

UW FOOTBALL
GAME 12Fleck-like
swagger in
LeonhardInterim coach has
trait program needs

This may not be the best day to write this. Not with University of Wisconsin football fans on a full stomach. But here it goes anyway, with apologies in advance for any indigestion it may cause leading into the 133rd meeting between the Badgers (6-5, 4-4 Big Ten Conference) and Minnesota (7-4, 4-4) on Saturday at Camp Randall Stadium:

Jim Leonhard has a little P.J. Fleck in him. While you chew on that, let me add this bite:

That observation is meant as a compliment, and I believe it's a personality trait in Leonhard that could give this UW program something it desperately needs.

JIM POLZIN

Confidence. Pizazz. Moxie. Say what you want about Fleck, now in his sixth season leading the Golden Gophers, but he has it.

So does Leonhard, who's about to serve his seventh and final game as the interim coach for the Badgers. UW athletic director Chris McIntosh is expected to announce as early as Sunday who will be taking the Badgers into the future, and all signs point to it being Leonhard.

That move would get a full endorsement from the players, whose fondness for Leonhard only has grown in the eight weeks he's been in charge of the program since Paul Chryst was fired Oct. 2.

Leonhard has several qualities they find appealing, not the least of which is that he has a little swagger to him.

"A little?" UW quarterback Graham Mertz said, his eyebrows raised at what he considered an understatement. "Love it. It's infectious. He wants to play so bad, and as a player,

Please see **POLZIN**, Page B8Linebacker
gets it done
in senior yearGoetz makes wait to
be a starter worth it

COLTEN BARTHOLOMEW
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C.J. Goetz made two impactful plays late for the University of Wisconsin football team's defense in last Saturday's win over Nebraska, but they went mostly unnoticed.

The fifth-year senior outside linebacker pursued well from the back side of a run play and brought down Nebraska's Anthony Grant to set up a third-and-7, which the Badgers stopped to force a punt. UW's offense scored on the ensuing drive to take the lead in the 15-14 win. Goetz then knocked away a pass from Huskers quarterback Casey Thompson on the game's penultimate play.

Please see **BADGERS**, Page B8

UW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Slump over for Hepburn

Sophomore guard has
3 3s among 17 points

ABBY SCHNABLE
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NASSAU, Bahamas — University of Wisconsin men's basketball coach Greg Gard sent Chucky Hepburn a text Thursday night reminding the sophomore guard to simply play basketball.

Gard told Hepburn to not overthink it, that he would help Hepburn with any technical mistakes, but Hepburn needed to get



Hepburn

out of his head.

Hepburn woke up to a text from Tyler Wahl with a similar message. Wahl just wanted his teammate to play like he knew he could.

"I really felt that," Hepburn said. "That gave me a lot of confidence knowing that the guys believe me, as well as coaches."

The message was received as Hepburn played his best game

Badgers 64,
Southern Cal 59

Key: UW closes the game on a 10-2 run.

Next: 8 p.m. Tuesday, vs. Wake Forest in Big Ten/ACC Challenge, Kohl Center, ESPNU.

this season in the 64-59 win over Southern Cal in the third-place game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Hepburn was coming off a rough stretch of games that started when the Badgers played against UW-Green Bay on Nov. 15. He scored 16 points on 5-for-33 shooting, was 2-for-7 from 3-point range and committed eight turnovers against the Phoenix, Dayton and Kansas.

The lackluster performance was abnormal for Hepburn, who started his sophomore season averaging 12.5 points per game on 43.5% shooting, including 30%

Please see **BASKETBALL**, Page B7

UW VOLLEYBALL



JUSTIN WAN, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

UW players carry the Big Ten Conference trophy after defeating Nebraska on Friday at the Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

Killing it on the road

Conference four-peat
powered by Robinson

DENNIS PUNZEL
For the State Journal

Make it a four-peat for the University of Wisconsin volleyball team.

The No. 3 Badgers clinched

their fourth consecutive Big Ten Conference championship Friday night with a 25-21, 21-25, 25-21, 25-19 victory over No. 5 Nebraska at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

The Badgers (24-3, 18-1 Big Ten) won the ninth Big Ten title in program history. It is just the third time in Big Ten history

a team has won four straight championships — the other two times were both by Penn State, which won four from 1996-99 and eight from 2003-10.

The victory extends the Badgers' winning streak over Nebraska to 10, the longest losing

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, Page B7No. 3 Badgers 3,
No. 5 Nebraska 1

Key: UW scores the last three points of the third set.

Next: NCAA tournament.

WORLD CUP

Draw sets up must-win situation against Iran

RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

AL KHOR, Qatar — Respect achieved. Wins await.

American players wanted more than a 0-0 draw with England on Friday night, likely the most-watched match of their lives.

The U.S. shut out a European opponent in the World Cup for the first time since 1950 yet left the tent-like stadium in the Arabian desert knowing a win in Tuesday's politically charged matchup with Iran is a must to reach the knockout stage.

"We dominated the game. We had the more clear-cut chances.

USA 0, England 0

Key: USA goalie Matt Turner make two big saves in the 82nd minute and in extra time.

Next: 1 p.m. Tuesday, vs. Iran, FOX.

Obviously, it sucks that we couldn't put the ball in the back of the net," said midfielder Weston McKennie, standing out with red, white and blue streaks in his hair. "There's a lot of people that obviously thought we were going to get blown out."

Please see **WORLD CUP**, Page B3

JULIO CORTEZ, ASSOCIATED PRESS

USA goalkeeper Matt Turner makes a save on a shot by England's Mason Mount on Friday at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar.

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