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VARSITY

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PUTTING IT TOGETHER

HOW THE BADGERS BUILT A TEAM TO HANDLE BIG EXPECTATIONS





COVER STORY

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The stories of how each made it to Madison are unique, but what ties the stars of Wisconsin together is the desire to take the Badgers on to even bigger and better things this season.



LUCAS AT LARGE

WORTH THE WAIT

Ben Ruechel spent five years toiling in anonymity before getting a chance to contribute on the field.

WISCONSIN ADIDAS INVITATIONAL

ROAD OF HIS OWN

As the nation's top teams descend on Madison, the homestanding Badgers will be led by former walk-on Michael Van Voorhis.



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Opportunity worth the wait for Ruechel

Even though he accounted for 108 touchdowns while throwing for 4,105 yards and running for 3,537 as an option quarterback during his high school career; even though he also had 282 tackles as a linebacker, Oconto's Ben Ruechel was not a household name, at least not among UW fans.

Not that many could pronounce his name.

It's REEK-ull, not RUE-shell, not rue-SHELL.

Not that his name has come up that often in conversation.

Here's his bio from the 2014 football media guide:

2013 season: Did not play.

2012 season: Did not play.

2011 season: Did not play.

2010 season: Redshirt season.

That begs the question, "Why did he even come back for a fifth year?"

If you saw No. 57 (Ruechel) jump to his feet and race to the sideline after sacking Illinois quarterback Reilly O'Toole in the second quarter Saturday, you know the answer. If you saw his teammates celebrate the moment like he had just hit a walk-off homer, you know why.

"This was definitely worth all those years on the scout team knocking heads with the O-line-men," Ruechel said. "All the time I put in, it just feel good to get out there and contribute.

It probably hasn't set in all the way yet. But when it happened, it was an amazing experience I'll never forget."



“ALL THE TIME I PUT IN, I JUST FEELS GOOD TO GET OUT THERE AND CONTRIBUTE ... IT WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE I’LL NEVER FORGET.”

Ruechel is an amazing story, a feel-good story, a walk-on story with a happy ending. Ruechel went on scholarship this semester. "That was a huge moment for me," he said. "I wasn't able to speak when it happened. What meant the most was a lot of my teammates were just as excited as I was."

Why not? They know how hard he has worked; they know how long he has persevered. "He's the definition of a true Wisconsin kid," said fellow senior linebacker Derek Landisch, "the

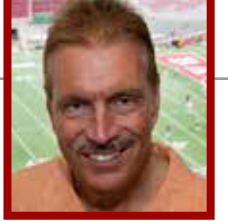
way that he fights and the way that he prepares and how much he cares about the program. I couldn't be happier for Ben."

Landisch's elbow injury opened the door for Ruechel and some meaningful snaps on defense against the Illini. While Landisch was being checked out in the locker room and getting fitted for a protective brace, Ruechel took over at inside linebacker. He didn't have time to get nervous.

"I really didn't, I was right in (the game) and I was ready to roll," said Ruechel, who had seen action on special teams in each of the first five games. "One of my goals every season is to be the best role player on the team. Whatever that may be, that's just what I strive to be the best at."

The 6-foot-2, 224-pound Ruechel was the best at just about everything that he did in high school. He was a three-time MVP in football — his dad, David, was the Oconto Blue Devils' head coach — and a three-time captain of the wrestling team. He was also a three-year member of National Honor Society.

Some small Division II programs in Minnesota expressed interest in Ruechel as a triple-option quarterback. So did UW-Stevens Point. But after visiting the Madison campus, he knew where he wanted to be,



even if it meant walking on as a linebacker. “I fell in love with this place,” he said.

Although he has dealt with some injuries — a couple of years ago, he tore his ACL — he has never second-guessed his decision to come here and wait his turn. “It was definitely a frustrating process,” he said. “But once I start something, I always finish it, and it’s paying off this season.”

There were plenty of tough times, but Ruechel was tough enough to handle them, the legacy of the Wisconsin walk-on. “You just have to know that

there were a lot of guys before you who have come and done the same thing,” he said. “That was probably the biggest motivating factor.”

That always kept him going along with the encouragement that he has received in the room, the linebacker meeting room, from Landisch and the Trotter twins, Marcus and Michael. “We’re all really close,” Ruechel said. “We’re always talking to each other and not just about football. It’s a great group of guys to be around.”

A history and Spanish major, Ruechel will graduate in De-

cember. He wants to be a high school teacher and coach, just like his father. He’s already a good role model, just like so many other walk-ons who have paid the price while chasing their dream to play for the Badgers.

Ruechel had one of six QB sacks for the Badgers on Saturday. He may remember his the longest. With obvious contentment and commitment, he said, “I love this program. Whether it’s on the field, or off the field, I’ve just tried to contribute in any way I can. I’m just all about Wisconsin.” ■





Passionate coaches leading our programs

It's nice seeing four of our women's teams ranked among the top 15 nationally. It's very deserving and reflective of the work that the athletes have been putting in, and the coaching that they've been receiving.

It has been a good turnaround in women's soccer from last year. Paula Wilkins has had some very good years and she's a very intense coach. I'm glad to see her team playing so well.

In volleyball, Kelly Sheffield is continuing what he started last year with the program. They're really doing a nice job picking up where they left off and playing at a high level.

Women's hockey just moved up to No. 1 in the country. Mark Johnson's teams are always consistent and they're playing right now like we're used to seeing them play.

Mick Byrne is in charge of our whole cross country program and the women are ranked and coming off a team win in Louisville. Mick has always done a nice job.

I'm hoping our fans take advantage of the opportunity to come out Friday to watch our men and women in the Wisconsin adidas Invitational. There will be a multitude of great teams competing.

If you were to ask me what is the common denominator between coaches like Paula and Kelly and Mark and Mick,

I would say the one consistent thing is the passion that they have for their sport.

They care about what they're doing and they pass that care-factor along to their kids. They know how important it is and you can tell that the kids like playing for them.

Each one of them has a different personality. And that's the unique thing about coaching. There's not just one way to get it done.

We had our all-head coaches meeting last week. The one thing that I tried to share with them is, "Don't try to coach to an evaluation."

I told them, "Don't worry about that. You just need to coach. I hired you because I trust you and you're here because you're a good coach."

One thing all coaches have to do, particularly at this level, is teach their players how to be comfortable when they're in an uncomfortable situation.

There are times in a game where there's a lot of pressure and it's uncomfortable. But an athlete has to be comfortable to be effective and produce.

As a coach, you're going to have to make them uncomfortable. Some players don't take to that because they've never been in that situation before. Where they came from, they were always the star.

But they've never competed at

this high of a level. I try sharing some of these types of things when I can with our coaches. We try to impart different information to them.

All coaches, not just new coaches, can pick up ideas from other coaches. That was emphasized when we did our bus trips around the state and the coaches got to know one another better.

What do you show your recruits when they're on campus? What's the one thing you make sure they do when they're here? What do you emphasize? What do you sell? What separates us?

You might pick up one idea that you can incorporate into your recruiting. I've always emphasized to our coaches to take a look around our staff because you've got tremendous resources.

We have some very successful coaches who have won national championships and conference championships and they have answers.

I tell them, "There's nothing that can happen to any of you that hasn't happened already to one of these other coaches. You always want to have someone that you can draw things from."

As a head coach, you have different things that come up and you always want to have someone that you can call and bounce things off. Who better than the coaches who have been successful here? ■



Bye week a chance for Badgers to grow

After last Saturday's 38-28 victory against Illinois, Wisconsin head coach Gary Andersen made a couple of things very clear. One, he wanted his players to enjoy the outcome. Coming off a loss to Northwestern in their Big Ten opener, the result was much needed in what figures to be an up-for-grabs West Division race.

The other thing Andersen made clear is that there remains considerable room for improvement. With the game seemingly in hand, Illinois scored a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. The Illini also executed an onside kick. Thankfully for the Badgers, Peniel Jean's interception ended any thoughts of a miracle comeback for the visitors.

It was fun to see Jean make a game-sealing play. He is a fifth-year senior, but last Saturday's game was his first start. Jean stepped in for freshman Lubern Figaro, who was out with an ankle injury. As the Badgers defense continues to evolve, the coaches are finding spots for many players to contribute, and Jean is one of those players.

And how about linebacker Ben Ruechel? He is a fifth-year senior who just this season is seeing his first playing time. A thrill for any coach — including Andersen — is when he can award a walk-on with a scholarship. The Badgers did that for Ruechel this semes-

ter. The young man from Oconto, Wisconsin, worked like crazy, waited his turn, and against Illinois, he delivered his first collegiate quarterback sack.

Ruechel stepped in when Derek Landisch was banged up and had to come out of the lineup in the second quarter. Landisch eventually returned, but Ruechel's contribution was valuable.

Another "next man in" was Leon Jacobs. He replaced the injured Marcus Trotter, who had been playing some very good football. Jacobs is an athletic sophomore from Santa Clarita, California. For much of his life, Jacobs was a basketball player. When talking about Jacobs last fall, Andersen said basketball might have been his sport of choice, but he quit growing.

So football it is, and that is good for Wisconsin. Against Illinois, Jacobs led the Badgers with 12 tackles, including 2 stops for a loss and 1.5 sacks.

The developmental nature of Wisconsin football continues. Those examples remind us that players can grow early or perhaps much later in their careers.

The growth potential of players such as Jacobs and Figaro (when he returns from injury) is exciting. The same goes for Alec James and Chikwe Obasih. More of the same for sophomore linebacker Vince Biegel, who was very good against Illinois.

For this team to reach its goals, there is much work to be done in all three phases, but it is worth noting that nearly half of the Badgers' roster is made up of either true freshmen or redshirt freshmen. A total of 18 "rookies" have appeared in a game this year (nine true freshmen and nine redshirt freshmen).

At the same time there are upper classmen who are playing much bigger roles than ever. With that can come mistakes. It is all part of the process.

While everyone would love to see the next breakout star not named Melvin Gordon, history tells us that, around here, it can take time for such a player to emerge. Even Gordon had to wait his turn.

Bye weeks can have considerable value. It gives injured players extra time to recover. It can give an entire team a chance to take a deep breath.

It also can give those younger players, as well as some older ones who are fighting to earn more playing time, a chance to prove that they are ready to contribute.

There is half a regular season remaining — and 75 percent of the Big Ten schedule is still in front of the Badgers.

Let us see how this team develops the rest of the way. History tells us it could be very enjoyable to watch. ■

WHAT'S THE BEST ROAD TRIP YOU'VE TAKEN WITH A SPORTS TEAM?



JOSH GASSER

Senior • Men's Basketball

“ Well, it depends what we're talking about. Dallas for the Final Four was a great trip other than the game. Our trip to Anaheim last year was awesome, winning two games and going to the Final Four. But, I would say my favorite road trip overall was our 2010 NCAA Tournament trip to Tucson, Arizona. We stayed at a really nice resort (JW Marriott Starr Pass) that had great food. The weather was perfect out there and we won two games.”



IVY MARTIN

Senior • Women's Swimming

“ It's hard for me to pick just one road trip that I've enjoyed with my team. I love driving to our championship meets at the end of the season, like Big Tens and NCAA's, which were both in Minneapolis this past year. There is so much energy on the bus because we're all so excited to get there and we all just have fun listening to music on the loud speaker or watching inspirational movies. Last year on the way to Big Tens in Minnesota, we each took turns getting red hair extensions put in on the bus to show off some Badger spirit at the meet!”



SARAH DISANZA

Sophomore • Women's XC

“ I loved going to Stanford last year for the Payton Jordan Invitational. It was exciting having such an elite level of competition all in one place because of all of the professional runners that were competing. It was also so scenic with all the different plant life they have.”



MARK SEGBERS

Freshman • Men's Soccer

“ The best road trip that I've taken with a team was a 10-hour bus ride to Texas. I experienced the journey with my St. Louis Scott Gallagher soccer team the summer of 2012 to compete for a national championship. It was one of the longest trips I've ever taken in my life, but I can honestly say I've never been closer to group of guys. I consider every single one of them family, and it was the best summer of my life. It was an unforgettable experience and I would do it again if I could.”

Fifth-year senior Kodee Williams returns for her final season with the Wisconsin women's soccer team as a team captain. The Toronto, Ontario, native is tied for the team lead in assists (7) and has scored three goals this season, all of which have been game-winners. While Williams is a standout soccer player, she also played hockey and competed in track and cross country in high school.

What has led to the team's success this year?

“The biggest change was really the mindset of the whole team. We had multiple meetings deciding what we wanted out of ourselves and our program. We knew that we were better than we showed last fall and we really just put our heads down in the spring and put in the work day after day. The coaches helped us immensely by helping us set goals and core values that have really stuck with us throughout this season. We had something that we were proud to show the freshmen when they came in August and that has really kept us going.”

What made a Canadian want to come to Wisconsin?

“When I started looking for schools I knew I wanted to play in the Big Ten. I knew all the Canadians on the team here and (associate head coach) Tim's (Rosenfeld) uncle was also my coach back home, so that helped a lot in the recruiting pro-

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT KODEE

Class: Redshirt Senior

Major: Consumer Economics

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Honors

2014

- Already has three game-winning goals
- Tied for team lead in assists (7)

2013

- Started in 10 matches
- Ranked fifth on team in goals (3)

2012

- Named UW's Unsung Hero 2012
- Appeared in all 21 matches, starting 3
- Finished tied 3rd on team in assists (4)

2010

- Played in all 20 games, starting 17
- Second on UW with 12 pts, 4 G, 2 A

Other

- Attended U-20 Team Canada Camp in 2009
- Member of U-15, U-16 provincial teams
- Helped U-16 team to gold at nationals
- Bronze medal with Team Ontario at Canada Games in 2009



where they
want to be

SLIDE »»

»» SLIDE



A S JON LEUER, KEATON NANKIVIL AND Tim Jarmusz bowed out with tears and heartbreak after a loss to Butler in the 2011 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16, Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan reminded his listeners that when these seniors were sitting on the bench as freshmen, they had a vision.

“A vision of ‘This is where we want to be,’” said Ryan after the Badgers had posted 25 wins, had beaten the No. 1 ranked team in the nation for just the second time ever and had reached the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2008. “And that’s how we’ve maintained what we have in our program.”

Josh Gasser definitely had a vision at the end of that 2010-11 season after starting 30 games as a freshman in the backcourt with All-American point guard Jordan Taylor, after stunning Michigan with a buzzer-beater in Ann Arbor and after recording the first triple-double in school history.

“My mindset was, ‘How can I help my team win a Big Ten championship?’ and ‘How can I help us make it to a Final Four and win the whole thing?’” said Gasser, a workman-like guard out of Port Washington. “I had some individual goals. But it has always been about, ‘How can I help the team?’”

Gasser is one piece of the puzzle, helping answer another question, “How did the Badgers get here?”

How did the Badgers get to this point where they have lifted the expectations of their fan base with their Final Four run last season and are viewed as one of the top teams in the country going into this season?

This is certainly where they want to be.

But while the No. 4 seed Badgers were losing to the No. 8 seed Butler Bulldogs in New Orleans back in

2011 — Gasser played 33 minutes and Dujie Dukkan didn’t get off the bench until the final seconds — how did all of the other core pieces to the current battle-tested Wisconsin roster come together and fall into place?

Sam Dekker was a high school junior playing for his dad at Sheboygan Lutheran. He had always dreamed of becoming a Badger and verbally committed following his sophomore year.

Frank Kaminsky and Traevon Jackson were seniors at Benet Academy (Lisle, Ill.) and Westerville (Ohio) South, respectively. Both were signed members of the 2011 recruiting class.

Bronson Koenig was a sophomore and leading La Crosse Aquinas to a state title. Nigel Hayes was a prep sophomore and splitting time between football and basketball at Whitmer High in Toledo, Ohio.

“None of the pieces to this year’s team came together the same way,” said UW associate head coach Greg Gard. “It’s not a cookie-cutter ap-

▼ THROUGH THE YEARS: JOSH GASSER ▪ Swipe to change ▪ Tap to pause/play

▲ THROUGH THE YEARS: FRANK KAMINSKY

Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play

proach. That's always been one of our strengths. We've stayed pretty flexible. But we understand that we have a system. Sometimes 'system' is looked at as bad word. But it's not here."

It all comes back to recruiting and development, especially within this program, he was saying. And, lately, Gard admitted that he has been using such words as "system" and "process" and "culture" when responding to national interviewers and leading questions like, "How is Wisconsin doing it?"

UW assistant coach Lamont Paris picked up on the recruiting theme.

"People are scratching their heads over how Frank Kaminsky can average seven minutes of playing time as a freshman and nine as a sophomore," Paris said, "and then Frank has the year that he had last year and they want to know, 'Where do these guys come from?'"

Paris also cited the example of Jared Berggren

who averaged four minutes as a freshman, seven as a sophomore and wound up starting 71 of 71 games as a junior and senior. Going into last season, the Badgers were looking to replace three frontline starters, Berggren, Ryan Evans and Mike Bruesewitz.

"How do they absorb the loss of these seniors who were really good players? How does that happen?" Paris posed rhetorically. "I think it's directly attributable to finding guys who want to learn — who are good learners — and who are willing to listen and get better. That's what we do the best.

"We're looking at a kid for what he can bring to the table eventually, not necessarily right now. Can we teach him to do this or that? Will his character allow him to learn and accept the teachings? We look at those things along with their physical tools. We don't necessarily look for the finished product."

Paris chuckled and added, "Not that we wouldn't take a finished product."

The point being that the process can absorb any level of player.

"If you trust the process and stick to it, you'll like the results at the end," Gard promised. "Whether they're the scoreboard results or whether they're the career results — what that player eventually turns into. But a key is not wavering or deviating in rough waters.

"I've always said Bo is at his best when the ship is rocking the most. He has never deviated from the process and the players buy into that and don't deviate from the process and their development. Players that come through our program understand that it can be a long process at times.

"What it does is allow people from different avenues and paths to get here and mature and develop at their own pace. Whether they have an immediate impact like Josh Gasser, Sam Dekker, Nigel Hayes or Bronson Koenig. Or they develop like Duje Dukan, Traevon Jackson and Frank Kaminsky.

"Each has taken different routes before getting here — and even while they're here."

• • • •

As a first-year starter, Gasser tried to learn as much as he could from the players around him.

“I learned how to be a leader,” he said, “just being on the court with them.”

Jarmusz, Nankivil and Leuer were part of a senior class that won 100 games.

“That year,” he said of his freshman season in 2010-11, “I really learned a lot about the game.”

Wisconsin learned a lot about Gasser during the recruiting process. His stock continued to rise on the AAU circuit and he drew interest from Maryland and Arizona State. Gasser was planning on visiting Tempe but the Sun Devils backed off him after getting a commitment from another guard.

When a scholarship opened up after a UW freshman guard had gotten into trouble off the floor and left school, the Badgers summarily offered Gasser who also had Northwestern on his short list.

“We knew that he’d always be dependable,” Gard said. “That was the one word that you could tag him with right away. We could count

on him. We knew that Josh wasn’t going to beat himself, which has been kind of the mantra of this program.

“He fit the blue collar image, he had toughness. He was going to make very few mistakes. Maybe he might not have the ‘wow’ factor in terms of those types of play. He was more of a grinder. He may not show up on the stat sheets. A lot of what he does is immeasurable in terms of statistical analysis.

“But he was a leader. He doesn’t say a lot of words, but our best leaders have always been that way. They’ve been guys who have talked the least. It’s more about what they do and the examples that they set. He fit right into that category of guys who have played here before and had that type of role.”

Guys like Jordan Taylor, who mentored Gasser the two seasons that they played together.

“I kind of expected once Jordan left to be the point guard,” Gasser said, “which was the case my junior year before I got injured and, then, obviously, there was a change of plans.”

Gasser missed the entire 2012-2013 season after having knee surgery.

If it were not for the injury, the Badgers may have never learned what they had in Jackson.

“There’s no doubt,” Gard said. “You could definitely say that.”

Gasser tore the ACL in his left knee during a late October practice.

“We’re getting ready to scrimmage DePaul and it’s like ‘Who do we turn to now?’” Gard recounted. “We had two young guys in Traevon and George (Marshall), and they were not in any way, shape or form ready for what was coming mentally or physically.”

Someone had to fill the void at point guard and it was Jackson, a tough-minded sophomore.

“In life, you grow and reach horizons that maybe were never before thought possible or attainable,” Gard said. “But you reach them because you had to go through struggles and had to face dark times and adversity and it forced you to push beyond what maybe you thought your limits were.”

What kind of expectations did the staff have for Jackson prior to Gasser going down?

“We thought he might be a good combo guard and a defensive stopper,” Gard said. “But now he was thrust into a starting position and forced to make decisions in a leadership role while handling scrutiny probably before he was ready to do so. But it sped up his growth process.”

There was one certainty about Jackson no matter position he was placed.

“We knew that he was going to bring some toughness,” Gard said.

That became apparent during his recruitment.

Paris saw the same things from a different angle as an Akron assistant coach.

“We had recruited him some and he could do a lot of different things,” said Paris, who was hired at the UW in 2010. “He could handle the ball and he was a really good passer. He was a great teammate and he had a strong body, he was very physical. We thought he could be a good defender.

▲ THROUGH THE YEARS: TRAEVON JACKSON ▪ Swipe to change ▪ Tap to pause/play

“There (Akron) and even here (Wisconsin), we thought he could guard different positions and make some plays. And it wasn’t even about him scoring a lot necessarily. That was not where his worth was, that wasn’t the highest point of his net worth.”

Some recruiting analysts thought Jackson was a ‘tweener — a Big Ten/MAC ‘tweener.

“In fact,” Paris said, “more people probably thought he was better suited for the MAC.”

Paris didn’t think that way. Neither did the Badgers, who won out over Arizona State for Jackson, the son of Jimmy Jackson, a two-time All-American at Ohio State and a 14-year NBA veteran.

“Trae has some intangibles in terms of leadership and bravado that were hard to teach,” Gard said. “He was kind of a wild stallion at times and out of control at times (as a high school player). But we felt we could harness that. It’s a lot easier to say ‘Whoa’ than it is to say ‘Giddyup.’”

“His bravado has maybe steered him into the ditch a few times but I think his bravado has also helped us become a more aggressive, more confident team. He has thick skin. But he had to grow up with it. He just didn’t become Jimmy Jackson’s son when he got here.”

.....
Wisconsin got verbal commitments from Jackson and Kaminsky on the same day: June 12, 2010.

By his own admission, Kaminsky was nowhere near a finished product.

“I didn’t really know how I’d fit in, I didn’t know what was going to happen,” he said of coming to Madison. “Honestly, I thought I was going to come in here and redshirt (as a freshman). I had a little different mindset back then. I knew it was going to take some time. I was still growing, I was still filling out. I was pretty skinny.”

Exhibit A for the aforementioned process was Kaminsky.

“I knew it would take time, a couple of years even,” Kaminsky said. “I knew that I wasn’t going to come in here and make an impact right away and I didn’t. But it was easier coming into college that way. It was going to take awhile for me to grow into myself and figure out how to play at this level.”

What Kaminsky had going for him was size and skill.

“It was all based on what he could be,” Gard said, “not on what he was.”

As a high school sophomore, Kaminsky didn’t make his AAU team’s travel roster.

“I hate it when people tell me what I can and I can’t do,” Kaminsky said. “And I took that as someone taking something from me; someone was telling me, ‘I wasn’t good enough.’ I was driven a lot by that. It was just a mission to prove my AAU coach wrong.”

Kaminsky’s high school teammate, Dave Sobolewski, went to Northwestern. And that would have been a logical destination for Kaminsky, whose mother played volleyball for the Wildcats. He also had an aunt and uncle who had played basketball in Evanston, which was not far from home.

As it was, the Badgers had their eyes on another big man from the Chicago area, Nnanna Ekwu, who ended up going to Illinois. When he was off the board that led them to Kaminsky, whose father had been an outstanding low-post

MINUTE MEN

Beyond the bulk of last year’s rotation, Wisconsin also return players like Zak Showalter and Vitto Brown, who lead the battle for playing time off a deep Badgers bench

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

Zak Showalter has always been known as a hard worker.

“It’s more about confidence with me,” he proposed.

That’s usually the rule, not the exception, he agreed, for most inexperienced players.

“If anyone is confident in their game,” Showalter said, “they can do a lot more than they think they can when they lack that confidence. So that’s the main thing.

“I’ve gained a lot more confidence than I had my freshman year...”

As he was in mid-sentence, mid-thought, Wisconsin assistant coach Gary Close walked behind Showalter, saw that he was being interviewed and playfully volunteered, “Can’t play a lick.”

Showalter broke into a broad grin and said, “Now, that’s good for your confidence.”

With the loss of just one starter (Ben Brust), the Badgers bring back the nucleus of a team that advanced to the Final Four. And, yes, there’s an obvious air of confidence surrounding the program.

Josh Gasser, Traevon Jackson, Frank Kaminsky and Sam Dekker are the returning starters. Nigel Hayes, Bronson Koenig and Duje Dukan are the top three players returning off the bench.



Brust averaged 34.7 minutes per game, the most on the team. Without him, if the Badgers go big, they could go with Hayes or Dukan. If they go with three guards, Koenig could be the choice.

There are no guarantees; every spot in the lineup and rotation must be earned. That accounts for the high tempo and urgency of the early practices. It’s a veteran team and minutes are precious.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

player and Hall of Famer at Lewis College.

“Anybody that told you that Frank was going to be a big-time prospect is lying through their teeth,” Gard said. “He needed to catch up to his body; physically he had a long ways to go. Mentally, he had some maturing to do as far as handling frustration and adversity.

“But he always had a high basketball IQ. He always had the feel for the game from playing on the perimeter as a guard. His footwork was always good. It was a matter of getting stronger and figuring out, ‘Ok, I’m 7-feet now, how am I going to play like it?’

“Once that confidence kicked in, and he had some success and he tasted it, and he got a little more and he got a little more, it just kept growing and growing. One of the best things for Frank last year was running up and down the floor and not seeing Jared Berggren at the scorer’s table.

“It was his time, it was his opportunity and it was either, ‘Put-up or shut-up.’”

After committing to the Badgers, Kaminsky began communicating with Jackson.

“I had seen him play a couple of times, I got the bird’s eye view from the bench of AAU tournaments,” said Kaminsky with a touch of self-deprecating irony. “After I got his number, we started talking and that’s how we ended up roommates our freshman year here.”

It was during the spring of their second semester on campus that Sam Dekker blew up.

Dekker became a national storyline after single-handedly leading Sheboygan Lutheran to the state championship. He scored 18 of his team’s final 25 points in the fourth quarter, including the last 12 in the final 48.5 seconds. His game-winning 3-pointer came with six seconds left. He finished with 40.

Gard’s introduction to Dekker was almost as spectacular.

“As a sophomore, he made a couple of plays at our advance camp, vision plays that you can’t teach,” Gard said. “He saw things that other guys didn’t see. On one particular fast break, he threw it out in front of a guy and you looked and said, ‘Ok, who’s he throwing the ball to? There’s nobody there.’

“But, bam, here comes this guy flying out of nowhere. Sam had seen him two or three steps ahead of everybody else. Sam had been around the game since he was in diapers. His dad was a coach, his brother was a former college player and he grew up in the gym with a ball in his hands.”

Dekker remembered watching the Badgers lose 61-54 to Butler in that Sweet 16 game. He didn’t have any real deep thoughts on how he might fit in. But he recognized that the offense had struggled at times, especially during a 36-33 loss to Penn State in the Big Ten tournament that season.

“I just thought I could come in and be an offensive threat and get some easy buckets and open up some opportunities (for others),” said Dekker, who was far from where he needed to be as a high school junior. “I was pretty weak. I was still growing. It took a little longer for my body to mature.

“At that point, I just wanted to focus on the all-around aspect of my offensive game and I didn’t focus too much on defense because I was always the biggest guy so I could make up for it with my athleticism. That kind of put me behind on the defensive end.”

Gard never worried about other programs trying to poach Dekker after he verbally committed. “Our sport hasn’t gone the way that football has,” Gard said, “where all these guys are taking visits after they’ve committed. In terms of leaving them alone, basketball has been pretty good about that.”

Dekker also benefited from the process, Gard suggested.

“You saw that he was just scratching the surface (in high school),” he said. “And you were looking at what he could be. He was unsure yet of how to get there and what that was all going to entail. He was just kind of out there playing at times.

“As Sam has figured out more of the how’s and the why’s — particularly with his natural given ability — that’s when you end up having somebody who has a chance to be special. Frank has kind of done that, too. Frank knew the hows and the whys but he didn’t have the physical part of it.”

Gasser knew of Dekker before he officially signed his tender with the

Badgers.

“I had definitely heard of him,” he said, “and I saw Sam on the AAU circuit. He played with one of my friends from high school. I always knew that he was a good player. But I didn’t know how good and talented he really was until he got here. Same with Bronson.”

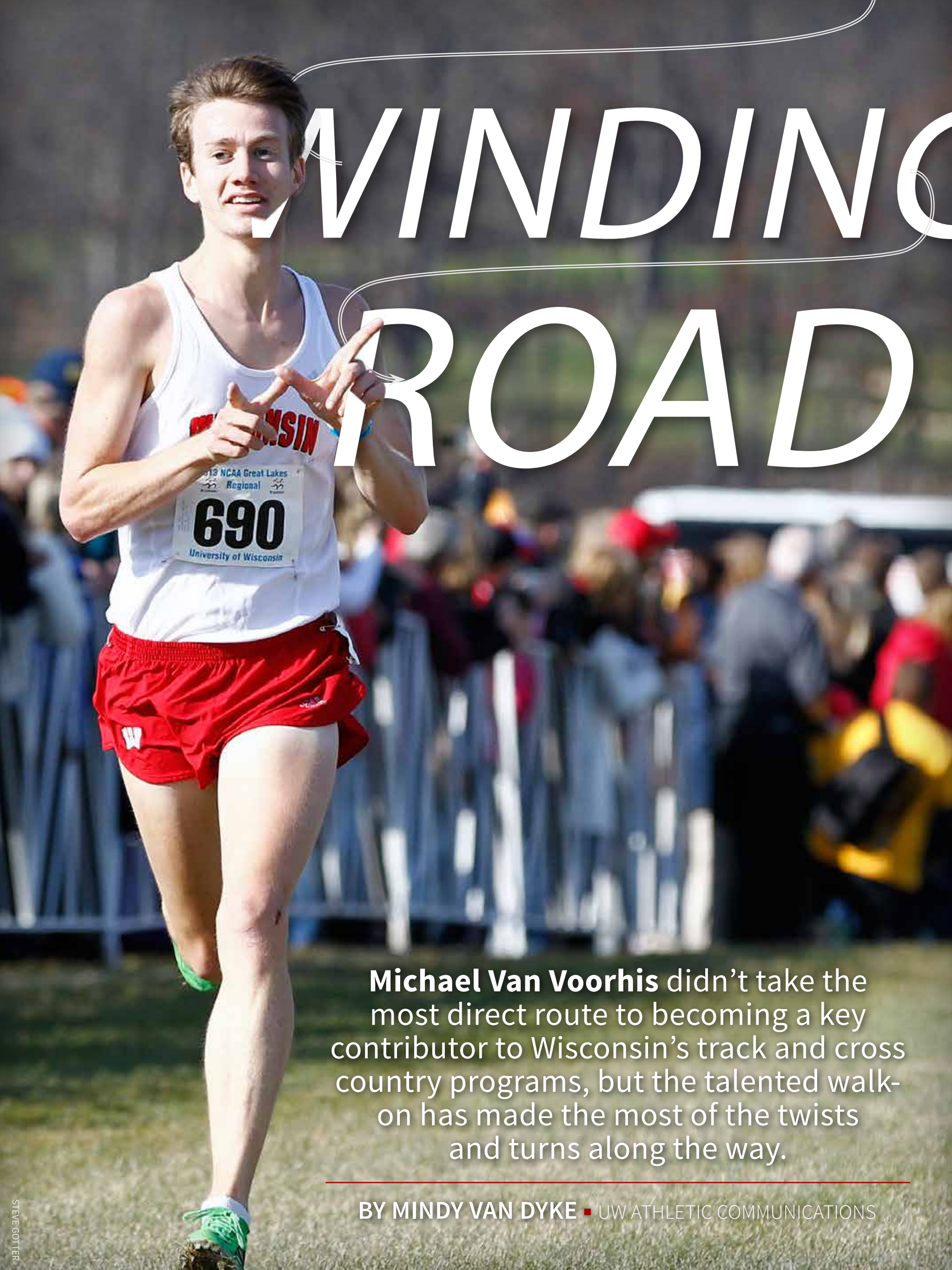
Gard saw that right away, too, during a summer camp session with Koenig.

“You knew that he had played a lot of basketball and instinctually had a lot of gifts that the average freshman in high school didn’t have,” Gard said.

“He had a feel for the game well beyond his 14 or 15 years. The recruiting cranked up pretty early and intense for him especially his sophomore year.

“I’VE LEARNED HUNDREDS OF THINGS FROM COACH RYAN OVER THE LAST 22 YEARS,” GARD SAID. “AND THE ONE THING THAT YOU CAN DEFINITELY COUNT ON WITH BO IS THAT HE’LL NEVER COUNT A KID OUT, HE’LL NEVER WRITE A KID OFF.”

▼ THROUGH THE YEARS: NIGEL HAYES • Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play



WINDING ROAD

Michael Van Voorhis didn't take the most direct route to becoming a key contributor to Wisconsin's track and cross country programs, but the talented walk-on has made the most of the twists and turns along the way.

BY MINDY VAN DYKE ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

The story of how Michael Van Voorhis became a member of the Wisconsin men's cross country team and eventually a member of the men's track and field team is definitely unique.

Van Voorhis came to UW for purely academic reasons, with his focus on the engineering program. Running for the Badgers? "It was a long shot of a dream, but I wasn't really expecting anything to happen," he said.

Prior to UW, Van Voorhis' running career was nothing spectacular, and it certainly did not grab the attention of Mick Byrne, who was serving as Wisconsin's distance coach and now oversees the entire track and cross country program. In high school, Van Voorhis qualified just once for the Minnesota state cross country meet. However, nothing could stop Van Voorhis from going after his dream of running as a Badger.

Arriving on campus at the start of the 2010 cross country season, Van Voorhis went to Byrne looking for a spot on the team. Van Voorhis' attempt was unsuccessful, but it was not for nothing.

He ended up spending his freshman year running with the Wisconsin Track Club and emerging as the club's top runner. That May, he competed at the 2011 Wisconsin Twilight, where he ran a 5000 meters time of 15:01. After a couple of successful races, Van Voorhis thought he could potentially be a walk-on for Wisconsin the following year.

"That summer I just trained alone here on campus," Van Voorhis said. "That first opening meet of the season, I beat half of the team. I emailed Mick and he said 'Yeah, you should probably be on the team.'"

By the time of the 2011 Badger Opener, where Van Voorhis finished fifth and would have been UW's third finisher had he been competing for the Badgers, the cross country roster had already been declared — making it more difficult

to add Van Voorhis to the team.

"Basically, we had to go to our administrator, who had to go to Barry Alvarez. Barry ended up loving the story and said 'Let's give this kid a shot,'" Byrne said. "In the end, we got the extra roster spot and the rest is history."

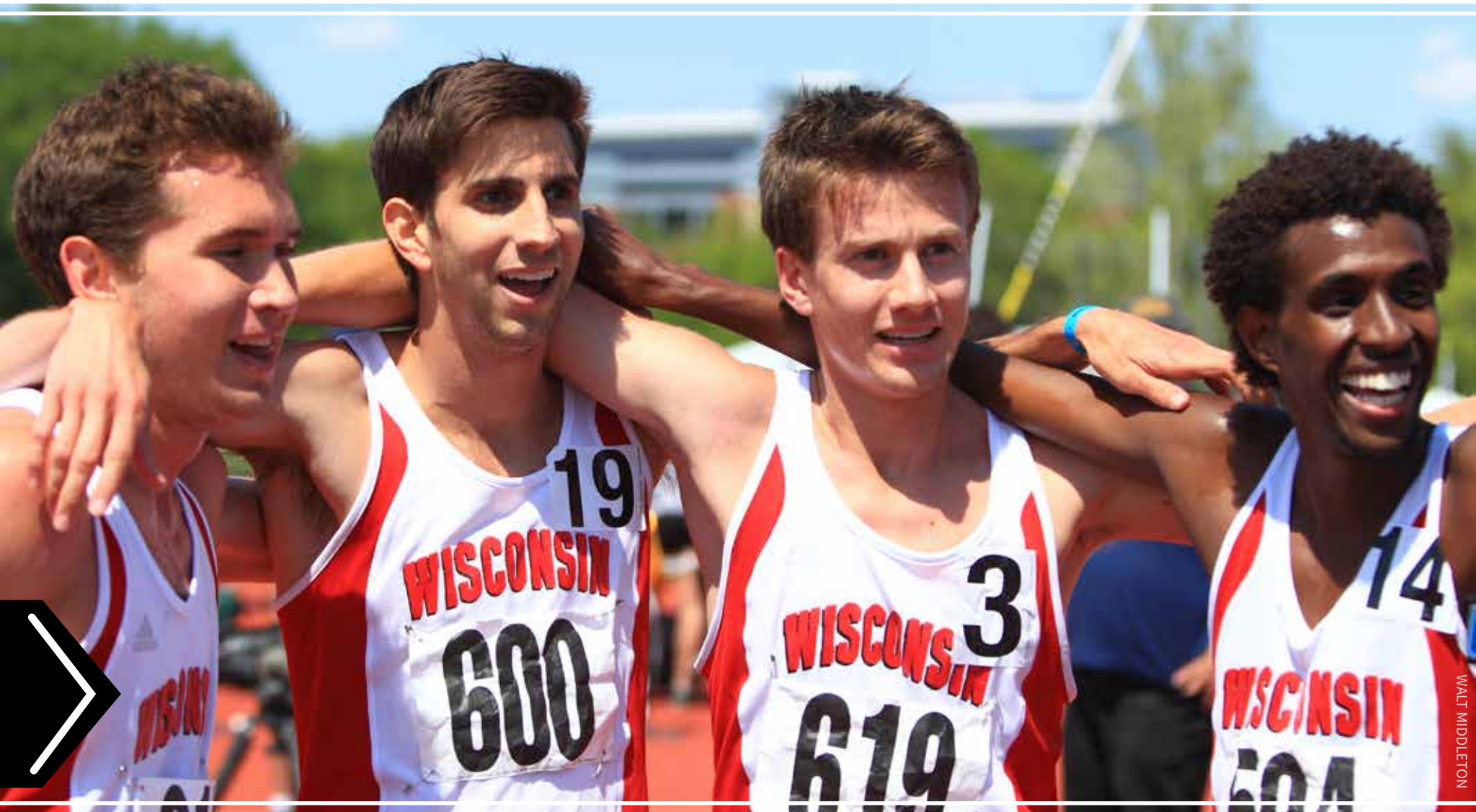
When Van Voorhis was given his spot on the team, he could not believe it.

"In my mind, I had always hoped that I would run as a Badger," he said. "I didn't know that it even could work out, nothing is ever guaranteed. Mick will even say that you don't have a divined right to your spot on the team. I took that to heart and ended up where I am now with a lot of hard work."

Van Voorhis has certainly taken that message to heart, to the point where Byrne needed to remind him that he no longer had something to prove.

COACH BYRNE ON VAN VOORHIS:
"BARRY ENDED UP LOVING THE STORY AND SAID 'LET'S GIVE THIS KID A SHOT.' IN THE END, WE GOT THE EXTRA ROSTER SPOT AND THE REST IS HISTORY."





“At one point I had to say to Mike, ‘You did it! You are on the team, you made the team, you are doing well and you need to stop proving that you belong here,’” Byrne said. “When he finally bought into it, things started to go well for him.”

Van Voorhis has come a long way from his days running for the track club. In the last two years, Van Voorhis has competed in both the 2012 and 2013 Big Ten Championship and the 2013 NCAA Cross Country Championship. Last year, he finished seventh in the 2013 NCAA Great Lakes Regional, earning all-region honors to go along with his first-team All-Big Ten nod.

As for his track and field career, Van Voorhis ran for the Cardinal and White at the Big Ten indoor and outdoor meets last year. His most notable accomplishment was finishing third in his first-ever 10,000 meters at the outdoor championships, right behind All-America teammates Mohammed Ahmed and Reed Connor. He scored again for UW two days later by placing eighth in the 5000 meters, which helped Wisconsin win the team title.

“I’m never going to forget finishing 1-2-3 in the 10K with Reed and Mo,” Van Voorhis said. “It

was an unreal experience for me, and to go 1-2-3-8 in the 5K is just unreal, as well. Scoring 49 points within the two events is something that I’m never going to forget because you don’t forget things like that.”

Van Voorhis later went on to compete at the NCAA West Preliminary Round, where he placed 17th in the 10,000 meters, barely missing the cut to qualify for the 2014 NCAA Outdoor Championships.

“Our business is all about confidence,” Byrne said. “You build confidence from season to season and you can see the progress that each kid makes. Michael knows now that when we go indoors and outdoors, he is the guy carrying the burden that the great distance runners before him did. He is the guy that we are going to be looking for points from, and I think he is ready for that.

“But in cross country, we are only going to be good as the whole team, so there is a different type of pressure there in being the team leader. Hopefully we have prepared him well to handle that pressure, because it is a completely different ballgame now.”

Van Voorhis learned how to lead from Maverick Darling, Ahmed and Connor. The trio played an instrumental part in the Badgers' NCAA cross country championship in 2011.

"They taught me how to train, how to race and I'm still learning that every race is a learning opportunity," Van Voorhis said. "Those guys, they taught me how to be a Badger and how to run Badger tough."

The transition from the Wisconsin Track Club to a varsity sport took some time getting used to.

"That first year, I was training with those guys but I couldn't yet race at that level," Van Voorhis said. "It takes a couple of years to be able to translate that running into racing."

This year, Van Voorhis is looking to do just that. His individual goal is to compete at the highest level as the national meet in November.

"I have to believe that I have a legitimate shot at being All-American this year," Van Voorhis said.

"He needs to settle back and stop trying to prove himself," Byrne said. "There is another level, and I would like to see him go after it this year. He needs to learn to think the race through and understand it. You have to have guts when you run, but you also have to have smarts. So, hopefully, we can see a translation from the engineering student to a leader who is getting out and running well and who can compete at a national level."


Van Voorhis says he is up to challenge of competing at that next level. This past summer was his most consistent in terms of training. He averaged 105 miles per week over the course of 14 weeks.

"I hit all my workouts well," Van Voorhis said. "I think I finally get the Mick Byrne training program. It took a while to learn, but I'm definitely excited moving into the championship season and for adidas."

The Wisconsin adidas Invitational will be one of the first huge tests for Van Voorhis and the Badgers, as UW will host 18 other ranked teams at the Zimmer Championship Course.

"Everyone across the nation comes to the adidas Invitational to have a fast race and to get points for at-large bids (to the NCAA championship)," Van Voorhis said. "I've talked to Mick and he said that as long as you're in the top 10 at adidas, you're pretty much going to go to nationals. I think we can do that. I think we will definitely be in the top 10 at adidas."

As for "Big Tens and beyond," as the Badgers describe their championship season, Van Voorhis is ready to go. He thinks the team is, too.

"We are coming off of a big September and it's only halfway through October," he said. "It is fun to go out there and have a nice, fun, hard race. I know my opener at the Louisville Classic was the fastest opener I have ever had. So I think we are going to be in great shape for adidas." 

“I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE A LEGITIMATE SHOT AT BEING ALL-AMERICAN THIS YEAR.”





DAVID STLUKA

GROUP EFFORT

Already an All-American as an individual, Emma-Lisa Murphy's focus has turned to helping bring along her rapidly-improving team.

BY SARAH WOODWARD ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Emma-Lisa Murphy begins her junior year with nothing short of full confidence. After an impressive 35th-place finish at the 2013 NCAA Championship, Murphy earned All-America honors, a first for the Wisconsin women's cross country team since 2010.

The honor has had a positive effect on Murphy's mentality and performance as she navigates her third season competing for the Badgers.

"I think it really kind of gave me the boost of confidence that I needed going into this season," Murphy said. "I know what I'm capable of based off of how I finished last year. I think it really gives you a lot of confidence to know that okay, yeah, I am on this higher place.

"It's hard to break through to that level, but now that I have, I feel that I am capable of more."

Certainly, she is. So far this season, Murphy has finished in the top three for the Badgers in all three meets, helping No. 16 Wisconsin win a pair of team titles and log a second-place finish.

Her contributions as a team leader and personality characteristics as a runner have made an impact on her success, according to UW Director of Track and Field and Cross Country Mick Byrne.

"It gives credit to her work ethic," Byrne said of Murphy's All-America standing a season ago. "She works very, very hard. She is very committed. It was a pleasant surprise, but kudos to her and her work ethic and for believing in herself."

With a newly-structured coaching staff featuring Byrne at the helm and first-year assistant Jill Miller working with the distance runners, the Badgers look to compete more as a team this season, leaving Murphy to take on a new role within the running pack.

"For this year, the focus is on the team and it is all about the team because, ultimately, it is all about the team. Cross country is a team sport," Byrne said. "It's fantastic for Murphy being an All-American and a leader for this team, but what we are focusing on is not any one individ-

ual right now, it is about the team.

“We know that Emma-Lisa understands her role in that process. We are only going to be as good as those individual pieces and we need all of those pieces to gel together. When we talk to them at practice and at workouts prior to races, the whole focus is about running with each other as opposed to running against each other.”

Along with a new team dynamic, the addition of Miller has left Murphy feeling even more confident about training, as well as races.

“Jill really knows a lot about the sport and knows how to put together a training plan to make you feel confident and ready to go for the races,” Murphy said.

Murphy’s role as a leader will be crucial to the success of the team as a whole.

After a fifth-place finish at the Big Ten meet a year ago, Murphy and the Badgers look to improve in the loaded conference, which features three other ranked teams, including No. 1 Michigan and No. 2 Michigan State.

“We want to get our nose in there, and really work together to see if we can compare to the highly-ranked teams such as Michigan and Michigan State,” Murphy said. “I think we really just want to be in the top three for Big Tens. I’m not sure where in that top three, but I’d say that’s just one

of our goals.

“We obviously want to also make it to nationals. We’re ranked 15th in the country, so I think we want to see if we could even shoot higher than 15th.”

“IT GIVES CREDIT TO HER WORK ETHIC,” BYRNE SAID OF MURPHY’S ALL-AMERICA STANDING A SEASON AGO. “SHE WORKS VERY, VERY HARD. SHE IS VERY COMMITTED.”


After earning All-America honors her sophomore year, Murphy would like to achieve that honor again, but also wants to improve at the Big Ten meet.

“I don’t want to put a whole bunch of pressure on myself,” Murphy said. “I think it’s best to

just have fun with it and enjoy the process, but obviously, I want to improve upon my finishes from last year. I’d love to be in the top 35 again at nationals, and be in the top-finishing places for Big Tens, as well.”

The Badgers will face 22 ranked teams this weekend at the Wisconsin adidas Invitational at the Zimmer Championship Course. That gives the Badgers an opportunity to use the meet as a springboard into championship season.

“There’s going to be so many ranked teams coming to adidas, so I think team-wise, we just want to put our nose in it,” Murphy said. “Obviously we’re waiting for nationals, but we want to see what we can do with the top teams in the country at adidas. It’s kind of our first really big meet of the season.

“If we can really work hard together and kind of see where we’re at with all the ranked teams, that’s what we’re really focusing on.” 



WALT MIDDLETON



UW talking practice (Red/White Scrimmage)

Fans can get first glance at this year's Badgers

Allen Iverson would certainly not approve. But, yes, we're talking about practice.

The Red/White Scrimmage for the Wisconsin men's basketball team, specifically. Ahead of a highly anticipated season, it's practice that will give fans their first live-game look at the 2014-15 Badgers.

That first glimpse comes this Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Kohl Center

With a large group of last year's team back and the memory of a trip to the 2014 Final Four still fresh in the minds of many, fans aren't the only ones ready to see the Badgers get back out on the court. The team itself is ready to get back out and prove that last year wasn't a fluke.

There's plenty left to work on.

"They know that there were eight, nine losses in there (last season) that we could have turned around by doing some things a little better," head coach Bo Ryan said. "I'd rather have them thinking how they could turn some of those things around rather than dwelling on people telling them, 'Hey, you guys ought to be pretty good this year.'"

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

Oct. 26	Red/White Scrimmage	1 p.m.
Nov. 5	UW-Parkside <i>(Exhibition)</i>	TBA
Nov. 14	Northern Kentucky	TBA
Nov. 16	Chattanooga	TBA
Nov. 19	Green Bay	TBA
Nov. 22	Boise State	TBA
<i>Battle 4 Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas</i>		
Nov. 26	vs. UAB	6 p.m.
Nov. 27	vs. Florida or Georgetown	TBA
Nov. 28	vs. TBA	TBA

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



'We saw growth in the seeds we planted'

Young Badgers makes strides in Alaska

The Badgers learned some things last weekend during their trip to Alaska. The large freshmen class is a talented bunch, for one.

After shaking out the nerves and getting their first collegiate game out of the way, the group and the entire team took a big step from the first game of the season to the second. The scoreboard might not show that, with a 1-0 loss to Alaska last Friday and a 4-2 defeat to Alaska Anchorage on Saturday, but it was clear by the quality of play.

After registering just 14 shots on goal last Friday, the Badgers more than doubled their output on Saturday with 29 shots.

After going scoreless on Friday, UW found the net twice on Saturday, both from the sticks of freshmen playing their second collegiate games. Actually, all six points on the night were credited to first-year players.

A lot of questions remain as the season moves into week two, but Wisconsin's freshmen proved themselves a talented bunch after one week of hockey, and will surely be looked on to provide a good chunk of the scoring throughout the season.

The improvement had the coaching staff sporting a positive

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (0-2-0)

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

RECENTLY

Oct. 10	vs. Alaska	L, 1-0
Oct. 11	at Alaska Anchorage	L, 4-2

COMING UP

Oct. 17	vs. Northern Michigan	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. Northern Michigan	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	North Dakota	7 p.m.
Nov. 8	North Dakota	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Colo. College	8:30 pm

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DAVID STLUKA

No. 1 UW looks to end Border Battle skid

Badgers ready for No. 2 Golden Gophers

When Wisconsin and Minnesota meet in a Border Battle matchup, there are always bragging rights on the line. But when the No. 1 Badgers host the No. 2 Golden Gophers at LaBahn Arena this weekend, there's even more riding on the series between two of the premier teams in women's hockey.

Wisconsin overtook Minnesota at the top of the polls after the Badgers swept Ohio State to improve to 6-0. The Gophers tied Minnesota Duluth last Saturday after defeating the Bulldogs on Friday night, but Minnesota's draw was enough to put Wisconsin over Minnesota in the rankings.

However, many in the hockey community, including Wisconsin head coach Mark Johnson, believe it's too soon to put any weight in the polls.

"It's early in the process," Johnson said. "I'm not sure why we've put up the rankings at this particular time. The Ivy schools haven't even played a game yet.

"But obviously if we're going to be successful, we have to go through Minnesota. They've been on top of the mountain here the last few years, and if you're going to get to where you want

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

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

RECENTLY

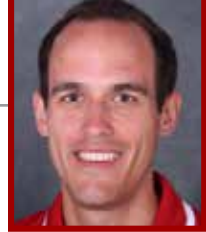
Oct. 10	Ohio State	W, 6-0
Oct. 12	Ohio State	W, 3-0

COMING UP

Oct. 17	#1 Minnesota	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	#1 Minnesota	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Bemidji State	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Bemidji State	4 p.m.
Oct. 31	at #10 N. Dakota	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at #10 N. Dakota	3 p.m.
Nov. 13	Minnesota State	7 p.m.
Nov. 14	Minnesota State	3 p.m.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Homecoming comes at the right time for UW

Badgers play four of last six games in Madison

There's no feeling quite like coming home, especially after a long day's work. It's been a long season for the Wisconsin men's soccer team, but there's encouragement in the fact that the team gets to return home for four of its final six games this season.

Even better, there should be plenty of excitement for the Badgers to host a couple of the country's premier teams this season in Ohio State and Indiana. The Hoosiers are nationally-ranked, while the Buckeyes are currently receiving votes and playing strong.

Wisconsin continues to work, despite its 2-8-1 record. While the year has been a long one, home has been a place of comforts for the Badgers. With a record of 2-3-1 at the McClimon Complex, each of the three losses have come by just one goal. Two of those contests went into overtime.

The margin for error is a thin one in the game of soccer, but the Badgers have been that close to being on the other side of things.

One of the most memorable games last season — and in program history — came against Indiana in Madison. With a crowd

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

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

RECENTLY

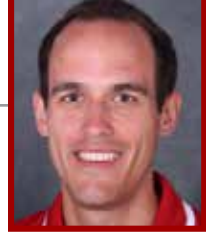
Oct. 1	at Marquette	L, 0-2
Oct. 4	Michigan	L, 1-2 (OT)
Oct. 7	Green Bay	W, 1-0
Oct. 11	at Michigan State	L, 1-2
Oct. 15	Loyola	T, 1-1

COMING UP

Oct. 18	Ohio State	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Milwaukee	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Penn State	1 p.m.
Nov. 1	Indiana	7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Northwestern	7 p.m.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

-SCROLL FOR MORE-



JACK McLAUGHLIN

Resilience key for Badgers down the stretch

Wisconsin displaying a will to win this season

The No. 12 Wisconsin women's soccer team continues to make each and every match count this season and has continued to earn the attention of the college soccer world with the growing success of this season.

While individual performances have stood out, the team's key to success has been in the overall effort and play of it as a group.

The Badgers are coming off one of the most challenging and rigorous stretches in its schedule, over which UW played four conference games in 10 days. That included home matches against formidable Big Ten foes in Penn State, Iowa and Nebraska, plus a road trip to play an always-dangerous Northwestern team. The team gritted out seven points during the period, going 2-1-1.

UW head coach Paula Wilkins said the two wins and three shutouts were a credit to the team as a whole. The resilience and mentality have stood out most this season to Wilkins.

"This win is a huge credit to our team," she said after a 2-0 victory at Northwestern. "Even at the end when we were hanging on, it shows the resilience and finding a way to win."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (12-2-1, 6-2-1)

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

RECENTLY

Sept. 26	at Indiana	W, 1-0
Sept. 28	at Purdue	W, 1-0
Oct. 3	Ohio State	W, 2-0
Oct. 5	#7 Penn State	L, 0-2
Oct. 8	Iowa	T, 0-0 (OT)
Oct. 12	at Northwestern	W, 2-0

COMING UP

Oct. 18	at Minnesota	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	Maryland	1 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Illinois	7 p.m.

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The importance of a great first impression

Badgers open season at Head of the Charles

You only get one chance to make a great first impression. According to Wisconsin men's rowing head coach Chris Clark, that first impression ends up having a rather large bearing on the success of the entire rowing season.

When the Wisconsin men's rowing team opens its fall season on Sunday at the prestigious Head of the Charles in Boston, there will be upwards of 400,000 people watching the races and taking part in the Charles River shoreline festivities. If they are watching closely, they should get a pretty good take on how the Badgers will compete during the 2014-15 school year.

"As a follower of a lot of other sports, the concept of 'pre-season' conjures up the images of meaningless contests with nothing much on the line," Clark remarked. "For our sport, fall racing is more like 'early, early season.'"

And that early, early season can provide a clear window into what will happen later in the year.

"While a tremendous amount of development and growth can happen in the six months between the Head of the Charles and our next big races, it's a little disconcerting how fall racing foretells spring success," Clark said. "For example, over the last

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

FALL

- Oct. 19 **Head of the Charles**
- Oct. 26 Princeton Chase
- Nov. 2 Head of the Huron

SPRING

- April 11 at Syracuse
- April 17 at Stanford Invitational
- April 18 at Stanford Invitational
- April 18 **Minnesota/MSOE**
- May 2 **Boston University/ MIT/Northeastern**

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Bryans: Charles a ‘celebration of the sport’

Fall’s most prestigious regatta in Boston

With the fall’s most prestigious regatta coming up this weekend, the Head of the Charles, we let women’s rowing coach Bebe Bryans give her take on the weekend. With upwards of 11,000 athletes and 400,000 spectators for the two-day event, it is much more than just a regatta. It is a celebration in the city of Boston.

“We are taking the largest contingent of women to the Charles that we ever have, at least in the current generation. We have two Championship 8 entries, a Lightweight 8 entry and a Club 4. The Club 4 is a new entry for us, and will be comprised of four of our top freshmen – we’re really excited about this!

“The Charles is a very unique race for a few reasons. First, it’s the largest and most famous rowing regatta in the world. It started as a way for crews to break up the monotony of fall ‘off-season’ training and has turned into a huge celebration of the sport. Second, while it doesn’t actually count towards spring racing rankings, it is a huge motivator for the boats that are racing and those rowers who aren’t in those boats, but want to be. And it’s a chance to go up against many of the main competitors we will be facing in the spring and get a feel for what’s what.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

Home events in **bold**.

FALL

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Oct. 19 | Head of the Charles
<i>Boston</i> |
| Oct. 25-26 | Mendota Challenge
<i>Madison</i> |
| Nov. 1-2 | Collegiate Small Boat
<i>Boston</i> |

SPRING

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| April 11 | Big Ten Double Dual
<i>Bloomington, Ind.</i> |
| April 25-26 | Big Ten/Big 12 Chall.
<i>Kansas City, Kan.</i> |
| May 2 | Minn./Michigan St.
<i>Baraboo, Wis. (Devil’s Lake)</i> |

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



SAVING THE BADGERS

OCTOBER 20, 1990: Outside hitter Susan Wohlford set the individual Big Ten Conference record for most digs in a single match with 44 vs. Iowa. The 5-7 Wohlford ended her career as the UW record holder for digs with 1,920.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



DOWNING THE HOOSIERS

OCTOBER 20, 1991:

After going 0-10-2 in the first 12 meetings, the men's soccer team posted its first-ever win over national power Indiana, 1-0, in Madison.



START OF A STREAK

OCTOBER 15, 1983:

The women's soccer team defeated Trinity, 9-0, to start a school-record 13-game winning streak that lasted until Sept. 22, 1984.



RETURN YARDS

OCTOBER 14, 1950:

Ed Withers tied the interception return yardage record in a single game with 103 yards as the Badgers beat Iowa, 14-0.