Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/401314620/

Badger linemen produced a positive charge

By John Hughes
State Journal sports reporter

When Norman Vincent Peale updates his book, "The Power of Positive Thinking," he can include a chapter on the University of Wisconsin football team.

"We've been talking a lot about visualization, about positive thinking," said offensive line coach Bob Palcic after the Badgers had beaten Michigan, 21-14, Saturday afternoon at Camp Randall Stadium. "I told those kids to visualize the victory celebration after the game, visualize the great blocks they're going to have on these guys, and they did."

The offensive line did more than visualize those nice things, however. The members of that unit — center Ron Versnik, guards Carlton Walker and Leo Joyce, tackles Bob Winckler and Jerry Doerger and tight ends Jeff Nault and Craig Fredrick — went out and dominated the line of scrimmage against the No. 1 team in the nation. Wisconsin ran 78 offensive plays to 53 for Michigan.

Carlton Walker

"That's our job," said Versnik. "We're there to control the ball. We're there to give the 'D' rest. When you do that, that gets them fired up so all they need is three downs and then they're sitting out again. It's our job to get tired."

It came as no surprise to Versnik that the Badgers were able to rush for 257 yards against the Wolverines.

"We thought we could run over them; we really did have that feeling," he said.

"I think it's the best game we've played as a unit," said Doerger. "We knew we had the size over them. We knew we could probably run over them like that."

This is talk coming from a team which had not beaten Michigan since 1962.

"The attitude has really changed," said Joyce, a senior who has played on teams which have been clubbed soundly by the Wolverines. "You could just feel it in the locker room; everyone had a positive feeling about the game."

That positive outlook again.

"I was not going to let any negative thoughts go into my mind," Palcic said. "I haven't read one article about us, either pro or con, this year. I don't want to get an inflated image of what we can do, and neither did I want to read and get negative thoughts in my mind as to Michigan being No. 1 and how they're going to rip us."

There was, however, a momentary lapse by Walker. He let a doubt creep into his mind when the Wisconsin coaches called for a screen pass with the score tied in the third quarter.

"You wouldn't believe the difficulties we've had with that screen," Walker said. "We're on the field and when they sent that in I said, 'What the . . .? They're calling a screen? The screen, of all things?' The next thing I knew I was in the screen, I got a key block, Bobby Winckler got a key block, Versnik got a key block and John Williams was up the field for six."

The play, of course, covered 71 yards and was the margin of victory. "I will never doubt these coaches again," Walker promised.

The coaches also obviously made correct decisions last spring when they moved Walker from tackle to guard and Winckler from guard to tackle. Walker said he had trouble at first adjusting to his new position.

"I can't lie and say no," he said. "But I'm looking at Leo Joyce and Mark Subach and Dan Berriman, people who have played there before, and any help I need I can rely on them for it. These guys say, 'Hey, we've got confidence in you. We know you can do the job.' I'm glad. I owe so much to them. They're family."

And there's nothing like a victory over Michigan to give that confidence a boost. "We're winners," Walker said. "We beat the No. 1 team in the nation. It's a dream come true. I was part of the team that upset Michigan."

"I don't think I've ever felt this good," said Joyce.

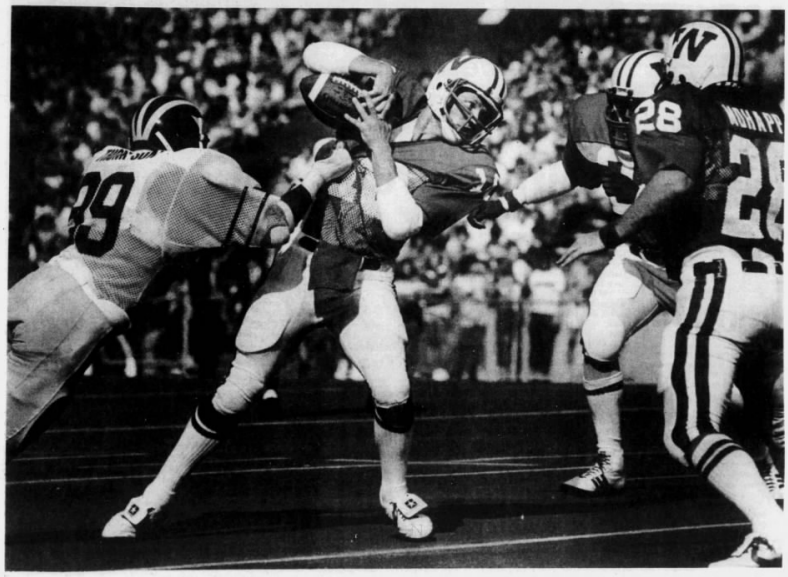
"Right now, I'm still in a state of shock," said Doerger.

Back to visualization. Only minutes after the game, the Badgers were already visualizing the victory celebration Palcic talked about.

"Oh, my gosh, this town is going to be crazy," said Versnik. "Just like after the hockey team won (the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship), that's how this town is going to be tonight."

"I'll do something," said Walker of his plans for celebrating. "I'll probably go home and put my face in a pillow and just cry.

"After I get through with that," he said, with a smile starting, "I'll step out with the little lady."


Jess Cole tries to wriggle free, but Michigan's Robert Thompson has a good grip and throws him for a 10-yard loss.
— State Journal photos by L. Roger Turner

College football

Georgia Tech	24
Alabama	21
Notre Dame	27
Louisiana State	9
Oklahoma	37
Wyoming	20
Georgia	27
California	13
Penn State	52
Cincinnati	0
Brigham Young	45
Air Force	21
Texas	31
Rice	3
Arkansas	14
Tulsa	10
Southern Cal	43
Tennessee	7
UCLA	35
Arizona	18

See roundup on Page 5

Wisconsin

RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Ave.	TD	Long
Mohapp	18	67	2	67	4.4	1	14
Davis	11	49	0	49	4.5	0	12
Cole	34	13	0	13	0.4	0	12
Williams	8	33	4	29	3.6	0	15
McFadden	2	15	2	13	6.5	0	13
Neal	4	12	0	12	3.0	0	7
Green	2	2	0	2	2.0	0	4

PASSING

	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	Long
Cole	11	6	0	182	2	71

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	TD	Long
Williams	3	71	1	71
Davis	2	48	0	33
McFadden	1	27	0	27
Neal	1	17	1	17
Jones	1	14	0	14
Frederick	1	5	0	5

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Long
Greenwood	9	368	38.7	49

RETURNS

	Punt No.	Punt Yds.	Kickoff No.	Kickoff Yds.	Int. No.	Int. Yds.
VandenBoom					3	0
Westefeld			1	13		
Keeling	3	-4				

Schembechler wasn't pulling any legs

By Tom Oates
State Journal sports reporter

For a man who had just seen his team's national championship hopes virtually shattered on the season's opening day, Bo Schembechler was composed, almost friendly, Saturday.

But then, the usually volatile Schembechler wasn't as surprised as most people when the University of Wisconsin upset his No. 1-ranked Michigan Wolverines, 21-14, in Camp Randall Stadium.

Schembechler had been saying for weeks this might happen. But until Saturday, no one believed him. Skeptics called it a Schembechler con game designed to keep his team from overlooking the Badgers with Notre Dame next on the schedule.

"I told you before and I'll tell you again, Wisconsin is a good football team," a subdued Schembechler said to reporters Saturday.

The Wolverine coach, whose Rose Bowl champions were the subject of several magazine cover stories in the preseason, didn't stop there.

"We were not quite the team all fall that people thought we were and we showed that today," he added.

No one argued. Wisconsin dominated Michigan in every phase of the game and Schembechler knew it. In fact, he almost expected it.

At the Big Ten Conference's annual luncheon in Chicago last month, Schembechler said Wisconsin might be the third-best team in the conference. Last week, he said the Badgers were the Big Ten's most improved team.

He repeated that Saturday — several times.

"I'm not being a smart aleck, but it's obvious that we're not as good as people thought we were and it's obvious Wisconsin is a lot better than people thought they were," Schembechler said.

He conceded that, at least for a day, Wisconsin was a better football team than Michigan.

"The loss is a result of Wisconsin playing better football than Michigan," he said. "There weren't any other factors."

Earlier, he said, "Our problem was simple. Our offense wasn't any good, our defense wasn't any good, our kicking game wasn't any good and our coaching was poor. When you have those four things going against you and you only get beat by seven points, it's a miracle."

Funny, but Wisconsin partisans were calling it a miracle, too. The Badgers, outscored by Michigan, 176-0, the last four seasons, had a long way to go to catch the Wolverines.

They made up that ground in a hurry and Saturday it was only Wisconsin's mistakes — a fumbled punt led to Michigan's first touchdown, for example — that kept Michigan in the game.

"We had a lot of missed opportunities," Schembechler said. "They gave us a lot of opportunities to win the game and we weren't good enough to capitalize."

Michigan's lack of offense had a lot to do with that. Except for Butch Woolfolk's 89-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, Michigan had trouble moving the ball.

Sophomore quarterback Steve Smith, starting his first game, had a horrendous day, completing only three of 18 passes and suffering three interceptions. Smith was able to get the ball to Heisman Trophy candidate Anthony Carter only once for 11 yards.

"They (Wisconsin) did a pretty good job of coverage on him (Carter)," Schembechler said. "But we didn't do a good job of throwing the football."

But the big matchup was the Wolverine defense, with eight starters returning from the unit that ranked first in the Big Ten last year, against a Badger offense that ranked last in the conference in 1980 and often punted the ball three plays after it got possession.

Bo Schembechler offers his hand to Wisconsin's Dave McClain after Saturday's defeat.

Not so Saturday. The Badgers rushed for 257 yards and passed for 182 more. Again, Schembechler wasn't surprised.

"Defense is an area where we have to be better," he said. "The defensive line is not up to par. I was always apprehensive about that part of our defense. I felt teams would be able to run on us and they (Wisconsin) ran on us very effectively."

But it was the Wolverine offense that absorbed most of Schembechler's wrath. The Badger defense, picking up where it left off last year, allowed only 190 yards rushing and prevented Michigan from making a sustained drive. On nine of its 15 possessions, Michigan was unable to get even one first down.

"If you have an offense that runs three plays and punts, and the defense has to come back in, I don't care who is out there, they're going to get tired," Schembechler said. "The offense hurt the defense tremendously by keeping them on the field."

Boy, does that sound familiar.

Michigan

RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Ave.	TD	Long
Woolfolk	14	121	3	118	8.5	1	89
S. Smith	3	39	0	39	13.0	0	30
Edwards	4	26	0	26	6.5	0	10
Bicks	3	10	0	10	3.0	0	8
Carter	2	5	0	5	2.5	0	4

PASSING

	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	Long
S. Smith	18	3	3	39	0	15

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	TD	Long
Brackington	1	25	0	25
Carter	1	11	0	11
Woolfolk	1	3	0	3

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Long
Bracken	8	321	40.1	59

RETURNS

	Punt No.	Punt Yds.	Kickoff No.	Kickoff Yds.	Int. No.	Int. Yds.
Carpenter	3	56				
Carter			2	44		
Burger			1	13		
Jackson					1	0

DIESEL CHEVETTE
40 EPA. EST. M.P.G. 55 EST. HWY. M.P.G.
In Stock Ready For Immediate Delivery
"The House of Diesels"
Jim Lancaster MADISON
Hwy 151 just past East Towne
241-3303

NO WAITING!
Lake Windsor's In FULL SWING
27 carefully maintained greens on one of the area's most beautifully landscaped courses! And - NO WAITING!
Dine With Us After Your Round of Golf
Coffee Shop Open
For Reservations Call:
Pro-Shop 846-4713
or 255-6100
LAKE WINDSOR COUNTRY CLUB
AT MADISON'S NORTH EDGE-EXIT INTERSTATE 90 AT HIGHWAY 19

YOUR SUNDAY COMPANION
To subscribe, call 252-6363
Wisconsin State Journal

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.