

Trying to win last one for coach Tiller, seniors

BY CURTIS PAINTER
For SN Today

It felt pretty good to get back on the field last weekend against Iowa. I was able to go in there and put in a two-minute drive before the half to help us score, and we got to within 12-10 going into halftime. From a confidence standpoint, going in there and getting that done was huge.

Previously, I'd been able to play in a lot of games, and I'd never quite watched a whole game from the sidelines. But that's what happens when you're injured. You can't control what's going on, and that's tough. So it was certainly nice in that respect to get back out there.

I think obviously we can take some good things from our game at Iowa. We did a lot of things well, and we were close. We gave our team a chance to win it in the end; I just wish we could have had a higher percentage pass in the end.

I think a lot of teams or people would shy away from continued hard work and fighting back when their record's not great. But that's not how we treated it. We weren't fighting for a bowl game, so from a mental standpoint, it was nice to see we would never give up playing hard to the end.

I would say from an efficiency standpoint, and consistency, if you count the drives we had, I think just about every drive I was in there we were able to go down and score. The one interception was a dumb interception on my part. But we were able to move the ball real well. We were able to open things up and get something going. We probably played our best football in a while.

It's kind of hard to believe that this is the last week of practice. It just hits you that you only have two or three more practices in your college career, and that's kind of tough to handle. It's going to be a very fun game, a very emotional game. In this one, against Indiana, we always expect a good game from the other team because it's a rivalry.



MICHAEL CONROY / AP

It hasn't been a textbook final season for Joe Tiller, but Curtis Painter is still looking to send him out on top.

We'd love to get a win here in the last game, being that it's the seniors' last game and coach Joe Tiller's last game, too. It would be really great for us.

I think it's a great rivalry, particularly for people that live in the state of Indiana. A lot of the guys who are on their team may have gone to high school with some of our guys, and they're friends. You get together with people you're familiar with and it makes it more special.

It's one of those games that steps above the rest and is really fun to play in.

—As told to Brian McLaughlin

About the author



Curtis Painter
Purdue QB
Painter, a senior, had arguably the best game of his season coming back from an injury. He threw for 190 yards and

two touchdowns on 24-of-30 passing, nearly knocking off Iowa on the road. Purdue takes on Indiana at home this weekend in its season finale.

Looking forward to last game at the Camp

BY CHRIS PRESSLEY
For SN Today

It felt great to go out with a win in my last Big Ten home game. We haven't had the season we wanted, but we wanted to send a message to our fans. We wanted to show that we could finish strong.

It didn't start well for us against Minnesota, though. We had three fumbles in the first half, and we went back in the locker room knowing that we were beating ourselves. But the two safeties we got in the second half swung the momentum our way. It was great to win a big rivalry game; everyone brought their best. I had fun beating up their linebackers.

Now we're bowl eligible, and if we take care of business against Cal Poly, we can get a better game. They haven't played anyone like us, so we're really excited to take it to them. And of course, it's senior day for me. My last game at the Camp. It's a day you're looking forward to since you arrived here. To make it to the end, it's a huge accomplishment.

Every year on past senior days, I would get emotional on the sidelines. You think about all the practices, all the meals you've had together, and how that's all going to come to an end.

Mike Newkirk is going to be emotional because he and his dad are so close. It will be special for Eric Vandenhevel and Kraig Urbik, who went to high school together in Wisconsin. As for me, I'm going to embrace the moment. I mean, we made it; this is fun. I'm excited to take the next step in my life.

My mother, uncle, aunt, brother, son and best friend from home are coming out to see me. My girlfriend was going to come, too, but she broke up with me. Then on Sunday, I'm driving back home to New Jersey for Thanksgiving. It's a 13-hour drive, but it's not as bad as it



MORRY GASH / AP

Tramaine Brock (1) and the Badgers are coming off an emotional win against the rival Golden Gophers.

sounds. I love road trips. Once I get in the car, I just get in the zone, enjoy the scenery, listen to my music.

When I'm home, my uncle always has a big Thanksgiving gathering, and I'll go to my high school's annual game and visit my old coach. It's going to be really fun.

—As told to Paul Day

About the author



Chris Pressley
Wisconsin FB
Pressley will play in his final home game as a senior Saturday against Cal Poly. The Badgers rallied for a 35-32

victory over Minnesota last weekend to become bowl eligible.