

 Aug. 30 vs. W. Mich. W, 28-14	 Sept. 7 vs. S. Dakota W, 27-13	 Sept. 14 vs. Alabama L, 42-10	 Sept. 28 at USC L, 38-21	 Oct. 5 vs. Purdue W, 52-6	 Oct. 12 at Rutgers W, 42-7	 Oct. 19 at N'western W, 23-3	 Oct. 26 vs. Penn State L, 28-13	 Nov. 2 at Iowa L, 42-10	 Nov. 16 vs. Oregon L, 16-13	 Nov. 23 at Nebraska 2:30 p.m., BTN	 Nov. 29 vs. Minnesota 11 a.m., CBS
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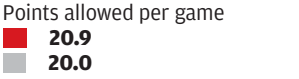
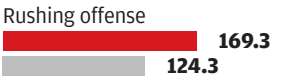
BADGERS GAMEDAY



Game 11 | **Nebraska** | Memorial Stadium | 2:30 p.m. | Big Ten Network

BREAKDOWN

Per-game averages



UW LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
T. Walker	162	773	4.8	10
C. Yacamelli	33	274	8.3	2
D. Dupree	64	239	3.7	1
C. Mellusi	56	232	4.1	3

PASSING	C-A	YDS	TD	INT
B. Locke	129-234	1,514	9	9
T. Van Dyke	43-68	422	1	0
M. Mettauer	1-1	2	0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
V. Anthony II	28	496	17.7	2
W. Pauling	42	407	9.7	3
C. Williams	15	240	16	2
T. Kekahuna	16	236	14.8	2

DEFENSE	TKL	TFL	SACK	INT
H. Wohler	63	1	0	0
J. Thomas	52	2	1	0
J. Chaney	51	4	1	0
C. Alliegro	47	5	3	0

UN LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
D. Dowdell	120	523	4.4	8
E. Johnson	68	339	5	1
R. Johnson	41	180	4.4	0
J. Barney Jr.	9	119	13.2	3

PASSING	C-A	YDS	TD	INT
D. Raiola	203-310	2,112	11	10
H. Haarberg	10-17	101	0	1
B. Buschini	1-1	30	0	0
J. Gramstad	1-3	11	0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
I. Neyor	28	426	15.2	5
J. Banks	32	415	13	2
J. Barney Jr.	40	317	7.9	0
T. Fidone II	30	298	9.9	0

DEFENSE	TKL	TFL	SACK	INT
I. Gifford	59	3	0	0
J. Bullock	56	6	3	1
D. Singleton	56	1	0	0
M. Gbaylor	44	5.5	1	0

UN SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	UTEP	W, 40-7
Sept. 7	Colorado	W, 28-10
Sept. 14	Northern Iowa	W, 34-3
Sept. 20	Illinois	L, 31-24 OT
Sept. 28	at Purdue	W, 28-10
Oct. 5	Rutgers	W, 14-7
Oct. 19	at Indiana	L, 56-7
Oct. 26	at Ohio State	L, 21-17
Nov. 2	UCLA	L, 27-20
Nov. 9	at Southern Cal	L, 28-20
Nov. 23	Wisconsin	
Nov. 29	at Iowa	

HISTORY

Series: Wisconsin leads 13-4

First meeting: Wisconsin won 18-0 on Nov. 2, 1901 at Camp Randall

Last meeting: Wisconsin won 24-17 in OT on Nov. 18, 2023 at Camp Randall

Longest Nebraska winning streak: 3 games from 1965 to 1973

Longest Wisconsin winning streak: 10 games from 2012 to present

BY THE NUMBERS

49

One-score losses by the Cornhuskers from 2011-24, the most in FBS history in a 14-season span, per Nebraska analyst Arbitrary Analytics (@arbitanalytics on Twitter)

90

Yards passing for Badgers quarterback Braedyn Locke on 50 dropbacks in which he's been under pressure, per PFF. That's the fewest yards under pressure of any FBS quarterback with at least 50 pressured dropbacks this season.

11

Turnovers created by Wisconsin this season, which puts it on pace for 13.2. That'd be the fewest turnovers created in a full season since at least 1946. The Badgers created 12 turnovers in seven games in the COVID-shortened 2020 season.



STATE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Wisconsin linebacker John Pius rushes against Oregon Nov. 16 at Camp Randall.

PLAYERS TO WATCH | FOR NEBRASKA

QB given more breadth than most freshmen

If there were training wheels put on Nebraska freshman quarterback Dylan Raiola as he adjusted to the college game, they weren't obvious. Raiola has been given a great deal of responsibility at the line of scrimmage with Nebraska's offense, and that didn't appear to change much in the one-game sample size under new coordinator Dana Holgorsen.

Raiola's cooled off after a hot start to the season. He's thrown eight interceptions and two touchdowns in the past four weeks, all Cornhuskers losses. He played a bit better last week at Southern Cal, posting his best completion percentage (71.1%) since Week 3.

Accuracy and arm strength are two of his best attributes. He's tied for the second-most throws of 20 or more air yards in the Big Ten (44) and he's completed 17 of those passes. He's not a real threat as a runner, especially with a nagging back/hip injury, so Wisconsin needs to make him uncomfortable in the pocket.

A tough tight end to cover

Nebraska's Thomas Fidone will test the Badgers linebackers and defensive backs with his size (6 foot 6, 255 pounds) and catch radius. The Badgers recruited Fidone extensively out of Council Bluffs, Iowa, but kept him in check (three catches, 23 yards) when the teams clashed last season.

Wisconsin has done a pretty good job covering tight ends this season. Penn State's Tyler Warren was relatively quiet against the Badgers (seven catches, 46 yards), then Oregon's Terrance Ferguson had three catches for 52 yards, including a crucial fourth-and-9 catch that sparked the Ducks' only touchdown drive.

The Badgers have been getting solid pass coverage from their cornerbacks, so Holgorsen and Raiola may look to isolate some defenders in the middle of the field and use Fidone's size and speed for big plays.

LB plays all over the field

Nebraska's defense ranks fifth in the Big Ten with 62 tackles for loss (6.2 per game) and one of the big reasons why is the aggressive play of linebacker John Bullock. The 6-foot senior from Omaha defines playing downhill and is second on the team with six tackles for loss and ranks fourth with three sacks.

He shows good versatility in pass coverage as well, jumping out into the slot a handful of snaps per contest and holding his own.

Bullock isn't the fastest linebacker the Badgers have seen, but the Cornhuskers do a good job keeping offensive linemen from reaching the second level, so Bullock can play faster than his 40-yard dash time.



COLTEN'S PREDICTION

23



20

Wisconsin's offense won't look wholesale different in the first week of a different play-caller, but the tweaks brought on by the new, collaborative model of the offensive coaching staff will be interesting to note. Can those tweaks maximize Braedyn Locke, who hasn't shown he's capable winning a game through the air? That's unknown, like so much is with the Badgers right now. Against all better judgement, this has a feeling of a close game that Nebraska will finally pull off and break its streak of losing games with bowl eligibility on the line.

THREE KEYS | FOR THE BADGERS

Remember how to compartmentalize

Compartmentalization became a necessary skill for the Badgers in 2022, when Paul Chryst was fired and Jim Leonhard took over on an interim basis. Between the coaching change and the slaying of former teammate Devin Chandler, that group went through more than most Wisconsin teams.

The Badgers have their own coaching change to work through this week and the future of that side of the ball seems very much in flux. Plus, they're trying to shake off a near-miss against Oregon that marked yet another failure in a big spot in recent seasons. Wisconsin's players have to block out those concerns and keep their energy trained on Nebraska, a team that's desperate to make a bowl game for the first time since 2016.

Bring that same edge energy

Wisconsin's inability to create consistent pass rush off the edge is one of the biggest reasons it's failed to create turnovers and sacks this year. But the outside linebackers' performance last week against Oregon provided some hope for a late-season resurgence from that group.

Senior John Pius had three pressures against the Ducks and senior Leon Lowery Jr. added two more. Their five pressures were the most the duo has posted since notching six against Purdue on Oct. 5. Nebraska quarterback Dylan Raiola is getting pressured on 30.3% of his drop backs, per PFF, and his completion rate under pressure (48.8%) is far worse than when kept clean (70.3%). Raiola's not a very fast quarterback and he's been sacked 20 times this year.

Make up for injured stars

The fourth quarter against Oregon was costly for the Badgers in a number of ways. Not only did the No. 1 Ducks score 10 points to escape Camp Randall Stadium with a win and their undefeated record intact, but Wisconsin senior safety Hunter Wohler and junior receiver Will Pauling leave the game with injuries.

Wohler took a shot to the back and head from linebacker Christian Alliegro and took a knee to the helmet from Lowery on the way to the turf during Oregon's touchdown drive. Pauling was rolled into while blocking on a screen pass and took a shot to his left leg. Their statuses for Saturday are not known.

Austin Brown can help at safety and Wisconsin is in good shape with Max Lofy playing Brown's nickel role. Trech Kekahuna can step into Pauling's shoes in the slot like he did against Purdue and Rutgers.

THREE KEYS | FOR THE HUSKERS

Make Wisconsin turn to Plan B

Nebraska defensive coordinator Tony White has a lot of tape in recent weeks that can show how teams are stopping Wisconsin's offense. The Badgers haven't scored multiple touchdowns in a game or eclipsed 300 yards of offense since Oct. 19 at Northwestern.

Wisconsin coach Luke Fickell said Monday that his new coaching staff will "give a better opportunity to be able to (get better)" to Locke. What exactly that means is to be seen, but White can bet that running back Tawee Walker will still be the engine of the offense and stopping him likely means grinding Wisconsin to a halt.

Nebraska's been torched by Badgers backs like Braelon Allen, Jonathan Taylor, Melvin Gordon III and more, but White can feel good loading the box and trusting his experienced secondary against Wisconsin's inconsistent receivers.

Stay patient on offense

Raiola's cosplaying of Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes has become a weekly joke online, as the freshman QB mimics the mannerisms, movements and on-field accessory choices of the two-time NFL MVP. But Raiola can learn one more lesson that it took Mahomes a few years to learn as well: how to stay patient.

A talent like Raiola's wants to be shown off, but Wisconsin is likely to force Nebraska to slow things down and stack first downs to move down the field. Raiola must manage his desire to make explosive plays with the knowledge that Wisconsin's done a poor job creating turnovers this season, so he can't force the ball into a crowd and create easy opportunities for momentum changing plays.


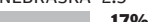
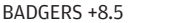

Use the home crowd

Nebraska's home sellout streak will continue this weekend, but the fans who pack the stadium will be hoping the Badgers' 10-game win streak over the Cornhuskers will finally be snapped.

The Nebraska crowd needs to have an effect on the action Saturday. Iowa's fans were able to force Wisconsin into a silent count throughout the game and create multiple false start penalties. Wisconsin's offense creates enough challenges for itself getting into second- and third-and-long situations, so any penalty yardage adds more hurdles.

THE FANS' PICK

Fans were asked to pick who would win against the updated spread, Nebraska -2.5, and were given an alternate spread of a touchdown.

BADGERS +2.5		36%	NEBRASKA -2.5		17%
BADGERS +8.5		36%	NEBRASKA -8.5		11%