WHAT'S NEXT FOR WISCONSIN FOOTBALL? THESE GUYS - AND THE REST OF THE CLASS OF 2015 -ARE SET TO SHAPE THE BADGERS' FUTURE

DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

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PAUL CHRYST BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE HEAD COACH'S FIRST FIFTY DAYS



CONTENTS FEBRUARY 4, 2015 • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 24



THE FIRST 50 DAYS

From building a staff to a recruiting race that saw him cover the country, Paul Chryst's first 50 days as Wisconsin's head coach went by in a blur. Let him tell you all about it.



QUARTERBACKS

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Mid-year enrollees Alex Hornibrook and Austin Kafentzis took different paths but are happy to have reached the same destination at Wisconsin.

GET TO KNOW 'EM

An in-depth look at each of the Badgers' newest additions from National Signing Day, including bios and highlight videos.



FEATURES

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LUCAS AT LARGE *Philosophy guides recruiting*

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THE VOICE Super Bowl's ups and downs

BY THE NUMBERS Facts and figures on UW

WHAT TO WATCH Hockey, hoops and more ASK THE BADGERS Signing Day memories BADGERING



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: David Stluka

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Chryst's philosophy shapes recruiting

hen outsiders marvel at Wisconsin's ability to annually field a quality offensive line, regardless of its experience level, Paul Chryst suggested that there's often the tendency to be flippant with the remark, "there must be something in the water" to explain the consistent results and success.

LUCAS AT LARGE

"You do hear people say that, but it's not that easy, it's not by accident, it doesn't just happen," said Chryst, UW's first-year head coach. "We've been fortunate here to have a ton of great linemen for a long time and, when you look back, there have been a number of great offensive line coaches.

"Yet, I do feel really confident whether it's with recruiting (offensive line prospects), or more importantly with the guys who are already here, that you can look them in the eye and tell them, 'If you put the time in, if you work and work together with these coaches, great things can happen."

The Badgers have landed three future building blocks/ blockers in their 2015 recruiting class: Jon Dietzen, an early enrollee and 330-pound Cheesehead from Black Creek, a small village outside Green Bay; Kevin Estes from San Marcos, California, and David Moorman from Northville, Michigan.

As upperclassmen, Tyler Marz,

Dan Voltz and Ray Ball will have a role in the mentoring process of the freshmen and the other returning O-linemen that will be counted on to fill the holes in the depth chart left by the graduation losses of starters Rob Havenstein, Kyle Costigan and Dallas Lewallen.

It's hard to image a better learning environment for these

CHRYST ON RECRUITING: I'M MORE CONFIDENT IN THAT PHILOSOPHY THAN I PROBABLY WAS (BEFORE). ALWAYS TALK ABOUT KNOWING WHAT AND WHO WISCONSIN 3.



players, young and old alike, than Joe Rudolph's classroom/ meeting room. Rudolph will serve as the offensive coordinator and coach the offensive line. Joining him will be grad assistant Josh Oglesby and quality control assistant Bill Nagy.

Rudolph and Oglesby were former All-Big Ten linemen for the Badgers, while Nagy was versatile enough to play multiple positions up front and ended up starting four games as a rookie with the Dallas Cowboys before an injury cut short his NFL career. Together, they represent a wealth of knowledge.

"We have tremendous resources because when you talk about those three guys, they've all done it (on the field) and done it at a high level," said Chryst, who has worked on staffs with veteran technicians like Bob Bostad and Jim Hueber. "And Joe is as good of a teacher as I've been around."

There are a number of familiar faces running around the UW football offices these days; former Badgers players who have returned to their college roots in a variety of capacities, ranging from old quarterbacks (Jon Budmayr), linebackers (Ethan Armstrong) and kicking specialists (Taylor Mehlhaff).

In balancing recruiting and assembling his coaching staff, Chryst pointed out that it all worked out for the best in terms



LUCAS AT LARGE

BY MIKE LUCAS » UWBADGERS.COM



of fostering some chemistry. "It was good for the guys (the assistants) to be able to roll up their sleeves and dive in and kind of attack this past month together," he said.

"What better way to get to know the staff than evaluating film together or being on the road together and talking through scenarios. It was really good that way. And that part was fun. I certainly appreciated the effort of everyone because it was such a different year of recruiting."

It was different or, at the very least, unique because of the

prospects who had already verbally committed to the Badgers when Chryst replaced Gary Andersen.

"The strength in our recruiting is truly knowing not just who the player is but who the person is, and that takes time," Chryst allowed.

But it was unavoidable, he conceded, and a hurdle that had to be cleared. And it was.

"We're adding a group of guys who will add value to this team," he said. "They can help you be better on the field. They can help you be better in the locker room. They can help you be better in the community."

How then have the last three years impacted his recruiting approach? "Your seat is different," he said of running his own program at Pitt. "But it reaffirmed the philosophy. It has reinforced a lot of things I've believed in. And I'm more confident in that philosophy than I probably was."

To which, he added, "I always talk about knowing what and who Wisconsin is."

Must be in the water, because a lot of people are believing in the same things since he returned."





Signing Day success measured later on

was talking with Paul Chryst and he was telling me about some of the walk-on players that are coming aboard, and he sounded as excited about them as some of the signees.

That's important to me. I know the formula to win here. Every place has a little different formula and it's based on where you can recruit and the type of players that you have consistent access to.

We're a program that is going to develop people, and walkons have been a lifeline. It's no secret the success we've had with guys like Joe Panos, Jimmy Leonhard, J.J. Watt and Jared Abbrederis.

We're not a place that's going to have access to an overabundance of skill players. That's not to say they can't be found in the state. Melvin Gordon is a prime example of that. But we will get tough linemen and linebackers and we'll get physical players and a lot of tight end types.

We've always gone out and found players that we thought could fit into our program. We found guys that we could teach — guys that could grow — and we've found hundreds of them over the years.

You want someone with a great attitude, someone who's tough and wants to be here. You can make something out of them because they're going to get better. That's what we made a living on.

Our first priority is always to comb the state of Wisconsin and find the good ones, along with making sure we have a nice group of athletic walk-ons. You're hoping a good portion of them pan out.

One of the first things that Paul did when he got the job was to get on the phone with Dan Brunner, who's the executive director of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.

You have to cater to the state high school coaches. They're the ones who are going to encourage kids to come here. And they're going to expose their kids to Wisconsin football.

I'm sure Paul will give them total access to his program. He will allow them to come down here and watch practice and visit with our assistants. You need a close working relationship and we'll have it.

National Signing Day is always exciting for me. But, then again, no head coach has ever gotten up in front of the media and said, "I hate this class." Recruiting has changed a lot, though.

When I first started, you were on the road to sign these players and there might be as many two or three cars of coaches in front of the kid's house waiting for him to make up his mind.

I remember all the traveling and going from Ohio into Pennsylvania, and then I would end up in Jersey. It's not like it used to be. Now you have a dead period leading up to signing day.

The most important thing is still to keep everything in perspective. I think it's hilarious when people overreact to how many stars are by a player's name. Not one 5-star started in the Super Bowl.

Don't get me wrong. You'd like to get some 5-stars, a lot of them are legitimate. You'd like to get some of those guys, and we have. But we never really cared about rankings.

Someone asked me, "When do you know that you've got a good recruiting class?" I told them, "When they're finished with their eligibility."

I remember how Bret Bielema was really upset because his first recruiting class wasn't ranked as high as he thought it should have been. All I said was, "We'll judge it down the road."

That class wound up having the Outland winner in Gabe Carimi, the Unitas Golden Arm winner in Scott Tolzien, a finalist for the Mackey Award in Lance Kendricks and an All-American in John Moffitt.

That's why you can't rush to judgment on a recruiting class.



The highest of highs to the lowest of lows

S ince making the decision to get into the world of covering sports for a living, I have found myself rooting for individuals more than teams. Yes, there are exceptions. Besides the obvious of enjoying a Badgers victory, I also like seeing the Packers do well. It also is encouraging to see the Milwaukee Bucks playing better than most expected.

And, with this part-time gig I have in the spring and summer, it sure is cool when the Brewers are winning.

Having been associated with University of Wisconsin athletics since 1988, one of the joys of the job is seeing so many Badgers playing or coaching at the highest levels. That includes two former UW standouts who will get Super Bowl rings — New England Patriots running back James White and linebacker Jonathan Casillas.

On the other sideline last Sunday in Glendale, Arizona, were Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, defensive end O'Brien Schofield and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell.

Super Bowl XLIX will go down as one of the greatest games in NFL history. Most will remember it for one play. One play from the 1 yard line in the closing seconds of a tight game. Wilson and Bevell will forever be part of the moment.

Since there is a good chance

you were one of the 114 million viewers last Sunday, you witnessed the famous — or infamous — play.

Trailing 28-24 and facing a second-and-goal, Wilson's pass was intercepted by rookie Malcolm Butler. It was a terrific play by the rookie defensive back, but the story has been, and will continue to be, the decision to pass instead of giving the ball to Marshawn Lynch.

Some have called it the worst play call in the history of football. (We don't get too wound up about this stuff, do we?)

It was difficult to watch. For most of the game, I had no genuine rooting interest. But in the final two minutes, I wanted to see if Wilson and the Seahawks could pull off a game-winning drive.

Give Seattle coach Pete Carroll credit. He took the blame for the play. He also knows that no matter what explanation he gives, it will not be good enough for many.

Such is the price one might pay in the pursuit of greatness.

Think about some of the most memorable plays — or blunders — in the history of sports. Bill Buckner in the 1986 World Series. Chris Webber's timeout in the title game of the 1993 NCAA basketball tournament. Scott Norwood's missed field goal at the end of Super Bowl XXV (remember, it was a 47-yard attempt ... not exactly a chip shot).

We are talking about individuals who were among the best in the world at what they did. They played on the biggest stage their sport had to offer. They were part of teams that did not settle for being average.

It is comfortable to be average. These are people who were willing to get out of their comfort zone. The rewards are great, but the risk is extensive.

It is all part of the gig, and everyone involved knows it. It can be what drives them.

It is natural for us to define someone by a single moment. Natural, but probably unwise.

Wilson is in line to get a huge contract from Seattle. He is one of the NFL's bright young stars.

Bevell is a highly-respected coordinator. A head coaching position could very well be in his future. His high football IQ served him well in helping the Badgers win their first-ever Rose Bowl. He also has a Super Bowl title ring from last season's run with Seattle.

Agree or disagree with calling a pass play on the 1. Wilson and Bevell are among the best in the world at what they do. Last year at this time they were Super Bowl champions. Today they are trying to move on from bitter disappointment.

Those two are built to handle both ends of the spectrum. That is what Badgers are built to do. •

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR SIGNING DAY?



JACKI GULCZYNSKI Senior • W. Basketball

I woke up on the morning of Signing Day and sat at the kitchen table. My mom gave me a special silver pen with my name on it and I signed that morning. I also had a mock signing at school that day with all of my sports coaches, our athletic director and our principal."



JOSEPH LABATE Senior • Men's Hockey

It was the last hour of school and it was in a room called the Parlor. The room was the main focal point of (Academy of) Holy Angels from the 1930s so it was a really old and pretty room. They had a big table set up and the school got me a cake. There were a few cameras there from the local newspapers. My coach and my whole family were there and so I signed in front of all my family and friends."



ANNIE PANKOWSKI Freshman • W. Hockey

I was at the North American Hockey Academy in Vermont two years ago with Jenny (Ryan) and we decided that we wanted to skip our English class to sign our letters of intent. We were so excited for Signing Day. It was the two of us signing with Wisconsin and our goalie, Sidney Peters, had committed to Minnesota, our biggest rival."



VINCE BIEGEL Sophomore - Football

I signed at my high school, in the athletic director's office early in the morning. My mom and dad and grandparents were all there, and so was my head coach. There were a lot of hugs and good handshakes. I was born and raised here, so coming to Wisconsin was a dream come true. Being able to sign that letter of intent to commit to the University of Wisconsin was a measure of all my hard work paying off."



LAUREN CHYPYHA

A native of Toronto, Canada, **Lauren Chypyha** is in her third year on the Wisconsin women's tennis team and is off to a 10-4 start this season. Chypyha led the Badgers in wins a year ago with a record of 27-10 en route to All-Big Ten honors. She was also selected to compete in the prestigious Riviera Women's All-American Tennis Championship in September.

CXY

Why did you decide to come to Wisconsin from Toronto?

"I was recruited by the former coach, Brian Fleishman, based on my national and international ranking, but when I came on an official visit I knew that I belonged here. UW-Madison has a great athletic and academic reputation and I really wanted to be part of that legacy. I had a gut feeling that Madison was going to be my new home. So I signed my National Letter of Intent, and here I am!"

What was it like at the ITA Championships in Pacific Palisades, California?

"Travelling to California with Coach (Tina) Samara to play the All-American tournament was something I had been looking forward to for a while. I first heard about the tournament when I arrived on campus my freshman year, and had made it one of my goals to be invited to play it. I really believed I could beat girls at that level, and even though I didn't go as

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT LAUREN

Year: Junior Height: 5-11 Hometown: Toronto, Ontario High School: Bill Crothers Secondary School

QUICK Qs FOR LAUREN

Favorite place to play? "Nielsen Tennis Stadium."

Favorite place to eat around campus? "Mia-Za's. But I also love Café Porta Alba, which is just off campus by Hilldale Mall."

Best thing about Madison?

"The atmosphere and tremendous support for Badger athletics. I also love the perfect balance between the city life and a college campus."

Favorite pre-match music?

"I love listening to anything new and upbeat. It ranges from hip-hop to country. I also have a playlist of pre-match music with a lot of Beyoncé, Eminem and Nicki Minaj."

PAUL CHRYST WAS HIRED AS THE 30TH HEAD COACH IN WISCONSIN FOOTBALL HISTORY ON DEC. 17, 2014. NATIONAL SIGNING DAY WAS HIS 50TH DAY ON THE JOB. FROM A DREAM COMING TRUE TO THE REALITY OF RECRUITING, HERE IS A LOOK AT THOSE FIRST 50 DAYS, IN HIS OWN WORDS.

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BY PAUL CHRYST

DEC. 17, 4:43 P.M. - McCLAIN CENTER

TEAM MEETING

You get into coaching to coach "this team" and those were the guys that were going to be a part of your first team. It was unique because some of the guys that were getting ready to play their last game I had known, and so it was good to see them. I was appreciative of recognizing the fact that it was the end of this year's season. That was this year's team, and I had nothing to do with that team, as far as them getting to the Outback Bowl and earning the right to play in that game.

I was glad that was the first thing I was able to do, because I think that's the essence of what you do, and that's with your team.

DEC. 17, 6:02 P.M. KOHL CENTER

NEWS CONFERENCE

There were a couple moments during that day when you get a chance to just stop and breathe for a second and think about it. There wasn't one "aha" moment. I think the press conference itself was that moment where it all became real. There were a lot of discussions leading up to that point, a lot of things that came together, and that was a special deal for me.

Walking up on that stage and shaking Coach Alvarez's hand was big for me. It was different than when we had visited leading up to that day and talked about the job. I think he obviously knew how I was feeling, and I felt good about how he was feeling, that he trusted me to take over this position that obviously means a lot to him, means a lot to me, and means a lot to the fans of Wisconsin. We didn't talk a lot about it up there or anything, but I did feel that.

I'd say without a doubt the most important thing was having Robin, Katy, JoJo and Danny there, because you don't do this without them. They've been a big part of the whole journey. It certainly was a big day, more so for what it signifies than the actual event of a press conference.

Any time you share a milestone day, and I definitely considered that day to be one, if you can share it with your family and your friends, you're pretty lucky, right? So that was big. We had a nice reception afterwards in the Kohl Center with some friends that I hadn't seen in a long time and it was a good moment to be able to catch your breath a little and just talk to some people who had been through things with you.

You go to bed that night, it's real. It's changed. We had been talking about the possibility and then you're having some real discussions leading up to it with family, with players and coaches who I was with at Pitt. That was a whirlwind. One of the nice things about the press conference was the decision had been made on both sides, and now it's time to go to work.

DEC. 18, 9:48 A.M. - McCLAIN CENTER PRACTICE

You wake up, and you're starting the transition, but you're not really doing anything. That next day, I got to watch practice. But you don't want to get in the way because the coaches and players are doing their thing, getting ready to play Auburn and I was very cognizant of that. I got to see Mark Johnson, who stopped by practice

that morning. We were neighbors for a number of years, so it was great to visit with Mark.

During that time before the team left for Tampa, I was putting things together, gathering information, trying to figure out when I could hire coaches. I had a chance to visit with some of the coaches that were on the staff currently, and I tried to visit with some other coaches I was considering, but at the same time a lot of other guys are in a world that they had to be doing their jobs still so it was a delicate balance.

The good thing in my mind, was at that point I knew who my coordinators would be. The first thing I did when I got the job was talk with (defensive coordinator) Dave (Aranda) and made it clear I wanted him as a part of the staff. He wanted to stay, so it was important to get that locked up early. I had talked with Rudy (offensive coordinator Joe Rudolph) throughout the whole process, and he knew if I was going to do it, take this job, I wanted to do it with him. And he was on board.

DEC. 23-27 - PITTSBURGH FAMILY TIME

I flew back to Pittsburgh on Dec. 23 with the girls (Katy and JoJo). That was the first chance that we as a family had to be together really and turn the phones off, not be distracted and be a family. We got to celebrate Christmas, and also be happy for the decision that was made. Everyone was excited and it was just a good chance just to be together. We knew we would be heading down to Tampa as a family but those couple of days were just us, probably for the last time in a while.



DEC. 27, 11:37 A.M. - TAMPA

BOWL PRACTICE

We left Pittsburgh on Dec. 27 and flew to Tampa. As soon as we landed, I headed to practice. I enjoyed going to practices down there just to try to start connecting with the guys. Again, I tried to stay in the background because the focus should be and was on the game. But I made sure they knew I was there if they wanted to come up and chat after practice, or if I saw them at the hotel. It was a good time to start to get to know some guys and reconnect with the ones I already knew.

While I was doing that, I was trying to position it so when the bowl games were done you I could move forward on some of the hiring. I took some time on a couple of different days to meet with the academic folks, also with compliance. I just wanted to make sure that once the bowl game was over, I could go full speed ahead on recruiting and hiring the staff. Get as many questions answered beforehand because I knew it would be a hectic time. Also throughout that time in Tampa, I was trying to see where the recruits were at. I was able to start reaching out to them a couple days after I was hired. You're allowed to make one phone call a week to a prospect. So I usually did that in the evenings. You're introducing yourself to the ones that I didn't know, and connecting to the ones I did know, seeing where they were at with the whole process.

It was also a good time to interact with the fans while we were down there. I spoke at an alumni function. Went to "Beach Day" and spoke there. And then just in the time around the hotel or going out to eat, seeing all the fans and witnessing the great support, that was energizing.

Obviously the best part was watching the game and seeing the guys come out with the win and seeing how emotional that was for everyone involved. Again, it wasn't really my deal but I felt great for the seniors and Melvin, to be able to end their careers like that. For the guys coming back, it hopefully serves as a great springboard for 2015.



"I TOLD THEM, **'WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF RULES. YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT. DO THE RIGHT THING.'** EVERYTHING IS ABOUT BEING THE BEST YOU CAN, AND YOU'VE GOT TO WORK TO DO THAT."

JAN. 5, 6:37 A.M. - CAMP RANDALL STADIUM ASSEMBLING A STAFF

We flew back to Pittsburgh the night of the 1st, pretty much right after the game. On Jan. 4, I was back in Madison and that Monday began piecing the staff together. I think I visited with 12 candidates that week. The nice part is that the staff was starting to take shape. But we also interviewed some guys that we knew would be great fits that we couldn't hire. That's not fun.

(Special teams coordinator) Chris (Haerring), (defensive line coach) Inoke (Breckterfield) and Rudy came up on the 5th. (Running backs coach) Thomas (Brown) was able to meet with Rudy, which was important. It was important for us to talk to him and for him to talk to us, because it's a two way street. People may think that interviewing is just us, one sided, kind of evaluating if he'd be a good fit, but I think it goes both ways.

I wanted to have as many guys hired that week because I knew I could devote that week and a half window solely to the staffing. We couldn't be on the road (recruiting) until Jan. 15. But on the other hand, I wasn't going to do it at the expense of rushing it just to say we had a guy on board. Every day, in our staff meetings, it seemed we would add another chair or two. That was important, to all get on the same page, because once it came time to be one the road, things would be moving pretty fast.

We were able to announce the majority of the staff on Tuesday and Wednesday before going out on the road. (Outside linebackers coach) Tim (Tibesar) and (defensive backs coach) Daronte' (Jones) were also in the mix but we had to wait until the following week until they were official. So it felt good to have most of the pieces in place as we prepared to head out. JAN. 20, 7:58 A.M. - McCLAIN CENTER



Defensive backs coach Daronte' Jones

THE START OF A NEW SEASON

Those first two days (Jan. 15-16) I was able to get around the state and visit a bunch of schools. We were probably in seven or eight schools, over towards the Milwaukee area, then south towards the Illinois border then back up north.

On Friday, Robin flew in for the weekend so we got to spend Saturday and Sunday together. Did a little house hunting. I also met with some candidates to try and fill out the rest of the staff and then get squared away for the next week because school was starting and it was a big week for us to be on the road.

Monday, we were back on the road in-state, me, Chris and Rudy. We went and saw Alec Ingold and Jake Whalen. Alec was someone we were recruiting at Pitt, so we had a relationship. We saw him at school and then met with his parents at their house. We had a good visit with Jake and his parents at their house. That ended



up being a pretty fruitful day for us.

The next day was the first day of class, so we had a team meeting at 8 a.m. There are a lot of things you need to go over at the start of any season, and maybe more so when there's a change in staff. But you also don't need to overwhelm them. It's really day one of a long journey together.

Obviously you hope they had a good break. It's important that they have that time with their families away from school and football and take advantage of that. I had a chance to congratulate them on the bowl game. I spoke to them about it being the start of a new semester. The academic folks met with them to make sure they had everything covered. Then I introduced (strength coach) Ross (Kolodziej) and he laid out the schedule and expectations for the weight room.

It was the first time we got together as that

group. Most of the assistants were on the road and we'll obviously add some kids to this team, but the bulk of your team is right there for the first time. They're starting to hear what your expectations are. I told them "We're not going to have a lot of rules. You guys know what's right. Do the right thing." Everything is about being the best you can, and you've got to work to do that. It was a 45-minute meeting and great to be in front of them for the first time.

JAN. 20, 1:45 P.M. DANE COUNTY AIRPORT THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

After the team meeting I boarded a plane and headed to New Jersey with Nokes (Inoke Breckterfield). On Wednesday morning it was off to St. Louis to meet up with (tight ends coach) Mickey (Turner), Dave and Tim. That

night me and Nokes flew to California, leaving around 9:30 p.m. and getting to our hotel around 11:30 p.m.

All the travel leaves you a little gassed but we got to eat at Rubio's and In-and-Out so we were fired up. There was a UW grad at Rubio's that came up to us and got some pictures. That was pretty cool. We went and saw Olive (Sagapolu) in school and met with his mom and grandparents. Then met with Kevin (Estes) at his house with his parents. And then we got on a plane that night again and headed to Ypsilanti, Michigan to see David (Moorman). We left San Diego at 9:30 p.m. and arrived in Michigan at 5 a.m. We met with his family and had a pretty nice breakfast.

On Friday, we were back in Madison getting ready to host some official visits. Alec came in. So did Kraig Howe, who we'd been recruiting at Pitt, and Arrington Farrar. We went to the hockey game Friday night against Michigan. It was the first event I'd been to since I've been back. The Kohl Center is awesome and it's always fun to sit in and among the Badgers fans. It was just like I remembered it. Loud, passionate. I got to shake some hands, take some pictures with folks and most importantly, expose our kids to the type of atmosphere that is common around here.

JAN. 25, 12:15 P.M. - GREEN BAY

WFCA ALL-STATE BANQUET

On Sunday, Chris and I drove up to the WFCA All-State Banquet in Green Bay. It's important to me to connect with the coaches and players in the state. We're the state university, the only one that plays Division I football and we need to support football in the state. I've already met with the coaches about their clinic they hold in Madison. The All-State Banquet is a terrific event and I thought it was important for me to go up there.

Inoke, Dave, the defensive staff, Daronte' and Tim picked me up in Green Bay and we flew to Florida, did a home visit, then we got back on a plane and flew down to another part of Florida, and then we visited schools and did a home visit.

The next morning Tim and I flew to Atlanta and met Thomas, where we met Arrington Farrar at school. Later in the day, during a home visit with another kid, we actually had the same meeting time scheduled as Nebraska, so I got to see Mike (Riley). That was pretty strange, but good to see him. Usually you will run into different coaches when you're doing school visits but usually never during a home visit.

Then Thomas and I flew the next day (Jan. 28) to Dallas and visited with Chris Orr's dad, then we went to Chris' school, and he took me around, took me on to the field, then took me through the school and met with his coaches and teachers and administrators that he wanted me to meet. He's a pretty neat kid that way. And then we went and saw Jordan Stevenson. JAN. 28, 7:15 P.M. • MADISON

A NEW HOME

I flew back to Madison on Wednesday night and actually moved out of Hotel Red, where I'd been staying — even though I really didn't spend many nights there — and into my mom's condo in Madison. It's nice being out of a hotel, and definitely great seeing my mom. But I can't say I've spent a ton of time there, either.

Wednesday and Thursday we had a couple official visits. On Thursday, I went over to basketball practice to see Bo. That was the first time I got to see him since it became official. We talked over the phone a bunch of times but our schedules just didn't match up. So it was nice to get over there and see him and chat for a bit. He was great with the recruit.

Thursday night, I picked up Rudy in Milwaukee

and we drove down to Chicago. We visited some kids there, drove back up to Milwaukee, back to Madison to finish up an official visit, then back to Milwaukee to watch a basketball game. Saturday we had a bunch of visits and Sunday we actually opened up the Buckingham Club seats in the stadium and watched the Super Bowl with about 40 of the guys from the current team, guys who didn't have any other place to watch so we all got together. That was fun because it had nothing to do with school, football; just a bunch of guys sitting around watching football.

FEB. 4 - CAMP RANDALL STADIUM ONE JOURNEY ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

Monday's staff meeting was a good one because now the staff is really starting to come together with guys like Jonny (Jon Budmayr), Ethan (Armstrong), Billy Nagy. We're filling up the room now.

This week is energizing because you're adding to your team. Wednesday will be fun, talking to all the kids as they make it official. It's an important decision for them and their families and it's fun to hear the excitement in their voices.

We'll do all our stuff here with the press conference and interviews and Wednesday night have our Mendota meeting. Thursday we're in Milwaukee for Mendota. Friday I'm flying back to Pittsburgh to see the kids quick, but then I have to fly to Chicago for Big Ten meetings Sunday and Monday. Tuesday it's off to Florida for a donor event then back to Madison.

So while signing day is sort of the end of it for one cycle, it really never ends. There's five weeks to spring ball. We've already started working on the Class of 2016. Those are the two priorities moving forward. Getting our plan ready for spring ball and recruiting for next year.

• • • •

I feel I'm truly settled in now. The feeling and the reality of being the head coach at the University of Wisconsin keeps evolving. When you go in as a head coach into a recruit's home, you are more so than when you talked at that team meeting, you are more so than when you were an observer at practice. You feel it more so when you get the whole staff together. It gets more real the first time you get to be at the workout with them.

Each time you add someone, or have a different experience, it's energizing. There's chaos, but the chaos can be fun.



YOUNG QUARTERBACKS **AUSTIN KAFENTZIS** AND **ALEX HORNIBROOK** HAD VERY DIFFERENT TIMELINES WHEN IT CAME TO MATCHING UP WITH MADISON, BUT BOTH RECRUITING EXPERIENCES LED TO THE SAME CONCLUSION — THAT **WISCONSIN IS EXACTLY WHERE THEY WANT TO BE.**

WISCONGIN FOOTBIL

BUDIES BUDIES - UNBADGERS.COM

ustin Kafentzis and Alex Hornibrook each endured a couple of weeks of uncertainty when they were in recruiting limbo. But their career paths have since intersected as Wisconsin freshmen; bridging their recognizable differences, physically and geographically, as early enrollees in the Class of 2015.

Kafentzis is a 6-foot, 200-pound quarterback from Sandy, Utah, a Salt Lake City suburb; whereas Hornibrook is a 6-foot-4, 215-pound quarterback from West Chester, Pennsylvania, 25 miles west of Philadelphia. While so unalike — Kafentzis is right-handed and Hornibrook is left-handed — they have so many common likes.

Both like school, especially the idea of getting a degree from the UW School of Business. Both like Drew Brees and Peyton Manning. Both like competition. Both like Paul Chryst. And the latter is a big reason why they're both here, and it's based on their trust and belief in Chryst, the UW head coach.

Kafentzis, who will be 19 in April, said that his commitment to graduate early from high school and enroll for the second semester was made all the more easier knowing that it would allow him to "start learning from one of the best offensive minds in college football today, Coach Chryst."

Hornibrook, who just turned 18, said essentially the same thing after decommitting from the University of Pittsburgh — where Chryst coached the last three seasons — and following Chryst to Madison because "I thought his prostyle offense was great for me; I thought it was the perfect fit."

Despite being a long way from home, Kafentzis and Hornibrook are both confident that they will have no trouble "fitting in" with the Chryst system, the school, their new teammates, the coaching staff, the campus and the community. Yet, they have very different stories to tell.

"I'm just looking forward to working with both of them this spring," Chryst said.



fter attending a Wisconsin summer football camp, Kafentzis verbally committed to the Badgers in June of 2013; he accepted Gary Andersen's scholarship offer two months before the start of his junior year of high school and two months before Andersen, who had replaced Bret Bielema, made his debut as the head coach against UMass. Kafentzis was the first member of the 2015 class.

"I shut down recruiting and I didn't look into any other colleges or take any other visits; this was my place," said Kafentzis, who led the Jordan High Beetdiggers to the Class 5A state championship as a sophomore. "I wanted to commit (to a college) a little earlier than normal and not wait until my senior year because I wanted to



focus on my football and on just getting better and improving my game."

There was a previous Kafentzis connection to Andersen in that Austin's father, Kyle, then the defensive coordinator at Sandy High School, had previously coached Andersen's son, Keegan. During his playing days, Kyle Kafentzis was a defensive back at the University of Hawaii and had a brief trial as a free agent with the Chicago Bears before an injury ended his career.

The recruitment of Austin Kafentzis continued long after he said "yes" to Andersen and the Badgers. Others tried to get him to flip but he remained steadfast in his commitment. "How could you not come to Madison and just love everything about it?" he posed. "It was the people, the university, Camp Randall, the fans; just everything about it. I didn't need to take any other visits."

Until, that is, Andersen left Wisconsin for Oregon State. "It was ironic that he ended up leaving and I had to go through the (recruiting) process which I tried not to do (by committing early)," Kafentzis said. "It was a big decision on where I wanted to go and I had two weeks to figure it out as opposed to the two years that I would have had prior."

Kafentzis felt obligated to visit Oregon State. "His first day there," he said of Andersen, "was my first day there. So he was seeing it (the campus and facilities) as I was seeing it. He hadn't seen it at all, either. We were kind of going through it together. I already had two years to basically fall in love with Madison and I did. And I'm a really loyal guy when it comes to commitment.

"I love Gary, I love him to death," Kafentzis stressed. "He's the reason why I'm here right now and I wish him the best at Oregon State. But in the end I feel what was best for me was staying at Wisconsin and learning under Coach Chryst."

Kafentzis did his homework on Chryst, too. "I didn't really know much about him because I didn't think I had to; he wasn't here at the beginning," he recounted. "They said they were going to honor our scholarships regardless. As a quarterback, and I believe I am a quarterback, I had to look into everything. And his offenses were super explosive, especially with Russell Wilson. I liked everything about Coach Chryst and what he had to bring to the table." Chryst also did his homework on Kafentzis. "When you watched his film, you saw a guy that competed," Chryst said. "He made throws; he did a lot with his legs. But, again, the thing that stood out the most was the way he competed. I certainly felt that he had quite a few redeeming qualities. Then in talking to him, I thought,

'Here's a guy who will work and wants to be good at this level.'"

More than anything, Kafentzis wants to be a quarterback. Many recruiters projected him on defense as a safety. Andersen, in fact, thought that's where he might

wind up. So when he visited with Chryst, it was one of the first things that came up. "He believed I was a quarterback and he thinks I'm a quarterback at the highest level," Kafentzis said, "and I ultimately based my decision off that answer."

Chryst was just being himself, just being honest. "I knew that was going to be important to him, so we talked about it," he said. "I don't believe that it's right to bring someone in for a position when you know that you're going to try and move him. I've been a part of guys who have changed positions, some really good ones here. But that's not the intention with Austin. He's got the ability to be a good quarterback and I told him that he would have every opportunity to do that."

CHRYST ON KAFENTZIS: "When you watched his film, you saw a guy that competed. He made throws; he did a lot with his legs. But, again, the thing that stood out the most was the way he competed." Because of his running prowess — 6,942 rushing yards, which included 38 games of 100-yard-plus yards during his illustrious four-year high school career — Kafentzis has been branded as a dual-threat quarterback; and there's nothing wrong with that

brand, particularly when you are the most prolific dual-threat in U.S. prep history with 115 passing touchdowns and 103 rushing touchdowns.

"I do believe I can run the ball," Kafentzis said. "But I'm a pass-first guy. When I'm going through my progressions — first read, second read — if that all breaks down, I'm going to use my footwork, backdoor or frontdoor (out of the pock-



et). But I'm using it find the open guy. I wouldn't say I'm one read and sprint out. I wouldn't say I was a dual-threat quarterback. A lot of my rushing yards were called rushes. I feel like I'm more of a pocket passer who uses his footwork."

Kafentzis has strengthened his arm by throwing the javelin; he's not just any thrower, mindyou, but he's a Utah record-holder and state champion in the javelin.

"It has not hurt me; if anything, it has helped my arm get stronger," said Kafentzis, who wouldn't mind going out for the UW track team after spring ball if it can be arranged. "I'm not going to say it's the same as throwing a football. The release points and starting points are different. But if you keep your elbow above your shoulder, you're not going to have any (arm) problems. My dad and uncles threw it (the jave-



Kafentzis credited QB Joel Stave with easing his transition to college life and football. **"Joel has been a great role model,"** he said. **"He** has helped us every step of the way. He has been a great mentor."

lin), so it's in my blood."

Before Kafentzis knew of Chryst, he knew of Wilson. He knew that Wilson was a 5-11 quarterback whose height was questioned, especially by the NFL scouts. "I feel like the only thing you can't control is height," said Kafentzis. "I'm not as tall (as some other QBs) but I have the footwork to keep the play alive and get into passing windows and deliver the ball downfield. Drew Brees is in the same boat. He's not the tallest quarterback. But he's getting the job done at the highest level."

Kafentzis has tried to take different elements from a variety of quarterbacks. He respects Aaron Rodgers "for his arm strength and ability to have a quick release." He admires Tom Brady for his "pocket presence" and Peyton Manning for his "brain." The mental part of the game is very

> important to Kafentzis. "He knows your defense," he said of Manning, "better than you know your defense."

Kafentzis shares that trait with Hornibrook. Both are excellent students in the classroom. Both are avid students of the game. And both have credited Joel Stave, UW's returning starter at quarterback, with easing their transition to college life and football. "Joel has been a great role model," Kafentzis said. "He has helped us every step of the way. He has been a great mentor."

Kafentzis is living with tight end Kyle Penniston and linebackers Nick Thomas and Ty DeForest. Penniston is from California, Thomas is from Florida (via Kansas), DeForest is from Marshall. Hornibrook is on the floor below them and living with defensive back Serge Trezy and offensive lineman Jon Dietzen. Trezy is from Eastern Arizona (via Florida) and Dietzen is from Black Creek and Seymour High School.

"We're all blending really well," Kafentzis said. "We're excited to see how our future is." p until a few weeks ago, Hornibrook wasn't sure his future would be here. "There was a week or two where I didn't know if I was going to get offered (by Wisconsin) or not," he said. "Through the whole process, I wasn't too anxious or overwhelmed or anything like that. I was confident in what was going to happen. And once I actually did get an offer from Coach Chryst, I was excited to get started. It happened real fast. I visited on Sunday and moved in Monday."

On June 7, 2014, Hornibrook hit send on Twitter and delivered this tweet: "Very excited and humbled to announce that I have committed to play football at the University of Pittsburgh."

Hornibrook was recruited by Pitt's offensive

line coach Jim Hueber, a former UW assistant. He also had offers from Rutgers and UConn.

"I actually wanted to go far away from home from the beginning," said Hornibrook, a record-setting passer at Malvern Prep. "But my ideas changed once I got offers from the local schools. When I picked Pitt, I was very comfortable with the school and I would have gone there even if it wasn't for football. But when I got the opportunity here, I couldn't pass it up."

While at Pitt, Chryst had a good book on Hornibrook, a threeyear captain. "I was able to go through the whole process with him," he said. "He came to our (summer) camp and he came to campus quite a bit, which really allows you to sit down and visit and get to know him. I think he has some special talent and when you spend some time with him, he has the makeup that you want in a quarterback."

When Chryst informed Horn-

ibrook that he was taking the Wisconsin job, Chryst said, "He (Hornibrook) brought up the possibility whether there would be any interest in him (coming to Wisconsin) and I said, 'Absolutely,' because I knew this place would fit him as well (as Pitt). I'm really excited and feel fortunate that he's here. He has got a lot of arm strength and throws a lot of different type of throws. He has got good mobility to go along with his size, so you feel pretty good about him."

Maybe nobody felt better about Hornibrook's decision to become a Badger than one of his uncles who played for UW basketball coach Bo Ryan at Sun Valley High School in Aston, Pennsylvania. On top of that, Ryan's late father, Butch, coached another of Hornibrook's uncles,





Ben Davis, who played seven years in the Major Leagues with the San Diego Padres, the Seattle Mariners and the Chicago White Sox. Davis, the second overall pick in the 1995 draft, got some notoriety in 2001 when he broke up Curt Schil-

ling's perfect game with a bunt single in the eighth inning; it was 2-0 at the time.

"He's definitely one of my closet uncles; he lives about five minutes away and I see him all the time," Hornibrook said of Da"I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF QUARTERBACKS HERE. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPETE ANYWHERE YOU GO. SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO TO A PLACE WHERE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN SUCCEED."

vis, a 16-year vet of pro ball. "He has just been a great influence on me because he has already been where I want to be (as an athlete). He went to the same high school and he has had a lot of success in sports. He has been a great role model." Hornibrook feels the same way about his parents: his mom Dawn played basketball at Gettysburg; his dad Jeff played football at Temple. Meanwhile, his older sister Mackenzie is a swimmer at Penn State and his younger brother Jake will "probably be a lot bigger than me." On opting for Wisconsin over Pitt, he said, "It was kind of a family decision and we felt this was what was right."

For awhile, the Hornibrook home base was Austin, Texas. Business took Jeff Hornibrook there. "And I would have gone to the same high school as Drew Brees, if we had stayed, the same school as Nick Foles," said Alex Hornibrook, who lists Brees and Peyton Manning among his favorite quarterbacks. Hornibrook, like Kafentzis, pointed to the way that Manning can

manage a game. "He knows where he want to go with the ball, he's making checks all the time and he gets all of his guys in the right place."

Right place, right time. That's how Hornibrook would characterize why he's in Madison today.

As for the competition for playing time, whenever it may materialize down the road, not only for Hornibrook but Kafentzis, he said, "I know there are a lot of quarterbacks here. But at the end of the

day you're going to have to compete anywhere you go. So you might as well go to a place where you're comfortable and you feel like you can succeed."

Both have succeeded in doing that; the first step. **#**



SCROLL DOWN FOR PROFILES OF THE NEWEST BADGERS



▲ TAP TO WATCH: WISCONSIN BADGERS SIGNING DAY SPECIAL



HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, Rivals and Scout ... named 2014 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Offensive Player of the Year ... first-team all-state by WFCA ... second-team all-state by Associated Press ... received 2014 Dave Krieg Award as state's most outstanding senior quarterback ... 2014 Woodland Conference East Division Offensive Player of the Year ... as a dual-threat quarterback, averaged 167.0 rushing yards per game and 9.7 yards per carry as a senior, finishing season with 1,837 rushing yards and a state-leading 39 touchdowns ... also completed 54.9

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by Scout ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN and Rivals ... 2014 first-team all-state in Class 6A by Illinois High School Football Coaches Association ... as a senior running back, averaged 214.6 rushing yards per game and 10.5 yards per carry, recording seven 100-yard games while piling up 1,931 yards and 26 touchdowns ... finished career with 3,914 rushing yards and 51 touchdowns, averaging 150.5 yards per game and 8.1 yards per carry ... as a junior, finished second in 100 meters at Illinois Class 3A state meet in 10.64 and fifth in the 200 meters in 21.55





TITUS



HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by Scout ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN.com and Rivals ... two-time first-team all-state selection by WFCA and Associated Press ... as a senior, named recipient of Joe Thomas Award as state of Wisconsin's top offensive lineman ... named Bay Conference Lineman of the Year as a senior ... helped Seymour advance to quarterfinals of WIAA Division 3 state playoffs as a junior and senior... team captain and team MVP as a senior ... also played hockey ... coach was Matt Molle

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... All- West Suburban Conference as a senior ... played three seasons at quarterback for Downers Grove North, also playing defensive end, outside linebacker and long snapper ... helped lead team to pair of state quarterfinal appearances ... also a fouryear letterwinner and two-year team captain in basketball



TAP TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by 247 Sports ... three-star recruit by ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... named California Division III All-State by MaxPreps ... firstteam all-state selection by Cal-Hi Sports ... first-team All-California Interscholastic Federation ... also named All-San Diego Section ... helped San Marcos average 199.8 passing yards and 133.6 rushing yards per game

HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... selected for 2015 Semper Fidelis All-American Game ... first-team Class AAAA all-state selection at defensive back ... racked up 107 tackles, 6 TFLs, 2 interceptions and 7 pass breakups as a senior ... also snagged two interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown, and had seven pass breakups ... helped lead Woodward Academy to 2014 Georgia Class AAAA state semifinals, making 12 tackles and breaking up two passes in semifinal game ... finished two-year varsity career with 205 tackles, 8 TFLs, five interceptions, 3 forced fumbles and 2 blocked kicks





SIGNING DAY 2015



HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN. com, Rivals and Scout ... as a senior, completed 63 percent of his passes for a school-record 2,156 yards and school-record 26 touchdowns ... finished career with a school-record 3,356 passing yards and 38 touchdowns ... winner of 2014 Pennsylvania Mini Max Award from Maxwell Football Club ... first-team All-Inter-Academic League as a senior ... also named first-team All-Main Line and first-team All-City by the Philadelphia Daily News ... three-year team captain at Malvern Prep ... coach was Aaron Brady

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... named 2014 Associated Press Ohio co-Defensive Player of the Year in Division IV ... firstteam all-state selection by AP ... led Archbishop Alter to Ohio Class IV state championship game and 15-1 overall record ... finished senior season with 106 total tackles, 13 TFLs and two fumble recoveries ... helped Alter's defense hold opponents to 10.8 points and less than 100 rushing yards per game



TAP TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by ESPN and Scout ... named 2014 Associated Press Wisconsin Player of the Year ... first-team all-state by AP and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association ... 2014 Gatorade Wisconsin Player of the Year ... finalist for Dave Krieg Award for state's most outstanding quarterback ... led Bay Port to 2014 Wisconsin Division 1 state semifinals ... as a senior, averaged 178.8 rushing yards per game, totaling 2,324 yards and 29 touchdowns on the season ... completed 61.3 percent of his passes for 1,411 yards and 15 TDs ... also posted a 1,024-yard rushing season

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN and Rivals ... two-time honorable mention all-state selection ... played first three years at Westminster Academy ... competed for Team USA in 400 meters at 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China ... won gold medal in 400 meters with time of 48.25 and took bronze in 200 meters in 21.50 at U.S. Youth Olympic Trials







HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by ESPN.com ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports, Rivals and Scout ... named Utah Gatorade Player of the Year as a sophomore (2012) and senior (2014) ... four-time all-state selection ... ranks No. 2 all-time among U.S. preps in total offense (20,021 yards) and touchdowns responsible for (218), trailing only Kenton (Ohio) QB Maty Mauk in both categories ... finished career holding 15 Utah state records, including career passing yards (13,079), career rushing yards (6,942), career passing touchdowns (115), career touchdowns scored (103),

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by Scout ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN and Rivals ... first-team all-state selection by Associated Press as a senior in 2014 ... also named first-team all-area and first-team All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association ... selected to play for U.S. team vs. Canada in 2015 International Bowl





TAP TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN and Scout ... honorable mention all-state by Associated Press as a senior ... named first-team all-district as a junior and senior ... voted DeSoto team MVP as a senior ... racked up 183 tackles, with four forced fumbles, three fumble recovers, an interception and two defensive TDs as a senior ... had 172 tackles, eight forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries as a junior ... finished two-year varsity career with 374 total tackles, 13 forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and three defensive TDs

HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN. com and Rivals ... ranked as No. 6 tight end in nation by Rivals and No. 10 by ESPN.com ... selected to 2015 Under Armour All-America Game ... caught 31 passes for 419 yards and two touchdowns as a senior ... made 11 catches for 131 yards and a touchdown as a junior ... coach was Bruce Rollinson

PERSONAL: Parents are Scott and Teri Penniston ... father Scott played college football at California Lutheran ... enjoys scuba diving







HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN and Scout ... 2014 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Defensive Player of the Year ... first-team allstate selection by WFCA and Associated Press as a senior and junior ... received Tim Krumrie Award as state's most outstanding senior defensive lineman ... led Homestead to Wisconsin Division 2 state semifinals as a senior in 2014 ... helped Homestead's defense allow just 13.1 points and 188.9 total yards per game

HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... as a senior, named first-team All-California Interscholastic Federation for Pac-5 Division ... finished senior season with 24 tackles, including 2 TFLs, a sack and a fumble recovery





HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by ESPN and Rivals ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports and Scout ...named second-team all-state by Alabama Sports Writers Association as a senior ... helped Hoover win Alabama Class 7A state title for its third-straight state championship ... rushed for 1,255 yards and 17 touchdowns, averaging 6.8 yards per carry ... rushed for 220 yards and three TDs on just seven carries in game vs. Tuscaloosa County ... ran for 101 yards and two TDs in Class 7A state championship game

HIGH SCHOOL: Four-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN, Rivals and Scout ... second-team all-state selection by the Associated Press as a senior ... behind 12 100-yard games, averaged 180.7 rushing yards per game and 9.8 yards per carry as a senior, finishing with 2,530 yards and 28 touchdowns ... also rushed for 2,020 yards and 17 TDs as a junior in 2013, averaging 155.4 yards per game and 9.3 yards per carry ... finished varsity career with 4,991 yards of total offense (4,550 rushing and 441 receiving) and 53 total touchdowns



JORDAN STEVENSON RB = 5-9 = 190

DALLAS, TEXAS (SOUTH OAK CLIFF)

SIGNING DAY 2015



HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports, ESPN. com, Rivals and Scout ... helped IMG go 10-1 in 2014 (earning No. 1 ranking in state of Florida) and 9-2 in its inaugural season in 2013 ... finished four-year varsity career with 278 tackles, 29 TFLs and 7.5 sacks ... recorded 99 total tackles, 8 TFLs and 1.5 sacks as a junior in 2013 ... racked up 88 total tackles, 14 TFLs and 4.0 sacks as a senior ... two-year team captain ... played first two seasons at Concordia (Kan.) High School, recording 78 tackles and 7 TFLs while rushing for 834 yards and 15 touchdowns as a sophomore ...

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

2013: Three-star recruit by ESPN.com, Rivals, Scout and 247 Sports ... played running back, rushing for 814 yards (7.8 average) and six touchdowns to earn first-team All-Western States Football League honors ... also returned kicks, recording more than 1,300 all-purpose yards

2012: Saw action in four games, recording four total tackles and a sack at defensive end and 61 yards and a touchdown on seven carries at running back

HIGH SCHOOL: Rushed for 4,164 yards and 54 touch--SCROLL FOR MORE-



TAP TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports and Scout ... first-team all-state selection by Associated Press and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association ... recipient of John Anderson Award as state's most outstanding senior linebacker ... named Valley Football Association's co-Offensive Player of the Year as a fullback and Defensive Player of the Year as a linebacker ... racked up 104 tackles, 8 TFLs and 1.0 sack as a senior ... helped West's defense allow just 11.0 points and 159.3 total yards per game ... also averaged 100.1 rushing yards per game, finishing season with 1,001

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: Two-time WFCA and Associated Press all-state selection at linebacker ... three-time Capitol South Conference Defensive Player of the Year ... named first-team all-conference at linebacker, running back, punter and specialist position during career, with eight first-team nods in all ... finished senior season with 132 tackles, 23 TFLs, 7 sacks, 3 interceptions, 2 forced fumbles and 2 defensive touchdowns ... for his career, racked up 364 tackles, 63 TFLs, 19 sacks, 4 interceptions and 4 forced fumbles ... two-time offensive MVP and two-time defensive MVP at Marshall





TAP TO WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

-SCROLL FOR MORE-



HIGH SCHOOL: First-team all-state selection by Wisconsin Football Coaches Association as a senior ... named All-Area by Wisconsin State Journal ... first-team All-Big 8 Conference selection as a senior ... caught 36 passes for 632 yards and seven touchdowns ... second-team All-Big 8 as a junior, recording 23 receptions for 323 yards and 3 TDs ... finished career with 59 catches for 955 yards and 10 TDs

HIGH SCHOOL: Kohl's All-American as a senior ... named MVP of Wisconsin Division 6 state championship game after leading St. Mary's Springs to title and setting state championship record with 49-yard field goal ... 2014 Kevin Stemke Award winner as the state's top senior kicker ... kicked state-record 61-yard field goal in 2014 state playoff game ... went 15-for-20 on field goal attempts as a senior ... finished career 21for-30 on field goals with no misses under 40 yards ... two-time unanimous All-Badgerland Conference pick at kicker ... as a senior, named All-Badgerland as a de-



⁻SCROLL FOR MORE-



HIGH SCHOOL: Honorable mention all-state selection by Associated Press as a senior ... at quarterback, led Menasha to Wisconsin Division 2 state championship with 7-for-9 passing performance for 107 yards, 25 carries for 129 rushing yards and four total touchdowns ... first-team All-Bay Conference selection as a senior ... completed 54.4 percent of his passes for 1,466 yards and 20 touchdowns while rushing for 1,521 yards (117.0 per game) and scoring another 20 TDs on the ground ... finished career with 2,926 rushing yards, 2,606 passing yards and 62 total TDs

HIGH SCHOOL: 2014 Gatorade Wisconsin Player of the Year ... first-team all-state selection by Associated Press and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association as a senior ... 2014 Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch Award winner as state's most outstanding senior running back ... All-Badger North Conference as a running back, kicker and punter as a senior ... co-Badger North Conference Player of the year as a senior ... also earned all-conference honors as running back and punter as a junior ... as a sophomore, named Waunakee Special Teams Player of the Year on team that finished as state runner-up ... also lettered in basketball and track and field





HIGH SCHOOL: Honorable mention all-state as a junior and senior ... first-team All-Wisconsin Valley Conference selection as a junior and senior ... second-team all-conference as a sophomore ... finished career with 166 tackles, 57 TFLs and 17 sacks ... also a three-year letterwinner in both basketball and baseball

HIGH SCHOOL: First-team all-state selection by WFCA as a senior in 2013 ... also earned second-team all-state honors from Associated Press ... finalist for Al Toon Award for state's top receiver ... selected for 2014 WFCA All-Star Game ... as a senior, led state in regular season with 1,135 receiving yards, pulling in 59 catches and scoring 11 touchdowns while averaging 19.2 yards per reception ... Sheboygan North Offensive MVP as a senior ... two-year team captain... also lettered in track and field and basketball ... qualified for WIAA Division 1 state meet in the high jump as a



-SCROLL FOR MORE-



HIGH SCHOOL: Three-star recruit by 247 Sports and Scout ... first-team all-state selection by Associated Press and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association ... recipient of John Anderson Award as state's most outstanding senior linebacker ... named Valley Football Association's co-Offensive Player of the Year as a fullback and Defensive Player of the Year as a linebacker ... racked up 104 tackles, 8 TFLs and 1.0 sack as a senior ... helped West's defense allow just 11.0 points and 159.3 total yards per game ... also averaged 100.1 rushing yards per game, finishing season with 1,001

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

HIGH SCHOOL: First-team all-state selection by Associated Press and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association as a senior ... received 2014 Jim Leonhard Award as state's top senior defensive back ... helped lead Kimberly to Wisconsin Division 1 state championship as a senior in 2014 and Division 2 title as a junior in 2013 ... finished season with 38 tackles and seven interceptions ... also caught five touchdown passes and averaged 24.8 yards per kickoff return and 16.1 yards per punt return ... as a junior, finished with 20 tackles, two interceptions and three fumble recoveries ... two-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-





INSIDE MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY PATRICK HERB



Offensive onslaught not letting up

UW appears to have mastered Ryan's blueprint

isconsin is off to one of the greatest starts in school history — the second-greatest to be exact — and there are many reasons why. Perhaps the biggest, and most consistent, trademark of Bo Ryan's program over the last 14 seasons is that the Badgers simply do not beat themselves

Wisconsin has figured out that decreasing the opponents' margin for error is a tried and true recipe for success. To that end, the Badgers have nearly perfected it this season.

"Bo Ryan teaches what you need to do to win, but he also helps his team eliminate the things that cause you to lose," ES-PN's Jay Bilas said recently. "They don't foul, they don't have their opponent shoot a lot of free throws and they don't turn the ball over."

To support Bilas' contention, Wisconsin leads the nation in all three of those vital categories. UW turns the ball over just 7.6 times per game, commits a mere 13.3 fouls per contest and surrenders an average of just 12.5 opponent free throw attempts per game.

This is not by accident. If you've ever observed a Wisconsin practice, fundamentals and precision are demanded at all

SCHEDULE (20-2, 8-1)

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

Jan. 15	Nebraska	W, 70-55	
Jan. 20	#25 lowa	W, 82-50	
Jan. 24	at Michigan	W, 69-64 (OT)	
Jan. 31	at lowa	W, 74-63	
Feb. 3	#25 Indiana	W, 92-78	
COMING UP			
Feb. 7	Northwester	'n 4:30 p.m.	
Feb. 10	at Nebraska	8 p.m.	
Feb. 15	Illinois	Noon	
Feb. 18	at Penn State	e 6 p.m.	
Feb. 21	Minnesota	11 a.m.	
> Complete Schedule Buy Tickets			

INSIDE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BY KELLI GRASHEL





Lights out: #BaumanBombs raining down

Junior breaks school 3-point shooting record

ichael Finley. Ben Brust. Trent Jackson. Tim Locum. Tracy Webster. Jordan Taylor. Kyle Black. Nicole Bauman.

Go ahead and add junior guard Nicole Bauman to the list of those Wisconsin basketball greats. Better yet, move her all the way to the top because the New Berlin, Wisconsin, native set a single-game school record for 3-pointers last week that is tops among both men and women at UW.

In a career-high performance against Ohio State on Thursday night, Bauman scored 31 points and set the school record by cashing eight 3-pointers, breaking the Kohl Center men's and women's records in the process.

"It's crazy and interesting to think about," Bauman said. "After the game everyone was saying 'Congratulations' and I was like 'Well we just lost so I'm not that excited right now,' but it's pretty cool. I actually had no idea.

"I was just on and I wasn't thinking about anything like that at all. I was too into the game I guess. Maybe after the fifth one, I was kind of like, 'OK, I'm feeling it tonight.'"

She was definitely feeling it. Bauman ended the game shoot-

SCHEDULE (7-12, 3-6)

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

Jan. 15	at Purdue	W, 65-56
Jan. 18	Rutgers	L, 73-63
Jan. 22	Nebraska	L, 89-72
Jan. 25	at Mich. State	L, 77-71

COMING UP

Jan. 29	Ohio State	8 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Illinois	2 p.m.
Feb. 8	lowa	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Minnesota	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Nebraska	2 p.m.
> Complete Schedule Buy Tickets		



Badgers starting to find their offense

Quick starts, goal scoring increasing for UW

season-best nine-goal weekend and three games with at least four goals in their last four outings shows progress. A power play that went 3-for-8 last weekend and that is 12-for-56 in its last 15 games after a 1-for-29 start to the season, shows progress. For the Badgers, there is much more work to be done.

Wisconsin got first career goals from freshman forwards Ryan Wagner and Cameron Hughes last Saturday against Minnesota. Freshman forward Matt Ustaski had a goal and two assists last Friday for his first career multi-point effort. Freshman defenseman Jack Dougherty scored his second career goal last Friday at Minnesota.

A goal nine seconds into the game last Saturday tied the school record for fastest score to start a game.

Wisconsin has six first-period goals in the last four games after scoring just two first-period goals in the first 18 games.

The Badgers scored the first goal of the game in three of the last four contests and five of the last nine after doing so just three times in the first 13 games.

Progress.

SCHEDULE (2-16-4, 0-6-2-2)

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

Jan. 23	Michigan	L, 7-4	
Jan. 24	Michigan	L, 6-0	
Jan. 30	Minnesota	L, 7-5	
Jan. 31	Minnesota T	, 4-4 (3-2 SO)	
COMING UP			
Feb. 6	at Penn State	5:30 p.m.	
Feb. 7	at Penn State	1 p.m.	
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.

> Complete Schedule Buy Tickets

BY A.J. HARRISON





Senior class looks to leave its mark at UW

Badgers to celebrate senior class Saturday

Before the No. 3 Badgers hit the ice on Saturday against No. 7 Minnesota Duluth, they will take time to recognize the outstanding senior class of Brittany Ammerman, Katy Josephs, Karley Sylvester, Blayre Turnbull and Katarina Zgraja.

The group has played a huge role in Wisconsin's success this season, as the quintet ranks second in the nation among senior classes in scoring, averaging 3.82 points per contest.

Wisconsin's senior class is a tight-knit group, which began as a class of four until Ammerman joined the group after redshirting the 2012-13 season.

"We've always been a pretty small class," Sylvester said. "We started with four and added Brit (Ammerman) last year and it's been awesome just having that small class, and we've always been really close. I've been able to talk to any one of them personally, about academics, home life, hockey life.

"Throughout the years we've grown together and been able to do this process together so I think that's what makes us so close."

"We've been developing together for all these years, and it's been quite the journey," Zgraja said. "We've had many ups and

SCHEDULE (21-4-3, 16-4-2)

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

Jan. 24	#7 Clarkson	T, 1-1	
Jan. 25	#7 Clarkson	W, 4-0	
Jan. 30	Minnesota State	W, 3-0	
Jan. 31	Minnesota State	W, 5-1	
COMING UP			
Feb. 6	#7 Minn. Duluth	7 p.m.	
Feb. 7	#7 Minn. Duluth 7	:30 p.m.	
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

INSIDE WRESTLING BY KELLI GRASHEL





Badgers set for senior send-off vs. Rutgers

UW's seven-man senior class will be honored

he No. 18-ranked Badgers (8-2 overall, 6-1 Big Ten) return home for their final home dual meet of the season Friday when Wisconsin hosts league newcomer Rutgers in a 7 p.m. bout in the UW Field House.

The Badgers are coming off of a week in which they split in conference action, dropping their first Big Ten decision of the season at Michigan before rebounding with a 34-6 victory at Michigan State.

Wisconsin is 3-0 in home duals this season and 5-2 on the road.

Minnesota is 6-0-0 in conference duals and leads the Big Ten, with Iowa (5-0-0) also undefeated in league competition. Eleven of 14 teams in the conference appear in the top 25 of the USA Today/NWCA Division I Coaches Poll.

The Badgers' last home dual also serves as Senior Night, with Wisconsin's senior class set to be recognized in a pre-match ceremony. Three of Wisconsin's starters, Timmy McCall, Frank Cousins and Matt Cavallaris, will be recognized among the seven graduating seniors. Kalvin York, Dylan Iczkowski, Ben Cox and Alex Yde round out the senior class that will be celebrated

SCHEDULE (8-2, 6-1)

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

lidlands 7	th place
'western V	N, 30-16
due \	N, 22-13
lichigan	L, 24-12
lichigan St.	W, 34-6
	l'western \ due \ lichigan

COMING UP

Feb. 6	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Blugold Oper	n All Day
Feb. 8	at Illinois	2 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Iowa State	2 p.m.
	> View complete	schedule





UW's challenging slate starts in Arizona

Badgers begin season at Arizona State tourney

he Badgers, who are coming off their third-straight NCAA tournament appearance after finishing the season with a 36-20 record and a 15-7 mark in Big Ten play, open their season at the Kajikawa Tournament this Friday through Sunday in Tempe, Arizona.

Wisconsin will face six teams that advanced to the 2014 NCAA Tournament during the 2015 season, with home games against Green Bay, Minnesota and Nebraska highlighting the Badgers schedule.

UW will face four teams that are ranked in preseason polls a total of seven times this season, including a clash with No. 2 Oregon. The Badgers last met the Ducks in the 2014 NCAA Tournament, when UW fell 6-0 to top-ranked Oregon (52-7-1) in the Eugene Regional championship game.

Minnesota checks in at No. 15 in both the USA Today/NFCA and ESPN.com/USA Softball preseason polls, while Nebraska stands at No. 18/20 and DePaul comes in at No. 25/NR. UW received votes (16/26) in both polls.

"This is certainly going to be a new year for Badger softball," said UW head coach Yvette Healy, who is entering her fifth year

SCHEDULE

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

Feb. 6	Northridge	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 6	Utah Valley	12:45 p.m.
Feb. 7	Virginia	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Oregon St.	3 p.m.
Feb. 8	Oregon	Noon

TEXAS A&M-CC TOURNAMENT

Feb. 12	Texas A&N	N-CC	1 p.m.
Feb. 13	South Da	kota	10 a.m.
Feb. 14	UAB	12	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	UAB		9 a.m.
	> View complete schedule		

THIS WEEK IN BADGER HISTORY

TRIPLE THREAT

FEBRUARY 4, 2004: Devin Harris scored 97 points over a three-game span, becoming the first UW player to record three straight nearly-30 point games, scoring 30 vs. Illinois (Jan. 24), 29 at Ohio State (Jan. 28) and a career-high 38 vs. Minnesota (Feb. 4).



OH, NO–NO FEBRUARY 10, 2001: Andrea Kirchberg pitched a no-hitter against Utah State. Kirchberg recorded 15 strikeouts in the 5-0 Badgers victory.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



TRIPLE DIGITS FEBRUARY 9, 2007: A 4-0 triumph at the Kohl Center over Alaska Anchorage made Mike Eaves the third head coach in Wisconsin men's hockey history to record 100 victories.



SOMETHING BIG

FEBRUARY 8, 1896: Wisconsin became a charter member of the Big Ten Conference, joining Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue and the University of Chicago.