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OUTSIDE CHANCE

THE BADGERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE GREAT ON DEFENSE. JOE SCHOBERT AND VINCE BIEGEL ARE MAJOR REASONS WHY.





COVER STORY

LIVING ON THE EDGE

They make an odd couple but, more importantly, Vince Biegel and Joe Schobert are making a major impact on the Badgers' odd front as outside linebackers in the 3-4 defense.



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LEAGUE LEADING

With his family's roots in the NFL, Darius Hillary looks to the next level for ways to improve his game.

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Hillary looks to NFL roots for inspiration

Darius Hillary couldn't stop smiling at the mention of Ickey Woods' amusing "Gonna get some cold cuts today" Geico television commercial. Breaking out his patented "Ickey Shuffle" at the deli counter, Woods brought back memories of the 1988 Super Bowl season for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Hillary is quite familiar with Woods. His father, Ira Hillary, was a wide receiver for those Bengals, who lost, 20-16, to the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIII. Ira Hillary had one catch and a punt return in a game that Badgers fans will remember because of Tim Krumrie's gruesome leg injury in the first half.

Darius Hillary, a junior cornerback, has never matched up one-on-one with Ira Hillary, who led South Carolina in receiving and yards per catch in 1983 and 1984, respectively. Hillary, now 51, played three years with the Bengals, one with the Minnesota Vikings and two in the Arena Football League.

"My dad can still move and I would love to do that (cover him) but we'll just usually toss the ball around or play basketball (when he's home)," Hillary said. "He's always coaching me, giving me tips on what receivers like to do. So he's always helping me out looking at my technique and footwork."

Hillary got a call Sunday from his mom, Cassandra, who was watching the Bengals beat the Atlanta Falcons at Paul Brown Stadium. She was at the game with Ira and their oldest son, Brandon, a former linebacker at Campbellsville (Ky.) University. "Our whole family loves football," Darius said.

Before the start of his senior year at Sycamore High School in Cincinnati, Darius Hillary was a youth counselor at the Marvin Lewis summer camp. Lewis is the head coach of the Bengals, though Hillary also got preferential treatment. "I had kids calling me, 'Coach,'" he said. "And I was 17 years old."

“THIS IS FUN,
THIS IS WHAT WE DO,
THIS IS WHY WE
PLAY THE GAME.”





Hillary has attended some Cincinnati practices since then with UW teammate Jesse Hayes, a junior linebacker whose father, Jay, is in the midst of his 12th season as the defensive line coach with the Bengals. Jay Hayes is also a former Barry Alvarez assistant at Wisconsin.

“The Bengals are looking pretty good this year,” cooed Hillary, who got to sit in front of the TV last weekend and study other defensive backs, college and pro. One stood out: Chicago Bears rookie Kyle Fuller, who had two interceptions against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night.

“I was looking at his technique and he’s such a ball hawk when the ball is in the air,” Hillary said of Fuller, a first-round draft pick out of Virginia Tech. “He has that mentality that it (any ball in the air) is his. That’s something that I want to have moving forward.”

In 29 career games, including 15 starts, Hillary has just one pick. But it was memorable. With less than eight minutes left in the third quarter and the Badgers clinging to a 7-6 lead, Iowa’s Jake Ruddock attempted a throw from his own 1-yard line that was intercepted by Hillary on the 20.

On the very next play, the Badgers broke open the game on a Joel Stave to Jared Abbrederis

touchdown pass and Wisconsin went on to win in a romp, 28-9, last November in Iowa City. Hillary would like to make these types of plays more often, starting Saturday against Bowling Green.

“They’re going to throw the ball, we know that, and hopefully we can get our hands on a couple,” Hillary said. “That’s definitely something that has been stressed in the defensive room. We talk about ‘Bats and Picks’ and making plays when they come your way.”

Bats are knockdowns or

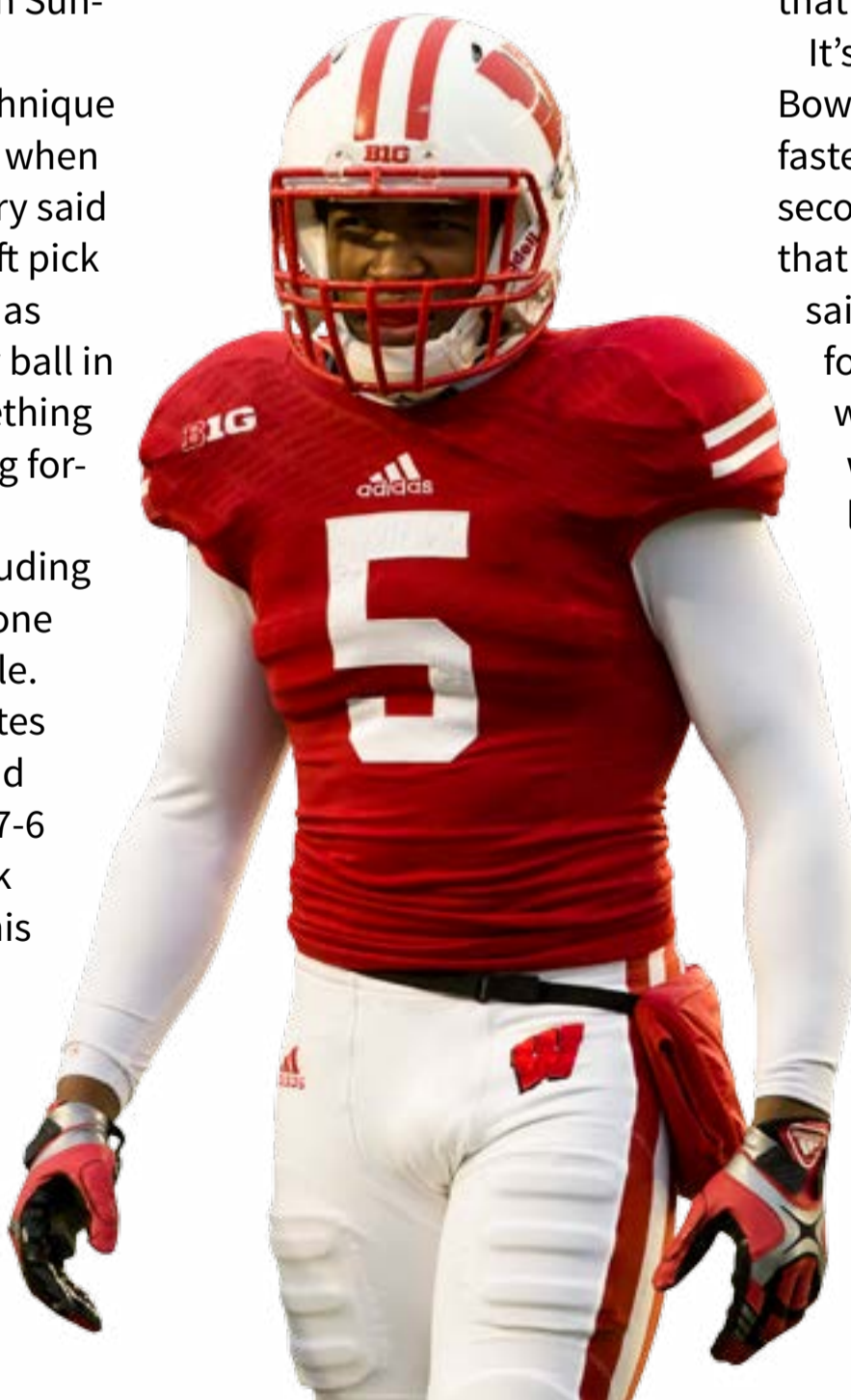
PBUs — Passes Broken Up. The Badgers should get their chances considering Bowling Green quarterback James Knapke completed 46 of 73 passes for 395 yards last Saturday in a 45-42 win over Indiana. Offensively, the Falcons ran 113 plays.

“You have to read the picture and see what the offense is trying to do,” said Hillary, who was reminded of last season’s Arizona State game in which the Sun Devils rattled off 93 plays. “Having a year under our belt, I think that we’re a little more prepared to handle certain situations like that.”

It’s all about pace with the Bowling Green offense, the fastest in the country at 17.9 seconds per play. “You can’t let that tempo get to you mentally,” said Hillary, bracing himself for a battle of wills. “They want to speed you up and we want to slow it down a little bit.”

Therein lies the philosophical conflict. “They love those big plays but they will take what you give them and we don’t want to give them anything,” said Hillary, who outlined the general feeling of the defensive backs when he also said, “This is fun, this is what we do, this is why we play the game.”

A sentiment, no doubt, shared by his dad. ■





Supporting student-athletes always a focus

After the NCAA took all restrictions off meals — which took effect in August — we did some research as a program and we sat down and talked to some student-athletes about what we wanted to do.

I've always been a proponent of having your athletes eating together. I just think it's healthy. I want them to know one another and I want them to know athletes in other sports, not just their teammates.

That was one of the things that we felt was important to incorporate when we began providing breakfast to all 800-plus student-athletes, whether they are on scholarship or walk-ons.

Breakfast is served from 7-10 a.m. at Camp Randall Stadium and the Kohl Center.

We decided on breakfast because it's very difficult logistically for our student-athletes to gather for lunch because they're spread out all over campus.

I told our coaches that the way athletes are fed is going to look different at almost every school because everybody has different facilities. I saw where Oklahoma will be using food trucks.

We're fortunate that we have two big kitchens.

So far, our numbers have been very good with those showing up and eating breakfast. The athletes are excited about it, they appreciate it, and they're taking advantage of it.

I know our coaches are really excited about it. Our swimming coaches said this was awesome for them because now their kids can eat breakfast after their early morning workout.

We still have our regular training tables in the evenings for football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's hockey and volleyball.

Besides that, in all of our weight rooms, we have a refueling station which consists of fruit, nutrition bars and protein shakes. All of our athletes are able to replenish themselves after workouts.

John Dettmann was my strength and conditioning coordinator when I was coaching. He has done a really good job as far as educating everyone on nutrition and eating properly.

We've taken the time to teach our athletes on what to eat and what not to eat. Plus, we've given them ideas and options on how to shop for their own foods and make their own meals.

This is all about doing things for our athletes — being student-athlete-friendly. Over the years, so many things have changed positively for coaches, but nothing really for athletes.

One of the things that we've been doing at Wisconsin since I've been here is providing funds for the student-athlete to complete their undergraduate degree if they leave school without it.

It's part of the welfare initiatives at some schools now. They call it a lifetime scholarship. But we've always done that with our student-athletes who left for one reason or another.

When they decided that they wanted to return, we've taken care of them. We also have cooperation on campus where they don't have to come back to Madison to complete their degree.

Again, it's about doing something for the student-athletes. The Big Ten has a new policy which allows us to provide them with tickets. We have 400 tickets for football on a first-come, first-served basis. All they have to do is show their student ID. We're still working on how we're going to handle basketball. But, overall, it's a way for them to support other classmates.

I'm encouraged by the direction that all of this has taken.

When I was in school in the late '60s, we got \$15 a month — which was a lot of money back then — we got a show pass to go to the movies and we were able to sell our tickets. That 15 bucks — it's probably worth \$250 a month now — disappeared over the years; so did the show pass and the freedom to sell tickets.

Everything else moved forward except what we were doing for student-athletes. Now that is all changing and it's for the good of everybody involved, especially the athletes. ■



Badgers face challenge from Babers' bunch

In last Saturday's wild 45-42 victory against Indiana, Bowling Green quarterback James Knapke completed 46 passes in 73 attempts. Both of those totals are single-game school records.

While that is quite a pitch count, it still falls a bit short of what happened at Camp Randall Stadium on the night of Oct. 10, 1998. That was the evening Purdue's Drew Brees chucked it 83 times, completing an NCAA record-tying 55 passes. For the Badgers, the good news was the star QB threw a few to the home team, including one to All-America cornerback Jamar Fletcher, who returned it 52 yards for what proved to be the game-winning points.

You also might remember that was the night when "Jump Around" was born. Actually, the group House of Pain released the song six years earlier, but on that October night, the Camp Randall crowd rocked the stadium when the tune blasted through the speakers.

Bowling Green assistant coach Sean Lewis can give today's Falcons players a scouting report of what happens around here at the end of the third quarter. Lewis was a Badger from 2004-07, earning letters his final two years as he moved from quarterback to tight end.

Lewis works with BG's wide

receivers, and it's a talented group. The best of the bunch appears to be freshman Roger Lewis, who had a record-setting day against the Hoosiers with 16 receptions for 149 yards. He finished his day by hauling in the game-winning TD pass in the closing seconds.

Head coach Dino Babers likes to let it rip on offense, and last week his offense was on the field for 113 snaps. Babers spent the last two seasons at Eastern Illinois, where he led to Panthers to a 19-7 record, including a 12-2 mark and a run to the FCS quarterfinals in 2013.

LET US SEE WHETHER THE BADGERS CAN GET THE RUNNING GAME CRANKED UP AGAIN, WHILE QUARTERBACK TANNER MCEVOY AND COMPANY TRY TO BUILD ON AN EXCELLENT SECOND HALF EFFORT AGAINST WESTERN ILLINOIS.

Babers also spent four years with Art Briles at Baylor, which included the Heisman Trophy season of Robert Griffin III in 2011.

To make a long story short, Babers knows offense, and he knows winning. So does Bowling Green.

Last year the Falcons won the Mid-American Conference championship under Dave Clawson,

who moved on to Wake Forest. The defense is going through a transition, and a couple of key players have been out because of injury (linebacker D.J. Lynch) or illness (defensive lineman Zach Colvin). Still, it appears to be an aggressive bunch, led by linebacker Gabe Martin.

No doubt a storyline to this game will be the MAC's success against the Big Ten this season. The Falcons are one of three teams in the league with wins at the Big Ten's expense (Central Michigan beat Purdue, and Northern Illinois knocked off Northwestern).

While it is probably a bit too early to eliminate the Big Ten from the College Football Playoff chase, it is obvious that this conference is struggling. A good performance for the home team this Saturday might not flip the perception of the league, but the Badgers do have an opportunity to do their part in helping the Big Ten restore some order.

This will be a good test for the Wisconsin defense. On offense, let us see whether the Badgers can get the running game cranked up again, while quarterback Tanner McEvoy and company try to build on an excellent second half effort against Western Illinois.

After a bye week, it is back to football this Saturday at the Camp. About time, isn't it? ■

WHO ON YOUR TEAM IS MOST LIKELY TO STAND IN LINE FOR THE NEW IPHONE 6?



DAVID CABAN
Senior • Men's Soccer

“As far as someone who would actually wait in line, I’d probably have to say **Jacob Brindle**. I don’t think I’ve ever seen him without the latest iPhone. He’s huge on Apple products.”



LAUREN CHYPYHA
Junior • Women's Tennis

“Of all the girls on the team I’d definitely say **Lauren Burich** would be the one. I know she wants it really badly and she’s been talking about for months now. I’m sure she’ll get it sooner or later.”



JORDAN FREDRICK
Junior • Football

“It has to be **Melvin Gordon**. Everything he has is new. He always needs to have the most up to date stuff, the new ‘it’ thing. Wouldn’t surprise me if he’s in line for the iPhone6 right now.”



KIMBERLY DINH
Senior • Women's Golf

“Oh, that’s got to be **Gabby Curtis**. She’s got a broken screen and definitely needs a new one.” (Assistant coach Katie Elliott added, “Actually I’m pretty sure Gabby pre-ordered it this morning.”)





COURTNEY THOMAS

What is your biggest personal goal for this season?

“Personally I feel like I don’t have a personal goal, it’s more of like a team goal. I want to take this team back to the final four and hopefully a national championship so that would be my personal goal. I don’t really have a goal for myself but to get this team to the highest level.”

What do you like most about being part of the UW volleyball team?

“I love being on a team. I would say being on a team and just having that love between my teammates is my favorite thing. But I also think Wisconsin has a really cool atmosphere. It’s a fun thing to be a part of and I absolutely love the fan base here. It’s so fun to play in the Field House. It’s awesome!”

What would you say are the team’s greatest strengths this season?

“I think one strength would be that we have a lot of trust in each other, which I think is really, really big if you want to be a good team. We work extremely well together on and off the court. We just mesh well and we play well together. There’s a lot of love and trust between our team members.”

- SCROLL FOR MORE -

ALL ABOUT COURTNEY

Year: Senior

Height: 6-0

Position: Outside Hitter

Hometown: DeKalb, Ill.

High School: DeKalb High School

Major: Human Development and Family Studies

Nickname: Court

OFF THE COURT WITH COURTNEY

Most memorable volleyball match:

2013 National Championship against Penn State

My favorite thing about Wisconsin volleyball is: The culture

One word that describes the team: Trusting

One word that describes me: Determined

Most memorable volleyball achievement: Getting second in the country

My goal for this year is: Win a national championship

When you were growing up, what did you want to be? Professional Athlete

I can’t live without: My friends and family

RUSH TO JUDGE-

Outside linebackers Vince Biegel and Joe Schobert quickly formed opinions on one another but, much like the young Wisconsin defense they're helping to lead, they've found that first impressions aren't always indicative of the final verdict

BY MIKE LUCAS ■ UWBADGERS.COM



VINCE BIEGEL MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION on Joe Schobert the first time they met. Not needing to point to his head, Schobert thought to himself, “He has a screw loose up there.”

Nothing personal, of course, just an honest reaction to Biegel’s gung-ho approach to football. “He was screaming and yelling,” Schobert said, “and he was just going crazy.”

This was on the practice field and not even during a game. But it didn’t stop there. “In the weight room,” Schobert said, “he was the same way.”

From what he saw, and what he heard, Schobert could draw only one conclusion. “He’s not afraid to hold anything back,” he said. “He’s got a lot of confidence, too.”

This was not an indictment of Biegel, by any means; this was a Schobert endorsement of Biegel. “He’s going crazy when he makes plays,” he said. “But he’s giving 100 percent all the time.”

You can’t ask for anything more out of a teammate.

Defense, after all, is fueled by emotion. “Once he gets into his football mindset on the field,” Schobert said, “he’s go, go, go, go.”

Off the field, Schobert added, “Once you get to know him, he’s pretty normal.”

After a recent practice, Biegel was standing just off the field, the McClain Center field. While Schobert was being interviewed, Biegel waited patiently out of earshot. When it was his turn, he anticipated where this was all going.

“What did he say about Vince?” posed Biegel, grinning. “No, I’m just kidding.”

Well, he did say that he thought that Vince was a little crazy because he was yelling all the time.

“That’s how I play,” Biegel said. “I would say Joe is a little more calm. I have more of an ag-

gressive mindset.”

As far as Schobert, he reiterated, “Joe is a little more laid back.”

Sounds like opposites might attract. It also sounds like they complement each other.

Offered Biegel, “Sometimes Joe needs to calm me down.” In the same breath, he added, “And sometimes I need to kick Joe in the butt to get him going.”

Don’t take that the wrong way. He was just spelling out their differences in personality.

“Joe is a good guy and great player,” Biegel said. “He does everything right, he knows his stuff.”

Together, Biegel and Schobert are just scratching the surface as big-time playmakers. Both are entering their third year; Schobert lettered as a true freshman, Biegel redshirted.

Speaking to their compatibility, Biegel said, “I could play Joe’s spot and Joe could play mine.”

Laughing, he suggested, “We’re universal outside linebackers.”

As such, they’re livin’ on the edge — the edge of the Wisconsin defense.

“They each bring a unique perspective,” acknowledged UW defensive coordinator Dave Aranda.

Citing their roles within the defense, he also said, “There’s a lot that we ask of those guys.”

So far, so good, so promising. “They’re integral, obviously, to what we’re doing,” Aranda said.

That was seconded by senior inside linebacker Derek Landisch, who has witnessed their growth.

“They’re both really great athletes,” Landisch said. “I describe them as ‘Freaks off the Edge.’”

••••

“ COACH ARANDA ON BIEGEL & SCHOBERT: THEY EACH BRING A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE. THERE'S A LOT THAT WE ASK OF THOSE GUYS. THEY'RE INTEGRAL, OBVIOUSLY, TO WHAT WE'RE DOING. ”



DAVID STLUKA

Without getting into specific job responsibilities of the B (Boundary linebacker, Biegel) and the F (Field linebacker, Schobert), Aranda did map out what is generally expected from the outside ‘backers in the 3-4 alignment which the Badgers have adopted after years as a 4-3 defense.

“They have to be edge-setters in the run game,” Aranda said of containing an offense and preventing the ball from getting outside. “They have to be effective pass rushers when people are throwing the ball. If a team spreads us out, they have to be able to play in space and tackle in space.

“They’re the only position group that has those three phases at those extremes. The safety group may be high one play and down the other. But with the outside linebackers, there are extremes to what they have to be in the core. And it flips on them pretty quick, so they have to be special athletes.”

Biegel and Schobert definitely fit that bill, Aranda agreed; each in his own way, on and off the field. “Biegel brings a lot of juice,” he said. “Between him and (inside linebacker) Marcus Trotter, they kind of pace the defense in terms of bringing some energy.”

Energy is key to every defense, particularly the

one that Aranda is presently grooming.

“When you’re in spring ball,” he said, “you try to find or ID the personality of your defense. You’d like to be able to see that as soon as possible so you can build off of it. Very early on, it was apparent that we were an emotional defense — that we could build off of making big plays.

“They feed off that,” Aranda said of the young starters, including true freshman safety Lubern Figaro and redshirt freshman Chikwe Obasih. “That was different from the previous group, last year’s seniors, which was a very workmanlike group. This is very different and Biegel is a big part of that.”

By contrast, Schobert is understated. “He has kind of a workmanlike quiet mentality,” Aranda said. “Whatever you ask him to do, he’ll do it. There have been stretches where he has been an inside linebacker, an outside linebacker, back to inside, back to outside. He has taken all of that in stride.”

In sum, they’ve matured into complementary bookend ‘backers. “Joe is very even-keeled. Whatever comes his way, you can’t really shake him,” Aranda said. “Whereas Vince will enjoy the highs a little bit. And he’ll get other people to enjoy those highs, too, which is just as important.”

••••



DAVID STLUKA



DAVID STLUKA

On Western Illinois' second offensive series, Biegel exploded off the edge and left his calling card with quarterback Trenton Norvell by planting him into the turf after the pass was released. The hit drew a flag, a personal foul penalty on Biegel. That gave the Leathernecks a first down on the UW 39.

"Coach A (Andersen) always talks about playing aggressive," Biegel said. "And he wasn't necessarily mad at me. At the same time, you have to be a smart player — understanding down and distance and the situation. It's something I can learn from. But I'm always going to play aggressive."

On the next play, Biegel sacked Norvell for a loss of five yards.

"The one thing I really enjoy about being an outside linebacker," said the 6-foot-4, 244-pound Biegel, "is that you're also a defensive end. So you have to be able to rush the passer, you have to be play coverage and you have to know the defense. You're kind of a do-it-all type of guy."

Biegel did it all on defense at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. His career numbers were off the chart: 425 tackles, 27 sacks, 10 interceptions, 10 forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries and four defensive touchdowns. He was the Gatorade Player of the Year. He was also an inside linebacker.

"In high school, I was in the traffic (inside)," he

said. "Now that I'm on the edge, it's a little easier on the body but you have to be a little smarter when it comes to taking on the big guys. You have to use your athleticism to your advantage by trying to get those 320-pound guys to move around."

Although he's an ideal fit for the 3-4, he's still transitioning to playing in space.

"I'm doing my job if the stats say Marcus (Trotter) and Derek (Landisch) have more tackles than me," Biegel said of the UW's inside linebackers. "I like to think of myself as an unselfish player. I want to make those plays (for others). I want to play my role in the defense."

Biegel learned the fundamentals at an early age. They were taught in his home. His grandfather, Ken Biegel, has been recognized as a hall of fame high school coach not only in the state of Wisconsin, but nationally. His dad, Rocky, was a starting linebacker at BYU, while his uncle T.J. played fullback for the Cougars.

They have all shaped his football mentally.

"But you have to be able to turn it on and off," said Biegel, whose brother, Hayden, is a redshirt freshman offensive lineman for the Badgers. "You have to have your school mindset and your social mindset. And, then, when you go on the field, you have to turn it on to your football playing mindset. That's my office out there and I have to take care of business."

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With Biegel's obvious family ties to the BYU program, it's ironic, perhaps, that former UW linebacker Chris Borland has compared Schobert to Kyle Van Noy, the former BYU All-American linebacker. Van Noy was a second-round pick of the Detroit Lions in the 2014 draft.

Borland noted Schobert has "great ball skills." Same as Van Noy. That might have something to do with the fact that Schobert had the ball in his hands so much at Waukesha West. In the 2010 WIAA Division 1 championship game, he rushed 38 times for 296 yards in West's win over Stevens Point.

Schobert broke the state rushing record of 259



DAVID STLUKA

yards held by former UW tailback John Clay.

But it still wasn't enough to turn the heads of the major college recruiters. Schobert was headed to the University of North Dakota before the Badgers made a late pitch. Flying under the radar, he accepted the walk-on invitation and has since earned his tender.

Schobert has now found his niche on the edge after trials at safety and inside linebacker.

"There are a lot of opportunities to make plays," he said of outside linebacker. "It's high-risk, high-reward. If you mess up, they can get a big play. If you're supposed to set the edge, and if the ball gets outside, there's nobody to run them (the ball carrier) down until they're 30 yards downfield."

In the LSU opener, Schobert made a big play by forcing a fumble on tight end Travis Dickson. Safety Michael Caputo recovered and the Badgers turned the takeaway into a touchdown.

"When they threw it to him (Dickson), it looked like he wanted to cut back," Schobert recalled. "I just tried to shoot at him, get his legs and get him on the ground. I hit the ball with my shoulder because he tried to go low, too. You don't want to take him high because he can fall forward."

"I've played defense my whole life — youth football and high school — so I've always been in space and had to make tackles in all kind of situations. I've been in the box and I've played linebacker when I was younger, too, filling holes. Tackling is something that comes natural."

Overall, there's a beauty and diversity to Schobert's responsibilities on the edge.

"To me, it's a lot of versatility," he said. "Sometimes you're out in space covering receivers and tight ends on routes. Sometimes you're rushing the passer, holding the edge or meeting a pulling guard. You have to do a lot of different things on the edge."

"Being a safety in high school and an inside linebacker on the scout team has prepared me for the physicality. Coming downhill on guys like Travis Frederick and Ryan Groy, taking them on head-to-head, definitely helped. You just have



to be confident. That's the biggest thing in football."

There are even moments when Schobert's old running back instincts apply on defense.

"Less on the outside," he said, "because you don't see the holes like you do on the inside. But sometimes you can tell what they (running backs) are looking at and what they're going to do. It definitely helps and it gives you a football sense of what the offense is trying to do."

Since they're seeing things from both edges, Schobert and Biegel will talk about what they see. "We kind of throw ideas off each other that way," said the 6-2, 240-pound Schobert. "It's great to sit and talk. What do we have to do on this play? What are you seeing when this happens?"

What Badgers fans are seeing is a front seven that has performed better than expectations.

Truth is, not much was expected at the start of the season because of the graduation losses of all seven starters from last season.

"We have a huge chip on our shoulder," Biegel said. "A lot of the media was down on our front seven saying, 'We're soft, we're weak, we're undersized, we're inexperienced.' I think all of the guys up front took that to heart and we're trying to get better every day as a front seven."

Aranda saw it coming — the questions — but he has liked how the defense has answered so far.

COACH ARANDA:
"IT'S EXCITING TO BE
A PART OF A GROUP
THAT IS AS MOTIVATED
AND AS EMOTIONAL
AS THIS ONE."

"It's exciting to be a part of a group that is as motivated and as emotional as this one," Aranda said. "I think they feel — and I don't want to use the term overlooked — but they feel that from the onset that they have not necessarily been given a ton of respect. They

also feed off anything positive."

Against LSU, the Badgers had eight different players contribute to nine tackles for loss.

"We definitely have the ability to be a big-play defense," Schobert observed from one edge.

"It just speaks to the fact that we have guys who can do it," Biegel said from the other. **W**



ENTER TO WIN

a complete, game-worn uniform (helmet, jersey, pants, socks) from the Badgers' 56-42 win over Bowling Green in 2005.

Simply email "THROWBACK UNI" to VarsityMag@UWBadgers.com.

One winner will be chosen at random.

Thanks for reading!

▲ PHOTOS: Swipe to change • Tap to pause/play

Slowing fast-flying Falcons is Badgers' goal

Wisconsin defense tasked with taming tempo

Nobody in college football is running plays as fast as the Bowling Green Falcons.

That should come as welcome news to a coach that has targeted tempo as a primary focus in his first season at the helm.

"We're not moving very quickly yet," Falcons coach Dino Babers said Monday.

The numbers paint a different picture, with Bowling Green's average of a snap every 17.9 seconds easily the fastest rate of play of any FBS team. Texas Tech ranks No. 2 nationally at 18.6 seconds per play.

Still, fast isn't fast enough for Babers, who is set on building a breakneck attack like the one he was part of at Baylor as an assistant from 2009-11.

"Our offense understands our goals and knows where we're going to be at," Babers said. "We're slowly learning the process and we're trying to get better every day, but it's not where we would want it to be."

That desire to push the pace will be a challenge for a Wisconsin defense that has been up to the task in its first two outings of the season. UW is one of just four teams nationally to rank

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	11 a.m.
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

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Top-10 tussles on tap for the Badgers

UW travels to Seattle for Pac-12/B1G Showcase

It doesn't get much tougher for the fourth-ranked Wisconsin volleyball team than the Pac-12/Big Ten Showcase this weekend. The Badgers wrap up the non-conference season by traveling to Seattle to take on No. 10 USC at 7:30 p.m. (CT) Thursday and No. 5 Washington at 10 p.m. Friday.

And that's just the start of things, as the Badgers kick off the Big Ten Conference season on Sept. 24 when they host No. 3-ranked and reigning national champion Penn State.

"I don't know if we've ever played two top-10 teams in a span of 24 hours, but we have that in front of us, and we are looking forward to that," UW head coach Kelly Sheffield said of the Badgers' trip to Seattle. "There's certainly not a lot of turnaround time before you get into Big Ten season.

"I think it's a great experience and a great opportunity for us. ... I think it absolutely prepares you for the Big Ten."

USC is 6-2 after dropping its first two matches of the season last weekend to unranked Texas A&M (3-2) and 10th-ranked Florida (3-0). Despite the losses, the Women of Troy have two of the top players in the country in junior Samantha Bricio and sophomore Ebony Nwanebu.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (8-0)

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

RECENTLY

HotelRED Invitational:

Sept. 12	Miami	W, 3-0
Sept. 13	Missouri State	W, 3-1
	Ball State	W, 3-0

COMING UP

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

Sept. 18	vs. USC	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Washington	10 p.m.
Sept. 24	Penn State	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	Ohio State	1 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Northwestern	7 p.m.

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Badgers to preview Big Ten course

Men and women race in Iowa City

With the Big Ten championships scheduled for an unfamiliar course this year, the Wisconsin cross country teams will use this Saturday to get the lay of the land on the Ashton Cross Country Course at the Big Ten Preview in Iowa City, Iowa.

In the past, the Badgers have not usually previewed the site of the Big Ten meet, but UW director of track and field and cross country Mick Byrne believes that a visit to the course will be beneficial to this year's team.

"I have never put a lot of stock in it before but, because we are so young, we just feel that it was important for us to get there and get at least look at the course," Byrne said. "That way we have familiarity when we arrive there on Big Ten weekend."

The meet pits the Badgers against Iowa and Kansas State, with the women running their first 6-kilometer race of the year and the men their first 8-K of the campaign.

The Wisconsin men enter the weekend ranked No. 11 in the latest U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll. This year's team is one of the youngest in recent memory, as UW only has two seniors and a single junior on its roster.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

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

RECENTLY

Sept. 5 **Badger Opener**
M: 1st, 20 pts
W: 1st, 22 pts

COMING UP

Sept. 20 Iowa Big Ten Preview 8 a.m.
Oct. 4 Greater Louisville TBA Classic
Oct. 17 **Wisconsin adidas Invitational** 11 a.m.
Nov. 2 Big Ten Championship 10:45 a.m.
Nov. 8 **Wisconsin Open** 11 a.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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Dynamic duo provides scoring punch

Freshmen Segbers, Barlow on the same page

It's not just the 12 true freshmen. This season, many members of the Wisconsin men's soccer team have been adjusting to new teammates, new roles and new environments.

Amidst all the transition, however, two constants have begun to emerge for the Badgers.

Mark Segbers and Tom Barlow have been at the front of it all so far this season, working together to become one of the most dangerous and formidable offensive attacks in the country.

Through five games, the freshman forwards have combined to score six of the team's nine goals.

Of the team's 25 total points this season, Barlow and Segbers have combined to tally more than half (14).

The two have energized Wisconsin and given the Badgers one of the premier front lines in the Big Ten this season. Heading into this weekend, Wisconsin ranks first in the conference in goals (9), goals per game (1.80) and points (24).

Individually, Segbers either leads or is tied for the league lead in goals (4), goals per game (0.80), points (9) and points per game (1.80).

The two are already delivering on the biggest of stages, too.

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (1-4-0)

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
Sept. 12	Rutgers	L, 2-3 (OT)

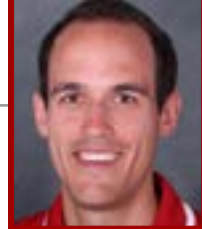
COMING UP

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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STEVE GOTTER

Last-second goal leads to first blemish

Badgers look to bounce back vs. Nebraska

The Wisconsin women's soccer team was off to an unblemished start. It was undefeated at 7-0, national honors and rankings were being given, and records were being set. The group had played more than 721 minutes of unbeaten soccer.

Then one second changed everything.

Ani Sarkisian of Michigan tapped in a game-winning score with one second left on the clock and handed the Badgers (7-1-0) their first loss of the season last Sunday in Ann Arbor. It was the first time all season Wisconsin had to face the feeling of defeat, let alone in such stunning fashion.

Yet, it took the group about as long to shake off the letdown as it took for them to be beaten: just a moment.

"I told the team one game doesn't define a season," head coach Paula Wilkins said of her postgame speech to the Badgers. "How we respond to this will be one of the most important things of our season. It's going to be a very good wake-up call for us if we can learn from this."

"I feel that there's always something we can pull out from a loss. We'll refocus, correct our mistakes and move forward."

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE (7-1)

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

RECENTLY

Aug. 31	Northern Iowa	W, 3-0
Sept. 5	at Washington	W, 4-0
Sept. 7	vs. Portland	W, 3-0
Sept. 12	at Mich. St.	W, 2-1 (OT)
Sept. 14	at Michigan	L, 1-2

COMING UP

Sept. 20	Nebraska	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Indiana	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Purdue	Noon
Oct. 3	Ohio State	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Penn State	Noon

[> View complete schedule](#)

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The wait is over, now let the rowing begin!

UW opens fall season in Milwaukee

It has been about three and a half months since a crew representing the University of Wisconsin has taken to the water in competition, but that will change Saturday when the women's openweight and lightweight crews take part in the 14th-annual Milwaukee River Challenge.

The three-mile race will run on the Menomonie and Milwaukee rivers in Milwaukee.

"This year we are taking a very large number of athletes to the Milwaukee River Challenge, which is a bit unusual for us in the past few years," UW head coach Bebe Bryans said. "What makes it really unusual is that the openweights are taking only freshmen and sophomores. Approximately 15 of our recruited freshmen will be wearing the W for the first time, joined and led by our 17-member sophomore class.

"The lightweights will have a few more upperclass rowers, but at least one-third of their squad will be freshmen recruits, as well."

The early-season event gives UW a chance to get into a race situation, instead of just practice, as the fall season moves along. The Badgers will race again at the Head of the Rock in

-SCROLL FOR MORE-

SCHEDULE

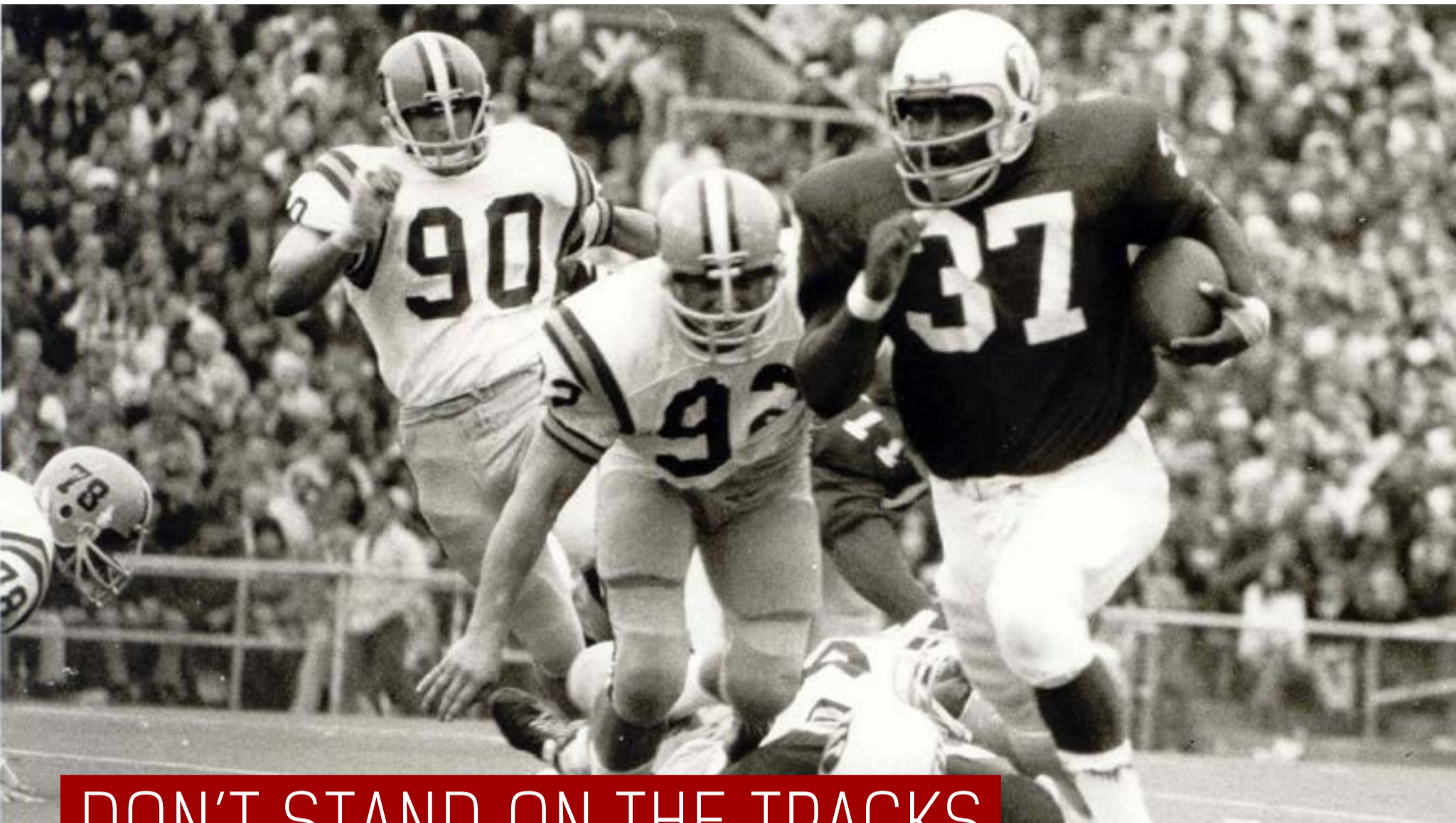
Home events in **bold**.

Sept. 20	Milwaukee River Challenge <i>Milwaukee, WI</i>
Oct. 12	Head of the Rock <i>Rockford, IL</i>
Oct. 19	Head of the Charles <i>Boston, MA</i>

[> View complete schedule](#)

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DON'T STAND ON THE TRACKS

SEPTEMBER 20, 1969: Running back Alan “A Train” Thompson rushed for a then-school record 220 yards on 33 carries in his collegiate debut against No. 6 Oklahoma. Thompson finished his career in 1971 with 2,005 rushing yards, at the time second only to Alan Ameche in school history.

-MORE THIS WEEK-



START OF SOMETHING BIG

SEPTEMBER 21, 1974:

The volleyball team opened intercollegiate play by hosting UW-Eau Claire. Wisconsin won the match 15-8, 15-0. UW finished its inaugural season with a 25-4 record.



SCORING MACHINE

SEPTEMBER 20, 1986:

Andy Rectenwal of the men's soccer team set the UW single-game record with four goals in a 7-0 win over Michigan. Rectenwal remains the Badgers' all-time career scoring leader with 46 goals.



ACE IN THE HOLE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2013:

The women's golf team won the Lady Paladin Invitational with a 54-hole school-record score of 865. Kris Yoo tied the Badgers' 54-hole individual record by firing a 213 (73-70-70) to tie for third place.