

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

VARSITY

JANUARY 29, 2015

VOL. 5 NO. 23

**SO
MUCH
TO
SAY**

WITH AN EVER-GROWING GAME AS VERSATILE AS HIS INTERESTS – RANGING FROM HOOPS TO HABERDASHERY – NIGEL HAYES HAS BECOME AS INTRIGUING ON THE COURT AS HE IS AWAY FROM IT

'60 MINUTES, NO ALIBIS, NO REGRETS' HOCKEY'S DRIVE FOR FIVE, 25 YEARS LATER



DAVID STLUKA

COVER STORY

MAN OF MANY TALENTS

The drive that pushed Nigel Hayes to build an expansive vocabulary is also responsible for fueling the growth in his ever-expanding game — that and his daily 4:52 a.m. wakeup call.



HOCKEY

'WE WERE COMMITTED'

Twenty-five years ago, a players-only meeting cleared the air and left the Badgers convinced they could win it all — which is exactly what they did.

LUCAS AT LARGE

SUPER EXPERIENCE

Whether he's active for the game or watching from the sideline, James White will be soaking up every moment of the Super Bowl.



CAL SPORT MEDIA

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Wisconsin Athletic Communications

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

VIEW ALL ISSUES

Brian Lucas

Director of Athletic Communications

Julia Hujet

Editor/Designer

Brian Mason

Managing Editor

Mike Lucas

Senior Writer

Matt Lepay

Columnist

Drew Scharenbroch

Video Production

Amy Eager

Advertising

Drew Pittner-Smith

Distribution

Contributors

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

Photography

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

Cover Photo: David Stluka

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VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com

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White soaks up Super Bowl experience

Unlike the recalcitrant Marshawn Lynch, the anti-social Seahawk, there was a rookie New England Patriots running back that wouldn't trade places with anybody in the world. Truth is, boss, James White couldn't think of anywhere he would rather be than at a Super Bowl Media Day.

"It was a pretty cool experience," said White, a fourth-round pick from Wisconsin. "There were a lot of people, a lot of chaos there (Glendale, Ariz.) But it's all part of the Super Bowl game. And it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It doesn't come around very often so you have to enjoy it."

White, who will turn 23 next month, is not about to take anything for granted. He knows why he is here (read: Lynch). Nothing was handed to him during his UW career. Actually, it was the opposite since White was fighting for carries every year with John Clay, Montee Ball or Melvin Gordon.

While there's no guarantee that he will be in uniform for Sunday's game against the Seattle — he was activated only three times this season — he's on a Super Bowl roster. "It's a dream come true," he said. "At the same time, I'm still not where I want to be. I will continue to work and get better."

Consider the culture shock for White, who went from 221 car-

ries and 1,444 rushing yards as a UW senior to nine carries and 38 rushing yards as a backup to the backup to the backup in the New England tailback rotation behind LeGarrette Blount, Shane Vereen, Jonas Gray and Brandon Bolden.

White was activated in Week 4 against the Kansas City Chiefs (three rushes for 21 and three

catches for 15); Week 8 against the Chicago Bears (six rushes for 17); and Week 17 against Buffalo (two catches for 8). With Vereen set to test free agency, there could be a bigger playing role in White's future.

"It was different, but there are a lot of people that wish they were in my shoes," White said of spending most of his season on the scout team in practice simulating that week's opponent. "Every rep counts, whether it's an individual rep, a team rep or a scout team rep. You use every rep to get better.

"You never know what's going to happen. It was not in my hands. So I did whatever I could and left it up to the coaches (on whether he would be activated or not). I tried to come out every day and show my best and leave it all on the field. And when you do get the reps, you try and make them count."

On the biggest difference between college football and the pros, the 5-foot-9, 204-pound White said, "You can't make any mistakes. In the NFL, you have to know your role and do it to the best of your ability every play because that one time you make an error the defense will capitalize."

That's because the talent level is so high. White felt like he was better prepared than many to make the transition because of his training at UW. "We had

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a pro-style offense and I was asked to do a lot of things,” said White, who rushed for 4,015 career yards and 45 touchdowns.

“As far as the biggest influence on me (in New England),” he went on, “I can’t name just one person. It was everybody as a whole. We have a pretty tight-knit group of players and coaches. We all rely on one another; anybody can talk to anybody, there’s no selfishness on this team.”

When linebacker Jonathan Casillas joined the Patriots, there was an opportunity for White to reminisce about his college days in Madison with another former UW player. Not

that he ever got homesick since White, Ball and Gordon have remained close friends and still talk all the time.

“We all knew what Melvin was capable of,” White pointed out. “We all said that he was the most talented back when we were all there (at Wisconsin). And he had a great season; he put it all together and showed that he was the best running back in college football.”

White has nothing but respect for New England coach Bill Belichick (“He really looks out for his players and the best interests of his team”) and quarterback Tom Brady (“Great teammate, great player and great

leader”). He’s also excited about Paul Chryst taking over as the head coach of the Badgers.

“He’s a winner and a Wisconsin guy and I think that he’s a great fit,” White said. “Not many people know what goes into Wisconsin football — what it takes — and to have someone who has already coached there and has grown up around the program is definitely a big factor.”

For now, White is having the time of his life in the Arizona desert, boss. “Some people don’t make it to a Super Bowl in their career,” he said, “so I’m definitely going to enjoy the experience.” ■





Young team's growing pains can pay off

Anybody who has ever coached has experienced a season marked by growing pains at some point during their career. I know that I've been through it. And I know Mike Eaves is going through it.

It doesn't matter what sport you're coaching. If you're in the business long enough, it's going to happen, especially in a sport like hockey where you have so many players leaving early.

I've said it before; I don't know how college hockey coaches do it — given the uncertainty of their roster from year to year with departures for the pros that are out of their control.

Mike knew it was going to be a very rough year because of how young this team is. But he's still very positive. And I like the way he manages his players. That's why he's an excellent coach.

The most important thing is to come out of this year knowing that the guys are improving and they're going to take another big jump next year. You just have to stay with it.

Growth can't always be accelerated. So you have to understand your situation and keep everybody positive. You have to keep correcting but you have to do it by pointing out the positives. When you have really young and inexperienced players, you have to work on their confidence and emphasize their improvement, so they don't get

discouraged with the win-loss record.

One of my youngest teams was in 1992. And that was one of my toughest seasons. We hadn't turned things around yet with the program. We were still working on it, but we were so young.

We had to give them confidence. We had to show them how to win. And we had to put them in positions where they could have some success. We were good enough, but we won only five games.

It was hard because you want to get over the hump and it looked like we were when we beat a ranked team like Ohio State, which you have to do to turn the corner. But we lost some tough ones.

I remember that was our emphasis after the season. We were close to being a good football team, close to an eight- or nine-win season, but we were still learning how to win.

Everybody went into the off-season knowing the experience would pay off down the road. The following year, we went to the Rose Bowl.

That was not the only time I went through that process.

During Ron Dayne's sophomore year (1997), we opened the season with Syracuse in the Kickoff Classic and closed it with Georgia in the Outback Bowl. They were two of the best teams we've seen.

After the bowl, people were knocking us because we were beaten so soundly. They were writing that we needed to go out and recruit better athletes and more speed. But that's not what beat us.

Georgia was just better, and we were still young at many positions. Our three starters on the interior offensive line — Bill Ferrario, Casey Rabach and Dave Costa — were redshirt freshmen.

They weren't quite ready but they had step in and play. That was the same on defense with Ross Kolodziej, John Favret and Jason Doering. They were all freshmen.

That was a very difficult year. Every game was a struggle and we maxed out to win as many games as we did (eight), especially by winning so many close games.

When it was over, I felt good about the progress that we had made. Our staff had done a good coaching job in keeping our kids focused on playing four-quarter games and finding ways to win.

Our players continued to grow and mature and they responded to what they had learned; what they had been through in the blowout losses. And our next two teams won back-to-back Rose Bowls.

Like I said earlier, I know what Mike is going through. I also know what the payoff can be. ■



Once again, Badgers right at home on road

Driving to the airport to catch the flight to Michigan last week, I heard a couple of national radio hosts discuss what they considered to be the biggest challenge in sports — winning a conference game on the road in college basketball.

The fact it is a college basketball-based show might make them a bit biased, but then again, perhaps they are correct.

In the Big Ten last weekend, road teams lost six of the seven games. The exception was Wisconsin, as the Badgers outlasted Michigan in overtime Saturday night. It was a very good game. Derrick Walton's 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds to play seemingly gave the home team momentum heading into the extra session.

To the Badgers' credit, they re-established control in OT en route to a 69-64 victory before a fired-up crowd in Ann Arbor.

At this stage of the Big Ten season, the Badgers are 2-1 on the road. That makes them the only conference team with a winning record away from the home floor. Overall, they are 5-1 in true road games. Again, it is the best mark in the league.

Sometimes good news is old news. Since Bo Ryan became Wisconsin's head coach in the 2001-02 season, the Badgers

have won 80 away games.

Going into this week's play, the next closest Big Ten team in road victories is Michigan State — with 69.

As a matter of fact, the Badgers are the *only* team in the league with a winning road record since 2001-02.

As Barry Alvarez always says, "Winning is hard." It is even more difficult away from home. Especially so in college basketball.

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COME TO TOWN, THEY
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EMBRACE IT.

Ryan is used to being on teams that travel well.

"I learned that in high school," he said. "When you go to the high school that is the targeted team year-in and year-out, you know you are going to get the best from the other team."

Yep, we have a Chester, PA, reference here. Let's face it, we were due.

"It was always interesting," Ryan said with a chuckle, refer-

ring to some things you might hear from opposing fans. "A lot of interesting things go on, and you learn to just pay attention to what is going on (in the game).

The Badgers have six road trips remaining in the Big Ten's regular season. Think it might be a little raucous at Carver-Hawkeye Arena this Saturday? Or on February 10 when the Badgers play Nebraska in Lincoln?

On and on it goes.

That is a major part of the Big Ten's appeal — the atmosphere in arenas across the conference.

Yes, some environments are better than others, but when the Badgers come to town, they tend to move the noise meter. It is a compliment, and through the years, Wisconsin teams have been able to embrace it.

Ryan does his best to keep a routine for road games. That story has been well documented. But sometimes the routine changes — a bus breaks down, the weather alters travel plans, or any number of other issues can arise. Yet for 13-and-a-half seasons, no team in the conference has travelled better than Wisconsin.

It won't be easy, but it is a trend the Badgers will do their best to continue as a tough Big Ten season rolls on. ■

WHO ARE YOU ROOTING FOR IN THE SUPER BOWL AND WHY?



NIGEL HAYES

Soph. • Men's Basketball

“I'll be rooting for Team Tom. I'm not sure why or when it started, but I've always liked Tom Brady, so I'll be cheering for the Patriots. Although, I do like the way Marshawn Lynch handles the media.”



DEANNA LATHAM

Senior • Women's Track

“I'm rooting for the Patriots! I'm from Massachusetts and I grew up watching the Pats my whole life and I'll be a proud Patriots fan this Super Bowl Sunday!”



DEVIN GAULDEN

Junior • Football

“I'm cheering for the Patriots because Darrelle Revis is my favorite player in the league and I really want to see James White get a ring. I think it's a good matchup and it's going to be a great game.”



LAUREN CARLINI

Sophomore • Volleyball

“I'm cheering for Seattle because they beat the Packers in the NFC championship and I'm a Bears fan! I'm also cheering for them because of Russell Wilson. He is a great leader and UW alum.”



CAYLA MCMORRIS

Cayla McMorris, the first top-100 recruit signed by Wisconsin head coach Bobbie Kelsey, has been a key factor for the Badgers this season. The 6-foot guard has played in all 19 games and ranks sixth on the team in scoring at 6.2 points per game and third with her 35.5 percent shooting from 3-point range.

What did it mean to be the first top-100 recruit for Coach Kelsey?

“It’s great but I don’t think it means a lot when it comes to college. When you come to college, all the players are just as good as you are, or even better, so you have to work just as hard. It doesn’t mean it’s going to be easy.”

What made you choose Wisconsin?

“Basically just the feeling I got from the coaches and the other players. Everyone was so welcoming and I didn’t have that with other visits. I just felt more comfortable here. I have family here, too, and it’s not that far for my parents to come down and watch me play.”

What’s been the biggest transition coming into college?

“Probably balancing schoolwork, practice and social life. It’s a lot harder. There’s no one there telling you to be on time. You’re on your own trying to figure out everything and that’s

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT CAYLA

Year: Freshman

Height: 6-0

Position: Guard

Hometown: Brooklyn Park, Minn.

High School: Park Center

QUICK Qs FOR CAYLA

If you were stranded on an island and could only bring two teammates, who would you bring? “Of course Roichelle (Marble) and Malayna (Johnson) because they’re my best friends on the team. We’d just be lost together.”

Favorite movie?

“*Love and Basketball*, of course. Just like every other hooper.”

Favorite Coach Kelsey phrase?

“Whenever she says, ‘No, no, no!’ You can hear her yell that if someone’s about to shoot it or turn it over. It’s funny because we still usually do it anyway.”

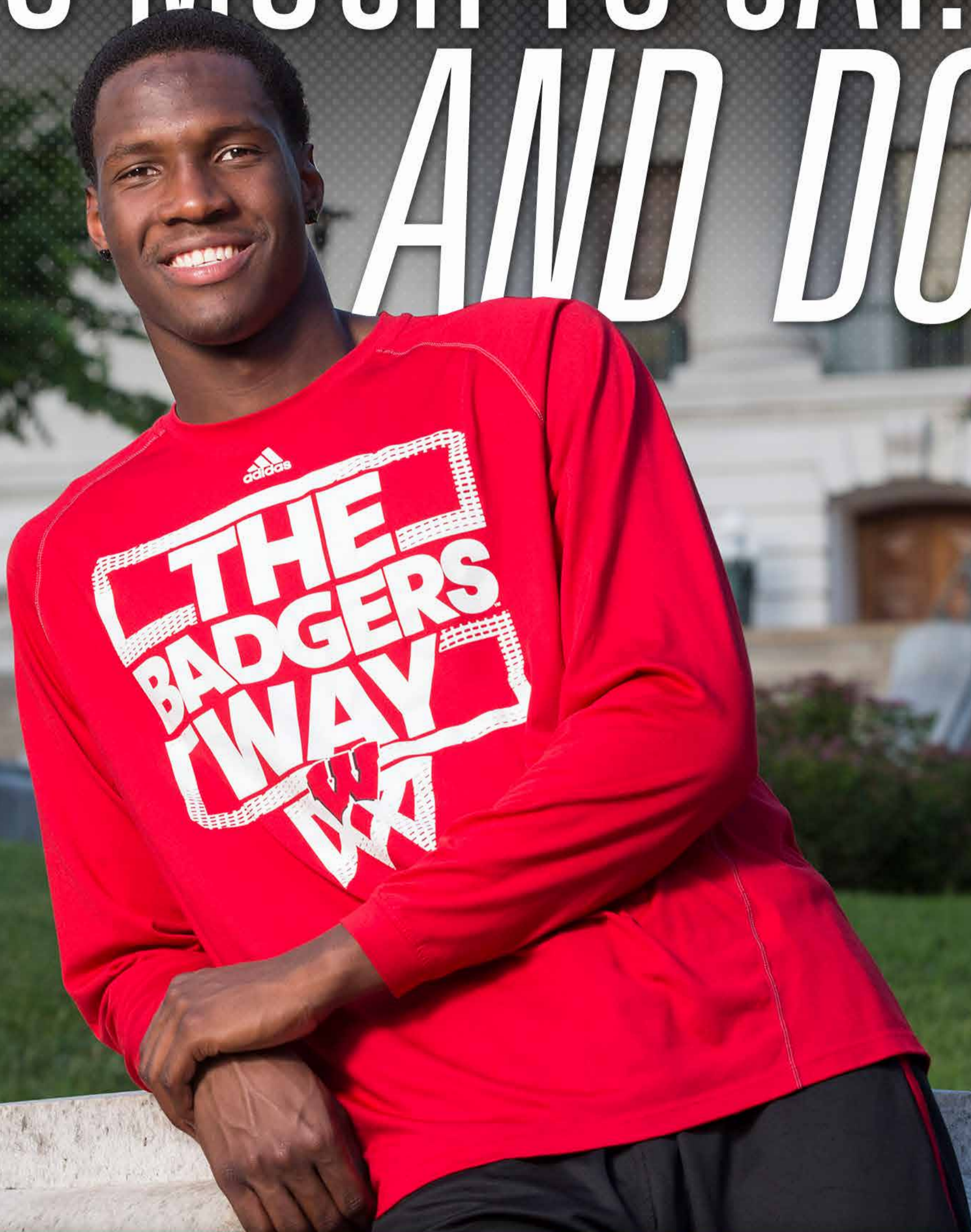
Favorite guilty pleasure TV show?

“*Bad Girls Club*.”

Who is the funniest on the team?

“Besides myself — just kidding — I’d probably say Cassie (Rochel) because she’s goofy and says the funniest things.”

SO MUCH TO SAY... AND DO



DAVID STLUKA

BY MIKE LUCAS • UWBADGERS.COM

NIGEL HAYES is a man of many words. The same drive that pushed him since childhood to build an expansive vocabulary is also responsible for the growth in his ever-expanding game.

Wisconsin's 20-year-old sophomore forward Nigel Hayes has always been fascinated by words. In junior high school, he remembered getting out of a jam with a teacher who didn't know the meaning of the words that he was using to explain his actions, and it left her speechless. "That's when I realized words have tremendous power," he said. "The more you know, the better."

That can be traced back to his Ohio roots. Talaya Davis remembered how her son was curious about words "ever since he was able to read." It was something stressed by Albert Davis. "My dad was always telling me to read the newspaper or different magazines and things like that," Nigel Hayes said, "so I'd have a better and broader vocabulary. I started doing that and I started seeing cool words."

One such word was haberdashery. "It was a word that I learned from my dad and I had no idea what the word meant," said Hayes, who immediately sought out the definition. Today, he's most comfortable using a derivative of the word to punctuate his interest in clothing and fashion. "I love dressing up; the GQ, Men's Wearhouse type of suits; the haberdashers," he said with a wry grin.

It might surprise some to

learn that the 6-foot-8, 235-pound Hayes might be even receptive someday to modeling. "I like to wear clothes and if I could get paid to dress up, I would definitely take to that," he said. "I would like to start my own line of casual men's clothing. Guys always need nice-looking clothes." That might not be as surprising as another revelation. "I love classical music," he said.

Eclectic might be the word that comes to mind for Hayes, whose game has expanded and taken on different elements this season after he earned recognition as the Big Ten Sixth Man of the Year as a true freshman. This season Hayes has moved into the starting lineup and posted four double-doubles while averaging 12.4 points and 6.9 rebounds. He's shooting 53.7 percent from the field.

Given how far he has come in a short period of time, it begs the question, "What drives Nigel Hayes?" He was asked to ponder that himself for a few minutes before responding. At that, it might be tougher to pinpoint and more challenging to answer than it appears on the surface. At least that was the thought of UW basketball strength coach Erik Helland, a 25-year veteran of the NBA and Chicago Bulls.

"I think the drive is always completely internal," said Helland, who's in the midst



of his second year at Wisconsin. “It has to begin with how much he loves the game. That’s kind of the origin of all of that. Then you overlay it with a kid who seems to be able to organize his time and focus his energies in a very positive direction, and that’s what you see in Nigel.”

From the work perspective, Helland says that Hayes is kind of an “outlier” as far as his maturity. “He’s more developed than the typical kid his age,” he said. “If you look at anybody who’s successful, it’s their habits. Good habits over a period of time are what yield that consistent progress and evolution of who they are as people and players. Without that, you don’t see people achieving at a high level.”

• • • •



So what drives Nigel Hayes?

“He wants to be great,” Quentin Rogers said.

When Hayes was in the ninth grade, he came under the wing of Rogers, the ultra-successful AAU coach of the All-Ohio Red program based out of Columbus, Ohio. Rogers estimated that he has helped groom more than 40 Division I players. In 2009, Rogers’ lineup featured Jared Sullinger, Aaron Craft, Kevin Gray, Adreian Payne and Juwan Staten. Coming off the bench for the Big Red Machine were J.D. Weatherspoon, Jordan Sibert and Anton Hutchins. In sum, it was a veritable Who’s Who of prep talent.

“I was fortunate enough to be able to watch arguably one of the best AAU teams ever assembled and I tried to pick up as much as I could,” said Hayes, a product of Whitmer High School in Toledo. “I was able to watch Jared (Sullinger, who went on to Ohio State) and what he did down low and I also watched Craft (who also became a Buckeye) and how he played defense. It was exciting to watch.”

When it was Hayes’ turn to play, Rogers knew that he had all the tools to be successful. “He really understood how much potential he had — he knew he was good — but I don’t think he knew how good,” Rogers said. “I coached him for three years in AAU and I just kept beating it into his head that he’s an elite player. He went up and down grasping that, but towards the end I think he finally did.”

Hayes and Rogers still communicate on almost a daily basis. “It’s a mentor relationship that I have with him,” Hayes said. “He’s always feeding me knowledge and things to help me become a better person and basketball player. I can remember a couple of talks that we had (during his AAU career). And still to this day, he continues to tell me that I have a lot more potential to be a better player.”

It was Rogers who introduced Hayes to the training regimen of Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant. Whenever he came across an article on Bryant’s work ethic, he would pass it on to Hayes. “I’d share stories with him on how



hard he goes and how determined Kobe is as far as taking his craft seriously,” Rogers said. “Nigel definitely respects (Bryant’s) game but he’s more impressed with his determination and how he prepares and his drive. Kobe is a gym rat.”

Hayes became one. In fact, when the Badgers are on the road, he’s always checking into the availability of gyms for late night workouts separate from the scheduled team practices that day. “He (Rogers) was the one who actually converted me into a Kobe Bryant fan,” said Hayes. “There was an article that he texted me in the summer. And then in the next text, he said, ‘Do you work that hard?’ That’s when Kobe became my favorite player.”

One particular Bryant story resonated with Hayes. “Kobe was in the gym at 3 or 4 a.m. doing things on his own,” Hayes related. “And he calls up the strength coach and asks him to put him through a conditioning workout. After he does, the coach goes home and Kobe still stays because he has to make 800 shots; he stays there

until the morning. After I read that, it motivated me for my 4:52 shifts.”

This past summer, Hayes routinely set his cell phone alarm for 4:52 a.m., when he would be awakened by a special app and the not-so-gentle exhortations of Eric Thomas, a high-energy motivational speaker whose audiobook deals with how to seize and sustain greatness. The early wake-up call allowed Hayes to finish a workout before his teammates even got to the Kohl Center at 7.

Why 4:52?

“It just makes me feel like I’m doing more than I am,” Hayes rationalized. “Getting up at 5 is early in its own. But 4:52 makes it seem like you’re getting up and doing something extraordinary when it’s only a difference of eight minutes. It’s just a mental thing to get me going when I get up.” It really speaks to his approach as a student-athlete. “I’m not a procrastinator by any means,” he said.

This year, he looks like a different player; physically and athletically. He has reshaped his

body. On the court, Rogers has noticed some differences, too. “He’s a little bit more patient with the ball,” he said. “He’s showing an even expanded IQ as far as the passes that he’s making. He’s rebounding and he’s playing all over the floor; he’s stepping out and hitting 3s and the mid-range jumpers and he’s taking guys to the basket. He’s mixing it up. He’s about as complete of a player as you’re going to find.”

And it goes beyond Hayes’ skill set. “One of the main things is that he’s coachable; that’s always going to be one of the keys,” said Rogers, who acknowledged that all of his better AAU players, including the ones now playing in the NBA, had one common thread. “Every single one of them has a drive, every one of them. And they’re very coachable and they ask a lot of questions.”

Inquisitive might be one word to describe Hayes. Curious might be another. Many things seem to pique his curiosity. “My wife calls him a social butterfly,” said Rogers, laughing. “He’s very open and a social person. He can hold a conversation with anybody on different topics and different things.”

That sounds like another entry to Rogers’ scouting report on Hayes.

“Easy to coach,” he said. “No attitude. No problems. Good spirit all the time ...”

Social butterfly. Does it really apply? “I’ve heard that term used to describe me here and there, and I do think it’s a good phrase,” said the good-natured Hayes. “We live in a world where you have to communicate with people and I take pride in being able to communicate with others; I enjoy spending time with other people and the communication aspect of it.”

Talaya Davis can vouch for that. When asked about her son and what she’s most proud of, she said, “He’s enjoying what he loves to do and he loves to be around people and he’s enjoying that, too. He loves making people happy. It just makes us proud to know that we raised him right.”

Talaya has much in common with Nigel. “We’re so much alike but then we’re so different,” she insisted. “We bump heads a lot, but he’s a mom-

“He’s coachable; that’s always going to be one of the keys,” said Rogers, who acknowledged that all of his better AAU players, including the ones now playing in the NBA, had one common thread. **“Every single one of them has a drive, every one of them. And they’re very coachable and they ask a lot of questions.”**



ma's boy."

Albert Davis agreed. "They're both very intelligent and that causes them to bump heads sometimes," he said. "And they're both competitive."

There was a short pause before Albert said, "Actually, UConn called last week and reminded her (Talaya) of the scholarship that she still has available."

Without missing a beat, Talaya countered, "Don't pay attention to him. He's just like Nigel." You mean quick-witted? "That's him," she said, "and that's where he gets it from."

Because of Nigel's witty repartee, do they ever get frustrated with him?

"I do," Talaya said.

"I don't," Albert countered.

Would prankster be another word for him?

"He's a jokester," Albert said. "And that has developed more since he has been at Wisconsin."

"That's because he has a bigger audience," Talaya reasoned.

"He's definitely not camera shy," said Albert. "But it has been a fun ride."

And it had a starting point, too. "That started at a young age," Hayes said of his ability to think on his feet and engage

others. "My dad made sure that I would be intelligent and well-rounded not only in basketball but in school and life, period. He was the one who opened my eyes to making sure that I don't always have to say something, but I can always have something to say."

"MY WIFE CALLS HIM A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY," SAID ROGERS. "HE'S VERY OPEN AND A SOCIAL PERSON. HE CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION WITH ANYBODY ON DIFFERENT TOPICS AND DIFFERENT THINGS."





That was by design. “With all of them,” Albert said of their children (two girls and two boys), “it was school first, athletics next. We knew that Nigel wouldn’t have a problem with his books and schoolwork. As far as basketball, we told him to take it all in and listen to the coaches and continue to work hard which we knew that he was going to do.”

Talaya was reminded of how much extra work he craved in high school. “We were part of getting up at 5-something in the morning to get Nigel to school at 6,” she said, “so he could shoot before classes started. With school and athletics, he always did it on his own.” Self-starter would be the word. “There’s an old saying,” Albert offered, “if you stay ready, you don’t have to get ready.”

Hayes can relate to that phrase on many fronts. “The first thing that it makes me think about is rebounding,” he said. “If you prepare yourself

and do what you need to do beforehand then when the time comes, you are ready to meet the challenge and whatever task you have to do.”

Hayes suggested that his dad is a “man of many phrases.” How about brains over brawn? “There are nights where I won’t be the biggest or most athletic player on the court,” Nigel said. “But I will always try to be the smartest player on the court. I try to outsmart or outwit my opponents.”

Based on the results to date, his parents saw the potential for the season he’s having. “The way he’s playing right now,” Albert said, “we knew that he had those skills in him. If you saw some of his high school video, you saw the ball-handling and

the shooting. He was pretty much an all-position player.”

“Sometimes,” Talaya said, “you see him hesitate. But that’s just part of who he is. He doesn’t have to be the one to score. He could care less really if he scores. He just wants to win. If he sees where he can get an assist (and someone else a shot) he will do that above scoring himself.”

It’s part of what drives Nigel Hayes. The other part?

“Hating to lose,” Albert said. “He’s not one that likes to be defeated. He looks at everything as a challenge — something to conquer.”

Where does he get his confidence from? “We kind of taught them all to be confident,” Albert said, “and to believe in themselves that they can do anything.”

Anything? Could Nigel Hayes run for governor some day and win?

“Why stop at governor?” Albert asked.

.....
Ambitious would be a good word for Hayes.

“I love words, I really do,” he reaffirmed. “It goes hand-and-hand with my love for random facts and trivia. It’s kind of like a one-two punch. I would say words are first.”

What word would he use to describe UW coach Bo Ryan?

“Competitor or competitive,” he said. “He’s just like my high school coach, Bruce Smith.”

Frank Kaminsky?

“I’m going to call him All-American,” said Hayes. “I would also say skilled or talented for Frank because he can do literally everything on the basketball court. He has proven that game-in, game-out.”

Sam Dekker?

“I would say corny,” he said. “Sam thinks he’s pretty funny. And we’ve had this conversation with many people; he thinks that he’s a lot funnier than he is. So it boils down to corny instead of funny.”

Josh Gasser?

“Clutch,” Hayes said. “Clutch Josh. That’s actually his nickname. Clutch Josh does everything you need out on the court. There’s never a time when he’s not in the right place at the right time. He always makes the big plays when you need them; diving on the floor, hustle plays, big shots, Clutch Josh.”

One word for Traevon Jackson?

“I would say poise or leader and I would choose leader,” he said. “There are a lot of times where Trae will pull me aside and say things to me — inspirational things — or he will give me a little piece of advice to help motivate me on the court. He has always been like a big brother during my time here.”

Bronson Koenig?

“Gifted,” said Hayes. “As talented as he is,



people would be amazed to see how effortless things are for him. I realized that this summer when he had mono. He didn’t touch a basketball for a month-plus. After he was cleared, he

came out that day in open gym and I think he made every shot. Amazing.”

Duje Dukan?

“That’s tough but I would say friendly,” he said. “He was one of the first guys on the team that I built a relationship with. Duje is always a leader in commu-

nity service and he’s always good with people and great with kids. All the fans love him.”

Vitto Brown?

“Hilarious,” he said. “Without a doubt, he’s the funniest guy on our team. I don’t think any-

“HE’S ENJOYING WHAT HE LOVES TO DO AND HE LOVES TO BE AROUND PEOPLE AND HE’S ENJOYING THAT, TOO,” DAVIS SAID OF HER SON. **“HE LOVES MAKING PEOPLE HAPPY. IT JUST MAKES US PROUD TO KNOW THAT WE RAISED HIM RIGHT.”**

body would have an argument with that. Bronson would be a close second. But Vitto is the frontrunner and a joy to be around. And if you are around him, you'll always be guaranteed to laugh."

Zak Showalter?

"Heart," he said. "'Showy' is usually the smallest guy on the court but he plays the hardest of anyone and gives it his all. He has true heart."


What about one word to describe Nigel Hayes?

"Multi-faceted," Hayes said. "On the court, I have always prided myself on not being labeled for a position, whether it's a 1 or a 4. I try to be versatile on the court. Off the court, one person might see me as an athlete. Another person might say, 'He loves schoolwork or he's such a nerd.' Someone else might say, 'Did you really know that he loves classical music?' because that is my favorite music."

Who knew? One last question. Given some time to think about it, what drives Nigel Hayes?

"There are nights where I won't be the biggest or most athletic player on the court," Nigel said. **"But I will always try to be the smartest player on the court. I try to out-smart or outwit my opponents."**

"As soon as you said that, I thought of a video that I watched of Kobe and they asked Kobe the same question, 'What drives Kobe?'" Hayes said. "His answers were winning and being the best. In any sport, the best players are the ones who win the most, so they go hand-in-hand."

So that's your answer? "Winning and trying to be the best player I can be," he reiterated. "And if it's not meant for me to be the best player now or the best player in a couple of years or the best player ever, then I can be the best player that Nigel Hayes was able to be." 



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS...
STILL NO REGRETS

IN 1990, WISCONSIN'S DRIVE FOR FIVE WAS RUNNING OFF THE RAILS BEFORE A CLEARING OF THE AIR HELPED THE BADGERS' CHAMPIONSHIP HOPES COME CLEARLY INTO VIEW.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM



IT HAS BECOME A TRADITION ON THANKSGIVING for some of the Old Badgers in the Madison area to lace up their blades and take the ice with their kids for a skate and Turkey Day hockey. This has been going on for about a decade, Dad vs. Sons, with the latter now of high school and college age.

“And we still kick their butts,” Chris Tancill playfully boasted.

Tancill was speaking for the Dads; Rob Andringa, John Byce, Barry Richter, John Parker and Gary Shuchuk, the Old Badgers, the old hockey-playing Badgers; all of whom have to feel a little bit older this year knowing that the “Drive for Five” is 25. Where has the time gone?

“Part of it seems like yesterday,” Andringa said.

Instead it really has been 25 years since Wisconsin won its fifth national championship with a 7-3 thumping of overmatched Colgate in the final, culminating an improbable 18-1-1 finishing kick that also included a tense 2-1 win over Boston College in the semifinals at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

“There’s something about a 25th anniversary that kind of hits home a little harder,” said Andringa, who’s looking forward to Saturday night when the ’90 team will be honored between periods of the Minnesota-Wisconsin game at the Kohl Center.

“As you get older — and everyone has said this to me — you remember it more, you cherish it more,” conceded Andringa, a color analyst on college hockey for Big Ten Network. “This will

definitely be more special.”

That 1989-90 season was as special as any in school history. The Badgers won the inaugural Badger Hockey Showdown in Milwaukee (defeating BC in the title game), the WCHA regular season and playoff championships and their first NCAA title since Jeff Sauer’s first season as head coach in 1982-83.

Absorbing the loss of two All-Americans from the previous season (goalie Curtis Joseph and defenseman Paul Stanton), the Badgers were a skilled and gritty bunch that drew strength and stability from their senior class: Tancill, Byce, Shuchuk, Steve Rohlik, Tom Sagissor, Rob Mendel and Mark Osiecki.

By reading all the road signs on their journey, Andringa said, “It kind of cements all the things that people talk about on how to be successful. Open communication. Disagreements that you work through. Relying on each other. Hard

work. All the little things that go into a championship team.

“You later realize that also translates into your family life and that translates into business and anything that you may do outside of that moment. I take great pride in the fact now that I learned those things in the moment. And, yet, at that moment, I had no clue. I was just enjoying it.”

The irony? It took a players-only team meeting for everyone to get their act together. If they had not taken the initiative after a disappointing home loss to clear the air in the locker room, who knows if they would salvaged the season? But they made a commitment to each other and themselves:

60 minutes

No alibis

No regrets

• • • • •



While rummaging through a storage area connected to the weight room in the Dane County Coliseum, the site of the Badgers' home games, Sagissor recalled uncovering the small wooden sign with the powerful message. But this was during his junior year and nobody really paid attention to it. So it collected dust.

On January 19, 1990, Northern Michigan handed the Badgers a 4-3 loss on home ice, UW's third setback in four games. The team was reaching a breaking point and the players asked the coaches to leave the room. Nobody came out until some cages were rattled and issues were discussed.

Sagissor remembered the tenor of the meeting being something like this: "Hey, we can't be mediocre and achieve the goals that we want to achieve. We're going to have to step it up and we're going to have start it right now because tomorrow is too late."

Andringa, a junior, didn't have the same urgency as the seniors since he had one more year left to get it right. But he didn't look at it that way, then or now. "It was a brutally honest meeting," he said. "A lot of guys got a lot of things off their chest. It was one of those things that we needed to do."

Timing was of the essence; the "money" months were still ahead. "That meeting kind of

set the tone for the rest of the season," Andringa said. "We were committed to each other. We were committed to the program. We were committed to winning. From that point on, we never looked back."

Prior to the series finale against Northern Michigan on Saturday night, Andringa wrote "Bury Richter says UW 10, Northern 0" on a chalkboard in the locker room. That was the last thought in everyone's mind as they headed for the Coliseum ice. The final score: UW 10, Northern 1.

To this day, Richter doesn't know why Andringa purposely misspelled his name. "But it became

a little tradition before every game — the guys would have a prediction," Richter said. "We just thumped them that night and it was a pivotal moment, a turning point. We had a little bit of swagger."

"It was a brutally honest meeting. A lot of guys got a lot of things off their chest," Andringa said.
"We were committed to each other. We were committed to the program. We were committed to winning. From that point on, we never looked back."

And they had that sign — *60 minutes, no alibis, no regrets* — which they took everywhere. "I would walk around the locker room with it before games," Sagissor said. "And I would make all the guys bond with the commitment. Some guys would touch it with

their sticks. Some guys would touch it with their elbows. Some guys would touch it with their skates. But everybody had to bond with that sign."

Hockey is notorious for rituals. Shuchuk would



▲ **TAP TO WATCH:** 1990 National Champs Look Back

make a point of touching every player's glove before the start of the game. He was usually the first to arrive at the rink and the last player to leave the locker room. He was also the last player to tap Duane Derksen's goalie pads before every period.

Everyone prepared a little differently. Defenseman Sean Hill was known to do crossword puzzles minutes before charging on to the ice for the opening faceoff. What's a four-letter word for loose or carefree? Hill.

Forward Dennis Snedden had a habit of ripping all the emblems off his sticks.

Sagissor had his own quirks. He would don his left pads before his right pads. And he wouldn't put on his game sweater until Sauer announced, "Let's go." He didn't high-five his teammates, either. Instead, he locked pinkies with them. That got him ready.

Sags was the Sergeant at Arms and Fists. During an intrasquad scrimmage in training camp, he took exception to being hooked by Andringa; especially since the pesky Andringa kept the stick on him through center ice. After

push led to shove, and another shove, they both dropped their gloves.

"I lightly tapped him with my stick," Andringa pleaded, "and he threw a bunch of haymakers."

"I got frustrated," Sagissor admitted, "and I was punching him in the helmet. I broke my hand."

Which, of course, prompted Andringa to say, "I beat up Sags' hand."

It was nothing serious. Sagissor got 10 stitches and missed only a couple of weeks.

"There were times when Johnny Byce would slash me or I would cross-check him in practice and I didn't really care and he didn't either," Andringa said. "You'd have practices where guys would be sick of each other. But it never boiled over to the locker room. It stayed on the ice. That's where it stopped."

Just a couple of weeks after the players-only meeting, the Badgers were playing at Michigan Tech during Winter Carnival, the Yooper Mardi Gras, and Sauer was concerned that the team was regressing, falling back into bad habits, so he summoned Sagissor to do his dirty work.

“Coach Sauer pulled me out after warmups and said, ‘I want you to go in the locker room and rip every guy in there, one by one,’” Sagissor recounted. “I said, ‘What?’ And he says, ‘Yeah, I want you to rip everyone in there. The team is flat, the team is dead, we need something.’”

“So I went in there and went into a tirade. I went from player to player and I got personal with guys. I talked about guys spending too much time with their girlfriends. I talked about guys who were too cocky and thinking about the NHL. I talked about guys who weren’t being good

teammates.

“When I came out of the locker room, I saw Sauer sitting by the door with (assistant coach) Pete Johnson and they were laughing their butts off. It started out as a very serious tirade

but it turned into a great bonding moment; it turned into something special.”

Still chuckling at the recollection of that manufactured tirade, Sagissor added, “Andringa came up to me afterwards and says,

“Sags, you worked harder during that speech than you did on the ice in any game that I’ve ever watched you play.”

The players could throw a punch, literally, and take one, too, figuratively. “We felt comfortable throwing verbal jabs at each other knowing it was for the good of the team,” Andringa said. “We kind of viewed ourselves as brothers and it was like a family argument.

“You could air your differences and everyone would listen. Not that everyone would agree with all that was said; but at least you had the respect of your teammates, whether they were freshmen or seniors. That was one of the important pieces to the puzzle; we treated everyone as brothers.”

Richter was the only freshman who played a major role; make that a dual role, since he was utilized as a defenseman and a forward. “I came in sort of humble,” said Richter, whose dad, Pat, was named UW’s athletic director that year. “I kept my mouth shut and tried to gain respect that way.

“We were a pretty tight-knit group,” he went on. “We had a good mix of guys. You sort of need some craziness. You sort of need some talent. And you

“WE WERE A PRETTY TIGHT-KNIT GROUP,” RICHTER SAID. “WE HAD A GOOD MIX OF GUYS. YOU SORT OF NEED SOME CRAZINESS. YOUR SORT OF NEED SOME TALENT. AND YOU NEED GOOD GUIDANCE, WHICH WE GOT FROM COACH SAUER.”



need good guidance, which we got from Coach Sauer. We didn't go off the guardrails because he was there, he was that force for us."

Years later, during a business trip to Los Angeles, Sagissor got to meet legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden. "I said to him, 'Bob Knight coaches everybody the same way; you join his army and you go through the basics,'" Sagissor related. "I asked him, 'Do you do the same thing?'"

"Coach Wooden said to me, 'Bill Walton was a lot different than Lew Alcindor.' He then went through some of the great players that he coached and said, 'They're different. They're not robots, they're people. They have different personalities; they come from different cultures and backgrounds. They were raised differently and I treated them as human beings, I treated them individually.'"

"COMPARED TO NOWADAYS WHERE THEY HAVE VIDEO UPON VIDEO UPON VIDEO AND ALL OF THESE PROTEIN SHAKES," TANCILL SAID, "OUR VERSION OF TRAINING BACK THEN WAS SWITCHING TO LIGHT BEER AND TRYING TO WALK FASTER TO CLASS."

Sagissor said Wooden saved the best for last, "But I made them work together collectively."

That was Sauer's strength with the '90 team. "He knew with my personality, I needed a lot of 'Atta boys,'" Sagissor said. "I needed to be cuddled but pushed at the same time. He knew that he didn't have to yell at John Byce because he had internal fortitude. He knew that Sean Hill was a crazy man and if he tried to put a corral around Hilly, you were going to kill his hockey mind, which was fantastic."

Summing up Sauer's motivational impact — "He was a father figure and he cultivated our personalities" — Sagissor then delivered the classic punchline, "Coach Sauer knew that he had Secretariat as a horse and he wasn't going to put a plow on it."

Sauer definitely had some thoroughbreds; he

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DUANE DERKSEN

BY PAUL CAPOBIANCO
UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

As is always the case, goaltending was a key to Wisconsin's 1990 NCAA championship run, and for the Badgers, it was Morden, Manitoba, native Duane Derksen between the pipes.

Then a sophomore, Derksen was named to the 1990 NCAA All-Tournament Team and set the school record with 31 victories that season. He went on to become a three-time All-WCHA goaltender, the 1992 WCHA Player of the Year and a 1992 second-team All-American, helping UW reach a second NCAA title game during his collegiate career. In 1992, Derksen finished third in the Hobey Baker Memorial Award voting in the race for national player of the year.

Derksen will not be in the Kohl Center this weekend for the 1990 NCAA championship team's 25th anniversary reunion — he has a long-planned family vacation — so Varsity caught up with the goaltender to find out what he is up to these days.



Varsity Magazine: Where do you live and what are you doing these days? The 1990 team won the title in Detroit and it appears you make your home not too far from there now.

Duane Derksen: I'm living in the Ann Arbor, Michigan, area and working in the packaging industry for a company called Amcor. I've been in the beverage packaging industry for the last 10 years since retiring (from hockey). Not nearly as fun as my last job.

After college, I was lucky enough to play 12 years of pro hockey, eight in the U.S. and four in Europe, including two years in Finland and two years in Germany.

VM: What did you do once your hockey career ended?

DD: My hockey career was great. It brought me into 2004, and I was finishing up my career playing in Peo-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

had gifted scorers in Shuchuk (41 goals), Tancill (39) and Byce (27). He had gung-ho wingers like Sagissor (19) and Rohlik (17), who loved going into the corners. He had a senior defensive pairing in Rob Mendel and Osiecki, who was playing with a big heart on a bad knee against Colgate and blocked the first and last shots in the final.

Osiecki, in essence, was the billboard for Wisconsin hockey: Do whatever it takes to win.

Derksen, in turn, was the backbone, the understudy who took over for CuJo in the cage.

“Probably the best way to describe Duane is that he was the most normal goalie that I ever played with,” Andringa said, “and he fit in perfectly with the group of guys that we had. He always made the big save when we needed it. He was a money goalie. Put him in the moment and he would play.”

That could be said of everybody on this team. Doug Macdonald, for instance, opened the season centering the No. 1 line between Rohlik and

Byce. But when Sauer decided to move Byce to center, he bumped Macdonald to the third line with Don Granato. (Macdonald ended up with 189 career points.)

“Our depth was the biggest thing,” Richter pointed out.

That extended to the fourth line of Snedden, Brett Kurtz and Joe Decker.

“They just went out and buzzed,” Andringa marveled.

It was such a different era, such a different generation, such a different group.

“Compared to nowadays where they have video upon video upon video and all of these protein shakes,” Tancill said of the sophisticated advances with film study and nutrition, “our version of training back then was switching to light beer and trying to walk faster to class.

“We were kind of a rebellious group,” he continued. “But when the puck was dropped, we just showed up and played. We didn’t have any





superstars. We didn't have that outlier like Dany Heatley or Ryan Suter. But we had some really good college hockey players — guys who played their roles.”

Tancill had both goals in Wisconsin's win over Boston College in the NCAA semifinals. “I don't think we could have won that tournament without Chris Tancill,” Sagissor said. “He was a gamer. He didn't stand up and rah-rah in the locker room. He just did it on the ice. I'll never forget his motto, ‘Guys, I'm in the slot and I'm wide bleeping open. Get me the puck.’ I don't think anything happens without him.”

Truth is, they needed each other; there were multiple pieces to the puzzle and they all fit together. “I still remember when we beat Colgate,” said Sagissor. “I looked around the locker room and the only thing that I could think of was, ‘Who do we play next? I want to play another game.’”

They ran out of games. But they still have the memories.

“I still have a picture up in my office of all us — with our hockey mullets and bad hair — with President Bush in the Rose Garden,” Tancill noted. “That's a conversation starter for anybody.”

Andringa also has a favorite keepsake from that glorious season.

“I don't have it displayed but it's my favorite memory — it's our team picture,” he said. “That's a memory of not only the moment but of the guys who made that moment

so special.”

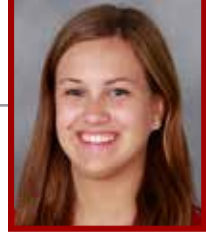
Most of the players still wear their championship rings from the 1989-90 season. And there's one inscription on those rings that has stood the test of time:

60 minutes

No alibis

No regrets 

**“ COACH SAUER
KNEW THAT HE HAD
SECRETARIAT AS
A HORSE AND HE
WASN'T GOING TO
PUT A PLOW ON IT. ”**



Badgers continue to improve despite losses

Wisconsin players progressing in many ways

There are some things that the win/loss column won't tell you. The listing will tell you the team's record. It tells you the scores. It tells you the rankings of the opponents.

But here's what it doesn't tell you. It doesn't tell you that the Badgers have three of the most improved scorers in the Big Ten in juniors Nicole Bauman, Tessa Cichy and Dakota Whyte. Bauman has raised her scoring average by 6.8 points per game over last season's mark, with Cichy boasting an increase of 6.2 points and Whyte improving by 4.2.

It also won't show that, after struggling with turnovers for most of the season, Wisconsin has taken care of the ball the last four games by averaging just 13.5 giveaways per game when its season average is more than 17 per contest.

"We are kind of down with our last three games, not finishing those last three out, but we've seen improvement from our kids," Wisconsin head coach Bobbie Kelsey said. "Turnovers are down, scoring is up, we just have to be able to close the game. It's not for lack of effort.

"We are looking for a third scorer. We have some guards that are picking it up for us, Nicole Bauman and Tessa Cichy and Da-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

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	Illinois	2 p.m.
Feb. 8	Iowa	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	Minnesota	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	Nebraska	2 p.m.

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Penalty kill(ing) it: Unit a strength for UW

Unit among Badgers' most improved areas

Prior to the last time Wisconsin skated against Minnesota two weeks ago, the Badgers' penalty kill was in a tough spot. UW had succeeded on just 16 of 25 kills over six games, allowing multiple power-play goals in half those contests and allowing at least one power-play tally in five of the six. The team was succeeding on just 71.9 percent of its kills and sitting at the bottom of the college hockey world on the penalty kill.

The penalty kill struggles, coupled with the top-ranked power play in the country in Minnesota, looked like a combustible situation.

Instead, the UW penalty kill led the way in the Badgers' 2-2 comeback tie, which Wisconsin eventually won in a shootout for an extra point in the Big Ten standings. That night, UW was a perfect 5-for-5 on the penalty kill, including 1 minute, 45 seconds of five-on-three power-play time for Minnesota.

UW went on to kill six of seven penalties in Saturday's loss.

Then last week, the second-ranked power play of Michigan came to Madison, and UW finished up a brutal stretch of four games against the No. 1 and 2 power-play teams in the country

SCHEDULE (2-15-3, 0-5-1-1)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 16	at #13 Minn.	T, 2-2 (OT)
Jan. 17	at #13 Minn.	L, 5-2
Jan. 23	#16 Michigan	L, 7-4
Jan. 24	#16 Michigan	L, 6-0

COMING UP

Jan. 30	Minnesota	8 p.m.
Jan. 31	Minnesota	7 p.m.
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.

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

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No. 3 Badgers hit road for Minnesota State

UW resumes WCHA play after win vs. Clarkson

After a non-conference series against Clarkson, No. 3-ranked Wisconsin resumes WCHA action with a road trip to Minnesota State this weekend.

UW is coming off a hard-fought series against the reigning NCAA champs. The two teams played to a 1-1 tie on Saturday before the Wisconsin offense came to life on Sunday, when the Badgers tallied four goals in the final 40 minutes in their 4-0 triumph against the Golden Knights. Annie Pankowski tallied a hat trick, while Karley Sylvester scored her second goal of the weekend in the victory.

“Being able, as a team, to score more than one goal was really nice and it gave us a little more confidence,” Sylvester said. “Hopefully we can go into this weekend knowing we can put the puck in the back of the net.”

The Badgers have endured a tough stretch of games after their winter break, as UW faced No. 2 Minnesota, Bemidji State — the only team to beat the Golden Gophers this season — and No. 7 Clarkson. UW went 2-2-2 during the stretch, but the team was pleased with their play against tough opponents.

“We’ve definitely had ups and downs since coming back, but

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (19-4-3, 14-4-2)

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

RECENTLY

Jan. 16	Bemidji State	L, 2-1
Jan. 17	Bemidji State	W, 2-1 (OT)
Jan. 24	#7 Clarkson	T, 1-1
Jan. 25	#7 Clarkson	W, 4-0

COMING UP

Jan. 30	Minnesota State	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	Minnesota State	3 p.m.
Feb. 6	#6 Minn. Duluth	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	#6 Minn. Duluth	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Ohio State	5 p.m.
Feb. 14	Ohio State	3 p.m.

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WALT MIDDLETON

Back on track: Disanza to make 2015 debut

Sophomore broke Big Ten 5K record last month

After a record-setting run to begin the indoor track season, Sarah Disanza returns to the track for Wisconsin this weekend as the Badgers head to the Big Apple to compete at the Armory Invitational.

This weekend's meet marks Disanza's first competition since Dec. 8, when she won the 5000 meters at the BU Season Preview in Boston in 15 minutes, 20.57 seconds, shattering the Big Ten record of 15:37.02, which UW's Kathy Butler ran back in 1997.

"I was definitely not expecting that at all," Disanza admitted. "We were just hoping that Emily (Sisson of Providence) and I would be able to work together to put in a solid time that would qualify us both for nationals. We were able to work so well together that we were able to accomplish even more than that."

Disanza's time marked the fourth-fastest time by a collegian. Kim Smith of Providence holds the collegiate record with a time of 15:14.18 set at the 2004 NCAA Indoor Championships and also owns the third-fastest mark of 15:18.54. Sonia O'Sullivan of Villanova is second all-time at 15:17.28.

"It's such an incredible, indescribable feeling," Disanza said. "I never would have thought that this would happen to me this

SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

LAST WEEK

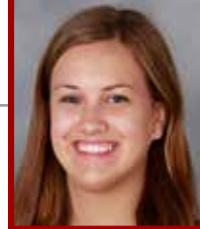
Jan. 24 **vs. Minnesota**

COMING UP

Jan. 30-31	Armory Collegiate Invitational
Feb. 13-14	Iowa State Classic
Feb. 20	Red & White Open
Feb. 20-21	Alex Wilson Invitational
Feb. 27-28	Big Ten Indoor Championships
March 13-14	NCAA Indoor Championships

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Get knocked down, get back up again

Badgers split in action on the road last weekend

Wisconsin suffered a tough loss at Michigan last Friday night that ended its perfect Big Ten start, but did the Badgers let that get them down? Absolutely not. In fact, they bounced back with a dominant 34-6 win at Michigan State two days later.

“I think there were a lot of tight matches at Michigan,” UW head coach Barry Davis said. “184 and 197 didn’t come through and changed the dynamics of the dual meet. We had big wins from Connor Medbery and Isaac Jordan.”

Big wins indeed. Despite dropping the dual, 24-12, Wisconsin walked away with two match wins over ranked opponents. No. 3 Isaac Jordan defeated No. 10 Taylor Massa of Michigan with a 15-9 major decision, marking his fifth win over a ranked opponent this season. No. 3 Connor Medbery trounced No. 7 Adam Coon with a 7-3 decision in the most highly-anticipated match-up of the night.

The two victories weren’t enough as Wisconsin dropped three straight matches to ranked opponents. No. 17 George Fisher overcame Wisconsin’s Jesse Thielke in a 6-2 decision at 141 lbs. At 149 lbs., Rylan Lubeck was defeated in a 3-1 decision by No. 9

SCHEDULE (8-2, 6-1)

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

RECENTLY

Dec. 29-30	at Midlands	7th place
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

COMING UP

Feb. 6	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Blugold Open	All Day
Feb. 8	at Illinois	2 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Iowa State	2 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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LION TAMERS

JANUARY 31, 2013: Women's basketball defeated No. 7 Penn State, 63-61, at the Kohl Center. It was UW's first victory over a ranked opponent since 2009-10 and the first win over a top-10 team since 2008.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



THIS ONE GOES TO 11

JANUARY 31, 1999:

The men's basketball team jumped to No. 11 in the Associated Press Top 25, the Badgers' highest national ranking since it was slotted seventh on Dec. 10, 1962.



MAJOR MILESTONE

FEBRUARY 1, 2009:

Women's hockey coach Mark Johnson earned his 200th career win as the Badgers defeated Ohio State 7-0. UW finished the season 34-2-5 and won the NCAA championship.



SHOT AND A GOAL!

JANUARY 29, 1977:

Steve Alley set the men's hockey team record for fastest two goals in a game when he lit the lamp twice in the span of 10 seconds against Michigan State.