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Well-behaved fans make victory sweeter



Fans greet winning Badger quarterback Jess Cole and his teammates after Saturday's 21-14 victory over No. 1-ranked Michigan Wolverines.

—State Journal photo by L. Roger Turner

By Victoria McGlothlen
Of The State Journal

Who could ask for anything more?

According to L.I. Gary Moore of University Police, Saturday's game at Camp Randall was perfect.

Moore was not referring to the Badgers' 21-14 win over the Wolverines, though. The target of his enthusiasm was the unusually good behavior in sections of the stadium usually populated by "rowdy" Badger fans. In fact, the habit of getting "rowdy" at football games, as well as trendy competition between sections had even achieved a certain notoriety.

The rowdiness, however, got out of hand last year, and the "good time" turned from entertaining to destructive: people were injured while being passed up the bleachers, or hit with flying objects, such as bottles and plastic cups. At the last game of the season, plastic seats were ripped up and thrown over stadium walls.

Lack of alcohol

Saturday, though, there were no such gangs on, according to Moore. "We've got super fans and a beautiful day," said Moore, who attributed the good behavior of football fans to the lack of alcohol on the premises. "We really cracked down quite a bit. We took away the bottles and dumped out the flasks, and you'll notice there really isn't the kind of drunken behavior you usually see at these games," he said. "They're having a good time, just the same."

When asked if he thought the Badgers' outstanding performance added crowd control, Moore said, "It certainly didn't hurt."

Officers from university, city and county forces combined to halt the potentially dangerous activities. The force of 80 officers assigned to keep tabs on the stadium crowd included 15 more officials than last year. Almost 250 Pinkerton guards were hired, which is 30 more than usual.

Just as the protection-and-security force has been beefed up, so have preventive measures that discourage "mob behavior."

Plea to students

Several days before the game, Deans of Students Paul Ginsberg issued a plea to students to curb the "alarming increase in vandalism and destructive behavior," and named excessive drinking as a major factor in these actions.

According to Moore's assessment, Ginsberg's plea did not go unheeded. In fact, Badger fans even carried their good behavior out of the stadium and into the street.

For example, the manners of Badger fans hovering around Jingle's Bar, 1415 Monroe St., were tested by a daring Michigan fan. After the game, the area along Monroe Street across from the stadium was crawling with Badgers. Amid the sea of red-and-white, a car bearing a Michigan license plate came to a complete halt. A young man in a blue-and-white Michigan T-shirt boldly got out of the car and indicated his displeasure with the outcome of the game.

Nobody moved to hurt a hair on his crazy head. Perhaps as a reward for this fellow's bravery, he was allowed his freedom of "speech," ultimate proof these Badger fans are a gracious lot.



... others climbed a pole.

Badgers beat Michigan

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ball team was when it went 13 yards in less than two minutes just before the half to grab that 14-7 lead. Last year, "It's just didn't happen."

Down in the bowels of Camp Randall, in the interview room, the midst of all the platitudes that you have got to expect from a winning coach who hasn't quite come down to earth, Dave McClain probably came closest to the truth when he said, "This is something the Wisconsin program needs."

Indeed, it was. You could see that in the faces of the fans.

He didn't want to talk much about that shotgun. One good reporter asked him about it twice. The first time he answered by saying "We've had it since spring," and hurried to the next question.

The second time, he admitted he didn't want to publicly discuss its potential.

Is there any reason to believe that this Wisconsin team can continue to perform this way?

Bob Polce, the coach who works with the offensive linemen who opened those new holes for Muboy, Davis, Williams and Cole, said he expected the same good work all season. "This is the first time we have had no freshmen in that offensive line," he said. "We have good young men at every position now. We are thinking about victory. We are thinking about the blocks we must make."

Jim Hillis, the coach who coordinates the defense, said there was no fluke about the defensive performance. "I think we can do this week in and week out," he said. "It's true that we were up for this game, but we did not make any special effort on this. We didn't have our season on it. This is just the first victory."

Over in the corner, John Westphal of Janesville, of Charlie Hustle of the Badgers who gets to play only on the kicking teams, said the spirit is there. "It's not just a select few now," he said, "it's everybody. And that's the difference."

There was a big difference Saturday.



For some Badger fans, building a bon fire on State Street seemed like the thing to do Saturday night while . . .

—State Journal photo by Joseph W. Jackson III

Revelry rampant on State Street

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leaving Camp Randall.

Fans clad in red and white overalls clambered over Abraham Lincoln's statue as it solemnly presided over the band's merrymaking.

The victory celebration every Badger had been waiting for was off and running.

The band led the way, marching down the hill to a drum and cymbal cadence every one of them with their bats on backward in the traditional Wisconsin symbol of victory.

After rounding Main Hall, the band marched across Park Street and into the courtyard of the Humanities Building to the tune of "Go Wisconsin." "Some of us waited a long time for today," Director Michael Lockwood told his players from the balcony above the courtyard.

"I'm proud of you. I'm proud of the team. I'm proud of everybody," Lockwood said.

On Langdon Street, fraternity and sorority row, the sounds of Chic Corea and the Vapors playing their New Wave piece "Turning Japanese" boomed from large speakers usually used by rock bands and created its party mood that lasted deep into the morning.

In the Chocolate House Park, a little behind-off area of State Street

with a few benches and a flower box, Paul Martain, a drummer "who just got in from Oklahoma and was looking for a band to play with" set his traps up in front of a 1962 blue Studebaker and was jamming along with big-band music coming from his "boom boom" tape player.

A crowd gathered around Martain, but when Martain took a break, the call went up for the first song, Martain cheerfully responded with a boom-chic polka beat that started the crowd of about 50 watching him dancing and singing "da da da" to a tune that roughly resembled the first song.

Up the street, Chris Kelling was playing a more mellow set of tunes on his hammer dulcimer, a wooden device with metal strings that look a little like a pyramid with the point cut off. A small crowd of fans damped down into Kelling's black cap in appreciation.

Further up the street, a cruiser with a floppy brown hat plunked out "Fire on the Mountain," a country rock tune, on a banjo with a rainbow face.

Through it all, fans cooled off with dips in the lake, in the State Street fountains and downed gallons of beer. "The State Street music began quietly at 6 p.m., shortly after the game, fans were still on their way home to change clothes or get to their first party."

It was just a quiet moment before the crescendo. "This is going to be the most intense 24 hours in Madison history" a man hearing against the balcony of the Delta Upsilon fraternity repeated over and over to anyone who would listen.

At Pete and Tilly's bar on State Street, a group of blue-shirted Michigan fans drank together on the sidewalk for protection.

"It was a bad game, you got that?" one of the Michigan fans said.

About two hours later, there were no blue shirts to be found. The favorite color was definitely red, and the music on the juke box was supplemented by a group of fans singing and chanting the cry of the evening, "Rose Bowl, Rose Bowl."

At Rocky Bocco's pizza parlor, pizza-hungry fans were treated to signs made by the restaurant's bakers.

"For sale, one number one ranked college football team, \$25.95 or best offer, inquire within" read one sign in the window. "Rose Bowl Bound," read another.

The night wasn't all playful celebration, however. One man was injured, not seriously, when a board covering a hole was pulled out from under him for use in a fire.

An occasional light spring up when one fan who drank too much met up

with another fan who drank too much and women had to put up with beer and pinches as they pushed their way through the crowd.

When the crowd started to break up, however, many people echoed the words of a high school girl who had gotten dressed up in her best blouse and designer jeans for the evening. "This is the place to be tonight," the girl said to a friend. "This is sure the place to be."

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