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UW's Dayne train keeps rolling

BADGERS NOTES

Home finale something special for UW seniors

There are moments to remember in every player's career. None may be more special than that final moment.

"It was like playing in the Rose Bowl," University of Wisconsin senior offensive tackle Jerry Wunsch said. "I just wanted to look around and take it all in. Just feel it."

Wunsch was one of 23 seniors who provided a successful farewell to their home careers Saturday in the Badgers' 45-28 victory over Minnesota at Camp Randall Stadium.

The list of accomplishments were impressive:

■ Defensive end Tarek Saleh had his 10th sack of the season and the 29th of his career, breaking the school record set by Mike Thompson (1991-1994). Saleh is three sacks shy of tying UW's season record.

■ Defensive tackle Bryan Jurewicz had three sacks, doubling his season output and giving him 10 tackles for loss this season.

■ Linebacker Daryl Carter also picked up a sack, giving him five for the season.

■ Tight end Kevin Lyles, who came to UW as a quarterback before switching three years ago, caught a 10-yard scoring pass from quarterback Mike Samuel in the third quarter for the first TD of his collegiate career.

■ The offensive line, which includes Wunsch, Jamie Vanderveldt, Derek Engler, Cayetano Castro and James Darby, overwhelmed the Minnesota front as UW rushers picked up 349 yards on 61 carries (5.7 yards per attempt).

"It's always an emotional time," Jurewicz said. "I had about 50 friends and family in the stands, and my first sack came right near them. I just stood up and relished the moment."

UW coach Barry Alvarez said it had been an emotional week for the seniors, so emotional that his only concern was "that they'd be too sky high" for the game.

While the seniors apparently were capable of keeping that emotion from overflowing, the feeling spilled over to their teammates. "A lot of the young guys fed off that," said sophomore defensive end Tom Burke. "It was great to go out there and have the chance to play 100 percent for them."

Record setter

Saleh's sack gave him 52 tackles for loss in his career, five shy of the mark held by Thompson. With three games remaining, Saleh has a realistic chance of reaching that mark, too.

But he won't forget surpassing Thompson's sack mark for one reason. "The fact that we won makes the record enjoyable," he said.

Under pressure

Minnesota, in the throes of a six-game losing streak, has two games left. So probably does coach Jim Wacker.

Because of a performance clause in his contract, Wacker needs to win out to keep his job for a sixth season. One advantage the Gophers have is both games — Illinois next week and Iowa the week after — will be played at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. One disadvantage Wacker has is that the Gophers have lost 13 straight Big Ten games. Another is that the Gophers defense has allowed 134 points in three straight losses to Michigan (44), Ohio State (45) and Wisconsin.

"It's not a big surprise," Wacker said. "I knew there would be a chance it would come down to this. That makes it even more exciting.

"It's like a big poker pot at the end of the night. All the chips are on the table. You've got to love it."

Another fan of Dayne

Add Wacker to the list of admirers of freshman tailback Ron Dayne, whose 297 rushing yards in a school-record 50 attempts was 7 yards shy of the school record set by Billy Marek against the Gophers in 1974.

"He's the toughest kid in the Big Ten to bring down," Wacker said of Dayne. "He's as hard a runner I've ever had the privilege — and I don't know if privilege is the right word — to ever coach against."

Wacker said the Minnesota defense tried just about everything to stop Dayne, but everything just isn't enough. "There's not a lot of coaching strategy," he said. "You just wipe the blood off your nose and go after him the next time."

Extra points

The announced crowd of 78,006 improved the season average to 77,948, second to the school record of 78,222 set last season. . . . Junior wide receiver **Donald Hayes** had five catches for 100 yards, the first time a UW receiver has hit the century mark this season. . . . UW's 80-yard scoring drive for its second touchdown lasted 8 minutes, 1 second, its most time-consuming drive of the season.

By Vic Feuerherd

BADGERS REPLAY

Wisconsin 45, Minnesota 28

	Min	Wis
First downs	17	21
Rushes-yards	15-65	61-349
Passing yards	201	137
Passes (comp.-att.-int.)	16-25-0	11-15-0
Return yards	3	0
Punts-average	4-41.3	1-37.0
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-37	8-73
Time of possession	28:07	31:57

	1	2	3	4	T
Minnesota	7	0	14	7	28
Wisconsin	7	21	14	3	45

Wisconsin — Dayne, 6, run (Hall, kick)
Minnesota — Evans, 1, run (Bailey, kick)
Wisconsin — Morris, 1, pass from Samuel (Hall, kick)
Wisconsin — Dayne, 13, run (Hall, kick)
Wisconsin — Dayne, 1, run (Hall, kick)
Minnesota — Jackson, 9, run (kick blocked)
Wisconsin — Lyles, 10, pass from Samuel (Hall, kick)
Minnesota — Hamner, 1, run (Bailey, kick)
Wisconsin — Morris, Samuel sacked by Mickels in end zone
Minnesota — Allwell, 4, pass from Sauter (pass failed)
Minnesota — Allwell, 45 pass from Sauter (Bailey, kick)
Wisconsin — FG, Hall, 27
Att. — 78,006.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Minnesota — Hamner 13-76, Jackson 4-15, Evans 4-13, Sauter 4-minus 20, Wisconsin — Dayne 36-247, McCullough 7-66, Samuel 4-6.

Passing: Minnesota — Sauter 16-25-0-215, Wisconsin — Samuel 11-15-0-137.

Receiving: Minnesota — Thelwell 5-140, Allwell 5-105, Dunn 2-19, Hamner 2-19, Jackson 1-16, Evans 1-16, Hunter 1-4, Wisconsin — Morris 3-106, Lyles 3-16, Dayne 1-7, Barrett 1-5, McCullough 1-minus 5.

How they scored

Badgers 7, Gophers 0. Touchdown: With 1:1 minutes left in the first quarter, tailback Ron Dayne slipped 8 yards off right tackle. PAT: John Hall converted. Drive: Eight plays, 73 yards, 4:00. Key play: On third-and-6 from the Minnesota 42, quarterback Mike Samuel passed to split end Donald Hayes for a 25-yard gain down the left sideline.

Badgers 7, Gophers 7. TD: On second-and-goal from the 3, running back Byron Evans found a hole off right guard with 6:30 left in the first quarter. PAT: Adam Bailey converted. Drive: Nine plays, 80 yards, 4:30. Key plays: Quarterback Cory Sauter was 3-for-3 passing for 53 yards.

Badgers 14, Gophers 7. TD: On third-and-5 from the 7, Samuel hit flanker Ahmad Merritt on a quick slant with 13:29 left in the second quarter. PAT: Hall converted. Drive: 15 plays, 80 yards, 6:01. Key plays: Dayne carried 11 times for 52 yards. On third-and-4 from the Minnesota 26, Samuel found Hayes for 14 yards.

Badgers 21, Gophers 7. TD: On second-and-5 from the 15, Dayne hammered off right guard with 12:41 left in the second period. PAT: Hall converted. Drive: Two plays, 20 yards, :41. Key play: On the ensuing kickoff, linebacker Chris Ghidorzi forced a fumble by return man Tyrone Carter and recovered it at the Minnesota 20.

Badgers 28, Gophers 7. TD: On third-and-1 from the 2, Dayne found daylight around right end with 1:26 left in the first half. PAT: Hall converted. Drive: Nine plays, 67 yards, 4:47. Key plays: On the first play of the drive, Dayne bolted off right tackle for 27 yards, putting him over 1,000 yards rushing for the season. On third-and-7 from the Minnesota 24, Samuel completed a 13-yard flip to Hayes.

Badgers 28, Gophers 13. TD: On first-and-goal from the 9, running back Thomas Hamner found a hole through the right side with 12:51 left in the third quarter. PAT: The attempt by Bailey was blocked. Drive: Six plays, 80 yards, 2:09. Key plays: On consecutive plays, Sauter hit split end Tutu Atwell for 28 yards and wide receiver Ryan Thelwell for 32, giving the Gophers the ball at the 9.

Badgers 35, Gophers 13. TD: On fourth-and-2 from the 10, Samuel rolled right and flicked a pass to a wide-open Kevin Lyles with 7:17 left in the third period. PAT: Hall converted. Drive: 11 plays, 80 yards, 5:34. Key plays: Dayne carried nine times for 64 yards. On first-and-22 following a holding penalty, Samuel passed to Hayes for 18 yards to the Minnesota 27, setting up a first down.

Badgers 42, Gophers 13. TD: Tailback Carl McCullough slashed off right tackle from 17 yards out with :29 left in the third quarter. PAT: Hall converted. Drive: Eight plays, 55 yards, 4:23. Key play: On third-and-4 from the Minnesota 36, Samuel found tight end Eric Grams over the middle for a 6-yard gain.

Badgers 42, Gophers 15. Safety: On first-and-10 from the UW 10, Samuel was sacked in the end zone by Jon Michals, a redshirt freshman from Oak Creek. The play came with 12:49 left in the fourth period.

Badgers 42, Gophers 21. TD: On second-and-goal from the 6, Sauter beat a Wisconsin blitz by leaping at the line of scrimmage and throwing to Atwell, who fought across the goal line with 10:31 left in the fourth period. PAT: On the try for two points, Sauter was sacked by defensive end Tarek Saleh. Drive: Seven plays, 72 yards, 2:18. Key plays: Sauter was 4-for-4 passing for 48 yards.

Badgers 42, Gophers 28. TD: On first down from the Wisconsin 43, Sauter passed down the left sideline to Atwell, who beat cornerback Onai Bryant on the play with 6:59 left in the fourth. PAT: Bailey converted. Drive: Three plays, 80 yards, 1:12. Key play: On second-and-8 from his 22, Sauter hooked up with Thelwell for a 35-yard gain to the UW 43.

Badgers 45, Gophers 28. Field goal: With 2:59 to play, Hall's kick was good from 27 yards. Drive: Nine plays, 58 yards, 3:54. Key plays: Dayne carried seven straight times for 54 yards.

Wisconsin statistics

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Dayne	36	247	0	247	6.9	3	27
McCullough	7	66	1	65	9.3	1	17
Samuel	4	6	0	6	1.5	0	4

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Samuel	15	11	0	137	9.1	2	32

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Hayes	3	43	14.3	0	25
Morris	3	106	35.3	1	45
Lyles	1	16	16.0	1	16
Dayne	1	7	7.0	0	7
Barrett	1	5	5.0	0	5
McCullough	2	0	0.0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Skrzypczak	1	37	37.0	37

RETURNS	PUNT No.	PUNT Yds.	PUNT TD	KICKOFF No.	KICKOFF Yds.	KICKOFF TD
Stecker	1	3	0	1	19	0
Kriegl	1	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell	2	13	0	2	39	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles (unassisted-assisted-total): Ghidorzi 3-5-7, Morris 5-1-6, Carter 3-4-6, Jurewicz 4-1-5, Burke 2-3-5, Saleh 4-0-4, Huntley 2-2-4, Bryant 3-0-3, Isles 2-1-3, Taylor 1-2-3, Adams 0-2-2, Lyles 1-0-1, Thompson 0-1-1, Wilkins 0-1-1, Mickels 0-1-1, Engler 0-1-1, Thompson 0-1-1, Chimelis 0-1-1, Mears 0-1-1.

Sacks — Jurewicz 2, Isom, Carter.

Fumble recoveries — Morris, Ghidorzi.

Minnesota statistics

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Hamner	13	76	0	76	5.8	1	18
Jackson	4	15	0	15	3.8	1	9
Evans	4	13	0	13	3.3	1	7
Sauter	4	9	29	20	5.0	0	11

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	Long
Sauter	25	16	0	215	2	45

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	TD	Long
Thelwell	5	140	0	32
Allwell	5	105	2	45
Dunn	2	19	0	12
Hamner	2	19	0	13
Jackson	1	16	0	16
Morris	1	16	0	16
Hunter	1	4	0	4

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Kempt	4	165	41.3	47

RETURNS	PUNT No.	PUNT Yds.	PUNT TD	KICKOFF No.	KICKOFF Yds.	KICKOFF TD
Carter	3	10	0	1	16	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles (unassisted-assisted-total): Hamner 3-11-14, P. Williams 2-13-15, Smith 3-11-14, Carter 4-8-11, Schaggs 4-4-8, Cross 3-4-8, Langford 1-4-7, Davis 3-3-6, Richard 2-3-5, Mickels 2-3-5, Brace 1-4-5, Cronk 0-3-3, Heath 1-1-2, Kitchen 1-1-2, Bruce 1-0-1, Dahlen 0-0-0, Wrinkle 1-0-1, Rawlings 0-1-1, Hunter 0-1-1.

Sacks — Hamner, Smith.

Fumble recoveries — None.

Dr. Robert Thomas on
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Badgers

Continued from Page 1D

why they held onto the ball for nearly 16 minutes more than Minnesota (3-6, 0-6).

It helped, too, that quarterback Mike Samuel had a strong day, completing 11 of 15 passes for 137 yards and two touchdowns. With flanker Tony Simmons sidelined for the rest of the season with a broken bone in his right heel, Samuel not only relied on split end Donald Hayes (five catches, 100 yards), he hooked up with flanker Ahmad Merritt and tight end Kevin Lyles for TDs.

At the outset, it looked like this would be a shootout as both teams scored with relative ease on their first possessions.

But the Badgers forced a critical turnover and used it to assume a 28-7 lead at halftime.

After the Samuel-to-Merritt TD pass made it 14-7, Gophers return man Tyrone Carter fumbled the ensuing kickoff when thumped by linebacker Chris Ghidorzi. Ghidorzi, a true freshman, also recovered the bobble, giving UW possession at the Minnesota 20. Two plays later, Dayne was in the end zone following a 15-yard bolt off right guard.

"We've been trying to do it all year," Ghidorzi said of the turnover via special teams. "We were just lucky to get one and pop one loose today."

Once again, Wisconsin had its hands full trying to stop a quality passing game. Gophers quarterback Cory Sauter was 16-for-22 for 215 yards and two scores. Tutu Atwell was on the receiving end of both TDs and finished with five receptions for 105 yards. Ryan Thelwell added five catches for 142 yards.

But the defense, led by the seniors, made its share of big plays. Tackle Bryan Jurewicz was credited with three sacks of Sauter, while end Tarek Saleh and outside linebacker Daryl Carter had one each. For Saleh, it was the 29th of his career, moving him into sole possession of the top spot on the all-time school list.

In addition, middle linebacker Pete Monty recovered a late fumble that put Minnesota away for good.

Before the game, the seniors were introduced to the crowd and were able to share a moment with their families.

"This was a very important game for them," Alvarez said. "It was a very emotional game for them."

The outcome means the legend and the legacy will beat strong for another week.

"They're still playing for a lot," Alvarez said.

Feuerherd

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these parts since the days Don Morton roamed the UW sideline.

That good things can happen to 23 deserving players like those who bid farewell to the home crowd? That is how it should be.

What it didn't prove is that the Badgers are worthy of a position in the upper half of the Big Ten, sharing a piece of turf with Ohio State, Penn State, Northwestern, Michigan or Michigan State.

That opportunity comes next Saturday when they travel to Iowa to face the Hawkeyes, who like the Badgers have shown the ability to beat lesser teams like Indiana and Illinois on their way to a 4-2 conference record, but not the better ones like Ohio State or Northwestern.

With Illinois and Hawaii on the docket following the Iowa game, the Badgers know the Hawkeyes represent their last chance to prove they are better than the team that came oh-so-close in four straight conference losses.

"If we do beat Iowa, that will be something we look at," said senior inside linebacker Pete Monty. "Going into the game, that will be something we look at."

It was about three weeks ago that the Badgers had very little to look forward to after those four losses. But thanks to the flaky needs of bowls, the Badgers still cling to the chance of being able to play in their third bowl in four years. The important part of that is the word bowl. What is unimportant to them is which one.

First, UW needs one more victory to reach the mandate of six to qualify for selection. That's a must.

This week's results in the Big Ten put a damper on UW's chances of earning a spot in the Sun or Alamo bowls, the fourth and fifth of the five contracted with the conference. That is unless second-place Northwestern wins out and is tabbed by the Alliance for the Fiesta Bowl or the Badgers beat the Hawkeyes for the first time since 1976. Because of UW's drawing power, the Badgers will always be ahead of Michigan State in the eyes of the bowlsters, head-to-head results or conference record notwithstanding.

Then of course, there is everybody's favorite, the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., which may have an unaffiliated spot available for the taking. And don't forget a surprise late entry, the Copper Bowl in Tucson, Ariz., which may have a problem coming up with a fifth-place Big 12 entry with six victories.

The feeling in the UW camp is that the wins over Purdue and Minnesota have provided the momentum the team needs to finish with a bowl-enticing flourish. If Dayne has 50 more carries left in that 5-foot-10, 260-pound battering ram body, they could be right.

But all the past two weeks have proved for sure is that momentum built on victories against Purdue and Minnesota is one thing. Keeping it going is a whole other matter.

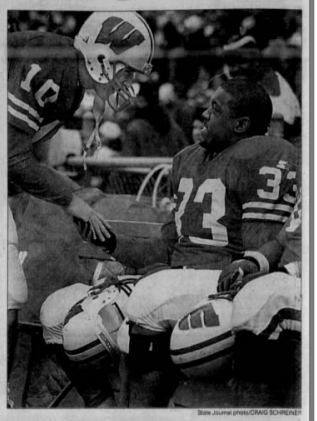
TOP BIG TEN RUSHING PERFORMANCES

Attempts

57: Kent Kitzmann, Minnesota, vs. Illinois, 1977.
56: Lorenzo White, Michigan State, vs. Indiana, 1987.
53: Lorenzo White, Michigan State, vs. Purdue, 1985.
52: Anthony Thompson, Indiana, vs. Wisconsin, 1989.
50: Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, vs. Minnesota, 1996.

Yards

377: Anthony Thompson, Indiana, vs. Wisconsin, 1989.
350: Eric Allen, Michigan State, vs. Purdue, 1971.
347: Ron Johnson, Michigan, vs. Wisconsin, 1968.
316: Mike Adamle, Northwestern, vs. Wisconsin, 1969.
314: Eddie George, Ohio State, vs. Illinois, 1995.
313: Tim Biakabutuka, Michigan, vs. Ohio State, 1995.
304: Billy Marek, Wisconsin, vs. Minnesota, 1974.
297: Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, vs. Minnesota, 1996.



State Journal photo/CRAIG SCHREINER

Quarterback Mike Samuel (10) gives Ron Dayne a hand on the UW bench. Dayne, who gained 244 yards last week vs. Purdue, had 297 Saturday.

Alvarez changed his mind.

"When they got to within 14, I just felt we better get him back into the game," the coach said of Dayne.

Last week, Dayne ran 30 times for 244 yards against Purdue and spent the day hearing some serious, albeit unsubstantiated, trash talk.

The same thing happened on this cold, snowy Saturday. Obviously, word of what happens when Dayne hears such silliness did not reach the Gophers in time.

"When they get angry, I get angry because then I know I'm going to get some yards," Dayne said.

On more than one occasion, members of the Minnesota secondary flinched or bailed out when Dayne smashed his 5-foot-10½, 260-pound frame through the line.

"I noticed that," Dayne said. "After a while, they'd start acting like they were going to tackle me, then dive towards the ground."

Minnesota coach Jim Wacker said, "He's the toughest kid in the Big Ten to bring down. He's for real."

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