

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

VARSITY

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VOL. 5 NO. 4



ROAD TO THE TOP

IF THEY HAVE THEIR WAY, THE NATION WILL BE LOOKING UP AT THE BADGERS ONCE AGAIN COME DECEMBER. THE CLIMB CONTINUES AT HOME THIS WEEKEND.



COVER STORY

READY FOR ANOTHER RIDE

The No. 4-ranked volleyball team has big aspirations after last season's NCAA runner-up effort, and the toughness of senior Courtney Thomas is a major reason why.



LUCAS AT LARGE

MEMORIES OF BOBBY

The passing of Bob Suter casts new light on a legacy that touched many in Madison — and far beyond.

BEHIND THE DESK

UNDER SCRUTINY

Barry Alvarez says the spotlight on members of the College Football Playoff committee was expected.



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Genevieve Richard (WSOC)

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VARSIITY

Wisconsin Athletic Communications

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

VIEW ALL ISSUES

Brian Lucas

Director of Athletic Communications

Julia Hujet

Editor/Designer

Brian Mason

Managing Editor

Mike Lucas

Senior Writer

Matt Lepay

Columnist

Drew Scharenbroch

Video Production

Amy Eager

Advertising

Andrea Miller

Distribution

Contributors

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

Photography

David Stluka, Greg Anderson, Neil Ament,
Cal Sport Media, Icon SMI, USRowing, USA Triathlon

Cover Photo: David Stluka

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VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com

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Suter leaves legacy that touches many

Rob Andringa's coach with the Madison Caps was a former Wisconsin defenseman and Olympic gold medalist that he idolized. "As a young kid, I wanted to be a Badger, I wanted to be a defenseman," said Andringa who also knew who he wanted to be when he grew up. "Bobby Suter was it."

Upon hearing Tuesday that Suter, 57, had passed away, Andringa reflected on the Suter who wore No. 2 on his UW sweater and his heart on his sleeve; the pugnacious Suter whose bushy blond hair sprouted from under his helmet and whose rink-long rushes with the puck defined his fearlessness.

Remembering how the Coliseum crowd would rev up with each stride that Suter took on the ice, Andringa said, "Bobby would turn that defenseman and I always tell people that he had two things in mind: he was going to score or he was going to run that goalie over and knock him out. So be it."

Suter stood 5-10 and weighed 175; he was small by today's standards, small by comparison to his son, Ryan Suter, a 6-1, 200-pound All-Star for the Minnesota Wild. "But Bobby was the toughest guy

wearing the Cardinal and White I could remember," Andringa said. "He stuck up for everybody."

And he backed down from no one. He was a Bobby, not a Bob, and he always had his teammate's back. His penalties reflected that trait, the second-most in school history. But his game was about so much more; he had flair. "People forget that he had a lot of offensive ability," Andringa said.

It was during Andringa's playing stint with the Capitols that "I

really truly got to know him not only as a coach but as a person." Coaching was a labor of love for Suter. If he wasn't on the ice teaching, he was sharpening skates in the clutter of the pro shop, Suter's Gold Medal Sports, a part of his legacy.

"Bobby taught the toughness side," Andringa said. "Not just playing tough but mentally overcoming so many things that would happen in a game. There were no excuses. You either played or you didn't; you either succeeded or you failed. He demanded you worked hard and played hard."

Suter was "home-schooled" in hockey. Marlowe Suter, the head of the East Side clan, always shared his wisdom with the boys — John, Bobby, Steve and Gary — whenever they laced up their skates. They learned the game on a rink in their back yard and at the Warner Park lagoon and Hartmeyer.

"My theory was that if you want to play a lot, be a defenseman, because a lot of kids don't want to do it," Marlowe Suter always preached. "It's a lot of hard work with all that backward skating. Most kids want to score goals and a lot of times defense-





men don't get that opportunity."

John, Bobby, Steve and Gary all skated on defense. Each carved out their own niche and identity during their youth hockey days in Madison. Marlowe coached them with the old Lakers and Caps. And Bobby returned the favor years later by coaching youngsters, sharing like his dad had shared with him.

"He was truly one of my idols growing up as a big Badger hockey fan," said Andringa, now a Big Ten Network analyst, who played at Wisconsin and won an NCAA championship with the 1990 team. "And the fact that he came from Madison made it only that much sweeter."

Andringa would agree that there was a gentle side to Bobby Suter. In fact, Grandpa Suter never turned down an invitation to accompany one of his grandkids to school. It was on those Show and Tell occasions that he would take out his gold medal from the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics.

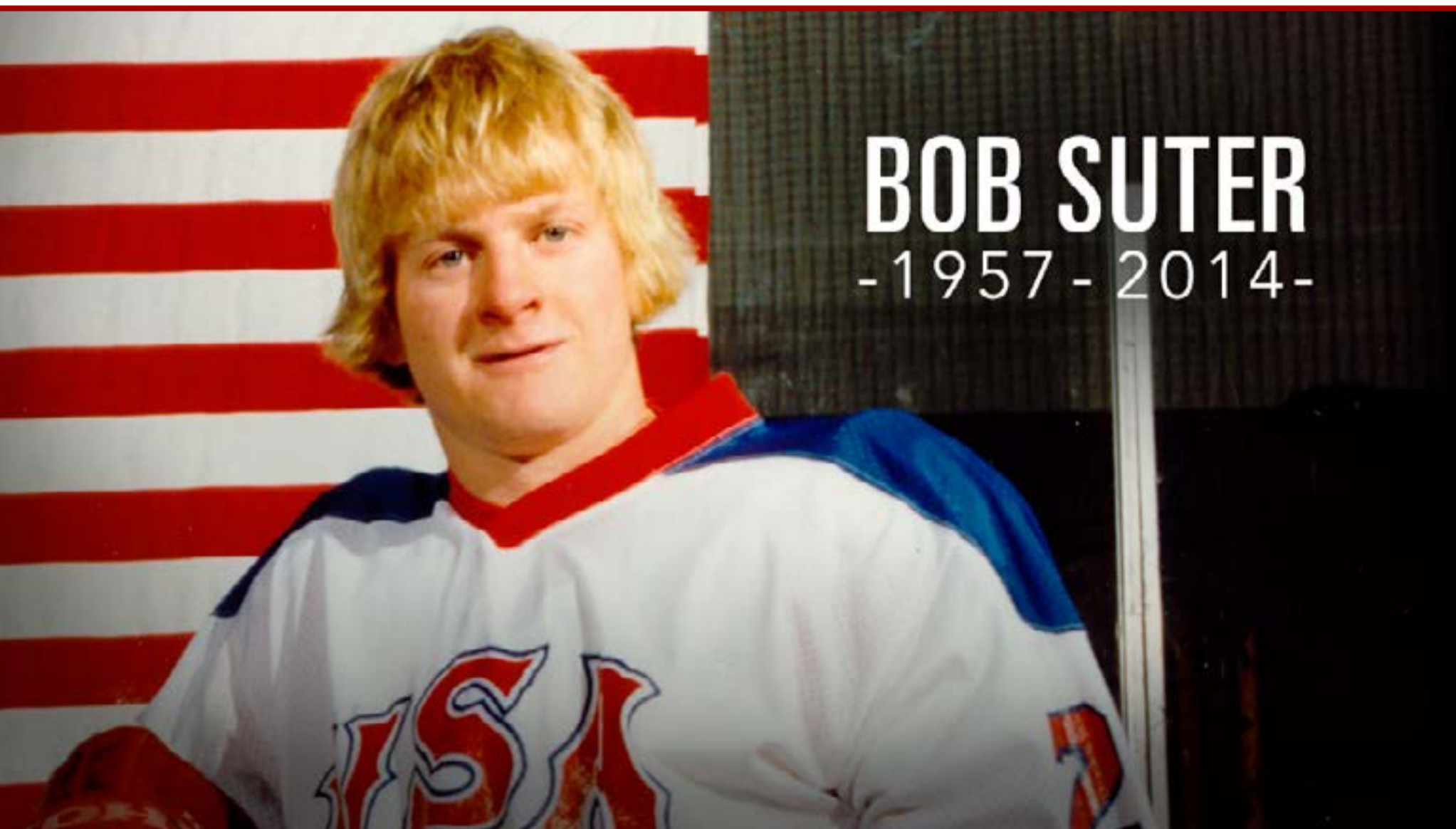
"I really don't bring it out that much," protested Bobby Suter, never one to make a big deal out of himself or what he had accomplished. "But they had an Olympic Day at school the other day, so I took it with me. It's kind of neat to think how it's being passed on from generation to generation."

He never dwelled on his role in

the "Miracle on Ice" particularly around Ryan Suter who was born in 1985. "He was probably too far removed from it, so I kind of kept it out of his life," he explained. "Two days after I got back from Lake Placid, I was working construction. That was the reality for me."

Throughout the years, though, Suter took part in multiple reunions of the 1980 hockey Olympians. "It's something that I will never forget, especially my teammates," he always emphasized. "I'll never forget the guys. The camaraderie that you develop is something that you have forever."

Same with the memories, the memories of Bobby Suter. ■



BOB SUTER
-1957 - 2014-



Scrutiny comes with territory for committee

Before last Saturday's game against Western Illinois, I had the privilege of presenting an honorary game ball to Gary Wetzel, our Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from South Milwaukee.

What an impressive guy. When you read his story and learn about what he did in Vietnam, you can't help but think, "Man, that cat was tough."

When I met him at the Veteran's Affairs tailgate, I even told him, "I'd like to have a whole football team with your toughness and determination."

After I went back to Camp Randall Stadium, I stayed on the sidelines so that I could help recognize our Big Ten Medal of Honor winners, Reed Connor and Mary Massei, during the first timeout.

So I was down there for the opening kickoff that resulted in a safety — I've never seen that before — and I was yelling to the officials, "Get a replay" because Western Illinois was getting ready to snap the ball.

They did stop the game and replay confirmed the safety.

I try to stay away from being on the sidelines. I don't want to be on the sidelines. But sometimes I have to be there for in-game presentations, which is part of my job as athletic director.

I saw where USC athletic director Pat Haden got summoned from the press box to

come down to the sidelines. I've never seen that before. I've got so much admiration for Pat, he's such a smart guy. But it seems everything nowadays has become fodder for sports talk. I just don't understand the overreaction to active athletic directors being on the College Football Playoff selection committee.

Everybody on the committee has an allegiance to some school or place — whether it's a current athletic director or a former player or sports journalist or what have you. Everyone has an opinion.

Naturally our livelihood is with the well-being and the success of our teams and we're going to support them. But that's why we have a recusal plan. It has all been mapped out in detail.

This isn't anything new. We spent a lot of time going over the recusal plan. And I know that there's great integrity in that committee room and I know our decisions will be well-thought out.

If you're asking if I have any second thoughts because of the scrutiny, I'm sure all of us will have times when we'll look back on it all and ask ourselves, "Why are we doing this?" But I've been in a position as a head coach where you're going to be second-guessed, you're going to be scrutinized, every move that you make is going to be judged. I've

been in those shoes.

So I absolutely knew that there was going to be scrutiny of the selection committee. And it will only get more intense as the season moves along. But we've got a role and somebody has to do it.

I feel obligated to college football and I feel like I'll do a good job with it.

This past weekend wasn't real impressive for the Big Ten but it's too early in the year to be writing people off. I wouldn't do that. The important thing in football is to continue to improve.

There was already the perception out there about the Big Ten, the naysayers. Last weekend played into their hands. We gave them plenty of ammunition. But there's a lot of football to be played.

I really liked what I saw out of our team in the second half last Saturday, especially with the way we moved the ball around and we got a lot of people involved in the passing game.

It should give the team confidence. It should give the play-callers confidence that you can go to more than just the run game when they load up the box. I like the fact that we're running some read option. That gives people a lot to think about when you have a running quarterback and the defense has to defend the whole field. ■



Badgers' Class of 2014 worth another look

Last Friday night, the University of Wisconsin Athletics Hall of Fame added seven members. Seven individuals from seven different sports.

In the 1970s, Steve Bennett was one of the Big Ten's best baseball players. As a sophomore he hit .458, putting Bennett in the UW's ".400 Hitter's Club." By his senior year of 1976, Bennett became the Badgers' all-time career leaders in hits, doubles and RBIs.

Turning down a chance to pursue a Major League career, Bennett became an extraordinarily successful businessman, and he is giving back to the university in a big way. Among the improvements at Camp Randall is the Stephen M. Bennett Student-Athlete Performance

Center. The former baseball star is the lead donor for the 32,000-square foot facility that serves all 800-plus student-athletes at UW.

Also entering the Hall is UW's only gold medal winner in men's rowing, Beau Hoopman. Like many before him, when he first arrived on campus, Hoopman knew very little about the sport. He became a captain who helped the Badgers to their first Eastern Sprints varsity eight title since 1946.

Hoopman went on to row for the United States at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, where the men's eight won gold and set a world record in the process. The victory ended a 40-year U.S. medal drought in the event.

Hockey player Steve Reinprecht led the Badgers in scoring for three years. He is the first and only player in program history to accomplish that feat. One of his former teammates, Jeff Dessner, described Reinprecht as the "ultimate leader who is the backbone of our team."

In the 1999-2000 season, "Reino" was the WCHA Player of the Year and a Hobey Baker finalist. Many of those who observe college hockey will argue to this day that Reinprecht could have, and probably should have, won the award.

Melissa Zimpher is the first women's tennis player to enter the UW Athletics Hall of Fame. She earned the Big Ten Player of the Year award in 1996, and she is the program's first All-Ameri-



Steve Bennett



Beau Hoopman



Steve Reinprecht



Melissa Zimpher



Steve Lowe



Mike Kelley



Chris McIntosh

can, earning the honor in 1996 and 1997.

Beyond the statistics, her coach, Patti Henderson, said Zimpher's "absolute and unwavering pride in being a team player" is what stands out. Henderson adds her former star player was "as concerned for her teammates as she was for herself. A selflessness rarely seen in our sport."

For those who are enjoying the success of the UW volleyball program, always remember the name Steve Lowe. Before his arrival in 1986, the sport received very little attention. Lowe made it matter, leading the Badgers to the Women's Invitational championship in 1989. One year later, Wisconsin won the Big Ten crown and drew nearly 11,000 fans to the UW Field House for

an NCAA tournament match with Illinois.

Coach Lowe left us way too soon, but his impact on Badger volleyball will be felt forever.

Mike Kelley was the heart and soul of the UW basketball team that made its magical run to the 2000 Final Four. He never worried about scoring a ton of points. He just made sure the man he was guarding had to work for everything. Kelley made life miserable for many a star player in those years, including players who went on to enjoy NBA careers.

He was the 1999 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. As a senior, Kelley was a Wooden Award finalist. When I think about the Dick Bennett era at Wisconsin, the first player who comes to mind is Mike Kelley.

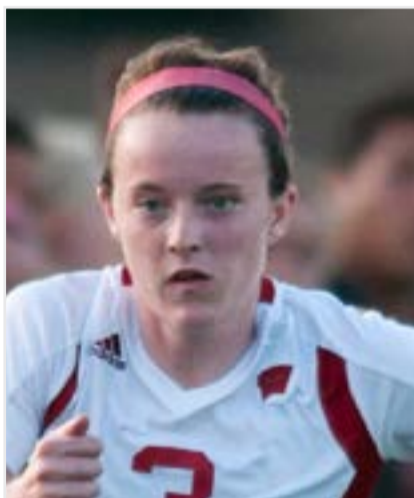
When I think of great offensive linemen in UW football history, Chris McIntosh's name comes to mind very quickly as well. In 1996 McIntosh started at left tackle. He kept starting for 50 games and helped lead the Badgers to back-to-back Rose Bowl titles.

In the 1998 season opener against San Diego State, McIntosh suffered a broken thumb. There was some fear he would miss several weeks. Big Mac never missed a game. He also never missed a practice.

In the years McIntosh anchored the Badgers' offensive line, the team rushed for a bit more than 6.5 miles.

The Hall of Fame grows by seven. Seven more examples of what makes UW Athletics so special. ■

WHERE WAS THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE YOU TRAVELED TO THIS SUMMER?



ROSE LAVELLE

Sophomore • Women's Soccer

“ This summer I went to Canada to play in the U-20 World Cup. I had never been to Canada, which made it all the more fun hopping from city to city for our games. My favorite city was Toronto because it was very active and had so much to do. It reminded me a lot of Madison, plus it had Chipotle, which is always a bonus.”



TRAEVON JACKSON

Senior • Men's Basketball

“ That's easily my trip to the Philippines with Athletes in Action. The people in that country are amazing and it was overwhelming how much they love basketball. We helped teach the game and distribute shoes, clothing, etc. It was an incredible experience to see God's work and share basketball with them.”



CORBIN MCGUIRE

Freshman • Men's Hockey

“ I spent two weekends for two tournaments in Quebec coaching under-8 girls hockey for the Vermont Flames. My friend from high school was the head coach. She plays for Penn State. I was her assistant coach helping out.”



CAROLINE WORKMAN

Senior • Volleyball

“ I went to Lake Tahoe in California with my dad's side of the family. It is definitely one of my favorite vacation destinations because it is so beautiful. My family has been renting a house there on the lake since I was five years old. I enjoyed swimming in the refreshing water, kayaking, boating, playing Spikeball, and spending quality time with my cousins. It was a fun trip before I had to be back in Madison to start preseason!”



DAVID STILUKA

GENEVIEVE RICHARD

Senior Genevieve Richard is off to a great start in her final campaign as a Badger. The goalkeeper has helped Wisconsin to five shutouts in six games to open the season, including four straight, and has allowed just one goal on the season. In addition to her play at Wisconsin, the Saint-Bruno, Quebec, native was named to the Canadian Women's National Team that competed at the 2012 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Japan, and also represented her country at the 2008 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand.

What's it been like to start the season undefeated?

"It's been great and exciting. To see the chemistry that we have right now is great. I think one of the biggest assets that we have this year is that we have players on the bench that can come onto the field and make a difference. That's really key for us, especially going through a long season that goes all the way into October."

When did you start playing soccer? When did you begin playing goalie?

"I started playing soccer at 4 years old. I played out on the field (not in goal) until I was 9 or 10 years old. I was trying to make my inter-city team. I was trying out as a field player, but then my coach told my inter-city coach, while I was trying out, that I was a better goalie than a field player. Throughout the tryouts, the coach came up to me and asked, 'Why

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT GENEVIEVE

Class: Senior

Hometown: Saint-Bruno, Quebec

High School: College Francais de Longueuil

Hobbies & Interests: Drawing, singing, music, basketball

Canadian National Team

- Competed at 2012 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Japan
- Trained with U-20 Canadian WNT in 2009
- Competed at 2008 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand

Collegiate Notes

- Has posted 10 career shutouts
- Holds a 6-0-0 record with three shutouts this season
- Started all 19 matches as a junior in 2013
- Recorded five shutouts, 80 saves and .784 save percentage in 2013
- Tallied a career-high eight saves vs. Nebraska last year
- Big Ten Defender of the Week (Sept. 30, 2013)

HARD LESSONS

WISCONSIN  BADGERS

WISCONSIN  BADGERS

Challenged by a season of change, **Courtney Thomas** pushed herself to become a better player. Now, her toughness has helped push the Badgers back among the nation's elite

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM

WHEN KELLY SHEFFIELD TOOK over the Wisconsin volleyball program, he wanted to reach Courtney Thomas knowing that the junior setter would be an important piece to the puzzle, only in a new role.

“She was all the way in, but it was tough,” Sheffield admitted. “I rode her pretty hard when I first got here — no question — harder than anybody else on the team early on.”

Why did he single out Thomas, a two-year fixture in the starting lineup?

“I wanted her to know,” Sheffield said, “even though we had this freshman coming in — and all the hype was going to be about her — that she was going to be critical to our team success.”

The incoming freshman was Lauren Carlini, the No. 1 recruit in the country.

“In the press or volleyball circles,” Sheffield said, “you weren’t going to hear much about (Thomas) because of the person coming in and the position that she was playing.”

Carlini, a setter, was the 2012 Gatorade National Player of the Year.

“And that’s who you were going to hear about,” Sheffield predicted.

But he wanted to make sure that Thomas heard the vital things directly from him.

“She was going to be very important,” he said. “She needed to know what she did mattered.”

So he coached Thomas in a ‘tough love’ kind of way.

“I got on her, and I was on her a lot,” he said. “What I was trying to do was build trust between the two of us and she handled that, she bought in. That was critical. She allowed me to coach her.”

How tough was Sheffield on Thomas?

“He was extremely tough on me, extremely tough,” she said. “He still is, he’s not stopping.”

It didn’t take Thomas long to figure out that there was a method to Sheffield’s madness.

“He really knows how to get under my skin,” she said. “But he’s really pushing me to be the best that I can be and I think now that I’ve grown and matured, it’s only helping me.

“Even though he’s hard on me, I know it’s not personal. That’s a really big thing that all athletes at the college level really need to fully understand. These coaches are here to make you better.”

Has Thomas ever felt like telling Sheffield to ease up or back off?

“I’ve definitely felt like that sometimes,” she said. “It’s like I had a bad day in school or I’m



frustrated with something that's going on in my day and I come in the gym and I'm getting yelled at."

How does she handle it?

"Some days," she said, "I need to breathe and take a step back."

Most days, it works itself out for Thomas, a 21-year-old senior from DeKalb, Illinois.

"At the end of the day," she said, "I can handle it, yeah, I can handle it."

In this vein, does she consider herself to be a tough person?

"I think I'm tough," she said. "I went through a lot when my dad died when I was young and it taught me a lot of toughness in all areas of my life, not just volleyball."

Thomas was 13 when her dad passed away.

"I'm a competitor," Thomas stressed. "I just want to compete and I want to win."

Sheffield had her pegged all the way.

"She doesn't mind being coached hard," he reiterated. "She's a tough cookie."

He cited a recent example of her toughness.

"We're playing last weekend and I got on her in front of the team," said Sheffield, whose fourth-ranked Badgers improved to 5-0 on the season by winning the Northern Colorado/Colorado State Classic.

"I got on her pretty hard in the locker room during a break."

So hard that he turned to an assistant and wondered, "Was that a little too much for Court?"

Told no, he still went up to Thomas before the start of game three to make sure she was okay.

"How are you doing?" he asked.

"I know what you're doing," she replied.

"You all right?" he asked again.

"I'm fine," she said.

On Monday, Courtney Thomas was named the Big Ten Conference Player of the Week.

"She had a monster weekend," Sheffield said.

• • • •

Hit rewind to last year. Thomas was fine with Carlini taking over as the setter; re-

Photo by **Photo** swipe to change, tap to pause/play



STEPHEN BRASHEAR / WALT MIDDLETON



WISCONSIN VOLLEYBALL



HR INVITATIONAL Hotel**RED**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

vs. MIAMI // 7 PM

2013 National Finalist Banner Ceremony

FREE Wisconsin Volleyball T-Shirts

courtesy of **HR**
Hotel**RED**

Team Poster Giveaway

courtesy of **UWHealth**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

vs. MISSOURI STATE // NOON

vs. BALL STATE // 7:30 PM

Schedule Magnet Giveaway

courtesy of **UWHealth**

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STEPHEN BRASHHEAR / WALT MIDDLETON

“Honestly, it wasn’t as challenging as people probably think,” said Thomas, who moved to outside hitter, started 33 matches and played in all 126 sets as a junior. “I’ve known Lauren for a really long time.”

They’re friends and competitors. Besides that, she said, “My personal belief is that I didn’t think I fit (as a setter). I loved to set, I really did. But I didn’t think my personality and the way I play best fit that position.”

How then would Thomas describe herself?

“I’m a very aggressive person, I’m very determined,” she said. “And my aggressiveness, I feel, really plays a good role as a hitter and a blocker. I want to be able to score points for my team.”

“I like the feeling of being able to dominate in a different area than being a setter.”

When it was suggested that she had to be more ‘controlled’ as a setter, she agreed.

“I can kind of let my personality out more as a hitter,” Thomas said. “And I feel like that has been beneficial to me. The way Kelly coaches the game, he wants everyone to be who they are.”

“I feel like I’m finally being able to do that. It started last year and it’s flowing into this year.”

Truth is, there’s very little that Thomas can’t do on a volleyball court.

“She’s kind of a jack-of-all-trades kid,” Sheffield said. “Right now, if you ranked our players by skills, she would be a top three in every single skill.”

“She’s hitting at a really high level. And she’s passing; she’s one of our best passers and she has never passed in her entire career and that’s a very difficult skill.”

How difficult? “If you’re a passer,” Sheffield said, “the other team can put every single ball on you. There’s nowhere to hide. You can’t hide.”

That has made Thomas’ transition even more remarkable according to Sheffield because “all of a sudden late in her career you’re telling her to do something that she could really embarrass herself at.”

But she has produced just the opposite results. “She didn’t learn the skill until she was 21,” he said. “And she’s passing better than people who have been doing it for 10 years.”

Did Thomas know that she had this inside of her?

“I would say yes and no to that question,” she said. “I really didn’t have a clue. I know I love the game and I love being able to do a lot of things on the court.”

Candidly, she said, “In reality, I didn’t think I would be (a good passer).”

But she added, “I knew if it came down to it — and I was challenged — I could be good at it.”

In many ways, then, Thomas has reinvented herself.

“I became a player that I didn’t think I’d ever be,” she said. “From being a setter — and kind of the quarterback on the team — to switching to a different role last year and just playing the right side.

“Now this year, I’m playing the right side and passing and I’m trying to fulfill my potential and be the best I can be for this team. The better I get, the better we get and the better this team gets.”

Thomas has honed her passing skills with the help of assistant coach Brittany Dildine.

“Brittany is doing a great job of teaching me the fundamentals,” she said. “I’m a bigger passer and she has been allowing me to do some different things. She has made me comfortable back there.”

There was never any doubt in Sheffield’s mind that she would be able to pull it off.

**FROM COACH SHEFFIELD:
SHE GETS THE BIGGER
PICTURE ... AND SHE'S
NOT AFRAID TO
DIVE INTO THAT.**

“There has to be this fearlessness that goes into it,” he said, “and this understanding, ‘There are going to be some rough patches but if I keep grinding, if I keep my head right, I can battle through this.’”

“That toughness has really benefited Court through these changes the past couple of years. And the changes that she has gone through you just don’t see in our sport at the level that she has been.

“I’m sure people enjoyed watching her last year. But when they come this weekend to see the player right now — versus the player they saw last year — they won’t believe it. She’s totally different.”

On Friday and Saturday, the Badgers will host the HotelRed Invitational.

“We can’t wait to get into the Field House and to get as many people in there as we can,” Thomas said. “We just played in front of 7,000 at Colorado State and those fans were loving volleyball.”

So is she, more than ever. So is she, regardless of her role.

“I like kids like that,” Sheffield said. “I like kids that there’s an edge to them, there’s a confidence to them, there’s a willingness to grind and get dirty and

not have things go their way.

“She’s not one of those people that you have to make her happy 24/7. She gets the bigger picture — and in order to be great there are going to be some tough times ahead.

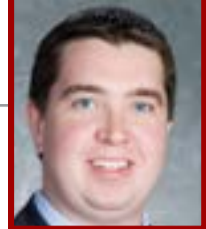
“And she’s not afraid to dive into that. There’s no other way she would be able to do what she’s doing for us this year if she didn’t understand that.”

Moreover, she understands Sheffield.

“He knows what to say,” Thomas pointed out, “and he’s great at what he does.”

It makes for a winning combination.





WR Alex Erickson hauled in 10 passes for 122 yards in Wisconsin's 37-3 win over Western Illinois.

Badgers get big boost from passing attack

Restarting running game is focus for bye week

Dare you to throw. That message was sent loud and clear by Western Illinois in last Saturday's 37-3 win for 18th-ranked Wisconsin at Camp Randall Stadium.

The Badgers' reply? Fine with us.

UW turned to the skies in response to a Western Illinois defensive game plan that saw the Leathernecks stack the tackle box and key on junior RB Melvin Gordon.

Eight and nine men in the box was a common sight for junior QB Tanner McEvoy as he surveyed the defense, and the quarterback responded by turning to the bubble screen. The play proved effective time and again for the Badgers, who saw the most success with junior WR Jordan Fredrick laying blocks for fellow wideout Alex Erickson.

That led to a 10-reception, 122-yard performance for Erickson, who entered the game with 12 catches for his career.

It also helped McEvoy go 23-for-28 for 283 yards, three touchdowns and a single interception.

"(We) did some good things, started to feel at home with the offense," UW head coach Gary Andersen said. "I think anybody that saw the game could see that start to take place, which was

SCHEDULE (1-1)

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	11 a.m.
Sept. 27	South Florida	TBA
Oct. 4	at Northwestern	TBA
Oct. 11	Illinois	TBA
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

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

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Badgers look for home-court advantage

Sheffield hopes record ticket sales give UW edge

After spending the first two weekends of the season on the road, the fourth-ranked Wisconsin volleyball team is happy to finally be playing at home.

“We’re excited about this weekend, coming back home,” UW head coach Kelly Sheffield said. “We hope our fans will show up and pack the Field House.”

Wisconsin (5-0) opens its home season by hosting the HotelRED Invitational on Friday and Saturday in the UW Field House. The Badgers take on Miami (4-2), Missouri State (4-4) and Ball State (3-3) in the round-robin tournament.

UW has sold more than 1,600 season tickets in 2014, an 86 percent increase — or nearly 750 more tickets — over 2013.

The Badgers are looking for record-setting attendance numbers this season. Wisconsin has ranked in the top five for national attendance for the last 14 years. UW averaged 3,512 fans per match in 2013 but that number is expected to go up with the record season ticket sales and the attention the program is getting after finishing as the NCAA runner-up last season.

Fans who attend Friday’s 7 p.m. match vs. Miami will get to watch the team drop a banner recognizing its remarkable 2013

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (5-0)

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

RECENTLY

Northern Colorado/Colorado St. Classic:

Sept. 5 at N. Colorado W, 3-1

Sept. 6 vs. Florida A&M W, 3-1

at Colorado State W, 3-0

COMING UP

HotelRED Invitational:

Sept. 12 **Miami** 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 **Missouri State** 12 p.m.

Ball State 7:30 p.m.

Pac-12/Big Ten Showcase (Seattle, Wash.):

Sept. 18 vs. USC 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 19 at Washington 10 p.m.

> Complete Schedule | Buy Tickets

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Early tests bode well for maturation of team

Another challenge comes Friday vs. Rutgers

It's often said that in order to be the best you've got to beat the best.

If that's truly the case, watch out for the maturation of Wisconsin this season.

Despite its age, the young Badgers squad has already faced one of the toughest schedules in the country to date. The pre-season schedule included exhibitions against an NCAA tournament team (UIC), current top-10 team (Creighton) and defending national champion (Notre Dame).

The regular season has been no easier thus far, as Wisconsin has already played games against an athletic San Francisco squad, a recent NCAA qualifier in Xavier, George Mason — which is receiving national votes — and a Georgetown team ranked No. 9 at the time.

There'll be no time to stop and catch a breath, either.

With 13 games remaining this season, seven of UW's matches will come against teams that are currently ranked or receiving votes in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll.

Needless to say, a group of Badgers featuring 12 true freshmen

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (1-3-0)

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

RECENTLY

Aug. 29	San Francisco	L, 1-2
Aug. 31	Xavier	W, 4-0
Sept. 5	at George Mason	L, 1-2
Sept. 7	at Georgetown	L, 1-4

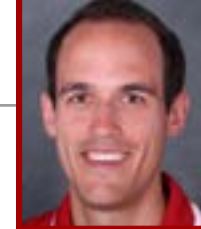
COMING UP

Sept. 12	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	St. John's	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Maryland	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Marquette	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 4	Michigan	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Green Bay	7 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Individual honors a product of team effort

McNicoll, Stelzer garner individual praise

At Wisconsin women's soccer practice earlier this week, before the team broke for the day, head coach Paula Wilkins huddled the group together and took a moment to recognize a pair of individuals who had earned honors for their play last weekend.

Following a weekend in which the Badgers earned back-to-back road shutouts of Washington and then-ranked No. 22 Portland, two individuals were recognized for their personal efforts.

Junior midfielder Kinley McNicoll tallied two goals and two assists between the two matches, which was then recognized with her first Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honor, as well as espnW College Soccer Player of the Week and Top Drawer Soccer Player of the Week. Junior defender Brianna Stelzer, an anchor on the defensive backline for the Badgers, also made Top Drawer Soccer's team of the week.

Yet immediately after announcing the individual honors — almost within the same breath — Wilkins made sure to remind her team what the personal recognition is often a product of. Yes, the play of McNicoll and Stelzer was recognized according-

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (6-0)

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

RECENTLY

Aug. 24	Tennessee	W, 2-1 (OT)
Aug. 29	S. Dakota St.	W, 5-0
Aug. 31	Northern Iowa	W, 3-0
Sept. 5	at Washington	W, 4-0
Sept. 7	vs. Portland	W, 3-0

COMING UP

Sept. 12	at Mich. St.	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Michigan	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	Nebraska	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Indiana	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Purdue	Noon

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Badgers' fall season begins in Milwaukee

UW opens 2014-15 campaign this weekend

As head coach Greg Van Emburgh embarks on his 10th season atop the Wisconsin men's tennis team, he will do so with a roster full of youth and inexperience. But he's excited to get started with his squad that features no scholarship seniors and five freshmen.

Van Emburgh and the Badgers will open its 2014 fall season this Friday, Sept. 12 as the Badgers take part in the 39th-Annual Milwaukee Tennis Classic hosted by Marquette University.

The tournament will run from Friday to Sunday, and all matches will be played at the Town Club in Fox Point, Wis. The Town Club offers both free parking and free admission for the event.

In addition to Wisconsin and host Marquette, Ball State and the US Army Academy will compete on the men's side of the tournament.

The Badgers will kick off men's singles play at 9 a.m. Friday against Air Force. They will next face Marquette in men's doubles at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, Wisconsin will take on Ball State in men's singles at 9 a.m., followed by a men's doubles match up against Air Force at 11 a.m.

SCHEDULE

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

- Sept. 12 **Milwaukee Tennis Classic**
(Milwaukee, Wis.)
- Sept. 26 ITA All-Americans
(Tulsa, Okla.)
- Oct. 16 ITA Regional
(Ann Arbor, Mich.)
- Oct. 31 **Big Ten Singles Tournament**
(Minneapolis, Minn.)

2015

- Jan. 24 vs. ETSU TBA
vs. Seattle University TBA
(Seattle, Wash.)
- Jan. 25 at Washington Noon
- Jan. 31 at Tulane 11 a.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-



Opening Day: UW to make 2014-15 debut

Badgers will play in Milwaukee Tennis Classic

In her first season in charge of the women's tennis team, Tina Samara was tasked with rebuilding a young tennis program. Now as she embarks on year two, she'll lead a team still short on experience and devoid of a senior, but not lacking in skill.

Behind first-team All-Big Ten junior Lauren Chypyha, Samara's squad will open its 2014 fall season this weekend at the 39th-annual Milwaukee Tennis Classic. The three-day tournament runs from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 12-14 at the Town Club in Fox Point, Wis. The event is free to the public.

In addition to Wisconsin and host Marquette, South Carolina and Western Michigan will compete on the women's side of the tournament. The UW men's team will also be participating this weekend and taking on Marquette, Ball State and Army.

"We're really excited to get the fall season started," Samara said. "We've had a productive summer, and the girls have been working really hard. I'm also looking forward to taking our three newcomers on the road and blending them with the team. And I'm excited to throw them into competition."

The Badgers will begin with singles action at 11 a.m. on Friday against South Carolina, followed by doubles play against

SCHEDULE

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

- Sept. 12 **Milwaukee Tennis Classic**
Milwaukee, WI
- Sept. 19 Gopher Invite
Minneapolis, MN
- Sept. 27 All-American
Location TBD
- Oct. 10 UGA Invite
Athens, GA
- Oct. 17 ITA Regionals
Champaign, IL

2015

- Jan. 24 **Drake University** 2 p.m.
- Feb. 1 **Eastern Mich.** 11 a.m.
- Feb. 7 **Bowling Green** 11 a.m.

[> View Complete Schedule](#)

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NUMBER ONE STUNNER

SEPTEMBER 12, 1981: The unranked football opened the season with a 21-14 win at home over No. 1-ranked Michigan. Safety Matt Vanden Boom had three interceptions, including one with two seconds left to seal the win. It was the Badgers' first win against Michigan since 1962.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



STARTIN' SOMETHING

SEPTEMBER 8, 1990:

The women's soccer team beat Dayton, 6-0, to start what became a school-record 16-game unbeaten streak. It lasted until a loss to Colorado College in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament on Nov. 11.



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006:

Junior golfer Katie Elliott won the individual title at the Badger Invitational with a 54-hole total of 225 at University Ridge Golf Course. The Madison native shot rounds of 74-77-74 for the win and helped the Badgers finish second in the event as a team.



POINT OF NO RETURN

SEPTEMBER 12, 1988:

Susan Wohlford of the volleyball team tied a school record for most service aces in a match with eight against Milwaukee. Despite the outside hitter's record-setting performance, the Badgers fell to the Panthers 3-1 in Milwaukee.