

## Routine includes buffets, movies

BY CURTIS PAINTER  
For SN Today

It would be interesting to tell fans about our routines leading up to home games and away games, since this weekend is our first away game. Typically with home games, we'll have a short walk-through practice in the afternoon before the game, and we'll watch some film. We go out to dinner as a team to a country club here in town and there is a buffet set up for us. Then we go see a movie at the theatre, and that's voted on by the seniors. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose on that vote. After that we go to the hotel and the next day, depending on what time the game is, we'll wake up and move over to the stadium.

When we're playing home games, and we're driving around to various places, we certainly do get a lot of waves and honks from cars. On the road, it's not quite as friendly when you're in their town. But there are a lot of fans of the sport, and even if they're not rooting for your team, they're excited about the game. Like with this weekend, people will know Notre Dame is playing Purdue, and that makes for an exciting atmosphere wherever you go.

With away games, like we have this week at Notre Dame, basically it's kind of the same idea. We'll have a walk-through at home on Friday and then we'll get on the road. This week, I'm almost certain we'll drive up there. We'll stop and eat at a restaurant, and then we'll continue to the hotel. Once we get to town, we normally go to the stadium and check it out, and check out the locker rooms. Then we'll head back to the hotel. We'll have rented movies, usually a couple choices to choose from. Then we'll have kind of a get-together and we'll head to bed.

I think the days before games are actually about having some fun and relaxing. That's the point of the movies and going out to dinner with each other. It's time to get away from football before the storm the



TOM STRICKLAND / AP

Purdue coach Joe Tiller likes to keep things light and build team unity prior to the Boilermakers' games.

next day. You go through football every day of the week, and it can be a grind, so to have a break before the game really helps out. It's not like we're running around being crazy, but it is a time to relax a little bit. Coach Tiller doesn't allow cell phones on the trips, so we keep those out of the way. It's all about being with your teammates.

I think a lot of Notre Dame. It is one of the most recognized programs in the country, and when you play them it's a very exciting atmosphere. It's a very fun venue to play in, and the Shillelagh Trophy is at stake, so you're playing for something more than just the win. Once you get to Purdue, you fully understand playing them. This is definitely going to be a test for our team. Hopefully

we'll enter the Big Ten season coming off a big victory in the first road game of the year.

— As told to Brian McLaughlin

### About the author



This Saturday, he leads his team into a road game at in-state rival Notre Dame.

**Curtis Painter**  
Purdue QB  
Painter, a 6-4, 230-pound four-year starting quarterback, threw for 261 yards and a touchdown in his team's win over Central Michigan last week.

## Now it's time to prove ourselves

BY CHRIS PRESSLEY  
For SN Today

September is going by fast. The non-conference games are in the past. We had a weekend off before starting Big Ten play this Saturday at Michigan. After opening 3-0, we think we're a pretty good team, but now it's time to really test ourselves and establish our identity as what kind of team we want to be.

We and Michigan both had an extra week to study each other's tendencies on film. They play with pretty much the same type of defense as we do, but their spread offense obviously differs from what we do.

It'll be the first time in Ann Arbor for me, even though I'm a senior. The last time Wisconsin played there, I missed the season with a broken leg. It'll be exciting for me, but we're not there for the crowd and atmosphere. We're there to play football and get out of there as quickly as we can.

That's what we did at Fresno State. We didn't pull out road games last year, and that brought our season down. Not only did we beat Fresno, but a fullback (no, not me) capped off our victory. I still couldn't handle the ball because of my injured thumb, so when I was taken out, I knew my teammate Bill Rentmeester was going to get the ball. I said, "Billy, you better do your thing." He said, "I will, I will." We were backed up near our goal line, but he plowed through some tackles and got us the first down. That win



COURTESY OF WISCONSIN ATHLETICS

Bill Rentmeester, above, made fellow fullback Chris Pressley proud by picking up a big first down.

gave us valuable road experience and confidence entering this weekend.

We know what we do against these next few opponents—Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State—is going to define our season. You can't discount the later games, of course, but we're aware of what's at stake. We didn't come to Wisconsin to play Akron and Fresno State. We came to play the Michigans. We're excited to get out there and prove ourselves.

— As told to Paul Day



### About the author

**Chris Pressley** Wisconsin FB  
Pressley is a senior captain for the ninth-ranked Badgers, who take a 3-0 record to Ann Arbor Saturday in their Big Ten opener.