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MELVIN THE MAGNIFICENT

GORDON'S ABILITY TO
DISAPPEAR DOWN THE FIELD
IS LEADING TO A TRULY
MAGICAL SEASON

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COVER STORY

CATCH HIM IF YOU CAN

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VARSIITY

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Generation gap? Not for Eaves' freshmen

After hearing St. Louis Blues coach Ken Hitchcock make a presentation on millennials, or Generation Y, Wisconsin's Mike Eaves had one thought: "What is this? I hadn't dealt with those terms on a day-to-day basis, but once I started listening to him, I knew what he was talking about."

Eaves is a product of another generation, the baby boomers. He's 58 years old. Going into his 13th season, which opens this weekend in Alaska, he has 11 true freshmen on the roster. Only one other first-year class in school history was larger, the 1974-75 class, which had 15, including Eaves, then 18 years old.

Eaves claims that he has not had any senior moments. "I will tell you when you're around young people like this," he said, "you kind of feel like they do and you kind of think you look like they do until you walk in front of a mirror and then you go, 'Oh, geez, who's that guy with the gray hair?'"

To bridge any generation gap, he wanted to find out more about the freshmen. So he had them answer 10 questions, likes and dislikes. "You find insight on the kids," he said, "and when you talk to them you can pull out these little nuggets that say to them, 'Hey, he knows what's going on in my life.'"

Part of the exercise was learn-

ing more about their music. "On our team, it's mostly country, techno and rap," said Eaves. "I can listen to anything, even rap; there are a couple of good songs from Eminem. I will go from classical to the Dave Matthews Band to country, the whole spectrum."

During this discovery phase with the freshmen, Eaves realized "how vitally important their families are to them. It's phenomenal, they are very tightly-knitted to their parents and

have a story."

Take freshman goalie Gabe Grunwald. His dad, Glen Grunwald, was the captain of the 1981 Indiana basketball team that won the NCAA title. Later, he was an NBA general manager with Toronto and the New York Knicks. He's now the athletic director at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

In this case, Eaves had a book on his office shelf that came in handy during the recruiting process. It's "Knight: My Story," chronicling the life and times of former Indiana coach Bobby Knight. "It was interesting meeting some-

“THEY’RE TRYING TO GROW UP, THEY’RE TRYING TO GO TO SCHOOL, THEY’RE TRYING TO FIGURE LIFE OUT AT THIS LEVEL. THEY ALL HAVE A STORY.”

siblings. I think part of it is the way we can communicate with each other with texting and Skyping and Facebook."

That's definitely characteristic of millennials. But there are so many other things that are true of every freshman class. "We're dealing with young people," Eaves said. "They're trying to grow up, they're trying to go to school, they're trying to figure life out at this level. They all





one who played for him,” Eaves said.

There’s one set of brothers in the freshman class: Jason Ford, 20, and Keegan Ford, 18. They’re the sons of Pat Ford, a feisty former UW hockey player and assistant. “You need to have guys with fire in their belly,” Eaves said, “and I’m sure we’re going to have to pull the reins back a couple of times.”

You could hear Eaves snicker knowing “you can’t teach” that fire and “it’s good to have” that intensity. One of Eaves’ assistant coaches, Gary Shuchuk, definitely had all of that, and more, when he skated for the Badgers and now Shuchuk’s son, Alex, is joining the team as a walk-on freshman.

“He comes in as a 15th forward,” Eaves said, “but he has an opportunity to grow.”

Nurturing the freshmen will be a part of the process. “They’re going to go through a lot of bumps and bruises here early,” Eaves said. “It just goes with the territory. The nice thing that we have — and we’re hoping that it comes to fruition for us — is the fact that we have two senior goalies.”

Joel Rumpel and Landon Peterson have experienced the highs and lows of college hockey. “And they can buy some time for these guys to learn and not have a mistake turn into a goal,” Eaves said, “which is a hard way to learn. They can buy time for them to mature and get their

feet under them.”

So far, Eaves reported, the older players have been very giving and receptive to the freshmen. “They recognize that if we’re going to accelerate the process here,” Eaves said, “they have to bring them into the fold and hold them accountable, but they also have to teach them what we’re all about.”

Ready or not, it’s north to Alaska for games in the Kendall Hockey Classic in Anchorage. “We’re going to play against two older teams,” Eaves said. “That will be a real test, but our guys know how to swim. Yes, we’re putting them in the deep end right away, but in the long run that’s how you get better.”

That’s how you grow. ■





Many factors will go into CFP rankings

With the fast-paced offenses as wide open as they are today in college football, you have the capability to score a lot of points, so even if you get behind, you have a chance to come back.

Take a look at that Cal-Arizona game from a couple of weeks ago. Arizona was down by three touchdowns at halftime but rallied for the win by scoring 36 points in the fourth quarter.

So nothing surprises me anymore, not even all the top-10 teams that lost last week. There's a lot of parity and a more level playing field. And it's good for the game. It keeps people interested.

A year ago at this time, Auburn wasn't even on the radar, Auburn wasn't ranked. The next thing you know they're in the national championship game. It could happen again with someone this year.

Along with Patrick Herb, who's from our Athletic Communications office, I've come up with statistics that I feel are important in helping evaluate teams for the College Football Playoff.

When we looked at the profile of the top two teams over the last 10 years, Relative Scoring Offense and Relative Scoring Defense ranked one and two as the most reliable profile items.

So if a team scores 35 points against a team that allows 28

per game, they would have a 125% Relative Scoring Offense. A higher percentage is good on offense, not so good on defense.

I have a battery of things that the statistics company can pull up for me and we can compare four different teams at one time and see where they rank in all of the items that we think are important.

It all helps in getting a better profile of each team. And now those stats are starting to mean something as you get into conference play and teams are playing a tougher schedule.

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As a coach, I looked at seven different areas. They showed what we did and what our opponent did and why we won or lost. If you won the seven areas, you usually won the game.

One area was mental errors. I didn't know how many our opponent had. But I wanted to be in single digits on both sides of the ball.

Minus-yardage plays were another area. How many do you have? How many do you create? If two teams are very close, it

would probably be something I would pull up to see how they compare.

Average starting field position is a vital statistic and that includes turnovers and the kicking game. All you have to do is take a look at what happened to us in the first half at Northwestern.

Four of our first five offensive possessions started inside our own 10 yard line. Northwestern's average field position in the first quarter was the 30. That's a big difference.

During the evaluation process, if everything looks even, and the records are even, you will look at head-to-head competition, common opponents and comparative scores.

At the end of the year, you could have a number of teams that look very similar and you have to have some way to get to that total profile. Strength of schedule also has to play into it.

There are a number of things that you can use to build that profile of each team. Learning more about who they are — and what they are — allows you to make some decisions and rank a Top 25.

The statistics are another tool to help you get it right and justify a decision as a selection committee member. It's not just the eye test, it's not just the won-lost record. A lot of things play into it. ■



Patience needed as UW looks to rebound

For whatever reason, it is difficult for many of us to understand why the Badgers struggle on the football field against Northwestern.

Perhaps it is time we understand a cold, hard fact. In the last two decades, this series is split down the middle. Starting in 1995, the programs have met 14 times. Wisconsin has seven wins. So does Northwestern.

Barry Alvarez's teams had their troubles with Northwestern. Bret Bielema's group suffered a close loss in 2009. Now Gary Andersen's Badgers took a hit in last week's conference opener.

While not an elite program, the Wildcats have been competitive long enough to give a number of teams trouble from time to time. The Wisconsin-Northwestern series is a rivalry. A true rivalry means both sides get their share of victories. Certainly, that has been the case with UW-NU.

The good news is these teams play in the Big Ten's West Division. At least for the foreseeable future, the Badgers and the Cats will meet on a yearly basis. The rivalry resumes next November at Camp Randall Stadium.

Of more immediate concern for the Badgers and their fans is how to fix what needs fixing. Coach Andersen sees room for improvement from his defense. Too many missed tackles. It still

can give up too many big plays. Yet, the Badgers rank in the top 25 in the four major defensive statistical categories — rushing defense (22), pass defense (15), total defense (8) and scoring defense (11).

What they want is more turnovers. The Badgers rank near the bottom of the league in turnover margin with a minus-4. In a couple of games this season, the defense has forced some timely turnovers. However, last week it produced none.

On offense, the quarterback situation is well-documented. The need for the wide receiver group to accelerate its growth remains a hot topic as well.

Alex Erickson and Sam Arneson are doing some heavy lifting in the passing game. It was encouraging to see Kenzel Doe catch four passes last Saturday, including his first career TD reception.

Last week the offense took a shot with a long pass to freshman George Rushing. While credit is due to Northwestern cornerback Matthew Harris for breaking up the throw, perhaps in time that is a play a young receiver will be able to make.

The young players are just that — young. Wisconsin remains a developmental program, and that is OK.

As fans, it is natural to want such players to be instant stars.

Sometimes they are, but generally speaking, it takes time.

The quarterback position always generates the most conversation, and that will be the case again this week. Is it an ideal scenario to have a two-quarterback system? Maybe not, but let's see how it plays out.

Tanner McEvoy is a terrific athlete. Offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig and his group will continue to work at finding ways to make this versatile player more effective.

Joel Stave is an experienced quarterback with a proven ability to throw the football. He also is a tough young man who has battled through a ton of stuff to get back on the field. Quite frankly, that alone impresses the heck out of this observer.

I am looking forward to seeing what the Badgers have cooked up for these two quarterbacks. Oh, and it never hurts when you have perhaps the best running back in college football on your side. Watching Melvin Gordon is a treat. Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald compares him to the late Walter Payton. Kind of hard to argue with Coach Fitz.

Yes, Gordon could use some help. If the Badgers can find a way to provide it, this season could still be very good. With seven regular season games remaining, it's worth giving them a chance to fix what needs fixing. ■

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE APP ON YOUR PHONE?



SAMANTHA ARENTS
Freshman • Softball

“My favorite apps have to be the **Calendar** and the **Reminders** apps. I utilize both throughout the day seeing as I can be a very forgetful person. Every day right when someone tells me about a meeting or a paper that’s due I put it right into both apps so it reminds me of the things I need to do.”



ALEX HATZ
Senior • Men's XC

“**Spotify** is definitely one of my favorite apps. I love listening to music, and it lets me listen to music on the go. **Instagram** is another favorite app of mine. I’m all about posting pictures of my dog.”



MORGAN ZULINICK
Sophomore • Men's Hockey

“**Netflix**. I watch it every night on my phone before bed. I rest it on one of my pillows and it helps me go to sleep. I have been watching *The Black List* lately. It’s a crime TV show me and Kevin Schulze just got into. That’s pretty much what I have been watching. Or *Trailer Park Boys*. It’s pretty big up in Canada.”



NICOLE BAUMAN
Junior • Women's Basketball

“My favorite app on my phone is probably **Vine** because I think the videos are hilarious. I could honestly just sit on my couch and watch Vines for like three hours a day.”





CHASE DRAKE

Senior defenseman Chase Drake is one of Wisconsin's co-captains as men's hockey opens its 2014-15 season in Alaska this weekend. Drake redshirted as a freshman and has worked his way into the lineup as a key cog on the blue line. A star high school quarterback and pitcher at Mosinee High School, Drake brought a little bit of home with him to the Badgers as his sister skates for the UW women's hockey team.

As a Wisconsin native, what does it mean to be a team captain?

"I'm definitely excited. It's an honor to be able to be captain of your team, especially from your home state. And to be voted on by your teammates so it's definitely a big honor and something I look forward to carrying the tradition on."

Does the challenge of being captain increase with so many young players on the team?

"Yes, I think compared to last year it will be a little bit different in the terms of leadership. Last year we had a great captain in Frank (Simonelli) and we had a lot of older guys who could help lead by example. This year, I think we are outnumbered a little bit by the younger class so we'll definitely be a little more vocal and take things slow, but they are catching on quick."

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

QUICK Qs WITH CHASE

Red or white uniforms?

"I like the Red Storm. I love the jerseys. It's fun to play in front of the home crowd."

Favorite Packers quarterback?

"Favre! I'm a big Favre fan."

Favorite place to eat?

"Probably Chipotle. It's quick and easy. You get a lot of food for a little price so you can't beat that when you are in college."

Best app on your phone?

"Pandora. I listen to 'Today's Top Country Songs.' And then we have a thing in the locker room I introduced, 'Petey Pablo Wednesday.' It's from when I was in high school, what was popular rap music."

Biggest time-waster?

"Definitely Xbox or TV in general. NHL, FIFA and Call of Duty."

As a personal finance major, has your family asked for investment advice?

"Ha! No they have not. My dad was trying to quiz me one day and I didn't know that much yet, so he said he is going to keep the investing to himself for right now."



now you see him.

Melvin Gordon's ability to disappear down the field in a flash has his coaches, teammates — and even opponents — offering appreciation for an amazing athlete whose biggest goal remains leading the Badgers as far as his legs will carry him.

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

RON DAYNE WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE airport Monday morning to keep a date with the College Football Hall of Fame, a destination that has been on his GPS since becoming the NCAA's all-time leading rusher and winning the Heisman Trophy in 1999.

But there has been a route adjustment since Dayne was named to the Class of 2013. The Hall of Fame has moved from South Bend, Indiana, to Atlanta, where it's located downtown, adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park and minutes away from the Georgia Dome.

Dayne was looking forward to taking part in Tuesday's Dedication Gala, highlighted by the Enshrinement Ceremony featuring Dayne and fellow enshrinees such as Ohio State's Orlando Pace, Nebraska's Tommie Frazier, Florida's Danny Wuerffel, Miami's Vinny Testaverde, et al.

Less than two hours from Athens and the University of Georgia campus, the distinctive new Hall of Fame facility (totaling over 94,000 square feet) is in the heart of SEC country; the conference's championship game has been held annually in the Georgia Dome since 1994.

Given the locale, and the football passion of

its residents, Dayne fully anticipated some lively debate on the Heisman Trophy qualifications of Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon versus Georgia's Todd Gurley. Along with Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah, they rank a cut above the rest nationally at the tailback position.

Asked if he would have any trouble coming up with an argument for taking Gordon over Gurley and Abdullah, Dayne conceded his Badgers bias — he still serves as an ambassador for the UW athletic department — and then said, “That’s not hard to argue Melvin. That’s easy. Just look at the facts.”

Fair enough. Gordon leads the nation in rushing average per game (174.2); Gurley is No. 3 (154.6) and Abdullah is No. 4 (146.3). Gordon also is the leader in average yards per carry (8.30); Gurley is No. 2 (8.22) and Abdullah is No. 17 (6.36). The last three games, Gordon is averaging 231 and 9.63.

“Gurley from Georgia, he looks like Melvin, but he’s not Melvin,” Dayne said. “Abdullah from Nebraska, he kind of looks like Melvin, but he’s not like Melvin, either. I just think that Melvin has got a different style and a different way of



“Gurley from Georgia (*left*), he looks like Melvin, but he’s not Melvin,” Dayne said. “Abdullah from Nebraska (*right*), he kind of looks like Melvin, but he’s not like Melvin, either. I just think that Melvin has got a different style and a different way of running the ball. You just have to see him play.”

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Gordon is the active career leader in rushing average per carry, 8.14 yards. Gurley is next at 6.54. The all-time FBS record-holder in this category is the late Glenn Davis, who averaged 8.27 in the mid-‘40s at Army. Davis was nicknamed Mr. Outside while his teammate, Doc Blanchard, was Mr. Inside.

Davis, the 1946 Heisman Trophy winner, had a Badgers connection. In 1996, he married Yvonne Ameche, the widow of UW fullback Allan Ameche, who won the Heisman in 1954. For the sake of comparison to Gordon’s 8.14 average, Ameche finished at 4.8 yards and Dayne at 5.8 per rush.

With 3,199 career rushing yards, Gordon needs 147 Saturday against Illinois to move past Ameche, a fellow native of Kenosha, Wisconsin. That would place him 10th in UW history. Gordon has rushed for at least 140 yards in a game 14 times, the most of any active FBS player. Abdullah has done it seven times.

“I can’t say that there’s one running back that Melvin reminds me of,” Dayne said. “Before, I used to say it was Eric Dickerson (a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame). But he doesn’t run as high as Dickerson (who was 6-3, 220) and he has more breakaway speed than Eric.”

Dayne has noticed physical similarities between the 6-foot-1, 213-pound Gordon and Kansas City Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles, who’s 5-11, 199. Both wear No. 25 and dreadlocks. Charles, a third-round pick out of Texas in the 2008 draft, is among the NFL’s active leaders in yards per carry (5.5).

“Melvin is a little bigger and I think he’s a little faster,” Dayne said. “They both run like track guys with high knee lifts and breakaway speed. Some people don’t think Melvin is that fast because of how big he is. But once he gets outside, tacklers are like, ‘I took the wrong angle’ and he’s gone.”

Gordon leads the FBS in plays of 40-plus (7), 50-plus (5) and 60-plus (3) yards.

“He has shown a little bit of everything this

year,” Dayne said. “He has shown balance, good footwork and quickness. You have to have balance to get through the hole the right way and balance when you get hit so you’re able to keep going. He has done a great job with that.”

Gordon has rushed for over 200 yards in two of the last three games: he had 253 against Bowling Green, 181 against South Florida and 259 against Northwestern. It was the third time in his career that he has gone over 200. In the 2012 Big Ten title game, he had 216 against Nebraska.

(Dayne rushed for 231 yards or more eight times, including a school-record 339.)

Despite Gordon’s career-high Saturday, the Badgers still lost, 20-14. “You have to go out and do what you can to help the team win, and he did,” said Dayne, who would tell Gordon, “Just keep running like you have been running, just keep running hard” and everything will take care of itself.

As far as the Heisman vote, Dayne would also tell Gordon, “Keep doing what you’re doing. We



“I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE OUT THERE DOING WHAT MELVIN IS DOING.”
-ROB HAVENSTEIN



DAVID STLUKA

lost two games when I won the Heisman. Just keep playing. It goes to the best player, not the best team. Keep performing well and keep giving your team an opportunity to win and you'll get your votes.”

Dayne believes that it's alright to play with a little anger, too, which Gordon has admitted to doing at times this season because of perceived slights. Dayne played that way in '99 after his Heisman worthiness was challenged by some national media outlets, including Sports Illustrated.

“It didn't bother me,” Dayne said of the criticism, “it just motivated me. It made me want to go out and show them that I could play and I was deserving of the Heisman. Guys hear stuff on TV about how they're the fourth- or fifth-best running back, and hearing that really motivates them.”

Gordon's off-field persona may even exceed his Heisman credentials, according to Dayne. “I like the way he has handled himself off the field,” he said. “Everybody speaks highly of him, they love him. I respect that a lot more than even what you do on the field with your natural ability.”

Dayne feels that Gordon is a natural. “He's doing what he did last year,” Dayne noted, “but at a bigger rate because of the fact that he gets the ball more and a majority of the carries. Like I said earlier, a couple of backs have almost the same running style. But it's tough to compare him to anybody.”

.....
Melvin Gordon has seen enough clips of ol' No. 33, Ron Dayne, to know how they differ.

“I'm probably a little faster than he was and he was definitely a lot stronger than me,” Gordon said. “He was strong and powerful but he also had the speed to take it to the house. He was an incredible player for Wisconsin. What he did can't be matched. We're all unique in our own ways.”

That last comment led to a discussion on how Gordon matches up with Gurley and Abdullah.

“Gurley is just a big dude,” Gordon said of the 6-1, 233-pound Georgia tailback. “He'll probably run through you and hurdle people. He's pretty much doing it all right now, even throwing passes. Ameer is quicker than both of us. We're all explosive, but Ameer is just way quicker.”

Dayne mentioned that “Melvin hasn't missed too many holes,” which speaks to his vision, a component in big plays. He's running to daylight and getting to the second level. “As a running back,” Gordon said, “you have to have good vision and I feel like I do.”

Wisconsin linebacker Joe Schobert sees Gordon as a “scary athlete, explosive, fast, strong.”

Schobert, a former high school tailback, can appreciate how those skills set Gordon apart.

“You see his balance when he gets hit,” he said, “and somehow just sticks a hand out and keeps going. If you don't wrap him up, you're not guaranteed to get him down. And if he gets

▼ GORDON'S 50-YARD RUNS ▼

WISCONSIN

51 YARDS · at **Purdue** · October 13, 2012

56 YARDS (TD) · vs. **Nebraska** · December 1, 2012

60 YARDS · vs. **Nebraska** · December 1, 2012

70 YARDS (TD) · vs. **UMass** · August 31, 2013

65 YARDS · vs. **Tennessee Tech** · September 7, 2013

80 YARDS (TD) · at **Arizona State** · September 14, 2013

71 YARDS (TD) · vs. **Northwestern** · October 12, 2013

63 YARDS · vs. **LSU** · August 30, 2014

69 YARDS (TD) · vs. **Bowling Green** · September 20, 2014

50 YARDS (TD) · vs. **Bowling Green** · September 20, 2014

58 YARDS · at **Northwestern** · October 4, 2014

61 YARDS · at **Northwestern** · October 4, 2014

TAP THE PLAY BUTTONS
TO VIEW VIDEOS

by you, you're not going to catch him. He's just a scary offensive weapon that you have to try and contain.

"There were a couple of times in fall camp where I was running behind him and my legs seemed like they were moving twice as fast as his and he kept pulling away. It's deceptive speed because he's a long strider. But once you put him on tape, you'll see him outrun them (tacklers) time and time again."

Wisconsin right offensive tackle Rob Havenstein cited Gordon's intangibles.

"He's a terrific team guy," said Havenstein, a fifth-year senior and team leader. "His individual effort is just outstanding. You can never fault him for that. You never have to worry about his effort on the field. You know that he's going to give you everything that he has.

"All we're trying to do as an offensive line is trying to get him up to the second or third level and make him shake a guy (make a tackler miss). I think he does that better than anyone in college football right now. I don't think there's

anyone out there doing what Melvin is doing."

Last Saturday, Gordon had a 61-yard run on his first carry of the third quarter, a continuation of a trend that has seen him average 42.8 yards on his first carry after halftime. That has included a 63-yard run against LSU and a 69-yard touchdown run against Bowling Green.

Havenstein couldn't explain the timing of such big runs. "I guess I really don't know," he said. "But Melvin has a chance to do that on every single play just because he's that special of a guy. As far as that specific time (first touch in the second half), you're going to have to ask him."

When Gordon was asked about it Monday, he confessed that he was unaware of the stat.

"We've been behind lately at half," he said, "and I'll be ticked off."

He stayed that way Saturday. Gordon watched the Northwestern game after he got home. And he watched it again Sunday morning. He said that it's not unusual for him to watch snippets of the same game a couple of more times during

the day on Sunday when he isn't watching the NFL.

"You watch it and then you come back and watch it again," he said, "because you might see what you could have done better on something you may have missed from watching it before. There are always things that you can fix and make better in your game; things I felt I could have done better."

Gordon did what he could at Northwestern, but it still wasn't enough to pull the Badgers through in their Big Ten opener. At his weekly news conference, UW coach Gary Andersen pointed out that Gordon had "an unbelievable game again and I'm sure there are more to come."

Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald compared Gordon to the late Walter Payton before Saturday's game. The irony is that Gordon has always been a fan of Payton, the Chicago Bears Hall of Famer, and used to watch old clips of Payton because he was his father's favorite player.

"As advertised," Fitzgerald said of Gordon af-

GORDON AND THE GREATS

A look at how Melvin Gordon's career has started to stack up against some of the best running backs in college football history:

Player, School (Years)	Att.	Yards	Avg.
Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin (2011-14)	393	3,199	8.14
Reggie Bush, USC (2003-05)*	433	3,169	7.32
Mike Rozier, Nebraska (1981-83)*	734	5,120	6.98
Billy Sims, Oklahoma (1975-79)*	593	4,118	6.94
Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State (1986-88)*	558	3,797	6.80
Gale Sayers, Kansas (1962-64)	412	2,675	6.49
Bo Jackson, Auburn (1982-85)*	735	4,714	6.41
Archie Griffin, Ohio State (1972-75)*	924	5,589	6.05
Ron Dayne, Wisconsin (1996-99)*	1,220	7,125	5.84
Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh (1973-76)*	1,163	6,526	5.61
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma (2004-06)	747	4,045	5.41
Herschel Walker, Georgia (1980-82)*	1,083	5,596	5.17

**Heisman Trophy winner*

terward. "He has patience, does a great job setting things up; he's tough and physical. He ran through some tackles that probably anyone we play outside of Ameer Abdullah, they're going down." (The Wildcats still have to play Nebraska.)

Speaking to what was essentially a one-man gang on offense, even though Northwestern was loading the box to stop Gordon, Andersen said, "I'm excited about the

level of play and where he is and the situations that he's putting us in to be able to have an opportunity to win games."

Andersen can't imagine anyone in the country playing at a higher level than Gordon.

"Right now there is nobody better," he said. "I'm biased, I'm sure, but he's an unbelievable force out there on the football field. When you walk by that young man after the game and first thing he does is walk up to you and say, 'Sorry, Coach,' are you kidding me? That's a class individual."

Why did Gordon feel like he had to apologize?

BEST OF THE BACKS

As the nation's leading rusher, Gordon sits at the head of a talented class of running backs. Here's how the nation's top tailbacks stack up in 2014, in terms of yards, touchdowns, rushing average and long runs:

Player	School	Gm	Att.	Yds	TD	Avg.	Yds/Gm	20+	30+	40+	50+	60+
Melvin Gordon	Wisconsin	5	105	871	9	8.30	174.2	13	8	7	5	3
Todd Gurley	Georgia	5	94	773	8	8.22	154.6	9	5	4	2	0
Ameer Abdullah	Nebraska	6	138	878	10	6.36	146.3	9	2	2	1	0
James Conner	Pittsburgh	6	155	873	9	5.63	145.5	7	2	2	1	1
Duke Johnson	Miami	6	100	625	5	6.25	104.2	5	2	1	1	0
T.J. Yeldon	Alabama	5	77	407	2	5.29	81.4	2	0	0	0	0

“Just because we didn’t get the job done, as a group, as an offense,” he said. “We had some goals this year and they’re a little tough to reach now. I apologized to him because we didn’t get the job done and we didn’t do what we’re trained to do.”

Did he think it was possible to lose a game in which he rushed for over 200 yards? “Never,” Gordon said. “When you get that many rushing yards you’ve got to assume you’re doing what you need to do on offense but obviously that wasn’t the case.”

In the next breath, he confided, “I need some encouragement myself at times because it’s disappointing to lose like that. But I had some guys talk to me and we’ve got to regroup together. It’s a long season and we still have a lot to play for. We have to continue to play Wisconsin foot-

ball ...”

Like he finished all of his runs at Northwestern — with authority — he finished that thought.

“We have to find an edge,” he said, “and a way to win these games.”

That came through loud and clear to his teammates at Ryan Field.

“RIGHT NOW THERE IS NO-BODY BETTER,” ANDERSEN SAID.
“HE’S AN UNBELIEVABLE FORCE OUT THERE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD.”

“You can look at him,” Schobert said, “as an example of how to play in a game no matter what.”

“At some points,” Havenstein said, “Melvin makes a lot out of nothing.”

And there’s so much more to make out of this

season, Gordon emphasized.

Stressing that same point, Dayne’s advice to Gordon would be, “Don’t worry about anything else besides playing hard and giving it your best and showing them that you are the best.”

That’s coming from the best, a Hall of Famer. 



DAVID STLUKA



- WISCONSIN MEN'S HOCKEY -

SEASON PREVIEW

BY PAUL CAPOBIANCO ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

SOMEONE IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR.

They are knocking loud.
And it's a really big door.

Who is going to answer it?

That is the overarching question in the minds of coaches, staff, student-athletes and fans of Wisconsin men's hockey.

The 26 student-athletes who will wear Cardinal and White on the ice for the 2014-15 school year have combined for 59 goals, 117 assists and 176 points in 631 career played.

Let's put that in perspective.

Michael Mersch finished his four-year Badger career last spring with 67 goals in 157 games played. Mark Zengerle wrapped up his UW tenure with 162 points in four seasons. Head coach Mike Eaves left campus after his playing days with 94 goals and 267 points in 160 games played.

That doesn't mean everything is a question with regards to the Badgers, however.

Maybe the most important position in the sports world — goaltender — appears to be in good hands. Returning Hobey Baker and Mike Richter Award finalist Joel Rumpel in goal is a great place to build a team around. The senior has edged himself into Wisconsin's top-10 lists in various career cumulative goaltending statistics, while some of his averages are on track to rank among the very best in Wisconsin lore when all is said and done.

The Badgers also boast proven netminder Landon Peterson, who averages 2.70 goals against and a .904 save percentage in the 36 games he's played in his career.

Building from the goal out is one common hockey philosophy, so UW's success in 2014-15 may hinge on the shoulders of those two seniors.

"With their experience and what they've seen over the last three years here in their career, we're going to have to have them be good to very good to excellent some nights because as you see, we're going to have a bunch of young kids out there," head coach Mike Eaves said. "But having them there, our hope is that it will settle us down, pause us and give us time to grow and learn from our mistakes. I'm glad we have seniors in that position because that should buy us some time."

The job of keeping pucks out of the UW goal won't fall solely on Rumpel and Peterson. UW's defensive corps will have some say in what happens around the net.

In 2013-14, Wisconsin had the same six defenseman play all but one game the entire season, so with three of those six returning, the Badgers will have some force for the force field they'll set



Senior goaltender Joel Rumpel was named to the preseason watch list for the Mike Richter Award, which goes to the nation's top goaltender. He was a top-five finalist for the award in 2013-14.



Freshman defenseman Jack Dougherty joins UW's blue line after getting drafted in the second round of the NHL draft by the Nashville Predators.

up around the slot. Six-foot, four-inch Florida Panthers' draft pick Eddie Wittchow will provide the size, while 5-10 Kevin Schulze will contribute his speed and senior Chase Drake will give his athleticism.

"They'll take a quantum leap in their responsibilities," said Eaves of the three returners. "They're ready for that leap now. I remember hearing from another coach one time — 'they're a bunch of pine trees that were saplings but they were surrounded by other big trees, and now that those trees are gone, the full sunlight will be on them.' They're going to take a growth spurt here. They've got a couple years under their belt so they're ready for that step and they want that responsibility."

Tim Davison, who redshirted last season, is a Green Bay, Wisconsin, product ready to become a mainstay on the blue line. Expect Nashville Predators pick Jack Dougherty, who could be part of the U.S. world junior team, to slide right into the lineup, as well. Waunakee's Keegan Ford and Brookfield's Jake Linhart make four

rear guards who could all make their college debuts when the season gets underway in Alaska in October.

"Tim has been around and has an idea of what to expect so I'm interested to see what his step will be," Eaves stated. "Will it be a big step right away? Will it be a little step? He's a good hockey player."

"Jack [Dougherty] is an early second round pick because he has some pretty wonderful God-given abilities of athleticism in the game of hockey. He loves the game and wants to play the game at a high level. He has high expectations. I think that he'll be given a lot of responsibility as a young defenseman but he has those tools. He's a right-handed shot, sees the ice well, skates well, can get the puck to the net. He's going to kind of be that freshman quarterback in the power play."

"Both Jake Linhart and Keegan Ford are guys are coming out of the USHL. I saw Jake play when he was sixteen years old. He sees the ice very well, makes a good pass, has offensive abil-

ities, good skater. I think that Jake, as he gets some experience here, is going to be a guy that we will rely on to be on the power play.

“The first thing that comes to my mind about Keegan Ford is ultimate competitor. He’s a pretty good hockey player too. Don’t let his stature make you think that he’s anything but the biggest dog on the ice, because he’s got a great competitive spirit and won’t back down to anybody. And he’s got those makings of being a leader down the line because of his competitiveness.”

In recent seasons, the Wisconsin defensemen have been a large part of UW’s offensive threat and the squad will need that to continue.

They will also need scoring threats to emerge from the front lines.

Senior forward Joseph LaBate returns as the team’s leading scorer after posting 11 goals and 22 points as a junior. His goal total accounts for one-third of Wisconsin’s returning goal total from last season.

Add sophomore forward Grant Besse’s eight goals to the mix and nearly two thirds of what UW has back on the ice in goal scoring comes from the sticks of just two skaters.

“Guys like Joseph LaBate, if you take a look from a production standpoint, he was a double digit goal scorer for us last year,” Eaves said. “He needs to continue that. Mr. Besse will go from single digits to double digits – he’s going to have a lot more responsibility, a lot more ice time. He’s bigger, stronger, he went to a second NHL

GOALTENDERS AT A GLANCE

Letterwinners Returning: Joel Rumpel (Sr.), Landon Peterson (Sr.), Adam Miller (Jr.)

Letterwinners Lost: None

Newcomers: Gabe Grunwald (Toronto, Ontario)

DEFENSEMEN AT A GLANCE

Letterwinners Returning: Chase Drake (Sr.), Kevin Schulze (Jr.), Eddie Wittchow (Jr.)

Letterwinners Lost: Frankie Simonelli, Jake McCabe, Joe Faust, Gavin Hartzog

Newcomers: Jack Dougherty (Cottage Grove, Minn.), Keegan Ford (Waunakee, Wis.), Jake Linhart (Brookfield, Wis.)

Others: Tim Davison (RS Fr.)

FORWARDS AT A GLANCE

Letterwinners Returning: Joseph LaBate (Sr.), Brad Navin (Sr.), Matt Paape (Sr.), Morgan Zulinick (So.), Grant Besse (So.), Jedd Soleway (So.)

Letterwinners Lost: Tyler Barnes, Jefferson Dahl, Nic Kerdiles, Sean Little, Michael Mersch, Keegan Meuer, Mark Zengerle

Newcomers: Jason Ford (Waunakee, Wis.), Cameron Hughes (Edmonton, Alberta), Cullen Hurley (Eagan, Minn.), Adam Rockwood (Coquitlam, B.C.), Alex Shuchuk (Madison, Wis.), Matt Ustaski (Glenview, Ill.), Ryan Wagner (Park Ridge, Ill.)

Others: Corbin McGuire (RS Fr.)

camp and that all helps make him a better player for here.”

Opportunity is knocking for the rest of the forward group.

Is it Brad Navin’s time? Will Jedd Soleway make a home in front of opposing goaltenders? Maybe Morgan Zulinick’s creativity will come to the forefront.

“It’s going to be interesting about Navin this year,” Eaves said. “He’s the most responsible player we have — getting pucks in, getting pucks out — but there’s an element of the game that’s just on the edge and he hasn’t figured out how to play there. He’s a big kid and has ability to win one on ones and to take the puck to the net. He has the ability to just say, ‘Get out of my way, I’m coming through.’ If Brad can put his arms around that, then we might have a big time player.”

“Soleway is just like young Grant Besse. He’s a guy that’s going to have a huge growth because of the amount of responsibility given to him.

“Zulli looks good from a physical standpoint. He’s going into his sophomore year but he looks like a junior. His body has thickened. He played with some confidence at the end of last year. He’s another one where the duties are going to rise but I think physically, mentally, emotionally, he’s ready for that added responsibility.

Freshmen will contribute. That is a certainty.

“It is a group that has a real high ceiling,” Eaves explained. “There are a lot of things across the board that gets you excited. The thing that keeps your feet on the ground, is that they are young.”

But they can play.”

The lone incoming drafted forward to this point is Matt Ustaski.

“Ustaski is a big man and he moves well for a big man,” Eaves said. “I think that as he comes to grow and learn how to use his body he’ll be a force.”

A few other highly-skilled forwards will be called on for offense out of the gates, including Adam Rockwood, Cameron Hughes and Ryan Wagner.

“Adam and Cameron both come from playing tier-two hockey in Western Canada. I think Adam will remind people of Mark Zengerle because of the way he sees the ice. He’s really intelligent about where people are and how to get them the puck. Cameron can scoot and he’ll back people off with his speed. They bring an element of an offensive flair that you don’t learn — a lot of it is just natural.

“Our fans are going to love Ryan Wagner. He is a tenacious little player, but he can play the

game. He’s that blend between being a true skill guy and a pure hard guy. His heart is as big as his chest. He’s already played 25 games in college [with the U.S. under-18 team] so that will help him in his transition. We need that. We need him to get to it quickly. We need Cameron, we need Adam to get to it quickly.”

With so much turnover from last season, it really is difficult to predict where returners and newcomers alike will fit into the lineup before the season begins. Guys like Matt Paape and Aidan Cavallini showed well when they got playing time last season. Others like Corbin McGuire and the rest of the freshmen are unknowns, having yet to see any collegiate action.

“Matt Paape is going to be our Keegan Meuer this year,” Eaves said. “He’s going to be as good of a role guy on our team as we’ll have. He’ll be a penalty killer, leader, do his part.

“I’m looking forward to seeing Aidan play this year. His body has changed a little bit. He’s worked on his skating. When he had his chances



UW boasts 13 freshmen, including 11 true freshmen, on a roster of 26.



Teams have gone separate ways since tie

Badgers, Illini played to last FBS draw in 1995

They were even when the clock ran out on Nov. 25, 1995 and, according to the rules, that was it.

Neither team lost that day, but both Illinois and Wisconsin walked off the field at Camp Randall Stadium disappointed, left to look back on underwhelming seasons.

A 3-3 tie — the final draw in college football history before overtime was introduced in 1996 — left the Fighting Illini one win short of bowl eligibility at 5-5-1 and left the Badgers looking for answers after finishing with a 4-5-2 record.

Though neither team could find one on an afternoon that included just a pair of field goals, the game itself ended up being a turning point for both programs.

After going bowling in six of the previous seven seasons prior to 1995, Illinois has played in just five bowl games in the 18 years since.

Conversely, the Badgers have played in a bowl game in 17 of those 18 seasons, including 11 appearances in January 1st bowls and five bids to the Bowl Championship Series.

UW has suffered just one losing season since, a 5-7 effort in 2001. Coincidentally, that coincided with Illinois' best campaign

SCHEDULE (3-2, 0-1)

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

Aug. 30	vs. LSU	L, 28-24
Sept. 6	Western Illinois	W, 37-3
Sept. 20	Bowling Green	W, 68-17
Sept. 27	South Florida	W, 27-10
Oct. 4	at N'western	L, 20-14
Oct. 11	Illinois	11 a.m.
Oct. 25	Maryland	11 a.m.
Nov. 1	at Rutgers	11 a.m.
Nov. 8	at Purdue	TBA
Nov. 15	Nebraska	TBA
Nov. 22	at Iowa	TBA
Nov. 29	Minnesota	TBA

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JACK MCLAUGHLIN

Resilient Badgers come back stronger

Wisconsin gets back to work for three wins

After winning the first two sets at No. 16 Illinois last Saturday, the sixth-ranked Badgers “got our tails kicked in game three pretty handily,” according to their head coach, Kelly Sheffield.

“We came back and refocused in game four. We came up with what I thought was a huge win. I loved the way that we bounced back after that third game. I thought we showed a lot of toughness,” Sheffield said.

After losing the third set 25-11, UW came back to defeat the Illini 25-23 in the fourth set and claim its first win in Champaign since 2007. And they did in front of a sellout crowd of more than 4,500 fans at Huff Hall.

The resiliency and toughness that led Wisconsin to the win over Illinois has also guided it to a 12-2 record this season, including a 3-1 mark in Big Ten Conference play. The Badgers have won three straight matches after losing two in a row to top-five teams.

UW dropped a tough 3-2 match at then-No. 5 Washington Sept. 19 and opened Big Ten play with a 3-0 loss to then-No. 3 Penn State in front of a sellout crowd in the UW Field House.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (12-2, 3-1)

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

RECENTLY

Sept. 24	#3 Penn State	L, 0-3
Sept. 28	Ohio State	W, 3-0
Oct. 1	at Northwestern	W, 3-0
Oct. 4	at #16 Illinois	W, 3-1

COMING UP

Oct. 10	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Maryland	1 p.m.
Oct. 15	at #23 Minnesota	6 p.m.
Oct. 18	#23 Minnesota	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Iowa	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	#8 Nebraska	4 p.m.

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DAVID STILUKA

It's not how you start, but how you finish

Expect the unexpected with Badgers in '14-15

If the last two seasons of Wisconsin men's hockey can tell you anything, it is that the sports phrase "It's not how you start, but how you finish" holds great truth. The Badgers struggled out of the gate the last two seasons but finished both with conference tournament titles and trips to the NCAA tournament.

There are lots of unknowns as the 2014-15 season gets started, but the excitement around the Badgers program is palpable. Nobody really knows what to expect, but the phrase, "there are pieces there" seems to keep coming up.

The team gets thrown right into the fire this weekend with the Kendall Hockey Classic. It's Alaska (Fairbanks) on Friday and host Alaska Anchorage on Saturday. Spending five days together, thousands of miles away from Madison, will surely bring this team closer together.

They'll be a steep learning curve for the Badgers, but with just four games before November, and three byes in the first six weeks of the season, UW will have lots of time to grow. The Badgers will need every minute of it once January hits, as UW plays games for 11 consecutive weekends to close out the regular season.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (0-0-0)

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

COMING UP

Oct. 10	vs. Alaska	8 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Alaska Anchorage	10 p.m.
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 Colorado College	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Denver	8 p.m.

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Balanced Badgers ready for Buckeyes

Having multiple scorers a key for Wisconsin

Last year, the Badgers scored at least five goals in a game a total of eight times. Wisconsin already has three five-goal performances through its first four games of the season and the Badgers rank No. 3 nationally in scoring, averaging 5.25 goals per contest.

One of the big differences from last year's squad is the depth and balance the Badgers have on offense. Through four games this season, 12 different players have scored and the Badgers have outscored their opponents 21-4. Last year, it took UW seven games to have 12 different players light the lamp and seven games for the Badgers to score 21 goals.

"I think the deeper you can go, especially with kids scoring goals, certainly the better off you're going to be," UW head coach Mark Johnson said. "Your top players are going to have nights where things aren't going to go the way they maybe planned for them to go, but depth and balance help combat that."

Senior Karley Sylvester, who has a nation-high nine points, believes the depth makes this year's team more dangerous.

"We don't need to count on one line to put the puck away and get all of the points," Sylvester said. "It's nice that we can look

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

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

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

RECENTLY

Oct. 3	at #10 Minn. Dul.	W, 4-1
Oct. 4	at #10 Minn. Dul.	W, 6-2

COMING UP

Oct. 10	Ohio State	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Ohio State	1 p.m.
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.

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DAVID STLUKA

Now is when UW proves itself 'Badger Tough'

UW not willing to concede its season just yet

It's been a long and testing season for the Badgers. More than ever, this group is being tested to live by one of its mottos to be "Badger Tough."

Despite having battled its way to a number of tight finishes so far this season, the Wisconsin men's soccer team has found itself on the wrong side of the result each time.

While Wisconsin continues to give effort and look to turn a corner on its season, the Badgers have unfortunately been unable to do so just yet. This is the point in the season when head coach John Trask and his coaching staff learn the most about their group.

How badly does this group of Badgers want to win? How hard will they work see this season through?

"Soccer can be a cruel game sometimes," Trask said after the team's most recent loss, a 2-1 defeat in overtime at the hands of Michigan. "Our guys are living it right now."

Results and record aside, the talent is there, and Trask knows it. It's the reason why he said earlier this season that if the group can find that corner and make a turn in its season, this team can become "a force to be reckoned with."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (2-7-1)

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

RECENTLY

Sept. 19	St. John's	T, 1-1 (2OT)
Sept. 26	at Maryland	L, 0-2
Oct. 1	at Marquette	L, 0-2
Oct. 4	Michigan	L, 1-2 (OT)
Oct. 7	Green Bay	W, 1-0

COMING UP

Oct. 11	at Michigan State	1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Loyola	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	Ohio State	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Milwaukee	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Penn State	1 p.m.

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Badgers still have plenty left to play for

Recent battle with Penn State offered lessons

There is no such thing as a moral victory for the Wisconsin women's soccer team. Not this season. Not with the goals and expectations the team laid out for itself and the standards it holds itself to.

This group of Badgers won't have it any other way. Each match is another opportunity to gain three crucial points in the race for a Big Ten Conference championship. Each match, this team expects nothing less than to come away with all three of those points, each and every match.

Off to one of the best starts in program history at 11-2-0, the losses have been few and far in between, and that's a product of the mindset the Badgers are holding themselves to.

While Wisconsin may have lost top-ranked Penn State at home last weekend, don't let the 2-0 score fool you. The Badgers held their own and battled with one of the best teams in the country until the final minutes. It took a goal in the 79th minute before separation was even created between two of the top teams in the Big Ten this season.

The defensive back line looked sharp, the offense had its chances and goalkeeper Genevieve Richard came up with some

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (11-2-0, 5-2-0)

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

RECENTLY

Sept. 20	Nebraska	W, 3-0
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

COMING UP

Oct. 8	Iowa	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Northwestern	1 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Minnesota	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	Maryland	1 p.m.

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FIRST GOAL

OCTOBER 8, 1999: Kendra Antony notched the first goal in Wisconsin women's hockey history on a power play at 2:25 of the first period against Minnesota Duluth. UW broke through for its first win a week later at Ohio State.

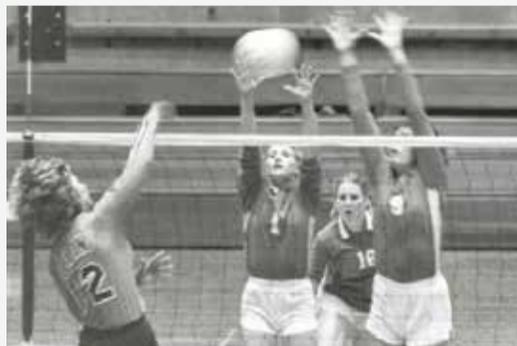
-MORE THIS WEEK-



WE'RE NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 7, 1952:

Football attained its first — and, to date, only — No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 after a 20-6 win over Illinois.



END OF AN ERA

OCTOBER 11, 1978:

The volleyball team competed in its final Wisconsin Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship, winning the tournament with a 3-0 record.



BETTER LATE...

OCTOBER 11, 2013:

Down 3-1 with 22:59 remaining in the match, the men's soccer team netted three late goals to take down defending national champion Indiana 4-3 at the McClimon Complex.