

Sports

Wisconsin State Journal Sunday, March 27, 1983, Section 2

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Badgers put title on ice

By Glenn Miller
State Journal sports editor

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Wisconsin won its fourth National Collegiate Athletic Association hockey championship Saturday night, defeating Harvard, 6-2, with a final-period flourish in which the Badgers scored four goals.

More than any other person, goalie Marc Behrend won the game with still another spectacular performance in the net.

His saves were fewer than his opponent's, Grant Blair of Harvard. Behrend had 34, Blair 31.

Behrend protects lead

But Behrend was tough in the first two periods, when Wisconsin nursed one- and two-goal leads.

In the final period, Wisconsin mopped his face the same way his

More Badger hockey coverage: Page 5

the game open with goals by Paul Houston, Bruce Driver, Houston and John Johansson. Johansson scored his goal in an empty net.

The celebration on the ice after it was over lasted even longer than you saw on television. After the interviews and after the trophy presentations, Wisconsin still celebrated and danced its victory dance.

It was particularly a sweet victory for Coach Jeff Sauer, who came to Wisconsin with a losing record at Colorado College and really should not have been expected to produce a winner in his first year.

As he waited for the trophy, he mopped his face the same way his

predecessor, Bob Johnson, used to. Sauer, in a quick interview, said once his team was ahead, "I'd want to play a good defensive game."

Behrend named MVP

Behrend, who seems to save his best hockey for postseason play, was named the tournament's most valuable player, the same honor he won when the Badgers won the title in 1981 in Duluth, Minn.

Behrend declined to differentiate between the victory he orchestrated in 1981 and this one.

"They are both pretty special," Behrend said, but he admitted this run for the national roses was a bit of a surprise.

"There is no way I thought at the start of the year that we would go all the way," he said. "I thought that this

would be a transition year and that I would simply have to be happy with it."

"And don't forget we had a lot of injuries. But we came together at the end when it was important."

On the final, he said, "When we got ahead, I may have lost a little concentration."

Well, it wasn't too bad. Behrend finally gave up two goals in the final period.

When all of the festivities on the ice were over, the Wisconsin team skated around the rink and saluted its fans, who were here in greater numbers than on Thursday. The Badgers raised their sticks in salute first to the Wisconsin band and then to the block of Badger noters. The crowd, of course, went wild.

Sauer, pausing long enough to analyze the victory, said, "We were stronger and bigger, and we were

able to use that strength to win."

On his first victory in an NCAA tournament, Sauer said, "I've waited a long time for that. I am so happy I came back to Wisconsin. It worked out."

While Behrend was named the tournament's MVP, Paul Houck, Chris Chelios and Pat Flatley were also named to the all-tournament team.

Flatley got Wisconsin off to a first-period lead on a power-play goal 7 minutes, 9 seconds into the game, and for a while it looked as if the final might be another 1-0 struggle like the Badgers went through with Providence Thursday.

But at 16:09 of the second period, Flatley grabbed the puck in a no-man's-land in front of the Harvard net and fired it in for the 2-0 lead.

Things looked even better when Houston pushed in a rebound only

three minutes into the final period. It looked like a piece of cake.

But Harvard was playing like it wanted to win a national championship, too, and when it closed the margin to 4-2, the issue was still in doubt.

The big goal by Houston on a power play at 18:36 to put Wisconsin ahead, 5-2.

Scoring: Wisconsin — Driver (10:21), 7:05; Houston (12:28), 18:36; Chelios (14:12), 15:18; Houck (15:12), 17:18; Flatley (16:09), 16:30; Behrend (18:36), 18:36.

Penalties: Wisconsin — Johnson (10:21), 12:00; Driver (12:28), 14:12; Chelios (14:12), 15:18; Houck (15:12), 17:18; Flatley (16:09), 16:30; Behrend (18:36), 18:36.

Attendance: 12,000. Referee: (10:21), 12:00; Driver (12:28), 14:12; Chelios (14:12), 15:18; Houck (15:12), 17:18; Flatley (16:09), 16:30; Behrend (18:36), 18:36.

Goalkeeping: Harvard — Blair (31); Wisconsin — Behrend (34).

Game started at 7:30 p.m. in Grand Forks, N.D.

AP Wirephoto

NCAA hockey pairings

Wisconsin (29-10-4)	Wisconsin, 13-3
St. Lawrence (22-9-1)	Wisconsin, 2-0
Minnesota-Duluth (28-14-1)	Providence, 10-5
Providence (30-9)	Wisconsin, 6-2
New Hampshire (30-9-2)	Minnesota, 16-4
Minnesota (30-10-1)	Harvard, 5-3
Michigan State (30-10)	Harvard, 9-8
Harvard (21-7-1)	

UW coverage isn't over yet

On Monday, Wisconsin hockey fans may still be celebrating the Badgers' fourth National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I hockey championship.

The Wisconsin State Journal isn't done yet, either. Sports editor Glenn Miller and photographer Joseph W. Jackson III will have a colorful report on the Badger victory and celebration in Sports Monday.

College basketball — Page 3

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Louisville 80, Kentucky 68 (ot)
WEST REGIONAL
N.C. State 63, Virginia 62
MIDWEST REGIONAL
Houston vs. Villanova
EAST REGIONAL
North Carolina vs. Georgia



Louisville bench celebrates.



Marc of excellence

Badger players, including Jeff Andriaga (6) surround goalie Marc Behrend, hidden at left, to celebrate their 6-2 victory over Harvard in the National Collegiate Athletic Association hockey tournament final Saturday. Harvard's Greg Britz, lower right, skates away.

Fingers' outing painless

By Bill Brophy
State Journal sports reporter

SUN CITY, Ariz. — The box score didn't tell the story of this exhibition baseball game. The smile underneath the handkerchiefs of Saturday's losing pitcher did.

"I felt great out there," Rollie Fingers said. "I didn't care if they hit the ball eight miles. I was throwing without pain, and that's all I cared about."

It's been almost six months — Sept. 1 to be exact — since Fingers threw a baseball without pain. He sat through the stretch drive of the playoffs and the World Series. He had only appeared in one game for the Milwaukee Brewers since that late summer night, and that was a seven-pitch performance last Saturday in an exhibition game against California.

There have been doubts about Fingers' comeback from a career-threatening torn muscle in his right forearm, near the elbow. The skeptics said the Brewers had better find a new relief pitcher because this guy might be burned out after appearing in 964 games and warming up in countless others.

The doubters were not as noticeable Saturday afternoon, even though the statistics say that Fingers was the losing pitcher in a 19-11 loss to San Francisco.

Fingers entered the game in the eighth inning with the score tied, 18-18, gave up three runs on three hits and two walks. He threw 28 pitches.

The main thing was that he did it painlessly. "The control was a little off for me today," Fingers said. "I had pretty good velocity, but nothing like I had in the past. I think that's be-

cause I haven't thrown much yet. "I don't know how it (the arm) will feel tomorrow. It might be a little stiff, but right now I don't care."

Brewer Manager Harvey Kuenn was encouraged by the showing of the man with a record 301 career saves.

"I thought he looked good," Kuenn said. "The (home plate) umpire (Ted Hendry) said he was just missing by a bit on his pitches, but he threw a couple good breaking balls."

Fingers started his appearance by walking Duane Kuiper and allowing a hit-and-run single to Max Venable.

Fingers said "my only bad pitch" was a fast ball that Mike Vail hit for a run-scoring double.

The right hander looked like he would work out of trouble when he struck out Jeff Leonard and got Joel Youngblood to hit into a force out. But City Solari hit a three-two pitch for a two-run single to win the game.

The broken bat hit came off Fingers' second breaking ball of the inning.

"I put it (the pitch) right where I wanted to, and he stuck his bat out," Fingers said. "It was a good pitch, and I didn't feel anything on it. I threw a couple good fast balls out there too. I threw such a good one once to strike the guy out that I couldn't believe it myself."

"I started thinking 'is this my arm, or someone else's?'"

Fingers' performance had everyone in the Brewer clubhouse thinking optimistically. But realistically, it's unlikely Fingers will be able to pitch in competition when the season opens a week from Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif.

"On April 1, we'll see where we are," Brewer general manager Harry Dalton has

said. "Until then we'll watch over him. It's a little like taking somebody's temperature every two hours."

The "Rolliewatch" will continue today to see how Fingers' arm feels. Then a decision will be made when Fingers' next game appearance will come.

"It doesn't bother me tomorrow, I'd like to try throwing the day after tomorrow," said Fingers after Saturday's game. "But they probably will want me to take it slower than that, so I don't figure I'll throw again for three or four days."

"I knew it was going to take six months to heal. This is the fifth month, but after today I feel maybe it's coming along a little quicker. They are doing it right by slowing me down."

"When you get the adrenaline pumping, you want to do too much, too soon. It's better to miss the first two weeks of the season, than the last two weeks."

Kuenn said the Brewers will continue to bring Fingers along slowly and said the definitive test will come when the 36-year-old arm is asked to pitch on consecutive days.

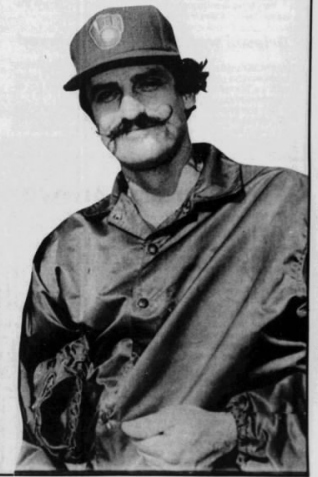
"I don't really expect he'll be ready until the middle of April or thereabouts," Kuenn said. "There's no sense rushing him. I've been optimistic all the time. It's going to take a little longer than spring training, perhaps, but I don't have any doubts that he can be as effective as he was before."

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Brewer reliever Rollie Fingers.

— AP Laserphotos