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Sports

Wisconsin State Journal Tuesday, November 18, 1986, Section 2 ♦

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UW will interview Tulsa's Morton

By Andy Baggot and Bill Brophy
Sports reporters

Tulsa coach Don Morton said Monday that the head football coaching job at the University of Wisconsin appeals to him and that he will interview for the opening later this week in Oklahoma.

According to sources, Morton is one of six candidates being considered for the post that becomes vacant Saturday after the Badgers' last regular-season game.

Badger interim coach Jim Hilles, Jim Walden of Washington State, Don Nehlen of West Virginia, Francis Peay of Northwestern and Dennis Erickson of Wyoming join Morton as finalists for the position.

Wisconsin athletic director Elroy Hirsch has not identified any of the finalists. He has said he hopes to name a coach by Dec. 1.

Morton said a Wisconsin official called him Monday afternoon to inquire about his availability.

"This is a position I have to look into," Morton said. "I've got to at least visit with them. I don't want my name associated with every job that comes open. There are only very few jobs that would appeal to me. Wisconsin is one of them."

Morton, 39, compiled a 7-4 record this season after going 6-5 in his first year with the Golden Hurricane.

Morton coached for six years at North Dakota State and made contacts in Wisconsin. Also, he has experience at Tulsa, which has a reputation as an academically sound school.

Because Tulsa is a private school, Morton's base salary is unknown. But his package, including perks, is reportedly in excess of $100,000. It includes television and radio shows and a summer camp.

UW officials have said they will pay a base salary of between $75,000 and $99,000.

A successful proponent of the veer offense, Morton co-authored a book on the subject with Texas Christian coach Jim Wacker. Going into last Saturday's game with top-ranked Miami, Tulsa ranked third in the nation in rushing.

Nehlen, 50, said he was aware Wisconsin was interested in him, but he had not applied for the job.

"You don't apply for job like that," said Nehlen, also rumored to be considered for the vacant Purdue job. "That's not my mode of operation or how I work. I didn't apply for the West Virginia job either."

Nehlen, an assistant to Bo Schembechler at Michigan for three years, has also been a head coach at Bowling Green and came to West Virginia in 1980. His teams have a 54-28-1 record at West Virginia, including four bowl appearances. West Virginia is 4-6 going into Saturday's game with Syracuse.

Nehlen said he would have to consider the Wisconsin job, if it were offered.

"Certainly, if that were the case, a man would have to be a fool not to consider it," said Nehlen, who added he was happy at West Virginia and turned down an earlier opportunity to coach at South Carolina.

Erickson, 39, whose has a 6-5 record in his first year at Wyoming, said he has not been contacted about the Wisconsin job.

"What's transpired on that really isn't much other than rumor and conjecture," he said in Laramie, Wyo.

Walden, whose team is 3-5-1 this season heading into Saturday's game with Washington, said he had "no earthly idea" how his name was included among the finalists.

"I haven't applied, and I have not had one single call from Wisconsin," Walden told a booster group Monday.

"I think if they have six names they put out, well in fact are they interested in all six? Are they ranked in order? I may be No. 5 in their priority."

Walden has a 44-56-4 career record. "It's not uncommon that I haven't heard a word because it's extremely speculative," he said.

Hilles: only 1 of 5 other candidates viable

By Tom Butler
Sports reporter

Wisconsin football coach Jim Hilles said Monday he considers West Virginia's Don Nehlen as "probably the only viable candidate" to succeed him.

Hilles was asked for his assessment after seeing the list of six apparent finalists that appeared in Sunday's Wisconsin State Journal.

"And, I'm not sure that Don Nehlen has any interest in the University of Wisconsin, unless they're going to come up with a $250,000 package, because that's what he's making there and I don't think he'd come here for a cut.

"Most of the coaches mentioned there have losing records in their own right and I don't know that that makes them a viable candidate to come in here and be the resident genius that's going to turn this around."

Hilles also said one of the coaches (Don Morton of Tulsa) employs a split back veer offense. Hilles said if Wisconsin people think the current offense is boring, "they ought to get an option team in here, where that's the only play they run."

Hilles doubts those coaches are aware of Wisconsin's high academic standards that often are blamed for the school's lack of recruiting success. He said those prospective coaches will be told about those standards, but they would have to be here a few years to understand the impact.

"I don't think you dare tell those coaches that on Tuesday and Thursday you don't have X number of players for your practice or that last Thursday 22 of them had to leave at 4:30 to take a test. You don't tell coaches those kind of things. They find those things out once they get here."



Tom Butler
Sports columnist

Hilles should read newspapers

Jim Hilles has become defensive about the way his University of Wisconsin football program and this year's record have been presented in the media, particularly newspapers.

Yet, Hilles also admitted he doesn't read newspapers even after a victory. He said he receives his reports from assistant coaches and other people who do read newspapers.

That's too bad. I think if he read the papers he would find out he's receiving a better shake than he realizes. When you get stuff second hand, usually it becomes distorted. It's the old gag about starting a rumor. By the time the story gets back to you, it's unrecognizable.

"The last five weeks I haven't read the papers but people tell me what's in the papers," Hilles told reporters Monday. "The public has almost dismissed Jim Hilles as coach because of the record Jim Hilles has. I'm not sure that's a fair assessment of what's happened here."

Wisconsin is heading into the final game of the season at Michigan State with a 3-8 record. The Badgers lost to Hawaii, Nevada-Las Vegas and Wyoming, not very good football teams. They beat Northwestern and Illinois. The Wildcats upset Michigan State Saturday and Illinois has successive victories over Iowa and Indiana.

Hilles complained that the media focused on how bad Illinois was when the Badgers beat them and ragged about Wisconsin's porous defense rather than the improved offense after the Northwestern game.

"I wonder if people think Illinois is a terrible football team today?" Hilles said. "Maybe they weren't a bad football team when we beat them.

"What I'm finding out is support for me, support for my chances in this program have been very greatly diminished because of my record and because that's the focal point when there might be some other things that could play a role in there."

That's always the way, though. When Milt Bruhn started to lose and when John Coatta lost, rumblings started. Go way back to Doc Spears and Harry Stuhldreher, the same thing happened.

Even Hilles himself made kind of a flip statement when he was named interim coach that if he didn't finish with a .500 record, nine houses would be up for sale in the spring. He was referring to himself and his assistants.

The coach admitted that was not a wise statement to make.

"That was kind of immaturity and inexperience speaking," he said. "At the time that statement was made, it was totally inconceivable to me that we would ever be in the situation we're in right now. That thought had never entered my mind.

"The bottom line is: here we sit at 3-8. Yeah, that was a poor statement to make. It was an attempt to state in a subtle way that I had total confidence that the job was going to be done."

The coach also expressed displeasure with stories about falling attendance, which, he said, gave the impression that besides the 3-8 record he is responsible for thousands of dollars being lost by the athletic department.

He said that article was erroneous because last home games of the season seldom draw sellout crowds.

I wish Jim had read the story and not learned about it secondhand. First of all, the headline on the front page of Saturday morning's State Journal said, "Cold Wisconsin air will keep fans away." It mentioned nothing about Wisconsin's record.

The story focused on the financial impact sellout crowds have on the Dane County economy as well as the UW athletic budget. It pointed out, "But it's also the last game of the season. The last last-game sellout happened in 1981, when the Badgers played Iowa."

Hilles is in a difficult situation and I can sympathize with him. I also can take his criticism. Lord knows, we in the newspaper business have more than our share of warts. But, Jim might understand us better if he did read the papers once in a while.

Redskins top 49ers

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Rogers rushed for 104 yards and a touchdown as the Washington Redskins overcame a 441-yard passing effort by San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana to earn a 14-6 victory over the 49ers Monday night.

Rogers' touchdown came midway through the first quarter. The only other touchdown of the night came in the third quarter when quarterback Jay Schroeder hooked up with Gary Clark for a 27-yard score to give the Redskin (9-2) a 14-3 lead.

Montana, in only his second game since returning from an eight-week layoff following back surgery, completed 33 of 60 passes, but was intercepted three times. Rice caught a career-high 12 of those throws for 204 yards.

Although the 49ers (6-4-1) had little trouble moving the ball, they repeatedly hurt themselves. San Francisco was called for 15 penalties for 118 yards and committed four turnovers in the game that lasted nearly four hours.

After Montana ended the 49ers' initial possession of the game by fumbling at the Washington 33, the Redskins marched 67 yards to take a 7-0 lead. A 19-yard pass from Schroeder to Clark on third and 10 moved the ball to the San Francisco 16, and three plays later Rogers pounded into the end zone from the 1-yard line.

Seven plays after Don Griffin intercepted a Schroeder pass at the Washington 42, Ray Wersching kicked a 34-yard field goal to make it 7-3, 47 seconds into period.

	49ers	Redskins
First downs	24	20
Rushes-yards	19-82	34-178
Passing	418	130
Return yards	1	39
Passes	33-60-3	17-40-1
Punt-yards lost	3-22	3-40
Punts	4-39	10-43
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-yards	15-118	2-22
Time of possession	29:37	30:23

San Francisco	0	3	3	0	— 6
Washington	7	0	7	0	— 14

Washington — Rogers, 1, run (Zendejas, kick)
San Francisco — FG, Wersching, 34
Washington — Clark, 27, pass from Schroeder (Zendejas, kick)
San Francisco — FG, Wersching, 38
A/R — 54,774.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing: San Francisco — Craig 5-67, Cribbs 4-18, Montana 2-9, Rice 1-9. Washington — Rogers 34-104, Bryant 7-35, Schroeder 3-13.

Passing: San Francisco — Montana 33-60-3-441, Washington — Schroeder 17-40-1-169.

Receiving: San Francisco — Rice 12-204, Clark 6-94, Craig 5-62, Cribbs 4-36, Francis 3-33, Crawford 1-42, Frank 1-1. Washington — Monk 4-37, Clark 3-76, Bryant 3-12, Didier 3-28, Warren 1-3.

Missed field goals: San Francisco — Wersching 35.



Monroe fullback Brian Dillon (20) gets ready to apply stiff arm to ward off New Berlin Eisenhower's Jerry Mercier.
—State Journal photo by Scott Seid

Monroe's title has nice ring to it

By Roy Hinz
Sports reporter

WIAA state football Division 2 championship

Monroe's Pat Martin, a member of the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Association, has been in charge of ordering rings for the state football champion coaches the past eight years.

This season Martin will be more than glad to place the order because his team beat New Berlin Eisenhower, 28-7, Monday night to claim the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 championship at Camp Randall Stadium.

"It's a great feeling to be champions, believe me," Martin said. "I've been ordering the championship rings for the association since I've been at Monroe. Each year I would think that I would like to have one of them. This year I'll be ordering one for myself."

Martin will have a ring to remember the 1986 season. The players will have a team trophy, a 12-0 record, and the distinction of compiling the most successful season in school history.

"We did it all in one season," Martin said. "We won the (Badger) conference for the first time and won the state title on the first try. You couldn't ask for anything else. It's been a great year."

The Cheesemakers' defense made it a great year. It dominated its opponents all season, including the Lions. They held the Parkland Conference champions to eight first downs and to 122 net yards of offense, including 2 net rushing yards. New Berlin quarterback Mitch Beckman was sacked four times for a minus 45 yards.

"We just couldn't block them tonight," said New Berlin Eisenhower coach Frank Granger. "They were very quick off the ball."

Defensive end Lee Wunschel showed some of the speed when he intercepted a Beckman pass and ran 53 yards for a third-quarter touchdown that gave Monroe a 28-7 lead.

"That was the turning point in the game," Martin said. "He's scored three touchdowns this season, two on interceptions and the other time he returned a fumble 60 yards."

The Cheesemaker offense compiled 237 yards, 134 rushing. Sophomore Rick Gordon led all rushers with 69 yards on 11 carries. Gordon missed part of the first half because doctors thought he had broken his left arm. He returned in the second half after X-rays showed only a bruise.

Monroe quarterback Rich Kubly, who threw an 11-yard third-quarter touchdown pass to Dave Grimm, completed five of 10 passes for 103 yards.

The Cheesemakers took a 7-0 lead on a 2-yard run by Gordon in the first quarter. The key play in the 68-yard drive was a 43-yard pass to Grimm.

New Berlin then tied it, 7-7, on a 43-yard screen pass from Beckman to running back Brett Schroeder in the second quarter.

The score stood up until Kubly's 11-yard touchdown pass to Grimm in the right corner of the end zone put the Cheesemakers up for good, 14-7, at the 9-minute, 26-second mark of the third period.

Eisenhower (10-2) played without starting fullback Eric Pierce. He turned an ankle on the game's first play and did not return.

The game was originally scheduled for last Thursday night but was postponed due to cold weather.

New Berlin Eisenhower	0	7	0	0	— 7
Monroe	9	9	10	0	— 28

Monroe — Gordon, 2, run (Ruder, kick)
New Berlin Eisenhower — Schroeder, 43, pass from Beckman (Kravetz, kick)
Monroe — Grimm, 11, pass from Kubly (Ruder, kick)
Monroe — Wunschel, 53, interception return (kick blocked)
Monroe — Witt, 2, run (Witt, run)
A/R — 3,613. Score — NBE 8, M 12. Rushes (Att.-Yds.) — NBE 31-68, M 38-134. Passing yards — NBE 120, M 103. Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.) — NBE 13-8-2, M 5-1. Punts (no.-yds.) — NBE 2-1, M 3-2. Penalties-yards — NBE 11-98, M 3-30.

Injuries are part of the high school game



This is the first of a three-part series on high school sports injuries.

By Rebekah Brown
Sports reporter

Two years ago, a former high school football player, 17 years old at the time, slammed his head into an opponent's hip attempting a tackle and fractured his cervical vertebra. He is now a quadriplegic.

A high school wrestler, also 17, was returning to the mat after an out-of-bounds call in a match last year when he fell to his knees holding his head and lost consciousness. He never regained consciousness and the actual cause of his death was not determined.

A seventh grader was hit in the chest by an errant discus during track practice in February of 1983. The blow stopped the boy's heart and all efforts to revive him failed.

The list of tragedies like these, compiled by the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research, goes on and on. It's as long as it is gruesome.

Anyone who has watched a high school athletic event has likely seen an athlete get injured.

Admit it. It makes you a little nervous when there's an injury on a football field and the player is lying motionless on the ground with coaches and trainers huddled around him. When he gets up or is taken off the field, everyone cheers. He's going to be all right. You hope.

Participation in any sport brings risk of injury, but some sports, such as wrestling, and especially football, have a much higher risk factor.

Frederick O. Mueller, the chairman of the American Football Coaches Committee on Football Injuries and the department chairman of Physical Education at the University of North Carolina, has done several national studies on high school sports injuries and is best known for work done at the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research.

The national report on the 1984-85 high school sports season found that 28 athletes died or suffered catastrophic injuries. Twenty-two of the 28 were football players.

"In the two years previous, 37 high school athletes died or were permanently paralyzed due to direct or indirect sports participation," according to the report.

There are an estimated 5.6 million boys and girls participating in interscholastic athletics in 22,000 U.S. high schools.

While the number of deaths and disabling injuries might be alarming, they are a small fraction of the total number of injuries sustained by

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