

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

VARSITY

MAY 14, 2015 VOL. 5 NO. 37

REAL-WORLD READY

PRESENTING THE BADGERS'
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015

GRADUATION



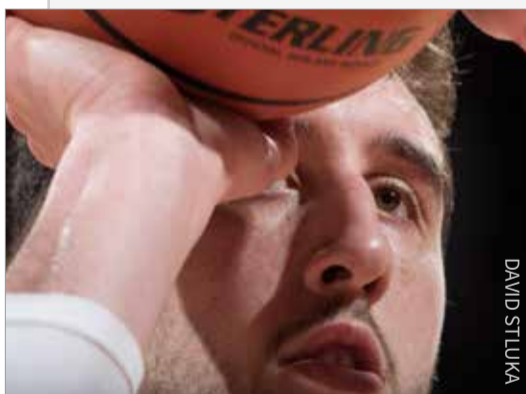
EDITION



COVER STORY

RESEARCH ... AND DEVELOPMENT

Kimberly Dinh has made the most of her learning opportunities at Wisconsin to grow as a golfer and a scientist, leading the way for the Badgers' graduating class of 2015.



DAVID STLUKA

FRANK'S FAREWELL

FINISHED BUSINESS

Many things brought Frank Kamin-sky back to Madison, including the degree the national player of the year will receive this weekend.

LUCAS AT LARGE

LOOKING AHEAD

Sam Arneson will always cherish his time as a Badger, but the talented tight end has no regrets about leaving football behind.



DAVID STLUKA

FEATURES

IN [FOCUS]

The week's best photos

LUCAS AT LARGE

Fine with saying farewell

BY THE NUMBERS

Facts and figures on UW

ASK THE BADGERS

Best part of being a Badger?

BADGERING

Timmy McCall (Wrestling)

INSIDE MEN'S TRACK

Defending title a tall task

INSIDE WOMEN'S TRACK

Upperclassmen lead the way

INSIDE MEN'S ROWING

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

VARSIITY

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Madison, WI 53711

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Arneson fine saying farewell to football

Once Sam Arneson had set up his safety net, it stands to reason that it was a lot easier for the Wisconsin tight end to make the hard decision to become a former football player. So he turned down an invitation to the NFL Scouting Combine and explained his intentions to retire from the sport to every NFL team that called, right up to the week of the draft. His safety net? His undergraduate degree.

Arneson still has some work to do; he will return for the fall semester at Wisconsin to complete his final degree requirements in his major: Exercise and Movement Science - Kinesiology. After that, he's hoping to attend physical therapy school, a plan that has been in the making since he was competing in three sports at Merrill High School and sought relief and treatment for some injuries.

"I had worked with a PT in my hometown who was a good family friend," Arneson said. "I saw what he did and I really liked it. I loved the way he interacted with people and what he was doing on an everyday basis and I could really see myself doing that, so it was kind of a goal the whole time. It's definitely one of the more challenging majors here. Some big, rigorous science courses are required."

Three of his Wisconsin football teammates — quarterback Bart

Houston, tight end Eric Steffes and center Dan Voltz — are involved in the same major. "It has definitely challenged us," said Arneson who was named Academic All-Big Ten in each of the past three seasons. "But we've had some classes together and we've been able to push through it together."

Time management is essential to productivity when mixing academics and athletics.

"THROUGH THIS WHOLE PROCESS, I'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY ABOUT MY DECISION AND WHERE I'M AT NOW IN MY LIFE. AND I COULDN'T BE MORE EXCITED ABOUT MY FUTURE CAREER."

"It's tough, especially during the season," Arneson said. "You really learn as you go. A lot of times guys struggle early. That was my case. Coming from high school, I was always a good student but it was definitely an adjustment. I got better at it as I went. By the end of it, I was doing pretty well."

Arneson developed good study habits as a youngster thanks to his parents, Dave and Marge Arneson. Both are UW grads — Dave was also a Badgers tight end — and both are high school teachers in Merrill. "Since I was young, they pushed

education on me and the value of it, especially my mother," Arneson said. "I was always striving to do well and I always took academics very seriously."

Minimizing distractions is one of the keys, particularly on this campus because of the social options. "You have to find that balance and what works for you," Arneson said, "while doing the things that are required of you being a student-athlete at this university. My first two years, the falls were tough and then I had good springs. My junior fall, I finally figured out how to do it during the season."

"We have so many resources here and you really learn to take advantage of all those as much as you can. You also have to be really structured in your everyday schedule and you have to find the routine that works for you. Academics is very important at this university and I think that's what makes us special, too, just the way we're students and athletes. I can definitely say I've been challenged."

And now he faces his biggest athletic challenge: life after football. It was something that he started to ponder before the start of his senior year. "It was, 'Let's see how the season goes and how I feel afterwards,'" Arneson said of his mindset in August. "And I kind of made the decision during bowl prep — just the way I was feeling and



everything. We decided I would be done after the bowl game.”

Did concussions factor into his decision? “There’s always that concern,” he said. “It’s football and it’s an unfortunate part of the game. I know I’ve had a couple. And that’s a scary thing to think about; the effects that it will have in your long term. It was definitely a thought that went through my head when I was making the decision.”

This spring, Arneson visited briefly with one of his former teammates, linebacker Chris Borland, who retired from the NFL after his rookie season with the

San Francisco 49ers. “That issue really didn’t come up; we talked more about what he’s up to in his life,” Arneson said. “But when Chris made that decision, it does open your eyes a little bit; that a guy who loves football like Chris would do that.”

Arneson didn’t flinch on his choice despite fielding inquiries from pro teams looking for some help at tight end. “As a kid, you wanted to play in the NFL,” he said. “You grew up seeing the combine on TV and to get invited was definitely an honor. You really appreciate hearing from teams that expressed interest and respected the way you played and the type of player you were in college.”

Arneson was not only a reliable blocker — helping spring Melvin Gordon on some of his long runs — but he was a sure-handed receiver. Last season, he had the second-most catches (29) on the team and scored four touchdowns.

“Through this whole process, I’ve been very happy about my decision and where I’m at now in my

life,” he said. “And I couldn’t be more excited about my future career.”

Since the Outback Bowl, Arneson has lost 20 pounds. He’s down to 225. That pales,

by comparison, to All-America guard Kyle Costigan losing over 60 pounds during the same time span. Costigan, who’s interning with the UW strength and conditioning program, has talked about becoming a firefighter. “It’s kind of interesting to see the two of us,” Arneson said, “not pursuing the NFL when we maybe had chances to.”

Costigan was held together by duct tape, or so it seemed; he played on one good leg against Auburn. In early April, Costigan’s mom, Sandy, lost her battle with kidney cancer; something that weighed on Costigan throughout the season. “You can’t say enough about the kind of person Kyle is and what he was going through,” Arneson said, “and the way he still battled week-in and week-out for us.”

Costigan and Arneson are special people. They were pretty special football players, too, which is awkward to say in the past tense. You can imagine what they’ll be going through this fall watching others play the sport that has consumed them for so long. “It will definitely be different,” Arneson said. “I always loved playing the game and playing in Camp Randall.

“It will be tough, and different.”

But he will keep his eye on the prize, the ultimate prize, his UW degree. ■



DAVID STLUKA

HOW HAS BEING A STUDENT-ATHLETE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SHAPED YOU?

SCROLL FOR MORE →



JACOB BRINDLE

Men's Soccer

Major: Biochemistry

Post-grad plan:

Take a gap year volunteering for 'Coach for College' in Vietnam with the goal of attending medical school in fall of 2016

“Deciding to become a Badger was the best decision I have made in my life. From the first-class athletics, academics and overall school demeanor, there is literally no better school in the country.”



MARY MASSEI

Softball

Major: Communication Sciences & Disorders

Post-grad plan:

Take a year off of school and work in the field of audiology or speech pathology before applying to graduate school

“Being a Badger has helped mold me into the person I am today. I consider myself to be incredibly blessed and lucky to have gotten the opportunity to attend UW-Madison. Taking on college away from family wasn't a walk in the park but my Badger family made it so much easier. I know that

- SCROLL FOR MORE -



MARCUS TROTTER

Football

Major: Psychology

Post-grad plan:

Attend medical school at either the University of Illinois or Indiana University

“I think becoming a Badger has shaped me in many ways. I came to this university as a walk-on with dreams of succeeding on and off the field. I loved the competitive and supporting environment in Madison and it made it easier for me to push myself knowing that the athlete and the classmate next to me was doing the same. I have learned that being a Badger

- SCROLL FOR MORE -



IVY MARTIN

Women's Swimming

Major: Psychology/ Sociology

Post-grad plan:

Swim in preparation for Olympic Trials next summer

“Being a Badger has helped me to grow as a person in many ways. During these past four years as a student-athlete, I have received a well-rounded education and have learned valuable lessons and skills to utilize throughout my life. Most importantly, I have made life-long friends and have had a blast representing this school!”



JACK MCLAUGHLIN

TIMMY MCCALL

A three-year starter for the Badgers, **Timmy McCall** finished his career at UW as a two-time NCAA qualifier. The Hope Mills, North Carolina, native ended the 2015 season with a 23-12 overall record and went 3-2 at the NCAA championships. He had the highest ranking of his career, reaching No. 9 during a season highlighted by his second-place finish at the Navy Classic. He will graduate Saturday with a degree in agricultural and applied economics.

What is your favorite memory from your time at UW?

“I would say last year when we wrestled Ohio State, who were ranked so much higher than us, and I had the No. 1 guy in the nation. I came out with the ‘W’ and we won the match and beat Ohio State. I won in overtime against Nick Heflin, who was in the (NCAA) finals that year.”

How would you define Wisconsin wrestling?

“I would most definitely say teamwork. We put in a lot of time getting to know each other and getting to know what we’re thinking in different situations. The coaches meet with individually for 15 minutes a week just to see what is going on in our lives, to make sure everything is going well and make sure we are ready to wrestle. If we are going through anything, the coaches are there to make pull us aside and make sure we’re ready. Our teammates are there as well. There’s

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT TIMMY

Year: Senior
Height / Weight: 5-10 / 197
Hometown: Hope Mills, N.C.
High School: South View

QUICK Qs FOR TIMMY

Favorite class at UW?

“Military science.”

Favorite spot on campus?

“Memorial Union Terrace.”

Favorite dual in the UW Field House?

“Against Ohio State in 2014.”

Favorite Barry Davis quote?

“Nothing is promised but you can stack the odds in your favor.”

Favorite Babcock ice cream flavor?

“Cookie dough.”

THOUGHT

FRANK KAMINSKY HAS ALWAYS BEEN FINE WITH FINDING HIS OWN WAY, FIGURING OUT THAT IT'S BEST TO FOLLOW HIS OWN PATH ON THE WAY TO BECOMING THE BEST HE CAN BE.

PROCESS

In late April, Frank Kaminsky took a date (his mom, Mary) to the White House Correspondents Dinner, an annual Who's Who event in the nation's capital that showcases leaders from journalism, politics, business and entertainment. Kaminsky sat at a table with Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and the CEOs of AOL (Tim Armstrong) and Wheels Up (Kenny Dichter, a 1990 UW graduate).

"There were a bunch of cool people there," Kaminsky said, "and some pretty women."

Among the coolest, no doubt, from Kaminsky's perspective, was Dan Bilzerian, the ubiquitous poker savant and Instagram kingpin. Among those turning heads was Chrissy Teigen, a former *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue cover model and the wife of singer/songwriter John Legend. She caught the eye of many, including New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, who

was dressed in a tux, sans hoodie.

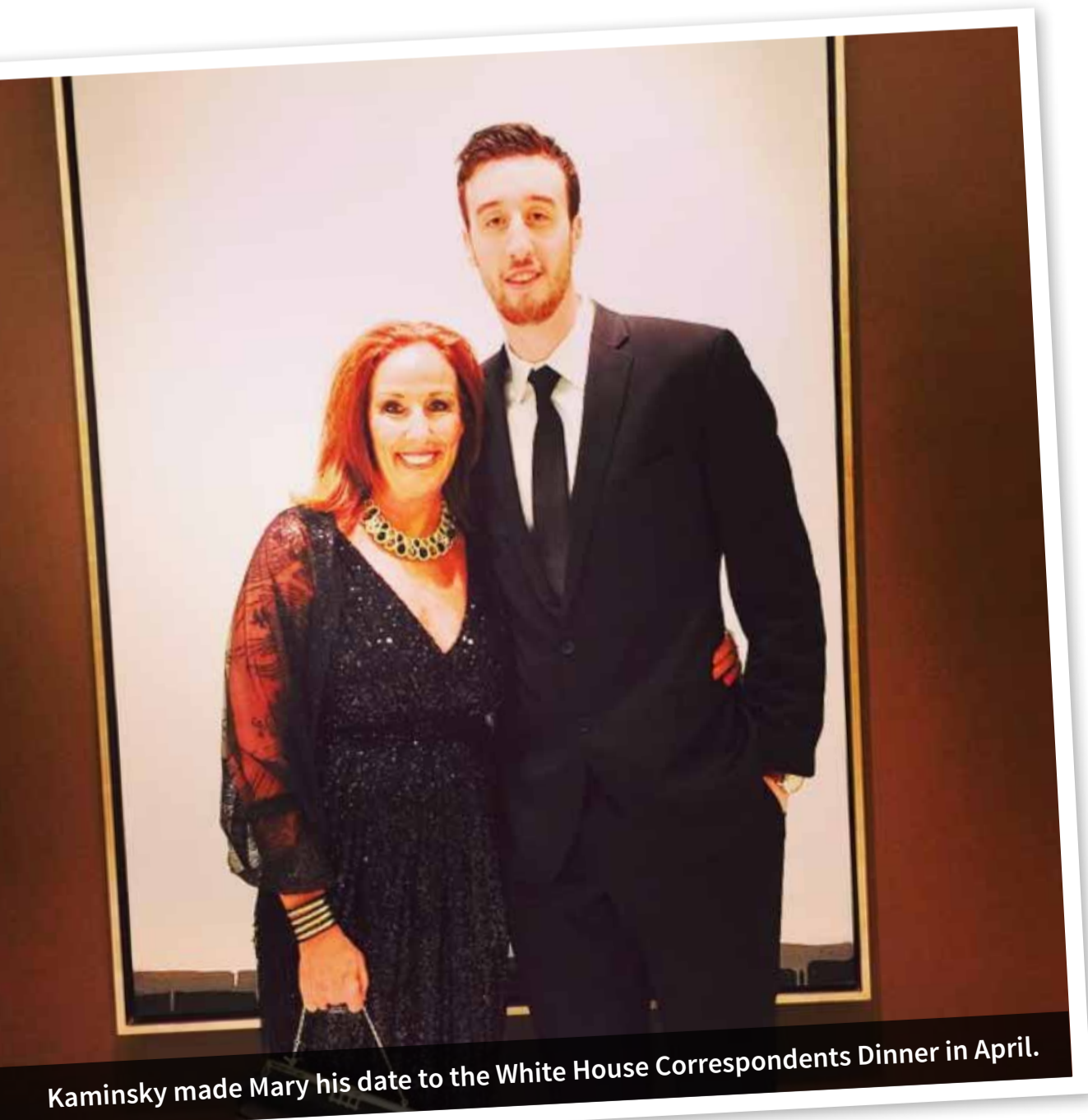
Teigen's hubby, by the way, has performed at the NBA All-Star game. He's a basketball fan. But he really loves football, Big Ten football. Legend is an Ohio native and a huge supporter of the Buckeyes. At that, there may be no bigger Badgers fan/friend of the program than Dichter, an entrepreneurial dynamo with strong ties to Wisconsin hoops dating back to his Bleacher Creatures days at the UW Field House.

The Prez is into hoops, too. Among the traditions at the correspondents dinner is the practice of morphing the program into the equivalent of a roast with the lead comic being the sitting president. Kaminsky may have gotten the last laugh here on President Barack Obama, an avid college basketball fan. The Badgers, after all, busted his bracket when they beat Arizona in the Elite Eight.

As they say, "Defy the Doubt." And that's what Kaminsky was doing last weekend; he was in California filming his own Speed Stick television commercial, a la Melvin Gordon, the former Wisconsin tailback. Among other things, it called for a little one-on-one between father and son, Frank Kaminsky Jr. and Frank Kaminsky III, or Frankie.

"It has all been kind of a fairy tale," Mary Kaminsky summarized.

Since the loss to Duke in the national championship game, Frank Kaminsky has been walking across countless stages and collecting endless tributes after sweeping the Player of the Year awards. Before the NBA draft in June, he will cross one more stage — a walk that will be more meaningful than most — when he receives his undergraduate



Kaminsky made Mary his date to the White House Correspondents Dinner in April.

degree during Wisconsin's spring commencement May 16.

It's hard to argue with the success of the Badgers men's basketball program, both on and off the court, in recent years. All but one senior in the past four years will have graduated from UW after Kaminsky and his classmates are through with commencement ceremonies this weekend.

"It's going to be a pretty fulfilling feeling," said Kaminsky. "I always wanted to get a college degree; it's something that my parents pushed on me. They said it was a priority and something I should take very seriously. It will be a nice way to end my college career. I did as well as I could on the court and accomplished what I needed off the court to make myself a complete student-athlete."

It was one of the reasons why Kaminsky delayed entering the NBA draft and returned for his final year of eligibility. "It was a huge factor in coming back," said Kaminsky, a life sciences communication major. "Basketball is only going to last for X-number of years ... a degree from a great institution, one of the top schools in the country, is something that you can't take away from someone."

The Kaminsky clan will be well represented at Camp Randall Stadium's graduation exercises.

"That will probably be the big tear-jerker for me," acknowledged Mary Kaminsky. "He knows we're such an academic family and how important that is for him and his future to not only be a good basketball player but to have that degree. That speaks volumes to what he has accomplished in the classroom and that's huge. Just the way this whole senior year played out — making that decision to stay and get his degree — we couldn't have written it any better for him ... and being a big part of his life and watching him reach his goals, you can't ask for anything more as a parent. It has been very surreal."

Katie Couric, the former CBS Evening News

"I would always tell Frankie, 'One has to make a good first impression; you have one chance, and your way of handling yourself will be what people will remember,'" said Mary Kaminsky. "Thankfully, he listened most days."

anchor and Today Show co-anchor, will be the commencement speaker. Couric, now the anchor for Yahoo News, was also present at the April 25 correspondents dinner in Washington, D.C. Crossing paths with a 7-foot Wooden

Award winner — Frank the Tank — is likely something that you wouldn't forget, even if you're Couric.

"I would always tell Frankie, 'One has to make a good first impression; you have one chance, and your way of handling yourself will be what people will remember,'" said Mary Kaminsky, whose most ideal scenario for her son back then would be, "I met him on his recruiting trip and I like Frank Kaminsky."

Sounding very much like a mother, she added, "Thankfully, he listened most days."





•••••

Growing up in Lisle, Illinois, Frank Kaminsky definitely paid attention to what was being said at home about the importance of academics, whether hearing it from his dad, a no-nonsense basketball warrior, or his mom, a high school teacher. Mary Kaminsky has been a special education instructor for 26-plus years at Glenbard West, a highly-rated public school in the western suburbs of Chicago.

“It was nice because my mom and dad both coached high school sports for awhile, and my mom being a teacher, I was always hanging out at school, so I always had somewhere to go,” said Kaminsky, who graduated from Benet Academy, a private school with a sterling academic reputation. “I always prided myself on being the smartest kid in our family.”

His sisters, of course, might take exception to his playful boast. “My kids were so competitive in everything they did and the bar was always set high (to get good grades),” Mary said. “I come from a long line of educators. My mom was such an advocate to get your degree. She

KAMINSKY’S LEARNING CURVE:

“I always figure out a way to be good at whatever I do. But I have to get comfortable in the situation that I’m in and then run with it ... I just had to figure out what kind of courses I wanted to take.”

believed the most important thing you can do is be self-sufficient and your degree allows you to do that.”

Mary, a second-team All-Big Ten volleyball player, graduated from Northwestern. “It wasn’t a piece of cake for me,” she said. “I’m very proud of the fact that as an athlete I graduated with a B average from that institution. School was hard for me, but I worked hard at it. I’d tell my kids, ‘My job is being a teacher, your job is to do well in school.’ They loved school, they really did.”

Except for one year ... Frank’s freshman year in high school.

“He didn’t buy into it yet,” Mary recalled. “By his senior year, he was scoring 92 to 99 in all of



his classes, but during his freshman year, he was in the 70s and almost on academic probation because he didn't care. He was too immature at that point to know. And then he figured it out, 'Wait a second, if I'm going to be good at basketball, I'd better get my grades so I get my choice of where I want to go.'

Kaminsky also struggled academically during his freshman year at Wisconsin.

"New things kind of scare me a little bit," he said. "I've just got to take time to figure it out. I'm not the kind of person that can normally figure out school right away. It takes me some time. I always figure out a way to be good at whatever I do. But I have to get comfortable in the situation that I'm in and then run with it ... I just had to figure out what kind of courses I wanted to take."

While he had early interest in business school, he was drawn to life sciences communication.

"Calculus and political science didn't interest me," he said. "I didn't have a particular interest in taking those kinds of courses because I knew I would never probably use them again. Growing into a major where I could learn a lot about a lot of different things was something that caught my attention."

Kaminsky has served as a Merrill Lynch intern, a timely occurrence given his projected first round status in the June 25 NBA draft. "It was definitely a great experience," said Kaminsky, who has been training in Santa Barbara

since UW's season ended in Indianapolis. "I got to learn a lot of things about the financial and wealth management side of money. And I got to work with some great people — people that I still talk with today."

Communication can be an invaluable tool for

a student-athlete, Kaminsky suggested. If you need help, ask for it. "There are so many resources at your disposal at Wisconsin, from tutors to academic advisors," he said. "There are a lot of people who are willing to help. You just have to take the time

out of your day to go and do it. Using all the resources that you possibly can is a smart idea."

Kaminsky's skills extend beyond the basketball court. "He has an incredible ability to multitask," Mary said. "He's one of those rare people that knows everything that is going on. He just

"He just thinks very different about things," Mary said. **"He has to figure out the system. That's kind of Frankie's learning pattern. He has to figure out the system and then once he does, he excels at it."**

thinks very different about things. He has to figure out the system. That's kind of Frankie's learning pattern. He has to figure out the system and then once he does, he excels at it."

That includes writing; Kaminsky's "Moose Basketball" blog has received high marks.

"It's amazing as a mother reading his thoughts; he has always been able to express himself on paper," said Mary. "One of my favorite blogs was what the college senior Frank would say to a high school senior Frank; just the wisdom of his experience and what it means. I shared the post with some friends that have children right now who are in high school and struggling to figure out who they are.


"The message was, 'Be you. Stand up for who you are and don't try to follow other people. Figure out your own path.' To be able to know that is my son's thought-process was one of the proudest moments for me. Just to read that and go, 'Wow, he's something special.'"

Kaminsky would rather write a speech than

give one, though he has been giving plenty of them lately — concise, sincere thank-you speeches for each award that he has earned. Now, as he prepares to walk the stage again, at commencement, he wants to share the moment with his mom and dad.

"They dealt with me when I was struggling with everything," he said. "When I was looking for people to take my frustrations out on, I would call my parents and they would talk me through it; any situation I was in. I would get frustrated with basketball; on top of that, I would get frustrated with school. I wasn't a great person to be around but my parents were always willing to support me."

Cognizant of his NBA dream and how close he is to it, Mary promised that they would always be there for Frankie. Like his degree from Wisconsin.

"That's his ticket to do whatever else he wants to do next in his life," she said. "I know that he will continue to create goals for himself." 



Kaminsky was joined by his family, from left, father Frank, Jr., sister Kaylee, sister Hannah and mother Mary when he received the Naismith Trophy during Final Four weekend in Indianapolis.



DAVID STLUKA

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

A lightly-regarded golfer who was already a heavy hitter in the classroom when she arrived in Madison, Kimberly Dinh is leaving the University of Wisconsin on top of her game in both areas thanks to five years of personal growth — in the lab and on the greens.

BY MIKE LUCAS // UWBADGERS.COM

Playing golf in front of a crowd has never been an issue for Kimberly Dinh. Last summer, she shot an opening-round 62 and was the low amateur at the Michigan PGA Women's Open Championship.

Speaking in front of a crowd is another story. Dinh expressed some anxiety about addressing the College of Engineering graduation recognition ceremony Saturday afternoon at the Kohl Center.

Earlier in the day, the 22-year-old Dinh will graduate with "honors" at Camp Randall Stadium. To her thinking, she was "honored" by the opportunity to combine academics and athletics at Wisconsin.

On the course, she wound up with the fourth-best scoring average in school history. In the classroom, she finished with a 4.0 GPA. She never had anything less than an "A" grade.

Dinh's message to her fellow engineering grads will reflect her experience on campus over the last five years. To paraphrase, "You can't go it alone — you need support and relationships."

Her greatest support has come from home (Midland, Michigan) and her parents, Paul and

Mai Dinh, who immigrated to the United States from Vietnam when they were 16 and 13, respectively.

"I was young enough to get adapted into the cultural and educational system here," Paul Dinh said, "and old enough to remember everything growing up during the war in Vietnam."

"My parents always stressed that the key to get out of poverty or advance was studying abroad in the USA. We came over here as a war refugee and took advantage of the opportunity."

Paul and Mai Dinh met at Purdue while Mai was pursuing her undergraduate degree and Paul, who had attended Michigan Tech, was doing his graduate work. Both are chemical engineers. Mai went on to grad school at Northwestern.

"My wife and I have always put importance and value on education," Paul Dinh said. "We're very proud of her academic achievement. Golf is a bonus for us."

Kimberly Dinh is now looking at the sport the same way.

"I'm done playing competitively for the time being," she said.

Instead, her focus is on grad school at the



“The recruiting process has been remarkable,” Oehrlein said. “It was the elite of the elite. She had her pick on where she wanted to go.”



Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

“She had her pick on where she wanted to go,” said UW golf coach Todd Oehrlein.

MIT won the recruiting battle for Dinh, the equivalent of a 5-star recruit in football or basketball. That was her rating, at least, with the heavyweights among research institutions.

“The recruiting process has been remarkable,” Oehrlein said. “It was the elite of the elite.”

Dinh narrowed her list to a final four: MIT, Texas, Cal-Berkeley and Cal Tech.

“It was a whirlwind,” she said of her recruiting visits. “But it was a lot of fun; I met a lot of people, and they were a lot of the same people because everybody applies to these same schools.”

Dinh met with professors and heard the plans that they had for her Ph.D. At each stop, she was also given a tour of the facilities and the community, not unlike the recruitment of a blue chip athlete.

Why MIT? “I just thought it was the right fit personally,” she said.

This recruiting process was a far cry, night and day, from what it was like for Dinh, the golf prospect; a lightly-recruited one, at that, coming out of Henry Dow High School in Midland.

Her options were Wisconsin and Michigan — as an invited walk-on.

“She was very much a late developer,” Oehrlein said.

The first time that Oehrlein saw Dinh play was during a Junior PGA event.

“She tells the story on how bad she played and thought, ‘Oh, my gosh, I lost my chance (to play collegiately),’” related Oehrlein, who felt just the opposite over what he had seen.

“I called Katie (Elliott, the UW assistant coach) and said, ‘Katie, she’s pretty good. I think we’ll end up with a good player here.’ It was an example of seeing potential.

“Technically and fundamentally, she was sound. She just needed to grow a little physically and slow down a little on the golf course. She was going a little too fast.

“ONCE SHE GOT HERE, IT WAS BEYOND OUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS.”

— TODD OHRLEIN



DAVID STLUKA

“But what she brought to the university from an academic perspective was a no-brainer,” he said, understanding why it was easy to chuckle at his choice of words for a class valedictorian.

“Once she got here, it was beyond our wildest expectations.”

As far as juggling golf and academics, he used the word “remarkable” to describe Dinh.

“She’s one of the most gifted people I’ve ever been around from that standpoint,” said Oehrlein, citing her “ability to focus and compartmentalize” everything on her daily schedule.

“She’s never distracted; it’s remarkable what she does; she’s brilliant. I’ve told some people before that I don’t think there are five smarter people on campus.”

No kidding, no hyperbole. He was not exaggerating. Has he ever wanted to know what’s going on in her head? “It would be so far beyond me,” Oehrlein said, “I would be afraid to know.”

And, yet, you wouldn’t know from being around her, he noted, that she was so intellectually accomplished. “She fits in wonderfully

with the team,” he said. “She’s just one of the players.”

Her accomplishments on the golf course have been well-documented.

Rattling off areas where she has improved, Dinh said, “Consistency, mental toughness, patience. All those words that our coach keeps harping on, I’ve definitely gotten better at.

“I’ve just seen myself progress as a golfer — better ball-striking, better putting, better short game. It has just been my overall development.”

Dinh started playing golf when she was 7 at the urging of her dad, who started playing at the same time. “And I was 40 years old,” Paul Dinh said. “It was quite late for me to learn the game.”

But he enjoyed playing and shared his enthusiasm for golf with Kimberly and his two sons.

“The thing I loved was that we could all play together,” he said. “It doesn’t matter how old or how young, how big or how strong, how fast or how slow you are. Golf is a game you can play together.”

“I also got my kids started at an early age in martial arts and Tae Kwon Do, which physically was very good for eye and hand coordination and that gave her an advantage to start with.”

Paul and Mai Dinh didn't have to push education on their kids. “They expected us to do well though,” Kimberly Dinh said, “and that wasn't going to come without hard work.”

She already had one thing going for her. “I always wanted to learn,” she conceded.

She always liked reading, too. “I read everything, a ton of books,” she said. “I loved reading Harry Potter over and over. I read Lord of the Rings when I was in the third or fourth grade.”

Knowing her parents' career path also fueled her ambition. “They were definitely inspiring,” she said. “They worked hard to get where they are today and that's what they instilled in me.”

That she would follow their lead and pursue a college degree in chemical engineering almost seemed like a given. “It was always in my mind,” she said. “I liked math and chemistry, so why not?”

Asked if she has ever been intimidated academically, she said, “For the most part, no. You hear horror stories about classes or professors, so there's some intimidation, some fear of the unknown.”

Many UW instructors have shaped her in the classroom, including Mahesh Mahanthappa.

“He served as a mentor,” she said, “and helped guide me through the research process and how to think about science and chemistry and learning what it takes to be a researcher.”

Three summer internships at Dow Corning also impacted Dinh. Each year she was exposed to something different, from research and development to processing engineering to manufacturing.

“I learned a lot of professional skills,” she said. “I also realized I liked the research and development side more; it was more of an intellectual challenge, I guess.”

Before going to MIT, she will spend three weeks in Europe with some friends and another five weeks in Vienna, Austria completing her un-



dergrad classwork, a capstone project.

Dinh has not ruled out the possibility of playing in amateur tournaments down the road apiece. But, for now, she will put the clubs away with fond memories from her UW golf career.

When Oehrlein extended an invitation to walk on, she recalled being motivated by “the opportunity to be a Badger and compete. That’s what I was looking for since I wasn’t heavily recruited.”

She will never forget why Madison was such a good fit, either.

“I visited the campus in the spring, and I fell in love with it,” she said. “I remember driving in for the first time on John Nolen (Drive) and I saw the skyline and I thought, ‘This place is really cool.’”

Especially the people.

“I’ll remember all the good friendships and relationships that I’ve made,” Dinh said. “It has been awesome and I’ve made some lifelong friends.”

“We survived some classes together; we survived some tough conditions with my teammates on the golf course and made it to the national championship round; what a cool memory.”


And she will share some of her thoughts on relationships with her fellow grads on Saturday.

“It’s going to be surreal,” she said. “Five years have gone really fast. It’s odd thinking that I’ll be walking across that stage and there’s no, ‘OK, what do I have to do for the next semester here?’”

Great things may await her at MIT and beyond.

“That would be very cool,” she said humbly. “But I haven’t thought that far ahead.”

Oehrlein has.

“With the level of things that she will be doing,” he said, “she’ll create and pave new pathways in the world of chemical engineering and research. Nothing she would do would surprise me.” 

“FIVE YEARS HAVE GONE REALLY FAST. IT’S ODD THINKING THAT I’LL BE WALKING ACROSS THAT STAGE AND THERE’S NO, ‘OK, WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER HERE?’”



BEST IN THE BUSINESS

The player who spent more minutes on the floor in a Wisconsin uniform than anyone in Badgers history put in his time in the classroom, as well. A process of perpetual preparation that served **Josh Gasser** well on the court also has UW's captain ready to receive his business degree.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

Academic timelines are always subject to variables, namely injuries; something out of a student-athlete's control. No one knows that better than Josh Gasser, who tore the ACL in his left knee the first semester of his junior year and was sidelined the 2012-13 basketball season.

"It was really tough, especially right after it happened," said Gasser, who redshirted that year. "I missed two to three weeks of school just because of the surgery and not being able to move around at all. That was just a really tough time academically and, obviously, my head was not in the right place.

"It was hard mentally to take everything in but I was able to grind through the semester," continued Gasser, who had started 66 of 70 games during his first two years in the program. "Through the whole rehab process, I was frustrated at times but I was still able to take care of school."

Besides the support from his family in Port Washington — a tight-knit community on Lake Michigan, 90 minutes from Madison — Gasser had plenty of people in his corner on campus, including athletic trainer Henry Perez-Guerra, head coach Bo Ryan and former basketball academic advisor Toni Landis.

"But really I think it came from within — I had to do it myself," said Gasser. "I've always been someone who wants to be as prepared as I can for anything. If I go into a game or I go into a test and I'm unprepared, I just feel terrible. So I was going to make sure I was prepared during that time."

That preparation, in part, will allow Gasser to leave Wisconsin as the all-time leader in games started, games played and minutes. He will also be leaving with his degree in marketing from the UW School of Business, an individual accomplishment that shares top billing with team goals: two Final Four appearances.

“No matter what I do, basketball can only take you so far; at any second it could be over,” said Gasser, who can obviously speak from experience. “To be able to have this degree is something very, very special. It means a lot and it’s something that no one can take away from you.”

Eyeing Saturday’s commencement, he said, “It’s my one last hurrah at the University of Wisconsin. It has been a great place for me the last five years, a place where I always dreamed of going to, even if I couldn’t play a sport and I wasn’t good enough to play somewhere else. This was always the place where I wanted to be and get my degree.”

Jordan Taylor finished with 464 career assists and probably deserved to be credited with one more. Gasser remembered not knowing what he wanted to do academically when he first got to UW. “But Jordan Taylor was in the business school and he always said good things about it,” Gasser said of his former teammate. “I always kind of liked math, numbers, and I thought that it would be a good route to take.”

Considering that Gasser started 30 games as a true freshman — and recorded the first triple-double in school history — he was asked about the current movement to make freshmen ineligible; an academic-based initiative that is being floated by the Big Ten and some other conferences.

“You can look at it both ways to be honest,” said Gasser, who averaged 28 minutes per game as a frosh. “It would help in terms of the stress level. You can take a year to ease into everything and understand everything that goes on academically and athletically.”

“On the other hand, it would be a little frustrating knowing that you put in a lot of time and work and feeling like you have the ability to play (right away) but are not allowed to. That could be tough mentally as well.”

Gasser cited the basketball team’s academic culture as one of the program’s greatest assets.

“It starts with Coach Ryan,” he said. “We’ll miss practice if we have (conflicting) classes. And he won’t let us come to practice unless we take

“TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THIS DEGREE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY SPECIAL. IT MEANS A LOT AND IT’S SOMETHING THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY FROM YOU.”



care of school first. He understands the importance of getting a good education and what this university has to offer.

“It definitely starts at the top. But when you have a good group of guys who take academics seriously, who study together and go to class together, it makes a difference. I know there were a lot of guys even during the Final Four week that had to take tests.

“Actually, in each of the past two years, I had an exam a day after or two days after the national championship game. We were always doing school work during the biggest times of the year. But that’s just the way it is for a college student-athlete here. You’re expected to compete and do well (in class).”

The team got back to Madison on Tuesday following the Monday night title game. When Gasser arrived for his marketing class on Wednesday, he was taken aback by the reception. “When I walked in, the teacher applauded me and all the students did, too,” he said. “It was a warm welcome, for sure.”

Gasser agreed there’s a general appreciation on campus for how the basketball team conducts its business, on and off the court. “We do take it seriously,” he said of academics. “Basketball is still a top priority for a lot of people but we still understand the importance of getting a great education.”


Consider, too, the inherent logistical challenges of making a deep run in March. The Badgers were in Chicago for the Big Ten tournament; in Omaha for the first weekend of the NCAA tournament; in Los

Angeles for the regional; and in Indianapolis for the Final Four.

“Because we were usually leaving on Tuesdays,” Gasser said, “that’s four straight weeks of being only in class on Mondays. You still had to find the time to get the work done — in the hotel or on the plane and bus rides. As a group, we were pretty good at doing that.”

Today, Gasser is in the process of lining up some NBA workouts. If undrafted, he would like to get on an NBA Summer League roster. “After that, we’ll see what happens,” he said. “I’m kind of realistic as far as probably playing overseas next year. I’m just hoping to be playing basketball in a good spot.”

He’s already in a good place — armed with his Wisconsin degree.

“A lot of work went into it,” he said with satisfaction. “And it means a lot.” 



DAVID STLUKA

CLOSE TO HOME



DAVID STLUKA

It's many miles from her roots in Texas, but **Stephanie Peace** found a home in Madison by getting comfortable with where she was — and who she is.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

Stephanie Peace had no idea what she was getting herself into academically as a freshman.

"I was terrified," she admitted.

Based on what she heard, Peace was in for a rude awakening at Wisconsin.

"Everybody told me how unprepared I would be going to college," she remembered.

Geography had something to do with her anxiety in leaving home.

Especially when you consider that New Braunfels, Texas, is home for Peace.

New Braunfels is 30 miles from San Antonio and 1,267 miles from Madison.

"Growing up as a Texas kid," she said, "I didn't know much about Wisconsin and the Big Ten."

Even though she was a three-time academic all-district selection at Canyon High School — not to mention an integral member of the 2009 Texas Class 4A state championship softball team — she had some genuine concerns about making the transition to a different part of the country.

"I was stressed coming in — it was a culture

shock and I had to deal with being homesick right out of the gate," Peace said. "You never know what to prepare for coming into college, so it's a stressful time for anybody."

Plus, she kept hearing about how much tougher the Big Ten was academically than some schools that she considered in other conferences. "I was so afraid of doing poorly my first semester of college," she confided, "that I lucked into doing well because I was scared."

That might cross her mind Saturday while waiting to pick up her degree at spring commencement. Five years and 144 victories later — she was part of the winningest class in UW softball history — Peace will graduate with a degree in agricultural business management. "I wouldn't trade it for anything," she said.

Joining Peace in that ultra-successful recruiting class were Mary Massei of Chino Hills, California; Cassandra Darrah of Corydon, Iowa; and Michelle Mueller of La Crosse. They committed to former coach Chandelle Schulte and all blossomed as student-athletes under the supervision of Yvette Healy.



“This is such a challenging academic and athletic school and we compete in one of the best conferences in the country,” Peace said. **“You can’t panic about one thing or you’ll be stressed about everything.”**

and academics.

“I think it would have actually made college harder if I didn’t (play),” she said. “Sports are supposed to be the fun part. And it’s not only a break from academics, but it’s almost a reward for doing well in school that you get to go out and compete and wear that ‘W.’”

As it turned out, Peace was so far away from home that it factored into her adjustment off the field. “I had teammates who struggled (academically) because they were homesick and

they went home every weekend,” she said, “instead of spending time here studying and enjoying the whole atmosphere.

“I was stranded here and I couldn’t go home. But I was able to manage it and with the resources that we have — the tutors and the academic advisors, things like that — it all helped out. If kids think they’re too good (for help), they’ll struggle. If you’re willing to accept the help, you’ll be OK.”

She also pointed out another positive: strength in numbers.

“You’re not alone,” Peace said. “That’s the perk of coming in with a freshman class. You have your teammates and other athletes; so you see them around and form study groups with them.

Being a trailblazer has its benefits and the Badgers advanced to back-to-back NCAA tournaments with this nucleus leading the way as juniors and seniors. This season, as she finished her degree requirements, Peace stayed close to the program by serving as a student assistant coach.

“It was weird this year not to play,” said Peace, an infielder/outfielder. “Watching from the sidelines was a completely new experience for me.”

As a true freshman, Peace started all 53 games and more than held her own at the plate and in the field. In retrospect, she was happy for the opportunity to compete at a time when the discussion is beginning to heat up on whether first-year players are capable of balancing athletics

There are plenty of opportunities to figure it out. And your peers are one of the ways that can help balance it.”

If a freshman was asking for advice, what would she tell her or him?

“Not to stress too much about anything,” Peace said. “A lot of kids are trying to be above-average in everything, the best; and it’s good to have high standards and goals. But you have to be realistic about what you’re doing.”

“This is such a challenging academic and athletic school and we compete in one of the best conferences in the country. You can’t panic about one thing or you’ll be stressed about everything. You have to have a realistic understanding of your own personal expectations.”

Peace is delighted that the UW is utilizing Camp Randall Stadium for graduation.

“It’s kind of full circle,” she said. “You think

about your recruiting trip here, when you came to Camp Randall for a football Saturday to watch a game. And now the last thing you’re going to do as an undergrad is walk on stage in Camp Randall. It’s going to be exciting, it’s going to be emotional.”

“IT’S JUST A BIG DEAL,”
PEACE SAID. **“WHEN YOU SAY**
YOU’VE GRADUATED FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF WIS-
CONSIN, IT’S SOMETHING
THAT TURNS HEADS.”

Peace is headed back to Texas for graduate school. She will begin work on her masters and assist with the softball program at Texas A&M-Kingsville, whose campus is less than three hours from New Braunfels. “It’s the sport

I grew up playing and loving,” she said, “and I don’t want to let it go just yet.”

Peace played in more softball games (219) than anybody in school history. Along with that legacy, she’s now returning home with her degree. “It’s just a big deal,” she said. “When you say you’ve graduated from the University of Wisconsin, it’s something that turns heads.” **W**



PULLING TOGETHER



FORTY YEARS AGO, A SPECIAL GROUP CAME TOGETHER AND STEERED WISCONSIN'S FLEDGLING WOMEN'S ROWING PROGRAM STRAIGHT TO THE TOP — ALL WHILE BUILDING A BOND THAT REMAINS UNBROKEN.

BY CARLY VOGEL // UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



Wisconsin's 1975 national champions (from left):

Peggy McCarthy, Carie Graves, Sue Ela, Karen Ela, Jackie Zoch, Mary Connell, Mary Grace Knight, Deb Oetzel and coxswain Beth Traut.

The date June 16, 1975, may not stick out as a memorable date for most, but for one special group of rowers and their coach, it is a date that signified the University of Wisconsin's first female national championship, and more importantly, the cementing of lifelong bonds and friendships.

The 1974-75 University of Wisconsin women's rowing team, comprised of coach Jay Mimier, manager Barb Shafer, Karen Ela (bow), Mary Grace Knight, Peggy McCarthy, Jackie Zoch, Debbie Oetzel, Sue Ela, Mary Connell, Carie Graves (stroke) and Beth Traut (coxswain), left behind a legacy of excellence for not only the Badgers crew program, but also UW women's athletics as a whole.

Claiming the 1975 National Women's Rowing Association (NWRA) national championship remains such an impressive and celebrated feat 40 years later because the modern era of women's rowing did not begin at UW until the winter of 1971-72. Kathy Wutke, a freshman member of

UW's swimming team, is credited as the founder of the first continuing women's crew effort.

Joining Wutke in her effort was fellow women's crew pioneer Sue Ela. She would go on to become an integral member of the program's groundbreaking 1975 championship team, as well as a decorated and well-loved coach for the Badgers.

Wutke, Ela and several others put in countless hours of work to establish women's rowing as an official club at the university. It wasn't until December of 1971 that the women were finally recognized with club status.

The early years of women's crew at Wisconsin brought a variety of obstacles and hardships for the women to overcome. The eager and determined group were challenged with a lack of space, difficulty in training around the men's crew schedule and a lack of funding for travel to outside competitions.

"It was an evolution that involved a lot of elbow work, because there weren't a whole lot of



“Something that continues to stick out to me was just the great work ethic that all of us seemed to have,” Ela said. **“And the camaraderie was amazing. I’ve never experienced such camaraderie before, or since.”**

in May of 1974, when the UW Athletic Board voted to add an 11-sport women’s intercollegiate program that included openweight crew. The 1974-75 season thus marked the first time women’s rowing would compete as a varsity sport at Wisconsin.

Despite its varsity status, the 1974-75 team was still comprised of many newcomers to the sport — but that did not deter the women from training and competing to win.

“None of us had prior athletic experience to speak of since Title IX was just kicking in,” said Graves, stroke seat and captain for the 1974-75 boat and an eventual three-time Olympian. “Four of us were from farms and the other four had only a bit of athletic experience from figure skating or ballet. We had a lot of fun at Wisconsin seeing how hard we could push ourselves and each other.”

The group’s mental toughness and special camaraderie would become two of the biggest factors in its unprecedented success. UW women’s rowing competed as a varsity sport for the first time in the Midwest Championships on April 26, 1975, claiming the first of what would become an unbroken string of 25 consecutive victories as a varsity eight.

“Something that continues to stick out to me was just the great work ethic that all of us seemed to have,” Ela said. “There really weren’t

models to follow,” said Ela. “We were fortunate to have people around us from the men’s program who had competed at a high level so we could have that atmosphere around us. It was extremely hard.”

An additional issue facing the women in the early years was coaching. Men’s head coach Randy Jablonic and men’s freshman coach Doug Neil were instrumental in helping the women to begin their club, however, they became stretched too thin while attempting to coach both the men’s and women’s teams.

In the spring of 1973, the issue was resolved when former men’s rower and UW law student Jay Mimier took over the program. Mimier pushed the women with a rigorous training schedule and competitions against some of the nation’s best varsity and club rowing teams.

Major strides for women’s crew were made

any cuts. Instead, people self-selected, and if the work was too hard, they left. The ones who remained were bonded together just by the sheer toughness it required, and the camaraderie was amazing. I've never experienced such camaraderie before, or since."

The crew culminated its impressive first season as a varsity sport with the NWRA National Championships on June 16, 1975, racing on a 1000-meter course. At the time, the national championships not only included the country's top college programs, but the field also comprised of well-established national rowing clubs.

"We went in planning to win, but on the other hand we knew that we were going to be competing against club teams who had pooled together some top athletes, Vesper Rowing Club being the dominant one," said Ela. "I think we went in feeling pretty much like an underdog,

but we were very determined."

In its first race of the regatta, Wisconsin (3:34.5) finished third in the faster heat, qualifying for the final behind Vesper Boat Club of Philadelphia (3:30.7) and the Eastern Development Camp from Boston (3:32.0). Yale, Princeton and Cal were the three schools to qualify from the slower heat.

Entering the final race, Mimier and his team barely spoke of winning at all. Instead, the group remained focused on rowing their hardest as a cohesive team, which they all believed to be more important.

"When we got to Princeton and the national championships, our goal was to leave everything out on the water, nothing left," Graves said. "We never talked about winning, we just talked about how much we needed to give."

UW's spirited and determined strategy paid off, as the varsity eight crossed the finish line a



full 3.3 seconds before the race favorite, Vesper Boating Club. The official race results placed Wisconsin as the national champion (3:07.3), ahead of Vesper (3:10.6), Eastern Development Camp (3:15.2), Yale (3:24.4), Princeton (3:24.8) and Cal (3:26.1).

“As we came across the finish line everyone had given it their all, and the crew was exhausted but exhilarated,” said Traut, the coxswain. “It was an amazing day, and we all were so happy to have realized this goal. It certainly created a bond among us, but at the time I’m not so sure we realized how strong that bond was.”

Following the NWRA championships, members of the historic varsity eight initially went their separate ways. Graves, McCarthy and Zoch were selected as members of the U.S. team that went on to win the bronze medal at the 1976 Olympics, while Sue Ela took over the Wisconsin program from Mimier, her eventual husband, following the 1978-79 season.


Although distance and varying life events have separated the special group of women, their incredible national championship cemented a bond that continues to last.

“Following nationals, I expected to go on with my life, school and hopefully row with some of these women during my last two years of college,” said Traut. “I never expected to share my life with these eight other women.”

Twenty years following the national championship, in 1995, the U.S. Masters held a national competition at Lake Phalen in St. Paul, Minnesota, which was the location of one of the crew’s first races as a team. The same varsity eight from the 1974-75 season decided to compete together once again.

With only two days to practice and rig the boat, the 1975 national champions displayed a strong showing, finishing in second place. That same crew would continue the tradition every five years until its last Masters race in 2010, winning world masters gold in 2000 and 2005.

This June marks the 40th anniversary of the groundbreaking women’s crew championship. However, instead of reuniting on the water, the varsity eight, their manager and their coach will be spending the week in Colorado to hike, catch up and reminisce about that amazing day at the 1975 NWRA National Championships.

“It’s not about any one of us, but about the team as a whole,” Traut said. “We all came together at the right time to represent UW, win a national championship, and create bonds that will last each of our lifetimes.” 



The champs got back in the boat 20 years later, competing together and finishing second at the 1995 U.S. masters championships. They came together again for 25- and 30-year reunions, winning gold at the world masters championships in both 2000 and 2005.



Defending Big Ten crown will be challenge

UW heads to East Lansing for Big Ten meet

The Wisconsin men's track and field team looks to defend its Big Ten outdoor crown this weekend at the 2015 Big Ten Outdoor Championships in East Lansing, Michigan.

The Badgers have claimed nine Big Ten outdoor titles since 2000, the most of any school during the span. UW's 10th title since the turn of the century might be hard to attain, as the team returns 10 athletes that combined to score just 42 of UW's 121 points at last year's meet.

"We always say we train for Big Tens and beyond," UW Director of Track & Field Mick Byrne said. "We obviously have a young team this year (and) certainly need some of our younger student-athletes to step up, and hopefully they will do that."

Of the 23 athletes headed to East Lansing, 10 will make their Big Ten outdoor debuts for the Badgers, including freshmen Joe Hardy, who ranks ninth in the conference in the 1500 meters, and Austin Kafentzis, who ranks ninth in the javelin.

One of UW's returning athletes, however, is Michael Lihman. The two-time Big Ten indoor weight throw champion is looking for his first conference title in the hammer throw on Friday. The Rice Lake, Wisconsin, native ranks second in the country with

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

RECENTLY

May 2 Musco Twilight

May 8 Wisconsin Twilight

COMING UP

May 15-17 Big Ten Outdoor Championships

May 28-30 NCAA West Preliminary Round

June 10-13 NCAA Outdoor Championships

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Upperclassmen lead Badgers into Big Tens

Championship season begins for Badgers

The Wisconsin women's track and field team starts its championship season this weekend when it heads to East Lansing, Michigan, for the 2015 Big Ten Outdoor Championships.

The Badgers return seven of their eight scorers from last year's meet, including Emma-Lisa Murphy, who placed second in the 10,000 meters, and Georgia Ellenwood, who placed fourth in the heptathlon.

"We have seven scorers coming back for us," UW Director of Track & Field Mick Byrne said. "We hope they will come out this weekend and set the tone for the rest of the team and we'll have a good meet."

In addition to the returning scorers, the Badgers will be led by junior Kelsey Card, the 2015 Big Ten Indoor Field Athlete of the Year, and senior Deanna Latham, who placed third in the heptathlon with 5,553 points at the 2012 Big Ten outdoor meet. Card and Latham are two of the most experienced Badgers, as they have combined to win three Big Ten titles and earn three first-team All-America accolades during their accomplished careers.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home meets in **bold**.

RECENTLY

May 2 Musco Twilight

May 8 Wisconsin Twilight

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May 15-17 Big Ten Outdoor Championships

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GREG ANDERSON

Lineup changes coming at Eastern Sprints

Badgers sort out squad for conference races

The No. 15 Wisconsin men's rowing program received a week away from competition after the Devil's Lake Challenge regatta hosted at the lake in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Under the technical eye of head coach Chris Clark, the Badgers used their "off" week on Lake Mendota to prepare for the 2015 Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Championships, also known as Eastern Sprints. The annual regatta is a one-day event set for Sunday in Worcester, Massachusetts.

When the Badgers return to racing, it will be with a bit of a different look as there have been some adjustments in the lineups, including a varsity eight that now includes seven seniors and a junior.

"I can't get in their head but I think it's a little, "Coach, are you kidding me? Took you this long to figure out I was the man all the time?" Clark said. "And we have two fifth year seniors in there. They appear to be pretty good."

Wisconsin placed sixth at last year's conference championships, with a title in the second novice eight and a second-place finish in the varsity four highlighting UW's efforts.

The Badgers have so far this season that they have the talent

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

May 17 **at EARC Championships**
Worcester, Mass.

May 29-31 **IRA National Championships**
West Windsor, N.J.

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Finals week in more ways than one for UW

Confident Badgers look to unseat Ohio State

The Wisconsin women's rowing team looks to improve on a four-year run of third-place finishes at the Big Ten championships, as it competes in the 2015 edition this weekend in Indianapolis.

"This week is finals week," UW head coach Bebe Bryans said. "It's also Big Ten championship prep week, so we are looking at it as the 'icing on the cake week' because all of the work has been done. They've studied for their finals, now they just have to take them, and they've done all the work they needed to do on the water, and now they need to continue to have confidence and be ready to go, but we're really excited."

In 15 years of the Big Ten championships, Wisconsin has won the title once, in 2010. Repeating their championship finish will not get any easier this year, as the races feature a flurry of top-ranked Big Ten squads.

In addition to UW, three other boats appear in the latest CRCA/USRowing coaches poll. Ohio State leads the way at No. 1, while Indiana and Michigan are ranked 12th and 13th, respectively. Minnesota (22) and Iowa (25) remain just outside of the top 20, but are receiving votes.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

May 16-17 **Big Ten Championships**
Indianapolis

May 29-31 **NCAA Championships**
Gold River, Calif.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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