

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE WISCONSIN BADGERS

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# WHAT A RUSH

A RECORD-SETTING ROMP SHOWED THAT THE BADGERS' RUNNING GAME IS AS DIVERSE — AND DANGEROUS — AS EVER





## COVER STORY

# WHAT A RUSH

Wisconsin can run? Not exactly breaking news. But the way the Badgers dominated Bowling Green offered a glimpse of a rushing attack that is more diverse than ever before.



## LUCAS AT LARGE

## GASSER GETS GOING

"Summer camp" experience has senior ready to lead Badgers into season of great expectations.

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## STRONG STRETCH

In the midst of a tremendously tough stretch in their schedule, the Badgers simply say, "Bring it."



-SCROLL FOR MORE-

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# With 'summer camp' over, Badgers ready

**H**ow did you spend your summer? Sam Dekker “camped out” with Kevin Durant and LeBron James, Traevon Jackson with Chris Paul and Frank Kaminsky with Tracy McGrady and fellow Big Ten players Nebraska’s Terran Petteway and Shavon Shields and Michigan’s Zak Irvin and Derrick Walton.

Not to be outdone by his Wisconsin teammates, Josh Gasser served as a counselor in mid-July at the adidas Unrivaled camp that showcased elite high school prospects in Chicago. Gasser worked out with college players from major adidas schools like Kansas, UCLA, Louisville and Indiana.

Not that Gasser needed any reminder of what he has had to overcome, but one of the high school players tore his ACL at the camp. In addition, one of the counselors, Collin Hartman, who’s going into his sophomore year with Hoosiers, is still rehabbing after tearing his ACL last March.

“Obviously last summer was a very different experience for me with a lot of rehab and just trying to get my leg right,” said Gasser, who missed the 2012-13 season after undergoing ACL surgery. “It was great this summer to get in the gym a little bit

more and work on my game.”

No one has ever questioned Gasser’s resiliency. Last season, he started all 38 games and averaged the second most minutes (33.4) behind Ben Brust, the only starter that the Badgers must replace from their Final Four team. Brust is now looking to extend his career professionally in Europe.

“It’s different not having Ben around the apartment, the locker room and the court,” Gasser said. “He’s definitely missed but we’re still great friends. We still

**GASSER ON BOUNCING BACK:**  
**YOU HAVE TO FIND A HAPPY MEDIUM BETWEEN WORKING REALLY HARD AND GETTING IN THE GYM WHILE ALSO KEEPING YOUR BODY FRESH AND HEALTHY.**

talk almost every day; at least every week. He’s come back a few weekends and we’ve hung out and had a good time catching up on things.”

Since having hernia surgery last spring, Gasser has been playing catch-up in reshaping his game. “I wanted to get some bounce back from the injury,” he said. “I still have a ways to go. But it’s still September. I’m trying to

be the best I can in November and December and into the Big Ten season.”

To this end, he has learned how to prioritize. “You have to find a happy medium between working really hard and getting in the gym,” said Gasser, who has always epitomized mental and physical toughness, “while also keeping your body fresh and healthy.”

Besides increasing his quickness, Gasser has also been fine-tuning his shot and ball-handling. “I know I’m going to be one of the leaders on this team being a senior,” said Gasser, a 6-3, 190-pound lockdown





defender from Port Washington, “so I have to be able to do a little bit of everything.”

Since the NCAA relaxed its off-season restrictions on organized practices and access, it has created a healthier environment. “I love being able to work with our coaches and strength coach in the summer,” Gasser said. “And it was great for them to get their points of emphasis across early on.”

Gasser specifically cited the growing impact of second-year strength coach Erik Helland. “He’s getting more comfortable with us and we’re getting more comfortable with him,” he said. “I definitely think we got a lot better this summer (in the weight room). There were some big gains along the line.”

When asked about sophomore Nigel Hayes’ development, Gas-

ser gushed. “Nigel is going to be a huge piece of the puzzle for us,” he said. “Last year, he came in off the bench and he was really a good energy guy. He’d get the ball in the post and he’d go to work and make things happen.”

Hayes has since been expanding his influence and range on the court. “All year long, I think he wanted to show off his perimeter skills, but it just didn’t happen,” Gasser conceded. “This off-season, he has been working his tail off on his outside game, so he can be a dynamic player, inside and out.”

Hayes’ efforts didn’t go unnoticed as a freshman. He was the Big Ten’s Sixth Man of the Year. In this context, Gasser is also expecting big things from sophomore guard Bronson Koenig. “He’s a special player,” Gasser said. “His ball-handling and

passing skills are things that not many guys have.”

The Badgers would seem to have all the pieces necessary for a banner year, a Big Ten championship banner-type of year. Even more may be expected because of the Final Four run. “We’re all smart enough to realize the expectations that we have from the outside world,” Gasser said.

Some thought has been given to their high preseason profile. “But we haven’t had a huge meeting to talk about it,” Gasser said. “Internally, we have expectations every single off-season that we’re going to be the best team in the Big Ten and the best team in the country. We know our goals.”

The path to achieve those goals begins when the Badgers open practice on Oct. 3. ■



DAVID STLUKA





# Working through the issues facing athletics

I just spent a couple of days at the Division 1A Athletic Directors' Association meetings, which gave me an opportunity to have dinner with two of my former deputies at Wisconsin.

It was fun getting together again with Nebraska's Shawn Eichorst and Northern Illinois' Sean Frazier. We were joined by UConn's Warde Manuel, a former Michigan athlete and administrator.

We had pretty good attendance in Dallas. Most of the Big Ten athletic directors were there, so I had a chance to visit with a lot of them, including Ohio State's Gene Smith over lunch one day.

These are always good meetings. They're productive and thought-provoking because we're all dealing with the same issues and everybody has a forum to voice their opinions.

We had formal discussions on a number of topics. There was the prospective on the new governance models and the financial aid reference to full cost of attendance.

Jim Phillips gave a presentation on the attempt to unionize student-athletes at Northwestern. And we had a report on the football task force.

I happen to be on that committee, and we talked about different ways that we can help college football by taking a look at recruiting, the possibility of an

early signing date and student welfare.

There was a lot of talk about the Ed O'Bannon case and some other cases. I heard people say that they felt like they were back in law school again listening to all of the things that we're dealing with.

You're talking about legal issues, you're talking about lawsuits, and you're talking about what you can and you can't say.

During the time you're there, you're visiting with different athletic directors in different settings and you might end up talking about scheduling or how they're handling feeding their student-athletes. That has become a popular topic since the NCAA lifted its restrictions on training table. And there are many different approaches that schools can take.

While I was in Dallas, our rushing total against Bowling Green was brought up to me a few times. It was a staggering amount, 600-plus yards. I've never seen so many big runs in my life.

Someone asked me about Charlie Strong and all the players that have left the Texas program since he took over. They knew that the same thing happened to me during my first season here.

Charlie is doing what you have to do. Sometimes coaches will compromise and that's the worst thing that you can do. You go

in, you have standards, and you have rules. Charlie has been in winning programs; he was at Notre Dame with Lou Holtz and at Florida with Urban Meyer.

There are certain standards that you have to live by. If some players are going to stay with their old habits and not conform, they can't be with the program.

You may take your lumps. I know because I've been down that path. But in the long run, you're going to have what you want and players who understand and follow and then it starts to snowball.

I got back to Madison for Wednesday's volleyball match against Penn State. We had a sellout. That's very good. There should be a buzz around the program and there is.

I was amazed last year at the NCAA championship by the response from around the country to our volleyball team. People were excited by what they saw on TV.

I can't blame them. When you watch this team, it's very athletic and competitive and it's really entertaining. The level of play is amazing.

If we're consistently drawing nice crowds to the Field House, we'll take a look at getting the upper balcony up to code — the structure is safe, it's the height of railings that are the issue — so that we can open it.

Demand is always a positive. ■



# Badgers, Big Ten look to build momentum

Last Saturday was a much-needed good day for the Big Ten. With the exception of Michigan, which lost at home to Utah, every conference team won. That includes the Badgers, as the home team rolled up record offensive numbers in a 68-17 rout of Bowling Green.

Last week in this space, I suggested a good showing by Wisconsin might not change the national perception of this league, but it could be considered a step in the right direction. Wisconsin did its part in blasting a team that defeated Indiana the previous week.

Speaking of Indiana, perhaps nobody outside the Hoosiers' locker room figured they had the slightest chance of beating Missouri. But they did, knocking off the 18th-ranked Tigers in Columbia, 31-27.

Iowa, coming off a gut-wrenching loss to in-state rival Iowa State, went to Pittsburgh and defeated the Panthers, 24-20.

Maryland outscored Syracuse 34-20, and yes, it is ok to still get used to the fact that Maryland is in the Big Ten.

On Saturday night in Lincoln, Nebraska beat Miami, 41-31.

Some of the Big Ten's best players were shining on the big stage. IU running back Tevin Coleman rushed for 132 yards

and had another 57 yards receiving.

Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah piled up 313 all-purpose yards in helping the Huskers take down the 'Canes.

Of course, we can't leave out the Badgers' Melvin Gordon, who needed a grand total of 13 carries to rush for 253 yards and five touchdowns against the Falcons.

It seems running backs develop a strong fraternity. It is fair to suggest all three keep track of each other's totals. All three had plenty to feel good about last week.

So did the conference. At least for one week, critics can direct their attention to something other than Big Ten bashing. Truth be told, the conference's next chance to make a loud statement will be during the bowl season. Hopefully last week's results is a preview of coming attractions.

••••

This Saturday the Badgers conclude the non-conference portion of the schedule by playing South Florida. Willie Taggart is in his second year as the Bulls head coach. A former quarterback at Western Kentucky, he maintains a strong relationship with his former coach, Jack Harbaugh.

Taggart arrived in Tampa after a three-year stint as the head

man at his old school. He inherited a program at WKU that had lost 20 straight games. After the streak extended to 26, Taggart turned the Hilltoppers into winners again. They had consecutive winning seasons, capped by the school's appearance in the 2012 Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, WKU's first post season game as an FBS program.

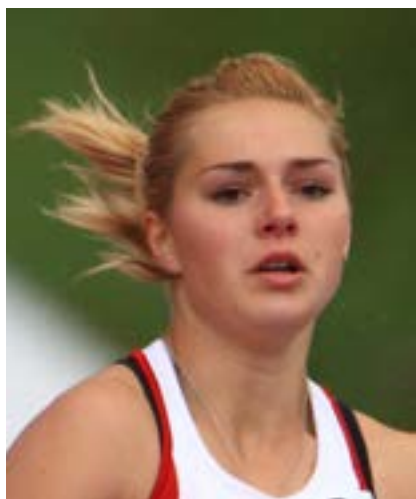
These days Taggart is trying to flip a struggling South Florida program. Last year the Bulls had a solid defense that helped cause 25 turnovers. It has been more of a rollercoaster early this season, but USF is coming off a 17-14 victory against UConn. The game had an old school look as the teams played in a steady, and at times, driving rain.

Last week much of the talk centered on Bowling Green's fast-paced offense. This week is a different story. Actually, Badgers head coach Gary Andersen calls it a "Major departure. Huddle up, both sides of the ball."

"Fans can probably go out, grab a Badger Max real quick between plays if you wanted to," added the coach, tongue firmly planted in cheek.

From up tempo to physical, more deliberate football. It is a transition the Badgers likely will have to make in conference play. It is never a bad idea to get used to such adjustments now. ■

# IF THEY MADE A MOVIE ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD THE TITLE BE AND WHO WOULD PLAY YOU?



**GEORGIA ELLENWOOD**  
Sophomore • Women's Track

“ I think the best title to describe my life would be ‘Move It or Lose It’ featuring Emma Watson! She’s young, looks the part, and it seems like all different types of people can relate to her. Like her, I’m a very social person and try to get along with all kinds of people and we can both adapt to any environment.”



**TIMMY McCALL**  
Senior • Wrestling

“ Let’s go with ‘The Road to March Matness’ and Terry Crews would be the star.”



**SARAH NURSE**  
Sophomore • Women's Hockey

“ My movie would be called ‘One Way or Another’ starring Beyoncé. Basically, planning isn’t really my thing, I prefer doing things spur of the moment and then see how things just fall into place. I don’t like to sweat the small stuff because I believe that everything happens for a reason and that you’re not faced with challenges that you’re unable to overcome. I would love to have Beyoncé play me because she is a beautiful, talented, smart woman who is an incredible role model for myself and girls everywhere.”



**FRANK KAMINSKY**  
Senior • Men's Basketball

“ The title for my biography would probably be ‘How to be a Boss,’ starring Denzel Washington. You think that’s a stretch? OK, same title, but Tom Hanks can play me.”





## DEVIN GAULDEN

*Junior CB Devin Gaulden is back on the field for the Badgers after missing most of the 2012 season with a torn ACL and then suffering a fractured patella that forced him to sit out the entire 2013 campaign. The Miramar, Florida, native has played in all three games this season with a pair of starts and recorded a career-high four tackles in UW's win over Bowling Green.*

### **How does it feel to finally be able to compete after being sidelined by multiple injuries?**

"I don't know if words can describe how I feel. I smile each and every day I'm out here, I'm just happy to be with my teammates, out here running around playing in Camp Randall, one of the best stadiums in the country. So it feels amazing."

### **What was going through your head after you registered a tackle against Western Illinois?**

"Finally here, finally playing. It was just another play — I played in the LSU game, so I got all the goosebumps and the butterflies out in that game."

### **What is your relationship like with Sojourn Shelton and Darius Hillary?**

"Me and Darius are roommates, so we share a bathroom, we're like brothers. Sojourn's freshman year, he stayed on

### **Quick Qs with Devin**

#### **Sitcom family you'd like to join:**

"Probably *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Uncle Phil is pretty cool, and Will and Carlton have a good time. They're a cool family."

#### **Witness protection alias:**

"My alias... I would probably go with John Doe, because I always mess with Kenzel Doe for his last name."

#### **Favorite warm-up song:**

"Eminem, 'Lose Yourself.' I just started listening to it because I feel like it's my last opportunity at football if anything else happens, so I feel like it's a great song."

#### **Favorite place to eat in Madison:**

"I'm really heavy on Pita Pit right now. And I get the double meat. It's definitely Pita Pit."

#### **Favorite Twitter follow on the team:**

"Derrick Tindal gets going sometimes and it's pretty interesting. And Sojourn Shelton, too, he's pretty funny."

- SCROLL FOR MORE -





# GAINING GROUND

Following a prodigious performance that saw them leave broken records (and defenders) in their wake, the Badgers reflect on a still-evolving rushing attack that is more diverse — and dangerous — than ever.

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BY MIKE LUCAS ■ [UWBADGERS.COM](http://UWBADGERS.COM)



**WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS,** Wisconsin tailback Melvin Gordon shared his secret.

“Believe it or not, I still don’t trust my speed,” he said with a straight face.

Come again? “Sometimes,” he went on, “I don’t think I’m fast enough.”

Tell that to anyone on the Bowling Green defense that futilely tried to catch him. On the second play of the third quarter, Gordon sprinted 69 yards for a touchdown.

“He outran like three dudes,” said quarterback Tanner McEvoy. “He just strided past them.”

The recollection of that Gordon run, and others, had tailback Corey Clement shaking his head.

“He makes it look so easy,” Clement said wistfully. “He knows this system in and out.”

That system was clicking at a record-setting pace Saturday at Camp Randall Stadium. Through three quarters, Gordon, Clement and McEvoy combined for 422 rushing yards. Each had more than 100, the fifth time in 18 games that a UW trio has topped the century mark.

Just for good measure, Dare Ogunbowale chipped in with 94 yards, all in the fourth quarter. All told, the Badgers rushed for 644 yards, the most in the Big Ten’s modern era. It was also the most by an FBS team in the last 11 seasons.

“It’s a good feeling,” said tackle Rob Havenstein, “when we can put up numbers like that.”

Clement slowly rolled the number — six-hundred and forty-four — over his tongue. Savoring the sound, he said, “It’s something you might dream of the night before a game.”

Given Bowling Green’s suspect defense, he was actually thinking in the 400 to 500 range.

“But 600?” Clement said. “It’s somewhat unheard of.”

The 644 yards are more than 73 FBS teams

have registered all season. That includes Ohio State (586), Notre Dame (474), USC (453), Iowa (526) and Florida State (329).

The Badgers averaged 10.7 yards on their 60 rushing attempts against Bowling Green.

“I would say it’s a team stat,” said linebacker Derek Landisch. “It kept us off the field.”

The week before, the Falcons had a school-record 113 plays in their upset of Indiana. Last Saturday, they had 62 while the Badgers had the ball for 36:36 and 78 plays.

“You have to give credit to the entire offense,” Landisch said.

Speaking for the defense, he added, “We feed off their big plays.”

Nobody had more Saturday than Gordon, who averaged 19.5 yards per rush.

“We’ve all seen that,” Landisch said. “It’s Melvin being Melvin.”

Gordon rushed for a career-high 253 yards on just 13 carries.

“On a lot of those runs,” said Havenstein, “you see Melvin breaking three tackles and

outrunning four people. It’s unbelievable really.

“You see a couple of them where guys have angles on Melvin to make the tackle and, all of a sudden, he puts his track background to work and burns them.

“But he’s not just a speed guy. He’s breaking tackles in the hole, spinning off a guy, stiff-arming another and then outrunning one. Plays like that show up on Melvin’s tape over and over again.”

Wisconsin coach Gary Andersen never gets tired watching them, either.

“It does my heart good that kid (Gordon) had that opportunity to have that game,” he said, “because if you could have seen his eyes and the smile on his face as he was coming off the field, he was like, ‘That’s why I came back for my junior year.’”

**COACH ANDERSEN ON GORDON'S GREAT GAME:**  
...IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN HIS EYES AND THE SMILE ON HIS FACE AS HE WAS COMING OFF THE FIELD, HE WAS LIKE, 'THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK FOR MY JUNIOR YEAR.'



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It's an age-old football commandment for a running back: trust your speed. Trust that you have the speed to get outside. Trust that you have the speed to outrun defenders in the open field.

Gordon still reminds himself, "Trust your speed, trust your speed, you can get the edge."

But the trust factor can be dictated sometimes by circumstances and the defensive personnel.

"It depends on who's chasing you," said Gordon, smiling.

During those moments when he doesn't think that he's fast enough, Gordon said, "I'll put my stiff-arm out there a little bit early. I did that a lot last year."

Ah, yes, the Gordon stiff-arm.

Bowling Green head coach Dino Babers has not seen any better. During his post-game remarks, he had nothing but praise for Gordon's overall makeup.

"There's no doubt about it," Babers said, "that's the best tailback I've seen in a long time."

Babers knows skill. He was around Robert Griffin III and Josh Gordon as a Baylor assistant.

"There's a shiftiness about him," Babers said of Melvin Gordon, "then you see his breakaway speed and then, heck, I saw two or three stiff-arms."

"He's stiff-arming kids like he's grown and playing in a Pop Warner game. And I know the guys were strong that he was throwing off of him."

Ah, yes, the Gordon stiff-arm. Growing up, in fact, Gordon said, "My dad always used to remind me all the time about using my stiff-arm. As a running back, it's something that you have to use."

Timing is everything. "You just have to know when to put it out there at the right time," he said.

Clement can relate. He also has a nasty stiff-arm and he's not afraid to use it.

"You can work on it," Clement said. "But I just believe it's a natural instinct."

Landisch has been on the receiving end of



stiff-arms from Gordon and Clement in practice.

“They both have that power aspect,” Landisch said, “so when they hit you with that stiff-arm some defenders aren’t expecting it. You always want to swipe the hand down and make a play.

“But they’ve got great athletic ability and they use it to their advantage.

Melvin is more of a long strider; he’s got a lot of quickness and shiftiness. And Corey has a lot of the same ability.

“But when he gets the ball, he’s very physical. As far as yards after contact, he likes to grind. He breaks a lot of tackles. Corey always keeps his feet moving after contact. He’s more of a grinder.”

Clement is a self-described grinder. While noting how easy Gordon makes it look, he confessed, “Then I get in there and there are some things that just don’t happen as good as he does it. I grind.”

He simply does what he has to do. He will run up the back of his own blocker if he has to. Like he did Saturday with guard Dallas Lewallen. Clement says it’s something that his O-linemen encourage.

“They’ll say, ‘Corndog, I’ve got you, just run my way,’” Clement said. “So, I’ll press the line and try to make drastic cuts right there on the heels of the linemen.”

Corndog? “Haven’t had one in my life,” said Clement, shrugging.

But former UW nose guard Beau Allen tagged him with the

nickname last year.

Havenstein also has labeled him.

“Corey is an angry runner,” he said. “That first guy rarely brings him down, he’s that powerful of a dude, that quick of a dude. All of a sudden, he puts a hand on the ground and he’s going again.”

Clement and Gordon are both looking to get to the second level, the linebacker level, utopia.

“I’m always looking for the home run for some reason,” said Clement, taking it another step. “I think it gets me in trouble sometimes because you can’t really hit the home run on every play.

“Normally when I get the ball, I’m looking at the down linemen and seeing how the front seven is moving and then I’m going on to the linebackers and seeing if I can make a move on them.”

What if he’s boxed in and he can’t make that move? What then?

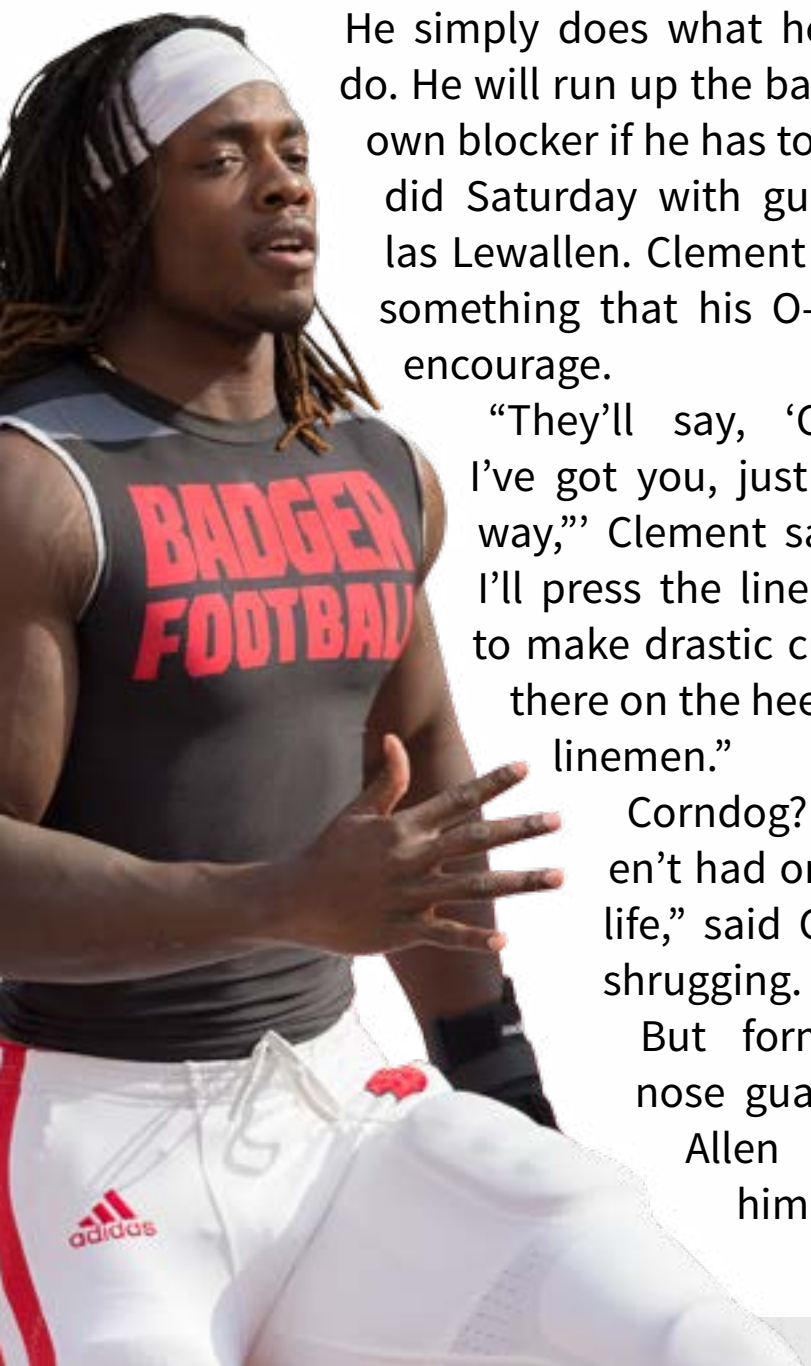
“I use my leverage to get under their pads,” he said, “and run them over.”

Once at that second level, the tailback may have to make somebody miss, usually the safety.

“Getting past the trenches is the hard part,” Gordon said. “When you get into the open field, it’s on you to make a play. They can’t block everyone, so you have to make some guy miss.

“There’s always going to be one person that is going

**LANDISCH ON GORDON & CLEMENT:  
THEY BOTH HAVE THAT  
POWER ASPECT ...  
THEY’VE GOT GREAT  
ATHLETIC ABILITY AND  
THEY USE IT TO THEIR  
ADVANTAGE.**





to be free. And you know when you get to that second level, there's a good chance that it will be one-on-one.

"When we get there," said Gordon, smiling again, "we try to make the best of it."

This season, the Badgers have expanded their running attack with McEvoy, who set the school record for quarterbacks by rushing for 158 yards against Bowling Green.

The last QB to rush for over 100 was Brooks Bollinger. That was 12 years ago.

"You've got to love a quarterback who can make plays with his legs," Gordon said. "He's pretty shifty and we knew that from Day One that he would be a big part of the success of this team."

Opposing defenses must now account for McEvoy as a running threat on every snap.

"Their main goal is to stop Melvin," Havenstein said. "But Tanner adds another element and being more dimensional on offense is going to help us in the long run."

The Badgers have become the latest program to adopt the read option or zone read.

The premise is simple. The quarterback reads the unblocked edge player. While meshing with the tailback, he determines on the exchange whether he's handing off or keeping the ball himself.

"Anytime the quarterback has a chance to run it gives them an extra guy," Landisch said of the point of attack. "Tanner is a great athlete. He's got the size but he also has the speed and shiftiness."

"We saw that on Saturday (against Bowling Green) on a broken play. He was still able to take advantage of it by using his athletic ability to make a gain for us."

On the UW's second offensive play Saturday,



▲ GAME HIGHLIGHTS: WISCONSIN VS. BOWLING GREEN ▪ *Swipe to change*

McEvoy and Gordon bumped on the exchange, McEvoy pulled the ball, Gordon blocked the defender and McEvoy scored on a 26-yard touchdown run.

"It wasn't a clean read," McEvoy said of the read option. "But Melvin is such a weapon that everybody has their eyes on him and it kind of opened me up. He made the block and I did the rest."

The 6-foot-6, 222-pound McEvoy is no stranger to toting the rock.

"I played running back from first grade through eighth grade," he said. "I was always the bigger, faster guy growing up so that kind of helped. I loved that position back then."

So why did he switch to wide receiver and safety when he got to high school?

"You don't have too many 6-5 or 6-6 running backs," he replied.

Prior to his senior year, McEvoy became the quarterback at Bergen Catholic in Oradell, New





▲ WATCH: WISCONSIN VS. BOWLING GREEN HIGHLIGHTS

Jersey. He remembered rushing for over 100 yards in games but he couldn't put a number on how many times.

At Arizona Western, he injured his shoulder in the opener which limited his running. "But I do enjoy running the ball," he said. "I always have. It's something that kind of always came natural."

Based on the early results, McEvoy appears very comfortable executing the read option.

"It's another thing to stop," he said. "It's tough for a defense to game-plan against us, especially with everything that we can do with the running backs and play-action and the zone reads."

Plus, it's a great way to get the ball on the perimeter or the edge of the defense.

"He's going to read that (defensive) end," Clement said, "he's going to hold it until the very last possible moment and he'll pull it away if he has to."

With a twinkle in his eye, he continued, "But if he gives it to us (tailbacks), he made the right decision. We have great options. He can run it. Melvin can run it. Or I can run it."

Ogunbowale showed that he can run it, too,

against Bowling Green. It was an auspicious debut for a converted defensive back that moved over to offense just two weeks ago.

"It's exciting to see how he learned so quickly," Landisch said. "He's confident in his ability."

So is Andersen on what the Badgers can deliver offensively, especially on the ground.

"There's a lot of offense to get ready for right now," Andersen said. "There are two or three different schemes that are run very effectively."

Opposing defensive coordinators are left to answer one question.


"Your mind," Andersen said, "is going to ask you, 'Okay, now what's next?'"

What a rush that can be for a former defensive coordinator like Andersen.

"Because there's a lot of 'What's next?' that can come your way," he said, "with a couple more schemes that really don't change anything we do but change a lot of things for defenses."

There's something else to think about on the heels of Saturday's victory.

644.

"On the ground," repeated McEvoy, trying to get the number to compute. "That's crazy." 



# THE ROAD

# HERE



**AS THE BIG TEN SEASON BEGINS, BADGERS  
TEST THEMSELVES AGAINST THE BEST**

BY BRIAN LUCAS ■ UW ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



**O**NE WEEK. THREE MATCHES. THREE top-10 opponents. An arduous stretch, or the perfect way to prepare for the grueling Big Ten schedule?

“If we win Wednesday, it’ll help us a lot. If we don’t, then it was a horrible idea,” joked Wisconsin volleyball head coach Kelly Sheffield before UW’s match with Penn State.

The Badgers began the season ranked sixth in the country and dominated on their way to an 8-0 record, losing just three sets along the way. The most impressive win in that stretch was a tense 3-0 victory at Colorado State in front of a hostile crowd of more than 7,000 fans.

But last week, UW embarked on its toughest stretch to date, travelling to Washington to face No. 10 USC and No. 5 Washington on back-to-back nights. It didn’t get any easier as third-ranked Penn State came to town on Wednesday in one of the

most anticipated matches in recent history. The Badgers and Nittany Lions not only opened the conference season on the Big Ten Network, the match was a rematch of last year’s NCAA title game, won by PSU 3-1.

If the fifth-ranked Badgers wanted to find out where they stood among the nation’s elite, this stretch, coming less than a month into the season, would surely help. But as Sheffield cautioned, there’s a lot of season left no matter what the outcomes are in late September.

“The most important thing right now isn’t winning this part of the year,” Sheffield said. “If you’ve got big goals at the end of the year, the most important thing is improving. Nothing can be more important than getting better.”

What better way to improve than to take on some of the nation’s top programs.

“When you’re playing great teams and you come back and you watch the film and see how they’re matching up and how they’re preparing for you, it allows you to get back in the gym and really work on those things,” Sheffield said. “The more important thing is that

we take some of those lessons, some of those things that we learned and we become a better team. To me that’s way more important if you’ve got big goals.”

That was Sheffield’s message before the Badgers fell to Penn State, 25-17, 25-21, 25-22, in front of a raucous, sold-out crowd at the Field House. After the match, it was much the same.

“We have to improve whether this was a win or a loss. We’re trying to win all of them, make no mistake,” Kelly Sheffield added. “We’re trying to win all of them but we’re also trying to get better.”

UW returned six starters from last year’s NCAA runner-up but that doesn’t mean the Badgers could pick up exactly where they left off last December. Freshman Kelli Bates has moved into starting role at outside hitter while junior Taylor

**COACH SHEFFIELD:**  
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AT THE END OF THE YEAR,  
THE MOST IMPORTANT  
THING IS IMPROVING.  
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GETTING BETTER.**







▲ PAN & ZOOM: TAP PHOTO ONCE TO ENABLE, THEN EXPLORE

Morey has moved into the libero spot full time. Bates is third on the team in kills behind seniors Ellen Chapman and Courtney Thomas, and Morey has spearheaded the conference's best defense.

In running out to the fourth-best start in school history (9-0 before falling to Washington), the Badgers have put up big numbers. Heading into this week's matches, UW led the Big Ten with 15.4 kills, 14.0 assists and 16.4 digs per set. Individually, sophomore setter Lauren Carlini paced the league with 11.9 assists per set while Morey was averaging a Big Ten-best 5.6 digs per set.


Starting Wednesday, Wisconsin embarked on its 20-game Big Ten Conference slate, which includes eight matches against teams currently ranked among the nation's top 17. With six teams in this week's top 20, the Big Ten trails only the Pac-12 (7) for most ranked teams by a conference.

It may be tough to keep up its early-season pace, but the Badgers know the conference season is a marathon, not a sprint. Even a Big Ten-opening loss to the defending champs must be taken in stride.

"The same thing ended up happening to Penn State last year, and they ended up winning a Big Ten title and national championship," Carlini said. "They lost to Michigan State in their first game, so anything is possible at this point in the season. The main thing is that we need to get back in the gym, not take any opportunities for granted and get better."

A year ago, Wisconsin was the unknown, starting the year unranked and pulling some surprises early in the conference season to get some people's attention. This year is different, with all eyes on the Badgers, especially taking on the defending champs in match No. 1.

"A goal is to win a conference championship. If you're wanting to be the best, you're going to have to eventually knock off the best and there's nobody better than Penn State," Sheffield said.

"They've been the measuring stick and I think great athletes and great teams, you want to measure yourself against the best, and we want to see if we've improved and we want to see where we stand right now. We know win or lose after this match, you've still got to find ways to get better." 





## Badgers boast big numbers on defense, too

Landisch leading way for improving defense

**T**he numbers are impossible to ignore: 756 total yards, 644 rushing yards, 68 points.

Lost — but not to be forgotten — amid the head-spinning performance put on by Wisconsin's offense in its rout of Bowling Green last Saturday at Camp Randall Stadium was another strong effort by the Badgers' defense.

On the flip side of UW's sky-high statistics, Bowling Green was limited to 93 rushing yards, 271 total yards and just 17 points, with each total representing roughly half of the Falcons' average output heading into the game.

That performance kept the Badgers as one of five teams nationally to rank in the nation's top 25 in scoring defense, total defense, rushing defense and passing defense (joining Baylor, Louisville, Pittsburgh and TCU).

UW has allowed its opponents just five trips into the red zone on the season — only TCU (2), Stanford (3) and Baylor (3) have allowed fewer — and the Badgers are the nation's lone team to not surrender a red-zone touchdown.

When it came to the latest example of UW's ever-evolving and ever-improving defense, head coach Gary Andersen directed

### SCHEDULE (2-1)

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

Aug. 30	vs. LSU	L, 28-24
Sept. 6	<b>Western Illinois</b>	W, 37-3
Sept. 20	<b>Bowling Green</b>	W, 68-17
Sept. 27	<b>South Florida</b>	11 a.m.
Oct. 4	at N'western	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	<b>Illinois</b>	TBA
Oct. 25	<b>Maryland</b>	11 a.m.
Nov. 1	at Rutgers	11 a.m.
Nov. 8	at Purdue	TBA
Nov. 15	<b>Nebraska</b>	TBA
Nov. 22	at Iowa	TBA
Nov. 29	<b>Minnesota</b>	TBA

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## Steve Lowe's legacy lives on at Wisconsin

UW honors former coach in Big Ten opener

It's been 24 years since the Wisconsin volleyball program burst onto the national scene. It was 1990 and under the guidance of head coach Steve Lowe, Wisconsin earned its first national ranking, won its first Big Ten Conference title and competed in its first NCAA tournament.

Lowe passed away the following August due to cancer, but his legacy lives on with Steve Lowe Night, which is held at UW's home Big Ten opener, and the Steve Lowe Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is presented to a current player who exemplifies Lowe's passion and enthusiasm for the game. This year's recipient is senior Kt Kvas.

"Steve Lowe's passion for volleyball brought a life to the Field House that the program hadn't seen before," said Kvas. "I am so honored to be selected for the Steve Lowe Endowed Scholarship because I have had the privilege to play in the Field House atmosphere he created. To receive an award that exemplifies someone as inspiring as him is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life."

Even current UW head coach Kelly Sheffield, who was just starting his coaching career when Lowe was at Wisconsin, knew

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE (9-1, 0-0)

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

#### RECENTLY

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

Sept. 18 vs. #10 USC W, 3-1

Sept. 19 at #5 Washington L, 2-3

Sept. 24 **#3 Penn State** 6:30 p.m.

#### COMING UP

Sept. 28 **Ohio State** 1 p.m.

Oct. 1 at Northwestern 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at #16 Illinois 7 p.m.

Oct. 10 **Rutgers** 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 **Maryland** 1 p.m.

Oct. 15 at Minnesota 6 p.m.

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## Badgers picked to finish third in Big Ten

Rumpel, LaBate among Players to Watch

**D**espite a roster that includes exactly half a team without experience in a collegiate game, Wisconsin was picked to finish third behind Minnesota and Michigan in the 2014-15 Big Ten men's hockey coaches' poll released prior to Wednesday's 2014 Big Ten Media Day. Ohio State, Michigan State and Penn State were chosen to round out the six-team poll.

Media Day was held in Detroit, down the street from Joe Louis Arena, site of this year's Big Ten tournament in March.

Wisconsin's strength heading into the season appears to be in goal, where 2014 Hobey Baker Memorial Award and Mike Richter Award finalist Joel Rumpel returns, as does seasoned senior netminder Landon Peterson. Rumpel was one of six unanimous preseason Players to Watch selected by the league coaches.

Senior assistant captain and forward Joseph LaBate was also chosen as one of the conference's 16 players to watch. He returns as the team's leading scorer after posting 11 goals and 22 points last season.

Not recognized by the Big Ten coaches but surely one to watch is sophomore forward Grant Besse, who like everyone on this year's team, figures to grab much more ice time and an expand-

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE (0-0-0)

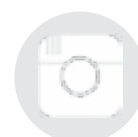
Home games in **bold**. All times CT.

#### COMING UP

Oct. 4	at Red-White	1 p.m.
	Scrimmage	
Oct. 10	vs. Alaska	8 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Alaska	10 p.m.
	Anchorage	
Oct. 17	vs. Northern Michigan	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. Northern Michigan	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	<b>North Dakota</b>	7 p.m.
Nov. 8	<b>North Dakota</b>	7 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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DAVID STLUKA

## Pankowski ready for her Wisconsin debut

UW freshman spent last fall with Team USA

**P**rior to last year's U.S. Women's National Team Selection Camp, Wisconsin freshman Annie Pankowski was slated to join the Badgers during the 2013-14 season, as part of the freshman class that featured Sarah Nurse, Sydney McKibbin, Jenny Ryan, Mellissa Channell and Ann-Renee Desbiens.

However, Pankowski was one of five Badgers to earn a spot on the national team that trained and played together leading up to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Pankowski, who was the second-youngest played on the squad, appeared in seven games for the U.S., recording two assists before being the final cut from the team in late December.

"Playing on the national team last year really opened my eyes to what to expect at the next level of hockey," Pankowski said. "I was surrounded by superior athletes every day and was able to train and learn with them."

Wisconsin head coach Mark Johnson, no stranger to the U.S. national team after serving as the head coach during the 2010 Winter Olympics, believes Pankowski's time with Team USA was an invaluable experience.

"If I'm around Hilary Knight or if I'm around Meghan Duggan

### SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 26	at Lindenwood	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Lindenwood	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Minn. Duluth	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Minn. Duluth	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	<b>Ohio State</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	<b>Ohio State</b>	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	<b>Minnesota</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	<b>Minnesota</b>	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Bemidji State	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Bemidji State	4 p.m.
Oct. 31	at North Dakota	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at North Dakota	3 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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-SCROLL FOR MORE-





DAVID STLUKA

# Badgers prove they're up for the challenge

Team looks for road statement at Maryland

**S**ince the start of preseason, there's been little time to rest for the Badgers. The team has proven it's not afraid to face the country's toughest competition, and has already seen the fruits of its labor by the rapid maturation of its young squad.

With a record of 1-4-1, the Badgers have faced two ranked teams (No. 13 Georgetown and No. 18 George Mason) and one team (San Francisco) that has received votes in the NSCAA Coaches Poll. In the preseason, Wisconsin faced No. 5 and defending national champion Notre Dame, No. 3 Creighton and UIC, who is currently receiving votes.

Four of the Badgers' eleven remaining games in the regular season will be against ranked teams. Wisconsin will face No. 10 Penn State, No. 14 Indiana, No. 16 Michigan State and No. 17 Marquette. Maryland, the newest member of the Big Ten along with Rutgers, fell out of the rankings but is still receiving votes. They're up next this weekend.

Friday night's match will be the first conference matchup between Wisconsin and Maryland. The Badgers hope for a different outcome than their last visit to College Park, Maryland

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

## SCHEDULE (1-4-1)

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

### RECENTLY

Aug. 31	<b>Xavier</b>	W, 4-0
Sept. 5	at George Mason	L, 1-2
Sept. 7	at Georgetown	L, 1-4
Sept. 12	<b>Rutgers</b>	L, 2-3 (OT)
Sept. 19	<b>St. John's</b>	T, 1-1 (2OT)

### COMING UP

Sept. 26	at Maryland	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Marquette	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 4	<b>Michigan</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	<b>Green Bay</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Michigan State	1 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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DAVID STLUKA

# Badgers bounce back in impressive fashion

UW responds with win over defending champs

**T**he Wisconsin women's soccer team got right back to its winning ways last weekend after suffering its first loss of the season on a tough, last-second goal by Michigan. Not only did the Badgers prove that they've moved on, the team made a statement to the conference that its only loss was merely a minor setback.

With defending conference champion Nebraska in Madison for a match last Saturday, Wisconsin dismantled the reigning champs and posted an impressive 3-0 shutout win. Marisa Kresge, Kinley McNicoll and Kodee Williams each scored goals, while Genevieve Richard and the defense earned their sixth shutout in nine games on the season.

An impressive performance across the board, the win helped Wisconsin earn its first triumph over Nebraska since the 2011 season. The Badgers also did something they had never done before: defeat the Huskers in Madison.

UW head coach Paula Wilkins credited the team's effort for its big performance against Nebraska. Wilkins observed a desperation and will to win from her team that made all the difference. "The one thing that we really wanted to do was get a Big

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

## SCHEDULE (8-1-0, 2-1-0)

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

### RECENTLY

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
Sept. 20	<b>Nebraska</b>	W, 3-0

### COMING UP

Sept. 26	at Indiana	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Purdue	Noon
Oct. 3	<b>Ohio State</b>	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	<b>Penn State</b>	Noon
Oct. 8	Iowa	7 p.m.

[> View complete schedule](#)

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# UW's Chypyha ready to take the big stage

Junior set to compete in ITA All-Americans

One year ago, Lauren Chypyha was informed that she wasn't going to be invited to the Riviera Women's All-American Tennis Championships, one of the largest stages in college tennis.

It was a huge disappointment for Chypyha, now a junior, because she knew she belonged at that level. Fast forward 12 months, and it turns out she was right.

Beginning Friday, Chypyha will get the chance to compete side-by-side with the top players in college tennis.

"Playing in the ITA All-Americans has always been a goal for me since I got here," Chypyha said. "I was upset last season that I didn't get invited and I had a mindset in matches last year of proving that I belong there. Now I'm really excited about the opportunity to face that competition."

When Chypyha takes the court for her pre-qualifying match at the Riviera Tennis Club in Pacific Palisades, California, she will be the first Wisconsin women's player to make an appearance at the invitational tournament since Caitlin Burke in 2006.

UW head coach Tina Samara explained the importance of the tournament: "It's part of the college grand slam. Any time you

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

## SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 27 **All-American Champ.**  
*Pacific Palisades, Calif.*

Oct. 10 **UGA Invite**  
*Athens, Georgia*

Oct. 17 **ITA Regionals**  
*Champaign, Ill.*

### SPRING SEASON

Jan. 24 **Drake** 2 p.m.

Feb. 1 **Eastern Mich.** 11 a.m.

Feb. 7 **Bowling Green** 11 a.m.

Feb. 8 **Marquette** 10 a.m.

Feb. 13 **Akron** 4 p.m.

Feb. 15 **Utah State** 10 a.m.

[> View Complete Schedule](#)

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## Badger Invite returns to University Ridge

54-hole even includes 14 teams

**T**he annual 54-hole Badger Men's Golf Invitational will again feature some of the finest collegiate talent when it takes place Sept. 28-30 at University Ridge Golf Course.

Last year, the University Ridge collegiate course record was tied when Caleb Sturgeon of South Carolina shot a 65 en route to a Badger Invitational scoring record 10-under par 65-72-69—206. South Carolina won the tournament with an 8-under par 282-283-291—856.

The tournament was revived last year by UW men's golf coach Michael Burcin as a way of showcasing one of the finest college courses in the nation. University Ridge moved up from fifth to the third-best collegiate course according to Golfweek's annual Best Collegiate Golf Courses rankings that were released on Sept. 4.

Prior to last year, the Badgers had not played at home in a tournament since hosting the 2005 Big Ten Championship.

South Carolina will not return to defend its title, but some other talented teams are attending: Bowling Green, Bradley, Charleston Southern, Drake, Illinois State, Iowa State, Kansas, Maryland, Marquette, Rutgers, Sam Houston State, Toledo and

**-SCROLL FOR MORE-**

### SCHEDULE

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

#### RECENTLY

Sept. 6	at Wolverine Intercollegiate	2nd/11
Sept. 7	at Wolverine Intercollegiate	T4th/11
Sept. 21	at Windon Memorial Classic	12th/15
Sept. 22	at Windon Memorial Classic	14th/15

#### COMING UP

Sept. 28-30	<b>Badger Invitational</b>
Oct. 5-7	at Erin Hills Intercollegiate
Nov. 3-5	at UCLA Bruins Intercollegiate

[> View Complete Schedule](#)

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## A HOME FOR THE BADGERS

**SEPTEMBER 25, 1929:** The official ground breaking for the UW Field House took place. At a cost of \$453,756, the building was considered a state-of-the-art facility, comparable to any of its kind in the country. When built, it was large enough to accommodate two basketball courts for practice and one court for regulation play.

### -MORE THIS WEEK-



#### A NAME FOR THE AGES

**SEPTEMBER 26, 1942:**

Elroy Hirsch was first tagged “Crazy Legs” after *Chicago Daily News* sportswriter Francis Powers wrote “His crazy legs were gyrating in six different directions, all at the same time; he looked like a demented duck.”



#### BACK ON TOP

**SEPTEMBER 27, 1998:**

The men’s golf team captured first place at the Hawkeye Invitational in Iowa City, Iowa, with a 288-295-294—877. It was the Badgers’ first tournament victory in four years.



#### HOME, SWEET HOME

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2010:**

The women’s golf team won the championship of their own Badger Invitational at University Ridge Golf Course. Senior Carly Werwie won the individual championship with a school 54-hole record 213.