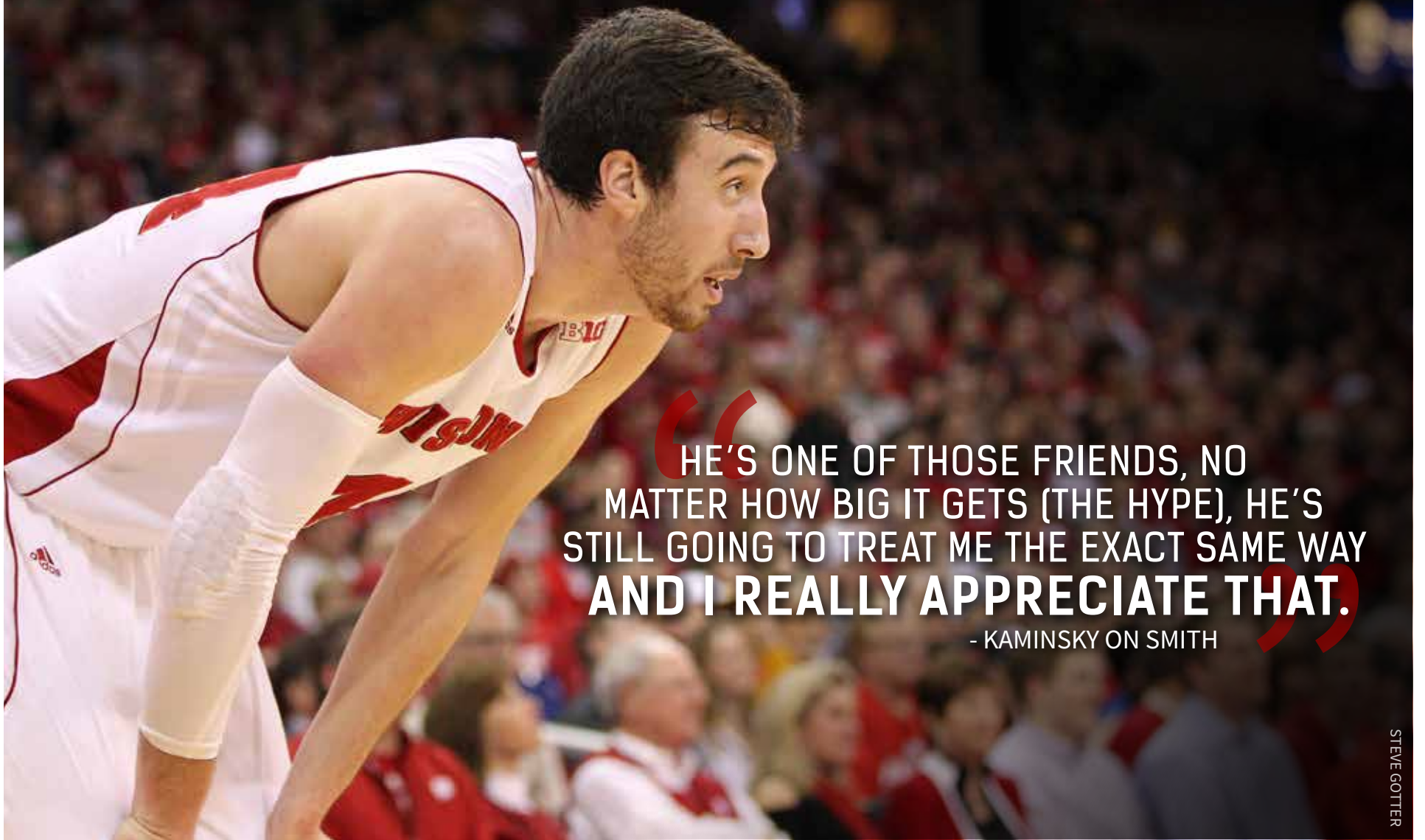
“Frank is kind of a fun-loving, quirky kind of guy that Jordan is able to go back at; they’re able to tease each other back and forth and they’ve been roommates for quite awhile. It’s really a great relationship between two young men who understand where they’re coming from and where they’re going. Both have different futures. But there’s a respect level that goes both ways.”

Smith’s immediate future got brighter in one sense when he got the call from Gard. “That’s

GARD ON SMITH & KAMINSKY

“You have a walk-on who rarely plays and you have a candidate for player of the year in the country. Both have different futures. But there’s a respect level that goes both ways.”





“HE’S ONE OF THOSE FRIENDS, NO MATTER HOW BIG IT GETS (THE HYPE), HE’S STILL GOING TO TREAT ME THE EXACT SAME WAY AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.”

- KAMINSKY ON SMITH

STEVE GOTTER

a nice call to be able to make as a coach,” said Gard, who informed Smith of his second semester tender. “It’s always good when you can reward someone like that who has put in a lot of time and work. Frank has done a great job of going out of his way, as all of our guys have done, to make sure everyone is treated the same. Whether you’re on scholarship or not, it doesn’t matter.”

Rounding out the roommates are Riley Dearing, a 6-foot-5 redshirt freshman guard out of Minnetonka, Minnesota, and Pete Hamilton, one of Kaminsky’s closest friends from high school, Benet Academy in Lisle, Illinois. When asked about Smith and Kaminsky, Dearing started to giggle and said, “It’s a lot of fun just being around them. They’re always yelling at each other and wrestling. You can tell those dudes are going to be best friends until they die.”

Kaminsky has the same type of friendship with Hamilton. “I’ve been going to school with Pete since kindergarten,” he said. “His older brother is my older sister’s age; same grade and they were friends. And his little brother is my little sister’s age; same grade and they’re friends.

Pete and I are peas in a pod this year. When he’s not doing his homework, which is 95 percent of the time, he’s hanging out with me. Pete is not much of an athlete, he’s a brainiac. He’s going into grad school for accounting. He’s definitely the brains of the apartment.”

A lot of things can be murky when they’re throwing around their favorite lines, but one thing is clear with Smith and Kaminsky: they have each other’s back, not unlike the Step Bros.

“Listen, I know we started out as foe ... maybe someday we could be friends,” Brennan Huff says. “Friends who ride majestic, translucent steeds, shooting flaming arrows across the bridge of Hemdale.”

To which Dale Doback replies, “I would follow you into the mists of Avalon, if that’s what you mean?”

What in the world does that mean? “I try to stay out of it,” said Gard, speaking of the Kaminsky and Smith banter. “That stuff they start firing back and forth goes way beyond where I’m at.”

• • • •

They really didn't make the connection until their sophomore year at Wisconsin.

"It was so weird," Kaminsky said, "when we put it together."

It came out of the blue.

"Hey, weren't you that kid I made the buzzer-beater on in AAU?" Kaminsky inquired.

It hadn't crossed Smith's mind until then and he wondered aloud, "Oh, you were THAT big kid?"

Same kid — just not as big as he is today.

"I was a skinny kid, probably 6-8," Kaminsky recalled. "Didn't have much meat on me at all."

But he remembered the game-winning shot that lifted his AAU team, the Illinois Wolves, over Smith's Minnesota-based team, 43 Hoops. "I caught it in the middle of the lane on a ball screen that they switched (defensively)," he

said, "and I just kind of threw it at the rim and it went in."

There was a sense of redemption for Kaminsky. "We played his team the year before and they killed us and I didn't even get into the game," he said. "It was one of the most embarrassing AAU games I've been a part of from a fan perspective because I was on the bench."

The last time that Smith rode the bench — prior to walking on at Wisconsin — was in the seventh grade. It was a unique circumstance and a relatively big story since Smith was practicing and suiting up for the Orono (Minnesota) High School basketball team. That's pretty heady stuff for a 13- or 14-year old. "I got to leave class early and go over and practice at the high school for two years," Smith said.

Middle school consisted of grades 6 through 8.

"I was pretty much full grown in the seventh grade," said the 6-foot-3 Smith. "I matured pretty early and, from a physical standpoint, it was not a huge thing. It was just a good experience. I thought that every chance you get to play against the best competition, you do it."

Not everyone saw it that way in Orono because a seventh grader, after all, was taking up a spot on the roster that could have gone to a junior or senior. "Half of the people thought it was really cool," he said. "Some other people thought it wasn't very cool. There were some politics involved."

As an eighth grader, Smith was the sixth man on a team that featured Jon Leuer, who went on to UW and finished with 1,376 points. As a ninth grader, he broke



into the starting lineup and stayed there. As a sophomore, he scored 49 points against Anandale, making 11 of 16 three-pointers. (After Kaminsky scored a school-record 43 points against North Dakota in 2013, Smith was quick to bring him back down to earth. “Forty-three, huh?” he said. “I had 49 but don’t worry about it, you’re close.”)

Smith saved the best for last — the final three games of his prep career. He scored 72 points during that span including 21 in an 85-76 win over Columbia Heights in the Class AAA championship game of the state tournament. Orono was nearly upset in the quarterfinals by St. Cloud Apollo but rallied from an 18-point deficit and escaped in overtime.

“That team had been together since I moved to Orono in the third grade,” said Smith whose dad, Gregg, had coached him through the youth stages, from kindergarten through sixth grade. As for his Orono teammates, he said, “We had been together for nine years and that was our goal the whole time (a state title).” Leading up to that tourney run, his high school coach, Barry Wohler, once said of Smith, “I don’t know if he’ll play in the NBA, but maybe he’ll own an NBA team.”

You would expect no less, perhaps, out of



“HE’S SEVEN FEET TALL. HE CAN SHOOT. HE CAN DRIBBLE,” SMITH SAID OF KAMINSKY. **“HE HAS GOT GREAT FOOTWORK. LIKE EVERYONE IN THIS PROGRAM, YOU HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN. AND NOW IT’S HIS TURN.”**

ensive stats and learned that Smith left Orono as the school’s all-time leading scorer. “And I gave him a hard time because I said he played varsity basketball for three extra years,” Kaminsky said. “There’s not a chance that I could have played varsity as a seventh grader. That just shows you how good of a shooter and how good of a player he was.”

someone like Smith who scored a 30 on the ACT. Leaning toward a business career, he considered the Ivy League, namely Harvard and Penn. Late in the recruiting process, he got a scholarship offer from Rick Majerus and Saint Louis and a walk-on invitation from Brad Stevens and Butler. Wisconsin offered him the same opportunity: to walk-on.

But, in truth, the Badgers had so much more to offer Smith because of all the the Minnesotans in the program and the success that they had: Leuer, Jordan Taylor, Mike Bruesewitz and Jared Berggren. “That was a big part of it,” Smith said. “With all of those guys here, it felt like you had that built-in community that you could automatically fall back on.”

Once Kaminsky heard that Smith was walking on, and he really didn’t know much about him until he got to Madison, he looked up his offen-



What would Kaminsky trade for Smith's state championship? "I would trade a lot of things for that," he said, before stepping back into character. "He likes to throw that in my face. But then, I tell him, 'It's Minnesota basketball. Put your team in Chicago and see how you would do.'"

As a senior, Kaminsky shared a starring role with David Sobolewski (now at Northwestern) on a Benet Academy team that defeated Simon, 58-54, in front of 8,184 at the UIC Pavilion. Milwaukee Buck Jabari Parker, then a sophomore, scored a game-high 21 points for Simon, which had knocked off Benet the year before in a double overtime super sectional game. In gaining a measure of revenge, Kaminsky had 19 points, 10, rebounds, four assists and five blocks.

After taking over as the No. 1 team in the state, Benet Academy saw its dreams of a perfect season end in the sectional semifinals with a loss to a Ryan Boatright-led East Aurora team. "We were down big in that game and fought our way back and it slipped away from us at the end," Kaminsky said. "I remember being very upset because I really wanted to win a state championship."

By then, by that stage in his development, Kaminsky had put a lot of things behind him, not the least of which was the disappointment that he felt after being advised that he was not good enough to travel with his AAU team to a tournament in Kansas City. That was between his sophomore and junior years. "It was one of the few times that I've actually been moved to tears as a basketball player," he said, "because I wanted to be a part of it so bad. For so many people, AAU meant scholarship offers and that's what I always wanted. It meant to me, at that point in my career, I wasn't where I needed to be."

As a junior, Kaminsky scored 39 points against Glenbard West, a seminal moment. "I really didn't know where I stood on the team," he said. "Through the first half of the season, I think I averaged three points. As the season progressed, I started getting more and more comfortable

JOHN FISHER

in my role and started scoring more and more. That was the culminating point of my junior year when I had all the confidence in the world and I felt like I could do anything, and it snowballed into the AAU season.”

So much so that Kaminsky hit that clutch shot over Smith to beat 43 Hoops.

“That was kind of a low moment,” Smith said.

44 Hoops is now writing his own ticket as a Wisconsin senior.


“A lot of it is confidence; I’m a big believer in that,” Smith said of Kaminsky’s impact in multiple statistical categories for the Badgers.

“It’s a huge deal to people when they get just a little bit of confidence and see that they can do something and continue to do it. He’s seven feet tall. He can shoot. He can dribble. He has got great footwork. Like everyone in this program, you have to wait your turn. And now it’s his turn.”

Smith is hoping that his turn for some meaningful minutes will come next season. That’s why he opted for a redshirt last season knowing that senior guards Josh Gasser and Traevon Jackson will be graduating and moving on. So will Kaminsky. “That’s one thing that is going to be different,” Smith said.

But how different will it be for Smith and Kaminsky down the road, 10 or 15 years from now? “He’s probably going to be the best man in my wedding and he has documented that I will be the best man in his,” Smith said. “We’ve always planned to live in

the same city and raise our kids together. That would be super cool. But that’s all fantasy.”

What is real is their special bond. “It’s one of those friendships,” Kaminsky said, “where no matter how long we might be apart from each other when we get around each other again, it will be like nothing has changed.” 

DEARRING ON SMITH & KAMINSKY:

“It’s a lot of fun just being around them. They’re always yelling at each other and wrestling. **You can tell those dudes are going to be best friends until they die.**”





Badgers' stretch run about planting seed

UW looks to avoid first day of Big Ten tourney

Over the last six games of the regular season, the Wisconsin women's basketball team plays five of the top seven teams in the Big Ten Conference.

That stretch started Wednesday in a 93-82 loss to 22nd-ranked Minnesota, which improved to 8-5 in the league and ranks in a tie for fifth in the standings. It continues Sunday with a trip to Lincoln to face Nebraska, which sits seventh at 7-5.

When the Badgers return home on Feb. 19, they'll be tasked with taking on league-leading Maryland, which carries a 13-0 conference record — and No. 5 national ranking — into this weekend. After taking on Northwestern at the Kohl Center, the Badgers get another crack at second-place Iowa in Iowa City before closing out the regular season at last-place Penn State.

The Badgers know that each game counts as the regular season wraps up.

"Any games for us are crucial because we want to finish strong," head coach Bobbie Kelsey said. "We want to make sure we get some good momentum heading into the (Big Ten) tournament. You really don't want to compete on that first day. We have to finish in the top 10."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (8-15, 4-9)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 25	at Mich. State	L, 77-71
Jan. 29	Ohio State	L, 85-73
Feb. 1	at Illinois	W, 73-62
Feb. 8	#16 Iowa	L, 87-75
Feb. 11	at Minnesota	L, 92-83

COMING UP

Feb. 15	at #22 Nebraska	2 p.m.
Feb. 19	#5 Maryland	8 p.m.
Feb. 22	Northwestern	3 p.m.
Feb. 26	at Iowa	7 p.m.

[> Complete Schedule](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

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Freshmen welcome on the scoresheet

UW's rookies making increased contributions

With the sheer number of freshmen on Wisconsin's roster, the need for the rookies to produce scoring is simple mathematics if the Badgers hope to find success.

The class looks ready to add to the pot, as the group has been a large part of UW's offense over the past two weekends.

Forward Cameron Hughes appeared to be the driving force, scoring three consecutive goals for Wisconsin at one point before going down with an injury during the third period of last Friday's game at Penn State.

As similar thing happened to freshman Adam Rockwood earlier this season. After gaining some confidence by scoring his first two career points the weekend of Nov. 21-22 with a goal and an assist on a trip to Colorado, Rockwood missed the next four games due to an illness.

Hughes missed last Saturday's game, but there is hope he will be back in the lineup — even as soon as the coming weekend — to continue the momentum he's built.

Rockwood looks to be gaining steam, as well, picking up where Hughes left off by tallying UW's goal last Saturday in Pennsylvania. Rockwood also had his first career multi-point

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (2-18-4, 0-8-2-2)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 30	Minnesota	L, 7-5
Jan. 31	Minnesota	T, 4-4 (3-2 SO)
Feb. 6	at Penn State	L, 5-2
Feb. 7	at Penn State	L, 4-1

COMING UP

Feb. 13	at Ohio State	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Feb. 20	Michigan State	8 p.m.
Feb. 21	Michigan State	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Michigan	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	at Michigan	3 p.m.

[> Complete Schedule](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

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Streaking Badgers set for final road trip

Wisconsin riding a seven-game unbeaten run

For the final time this regular season, the No. 3 Badgers will hit the road when they head to Columbus, Ohio, to take on Ohio State this weekend.

Wisconsin enters the weekend riding a seven-game unbeaten streak, which has been in part to tremendous defense. The Badgers have given up only three goals in their past seven contests and are tied for the nation's lead in scoring defense, holding opponents to an average of 1.07 goals per contest.

"We have our defensive pairings straight now," sophomore defenseman Jenny Ryan said. "We have been playing together for a while, and we are focusing on playing tight defense. We are talking a lot, Ann-Renée (Desbiens) is talking a lot to us and we're doing the little things right."

Desbiens has been huge between the pipes for the Badgers, as she has four shutouts during UW's unbeaten streak and owns a save percentage of .975.

The reigning WCHA Defensive Player of the Week, Desbiens has 11 shutouts on the season, including two during Wisconsin's sweep of Ohio State in Madison back in October. The Badgers handled the Buckeyes by blanking OSU 6-0 in the opener

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (22-4-4, 17-4-3)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 30	Minnesota State	W, 3-0
Jan. 31	Minnesota State	W, 5-1
Feb. 6	#7 Minn. Duluth	T, 0-0
Feb. 7	#7 Minn. Duluth	W, 5-0

COMING UP

Feb. 13	Ohio State	5 p.m.
Feb. 14	Ohio State	3 p.m.
Feb. 20	St. Cloud State	2 p.m.
Feb. 22	St. Cloud State	Noon
Feb. 27	WCHA Playoff	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	WCHA Playoff	7 p.m.

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UW returns to track at Iowa State Classic

No. 18 Badgers coming off rare off-week

After a rare weekend off during the indoor season, the No. 18 Wisconsin men's and women's track and field teams will travel to Ames, Iowa, this weekend to compete in the Iowa State Classic.

The two-day meet begins on Friday with the women's weight throw at 11 a.m., while the preliminary rounds of the 60 meters start the action on the track at noon. Saturday's action begins at 9:30 a.m. with the women's 3000 meters.

The Badgers head into the annually-fast meet on Iowa State's oversized 300-meter track with the goal of earning top performances to qualify for next month's NCAA championships.

"It looks like a great meet," Wisconsin Director of Track & Field Mick Byrne said. "The competition is going to be great. Iowa State has invitational fields in everything from 800 meters up. They'll have a lot of rabbits in there also, so the times are going to be pretty fast.

"Their objective is to get as many people as they can qualified for NCAAs, and ISU is billing the meet as a NCAA qualifying meet."

The Badgers haven't been in action since Jan. 30-31, when

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

LAST WEEK

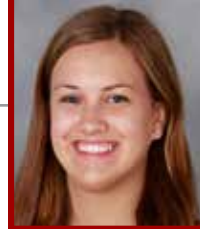
Jan. 30-31 Armory Collegiate Invitational

COMING UP

Feb. 13-14 Iowa State Classic
Feb. 20 **Red & White Open**
Feb. 20-21 Alex Wilson Invitational
Feb. 27-28 Big Ten Championships
March 13-14 NCAA Indoor Championships

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JACK MCLAUGHLIN

Taylor tears up his final conference foes

Wisconsin's 133-pounder shakes up rankings

Sophomore Ryan Taylor has been one of the most consistent factors for the Wisconsin wrestling team since switching weight classes at the beginning of the season. He is also one of the most overlooked and underrated wrestlers — both on his team and nationally in his weight class.

Taylor holds a perfect 9-0 Big Ten record and has defeated three ranked opponents. He is 20-3 overall, and the Fayette County, Ohio, native has not dropped a match since he fell to Edinboro's A.J. Schopp at the Midlands on Dec. 30.

Taylor jumped up to the No. 7 spot in both the InterMat and FloWrestling rankings after having an explosive weekend to wrap up the conference dual season. Taylor only allowed his opponents to score eight points the entire weekend.

"He was very aggressive and got after it. He wrestled in all positions," Wisconsin coach Barry Davis said. "I think when you compete like that, when you go out and expect to win and use good skills, keep your composure and find your position, then it shows that good things can happen."

Davis couldn't wipe the smile off his face as he talked about Taylor's great weekend.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (9-3, 7-2)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 9	at N'western	W, 30-16
Jan. 11	Purdue	W, 22-13
Jan. 23	at Michigan	L, 24-12
Jan. 25	at Michigan St.	W, 34-6
Feb. 6	Rutgers	W, 19-18
Feb. 8	at Illinois	L, 20-15

COMING UP

Feb. 22	at Iowa State	2 p.m.
March 7	Big Ten Championships	
March 8	Big Ten Championships	

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Young Badgers squad is finding its groove

Wisconsin learned a lot in opening weekend

It was a disappointing trip as the Badgers dropped four of their five opening weekend games in Arizona, but that doesn't mean there weren't plenty of bright spots. The young Wisconsin squad learned a lot in its first time on the field together.

Last season, a season in which the Badgers earned a bid to the NCAA Regionals for the second-consecutive year, they started the season with four losses in their first six games. Even though the Badgers have had tough schedules the past two years, they aren't letting that get them down.

The Badgers are getting acclimated with a new youthful group consisting of five freshmen, all five of which have already been active participants this season. Two of the five freshmen, Kelsey Jenkins and Samantha Arents, have been in the starting lineups in all five games this season.

Freshman Annie Davis recorded her first ever win in her collegiate debut against Virginia. The Paradise Valley, Arizona, native was right at home in the sunshine of her own state and pitched a 5-0 shutout win over the Cavaliers, only allowing four hits in the victory.

"To see our freshman pitcher Annie (Davis) come out and get

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (1-4, 0-0)

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

KAJIKAWA TOURNAMENT

Feb. 6	Northridge	L, 4-3
Feb. 6	Utah Valley	L, 9-5
Feb. 7	Virginia	W, 5-0
Feb. 7	Oregon St.	L, 5-0
Feb. 8	Oregon	L, 10-2

TEXAS A&M-CC TOURNAMENT

Feb. 12	Texas A&M-CC	1 p.m.
Feb. 13	South Dakota	10 a.m.
Feb. 14	UAB	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	UAB	9 a.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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DAVID STLUKA

Freshmen Firepower: Youth leads for UW

Four newcomers shining in early going

The 2014-15 Badgers have begun to prove that, despite their youth, they can contend with the nation's best. Wisconsin has consistently played four freshmen in its lineup, and some of the squad's biggest wins have come from players with little previous collegiate experience.

In singles play, UW has amassed a total of eight wins, and the Badgers' freshmen account for six of the eight victories.

In addition, of the three members of the squad holding singles records of .500 or better, two are newcomers. Lamar Remy holds a cumulative singles record of 3-2, while Josef Dodridge is 2-2.

Similar to its strength in singles, the group of freshmen has been impressive in doubles action. In fact, it is the freshman pair of Dodridge and Jose Maria Martin De Oliva Carranza that hold the lone UW win over a nationally-ranked opponent. Their victory over Notre Dame's Josh Hagar and Eddy Covalschi earned them the No. 48 spot in the latest national doubles rankings.

MEN'S PREVIEW

The Wisconsin men (1-5) return to Nielsen Tennis Stadium this weekend to host a pair of dual matches against ranked

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

MEN'S TENNIS (1-5)

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

RECENTLY

- Feb. 7 **#33 Minnesota** L, 1-4
- Feb. 8 **#16 at Notre Dame** L, 1-6

COMING UP

- Feb. 13 **Drake (41)** 6 p.m.
- Feb. 15 **NC State (29)** 10 a.m.

[> Complete Schedule](#)



WOMEN'S TENNIS (2-2)

RECENTLY

- Feb. 7 **Bowling Green** W, 7-0
- Feb. 8 **Marquette** L, 3-4

COMING UP

- Feb. 13 **Akron** 4 p.m.
- Feb. 15 **Utah State** 10 a.m.

[> Complete Schedule](#)





FULL HOUSE

FEBRUARY 12, 1995: The women's basketball team sold out the UW Field House for the first time in program history when 11,500 fans turned out to watch the Badgers take on Michigan State. The Spartans downed Wisconsin, 78-62.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



AT THE HIGH POINT

FEBRUARY 15, 1990:

Men's basketball player Danny Jones broke Wisconsin's career scoring mark against Ohio State. Jones ended his career with 1,854 points.



IN THE SWING

FEBRUARY 12, 2000:

Sophomore Jade Gosse of the softball team set a school record by collecting five hits against Utah. The Badgers won 15-1 in five innings.



FAST LAP

FEBRUARY 15, 1987:

Robert Hackett broke the Badgers' school record in the 200 meters with a time of 21.27 at the Gator Open in Gainesville, Florida, a mark that stood for 13 years.