

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

# VARSITY

JANUARY 8, 2015

VOL. 5 NO. 20



## FITTING FINALE

HIS TEAMMATES ON HIS MIND, MELVIN GORDON PUT THE BADGERS ON HIS BACK IN ONE LAST PERFORMANCE FOR THE AGES

**WHAT COMES NEXT?**

MIKE LUCAS LOOKS AT WHAT 2015 WILL BRING FOR PAUL CHRYST AND THE BADGERS



DAVID STLUKA

COVER STORY

# BOWL GAME BOUNCEBACK

Staring down a shot at redemption and the chance to send their seniors — plus Melvin Gordon and Barry Alvarez — out as winners, the Badgers rallied to win the Outback Bowl.



DAVID STLUKA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

## BADGERS' BIG TEN BEST

Bo Ryan added another line to his fantastic resume by surpassing 'Doc' Meanwell with the 159th Big Ten win of his career.

LUCAS AT LARGE

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Riding the momentum of an 11-win season, the Badgers are eager to get started with Paul Chryst and turn the page to 2015.



DAVID STLUKA

## FEATURES

**IN [FOCUS]**

*The week's best photos*

**BEHIND THE DESK**

*Earning a little respect*

**THE VOICE**

*A win for Badgers, Big Ten*

**BY THE NUMBERS**

*Facts and figures on UW*

**WHAT TO WATCH**

*Hoops, hockey, NFL playoffs*

**BADGERING**

*Tessa Cichy (WBB)*

**INSIDE MEN'S BASKETBALL**

*Ryan sets Big Ten wins record*

**INSIDE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

# VARSIITY

## 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

Problems or Accessibility Issues?

**[VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com](mailto:VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com)**

© 2015 Board of Regents of the  
University of Wisconsin System.  
All rights reserved worldwide.



# What's next? Badgers eager to find out

Senior tight end Sam Arneson was still basking in the warm glow of the Badgers' bowl victory over Auburn — “I think we sent a little bit of a message to the Big Ten and for Wisconsin football,” he said — when he was asked to assess the future of Troy Fumagalli, who must now help fill Arneson's void.

“I always told him I was just trying to hold on to my spot before he took it,” kidded Arneson, one of the most indispensable pieces on offense because of his tenacious blocking and clutch receiving. “Just the kind of person he is, the kind of player he is ... I can't wait to see what Troy is going to do.”

The 6-foot-5, 245-pound Fumagalli, a redshirt freshman, capped his season with two catches against Auburn, including one in overtime that set up Rafael Gaglianone's game-winning field goal. Overall, he finished with 14 receptions.

By comparison, Arneson had 10 through his first three seasons.

Still, it will be very difficult to replace Arneson's steady contributions — he ended up as the second-leading receiver this season with 29 catches — especially in context with the hiring of head coach Paul Chryst, who relies so heavily on the use of multiple tight ends within his offensive scheme.

Fumagalli and senior-to-be Austin Traylor, who handles the dirty work on the line of scrimmage, will be the starting point for Chryst, who must also patch an offensive line that will graduate three reliable, battle-tested warriors: guards Dallas Lewallen and Kyle Costigan and tackle Rob Havenstein.

If nothing else, another senior-

**VINCE BIEGEL:**  
EVERYBODY HAS A POSITIVE MINDSET GOING INTO THE OFFSEASON. I HAVE THE FULL TRUST IN THIS COACHING STAFF TO GET THE JOB DONE.



to-be Ray Ball seemed to have a successful audition at guard in the Outback Bowl. “I definitely wanted to prove to the classes under me that I can play,” said Ball, who was limited physically in the Big Ten title game because of a torn meniscus. “This meant a lot to me.”

The returning O-line starters will be left tackle Tyler Marz and center Dan Voltz, who will spend most of his offseason rehabbing from injuries that curtailed his postseason. Ball could be joined at guard by Michael Deiter, a true freshman, who took a ton of practice snaps at center while redshirting.

The real question mark will be at right tackle. Havenstein was a four-year fixture; 54 career games; 42 starts — including the last 41 in a row. Hayden Biegel, Beau Benzschawel and Walker Williams could be among those competing for playing time in the spring. Who knows? Chryst will have personnel decisions to make.

“Hopefully when we come back in mid-January,” Marz said of the start of the second semester of classes, “we can start working out and feed off of this (the Auburn win). I'm going to enjoy it — it has been six years (since the last bowl win). But I'm ready to go to work for Coach Chryst and his staff.”

The departure of Melvin Gordon can't be understated in



terms of rebuilding the tailback rotation. But it all begins with Corey Clement, who has shown some real positive signs during his two seasons in Gordon's shadows. Is he ready to take over? "I've been ready," he said. "It's my time now."

Even with some key graduation losses on defense — notably Warren Herring and inside linebackers Marcus Trotter and Derek Landisch — the Badgers should field a very strong unit revolving around the growth of Michael Caputo, Joe Schobert, Vince Biegel, Darius Hillary and Sojourn Shelton.

"Everybody has a positive

mindset going into the offseason," said Biegel, who may just be scratching the surface with his 16.5 TFLs and 7.5 sacks. "We need to improve on the things we do well and work on the things we have to do better. I have the full trust in this coaching staff to get the job done."

Most feel the same way as Biegel. They believe in Chryst and they trust that he will hire solid assistants who will mesh into the Badgers system; one that Chryst is obviously familiar with. "Coach Chryst," Havenstein said, "is a true blue Wisconsinite. He's going to take this program to higher levels."

There will be number of X-factors on the roster that Chryst inherits — players whose roles could be subject to change. Nobody piques more curiosity than Tanner McEvoy, who has played on both sides of the ball. He had five tackles against Auburn. "Whatever the coaches want," McEvoy said, "I'll do."

It's that type of attitude that will fuel the transition. "It feels great that we sent the seniors out with a win," Caputo said, "and it's good that the younger guys got to experience what it feels like to win a bowl — to get a taste of it — that will give us the drive to move forward." ■





# Badgers' belief brought home the win

In the past, I've looked away on potential game-winning field goal attempts. But I watched when Auburn kicked the field goal in overtime of the Outback Bowl. And I thought the kick was on line.

What I didn't know was how much of a hook that he had on the ball. Sometimes with a right-footed kicker, it has a little turn at the end. I knew it was right on the edge.

Then I heard one of the greatest sounds that I've ever heard in my life. I heard that *twang* when the kick struck the upright.

To see the excitement and the energy and the emotion that the kids had in celebrating after the game was really worthwhile. It's something I will never forget. I got pretty excited myself.

Since my **impromptu dance** in the locker room with the players, I've heard a lot of different things — from my dancing was ridiculous to it was really good. I've heard from a lot of people who said it was fun to watch someone having a little fun with their players. I've danced before. This wasn't my first rodeo. Besides that, I can dance.

It's hard to describe what I was feeling afterwards. Things fell into place. We had a great plan. The kids bought into everything that we wanted to do and they believed.

The one thing we had to do was get them stronger and bet-

ter conditioned in three weeks. And we went about doing that by changing the strength program that they were on.

They were so beat up at the end of the regular season, they had gone about a month in NFL mode where they really hadn't put pads on and hadn't practiced long.

I thought they had to get back in the groove. So we put pads on them and added inside drills the first few days in Tampa to get them back in the feel of hitting and being physical.

Before the game, I talked to them about respect. You want to get respect, particularly after losing 59-0 to Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game. But you have to earn respect. You have to go out and beat a good team — a good team like Auburn. You can't just come close. That doesn't give you respect. You have to beat them. You have to earn that respect, and we did.

I can't even begin to describe how many e-mails and texts I've received from family and friends, from acquaintances, from members of the playoff committee, from alums, from former players.

Winning the bowl was healthy for our program. It gives the young guys confidence they can play at that level, they can beat good teams, like a team that played for the national championship a year ago.

It was also good for Paul Chryst

to be there and get a chance to see and evaluate some of the players — to get an idea of what he has to do recruiting-wise. It gave him a good head start.

I thought New Year's Day was awesome for the Big Ten. All you ever hear about is the SEC, and our conference has been routinely criticized for several years.

But for us to win, and for Michigan State to win over Baylor, and then for Ohio State to win over Alabama in one of the national semifinals, made it a very memorable day for our league.

The day after our game, I returned a call to Gene Smith, the Ohio State athletic director. He was with Urban Meyer, and he got on the phone and said that he had used our game as motivation for his kids.

They were fired up when we won. And we were definitely fired up when they won, too. Some questioned whether Ohio State deserved to be in the playoff, but they validated it.

All along, as a selection committee, we felt like we had it right. People can criticize what they want, but I can't remember a more exciting football season. There's never been more interest and the sport has never been this popular.

The whole committee will be present for Monday night's championship game. In case anybody is wondering, I'm going to be rooting for the Big Ten. ■



# Bowl win a boost for Badgers — and Big Ten

**F**unny how the outlook of a season can change in one afternoon. In the weeks leading up to the Outback Bowl, there was far more talk of the blowout loss to Ohio State, Gary Andersen's departure, Paul Chryst's homecoming and what the new coach's staff might look like than anything related to the game with Auburn.

Fortunately, Barry Alvarez, the assistant coaches and, most importantly, the players remained focused on what they could control. And what a game it turned out to be.

Among other things, the 6.4 million viewers represents the highest-rated bowl game on record for ESPN2. Other than Auburn fans, it is safe to say the viewers were entertained.

The Badgers' 34-31 overtime win was one of three big victories for the Big Ten on New Year's Day. Not long after the Tigers' OT field goal attempt clanged off the right upright, Michigan State staged an improbable rally in its 42-41 thriller against Baylor in the Cotton Bowl.

Then in the Sugar Bowl, Ohio State outscored Alabama 42-35. Since that game, Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer has said on multiple occasions that the Badgers' win earlier in the day gave his team a big lift.

"I'll tell you when I think the tide turned a little bit — when

Wisconsin beat Auburn," said Meyer. "Everybody on our team knew that. I made sure they knew that."

Whatever it takes. Good for OSU. Good for the Big Ten.

With one game to go, the conference is 5-5 in the bowl season. Not bad considering every Big Ten team was an underdog. It is even better when you consider the league's top three teams took care of business.

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY,  
THE CONFERENCE WAS  
ANYTHING BUT WEAK.  
JUST ASK AUBURN,  
BAYLOR AND ALABAMA.

Does this mean the Big Ten is all the way back? No, but perhaps it serves notice that the proud conference might be a little bit better than many perceive. At least it is a start. At least for the next few months the Big Ten will not be kicked around so much for being a weak league.

On New Year's Day, the conference was anything but weak. Just ask Auburn, Baylor and Alabama.

• • • •

These are interesting times for Big Ten football. Jim Harbaugh returns to Michigan as head coach of his alma mater.

He was won everywhere he has been, and expectations will be high for a quick turnaround

in Ann Arbor.

Nebraska's new coach, Mike Riley, is a respected offensive mind and a good friend (and former boss) of Chryst.

And yes, it will be exciting to see what the Badgers coaching staff will look like.

However, before we focus too much on what is ahead, it might not be a bad idea to appreciate what just happened. The victory in Tampa gave the Badgers an 11-3 record. Eleven wins. Not too shabby.

For a program known as Running Back U, Melvin Gordon ran for more yards in a single season than any college football player not named Barry Sanders. While his single-game record 408-yard effort against the Huskers lasted all of one week, the image of Gordon's record-breaking run in the snow is a moment fans will never forget.

His 53-yard TD run on fourth-and-1 in the bowl game was pretty good too.

This team was asked to handle a lot, from key injuries to a coaching change for the second time in three years. They handled it extremely well.

Opinions vary on whether a bowl game serves as a springboard to the following season, but the 2014 Badgers demonstrated plenty of toughness, especially in the last month, that can serve the returning players well. ■



## TESSA CICHY

Since joining the starting lineup at Miami on Dec. 4, junior guard **Tessa Cichy** has averaged 8.7 points over the last nine games. She's helped the Badgers post a 5-4 record in that span that includes a 2-2 start to Big Ten play after she posted her first double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds in Tuesday's 65-46 win over Penn State. The Somerset, Wisconsin, native has deep ties to UW, including through her brother, Jack, a sophomore linebacker for the Badgers' football team.

### As an in-state player, what does it mean to you to come to Wisconsin?

"It's great. My mom went to law school here, my grandpa went here, my brother goes here and my sister went here. I have a lot of family that went here, so I think it's maybe a little bit more of a family connection, but it's nice because I grew up playing in Wisconsin and it's nice to be here at the height of my career."

### What's it like being part of such an athletic family?

"My dad played football at Notre Dame and my mom played basketball at Marquette for one year. We've always been an athletic family, including my sister who didn't end up playing college sports. We were always very active growing up and in a lot of different things. I played basketball and played hockey for many years. Being an athletic family was pretty nice

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

### ALL ABOUT TESSA

**Year:** Junior

**Height:** 6-0

**Position:** Guard

**Hometown:** Somerset, WI

**High School:** Hill-Murray (Maplewood, MN)

### QUICK Qs FOR TESSA

**How would your teammates describe you?** "Funny, I hope."

**If you could change one basketball rule, what would it be?**

"I get in trouble for being a little physical so maybe if it were a little bit less touchy on the touch fouls and make it a little more physical."

**Who is your favorite athlete of all-time?**

"Lebron James. I love Lebron. Everyone gives him so much crap but I love him, he is so good."

**Guilty pleasure movie or TV show?**

"I watch a lot of TV shows but I'm not really ashamed of them. My guilty pleasure would probably be HGTV like the home improvement shows. I love to see them make these homes over and I know Dakota (Whyte) likes it too."





THE WILL TO

WIN

There was no dragging Kyle Costigan off the field and there was no stopping Melvin Gordon. Led by a group of determined players suiting up for the final time, the Badgers were not be denied in an Outback Bowl that capped numerous collegiate careers — and the coaching days of Barry Alvarez — **in fantastic fashion.**

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

PHOTOS BY DAVID STLUKA



▲ TAP TO WATCH - Outback Bowl Highlights

**F**OR THREE YEARS, THEY PLAYED SIDE by side on Wisconsin's offensive line; right guard Kyle Costigan and right tackle Rob Havenstein. And that's where they lined up again on New Year's Day after the Badgers' stirring overtime victory over Auburn in the Outback Bowl.

Costigan and Havenstein were sitting on folding chairs, side by side, in front of their locker stalls for one final time. Almost everyone else had showered, dressed and cleared out and they were still in their undergarments, equipment strewn about their feet, savoring every

last moment together.

"We obviously had a lot to prove after we lost 59-0 to Ohio State," Costigan said softly but sternly. "I know a lot of people hopped off the bandwagon and thought that we would get blown out in this game. I'm just happy we responded and played as well as we did."

It was remarkable Costigan could keep playing at all after injuring his calf muscle against Auburn. In combination with the other injuries — knees, ankle, triceps — he was competing on one leg and arm. After every play in the second half and overtime, he was dragging himself back

to the huddle.

“I don’t know what I did today,” Costigan posed innocently with the suggestion that whatever the injury, it wasn’t enough to keep him from playing. “You’d have to ask the trainers or doctors. I hurt my calf, probably tore the muscle or something like that, I’m not sure.”

The only sure thing was that Costigan would find a way to gut it out.

“We always like to say,” said guard Ray Ball, “that Kyle Costigan is the toughest man alive.”

Wisconsin athletic director-slash-acting coach Barry Alvarez has known that all along.

“That’s how legends are made,” Alvarez said. “You’re talking about a guy hopping on one leg to the line of scrimmage and you wouldn’t even consider talking to him about taking him out of the game. He had a bad ankle, knee and rolled-up triceps. I think he has got three surgeries lined up.”

Havenstein has been around Costigan long enough to know that he would never accept a hand-out — as in extending a hand out to lift him up off the ground. He’d smack you instead. “You can’t kill Kyle,” he said. “Kyle is always going to come back. The respect I have for Kyle is just out of this world.”

It’s mutual, and the spirit is shared by everyone who plays offensive line for the Badgers.

“That’s what we do,” Havenstein said. “That’s what we are.”

Despite the loss of starting center Dan Voltz, who left the game with a leg injury, the Badgers continued to create running creases for the tailbacks. Left guard Dallas Lewallen moved over to center while Ball came off the bench and took over Lewallen’s spot next to left tackle Tyler Marz.

The mix changed but the motivation didn’t.

“We were trying to be physical up front,” Ha-



“That’s how legends are made,” Alvarez said of Costigan (54). “You’re talking about a guy hopping on one leg to the line of scrimmage and you wouldn’t even consider talking to him about taking him out of the game.”



venstein said, “and give Melvin lanes.”

The road to success this season has been paved by a lot of Melvin Gordon runs. And it was no different in the Outback Bowl, where he was the showstopper again by rushing for 251 yards and three touchdowns, none more special than his 53-yard scoring dash on fourth-and-1 in the third quarter.

“That’s what we needed out of Melvin,” Ron Dayne acknowledged with an impish grin. “I said to him before the game that he has to put this team on his back. If this is going to be his last game (at Wisconsin), then make it a show-time game. And he came out and did that — he carried us.”

Gordon completely understood what Dayne was telling him and accepted the challenge.

“I knew the team would lean on me to make some plays,” said Gordon, who cast the spotlight on his offensive line afterwards. “Those guys are important; they’re a big part of my suc-

cess. They don’t get talked about too much. But if you ask me, I’ll talk about them all the time.

“They deserve a lot of the credit. Those guys perform every day and they work so hard. And to lose your starting center and for a backup to come in and (for them) to still go out there and do the things that they did against a tough opponent is phenomenal. I respect those guys and always will.”

The Badgers rushed for 400 yards against Auburn with Corey Clement chipping in with 105.

“We knew that we could get our run game going in the first half,” Marz said. “We made some adjustments at halftime; we figured out what they were doing defensively and we just rolled in the second half. There’s no better feeling for an offensive lineman, especially here at Wisconsin.”

How would he put that feeling into words?

“They couldn’t stop us,” Marz said, “and we could feel it.”

• • • •

The night before the game, the team watched the movie *Unbroken*.

“It was very inspiring,” said UW outside linebacker Vince Biegel.

Before the game, Gordon sent a not-so-subtle message to his teammates.

“He didn’t want anybody to be crying (after the game),” Ball said.

Unless, of course, it was tears of joy; long overdue for the seniors.

“Some of those guys may never play football again,” Gordon rationalized. “That sat in my head.”

And he acted upon that thought, reminding everyone that “this game meant everything — especially to the seniors who won’t be able to suit up and play for the Badgers again in their life.”

Winning a bowl was one of the things that lured Gordon back to Madison for his junior year.

“Looking back,” Gordon said, “a lot of people probably thought it was the wrong decision; a lot of people thought I should have left. But I feel like I get better every year and I felt like I was going to be a better player (this year) than I was last year. And there were some other things I wanted to achieve.”

Although he helped lead the Badgers to the Big Ten championship game, they fell woefully short of winning the title. “That product we put on the field against Ohio State wasn’t us,” Gordon reiterated last Thursday. “We wanted to come out here and show the world that we’re better than that.”

Not that Gordon needed any more incentive in his final college football game, but Auburn tailback Cameron Artis-Payne got his attention when he implied that Gordon’s 2,000-plus rushing season was not totally legitimate because it came as the result of some weak defenses.

“It had me a little fired up, I’m not going to

lie,” said Gordon, smiling at the notion that someone would be so foolish. “I had to bite my tongue a little bit when I heard it. There are people out there who are going to challenge you and you just have to step up to the plate and I think I did that.”

Quarterback Joel Stave knew that Gordon would respond the way that he did. “He’s a special player,” Stave said. “I’ve seen it week after week, the things that he can do. And to say I’m surprised by it (251 rushing yards), I guess, I’m not. That’s just the type of player that he is.”

That said, the Badgers wanted to test the Tigers through the air since they ranked near the bottom of the SEC in pass defense. Beyond throwing on first down, breaking a tendency, they were hoping to establish some things in the first half that would open up the running game in the second half.

“We actually thought we were going to have to throw a little bit more,” said wide receiver Alex Erickson. “But the guys up front were doing what they do and making some huge holes and Melvin does what he does when he gets the ball in his hands, and it’s hard to take it out of his hands.”

After leaving points on the field in the first half, the Badgers outscored Auburn, 14-3, in the third quarter. Of their 16 plays for 166 yards in the period, there were 13 rushes for 158 yards; Gordon had 121. “We just kept pounding them and kept being physical,” Erickson said. “It’s Wisconsin football.”



Stave, by his own admission, struggled with his accuracy. “That’s football,” he said. “It’s not always going to be your day and the first three quarters weren’t my day. But it’s a team game and that’s why we have a good running game; they were able to keep us in it and give us an opportunity to win.”

Going into the fourth quarter, Stave couldn’t afford to dwell on his three interceptions. So he didn’t. “I just really needed to tell myself,”

he recounted, “Get it out of your mind, get it out of your mind and make the plays that you need to make at the end of the game.”

After Auburn had converted on a fourth-and-11 from the UW 15 — pass interference was called in the end zone — and Artis-Payne had scored on a short touchdown run, the Tigers led 31-28

with only 5:03 remaining. At this point, Stave and the offense took the field knowing that it was “now or never.”

One of Gordon’s most meaningful runs of the day, maybe the most impactful, in retrospect, netted minus-1 yard on this defining series. Facing third-and-4 from the Auburn 32, Stave stumbled away from center and barely got the ball to Gordon on a botched handoff which Gordon juggled.

“If we fumble there, it changes the game, they win,” Gordon said. “I just wanted to get it and secure it. If he (Stave) would have gotten it to me, if he hadn’t slipped, it was a first down; it was blocked up perfect. And I think we go down there and we score and we end the game.”

---

**“SOME OF THOSE GUYS MAY NEVER PLAY FOOTBALL AGAIN,”**  
GORDON RATIONALIZED.  
**“THAT SAT IN MY HEAD.”**

---



**“DON’T FLINCH. THAT WAS HIS WHOLE MOTTO,” TROTTER SAID OF ALVAREZ. “DON’T FLINCH. IT’S VERY TRUE. WHEN WE WERE ON THE SIDELINES AND AUBURN WAS LEADING, WE WERE STILL VERY CALM AND VERY CONFIDENT. WE DIDN’T FLINCH.”**

Badgers into the lead with a 25-yarder in OT.

“Easy money,” he cooed.

Now the pressure was on Auburn.

“They’ve been trying to do the same things to us all game,” said UW outside linebacker Joe Schobert. “The only time we got in trouble was when we missed our assignments. In the short field, if you make one mistake, they could score a touchdown so we had to lock down and do our assignment.”

Schobert dominated the overtime. On first down, he tackled Artis-Payne for a loss of 2. On second down, he tackled wide receiver Sammy Coates for no gain on a screen pass. On third

down, he tackled quarterback Nick Marshall for a loss of 1 on the tail end of a double pass.

“I was on a pass rush and the tackle let me go,” Schobert said. “I saw him (Marshall) throw it to the tight end (C.J. Uzomah) who just stopped. I turned around and started running for the quarterback for the throwback which I assumed was coming. The way they set it up, I sensed something.”

By trusting his instincts, he forced Auburn to kick a field goal, which they missed.

“As soon as the ball hit the upright,” Erickson said, “it was a surreal feeling.”

Wisconsin 34, Auburn 31.

“To be honest,” said senior linebacker Derek Landisch, “I’m kind of at a loss for words.”

His partner, Marcus Trotter, never is — speechless, that is.

But, now, the Badgers faced a fourth-and-5 from the 33.

Alvarez disdained a long field goal attempt.

“I wanted to go for the win,” he explained.

Stave felt like they had a winning play; a deep “stick” route to tight end Sam Arneson. “You have a couple of options,” Stave said. “But I saw it was man coverage and that’s a tough route to cover.”

Arneson caught a 7-yard pass from Stave to keep the drive alive.

How big of a catch was it?

“Last game of my career,” Arneson said. “Got us in field goal range. That was a pretty big one.”

Rafael Gaglianone eventually nailed a 29-yard field goal to send the game into overtime.

“I was feeling really good about that kick,” said Gaglianone, a true freshman.

And he would get another chance to push the

“Before the game, Coach Alvarez said that we would have opportunities to win this game and we just had to seize the moment and make plays when they presented themselves because we’re going to wear them down sooner or later,” related Trotter, also a senior.

“Don’t flinch. That was his whole motto. Don’t flinch. It’s very true. When we were on the sidelines and Auburn was leading, we were still very calm and very confident. We didn’t flinch. We stayed confident in our ability to make the plays and we were confident that we would win the game.”

Alvarez brought a winning swagger to a group that had already won 10 games this season.

“He’s not a senior football player but he’s kind of a senior coach since we knew this was his last time coaching,” Schobert said. “And we had to

send him out on top, too; everybody wanted to win for him. He’s the best coach that this program has ever seen.”

Dayne got the biggest charge out of watching Alvarez manage the players and the game. “I was on the sidelines and he was the same way he used to be, that’s just Coach,” he said.

“When a guy would mess up, he’d be right on him. But if he did good, he’d say, ‘Great job.’ You could feel his intensity.”

The 11th victory was special to many different people for many different reasons.

“I couldn’t be happier with the way the season ended,” Stave said. “It’s pretty well documented — it was a pretty up-and-down season, not only for me, but for this team. But to bounce back from the Big Ten championship game loss the way we did and to bounce back from our

**ALEX ERICKSON:**

**“NOT MANY TEAMS CAN SAY THEY HAD 11 WINS THIS YEAR AT ANY LEVEL THEY’RE AT. THAT’S SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT WE CAN BUILD OFF.”**







coach (Gary Andersen) leaving, and everything that came along with that, it's really gratifying to win game like this."

Said Erickson, "Not many teams can say they had 11 wins this year at any level they're at. That's something special that we can build off. We obviously know we have a huge opener (against Alabama) next season but everybody is going to come back and work even harder than they did this year. We know this program is not going to take any steps back, it's going to keep moving forward."

That was an endorsement of new head coach Paul Chryst.

"Having a Wisconsin guy (Chryst) coming home is going to be good for us," said Schobert, who pointed out that the win over Auburn — in which the Badgers rallied from 14-7, 17-14, 24-21 and 31-28 deficits — was a huge building

block for next year because "it shows that we can hang with anybody in the country and we can win these big games; it's a good confidence boost to take into the offseason."


Moments after the team returned to the locker room after celebrating on the field, Clement said that he approached Gordon and inquired. "You're coming back next year, right?"

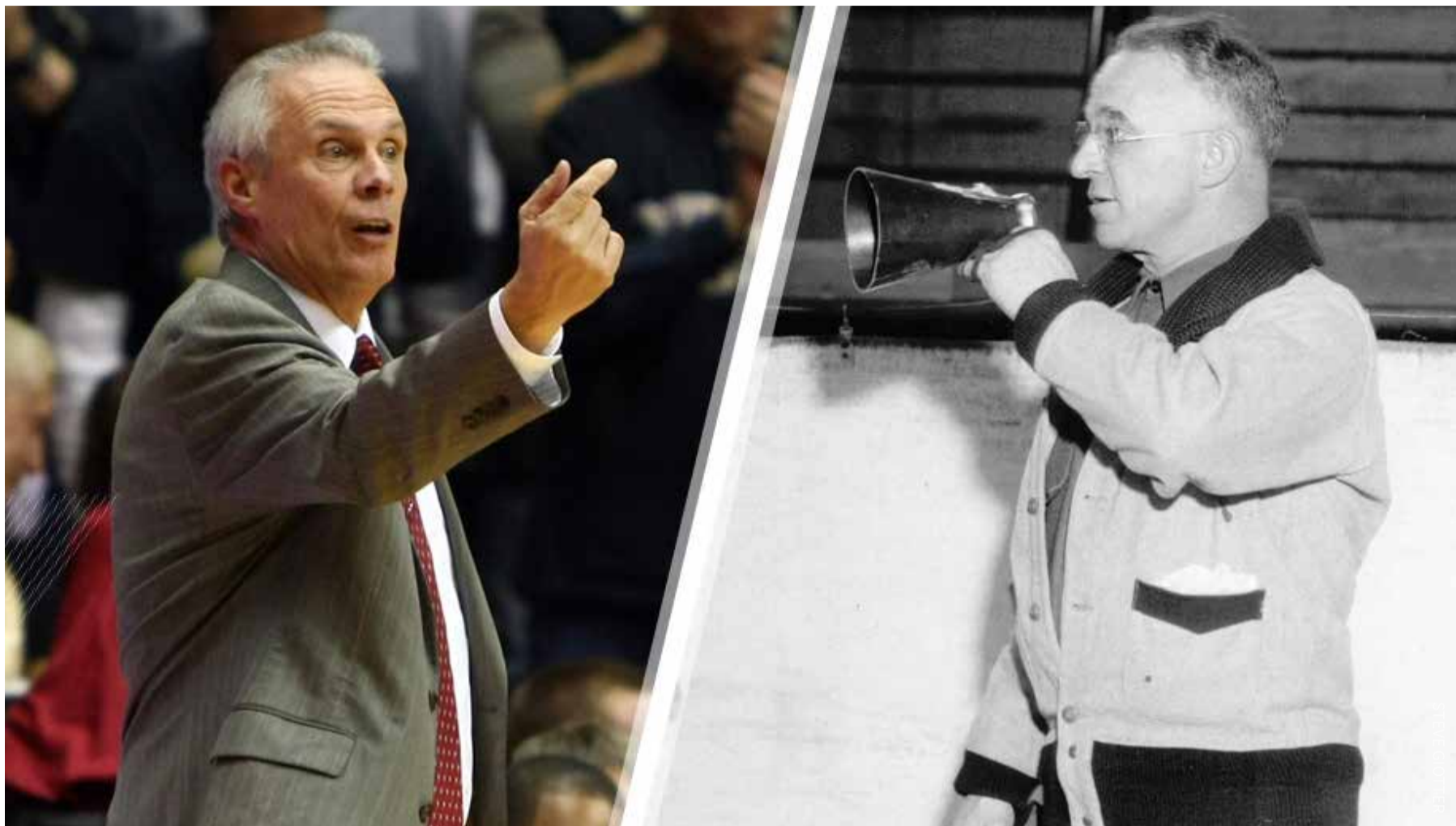
Not that he needed a disclaimer, but Clement laughed and added, "Just a sarcastic gesture."

And then he said, "I wished Melvin the best at the next level (NFL) because he deserves it."

As he left the postgame podium for the final time as a collegian, Gordon once again expressed how much this victory meant to him because of what it meant to the seniors.

"This game," he said, "they will remember forever."

Thanks in large part to No. 25. 



## Ryan now Badgers' best Big Ten winner

Coach grabs record 159th conference victory

In 14 seasons at Wisconsin, Bo Ryan has reached seemingly every milestone possible. On Wednesday night, he added yet another one to his remarkable resume.

With the Badgers' 62-55 win over Purdue, Ryan earned his 159th Big Ten win and moved past Hall of Famer Walter Meanwell to become the school's all-time leader in conference victories.

"To be mentioned in the same sentence is exciting," Ryan said of the comparisons to Meanwell. "I want to thank all of my assistants and players and everyone who's been a part of this because everyone has had a hand in it. I'm very humbled to be mentioned with Doc Meanwell and I know he did a lot for the game. He did an awful lot."

Ryan is now 159-66 (.707) in Big Ten play, owning the best winning percentage in conference history. His 159 victories also stand ninth on the Big Ten's all-time wins ledger.

A student of the game, Ryan explained his admiration for Meanwell after Wednesday's win.

"I wish I would've been around when he was a coach," Ryan said. "The Cooper family, who are decedents, have told me a

### SCHEDULE (15-1, 3-0)

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

#### RECENTLY

Dec. 22	at Cal	W, 68-56
Dec. 28	<b>Buffalo</b>	W, 68-56
Dec. 31	<b>Penn State</b>	W, 89-72
Jan. 4	at N'western	W, 81-58
Jan. 7	<b>Purdue</b>	W, 62-55

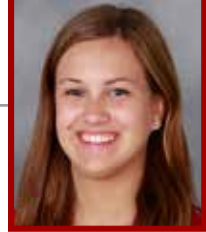
#### COMING UP

Jan. 11	at Rutgers	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	<b>Nebraska</b>	8 p.m.
Jan. 20	<b>Iowa</b>	8 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Michigan	TBD
Jan. 31	at Iowa	11 a.m.

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

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**



GREG ANDERSON

## Consistency will be key for Badgers

Win over Penn State evens Big Ten mark at 2-2

**C**onsistency can be one of the hardest things for a team to find and to keep. Wisconsin head coach Bobbie Kelsey admits that her team has not been as consistent as she wants it to be, but that doesn't mean the Badgers haven't made progress. It means that they'll be working harder to compete in the Big Ten Conference.

At this point of the season, consistency is what will matter the most for the Badgers.

"I see improvement but it's got to be consistent improvement," Kelsey said. "They have to understand you have to bring your best every night, whatever that is. Even if your shot is not going, there's other things you can do to help our team, whether it be rebounding, making free throws, stopping the other player on their team that's giving us trouble, knowing the scouting report, knowing the game plan.

"So we're just working on the different things it's going to take for us to get more consistent the rest of this Big Ten season because all the games are tough, every last one of them."

Wisconsin (6-8, 2-2) wrapped up a tough stretch with its third game in six days against Penn State (3-12, 0-4) at the Kohl Cen-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### SCHEDULE (6-8, 2-2)

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

#### RECENTLY

Dec. 20	<b>Oral Roberts</b>	W, 70-52
Dec. 28	<b>Michigan</b>	W, 63-53
Jan. 1	at Northwestern	L, 68-46
Jan. 4	<b>Minnesota</b>	L, 72-60
Jan. 6	<b>Penn State</b>	W, 65-46

#### COMING UP

Jan. 11	at Indiana	1 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Purdue	6 p.m.
Jan. 18	<b>Rutgers</b>	2 p.m.
Jan. 22	<b>Nebraska</b>	7 p.m.

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

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



**W**  
**BADGER**  
**Hockey**  
*Digest*



*Presented by:*



## UW in midst of murderer's row schedule

Tough slate will make Badgers a better team

It is a scheduling philosophy, but a lot of it is just luck.

Four teams have been ranked No. 1 in the country this season, and all four find their names on Wisconsin's schedule for the 2014-15 season.

First it was North Dakota on Nov. 7 and 8, ranked No. 2 at the time, but destined for the top spot. The same spot it holds in this week's polls. The Badgers played a pair of hotly-contested games, before dropping both contests.

Last week it was No. 5 Michigan Tech, a program that earlier this year earned its first No. 1 ranking since 1976. The Badgers took some medicine the first night in an 8-1 blowout loss, but showed resolve in responding with a 2-0 shutout the next night.

This week it's No. 2 Boston University, which just last week held down the top position before dropping a spot after drawing with defending NCAA champion Union. That despite missing perhaps the nation's best skater in freshman forward Jack Eichel, who is projected to go either No. 1 or No. 2 in this year's NHL draft.

Next week it's on the road to face No. 9 Minnesota, which opened the season as the preseason No. 1 team and held it for

### SCHEDULE (2-11-1, 0-2-0)

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

#### RECENTLY

Dec. 12	<b>US U-18 (Exh.)</b>	L, 4-1
Jan. 2	<b>#5 Mich. Tech</b>	L, 8-1
Jan. 3	<b>#5 Mich. Tech</b>	W, 2-0

#### COMING UP

Jan. 9	<b>#2 Boston Univ.</b>	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	<b>#2 Boston Univ.</b>	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	at #9 Minnesota	8 p.m.
Jan. 17	at #9 Minnesota	5 p.m.
<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 24</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 30</b>	<b>#9 Minnesota</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>

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

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**



## Badgers begin 2015 with a Border Battle

No. 3 UW hits the road for the Twin Cities

**A** new year begins with huge series for the Wisconsin women's hockey team, as the No. 3 Badgers head north to take on No. 2 Minnesota in a Border Battle showdown in the Twin Cities.

Since the teams' first meetings in October, the Badgers have enjoyed a 12-game unbeaten streak. UW has held its opponents to an average of 1.0 goals per game while scoring 4.1 goals per contest. In addition, the Badgers have found tremendous balance during the run, as seven players have 10 or more points.

"I think we've grown a lot since our last meeting with Minnesota," senior captain Blayre Turnbull said. "Both on and off the ice we've come together more as a team and we know exactly what to expect from them, and this time I think we're going to be more prepared than when we faced them at home."

Wisconsin hasn't been in action since a home sweep against North Dakota on Dec. 5 and 7, but five Badgers have seen action with their respective national teams over break. Annie Pankowski, Jenny Ryan and Karley Sylvester participated in the USA Hockey Winter Training Camp in late December.

"It was very high-intensity, high-speed hockey," Sylvester

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### SCHEDULE (17-2-1, 13-2-1)

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

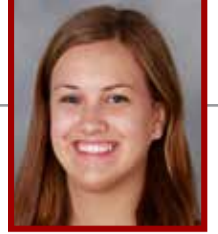
#### RECENTLY

Nov. 29	at New Hampshire	W, 5-0
Nov. 30	at New Hampshire	W, 5-0
Dec. 5	<b>North Dakota</b>	W, 2-1 (OT)
Dec. 7	<b>North Dakota</b>	W, 2-0

#### COMING UP

Jan. 10	#2 Minnesota	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	#2 Minnesota	2 p.m.
Jan. 16	<b>Bemidji State</b>	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	<b>Bemidji State</b>	3 p.m.
Jan. 24	#8 <b>Clarkson</b>	2 p.m.
Jan. 25	#8 <b>Clarkson</b>	Noon

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**



JACK MCLAUGHLIN

## Badgers prepare for a big weekend ahead

UW ready for two conference duals this week

**A**fter an explosive showing at the 52nd annual Midlands Championships, the No. 20 Wisconsin wrestling team is ready to take on two conference opponents this weekend. The 5-1 Badgers face No. 19 Northwestern on the road on Friday before returning home for the first time in a month to grapple with Purdue.

“We had about a 10-day break here since the Midlands tournament and it gives our guys, especially our younger guys, time to get in a lot of skill work, get things back on track again,” Wisconsin head coach Barry Davis said. “I think we wrestled really well at the Midlands. We had five guys place, a couple guys out. But overall we are doing well. I think the young guys are coming along really well for us, but there are still things to work on.”

With the first half of the season wrapped up, the Badgers are ready to get dual season into full swing. The first half of the season presented challenges for Wisconsin, but with every challenge comes the opportunity to face adversity, and the Badgers did just that.

“We started out a little bumpy at first. We had some guys cutting down, a 25-pounder, 41-pounder all cut down on weight here,” Davis said. “We moved all three guys up a weight class

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

### SCHEDULE (5-1, 3-0)

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

#### RECENTLY

Nov. 29	at S. Dakota St.	W, 26-9
Nov. 30	at N. Dakota St.	W, 25-9
Dec. 11	<b>Indiana</b>	W, 45-0
Dec. 13	at Nebraska	W, 23-14
Dec. 29-30	at Midlands	7th place

#### COMING UP

Jan. 9	at Northwestern	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	<b>Purdue</b>	1 p.m.
Jan. 23	at Michigan	6 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Michigan St.	1 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**



# Badgers say ‘Aloha’ from Hawaii training

Wisconsin enjoying time to work, play in sun

**H**ow do you beat the cold and snow of Wisconsin winter? The UW swimming and diving program has been able to do so this past week while training in the tropical climate of Hawaii.

Through photos and blog entries, the Badgers have been keeping family, friends, alumni and followers of the program in the loop. Freshman Nathan Mueller and junior Jenny Holtzen have provided updates on the trip and some of the activities the team has enjoyed since arriving.

**Nathan Mueller** *Jan. 1:*

“Flying nine hours was a little rough, but most of us were able to sleep quite a bit. We just got back from a crazy grocery run — swimmers eat a lot — and the team is out getting dinner.

“Tomorrow starts the first day of training in Hawaii! We can’t wait! We all know it’s going to be challenging, but this trip is going to be so fun that we aren’t even worrying about the work.”

**Jenny Holtzen** *Jan. 3:*

“After getting two full days of practices in, we’re all starting to really get into the swing of things and find a good rhythm

**SCHEDULE**

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

*RECENTLY*

Nov. 21-23 Ohio State Invitational  
 M: 2nd (823.5)  
 W: 3rd (698)

Dec. 4-6 Texas Invitational  
 M: 6th (80)  
 W: 3rd (177)

*COMING UP*

Jan. 10 at USC 8 p.m.  
 Jan. 16 **Indiana** 5 p.m.  
 Jan. 17 **Notre Dame** 10 a.m.  
 Feb. 6 **Milwaukee** TBA

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**



## FABULOUS FINLEY

**JANUARY 14, 1995:** Michael Finley broke Danny Jones' Wisconsin career scoring record in the first half of the Badgers' 74-67 win at home over Minnesota. Finley went on to finish his career with 2,147 points.

### -MORE THIS WEEK-



### BREAKING BARRIERS

**JANUARY 11, 1975:**

The first varsity women's basketball home game was played, a 45-38 win over Green Bay. The team went 11-7 in its first year of intercollegiate competition under coach Marilyn Harris.



### ONE GIANT LEAP

**JANUARY 13, 2001:**

Len Herring broke Reggie Torian's indoor long jump school record at the Badger Track Classic, leaping 25 feet, 11 inches.



### UPSET MINDED

**JANUARY 13, 2013:**

In a dramatic dual, the wrestling team upset No. 11 Michigan. Trailing by six points with three bouts left, UW rallied and secured the victory with a win by Connor Medbery at heavyweight.