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Sports
Wisconsin State Journal Saturday, November 29, 1986, Section 4 •

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Morton won't veer from his style



With Elroy Hirsch watching, new Badger football coach Don Morton meets the press.
—State Journal photo by A. Craig Benson

By Tom Butler
Sports reporter

New University of Wisconsin football coach Don Morton is a disciple of the veer offense, and doesn't plan to change that run-oriented plan of attack as a coach in the Big Ten.

"(The veer is) exciting," he said Friday at Camp Randall Stadium. "It's explosive. We've always been able to move the football. We have a very selective passing game. We're not immune to the passing game, but we refuse to throw the ball 40 or 50 times a game.

"I'll say it right up front and get the issue over with. If anybody wants to give me a lifetime contract, we'll throw the football 50 times a game."

Until that happens, Morton said, his staff will emphasize the things he believes win football games — a great defense, a great rushing attack, an effective passing attack and a sound kicking game.

"Football is basic blocking and tackling, keeping your leverage, doing the basics real well, and that's what we'll do at the University of Wisconsin," he said.

Morton replaces interim coach Jim Hilles, whose team had a 3-9 record, the worst since 1968. Hilles coached for the seven months following Dave McClain's death in April.

Morton said all the right things after being introduced to the media by chancellor Irving Shain, athletic director Elroy Hirsch and professor Maurice "Barney" Webb, chairman of the UW Athletic Board.

"Hey, this is fun," Morton said. "I think we have to keep that thing in perspective."

Shain, Hirsch and Webb beamed at that remark, but Morton was just warming up.

"The thing I'm excited about at the University of Wisconsin is they are not going to corrupt the education process," he said. "If we make a fraud of the student-athlete for the sake of winning, that is not winning at all. That isn't going to happen. It has not happened.

"A dumb jock is not born. He is systematically created when we let him go through the system unchallenged. As a coaching staff we will continue that great tradition of challenging young people on a day-to-day basis, challenging them academically and challenging them football-wise."

Morton said quarterbacks usually are good athletes. He said he tries to recruit several every year because if they don't work out at that position, they can always play another.

He would not discount a freshman quarterback running the offense next year, but prefers that one of the current Badger quarterbacks win the position during spring practice.

"We have enough flexibility in our offense to adjust to our personnel," he said.

Morton concentrates on offense and leaves the defense primarily to his defensive coordinator, Mike Daly, a Minnesota native who graduated from Augustana College in South Dakota.

"I'm not very smart, but I'm smart enough to know defense wins football games," Morton said. "We start with defense. I get involved so I know what's going on. I make no defensive decisions during the game. I'm involved with the offense."

Morton plans to meet with the UW team Monday and then with them individually, starting with next year's seniors. His assistant coaches will meet with their respective players. Assistants will hit the recruiting trail Tuesday.

Morton's base for recruiting will be Wisconsin. He is eager to renew contacts with high school coaches he met while coaching at North Dakota State.

Morton also plans to recruit in Texas and Oklahoma despite the fact those states are two of the most heavily worked in the country.

"It's a perfect time to recruit in Texas," he said, alluding the numerous investigations of Southwest Conference schools. "I don't like to get into it, but there just not enough schools that are going to be eligible for the Cotton Bowl."

Asked how a coach recruits for the veer offense, Morton replied, "It's beautiful. Tell the running backs they're going to run the ball. We pass the ball a lot, but it's like this," he added, emulating a pitchout.

"We're going to recruit a kid to come to the University of Wisconsin for the right reasons — strong academics and football. And, the two can go together."

Shain, Hirsch and Webb liked that, too.

More on Page 3 ...

- Morton's salary package may come to $137,000.
- Morton's complete coaching record.
- Recruiting coordinator Jerry Fishbain stays on the staff.

Players feel sorry for Hilles, but accept change

By Paul Arnold and Bill Brophy
Sports reporters

When Todd Nelson heard Don Morton talk to reporters Friday afternoon, he was all fired up, shaking with excitement.

When Brian Anderson listened to Morton's introduction as the new University of Wisconsin football coach, he couldn't help but think interim coach Jim Hilles hadn't gotten a fair shake.

Their reactions were typical of the Badger players' feelings toward their new coach.

Nelson, a junior offensive tackle, said of Morton: "I'm impressed with him. He is excited to be here and that attitude and his enthusiasm fires me up. I've got so much emotion in me after hearing him that I'm shaking right now."

But Nelson, too, thought of Hilles.

"You have to give coach Hilles credit for keeping things together, but you have to move on," he said.

"Coach Hilles showed great character. I feel bad for him and all, but being from Madison and growing up on Badger football, I've seen people come and go. I just want to play some winning football and I think coach Morton can do that for us.

Anderson, a junior tight end, is looking forward to the challenge of a new offense — the veer — but he didn't think Hilles got a fair chance from UW officials.

"Coach Hilles was so positive to us," he said. "He kept saying he had every intention of being here. We believed him and I'm kind of surprised they didn't give him more of a chance.

"He was only a head coach for three months. It was a tough season, but it was kind of harsh to let him go."

Morton will be the Badgers' third coach since April, when Dave McClain died of heart attack.

Freshman defensive back Dan Kissling clearly didn't want to see Hilles go.

"I'm pretty disappointed with the way the whole thing was handled," he said. "I'm sure coach Morton will be a good coach, but I don't think they gave coach Hilles a fair chance. They said they were going to, but they really didn't.

"They could have given (Hilles) one more shot, maybe with a one- or two-year contract. That way he gets a chance to recruit and improve the team roster."

Although outspoken about Hilles, Kissling said he is looking forward to working with Morton and he's eager to return to the offensive backfield.

"I plan on trying out at running back in the spring," he said. "I ran the veer in high school and I know the idea of it. If he wants me to play defense, however, I'll play defense."

The introduction of the veer means Bud Keyes, a junior, could have a battle for quarterback next spring with junior quarterback Paul Chryst.

"I really can't speculate right now if this is good or not," Keyes said from his parents' home in Green Bay. "I don't think any of us really knows that much about Morton or knows if he'll change us for better of worse."

Chryst said he felt sorry for Hilles, but was excited for a chance to show Morton what he could do.

"I am looking forward to next spring," Chryst said. "Coach Morton runs the option offense and that's something I've had experience in before. I'm looking forward to competing with Bud and getting a shot to show what I can do. But Bud is the starter, and he's also a good runner. We'll just have to wait and see."

Badgers' Richter puts stop to Yale

By John Hughes
Sports reporter

The spotlight was off Wisconsin's Mike Richter only briefly in Friday night's hockey game.

That was during the second period when the new guy in town, football coach Don Morton, arrived at the Dane County Coliseum and got a hearty round of applause when introduced to the sellout crowd.

The rest of the night belonged to the Badgers' sophomore goaltender as he stoned the visiting Elis of Yale, 5-1.

All else being equal, the Badgers are a good bet to win when Richter plays up to his considerable ability.

"He's our money man right now," said Badger coach Jeff Sauer.

The money man was perfect until midway through the final period when the outcome was no longer in doubt. Wisconsin (7-7-1) was leading, 4-0, when Greg Harrison scored what Richter called "an ugly goal" with barely six minutes left.

Harrison shot from well out on the ice. Richter was in position, but got screened at the last second. He he got his body in front of the puck, but he failed to get enough of his stick on it to clear it into the corner and it trickled into the net.

Losing the shutout disappointed Richter. Goalies get noticed for shutouts. Anything else is less than perfect. Or as Richter put it, "The difference between zero and one is much greater than between three and four."

Coach Tim Taylor of Yale (3-2) thought that maybe, just maybe, his team would have had a chance against a lesser goalie.

"I thought we had some pretty good chances on the power play, but he came up very, very big when he had to," Taylor said. "He's a great goalie."

That's not to imply Richter was working alone. His teammates didn't commit many penalties (five), and had enough offense — especially from the No. 1 line — to keep the Elis at arm's length.

Wisconsin freshman Gary Shuchuk got the only goal of the first period, on a power play at 5:12. Paul Ranheim gave the Badgers a 2-0 lead with his seventh goal of the season, on a pass from Rob Mendel 29 seconds into the second period.

Richter then made his biggest save of the game as he stuffed Yale's Bill Zito — a native of Milwaukee — on a breakaway 5½ minutes into the period.

Steve Tuttle then took a pass in full stride from Ranheim, outskated the Yale defense down the right-wing side and beat goalie Mike O'Neill with a back-hander at 10:48.

Tony Granato added Wisconsin's fourth goal, on another power play late in the period. Richter got the assist on the goal by hitting Granato with a 90-foot pass as the Elis got caught changing lines.

After Harrison got his goal for Yale, Tuttle completed the scoring with his second goal of the night and 11th of the season with 11 seconds left.

That gave the Ranheim-Granato-Tuttle line four goals and eight points for the night.

Taylor said his Elis played "OK," but he knew they were in trouble when they fell behind, 3-0.

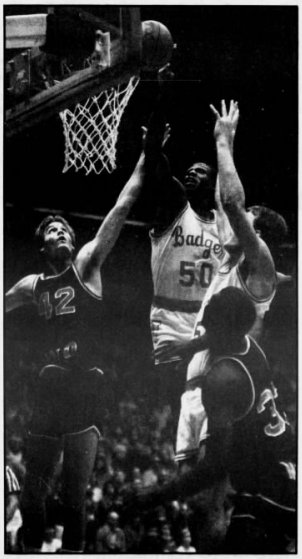
Yale ..... 0 0 1—1
Wisconsin ..... 3 1 1—5

First period
Wisconsin — Shuchuk 8 (Granato, Ranheim), 5:12 (pp).
Penalties: Moore, Y (tripping), 4:24; Semandel, W (interference), 7:43; Pizio, W (hooking), 13:42; Bunz, W (interference), 17:30.

Second period
Wisconsin — Ranheim 7 (Granato, Mendel), :29.
Wisconsin — Tuttle 10 (Ranheim), 10:48.
Wisconsin — Granato 11 (Richter), 18:23 (pp).
Penalties: Moore, Y (elbowing), 1:28; Brehm-hoff, Y (roughing), 15:55; Bowesox, Y (hooking), 17:04.

Third period
Yale — Harrison 3 (Greene, O'Dell), 13:58.
Wisconsin — Tuttle 11 (Ford), 19:49.
Penalties: Shuchuk, W (elbowing), 4:15; Broncic, Y (hooking), 7:32; Ianch, Y (too many men), 11:19; Beck, W (tripping), 13:36; O'Dell, Y (hooking), 17:30.

Saves
O'Neill (Y) ..... 6 14 14—34
Richter (W) ..... 13 12 9—34
Att. — 6,644.



Wisconsin's Danny Jones (50) dunked this tip of a missed shot by teammate Rodney Tapp in the first half. Jones is surrounded by Dan Olson (42) and Tyrone Tillman of Nebraska-Omaha and teammate Darin Schubring (behind Tillman). A preview of tonight's game against South Florida is on Page 4.
—State Journal photo by Scott Seid

UW busts zone, beats Mavericks

By Tom Oates
Sports reporter

It didn't take long for South Florida to get a scouting report on the University of Wisconsin.

As the South Florida players relaxed in the seats at the north end of the Field House Friday night, watching the Badgers open their regular season with a scrimmage against Nebraska-Omaha, they scratched the words "zone defense" from their repertoire by halftime.

Wisconsin, taking full advantage of the new three-point shot, rolled to a 34-point halftime lead and beat outmanned Nebraska-Omaha, 86-47, before 6,005 fans.

Wisconsin made nine of 13 three-point shots in the first half as the Mavericks, a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II team, reluctantly stuck with a zone against the physically superior Badgers.

"Any team that saw us probably won't be playing a zone against us," said guard Trent Jackson, one of five Badger zone-busters. "That shot's not going to be there all the time, but we know now that we can hit it if it's given to us."

Here's what the South Florida players, who meet Wisconsin tonight, saw before their halftime exit: Shelton Smith was four-for-six from three-point land, Sean Fleming two-for-two, Mike Heineman one-for-two, and Jackson and Rod Ripley one-for-one.

"Everybody and their brother was hitting that shot," Badger center J.J. Weber said.

Coach Steve Yoder, who wants the UW to pound the ball inside this year, didn't mind all the long-range missiles because only one or two of them was forced and, more importantly, only one or two of them missed.

"I think they were all good shots," Yoder said.

Weber was the prime beneficiary when the Maverick zone became stretched to the max. He owned the lane, scoring 14 points, grabbing 13 rebounds and blocking four shots.

Smith led the Badgers with 15 points. Jackson had 13 and Fleming, a freshman guard, had 10.

Tom Thompson, a smooth forward, led Nebraska-Omaha with 14 points. The UW guards harassed the Mavericks' leading scorer, Bryan Leach, into one-of-nine shooting and four points.

"I was fearful of this," Nebraska-Omaha coach Bob Hanson said. "We really have a young team. To come in here and play a team of Big Ten caliber is a big challenge. We normally play two or three Division I teams a year and we've challenged them and played well at times. But this team is not ready for that."

The Mavericks' lack of size and quickness didn't give Yoder much of a yardstick by which to measure his team. About all the Badgers proved was that they're 10 or 11 deep.

"The one real positive thing is that I was hoping our bench could play for us and they did," Yoder said.

NEBRASKA-OMAHA

	min	fg	fga	ft	fta	reb	pf	tp	pts
Mueliner	26	1	3	0	0	2	3	2	2
Thompson	33	7	10	0	0	7	2	14	14
Adames	28½	3	6	1	2	10	4	7	7
Leach	23	1	9	2	2	2	3	4	4
Miller	30½	4	7	2	3	3	3	10	10
Heineman	17½	2	3	0	0	1	3	5	5
Olson	18	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	2
Brady	8½	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hayes	13½	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	1
Jones	21½	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robertson	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	200	20	52	7	10	36	13	51	47

WISCONSIN

	min	fg	fga	ft	fta	reb	pf	tp	pts
Portman	10	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Staley	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Weber	22	2	4	0	0	13	1	1	1
Heineman	17½	2	5	0	0	2	1	5	5
Smith	18	3	4	1	1	3	2	9	9
Jackson	22½	3	5	1	2	3	1	7	7
Ripley	17½	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2
Jackson	16	1	6	0	0	3	2	3	3
Tapp	19	2	12	0	0	4	2	4	4
Schubring	18	2	4	0	0	3	2	4	4
Fleming	23	4	7	2	2	4	2	10	10
Robertson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	200	30	64	9	17	43	13	55	56

Rebounding totals include team rebounds.

Nebraska-Omaha ..... 33 53 — 47
Wisconsin ..... 34 52 — 86

Three-point goals — Smith 4, Fleming 2, Staley, Heineman, Jackson. Field-goal percentages — Nebraska-Omaha .385, Wisconsin .531. Free-throw percentages — Nebraska-Omaha .700, Wisconsin .530. Turnovers — Nebraska-Omaha 22, Wisconsin 16. Att. — 6,005.

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