

Small world after all for UW soccer coach

By Andy Baggot

Sunday, July 11, 2010

Wisconsin State Journal/Madison.com

You'll have to excuse John Trask on Sunday if the University of Wisconsin men's soccer coach seems a bit anxious. There are a couple of good reasons for that.

One is that while his soccer brethren are tuned into the World Cup final between the Netherlands and Spain, Trask will be conducting a local skills camp for roughly 140 youth players ranging in age from 11 to 18.

"I'm going to register all the kids and TiVo the game and come home later in the day and watch it," he said, good-naturedly mindful of the possibility that one of the participants or one of the parents will tamper with the suspense.

The other part of Trask's anxiousness relates to his unique ties with the two countries in the final and the way they play.

"These are my boys, in a way," he said. "These are the guys that I saw come of age."

While Trask was an assistant coach at his alma mater Indiana from 1991 to '99, he

made regular month-long, fact-finding trips to the Netherlands and Spain. Usually he'd stop in France as well. He paid his own way, making notes along the way about players, drills and innovations he'd seen at youth academies, military teams and club practices.

Trask said that while most of his Dutch acquaintances spoke English, he picked up enough Spanish along the way to interpret what was being said.

Prior to the World Cup in 1998 held in France, Trask said he told acquaintances they should keep an eye on the host country. Sure enough, France prevailed thanks mainly to midfielder Zinedine Zidane, whom Trask watched up close a year earlier.

Trask remembers watching Robin van Persie, a standout Dutch forward, when he was 16-year-old up-and-comer.

Trask recalls seeing Spanish defender Carles Puyol during his first or second season with Barcelona.

"These guys that have matured into the two teams that you're seeing are really the background of the way I have been (taught)," Trask said.

The two finalists have similar star power, intelligence and

tactical intentions, according to Trask.

"It's about passing and moving and that's why these two teams are in the finals," he said. "I don't remember in my lifetime — and I was born in '66 — of there being a World Cup where anyone's expecting what they're expecting (today)."

If both countries choose to keep their feet on the accelerator — especially the Dutch, who might be most tempted to slow the pace — Trask anticipates a breathtaking, transcendent game given that defense has dictated play over the past 20 years of World Cup finals.

"I think it's just going to fall on when and who scores goals and at what moments," he said, offering that an outcome of 4-3 wouldn't surprise him.

In addition to 14 years coaching at the college level — most recently cultivating the program at Illinois-Chicago into a consistent NCAA force — Trask worked as a Major League Soccer assistant at Miami, Washington, D.C., and Dallas. As such, his views on where the U.S. stands in the global pecking order of soccer are relevant.

Team USA surprisingly won its pool but was eliminated by Ghana in the round of 16.

“Every four years, you get this flood of emotions of where we are in America and we seem to be getting better,” Trask said. “But are we really there? I think a lot of us purists think we’re still a little bit further away then we’d like to acknowledge.”

The same could be said for the UW men’s program, which has had three coaches in three years. Jeff Rohrman resigned under pressure and was replaced by Todd Yeagley, whose father, Jerry, built Indiana into a perennial powerhouse.

Todd Yeagley spent 10 months in Madison before a coaching change at his alma mater lured him back to Indiana. Trask, who once coached Todd Yeagley in high school, was brought in to pick up the pieces.

“I have to keep reminding myself that it’s a transition period,” said Trask, who returned home late Friday night from a recruiting trip.

In addition to another change in coaches, the Badgers lost nine seniors from a club that went 7-9-2 overall, 3-3 in the Big Ten Conference.

“A lot of key components to the team have left,” Trask said.

A large incoming freshman class has good quality, according to Trask, but it will take time for that youth to develop.

“I hate to use the word “rebuilding,” but, shoot, we’re going to take seven or eight maybe starting freshmen into the Big Ten (season). That’s going to be tough. I don’t care how gifted you are.”

But before Trask coaches a season with his new boys, he’ll sit down sometime today and reminisce about his old ones.

###

A big 'Trask' at hand for UW, as Badgers look for consistency

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

The Badger Herald

Three coaches in three seasons; it's time for some stability.

In the spring, John Trask was named head coach of the men's soccer team, replacing Todd Yeagley, whose tenure was just one season. Prior to Yeagley, Jeff Rohrman was head coach, resigning after his seventh season. This constant change of coach has put a strain on the team, but Trask has one goal for the Badgers: stability.

At the beginning of the year the Badgers had no idea who would be leading their team. But the veteran players found themselves in a familiar situation.

"It's definitely not easy. We've got a great group of seniors, we've stuck together and with all these changes going on around us we're bound to run into some challenges," senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint said. "We've learned over these past few years how bouncing back from the challenges matters more than the challenges themselves. We're going to be

one resilient team this year, that's for sure."

The last few seasons have been a mental roller coaster, but fifth-year senior Jon Rzepka also noted how the consistent change has been physically tough in addition to mentally difficult.

"Mentally it is a little tough because you never know how the coach is going to feel about you as a player," he said. "Physically too. I never thought that I'd have to stretch as much as I do now. I've now realized that I'm not as flexible and I do have to stretch more."

It's no surprise that a new coach brings a lot of change and new things, but the squad feels like it has finally found the right guy for the job.

Trask believes the fit is right too. As a native Wisconsinite, Trask feels he's returned home to a good program where he can take charge and create some stability.

"Stability: that's the beginning of it. I'm from Wisconsin so to come back home it feels right for me, both from a family perspective and from where I am in my coaching career," he said. "I've been to a lot of different places, I've had good success, but getting into an athletic department at

a University like Wisconsin, in the Big Ten conference — it's a great experience."

Don't be fooled. It's not just a great experience close to home that Trask is after. He means business. While he isn't setting goals for the team this season just yet, he is here to do his job well and make something more out of the Wisconsin soccer program.

"He's a great coach. He knows his stuff," Vint said. "He's brought a more professional approach to both preparing for games and also during training. Trask expects you to get the job done. When you come out to train you have to get the job done."

Rzepka added, "Right now it feels like we're learning the most. Every coach has taught us different things and now I feel like we have the right guy on the job to make us get to that next step, that next level."

While the constant change has created a few challenges for the veteran players, the younger ones don't know any differently. Some are still adjusting to college soccer while others are experiencing a whole new level of play.

For sophomore Ata Ozbay, the change of coach made him almost feel like a freshman all over again.

“It was a big change for me because I didn’t really know what to expect like the freshman coming in” Ozbay said. “I got used to one coach, we did everything how he wanted to do it. [Now] we have to get used to all these different things he prefers. It was a pleasant change so I think it was better for the team.

“It was mainly overcoming the fact that the older guys had been through so many coaches and the younger guys such as myself are just adjusting to college soccer still.”

Change is hard to get used to, especially on a team that’s already been through a lot of change in previous years. For Trask, this season isn’t about how many different coaches the Badgers have had in recent years.

Instead, he’s here to focus on the team he has and to make something out of the opportunity he’s been given.

“It’s never easy — change — when you’re in college,” Trask said. “I had the same coach all four years. You wish for these guys that they could have had that consistency.”

###

UW men's soccer: New faces all around as another coaching era begins

By Andy Baggot

Friday, September 3, 2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

Having three head coaches in the past three years has given Aaron Nichols of the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team a sense of perspective.

"When you sit there and find out your coach is leaving to go to a new school or your coach is resigning, during that space in between you get a little worried," he said. "It's kind of like, 'What happens next?'"

"But you look forward to it in a way. At the same time it's kind of exciting. It's something that could be a good thing."

Nichols, a senior defender, is one of 10 current UW players whose career has spanned the tenures of Jeff Rohrman, Todd Yeagley and now John Trask.

Rohrman resigned under pressure after the 2008 season, his seventh at the school, after a 61-63-12 overall record that included a 10-20-6 mark in the Big Ten Conference.

Yeagley was hired and led UW to a 7-9-2 overall mark — including a 3-3 record in

the Big Ten — but chose to return to his alma mater, Indiana, last December and take over the perennial league powerhouse built by his Hall of Fame father, Jerry.

Enter Trask, a former Indiana player and assistant coach, who took over the Badgers in January after a decorated five-year stint at Illinois-Chicago.

"You expect to have a coach for four years, but by no means do I think it's hurt us," Nichols said. "If anything, I think it's helped us. We've learned to adjust in different scenarios. You have to adapt as players to different types of styles. If anything, it's made us better."

Trask inherited a team dominated by youth — 14 true freshmen, one redshirt freshman and two sophomores on a roster of 28 — that begins the regular season Saturday against Santa Clara in the UC Irvine College Classic in Irvine, Calif.

While Yeagley had nine seniors to set the tone, Trask is trying to fit all the newcomers into a puzzle that includes five seniors.

"I hate to use the word rebuilding, but, shoot, we're going to take seven or eight maybe starting freshmen into the Big Ten (season)," Trask

said. "That's going to be tough. I don't care how gifted you are. You're giving up two or three years' experience."

Nichols, senior midfielder Jon Rzepka — the top returning scorer — and senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint were chosen as tri-captains for UW. They share not only the challenges of three coaches in three years, but the one that comes to guiding such a young team.

Vint, who has played in five career games for the Badgers, has taken stock of the newcomers and likes what he sees.

"They came in, they were ready to train and they were ready to put some work in," Vint said. "They didn't have the egos that sometimes happen when you have success in soccer early on."

"I was really impressed with how well that they fit in, how hard that they work and just how much they put the team before themselves. That's the biggest thing to me."

That's appreciated by the upperclassmen, who've ridden a roller coaster of emotions since Rohrman, the guy who recruited them to Madison, stepped down.

"We have a great group of guys that have stuck with it," Vint said. "We support each other."

The latest coaching transition has been made easier by the fact Trask and Yeagley have almost identical backgrounds and tactical philosophies built around hard-nosed defense.

"Very similar," Vint noted, "right down to the drills at practice."

Trask said the current crop of freshmen, coupled with another strong class in 2011, should put the program on a smoother path. Still, there's a ways to go before the Badgers figure to return to the form that produced an NCAA title in 1995.

"It looks like it's starting to come," he said.

For all upheaval and youth, there are lofty goals for this season.

"He's got high expectations for us and we have high expectations for ourselves," Nichols said of Trask.

"Anything short of making the (NCAA) tournament is going to be a disappointment in my eyes."

###

Season of change for Trask's squad

By Kelly Erickson

Friday, September 3, 2010

The Badger Herald

Change is a good thing — at least the men's soccer team hopes so.

With a new coach and 14 freshmen, the Badgers are expecting the new talent to help push the team and set new standards.

First-year head coach John Trask feels with all the changes going on around the program, this year is a fresh start and an opportunity to make something new out of the program.

"I think change is good. We've had a lot of change within the department even. In some ways I kind of like it — it's a fresh start. We can all set our own standards — coaches, media, everything about the program," Trask said. "We have a chance to set a different standard, because the standard of the past hasn't been set high enough. I think we can all admit to that."

Trask isn't the only one setting new standards for this season. The players themselves are setting their own goals and standards in an effort to quickly overcome any uneasiness.

Senior Aaron Nichols believes his team is capable of anything.

"As a team, I think we have high standards for ourselves," Nichols said. "Like I said, we're young, but there's nothing that I don't think we can't achieve. And we're all trying to buy into that and believe in that together."

Trask is trying to mesh the older guys who have been through so much change in their careers at UW and the new players who don't know any differently, into a stable team.

While Trask isn't afraid to play freshmen, he's hoping the new talent on the team will push the veterans and bring out the competition within the team that will transfer to the field. Aside from the fact senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint is tabbed to start in net, the rest of UW's starting 11 remains fluid right now.

"We have some talented freshmen that will push these older players — and I don't mind playing freshmen," Trask said. "They know they're all being critiqued on everything they're doing and they know they can change teams at any minute. We're hopefully bleeding some of that competition with these

guys. It's been pretty cool so far."

Senior Jon Rzepka also noted the competition within the team and the need to prove himself to the coaches all over again.

"It's kind of been tough because you have to prove yourself all over again," Rzepka said. "It's taught me to be a better player because it's pushed me more to prove myself to the coaches and to step up my game to that next level."

Despite trying to fuel some competition within his team, Trask still wants to see the veterans find their place and feel comfortable in his new system.

"I'm pulling for the older guys — not that I'm sorry for them — I just know where I've seen what they've gone through," he said. "We're pulling for all the older guys, it's not like we're trying to run these guys out the door. I made a commitment to them, to make sure they have success before they leave, whatever success is."

Keeping hopes for a successful season in mind, the Badgers working on coming together and just being one united team.

Although they certainly have high hopes for a good season, right now Wisconsin is taking practice one day at a time, one game at a time. Being such a young team, they're working on getting better each day.

"I think as a team, we're young, that's first of all," Nichols said. "So every day we get out here, we want to try to improve, we want to get better and better. I know that's a small goal, but every day we're trying to come out here and just do one thing better."

"Some guys one day look real good and some guys another day look real good," Trask said. "We're getting closer, we're moving in a direction. We're very much a work in progress, that's the best way I can put it."

###

UW men's soccer: Own goal by Santa Clara gives Trask first win as Badgers coach
Saturday, September 4, 2010
Wisconsin State Journal/Madison.com

IRVINE, Calif. -- John Trask won his first game as University of Wisconsin men's soccer coach, and he's not complaining that it took an own goal by Santa Clara to make it happen.

A ball played by Badgers freshman Chris Prince deflected off the Broncos' Mykell Bates and into the net at 82 minutes, 44 seconds for the go-ahead score Saturday and Wisconsin held on for a 2-1 victory in the opening game of the UC Irvine College Classic.

The conversion came just 51 seconds after Santa Clara's Alex Fitschen had scored the equalizer.

"Tonight was a good performance by the guys," said Trask, UW's third coach in as many seasons. "Obviously one game doesn't make a season, but I'm very proud. It was great to see the way the team responded when Santa Clara tied it up."

The Badgers face the host Anteaters in the tournament finale on Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Aaron Nichols gave UW a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute with a header off a cross from freshman Trevor Wheeler.

After the teams exchanged goals late, Wisconsin senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint spearheaded a defensive stand to preserve the win.

"The older guys and the younger guys really came together tonight, and we had a nice performance from Ryan Vint in goal," Trask said. "It was a good night for Wisconsin soccer."

The Broncos outshot the Badgers 10-3 in the game, including a 5-3 advantage in shots on goal. Vint finished with four saves for Wisconsin, while Kevin Klasila made one for Santa Clara.

Redshirt freshman Derek Pitts of Middleton was one of six players to see his first action for the Badgers, while eight UW players went all 90 minutes, including freshmen Paul Yonga and Blake Succa.

###

Badgers split pair of weekend matches

By Jack Doyle

Monday, September 6, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team split a pair of games at the UC Irvine College Classic this weekend in California.

The Badgers downed Santa Clara 2-1 in the opening match on Saturday for their first win of the season before falling to UC Irvine in the game two Monday.

Senior Aaron Nichols scored the first goal of the Badgers' 2010 campaign to lead Wisconsin over the Broncos in the first match.

Wisconsin never trailed in the match and pulled ahead in the 26th minute after Nichols headed freshman Trevor Wheeler's cross into the back of the net to put the Badgers up 1-0. Wisconsin maintained the lead until the 82nd minute, when Santa Clara's Alex Fitschen tied the game 1-1 after capitalizing on a cross down the endline from teammate Murphy Campbell.

With a little help from Santa Clara, the Badgers quickly responded. Less than a minute after the Bronco's goal, Wisconsin freshman Chris Prince played a ball into the

box, which then deflected off Santa Clara's Mykell Bates and into the net for an own goal.

Late runs into Wisconsin's defensive third by Santa Clara came to no avail. Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint and the Badger defense kept the Broncos' furious attacking efforts in the closing minutes at bay to hold onto the 2-1 victory.

Monday night, Wisconsin was unable to recover from early goal and fell to the UC Irvine Anteaters 1-0.

The Anteaters capitalized early, scoring a goal in the 13th minute of the match after a throw-in into the Badgers' penalty area connected with the head of UC Irvine's Corey Attaway, who knocked it past Vint for the goal. The Badgers couldn't find an answer to Attaway's goal, as freshman forward Paul Yonga was the only Wisconsin player to put a shot on goal in the first half.

The Badgers return home with a 1-1 season record as they prepare to face Florida International and Florida Atlantic next weekend.

###

**UW men's soccer: No. 25
UC Irvine blanks Badgers
Monday, September 6, 2010
Wisconsin State
Journal/Madison.com**

Corey Attaway scored off a throw-in in the 14th minute and No. 25 UC Irvine held off the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team 1-0 in the final game of the Anteaters' tournament on Monday night.

Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint tied his career high with six saves for the Badgers (1-1) and made the all-tournament team along with senior Aaron Nichols and freshman Chris Prince.

"Tonight's outcome was a fair result," UW coach John Trask said. "UC Irvine is a high caliber NCAA tournament team. Our guys learned some lessons tonight, and we will take that with us as we move forward."

Jimmy Turner picked up the assist for UC Irvine (3-0), which carried a 13-4 edge in shots, including 7-2 in shots on goal.

Freshman Paul Yonga had UW's lone shot on goal of the first half just 6:29 into the game, and senior Jon Rzepka (Kentwood, Mich.) posted a scoring opportunity in the second half.

Freshmen Luke Goodnetter of Elm Grove and Joey Tennyson of Milwaukee saw their first collegiate action against the Anteaters. Of Trask's 13 true freshmen, seven have now seen playing time in the Badgers' first two matches of the season.

Juniors Colin Mani of Madison and Arnel Zahirovic, as well as UCI's Miguel Ibarra, all picked up yellow cards in the match. Wisconsin had 11 fouls to UC Irvine's eight in the game.

The Badgers travel to Florida for a pair of matches this weekend, against Florida International on Friday at 6 p.m. and Florida Atlantic on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

###

Captains bring unique talents, renewed focus **Seniors Nichols, Rzepka, Vint set lofty goals, provide guidance to young players on and off the field**

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

The Badger Herald

Team leaders, a budding rap career and a few video games on the side: Enter the 2010 captains of the men's soccer team.

Senior defenseman Aaron Nichols, goalie Ryan Vint and midfielder Jon Rzepka have been given the honor to lead their team this year, and they bring some unique talents to a young squad.

The captains are ready and looking forward to this season, but Rzepka is also working on a rap career. Yes, a rap career.

While his number one focus may be soccer in the fall, Rzepka already has a CD and is working on another one (release date to be determined).

"It's fun for me and it's good to just hang out and listen to my music," Rzepka said. "I listen to my music to pump me up before the games sometimes. They all like it. It's just a fun thing for me to

do, get my mind off soccer for a little bit."

"I don't have rap career unfortunately," Vint said. "Jon's got everything going on."

Now, Vint and Nichols may not be rappers themselves, but Nichols admitted soccer isn't the only thing he's good at, video games probably come in a close — or not so close — second.

"I'm pretty good at video games," Nichols said. "I like to play with my roommates. We play Halo and COD. I wouldn't say I'm a gamer but I do throw the headset on every once in awhile."

Off-field hobbies aside, the three multifaceted men's soccer captains have a long list of goals for this year's team.

"A lot of wins. Making the tournament. All the goals in the past that we never achieved, hopefully we can get them this year," Rzepka said. "Definitely making the tournament, getting out of the first round of the Big Ten, winning the Big Ten, never losing at home, being one of the top 25 teams, winning the big games — we always seem to fail in the past or just come a little short in the big games — so stepping up and winning

those — really just having a season above .500 and making the tournament."

Rzepka may have the end of season goals in mind, but Nichols is looking for a smooth transition for the new freshmen on the team.

Before the squad can really start working on their goals this season, the captains hope they can share what they've learned throughout the last few seasons. Going through three coaches in three seasons isn't easy.

Nichols feels very honored for his captaincy and also believes he's learned a lot of different things going through so many coaches and going through the changes each season has brought.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," Nichols said. "It's something that's simply just a huge honor to have that title and have the guys look up to you. I knew coming in it would be tough having a lot of young guys, but it's something I look forward to. Sharing my experiences through all three coaches and learning a lot of different things, I like to see what I can do to spread my knowledge to those guys and help them out the best I can.

“I think the biggest thing is we want these guys to have a smooth easy transition because obviously that wasn’t the case for us. We just want to make it as easy as possible for them to just feel comfortable.”

While Nichols and Rzepka are ready to share their experiences with the rest of the team, receiving the title of captain is extra sweet for Vint.

Vint got his first start in goal last season, but he was still always waiting behind Alex Horwath. Now in his last season at UW, Vint finally has the chance to start every game in net and lead his team on the field.

“[Being named captain] it’s a great honor,” Vint said. “The four years I’ve spent here, basically behind Alex Horwath — who did a phenomenal job for us — I wanted to be respected, I thought I had a good feel for the team, a good feel for the people on it and I thought that I could be a good leader someday. Luckily I got the chance this year and it’s a great honor and I feel really blessed.”

The captains definitely feel ready to take over the team, but will lead more by example than getting in a teammate’s face.

“I was talking to both of them probably last week and we were just saying that the captains in the past were all ‘This is how we do it, set schedule, this is how we run our team.’ We’re not like that, we go with the flow,” Vint said. “If people are having a bad day we pick them up, if people are too high up we’re bringing them back down a little bit. We were just saying that we don’t just lead on the field, we lead off the field.”

###

UW men's soccer: Late goal propels Florida Atlantic past Badgers

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Lukas Simons scored the winner in the 86th minute to give Florida Atlantic a 2-1 victory over the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team.

Sophomore Kyle McCrudden tied the game at 1 for UW (1-3) in the 73rd minute, sending home a rebound on Chris Prince's cross that was bobbled by Owls goalkeeper James McCormick.

"While it looks like a disappointing weekend on the face of it, the team definitely grew again," UW coach John Trask said. "That is what's most important about these first two weekends of the season."

###

Sunshine state nothing but grey skies as UW falls to FIU and FAU
Men's soccer drops set in Florida

By Jack Doyle

Sunday, September 12, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Badgers dropped a pair of matches on their Florida expedition last weekend to fall to 1-3 on the season.

Wisconsin lost to Florida International 2-1 in double overtime on Friday night and to Florida Atlantic 2-1 on Sunday afternoon.

Wisconsin and FIU were deadlocked in a 1-1 tie before a goal by FIU's Nicolas Rodriguez in the 110th minute gave the Golden Panthers the win. Senior defender Aaron Nichols recorded his second goal of the season, but the Badgers could still not overcome FIU's offensive attack, which posted 10 shots to the Badgers' seven.

The Golden Panthers gained an early lead when Mike Muhseler converted a penalty kick in the 14th minute. But Wisconsin countered with a goal of their own just five minutes later, as Nichols scored the equalizer from inside the box in the 19th minute.

It wasn't until an hour and a half later that the match was decided. In the 110th minute, FIU's Diego Tamburus found Rodriguez, who finished his chance and ensured FIU claimed their second win of the season with a 2-1 victory over the Badgers.

The Badgers didn't fare much better on Sunday against FAU.

Wisconsin didn't allow the early goal like they did against FIU, but the result was still the same — a 2-1 defeat. The first half provided no scoring, as the Badgers went into halftime tied with the Owls 0-0 and posted six shots to FAU's seven. It wasn't until the 56th minute that somebody finally got on the scoreboard. The Owls' Darnell King scored his second goal of the season on a breakaway after he got behind the Wisconsin defense and slipped the ball past senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint to make the game 1-0.

The Badgers tied the match 1-1 when sophomore Kyle McCrudden tallied the first collegiate goal of his career in the 73rd minute. FAU goalkeeper James McCormick mishandled a cross from freshman Chris Prince, who recorded his first career college assist on the play, and

McCrudden positioned himself to finish the rebound.

It didn't stay tied for long.

Vint fell to the same fate that McCormick did: a bobbled cross that led to a goal. This time though, Lukas Simons' goal for the Owls in the 86th minute proved to be the game-winner.

The two losses over the weekend leave the Badgers with a 1-3 overall record on the season. Wisconsin heads home to Madison after a four-game road trip to play in the Wisconsin Soccer Classic next weekend at the McClimon Complex.

###

Prince adjusting to college game

Freshman forward looking to score at least 10 goals in first season at UW

By Justin Mertes-Mistretta
Wednesday, September 15, 2010

The Badger Herald

Meet UW freshman Chris Prince. As a senior at Naperville Central High School in Illinois, Prince was an All-American selection by NSCAA and was named the Player of the Year by the Chicago Sun Times. He holds the record for almost every statistic at Naperville Central, including single-season goals, single-season points, career goals and career points. In 2007, the MLS' Chicago Fire took notice to Prince by signing him to the U-17/18 squad. As an avid fan of the Fire growing up, Prince couldn't have dreamt up a more ideal situation.

"It was amazing to be able to play with the Fire and against other MLS teams," Prince said. "The highlight of my time there was playing in the MLS Cup."

Joining Prince on the Chicago Fire was friend and now UW

teammate, freshman Trevor Wheeler. Prince and Wheeler first met at an Olympic Development Program when they were kids, but their relationship became more than just teammates once they joined the Fire.

"Trevor [Wheeler] and I have known each other since we were ten years old," Prince said. "We always had a good connection as kids, but we grew to be best friends when we were on the Fire."

The friendship didn't stop after their stint with the Fire. When Prince committed to UW-Madison to play soccer, he was adamant about bringing Wheeler with him. Shortly after he signed, Prince's wish came true as his long-time friend signed with the Badgers. Both have seen success already, especially Prince.

Most true freshman at a Big Ten school take a year to transition from the high school game to the fast-paced college game. However, Prince has shown thus far that he is not phased by the so-called "transition." This was evident after Prince's first collegiate soccer tournament, the UC

Irvine College Classic. Not only did he start both games, against Santa Clara and UC Irvine, he was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Despite all of the early season success individually, Prince admits that he was nervous before his first start as a Badger against Santa Clara.

"I usually don't get nervous before games, but seeing how much bigger and older everyone else was really made me nervous," Prince said.

"After about twenty minutes I was able to settle down and just play the game how I normally play."

For someone who has played in four high school regional championships and played against MLS competition, it would be hard to imagine the college game being that much harder. Well, according to Prince, the college game is a whole new level of competition.

"College soccer is played at such a faster pace," Prince said. "The players are more athletic, bigger and older than anyone I've seen playing club soccer."

When the competition gets tough, it is assumed that the teams' captains have a duty to lead, but what that what is not always assumed is the fact that they are there to be mentors for the younger guys as well. In some situations, freshmen are alienated or even made to feel like the weak-links, but on the Badgers this couldn't be further from the truth

"I can go to our captains for anything I need," Prince said.

"I can ask them about anything from classes to soccer. They're the best captains I've ever had."

The combination of leadership and young talent of this Badger team has everyone excited, including Prince. Expectations are set high for every player early in the season, but none are higher than those of Prince.

"My goal for this season is to score ten times," Prince said.

"I hope I go over that goal, but ten would be good."

Prince has high expectations for himself as an individual, but don't be mistaken into thinking that's all he cares about. According to Prince,

his goals as an individual would mean nothing if his team doesn't succeed.

"As a team, I hope we win the Big Ten Tournament," Prince said. "This would put us in the NCAA Tournament and anything could happen from there."

When Prince isn't playing soccer, he can be found in his dorm room playing XBOX 360, often times playing against Wheeler.

"In my free time, I'm a huge gamer," Prince said. "I'm obsessed with the new Halo right now."

Whether he's playing soccer or playing video games, one thing is for sure; Prince doesn't like losing.

"I'm competitive at everything I do," Prince said. "I hate to lose."

###

Vint overcomes adversity to lead Badgers

Senior goalkeeper fought through childhood arthritis, now excels in net for UW

By Will Hamilton

Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

The Badger Herald

If the men's soccer team is hoping for a Cinderella season, they need look no further than senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint to wear the glass slipper.

Pending the success of the season, of course, Vint's story has echoes of a dramatic Hollywood screenplay. He redshirted his freshman year and has had to wait until now, his final year as a Badger, to start in goal. Not only that, but the 6-foot-2 captain overcame a childhood illness that caused him to spend a year of his life bound to a wheelchair.

As a child, he was diagnosed with childhood arthritis, a disease that forced him to spend all of 4th grade in a wheelchair. "The doctors didn't know if I would be able to walk again, let alone play soccer," Vint said. "It's something that I overcame,

and it gave me the confidence to overcome a lot."

The story is an inspiring one that has inevitably shaped the drive of the senior captain. Vint has started the season off in good fashion, but unfortunately the team hasn't had the same success.

Despite finishing the UC-Irvine College Classic with a record of 1-3, Vint's performance in net earned him the honor of being named to the all-tournament team. In the two games he played last year, Vint recorded two saves and allowed zero goals. The Badgers have a fresh start with the arrival of head coach John Trask, and seniors like Vint will undoubtedly play a huge role in the shaping of this young team.

As a senior captain, Vint hopes to use what he has learned on the sidelines to lead the young team to a successful season.

"I've learned that it's all about the team and not so much about any individual player," said Vint.

His positive attitude as well as his unmistakable leadership role on and off the field is

what earned him the position of captain this year.

"We're all really confident in [Vint] and in the team as a whole," fellow captain Jon Rzepka said.

Rzepka, who also redshirted his freshman year, has been with Vint since the beginning of their collegiate careers. The chemistry between the two captains is apparent as they joked about locker room dance competitions and Vint's affinity for techno music.

"Ryan's quite the dancer. The two of us had a pretty big dance off going back and forth, and he's got skills. I'll give him that," Rzepka said.

Confidence is high on this Badger team as they hope to improve on their record from last year.

"Obviously we want to win games. But I think making the NCAA tournament is the number one goal at this point." Vint said.

And after a rough start, the upcoming games in the Wisconsin Soccer Classic are crucial in order get the team on the right track.

“These next two games will really set the tone for the rest of the season.” Coach Brad Swenby said.

Swenby, who is in his first year as the goalkeeper coach, has worked with Vint a lot and seems confident in his ability to lead this team to a great year.

Vint, who is no stranger to adversity, is certainly up for the challenge.

As the Badgers prepare for their upcoming tournament games against San Diego State and Dayton at the McClimon Complex, the goalkeeper certainly knows what is at stake. But Vint isn't worried about playing the role of Cinderella, that's for others to decide. He's just focused on winning soccer games and making it into the NCAA tournament.

###

Badgers eager to open at home, pick up 2nd win After spending the past two weekends in California and Florida, UW is ready for season opener

By Kelly Erickson

Thursday, September 16, 2010

The Badger Herald

It's time to protect this house.

The Wisconsin men's soccer team finally opens its home season Friday night against San Diego State in the Wisconsin Soccer Classic.

After spending the last two weekends on the road in California and Florida, new head coach John Trask makes his home debut. While they may only have one win on the season, the Badgers are hoping the return home will help them turn things around.

"The other teams we've played on the road weren't the best teams, but we didn't really perform too well," senior Bryan Gerster said. "We're just hoping that finally that we're home we're going to play a lot better, play as a team, and we're looking to come out with results in both games. We have to win the games."

With the need to win in mind, Wisconsin is really hoping home-field advantage will help get their season on the right-track.

First they have to face San Diego State.

Last season, Wisconsin faced off against SDSU in California. A controversial call during overtime allowed the Aztecs to get the win on a penalty kick.

"It's great," Trask said. "I think the guys are excited. San Diego State is going to be a great challenge for us. The guys played them last year, obviously I wasn't there, but they felt like they competed very well against them and lost a very close game.

"They're 3-1, my understanding is they could easily be 4-0. Hopefully being at home and drawing some energy off the crowd will give us some strength and push us through. I know the guys have been working hard this week and I know they're excited to play at McClimon."

With two games on the weekend, Wisconsin faces off against Dayton on Sunday, but

right now, it's one game at a time.

"Dayton, we haven't really thought about too much," Gerster said. "We just want to take it one game at a time. Right now we're 1-3 and we've got to get a good win our first game at home. We have to make it a win just so we can carry that momentum into our next game at home."

While the Badgers are finally opening their home season, it means even more for the 14 new freshmen.

"It's a big deal," freshman Paul Yonga said. "I've been waiting a long time to get down here and finally get a home game. I mean I'll go out and do my hardest. It'll be exciting, there will be a lot of nerves with all my family watching, but I'll do my best."

Finally opening at home is a big deal for the Badgers — especially since they need to turn their season around — but they've been trying to learn from their road trips.

Between playing in the extreme humidity in Florida and against tough opponents in California, Trask feels they've learned a lot.

“There is no magical potion,” Trask said. “You’re going to have to look each other in the eye and find some strength. It’s just where you’ve got to reach deep within you. It looks like a disappointing weekend on the face of it, but if we use the lessons learned, we should be a stronger team. We’re really starting to gear up for the Big Ten, that’s where hopefully we’ll start to show people that we’re starting to turn the corner.”

Yonga also noted the preparation in practice this week and the effort that has been put in to make UW stronger.

“We had a couple hard practices this week,” Yonga added. “We’ve been trying to get down our defensive shape. Then, also working on our movement of the ball, getting it quicker and finding a way to get in our attack mode. Right now we’re a little slow on our attack, so we’ve been working on our offensive side a little more so we can score some goals and help [Ryan] Vint in the back and prevent their goals.”

One thing is for sure, though — finally having some games

at home is a comforting fact for the team.

“It’s going to be more comfortable playing in front of everybody especially since none of the young guys haven’t gotten a home game yet,” Jon Rzepka said. “For me, I’ll just be able to sleep in my own bed and do my own routine here, eating right, get enough sleep. Just being in my own place is a lot more comforting to me.”

“Playing in front of the home crowd is going to be nice.”

###

Men's soccer can't get win in home-opening weekend Badgers suffer 1-0 loss to SDSU Friday, fight to 0-0 2OT tie Sunday against Dayton

By Kelly Erickson

Monday, September 20, 2010

The Badger Herald

It was a tale of two games.

While the Badgers weren't able to produce a win at McClimon in their home opening weekend, they looked like two completely different teams between their Friday night game against San Diego State University and their tournament finale on Sunday against Dayton University.

Walking away with a 0-0 tie against Dayton in a physical game wasn't exactly what the Badgers were hoping for, but they played like a well-rounded team. They just couldn't find the back of the net.

"I'm content with it right now to get a result, to get the tie," senior captain and midfielder Aaron Nichols said. "We still have to figure out how to score some goals and give our defense a little bit of a break. They did a phenomenal job

though getting the shut out for us and holding out all 110 minutes."

The stat sheet may only show Wisconsin had three shots on goal, but it kept momentum throughout the game, controlling the ball on Dayton's half of the field, producing multiple scoring opportunities.

"I thought we played well in the first half and I thought we played well in the second half," head coach John Trask said. "We dominated a Dayton program that historically is a pretty good program."

After 90 minutes the scoreboard didn't reflect the Badgers' domination, pushing the game into overtime. With three minutes left in the first overtime, Dayton's midfielder Marlon Duran drew a red card. Wisconsin still wasn't able to capitalize on the man-advantage through a second overtime, ending the game in a goalless tie.

"Everybody thinks it's some huge numerical advantage, it's only one guy of 11," Trask said. "A lot of times the game will turn the other way because they all pick up their

energy level. I thought we did a good job. They didn't get any chances in overtime.

"We're evolving. We learned some good lessons today."

Overall, the Badgers just looked like a different team compared to their Friday night performance.

Nichols attributes the style change to increased intensity and the desire to make a statement.

"I think that was a huge part of it just trying to get more shots," Nichols said. "We came out confident, we came out with intensity. We wanted to go out and play and we wanted to make a statement. It's tough going down four losses, losing those early goals. We wanted to come out and not lose an early goal and come out with intensity. That's what everyone did and it was tremendous."

Before the Badgers revealed their domination Sunday, in Friday night's game against the Aztecs the squad just couldn't seem to put a strong and consistent offensive attack together.

For their home opener in front of 1,022 fans, the Badgers were hoping for a very different result.

“It was a great crowd that we had tonight, that was a big thing,” senior captain and goalkeeper Ryan Vint said. “The support that the community showed for us was just awesome. I wish we could have given them a better show with the result. I hope that they don’t jump ship on us. They gave us energy especially in the last 20 minutes there and that’s what kept us going and I can’t thank them enough.”

While the Badgers weren’t quite as dominating Friday night, they still killed most of the Aztecs offensive attacks. But in the 36th minute, SDSU defender Daniel Steres buried a rebound off of Vint, scoring the lone goal of the game.

Vint isn’t making any excuses for the goal.

“I’m not going to make excuses,” Vint said. “I should have had it. 99 out of 100 times I’ll make that save and hold onto it. I thought too far ahead instead of watching the ball into my hands. I was

thinking the next play in my mind. I should have just concentrated on catching the ball. But I’m going to learn from it and never make that mistake again, that’s for sure.”

Although SDSU only made one goal, UW defenders had a busy night keeping SDSU from crashing the box and creating more scoring chances.

For freshman defender Paul Yonga, a loss at home in his first game wasn’t ideal by any means. Yonga feels the goal was disappointing, and could have been avoidable.

“I think we need to concentrate — we need to concentrate for the whole 90 minutes,” Yonga said. “Those times when we get tired and our mind drifts off and we’re not all on the same page, we need to stay on the same page and not give up some weak goals like that and we’ll be alright.”

Despite not getting a win at home yet, Trask still feels confident his team is building a strong home-field advantage.

“I’d say it was a pretty good fortress,” Trask said of the

game against SDSU. “I didn’t see them get that many chances on our goal. That’s what building that fortress is. We’re building it. I thought we were pretty good defensively against a pretty good attacking team. They had a few shots from a distance, but they didn’t have much penetration through our box. In that respect I thought we really stepped up in that part of the game.

“It’s something we can build off of.”

###

UW fails to find net at home Men's soccer has no luck on home turf

By Jack Doyle

Monday, September 20, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team dropped a 1-0 contest to San Diego State and tied Dayton 0-0 at the Wisconsin Soccer Classic this weekend, sliding to 1-4-1 on the season.

Back and forth possession characterized the first half of the Badgers' clash with the Aztecs Friday. Both sides mustered a handful of half-chances and goal-scoring opportunities. Perhaps Wisconsin's best chance of the half came 20 minutes in when junior midfielder Colin Monasterio sent a threatening free kick into the box, only to be hit inches over the net by a Badger on the receiving end.

In the 37th minute the Aztecs struck. The Wisconsin defense gave up a free kick just outside the penalty box and centered directly in front of goal. San Diego State would make the Badgers pay for it. A seemingly routine save for senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint turned into a goal for the Aztecs after he gave up a

rebound that was tapped in from the six-yard box by an unmarked San Diego player.

Vint took full responsibility for the goal and said it was just a lapse of concentration.

"I'm not going to make excuses," Vint said. "I should've had it, and 99 out of 100 times I'll make that save and hold onto it. Instead of watching the ball in my hands I was thinking of the next play in my mind."

Despite solid distribution by Wisconsin, the attack consistently broke down in the offensive third. Head coach John Trask attributed these mistakes to the Badgers being a youthful side and that they haven't gotten used to each other's playing styles yet.

"We're young, we made a bad decision, we dwelled on it or we played too quick," Trask said. "That will just get better with time. They're seven games and 28 practices in to knowing each other – that's not a lot of time for soccer players."

Sunday afternoon Wisconsin looked like a completely different team in the offensive

third, with the exception being the Badger's inability to create more than a few quality scoring chances.

Even though Wisconsin dominated possession and had a nice passing rhythm for most of the game they still had nothing to show for it. Two of their best opportunities were a laser of a shot by midfielder Colin Mani that whizzed above the crossbar, and a scramble inside the Flyers' box with 12 minutes remaining that yielded two blocked shots.

After a 0-0 end to regulation, the game was headed to overtime. A reckless challenge from behind by Dayton's Marlon Duran resulted in a straight red card for the freshman midfielder. Down a man the Flyers remained steadfast and did not allow Wisconsin to take advantage of their extra player, resulting in a 0-0 tie after both overtime periods.

As a match-up with national soccer power Creighton looms, senior Aaron Nichols hopes the team improves their finishing this week in practice and provides a jumpstart to beat the Blue Jays. "Today we

couldn't find the back of the net, but after practice this week we're going to concentrate on shooting," Nichols said. "And by the time Creighton rolls around those [shots] will be rolling in hopefully."

###

Another one-goal loss for UW men

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

For the second time in three days, a late goal by a freshman did in the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team.

Lukas Simons pounced on a loose ball after goalkeeper Ryan Vint bobbed a cross and scored in the 86th minute to lift Florida Atlantic over the Badgers 2-1 in a non-conference match Sunday in Boca Raton, Fla.

"Once again we gave a good effort, but the quality of play is not where we need to be at this point," UW coach John Trask said in a news release. "I have no problem with the effort our guys put forth this weekend, though.

"While it looks like a disappointing weekend on the face of it, the team definitely grew again. That is what's most important about these first two weekends of the season."

UW (1-3) had a late chance for an equalizer, but sophomore Danny Ahlering's

shot off a corner kick by freshman Joey Tennyson (Menomonee Falls) in the 89th was high and the Badgers suffered their third consecutive one-goal loss.

Sophomore defender Kyle McCrudden scored his first career goal for UW, tying the score at 1 by heading a corner kick from freshman Chris Prince past Owls keeper James McCormick in the 73rd.

Three of the Badgers' four goals this season have been scored by defenders – senior Aaron Nichols has two and the other goal was an own goal. McCrudden also played the full 90 minutes on a sunny, hot day in South Florida; he and Vint are the only UW players to play every minute this season.

Junior defender Cale Cooper (Madison West), meanwhile, saw his first action for the Badgers since a season-ending left knee injury last season. Playing 364 days after suffering a torn ACL and MCL, Cooper logged 27 minutes off the bench Sunday.

Vint finished with three saves for UW, which takes on San

Diego State at 7:30 p.m. Friday in its home opener at the McClimon Complex. The Wisconsin Classic also features UW-Milwaukee and Dayton.

Junior Darnell King opening the scoring on a breakaway in the 56th minute for Florida Atlantic (1-2-1), while McCormick made one save.

###

UW men blanked by San Diego State

By Tom Ziemer

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

There's no great mystery surrounding the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team's slow start to the season.

The youthful Badgers have simply failed to keep opposing goalkeepers busy in their first five games under first-year coach John Trask. That was the case again in Friday night's home opener, when UW produced just two shots on goal in a 1-0 loss to San Diego State in front of a crowd of 1,022 at the McClimon Complex.

Aztecs junior defender Daniel Steres' 37th-minute goal was enough to hand the Badgers (1-4), playing in the first of two games in the four-team Wisconsin Classic, their fourth straight defeat since a season-opening win against Santa Clara.

"It's kind of the theme of the year: We're not getting a ton of shots on goal, we're letting up some soft goals," said sophomore center back Kyle

McCrudden, who's played every minute this season. "So it's a little frustrating."

The fact that McCrudden had one of UW's better chances of the night – he got on the end of a free kick at the far post in the 18th minute but could only send the ball over the crossbar – spoke to the Badgers' problems in attack. UW, which has been playing out of a 4-5-1 formation to keep from being overrun in the midfield, certainly wasn't incisive in its play.

The best of the several half-chances the Badgers mustered came in the 76th minute, when senior midfielder Aaron Nichols got free on the left and sent in a cross that Aztecs senior goalkeeper Brad Byrns failed to hold. But San Diego State (4-1) cleared the danger and UW, which has 15 newcomers on its roster, slumped to its fourth straight one-goal loss.

"Obviously it's not a good feeling to lose four straight, but I think we've got a group of guys that are willing to work hard and do whatever it takes," McCrudden said. "So I think we're making progress."

McCrudden marshaled a backline that held San Diego State, which had scored nine goals in its first four matches, to just three shots on goal. But a troublesome passage of play late in the first half put the Badgers in a hole.

Freshman defensive midfielder Paul Yonga committed a needless foul on Aztecs leading scorer Raymundo Reza, giving San Diego State a free kick in a dangerous position just outside the 18-yard box. Reza, after a layoff from junior midfielder Pedro Adan, hit a dipping shot that UW senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint stopped but failed to hold and Steres was there to tap it in.

"I don't beat up anyone for one particular play unless literally a goalkeeper throws the ball in his own net, and Ryan didn't do that," Trask said.

"Should we have followed the rebound better? That's something we'll take a look at. Should we have not fouled the guy in the first place?"

Those were just two of the questions Trask had to ponder

ahead of Sunday's match against Dayton.

"The bottom line is we're only going to get better by going out there and working every day in training," he said. "And the guys were very good this week. I just complimented them on that. We became a better team this week. Was it good enough to beat (San Diego State)? No, we're not there – even with the home-field advantage, we're not there. And technically, tactically, psychologically, every piece of the puzzle has to get better."

San Diego State 1

0—1

Wisconsin 0

0—0

San Diego State – Daniel Steres (Raymundo Reza) 37

SAN DIEGO STATE: Brad Byrns; Daniel Steres, Pedro Adan, Jose Altamirano, Khadim Diouf, Casey Meuser, Raymundo Reza, Justin Davies, Michael Rocha, Robbie Freise, Tyrone Martin. Substitutes: Sean Zaher, Jordan Ongaro, Andre Acevedo, Chance Marden, Kody Duff.

WISCONSIN: Ryan Vint; Luke Goodnetter, Kyle McCrudden, Arnel Zahirovic, Blake Succa; Paul Yonga, Jon Rzepka, Colin Monasterio, Trevor Wheeler, Aaron Nichols; Chris Prince. Substitutes: Joey Tennyson, Nick Janus, Colin Mani, Derek Pitts.

Saves: SDS (Byrns) 2, W (Vint) 2. Shots: SDS 8, W 7. Fouls: SDS 13, W 7. Corner kicks: SDS 4, W 3. Offsides: SDS 3, W 1. Discipline: None. Att. – 1,022.

###

UW shows improvement, ties Dayton

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

It wasn't a victory, but University of Wisconsin men's soccer coach John Trask saw signs of progress from his young team Sunday afternoon.

The Badgers generated a season-high 16 shots, collected 11 corner kicks and posted their first shutout of the year in a 0-0 draw with Dayton to wrap up the Wisconsin Classic at the McClimon Complex.

"I think the guys are turning the corner in some aspects," Trask said in a news release. "It was a pretty good weekend for us all together. ... It's definitely something that we can build off."

Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint made two saves in his second career clean sheet for UW (1-4-1), which yielded just eight shots and one corner kick to the Flyers (2-2-1).

Trask had praise for Vint and the Badgers' new-look backline of left back Luke Goodnetter (Brookfield East), center backs Arnel Zahirovic

and Kyle McCrudden and right back Blake Succa. Goodnetter and Succa are freshmen, McCrudden is a sophomore who played in just one match last year and Zahirovic is a junior-college transfer.

"I thought, all weekend long, Arnel, Cruddy, Luke and Blake did a nice job," Trask said. "There are things they can still do better, but I like that defensive package back there. I thought Vint bounced back from Friday and looked pretty solid again today."

UW, which was averaging just more than six shots per game coming in, put three shots on Dayton junior keeper Tyler Picard but was shut out for the third time in six matches.

The Flyers finished with 10 men after freshman midfielder Marlon Duran was sent off for a tackle on Badgers junior midfielder Austin Spohn in the 98th minute. Dayton coach Dennis Currier protested the red card issued by veteran referee Abbey Okulaja and was promptly given one of his own. UW had two shots late in the first overtime period after Duran's dismissal, but couldn't capitalize on the man

advantage in the second overtime.

Spohn, who has struggled with a long-term groin injury, logged 53 minutes in his season debut for the Badgers. Sophomore forward Ata Ozbay also made his first appearance of the year, playing 35 minutes. Senior Aaron Nichols and freshman Trevor Wheeler – both midfielders – were named to the all-tournament team for UW, which plays at No. 16 Creighton on Friday night in Omaha, Neb.

###

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By Kelly Erickson
Monday, September 20, 2010
The Badger Herald

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After a 0-0 end to regulation, the game was headed to overtime. A reckless challenge from behind by Dayton's Marlon Duran resulted in a straight red card for the freshman midfielder. Down a man the Flyers remained steadfast and did not allow Wisconsin to take advantage of their extra player, resulting in a 0-0 tie after both overtime periods.

As a match-up with national soccer power Creighton looms, senior Aaron Nichols hopes the team improves their finishing this week in practice and provides a jumpstart to beat the Blue Jays. "Today we couldn't find the back of the

net, but after practice this week we're going to concentrate on shooting," Nichols said. "And by the time Creighton rolls around those [shots] will be rolling in hopefully."

###

Badgers' backline laying a brick wall

Despite working with two freshmen, UW's defenders are meshing into a solid group

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The Badger Herald

They're building a fortress, one line at a time.

For a team that's been through a lot of change this season, the four defensive backs have proved to be a strong and solid aspect of the men's soccer team.

Senior Kyle McCrudden, junior Arnel Zahirovic, and freshmen Blake Succa and Luke Goodnetter team up to give the Badgers a consistent defense that can keep opponents away from the net.

Just last weekend the Badgers only let through one goal in a two-game stretch. It was a rare occurrence on the weekend for the opponent to get as close to the goal as San Diego State was able to.

Even from the beginning head coach John Trask knew he wanted to get the defense right.

"At the beginning of this whole thing we talked about how we have to get the defense right first," Trask said last weekend. "[Zahirovic, McCrudden, Goodnetter, and Succa] I like that package back there."

The players seem to agree.

Succa feels they've got the right guys in the mix and that they work well together.

"What we try to do most of the time is keep the ball around the back and keep the ball for our team so then we can go forward with it and play it in the midfield and then get them going," Succa said. "As far as winning the balls in the air that's more of the center backs — [Zahirovic] and McCrudden do a good job of that."

"I'd say we're all pretty big back there. We're all about 6-foot or so," McCrudden added.

But for a line that looks so solid and meshes very well, it's hard to believe three of the four of them are new to the team.

"We definitely played well last weekend together," Succa

said. "When we first started playing together it was a little different. [Zahirovic] is from Australia — he's been here for a while in the States — but it was definitely weird playing with him, but as we've been playing we're definitely getting used to each other."

As far as improvement goes, the defense looks like the main part of the team that has really clicked together, now they feel they need to get to that point where they help senior goalie Ryan Vint get shutouts.

McCrudden, the only returner on the line, believes their solidarity simply comes from knowing the principles of defense.

"It's just defending," McCrudden said. "Good principles, we worked on that in the spring — pretty much all spring, everyday, all preseason. As long as we've got our principles down. We're defending well as a unit (...) Shut outs every game, that's what we shoot for."

After getting the principles down comes the chemistry on the field. In a defense with three newcomers the

chemistry surprisingly already be there.

“That’s a definitely a positive,” Zahirovic said. “I still feel like we still have a long way to go getting the chemistry right, but so far so good. I feel like every game we feel like we’re developing more and more. We’re clicking together. That’s a big plus for us so far, and we’re going to need that coming into the season.”

While Trask is looking to build a fortress at home, he’s certainly started to lay the foundations with his defense.

The line showed they’re tough to get past, rarely letting the opponent near the six-yard box, or much less past the 18-yard box.

“I’d say it was a pretty good fortress,” Trask said last weekend. “I didn’t see them get that many chances on our goal. That’s what building that fortress is.”

###

Men's soccer faces stiff test in Creighton
Badgers looking for 2nd win of season, have lost last 4 to Bluejays

By Kelly Erickson

Friday, September 24, 2010

The Badger Herald

After only two games at home, the Wisconsin men's soccer team gets back on the road this weekend to take on No. 16 Creighton.

Sporting a 1-4-1 record, the Badgers are still looking for another win, as their only victory came in the first game of the season. Hitting the road to face the Bluejays Friday, though, will be a tough challenge.

Creighton is 5-1-0 on the season, returning six starters from last season. The Bluejays also have a new head coach this year in Jamie Clark, who previously coached at Harvard where he brought the team to the NCAA tournament two years in a row.

"For a team like that — I played some guys this summer — they're fast, they're strong," sophomore defenseman Kyle McCrudden said. "It's hard to prepare for a

team like that — high intensity practices. Hopefully we'll come out this weekend and just play well."

The last time Wisconsin and Creighton matched up was in 2006, when the Badgers fell 1-0 at home. Overall, Wisconsin is 2-6-1 against Creighton. In their last four meetings, the Bluejays have bested the Badgers, something UW hopes to change this year.

"We started off on the road for the first four games, we've been traveling a lot and then we had a home stretch here this last week," freshman defender Blake Succa said. "We've had a few days off. We know they're going to be a big challenge for us so we rested up for two days and [Wednesday] we got back in it. We had a pretty hard practice knowing that we'll have [another] day of rest."

With a solid defense already in place, Wisconsin is now looking to get their offense rolling. In the spots they missed last weekend at home — connecting on passes and controlling the ball in front of the opponent's goal — the Badgers are hoping

corrections will bring more success.

"We're doing a lot of focusing on our top of game play, which is positioning," junior defenseman Arnel Zahorivic said. "Keeping the ball in small areas and then distributing it out wide. Just keep working on that and keep building so we can use that against Creighton. I think we'll be very effective with that."

Despite all the work put in during practice, UW knows Creighton will still be one of its biggest challenges this year. For the young team, playing a top-20 team is certainly a helpful experience.

"We'll give it our best shot," Succa said. "It'll be a challenge, but I think it'll be good for us."

Heading back on the road again will serve as a test for the Badgers. So far this season, the squad has been learning a lot with every game. While the Badgers feel they are continually improving, going on the road against a tough team will show how far the team has come.

“We’re developing as well,”
Zahirovic said. “If we just
keep working hard, keep
improving, I don’t see why we
couldn’t put up a challenge
against them. After all they’re
just another team just like us.”

###

Marshfield's Finlay beats Badgers in OT

By Eric Anderson

Friday, September 24, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Playing against his homestate team, Creighton's Ethan Finlay (Marshfield) got a fortunate bounce – and yet another game-winning goal.

The junior forward fired a shot that deflected off a University of Wisconsin defender and past goalkeeper Ryan Vint in the 96th minute as the 16th-ranked Bluejays got past the Badgers 1-0 in a non-conference match Friday night in Omaha, Neb.

"Their coaches admitted it, and I agree, that we are becoming a good soccer team," UW coach John Trask said in a news release. "We're right there, on the verge. The results will start turning our way."

It was the fifth goal of the season for Finlay, who counts 11 game-winners among his 19 career goals. Creighton (6-1-0) outshot UW 18-5 and put 10 shots on frame compared to only one for the Badgers (1-5-1), but couldn't break through in regulation.

Vint, who made eight saves, made a diving stop on a drive by Sergio Castillo in the 93rd. Before Vint could scramble back up onto his feet, Kris Clark's shot off the rebound appeared headed for the goal before Badgers senior midfielder Aaron Nichols cleared the ball off the line.

"We played against one of the best defensive teams in the country tonight," Bluejays coach Jamie Clark said.

The winning sequence started with the Bluejays' 10th corner kick of the night. Jose Gomez's service nearly was cleared by UW, but Castillo tracked down the ball and got it to Clark, who flicked a header on to Finlay. His shot caromed off a Badgers defender and bounded into the air, then dropped in just under the crossbar and in for the win.

The Badgers' lone shot on goal, by junior midfielder Austin Spohn, didn't come until the 87th minute as UW was shut out for the third straight game and the fourth time this season. The Badgers return to action Tuesday night against state rival Marquette at

the Valley Fields in Milwaukee.

###

UW soccer: Women settle ###

for tie; men lose in overtime

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

The UW women's soccer team played to a 0-0, two-overtime draw in its Big Ten Conference opener against Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind., Friday.

The Badgers (3-3-3 overall) mustered just five shots on goal but held the Boilermakers (4-5-2, 0-0-1) to just three shots on goal in extending their shutout streak to five games.

Michelle Dalton made three saves for UW.

Meanwhile, the men's soccer team fell in overtime as Creighton's Ethan Finlay scored the only goal of the match 5 minutes, 26 seconds into extra play. The goal gave the host and 16th-ranked Bluejays (6-1-0) a 1-0 win over UW (1-5-1) in a non-conference game in Omaha, Neb.

Finlay's shot was deflected off a UW player in the box and scooted past Badgers goalkeeper Ryan Vent, who made eight saves.

Badgers fail to find net on road as team falls to Creighton Blue Jays in overtime defeat

Men's soccer falls to non-conference foe on the road

By Jack Doyle

Monday, September 27, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team was shut out for the third straight match and fell to No. 16 Creighton (6-1-0) 1-0 in overtime at Morrison Stadium in Omaha, Neb. on Friday night.

Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint did his best to stave off the Blue Jays' attack and made a career-high eight saves, but Creighton's 18 shots proved too much to handle. Overall, Creighton outshot Wisconsin 18 to 5, including a 10-1 advantage in shots on goal.

After 90 minutes of scoreless play, the Blue Jays broke through the stingy Wisconsin defense and capitalized on a failed clearance by the Badgers in the 96th minute.

Wisconsin looked as though they had safely cleared the ball from a Creighton corner kick, but the Blue Jays regained possession at the top

of the 18-yard box. Creighton played another ball into the box, where Kris Clark flicked it to teammate Ethan Finlay. To the delight of the 2,862 fans in attendance, Finlay's low-flying shot deflected off a player in the six-yard box and into the goal.

With just three minutes to play, junior Austin Spohn posted Wisconsin's only shot on goal of the match.

Creighton goalkeeper Brian Holt secured the ball for his lone save of the night, and recorded his fifth shutout of the season with the 1-0 win. Holt has a 0.71 goals against average through seven matches this season.

While Vint and the Wisconsin defense have given up only eight goals in seven games - good for a 1.14 goals-against average - the offense has been slow to take shots and score goals. The Badgers have been outshot in all seven matches this year and have not scored in over half of them. Only one player, senior midfielder Aaron Nichols, has tallied more than one goal on the year. If Wisconsin is to get a win, their offense must start clicking.

The Badgers will look to change their fortune when they face in-state rival Marquette (2-3-2) Tuesday in Milwaukee. The Golden Eagles opened their Big East season with a 1-0 victory over Rutgers and hope to avenge a 2-0 loss to Wisconsin in Madison last year.

###

**UW ready for in-state rival
Marquette
Men's soccer team expects
physical battle on road
against Golden Eagles**

By Kelly Erickson

Monday, September 27, 2010

The Badger Herald

It's rivalry week for the men's soccer team as they hit the road to take on Marquette.

After dropping a 1-0 overtime decision against No. 16 Creighton, the Badgers feel as if they have to win this physical rivalry game.

"It's always exciting to play a rival in state such as Marquette and Milwaukee," senior midfielder Jon Rzepka said. "It's a big game because obviously we need a win. It's going to be physical. It's going to be hard playing away, [but] I'm looking forward to it."

"They have a nice field, the atmosphere is going to be great. It's exciting for me, I know the team is excited too especially just to try and get back in the winning column."

While their defense proved to still be rock solid against Creighton — forcing the game into overtime — Wisconsin is

focusing on getting the ball rolling and finding the back of their opponent's net.

Through seven games the squad has only tallied four goals. Keeping in mind their defensive principles, the Badgers are focusing on getting more players down into the offensive third and finally connecting with the back of the net.

"We've kind of become a really good defensive team and have got our principles down and we can figure out how exactly we're going to play defensively," junior midfielder Austin Spohn said. "We can kind of sacrifice the ends and allow them to push up so we can get that goal."

"We've been kind of doing everything right as far as possessing the ball and attacking, we just haven't gotten that goal. Hopefully getting the numbers up will definitely help."

Focusing on scoring some goals the Badgers know they're in for a fight with the Golden Eagles. In their first mid-week game of the season, the competition Marquette

will bring isn't the only tough part of the game.

For the young Badger squad this will be the first time they have to go on the road, or even play a game, in the middle of the week between school and other upcoming exams.

"Road games in the middle of the week when you have school and exams and all that coming up is a little tougher," Spohn said. "You have to go to class before you hit the road and it makes it a little bit harder, but we expect to win this game."

"None of our freshman have ever played in a mid-week game," head coach John Trask said. "They're going to be getting out of class, going on a bus, playing on a Tuesday night — sometimes that's a great thing, sometimes when they're able to just concentrate on the weekend on their soccer, it's just a different vibe that you have and it'll be a new experience. I told the guys that we're expecting another very good performance out of them."

With expectations of winning in mind, the Badgers still

expect a physical game from the Golden Eagles.

Marquette has also been rebuilding its program over the last few seasons and are on a two game unbeaten streak sitting at 2-3-2 on the season.

“They’re an edgy program,” Rzepka said. “They’re trying to have a good season and perform well. Every time we play a rival game it’s going to be really intense and physical. There’s a lot of seniors on their team too that are just trying to go out strong. It’s going to be a tough game — it always is — we just have to be ready to play a physical game while playing our own game.”

###

UW men's soccer:

**Marquette gets first win
against Badgers since 2002**

Saturday, September 28, 2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

Calum Mallace scored the lone goal as Marquette beat the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team 1-0 at Valley Fields on Tuesday in Milwaukee, the Golden Eagles' first win in the series since 2002.

Freshman Max Jentsch made three saves in his first career start in goal for the Badgers (1-6-1) but couldn't stop Mallace's free kick from the top of the 18-yard box in the 37th minute.

David Check made three saves for Marquette (3-3-2).

###

Badgers fall to Marquette, Big Ten looms

By Matthew Kleist

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team (1-6-1) fell to in-state rival Marquette (3-3-2) Tuesday night. The 1-0 loss marked the first time Wisconsin has lost to the Golden Eagles since 2003, and only the second time in the past decade. Tuesday's one-goal loss is just another in a rough start to the Badgers' season.

Lead by freshman midfielder Nick Janus, Wisconsin started the game strong, taking the first two shots. Both Janus and freshman defender Luke Goodnetter produced attempts with headers, and the Badgers were able to force Marquette's keeper David Check to make saves on each.

Unable to keep the pressure on the Golden Eagles, Wisconsin only forced Check to make one more save for the remainder of the game. The Badgers would end the game with six shots, three on goal. Janus had three of the Wisconsin shots, putting two

on net himself. Unable to break the Marquette defense, the Badgers suffered their fifth shutout of the season, and their fourth consecutive. In those five games, Wisconsin's record stands as 0-4-1.

On the defensive side, freshman goaltender Max Jentsch started for Wisconsin. In the first start of his collegiate career, Jentsch made three saves and turned in a solid performance in net. Despite his effort and general success, Marquette was able to beat the young keeper in the 37th minute.

Because of a UW penalty, the Golden Eagles took a free kick just outside of the 18-yard box. Marquette's Calum Mallace scored the game's first and only goal off of the kick as Jentsch was unable to make the save. The goal was Mallace's third of the season.

A loss to Marquette was the last thing that head coach John Trask and the team needed. With this match being the last non-conference game before entering Big Ten play, the Badgers have a challenging road ahead of them as they get back to practice.

"Tonight's result was disappointing," Trask said. "We need to get back to work at practice this week as we have a tough task ahead of us at Indiana on Sunday. We need to play better as we move forward, especially entering Big Ten play.

Although Wisconsin got solid goaltending from Jentsch on Tuesday, the Badgers will need to make significant improvements on both sides of the ball between their return to practice on Wednesday and this weekend's matchup.

Wisconsin opens its Big Ten season on the road against Indiana Sunday afternoon. The Hoosiers enter the game with a 4-3-0 overall record, 1-0-0 in Big Ten play. The Badgers are back at home on Wednesday, Oct. 6 when they host the University of Northern Illinois.

###

Mallace, Marquette bounce Badgers

By Matt Schroeder
Wednesday, September 29,
2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

MILWAUKEE – The Marquette men's soccer team achieved victory over the University of Wisconsin on Tuesday night by the slimmest of margins, as Calum Mallace's free kick in the 37th minute struck the underside of the crossbar and hit just beyond the goal line before spinning back out.

But two different perspectives emerged from the Golden Eagles' 1-0 non-conference victory watched by 1,043 fans at Valley Fields.

Marquette (3-3-2) won consecutive matches for the first time since 2005 and now boasts a three-match unbeaten streak. Sophomore goalkeeper David Check (Mequon Homestead), named the Big East Goalkeeper of the Week last week, made three saves in his third consecutive clean sheet. Optimism and positive vibes are flowing out of the Menomonee Valley, though Marquette's next task is sixth-

ranked Connecticut at home on Friday.

Badgers coach John Trask, however, was not the least bit pleased with his team's effort.

"They bossed us," the first-year UW coach said after watching his team's winless streak reach seven games. "We didn't take it personally, didn't show up to compete. Hopefully, this is rock bottom for this group. We looked like a 1-6-1 team tonight."

UW, which had lost only one of the last 10 matchups between these teams, started six true freshmen, including handing a debut to goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead). Trask wanted his backup keeper to earn some minutes in advance of the Big Ten Conference season, which starts for the Badgers on Sunday against Indiana and former UW coach Todd Yeagley in Bloomington, Ind.

The Badgers played displayed the defensive shape and style they're developing under Trask, but couldn't translate that into success going forward. Their only dangerous opportunity was in the second half, a sequence in which a

Marquette defender lost a shoe. While the defender sought a stoppage in play, UW freshman Nick Janus took advantage of the opening and challenged Check on the near post. He slid out for a kick save to end the threat.

Check, who took over in goal from senior Keenan Flynn after a season-opening loss to UW-Milwaukee, is now firmly in charge. He has a 0.53 goals-against average and 29 saves in seven matches.

"He's very athletic," Marquette coach Louis Bennett said of Check. "He's bigger than he looks and plays much, much bigger."

Marquette, meanwhile, didn't generate a ton of offense either, but did control play in the second half. The goal followed a first-half foul just outside the top of the penalty box, directly in front of the goal.

Mallace, who now counts six game-winners among his seven career goals, is the team's free kick specialist. Taking a shorter approach than normal, the junior midfielder lifted the ball over the wall and curled it to

Jentsch's right with 36:30 expired for his team-best third goal of the season.

Mallace also played a key role in Marquette's second-half dominance as he focused on playing more simple balls. Bennett also had high praise for defenders Anthony Colaizzi and Eric Pothast. Colaizzi helped keep the ball away from UW senior Aaron Nichols in the second half after the Badgers played through him for much of the opening 45 minutes.

Marquette photo gallery //
Marquette coach Louis
Bennett video interview

Wisconsin 0 0 —0

Marquette 1 0 —1

Marquette – Calum Mallace
37

WISCONSIN: Max Jentsch; Luke Goodnetter, Arnel Zahirovic, Paul Yonga, Blake Succa; Nick Janus, Trevor Wheeler, Jon Rzepka, Danny Ahlering, Aaron Nichols; Bryan Gerster. Substitutes: Cale Cooper, Colin Monasterio, Joey Tennyson, Colin Mani, Austin Spohn, Chris Prince, Derek Pitts.

MARQUETTE: David Check; Anthony Colaizzi, Eric Pothast, Michael Alfano, Matt Stummer; Ryan Robb, Calum Mallace, Bryan Ciesiulka; Amilcar Herrera, Chris Madsen, Anthony Selvaggi. Substitutes: Paul Dillon, Hector Navarro, TeeJay East.

Saves: W (Jentsch) 3; M (Check) 3. Shots: W 6, M 8. Fouls: W 12, M 13. Corner kicks: W 4, M 3. Offsides: W 1, M 2. Discipline: W – Ahlering (caution, 89). Att. – 1,043.

###

Men's soccer starts Big Ten play against former coach Badgers head to Bloomington hoping to start conference season strong against Indiana

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, September 30, 2010

The Badger Herald

As the Wisconsin men's soccer team enters Big Ten play, the Badgers will square off in Bloomington against their heated rivals, Indiana, now led by UW's former head coach.

Sunday's game at Indiana (5-3-0, 1-0-0 Big Ten) will be a chance for Wisconsin to showcase its talent in front of current Hoosiers head coach Todd Yeagley, who ended his one-year tenure at UW to take the spot at his alma mater.

Senior goalkeeper and captain Ryan Vint says squaring off against Yeagley should serve as more of a motivation than a distraction for the team.

According to Vint, the Badgers will try to show they are better without Yeagley. Instead, his presence will further promote a sense of competitiveness to a game that

is already of utmost importance to UW.

Current Wisconsin head coach John Trask wants to downplay that element of the matchup.

"Is there going to be extra emphasis from us...because Todd was our coach a year ago? If that's what it takes for us to get up for a game — to prove the coach wrong for leaving — that's not what we're trying to build here," Trask, a former Indiana coach and player, said.

Wisconsin (1-6-1) has struggled recently against Indiana, dropping last year's Big Ten opener to IU 1-0 and then losing again to the Hoosiers 2-0 in the Big Ten Tournament to end UW's season. Indiana leads the all-time series with Wisconsin 32-3-4.

"It's not going to be tough to get prepared for it," Vint said. "It's just one of those games that you just naturally come ready to play. Being voted last in the Big Ten polls was a pretty big reason for me to show all of the Big Ten that we are not here to just get stepped on."

Like last season, Wisconsin has scored only five goals eight games into the season and has not converted on many scoring opportunities.

Vint said the team could benefit from taking all the "half chances," or opportunities that do not give players a perfect shot on goal but still put pressure on the opposing defense and goalkeeper.

Freshman Chris Prince may soon be a solution as he has impressed coaches and teammates so far this season, already earning a starting position at forward in six games. While Prince is tied for third on the team in total shots and shots on goal this season, he has yet to connect for a goal.

"Any goal scorer will tell you a lot of it is confidence, and confidence comes from hitting the back of the net," Trask said. "If Chris Prince could tickle the back of the net, all of a sudden, he becomes a much more dangerous threat every time we move down the field as a unit."

The IU squad boasts a high-powered offense featuring

forwards Will Bruin and Andy Adlard, who have each scored 15 points and combined for 10 goals this season.

Additionally, Hoosier midfielders Nikita Kotlov and Harrison Petts each have assisted in three goals thus far.

“Obviously, we’ll have to keep an eye on Will Bruin; he’s a great player,” senior defender and captain Aaron Nichols said. “I think it’s going to come down to being focused for the entire 90 minutes...and never making those small mistakes. Keeping good principle defensively and working together as a team, knowing that we have each others’ back [on tackles will be key].”

The Badgers are coming off a discouraging loss at Marquette Tuesday, a game Trask said was not the most motivating environment for the players.

According to Trask, Wisconsin’s loss against Marquette was the first game in which the team failed to surpass its performance from the prior game.

“Hopefully to me there is a level of excitement going into the Big Ten season that we

didn’t see [Tuesday] night,” Trask said. “Hopefully it was a ‘one off’ and we’ll be ready to really put our best foot forward this weekend.”

###

UW men end long losing skid at Indiana

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, October 03, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

John Trask didn't want to get too carried away with his team's 1-1 tie against Indiana on Sunday in Bloomington, Ind.

After all, the result in the Big Ten Conference opener left the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team with a 1-6-2 record and an eight-game winless streak.

But the matchup with the Hoosiers did have plenty of connections – Trask played and coached at IU, while his longtime friend Todd Yeagley is in his first season as the coach at his alma mater after coaching UW last year. And the draw, secured thanks to an 11-save performance from senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint, did end a 17-year losing streak for the Badgers at Armstrong Stadium.

"I wouldn't say it was a great night for Wisconsin soccer," Trask said in a news release, "but I don't know the last time a Wisconsin team came in here and tied Indiana."

The answer is 1992, when the teams played to a 0-0 tie. The next year, Trask's first as an assistant with the Hoosiers, UW beat Indiana 1-0 on its home turf in an NCAA tournament match.

Since then, the Badgers had lost all 10 of their games at Indiana. The Hoosiers still lead the all-time series 34-3-5, but UW has managed two ties in the past four years.

Freshman forward Chris Prince – recruited to UW by Yeagley – scored his first collegiate goal to give the Badgers the lead off a set piece in the 20th minute. Sophomore defender Kyle McCrudden took the free kick and found senior midfielder Jon Rzepka, who flicked a header to Prince, whose header beat Indiana keeper Luis Soffner to the far post.

The Hoosiers (5-3-1, 1-0-1 Big Ten) controlled much of the play, outshooting UW 21-7, but Vint was stellar between the posts.

Vint made six saves in the first half, including two early stops on quality chances by Chris Estridge. He eventually set up the equalizer, playing a

through ball that Harrison Petts ran on to and beat Vint low to the near post in the 52nd.

"Ryan Vint had an excellent game for us tonight," Trask said.

The Badgers had three of their seven shots in the two overtime periods, with freshman Derek Pitts (Middleton) forcing Soffner into his lone save of the match on a header off a corner kick in the 107th.

"Obviously, Indiana is a very good team and they were going to have periods of play, but I was very pleased with our guys that we were able to control periods of play as well," Trask said. "Every game we seem to be a little more dangerous moving forward with the ball. That hasn't amounted to a lot of goals yet, but in the game of soccer, you don't need a lot of goals. You just need goals at the right time."

###

UW men's soccer: Vint's career-best 11 saves help

Badgers net rare tie at Indiana

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Wisconsin State Journal/Madison.com

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint made a career-high 11 saves Sunday to lead the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team to a 1-1 double-overtime tie with Indiana at Armstrong Stadium in the Big Ten Conference opener.

The Badgers (1-6-2, 0-0-1 Big Ten) took a 1-0 lead in the 20th minute on a header by freshman Chris Prince, but the Hoosiers (5-3-1, 1-0-1) notched the equalizer in the 52nd minute thanks to Harrison Pette.

Wisconsin had lost 10 straight at Bloomington, dating to a 1993 victory, and is winless in its last 18 overall meetings with Indiana.

"Obviously, Indiana is a very good team, and they were going to have periods of play, but I was very pleased with our guys that we were able to control periods of play as well," UW coach John Trask said.

"Every game we seem to be a little more dangerous moving forward with the ball. That hasn't amounted to a lot of goals yet, but in the game of soccer, you don't need a lot of goals. You just need goals at the right time."

The Badgers' goal was keyed by a free kick by sophomore Kyle McCrudden just inside Indiana's half of the field. Senior Jon Rzepka flicked a header on to Prince, who finished with a header of his own and beat Indiana keeper Luis Soffner inside the far post.

The Badgers held a 1-0 lead at halftime, despite being outshot 9-2 in the game's first 45 minutes.

The Hoosiers tied things up when Chris Estridge played a through ball from the right side of the field, and Pette slipped a low shot past Vint on the near post.

"The most important thing is still that we continue to get better," Trask said. "I wouldn't say it was a great night for Wisconsin soccer, but I don't know the last time a Wisconsin team came in (to Bloomington, Ind.) and tied

Indiana. I also thought Ryan Vint had an excellent game for us tonight."

Vint and the Badger defense played solid as Indiana outshot UW 21-7, including a 10-2 advantage in the second half.

IU tested Wisconsin early. Estridge ripped a one-timer from six yards out just 11 minutes into the game, but Vint made the save. Less than one minute later, Vint smothered a second opportunity by Estridge, this time off a shot to Vint's left.

Both teams had opportunities late in the game. Freshman Nick Janus fired a shot wide with less than four minutes to play before Pette looked for his second goal of the game with 1:09 remaining in regulation. Vint made a diving save to send the game to overtime.

Indiana's Will Bruin pulled the trigger just 19 seconds into overtime, firing a shot from the top of the 18, but Vint again made the save. Freshman Paul Yonga (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) responded with a shot that went just high on the opposite

end of the field less than two minutes later.

youth team soccer jersey to the game.

The Badgers had two corner kicks to open the second overtime, and redshirt freshman Derek Pitts -- who hails from Middleton -- had the lone scoring opportunity of the final 10-minute period. Prince sent in a corner kick to Pitts, who connected on a header in the 107th minute, but Soffner was there to make the save.

###

Luke Goodnetter, Arnel Zahirovic and Aaron Nichols joined Vint, McCrudden and Janus in playing all 110 minutes.

The Badgers host two games at the McClimon Complex this week. Wisconsin faces Northern Illinois (4-3-2, 0-1-0 Mid-American Conference) on Wednesday at 7 p.m. before hosting Michigan (5-2-3, 1-1-0 Big Ten) at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday's game marks the second annual PAC the MAC doubleheader with the Wisconsin women's soccer team, which hosts Illinois at noon. Kids will receive free admission by wearing their

UW travels into foreboding territory and comes away with rare tie against Hoosiers

Men's soccer still in search of second win

By Jack Doyle

Monday, October 4, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The University of Wisconsin men's soccer team managed a double-overtime 1-1 tie against Indiana on Sunday afternoon at Armstrong Stadium in Bloomington, Ind. behind Chris Prince's first collegiate goal.

The Badgers ended their four match scoring drought when Prince scored in the 20th minute to give Wisconsin the lead. Senior Jon Rzepka flicked a header off a Badger free kick to Prince, who then headed it far post and into Indiana's net.

Senior goalkeeper Ryan Vint was back in goal after freshman Max Jentsch made his first career college start in net last Tuesday against Marquette. Vint made a career-high 11 saves in his return, and was constantly peppered with shots throughout the duration of the match.

The Hoosiers already had a shot in the Badgers' six-yard box 11 minutes into the match, which was safely smothered by Vint. Indiana would add eight more shots before the half was over while Wisconsin had two.

The Badgers marched into the halftime break with a lead—something that has been hard to find for this team in 2010.

It was just seven minutes into the second half though when the Hoosiers finally capitalized on one of their many opportunities .

In the 52nd minute Indiana's Chris Estridge sent a through ball into Wisconsin territory to teammate Harrison Petts, who slid a near-post shot past Vint.

Indiana tallied another 10 shots in the second half, and Wisconsin mustered only two once again. But despite being outshot 21-7 in the match the Badgers still had their opportunities. A shot by Wisconsin freshman Nick Janus went wide with less than four minutes to play, and fellow freshman Paul Yonga ripped a shot just over the crossbar a few minutes into overtime.

"The most important thing is still that we continue to get better," head coach John Trask said. "I wouldn't say it was a great night for Wisconsin soccer, but I don't know the last time a Wisconsin team came in [to Bloomington, Ind.] and tied Indiana.

This match continued the trend of Wisconsin men's soccer this season: creating little offense while playing stout defense. The Badgers have been outshot 109-65 while only scoring five goals so far this year. In addition, they have given up 50 corner kicks while taking 35 of their own.

Wisconsin returns home this week and is seeking their second win of the season when they play Northern Illinois on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the McClimon Complex.

###

Trask hopes to build off draw at Indiana
Young men's soccer team gets 1st goal since September 12; Vint defensive player of week

By Frank Otto

Monday, October 4, 2010

The Badger Herald

After opening Big Ten conference play with a 1-1 double-overtime tie at the University of Indiana, the Wisconsin men's soccer team faces two home games this week. UW, which hasn't won since its season opener, finally found some success on the road over this last weekend.

Wisconsin scored a surprising tie against Big Ten powerhouse Indiana at the end of a stretch of three road games. Over the course of that road trip, Wisconsin took an overtime loss to Creighton in Omaha, 1-0, then lost their next game to Marquette in Milwaukee 1-0 in regulation time before meeting Indiana.

"We went on the road to Marquette and didn't show up, in all honesty," head coach John Trask said. "We kind of bottomed out. Then we turned around and went to Indiana and came away with a positive

result. It was an interesting week and one that hopefully we can continue to build on."

The Badgers' first goal since Sept. 12 at Florida Atlantic came from Chris Prince.

Prince, a freshman, scored his first collegiate goal against Indiana, off the assists of Kyle McCrudden and Nick Janus.

"I think the guys, being on TV, it really meant a lot to them," Trask said. "They really showed up and played hard."

Wisconsin's only win this year came early in September against UC-Santa Clara. Trask expressed hope that the tie against Indiana could serve as a motivator for his young team. Wisconsin has 13 true freshmen and just five seniors.

"It was a result that we needed, in all honesty, with the season so far," Trask said. "The guys need to stay bought-in, and I think that this is something they'll use [for] motivation."

Despite being optimistic about the tie, Trask did feel that the Badgers could have accomplished more.

"I think the last time Wisconsin went into Indiana and got a result was in 1992," Trask said. "When you look historically, to go in to play the tradition of excellence that is Indiana soccer and come away [with a tie], we felt in some ways we were a bit unfortunate."

"Overtime, we thought we had some good looks at goal and outplayed them deep into the game, which is very difficult to do against a high-ranked team on the road."

Shared Histories

This was the first time Todd Yeagley, now head coach at Indiana, faced his former team. Yeagley was Wisconsin's head coach last season.

Trask also has ties to Indiana, his alma mater, where he served as an assistant coach from 1993-1999. However, Trask dismissed any extra difficulty in facing Indiana.

"People asked me how would it be for me, personally, to go back to Bloomington or Todd Yeagley coaching against Wisconsin after leaving at the end of last season," Trask said. "In all honesty, I think it

was tougher on (UW assistant coach) Phil Presser, who helped Indiana win championships, to go back there for his first time.”

Presser served as an assistant coach at Indiana from 2006-09. He also played midfield at Indiana from 1999-2002.

Presser and the Hoosiers went to three College Cups in his playing time there and won the National Championship in 2003 when he served as their undergraduate assistant coach.

Goalies in Competition

Wisconsin's goaltender in the Indiana game, senior Ryan Vint, was awarded Monday with Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week honors for his performance Sunday. He notched a career-high 11 saves and allowed just one goal in the effort. This improved upon his previous career-best performance, an eight-save outing during the overtime 1-0 loss at Creighton.

“Vint made a couple of [good] saves,” Trask said of the Indiana performance. “He actually was very close to getting a hand on the goal that they scored.”

Despite Vint's play, he is not the every day starter, as Trask is cycling through goalies. Trask indicated that the starter from the Marquette game, freshman Max Jentsch, will be the the starter Wednesday versus Northern Illinois.

“We're getting some competition in goal, which always makes [things] seem better,” Trask said.

Jentsch made his first collegiate start at Marquette, where he made three saves on four shots on goal.

Tough Big Ten Season Coming

Indiana was only the opening of what will be a very challenging Big Ten soccer season.

“I'm looking forward to it,” Trask said. “I know week in and week out the Big Ten is very strong and I'm not going to sit up here and say I think we're going to be working miracles this year. But I do think we're going to get our fair share of results.”

Michigan, coming off of a late-goal, 2-1 win over No. 24 Penn State, heads to Madison Sunday. Following that,

Wisconsin will face off in East Lansing on Oct. 17 against No. 11 Michigan State.

Wisconsin defeated Michigan State 2-1 in two overtimes last season, but also lost 3-0 to Michigan. Wisconsin managed a 3-4-0 record against Big Ten opponents last season.

“It'll be up and down,” Trask said. “I think the guys are ready, mentally and emotionally, and we'll start doing some things tactically different. Hopefully when Michigan gets here next Sunday, we'll put our best foot forward and perform for the people of Madison and the University.”

###

**UW travels into foreboding
territory and comes away
with rare tie against
Hoosiers**

**Big Ten lauds Vint after big
performance**

By Eric Anderson

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Ryan Vint's soccer resume has had several additions the past few days.

The University of Wisconsin senior goalkeeper set a career high by making 11 saves Sunday to help the Badgers end a 17-year losing streak in Bloomington, Ind., with a 1-1 tie against Indiana.

A day later, he was named the Big Ten Conference men's Defensive Player of the Week for the first time.

Vint ranks second in the conference with an average of 4.75 saves per match and has a 1.03 goals-against average for UW (1-6-2).

###

Badgers look to build on recent improvements with strong defense

By Matthew Kleist

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

Returning home, the Badgers men's soccer team (1-6-2) is coming off a 1-1 double overtime draw in their Big Ten opener against Indiana. Wisconsin will play host to the Huskies of Northern Illinois (4-3-2) in a midweek matchup on Wednesday night. In a game that is looking to shape up to be a defensive struggle, it will be crucial to find the back of the net.

Entering this week's game, NIU owns a goals against average of only 0.53, and are ranked 12th in the nation in that category. Even more daunting, Northern Illinois is ranked 10th in shutouts, blanking opponents at a rate of 56 percent.

However, the Badger defense, laden with freshmen like Paul Yonga and Luke Goodnetter, is not to be dismissed.

Allowing 1.03 goals per game and holding a .808 save percentage, Wisconsin's back line is not often broken.

Starting in goal, freshmen keeper Max Jentsch is no slouch either. In his only start of the season, Jentsch impressed head coach John Trask. Playing the full 90 minutes, he saved 3 of the 4 shots that he faced.

"The young man that played at Marquette, Max Jentsch, who is a true freshman, was outstanding," Trask said.

"He'll start again on Wednesday night."

Hoping to build on their success in Indiana, Trask feels that his team is ready to continue forward and will start seeing results.

"I think this is something that they'll use as motivation," Trask said.

Seeing improvement every time they take the field, the Badgers are now starting to step up their play. Able to begin to look at games from a more tactical viewpoint, they are starting to play the matchups that will give them the advantage.

"Our young guys continue to develop," Trask said.

"Wednesday will be a character game."

Wisconsin is still looking for their second win of the season. Claiming the all-time series 16-11-0, the Badgers have the slight advantage historically. Despite this, the Huskies have taken 4 out of the last 6 decisions, winning the last meeting of these two teams 1-0 at Wisconsin just a season ago.

###

UW men's soccer: Badgers fall to Northern Illinois in overtime

Wednesday, October 6, 2010
Wisconsin State Journal/Madison.com

Danny Ahlering scored his first goal of the season, but the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team fell 2-1 in overtime to Northern Illinois during a non-conference men's college soccer match Wednesday at McClimon Field.

After Northern Illinois grabbed the lead on Juan Hoyos' goal — he finished to the back post off a combo in the penalty area — Ahlering answered off an assist from Nick Janus in the 80th minute.

Ahlering finished off the goal on a rebound, beating Huskies keeper Jordan Godsey.

But Tim King scored the winner for the Huskies (5-3-2 overall) in the 95th minute, nailing home a header from Sean Totsch from 6 yards out following a restart from 45 yards out.

The Badgers (1-7-2) were outshot 12-10 and failed to register a corner kick during

the match. Max Jentsch made four saves for UW.

The match marked the third overtime loss for the Badgers this season. They lost at Florida International Sept. 10 and at Creighton Sept. 24.

UW opens the Big Ten season Sunday with a match against Michigan at McClimon Field at 2:30 p.m.

"You know, week in and week out, the Big Ten is very strong, and I'm not going to sit up here and say I think we're going to be working miracles this year, but I think we're going to get our fair share of results," coach John Trask said earlier this week.

###

Physicality lacking in tough loss

Men's soccer team struggles to handle the physical nature of Northern Illinois

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

The Badger Herald

In what can only be described as a very frustrating 2-1 overtime loss to the Northern Illinois Huskies, the men's soccer team can only move forward from here.

Besides pushing the game into overtime after falling 1-0 a few minutes into the second half, there seemed to be very few bright spots for the Badgers last night at the McClimon Soccer Complex. One was goaltender Max Jentsch, but overall the Badgers need to improve in one specific area to earn wins. They need to get more physical. That was evident in Wednesday's heartbreaking loss.

Freshmen on the field

Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch started his first game at home against the Huskies, his second on the season, and while it didn't end exactly how he wanted head coach

John Trask was impressed with his play.

"He's been a bright spot," Trask said. "His two performances have been very good."

Jentsch wasn't the only freshman starting. Five freshmen were in the starting line-up, and all but one of them played the full 94 minutes of the game.

All season the Badgers have found themselves with a lot of freshmen starting, but this is one of the first games where Trask has felt they played like freshmen.

"Tonight they looked like freshmen," Trask said. "I don't think there was any question of the result. I told their coaches so much, and we're not good enough. We're not hard enough, we're not big enough, we're not mean enough, we're not tough enough. We're missing every single element of being a good college soccer team at this point. The bottom line is these guys need to get bigger and stronger; the young guys need to continue to improve."

Redshirt sophomore defenseman Danny Ahlering

feels like the freshmen can no longer be looked at as such a young squad, considering Wisconsin has already played ten games at the college level.

"For the most part a lot of them have been playing all season — this is Jentsch's second start — a lot of them are used to it," Ahlering said. "We're confident in front of him. We're confident with everyone on the field, all the freshmen. They've all been playing so much I don't really look at them as freshmen any more."

Different Combinations

Wisconsin knew the game was going to be a physical matchup, but Trask still wanted to try different combinations with his team and used a lot of guys off the bench throughout the game, especially in the first half.

In the first half alone Trask subbed in four players off his bench to see what could happen with various lineups.

"It's a non-conference game," Trask said. "We were looking to try a couple different things. We had some changes with personnel, like Cale Cooper going up top. We just

wanted to see what it looked like. Pitts played in the midfield some, he's been playing up top for us, just looking at what we've got really at this point.

"Some of our guys did alright off the bench, some of them not so good."

Too many fouls

For an indication of how physical and frustrating the game was, look no further than the amount of fouls that occurred between the two teams.

With a total of 40 fouls, 20 for each team, Wisconsin felt they were making some dumb mistakes but couldn't seem to get themselves out of foul trouble, especially one that led to the winning goal.

"NIU's always physical," Ahlering said. "They're big players; you have to be ready for that. We just made some stupid fouls. You always have to be ready to play them because they're always fouling."

"When we give up dumb fouls, it's frustrating, like how they scored on that last goal," Jentsch added.

As the fouls kept piling on, scoring opportunities seemed to keep slipping away from the Badgers.

It was all too clear how frustrated the team was starting to become through the second half, especially after NIU took the lead, but the frustration only seemed to produce more fouls until UW finally knocked in a goal.

"We fouled them 20 times," Trask said. "You just can't do that. We gave them too many opportunities. I don't think we were bad tonight, but we weren't good enough to win either."

###

Badgers lose in OT to Huskies

An NIU goal off a free kick sent the Badgers home winless for the 9th straight time

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, October 7, 2010

The Badger Herald

For the second straight year, the Wisconsin men's soccer team lost to Northern Illinois University at home after allowing a goal in the closing minutes on Wednesday night.

Despite a second-chance goal by sophomore defender Danny Ahlering in the 80th minute to knot the game up at 1-1, NIU defender Tim King headed in a free kick in the 95th minute to end the game for the Badgers in sudden-death overtime.

Wisconsin head coach John Trask was upset by the team's disappointing performance and saw his squad as the lesser team against its non-conference rival.

"[I thought NIU was] the dominant team that whole evening," Trask said. "I don't think there was any question in the results."

The two teams were scoreless after the first half, but the Huskies were able to strike first, just 2:47 into the second half when NIU forward Juan Hoyos tapped in a short pass off a reset from a corner kick.

UW was able to respond 32 minutes later when Nick Janus knocked a rebound off the NIU goalkeeper into the far post and onto the awaiting feet of Ahlering, who cleaned up the miss and scored.

"I'd rather win than score, obviously, but it's nice for the moment," Ahlering said.

Ahlering also saved Wisconsin from a potential defeat in regulation by clearing a NIU free kick away with a strong header in the 85th minute.

However, it was not enough for the UW (1-7-2), as Ahlering's tackle from 45 yards away earned NIU defender Sean Totsch the pivotal, game-ending free kick cross that King finished within the six-yard box.

Trask noted the team's lack of size, strength and determination as reasons for Wisconsin's defeat in a physical game that featured 40

combined fouls and two yellow cards.

The game's physicality and high number of bookings was due to UW's frustration and inability to adjust to the referee's style of officiating from the get-go, according to Trask.

Wisconsin midfielder Austin Spohn was called for a yellow card in the 74th minute when he tripped up a sprinting NIU player on a fast break. NIU earned a yellow card by tackling Spohn just 56 seconds later to sideline Spohn with a foot injury for the remainder of the game.

"I just felt like our urgency once they scored today wasn't there," Trask said. "We seemed to have turned into a team that is accepting of losing. Tonight was a character game for me, and in all honesty, we failed."

Trask said the team did liven up after Spohn's injury, yet there were still long periods of the game in which UW looked dull and unable to spur any offense.

For only the second time this season, Trask went with freshman goalkeeper Max

Jentsch over senior team captain Ryan Vint, who earned Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week honors Monday.

Jentsch provided four saves, while allowing two goals for the Badgers and said it felt good to get his second start Wednesday, but admitted it was difficult to get into a rhythm due to his inconsistency in playtime.

“It just makes me feel good that the coaches have confidence in me and they think I can play,” Jentsch said.

“It kind of throws off my rhythm a little bit because it feels like a new season for me every game.”

Trask highlighted Jentsch as a key asset among the freshmen for the Badgers this year.

“I needed to get Max games, that’s the bottom line,” Trask said. “He’s a freshman, and we think he could be a goalkeeper in the future here. We are a [1-7-2] team. He has been a bright spot. His two performances have been pretty good.”

Trask, a coach for Indiana for 10 years, noted it takes a lot out of a team to compete well

against IU, and tried to give his players as much rest as possible before Wednesday’s game. However, the team plays another Big Ten game Sunday and will need to make a quick turnaround.

“A true program...has to show up during the middle of the week, and this is two weeks in a row. I’m not saying we were bad tonight,” Trask said.

“That’s a pretty decent team we’re playing. I don’t think we were bad tonight, but we weren’t good enough to win either.”

###

Unlucky 7: Another one-goal loss for UW

By Eric Anderson

Thursday, October 07, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

The University of Wisconsin men's soccer team came up with a late goal to force overtime Wednesday night, but gave up the game-winner on a set piece in the 95th minute and dropped a 2-1 decision to Northern Illinois in a non-conference match at the McClimon Complex.

The loss extended the Badgers' winless streak to nine games – all seven of their losses have been by one goal, including three in overtime.

"I felt like our urgency wasn't there once they scored their first goal," said UW coach John Trask, whose team fell behind in the 48th minute.

"There were long periods in the game when play was dull. Tonight was a character game, and we need to bounce back. I don't think we were bad tonight, but we weren't good enough to win."

Sophomore Danny Ahlering pulled UW (1-7-2) even in the 80th minute, finishing off a good sequence of pressure for

the Badgers. Senior midfielder Jon Rzepka had a shot blocked by a Huskies defender, then freshman Nick Janus followed with a shot off the post before Ahlering drove the rebound past NIU goalkeeper Jordan Godsey for his second career goal.

But UW couldn't build on the momentum in overtime. Sean Totsch took a free kick 45 yards out and served it into the 6-yard box, where Tim King sent a header past Badgers freshman keeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) for his first goal of the season.

"Max's two performances have been pretty good," Trask said. "We needed to get him some games, and he has been a bright spot for us. We'll continue to split time between him and Ryan (Vint) in goal. It's just a pure rotation right now."

Jentsch finished with four saves in his second career start, while Godsey stopped three shots for the Huskies (5-3-2). Godsey denied a great scoring chance for the Badgers, leaping to punch out a 25-yard blast by freshman midfielder Paul Yonga in the 15th.

Badgers junior midfielder Austin Spohn, who has been sidelined by a groin injury for much of the past year, had to be helped from the field after a challenge by Totsch in the 75th that led to a yellow card for the NIU freshman defender.

###

Frustration evident as Badgers rack up fouls, run winless streak to nine

By Jack Doyle

Thursday, October 7, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

Despite sophomore Danny Ahlering's first goal of the year, the Wisconsin men's soccer team extended their winless streak to nine matches, falling 2-1 to Northern Illinois Wednesday night at the McClimon Complex.

The Badgers went into the second half tied 0-0 with the Huskies, but NIU capitalized on a chance just three minutes after halftime. A Husky shot trickled through the Badgers' penalty box and eventually found an unmarked Juan Hoyos, who put it past freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch to give NIU a 1-0 lead.

The Huskies would maintain their lead for nearly half an hour, but Wisconsin finally broke through in the 80th minute. Motivated by an injury to junior Austin Spohn, who did not return to play following a hard tackle by an NIU player in the 75th minute, the Badgers began to put

pressure on the Huskie defense. Five minutes later, Ahlering finished a rebound off the post by placing it in the lower corner of the net, tying the match at one.

Ahlering did not take much time to bask in the glory.

"It's fine but I'd rather win than score," Ahlering said. "It was nice at the time, but that was about it."

Since the remaining ten minutes went scoreless, the match proceeded into overtime. After an evening littered with slide tackles and elbows, the last of UW's 20 fouls proved to be fatal.

Following an Ahlering foul on an NIU player near midfield, the Huskies sent a ball into the Badgers' penalty box, where NIU's Tim King flicked it past Jentsch to secure the win.

Head coach John Trask said he was none too pleased with the team's effort and did not hold back as he described where his squad stands.

"We're not good enough, we're not hard enough. We're not big enough, we're not tough enough," Trask said. "We're missing every single

element of being a good college soccer team at this point."

"Tonight was a character game, and to be honest, we failed," he added.

There was at least one bright spot in the loss, however, as Jentsch was solid in net during the second collegiate start of his career. Although senior goalie Ryan Vint was fresh off Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week honors and a career game-11 saves against Indiana-Trask said it was time to give the newcomer Jentsch a few starts.

"The bottom line is I need to get Max games," Trask said. "We think he can be a goalkeeper of the future here."

Sunday afternoon features a doubleheader with the men's and women's soccer teams taking on Big Ten opponents as part of the "Pac the Mac" promotion. The women's soccer team will play Illinois at noon, followed by the men's squad facing Michigan at 2:30 p.m.

###

UW ready for attack-minded Michigan
After heartbreaking OT loss to NIU, Badgers ready for Big Ten battle

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, October 7, 2010

The Badger Herald

Coming off a hard-to-swallow 2-1 overtime loss against Northern Illinois, the Wisconsin men's soccer team looks to rebound Sunday as it returns to Big Ten play to face Michigan.

Michigan (6-3-2) features a high caliber offense that has scored 16 goals compared to Wisconsin's seven this season.

Wolverine forward Soony Saad has already equaled the Badgers by scoring seven goals of his own through ten games this season, while teammate Justin Meram has recorded four assists and four goals.

"They're a very dangerous attacking team," head coach John Trask said. "They can score goals. They're going to come in here and give us everything we can handle, but being at home, hopefully these guys can find it in them to have another big Big Ten performance. I would love to have four points by the end of Sunday in the Big Ten."

Despite the stiff competition, UW is experienced playing against strong attacking offenses and was able to hold one of the top forwards in the Big Ten, Will Bruin, in check against Indiana.

"Against Indiana, we had Will Bruin that we had to deal with, and [our defenders] did a solid job," senior captain goalkeeper Ryan Vint said. "I wouldn't have gotten player of the week without them. They're a great group to have in front of me."

Michigan also boasts a formidable defense conducted by goalkeeper Chris Blais, who has kept the net relatively empty by allowing just .85 goals per game and recording a .828 save percentage.

Vint said Sunday's game should be easier to prepare for mentally than non-conference games because the players know the stakes and will be expected to bring their 'A-game' against Michigan.

"I expect a dog fight," Vint said. "It's always a battle with the Big Ten. Every team comes out to play. We always get amped up for it. It's going to be a lot of physical battle; it's going to be a mental battle."

After the disappointing loss to NIU and a nine-game winless

streak, the Badgers will have a lot to improve upon come Sunday.

"We've got to get better in pretty much every aspect for that game," defender Danny Ahlering said. "[In practice we'll work on] the basics — defending and everything. Just working as a group [will be key]."

Wisconsin (1-7-2) will return Vint to the net after freshman Max Jentsch filled in during non-conference play against NIU Wednesday.

Vint was awarded Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week honors Monday after his performance against heated rival Indiana Sunday, but sat out against NIU to give Jentsch some much needed experience, Trask said.

"Vint will be back in the goal for the Michigan game," Trask said. "It was just a pure rotation; that's what we're doing with the position right now. It didn't have anything to do with Vint's performance. He played great over the weekend."

The team plans to continue to alternate between Vint and Jentsch for Big Ten and non-conference games, respectively. Trask added he might even switch the two players' responsibilities to

have Jentsch play the Big Ten games.

Vint was understanding of his coach's decision, but noted the difficulties in trying to stay fresh when playing reduced minutes.

"It's tough not getting into a rhythm," Vint said. "I always want to play, especially because I haven't played in the last four years. I always want to get in the games, be competitive and do the best I can, but it's...not up to me. I just have to deal with it."

"Max even said last night that it's hard for him to get ready for games when he takes the weekend off," Vint continued. "He said it was like a whole new season for him. It's very true, especially for goalies. You get on a roll and you want to keep building on that. I really don't know what else to say. It's confusing, and it's just one of those things that you just have to move on from."

###

Comeback bid falls short as UW loses to Michigan
Big Ten home opener results in 3-2 loss for men's soccer at McClimon Complex

By Kelly Erickson

Sunday, October 10, 2010

The Badger Herald

Things were finally looking up for the Badgers, but in what's turning into the story of the season, they weren't able to pull off a win.

The Wisconsin men's soccer team seemed like a strong attacking team Sunday, but after letting in two goals in the first half, the squad just couldn't finish a comeback against Michigan, dropping the Big Ten home opener 3-2.

Now sitting at 1-8-2 and 0-1-1 in the Big Ten, Wisconsin just can't seem to dominate a full 90 minutes. However, UW started the game out strong, scoring first.

With his first collegiate goal, junior midfielder Colin Mani put the Badgers on top 11:50 into the game.

"It felt good to get my first collegiate goal," Mani said. "Jon Rzepka was trying to attempt a cross and it got deflected and landed on me. I was just putting it back across the goal for an opportunity on goal and it just carried into the far post so it was fortunate."

Wisconsin continued to put up a good fight against Michigan, but only six minutes later Michigan's Justin Meram dribbled past the defense to get Michigan's momentum rolling.

It looked like the teams were going to head into half time locked in a tie, but the Wolverines shot in a goal off a corner kick, taking the lead and stealing any momentum the Badgers had.

"I think that affected the psyche more than anything," head coach John Trask said. "If we could have gotten in it 1-1, then maybe it would have been a little bit different. If a player like [Meram] is going to beat two players and shoot it in the upper corner like he did, hats off to him. But for them to nonchalantly play a corner kick right out and have them take a touch and have them whack it at our goal, we're just not locked in enough to the opposing players. We just didn't do a good enough job of eliminating really good looks for them. We just didn't get out to them quick enough."

Michigan didn't wait to use their momentum in the second half. Only 13 minutes after the break Michigan's Matt Schmitt knocked in a rebound off a penalty kick to give

Michigan the two-goal advantage.

For the first time all season Wisconsin was down by two goals, and with about 30 minutes left in the game the squad was already starting to look like a defeated team.

"This is the first time we've been down two goals this year," Trask said. "The dog's been kicked at that point. The guys have been hanging in there very well. It's tough on them. It's not easy. I mean we had seven rookies on the field and believe me I'm not using that as an excuse. We're halfway through a season, it's just the facts. If I could do something different I would."

But with eight minutes left it was one of those rookies who seemed to give Wisconsin new life. Chris Prince kicked in the Badgers second goal on the day instantly turning the squad into a more aggressive team that looked like it could tie things up.

"We started sending some more numbers forward because we needed to get a couple goals," Mani said. "We were fortunate to get that goal — Prince had a great finish — a new energy came into us. We were able to put pressure on the keeper. He made a great save on a shot by Joey Tennyson most goalies

wouldn't have saved. Once again we just ended up falling short."

Despite a few close chances to push the game into overtime as the clock ran out, so did the Badgers' hopes of getting another win.

Losing another game is definitely getting frustrating for the young team, but Trask can't ignore the fact his squad was creating scoring opportunities, which they haven't been as successful at through the first part of the season.

"We had a lot of good attack," Trask said. "I think we finished with nine corner kicks and seven or eight shots on goal. When you're playing in the Big Ten and you can create seven or eight shots on goal... I thought the first 15 or 18 minutes we played pretty well.

"There were a couple bright spots. Joey Tennyson played very well today. He looks like he's grown as a player and as a person within this team."

With the bright spots in mind, Wisconsin still can't help but feel frustrated. Now sitting at the half-way point in the season, the Badgers need to find a way to turn things around and starting winning some games instead of always

being beaten by that one goal that seems to get by.

"It's a reoccurring theme and we just haven't been able to get over that," Mani said. "It's something that's been plaguing us all year. Hopefully in the second half of the season we can get it turned around, especially in the Big Tens, and carry that into the Big Ten Tournament."

###

Intensity, leadership called into question after loss
Men's soccer head coach John Trask challenges his team to play with more energy after string of defeats
By Noah Goetzel
Thursday, October 10, 2010
The Badger Herald

As Wisconsin's men's soccer team falls to 1-8-2 after dropping a thrilling Big Ten game to Michigan Sunday, the team's intensity and energy level throughout games remains in question.

Unlike some midweek non-conference games UW has played so far this season, the team started out Sunday's showing amped-up due to the Big Ten weekend atmosphere of the game. However, head coach John Trask noted Wisconsin could not sustain this sense of urgency.

After scoring 17 minutes into the game, UW allowed the talented attacking squad of Michigan to even the score before the half, and then take a commanding 3-1 lead 58 minutes in. Trask said the team looked uninspired from that point until finally scoring again with less than eight minutes remaining.

"We're not a team that can take not moments, but periods of time off," Trask said. "It's becoming a bit of a trend, and

I think it's the same when you're not winning games. Every tackle hurts a little bit more. You know it was hot out today, next week it will be cold, and the next week it will be rainy and the next week it will be 'the referee wasn't on our side.'"

Although the team looked especially motivated during the final minutes of play, with the Wolverines leading 3-2 and UW playing better than they had midweek, it still was not enough to earn a victory.

Trask said he has tested his squad's leadership and determination, but the players have not responded accordingly on the field come game time.

"We don't seem to be getting enough leadership out on the field, and I have challenged them," Trask said. "I don't care if it comes from the freshmen, the sophomores, the juniors [or] the seniors. We just look like we're accepting defeat right now, and that's disappointing. That's something we've got to change. We've got to change that culture. We better do it in a hurry."

To adjust to this lack in energy level and confidence the 1-8-2 Badgers have experienced, players will have to find it within themselves to

show up at games motivated and ready to go.

"It can't come from the sideline, it has to come from within the group," Trask said. "I'm a firm believer in that. If it has to be manufactured by the pep band, or cheerleaders or coaches that are cheerleading, it's false. At some point, they have to trust each other, they've got to fight through it themselves and they've got to hold each other accountable."

From a statistical standpoint alone, it appears as though the Badgers competed valiantly against the Wolverines, earning 10 corner kicks compared to Michigan's four and taking 12 shots on goal. The Badgers failed, however, to maintain the lead or keep the necessary focus all 90 minutes to win the game.

Junior defender/midfielder Colin Mani, who prompted a surge in confidence for Wisconsin with his first half goal echoed Trask's advice, emphasizing the needs for individual commitment moving forward, especially for midweek games.

"Every individual on the team needs to find [confidence] within themselves," Mani said. "We have a lot of underclassmen and freshmen on our team, and so it's new

for them to have these midweek games. Just getting them the experience for that, the rest of us upperclassmen taking them on our shoulders and showing them the ropes, and then getting them onboard and pushing forward is key for those midweek games.”

took us a long time, I felt, to really show consistent fight then.”

###

Mani recognized the leadership and dedication of senior defender/midfielder Aaron Nichols as a strong guide for younger players and veterans alike.

“I think Aaron Nichols has done a great job [of emerging as a leader and showing the younger players the ropes to boost their intensity in games],” Nichols said. “He has been a key player for us all year. He gives us a real great attack through the right side of the field. He’s a great strength and we look to him for a lot of our attack.”

Trask admitted the difficulties in approaching a game against such a strong opponent when your team has so little to show from its results thus far in the season.

“It’s hard to find confidence when you’re walking into a game at 1-7-2,” Trask said. “We have to keep working on it because that’s sports. I mean, that is how you become a good team; you find it within yourself. We didn’t...It

Frustrations mount for Trask, Badgers

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

University of Wisconsin men's soccer coach John Trask obviously wasn't too thrilled with his team's latest loss, one that stretched its winless streak to 10 games.

But perhaps more importantly, the first-year coach had bigger problems with what he saw during the Badgers' 3-2 setback against Michigan in a Big Ten Conference match watched by a season-high crowd of 1,593 on Sunday afternoon.

"It looked like we are accepting defeat at this point," said Trask, whose team hasn't won since its season opener and has suffered all eight of its losses by one goal. "That's disappointing, and that's something that we have to change. We have to change that culture."

UW (1-8-2 overall, 0-1-1 Big Ten) went ahead in the 12th minute when a shot by junior midfielder Colin Mani (Madison Edgewood) grazed a Wolverines defender, redirecting it past goalkeeper Chris Blais. It was the first career goal and points for Mani.

The Badgers then had five corner kicks in a 3-minute span, a flurry that ended with Blais saving a shot from UW senior midfielder Jon Rzepka.

Minutes later, Michigan (7-2-3, 2-1-0) equalized through Justin Meram. The senior took advantage of a turnover near midfield and beat several defenders before slotting a shot past Badgers senior keeper Ryan Vint for his fifth goal of the year in the 18th.

Freshman Soony Saad, last year's Gatorade National High School Player of the Year, gave the Wolverines the lead with his eighth goal of the season on a set piece in the 42nd. Standing over a free kick 20 yards out, freshman midfielder Fabio Pereira touched the ball to Saad, who drove a shot past Vint. Michigan added its third goal in the 59th when Matt Schmitt converted a header off a cross from Pereira, a Brazilian who attended prep school in Connecticut.

"We knew they were a pretty good attacking team," said Trask, whose team gave up more than two goals for the first time this fall. "We knew they were going to punish us for mistakes, and they did."

The Badgers did fight back late.

Forward Chris Prince netted his second goal off a cross from fellow freshman Nick Janus in the 83rd to make it 3-2. UW then forced Michigan keeper Tim Bergsma, who came on for his season debut in relief of Blais in the 67th, into a pair of saves in the 88th, but couldn't find the equalizer.

Badgers junior defender Cale Cooper (Madison West), who missed nearly all of the 2009 season because of a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee, left the game after suffering an apparent left knee injury moments after entering the game in the 30th minute. UW junior midfielder Austin Spohn, who's been sidelined most of the past year with injury and had to be helped off the field during Wednesday's 2-1 overtime loss to Northern Illinois, didn't play.

The impressive crowd was thanks to the second annual PAC the MAC promotion, which includes a doubleheader of men's and women's games at McClimon. The total attendance for this year's event was 2,466, slightly below last year's inaugural total of 2,547.

###

Late rally not quite enough as Wisconsin falls to Michigan

Men's soccer still searching for first conference win

By Matthew Kleist

Monday, October 11, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

Nearly 1,600 fans watched Wisconsin put on its second-annual Pac the Mac Saturday afternoon. However, despite the large crowd and unusually warm weather, the Badgers (1-8-2) came up short, losing to Michigan (7-2-3) by a score of 2-3.

Striking early, the Badgers got on the board first in the 12th minute. The ball found its way to redshirt junior defender Colin Mani off a deflected cross from senior midfielder Jon Rzepka. Mani was able to find the far post and the back of the net, tallying his first collegiate goal.

But the Wolverines found an answer. In the 18th minute, Michigan's Justin Meram beat UW keeper Ryan Vint for the equalizer.

After exchanging goals, both teams played even throughout the half, passing possession back and forth between each other. It would be Michigan who would end the deadlock on a goal by Soony Saad in the 42nd minute, giving the

Wolverines the 2-1 advantage at half.

"The second goal, right before half time, I think that affected the psyche more than anything," head coach John Trask said. "If we could have gotten in at 1-1, maybe it would have been a little different."

The second half seemed as though it would be more of the same. Coming off a Badger foul, Michigan found itself with a free kick 30 yards from the goal. Able to capitalize on their opportunity, the Wolverines put the ball past Vint once again. The goal in the 59th minute gave Michigan the 3-1 lead.

"We've been pretty good on defensive set pieces, and we give them the third goal," said Trask. "You can't give a good attacking team extra goals on set pieces."

The Badgers did have something left in the tank, however. Nearing the end of the game, Wisconsin began to press more men forward and started to open up more opportunities for themselves. This extra push at the end put UW in position for a comeback. Scoring in the 82nd minute, freshman forward Chris Prince put his team back in the game.

With just over three minutes left in the game, a cross entered the Michigan box. Making a strong play on the ball, freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson directed a volley toward the net. It looked as though the Badgers would tie the game, but a highlight-reel save by Michigan keeper Tim Bergsma denied UW the goal.

"We pushed the numbers forward," Mani said. "The keeper made a great save on an attempt by Joey Tennyson that most goalies wouldn't have saved."

With the loss, the Badgers fall to 1-8-2, and 0-1-1 in Big Ten play. Wisconsin is on the road next weekend, taking on Michigan State Sunday, Oct. 17.

###

Freshman duo impressing for UW Goodnetter and Succa bright spots for men's soccer in otherwise dismal season

By Kelly Erickson
Wednesday, October 13, 2010
The Badger Herald

Inexperienced, young and insecure? Not these freshmen.

Halfway through their first season at Wisconsin, freshmen defensemen Luke Goodnetter and Blake Succa have eased into starting positions on the men's soccer team and are helping build a strong defensive line.

Through 11 games, Succa has played almost every minute, while Goodnetter has only two starts behind him. Succa leads the team in minutes played, with Goodnetter close behind.

With so many freshmen, head coach John Trask knew he would have to start some of them, but Succa and Goodnetter have provided consistent support for the Badgers from the beginning.

"That has been the most impressive thing for us," Trask said. "[Succa] and [Goodnetter] have been consistently good. That is what has really impressed us. We're waiting for the wheels to fall off one game. That usually happens to freshmen.

These two, they've been consistent all season long and that's not an easy thing to do as a freshman."

The duo may be on top of their game now, but transitioning from high school to college wasn't exactly easy at first.

Being freshmen, they had to adjust to the faster pace college demands and focus 100 percent of the time. Mistakes were made — they weren't accustomed to the tougher competition right away, but both of them feel they've learned from past slip-ups and are continuing to grow as the season carries on.

"It's a lot different when you go from high school soccer to college, the pace is so different," Goodnetter said.

"In the first couple weeks in the preseason, it was such a change for me. I wasn't used to the pace and everything else. That hurt me a little bit in preseason and I definitely learned from my mistakes. I just picked it up as the season went on and I've really learned from my mistakes and have grown to the pace that college soccer demands."

"When I played club soccer — not that I just couldn't try at all — but I could coast at times during the game," Succa added. "Here, I feel like I'm

always on edge and I don't know what's going to happen. You've got to be on top of your game 100 percent of the time. It's definitely a lot more difficult, but more of a challenge, so I like it."

Life between college and high school is certainly different, adjustments have to be made if success is to be found. So far, Goodnetter and Succa have been able to learn from their mistakes quickly and show they have talent.

Clearly, Goodnetter and Succa provide a consistent and confident vibe to the team, despite Wisconsin still having a rough season with only one win on their record. In the rebuilding season, the freshmen pair is a bright spot amid all the frustration.

"They've been a bright spot in terms of their play in the back," Trask said. "We feel very solid in our right and left back position. The question becomes, can they become better or is this what they are? We're seeing improvement every game."

Getting starting time isn't just fun and games for these two. To be playing at this level is something they've been working toward their entire lives.

“It feels great,” Goodnetter said. “This is what I look forward to. I’ve worked all my life for this in high school and club, just to be fit for this level and really contribute to the team’s success.”

Playing in his first game, Succa was admittedly nervous. But for the young team, the Badgers were facing a season where they would consistently start for the first time in their respective college careers.

“It’s a good feeling,” Succa said. “When I first came out here, before I knew if I would play or not, I always had the mindset ‘I’m going to play.’ I didn’t know exactly how it was going to happen. When I did start getting minutes, I was nervous. Especially the first game, because I’m a freshman, I didn’t know what to expect. Now, I’m still younger than all the guys on the team, but I don’t really feel like it that much because I’ve been playing so much. A lot of the older guys either didn’t get any time last year or haven’t gotten a lot, so it’s like we’re all going through the same thing.”

Instead of worrying about their youth, Goodnetter and Succa are able to focus on playing their game and making the Badgers a stronger team.

Wisconsin may not be the most intimidating team this year, but in time, it feels like that will change.

“Every single game we’ve played, we’ve played good teams and we’re hanging in with them,” Succa said. “We just don’t get the result. Sometimes it’s unlucky, sometimes it’s just one or two mistakes that we make — which I think has a lot to do with our youth and not being mature enough — but I feel like in the future we’ll be a lot better. This is our first year, so with years to come, the experience will come and we’ll be more confident.”

Goodnetter and Succa are definitely getting experience. On a defensive line that is already solid and helps the Badgers keep up with better and tougher teams, the guys have a chemistry flowing that will carry into the rest of their time at UW.

“Most upper-level soccer games are only a one-score game,” Goodnetter said. “I like it in the back, there’s good chemistry back there. I think we could still work on a lot of things, but I think it’s a good building block for now and a couple years from now.

Succa and Goodnetter came into a team that went through so much change in the last

year. Still, they’ve already created a secure spot for themselves and have taken the field as leader despite their youth.

Although Wisconsin is going through a rough season, Succa knows the Badgers’ record doesn’t really show who they are or what they’re truly capable of.

“It does feel like a rebuilding year,” Succa said. “If you look at our record, other teams probably look at us and underestimate us so much. I don’t feel like we’re a 1-8-2 team at all.”

###

Youth movement has future looking bright for Badgers

By Matthew Kleist

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

When the season started for the Wisconsin men's soccer team, it was somewhat difficult to recognize who the players were. After sifting through the crowd, familiar faces would eventually appear between those still waiting to make their mark. For some of those who were waiting, their chance did not take long to come.

Losing nine players from last year's squad to graduation, the Badgers went on a recruiting spree, working to bring in a large freshman class to fill the void left behind. And they did just that. Currently, UW has 13 freshmen on the roster. With 27 players on the roster, this equates to nearly half of the Wisconsin men's soccer team hailing from the freshman class.

Freshmen midfielder Joey Tennyson, defender Luke Goodnetter and defender Paul Yonga are clearly excited to play in Madison and for this program.

"It's exciting playing in front of a crowd, in college soccer in general," Joey Tennyson said.

"I really want to help contribute to the team's success," Luke Goodnetter said.

When it comes to making contributions, this year's freshman class has done just that. In the absence of many returning starters, many freshmen have not only seen playing time, but also some starts.

"[Most of] our starting lineup is freshmen," Goodnetter said. "Building on that in the coming years is going to be something great."

Expecting to contribute something to the team, though not necessarily from the starting lineup, they found themselves having to step up and take an active leadership role on the team.

"I knew when I came in I'd be competing for a spot," Yonga said. "I just didn't think I'd be thrown in there and playing most of the minutes."

Not only has he played in all 11 games of the season to this point, Yonga has cracked the starting lineup all 11 times.

Also seeing a large amount of playing time, Goodnetter has played in ten of the eleven games, starting the last nine games.

"It was something that I didn't expect, but knew I could do," Goodnetter said. "I came in just having the attitude that I'd give it my all no matter what."

However, to some the idea of the freshman class needing to step up and take over starting roles was not as surprising.

"I expected that a lot of freshmen would have to step up," Tennyson said. "You've got to make something happen."

Tennyson has been one of those players who has worked to make something happen on the field. Most recently, in the Badgers 3-2 loss to Michigan this past weekend, Tennyson directed what looked to be the equalizer toward the goal, only to see it saved on a spectacular effort by the Michigan keeper.

"It was a bad feeling," Tennyson said. "I thought we were going to get the goal there."

Confident in their abilities, these freshmen have set some high goals for themselves and their team.

"We're a young team. Hopefully in the years to come we can get stronger, get better and win a Big Ten Championship and make our

way into the NCAA's," Yonga said. "That's my goal."

"I want the team to get better so we can improve," Tennyson said. "Hopefully in the next few years [we can] get to the NCAA Tournament."

Through all of the experience and hardships these young players have gone through this season, the excitement remains inside of them, pushing them to want to improve and fully contribute to the success of their team.

"It's been really nice to step in and start games," Goodnetter said. "To not only help the team, but to get better individually."

This year's large freshman class brings a lot of energy and optimism to Wisconsin. Stepping into roles today that will direct them and the team toward a bright future, they have proven their abilities.

And according to Tennyson, fans can come to expect the high level of play he provided against Michigan from the team in the future.

For the Wisconsin men's soccer team, the future looks promising.

###

Wisconsin looks to get back on top vs. Michigan State

UW tries to break 10-game winless streak in 1st Big Ten road game of 2010

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The Badger Herald

A sense of urgency yet confidence characterizes the Wisconsin men's soccer team as it travels to East Lansing, Mich. to take on No. 21 Michigan State Sunday.

The 1-8-2 Badgers emphasized proper training, focus, attention to detail and defensive principles during its full week of practice between Big Ten games. They will attempt to break their 10-game winless streak after falling 3-2 to Michigan in its last outing.

"My expectation is that we are going to have success similar to what we did against Indiana," assistant coach Keith Tiemeyer said.

Sunday's game marks UW's first Big Ten road game of the season, which senior tri-captain defender/midfielder Aaron Nichols believes will inspire the team.

"I think it will always motivate performance,"

Nichols said. "Any time you get to play a Big Ten game, it's a whole new level. I think this game is on the Big Ten Network, so that always increases the intensity and urgency to play. It's something to look forward to."

Tiemeyer highlighted that since Sunday's game at MSU will be broadcasted on the Big Ten Network, players will have a chance to get extra rest to refocus and reenergize during the TV timeouts midway through each half.

Senior tri-captain Ryan Vint is expected to start the game in goal. He will be a good indicator of the team's success because UW has matched Vint's high performance level in games where Vint has played well.

"Ryan's our starting captain goalkeeper," Tiemeyer said. "He's the guy who will be playing the majority of the games that are in Big Ten competition."

However, it is the backline of defenders, Tiemeyer noted, who will have to be the strength of the team. Centerbacks Arnel Zahirovic and Kyle McCrudden will have to step up from their performance against Michigan when Wisconsin allowed three

goals, which were almost impossible for Vint to stop.

The Badgers face another strong attacking unit in Michigan State, led by Domenic Barone, who has recorded five goals and two assists in just seven starts this season.

Other key offensive contributors for the Spartans include playmakers Spencer Thompson, with three goals and five assists and Cyrus Saydee, who has two goals and a team-leading six assists.

"You have to have good principles against those guys, you have to defend them one-on-one properly, [and] and you have to give proper cover," Tiemeyer said. "You have to be prepared for their skill, for their energy [and] for their desire to get to the goal quickly."

The team is addressing these factors by trying to improve its sense of enthusiasm, urgency and one-on-one defense. While these are common themes the coaching staff has been underscoring all year, they are also exactly what Wisconsin needs for motivation.

"Even though we haven't won many games, we still play really good soccer," freshman forward Chris Prince said.

“We’ve had a lot of 1-0 losses and 2-1 losses, especially in overtime, so it’s not like our confidence is way down.”

The Badgers will also have to face one of the Big Ten’s elite goalkeepers in Avery Steinlage. Steinlage has allowed just 12 goals through 11 games and has saved 82 percent of opponents’ shots this season.

Prince seemed unfazed by Steinlage’s statistics.

“I feel like our goalie Ryan Vint [is] a good goalie, and we go against him everyday in practice, so I don’t know how much better he can be than Ryan,” Prince said. “As long as we put the ball in the right spots and get a good shot off on goal, I see no worries.”

Additionally, Nichols added the physical battles on 50-50 balls would be another key aspect in Sunday’s match. If UW can win the competitive headers and early tackles, it will send a strong statement to the Spartans and could get them to play more conservatively.

Consistency the entire 90 minutes of the game will also be integral for the Badgers, who have looked impressive in stretches of games but uninspired and lackluster in others.

“I think it’s going to be giving that consistent performance all the way through. In other games there has always been some sort of mistake,” Nichols said. “We just have to limit some little mistakes that have cost us some goals. It’s going to take a good overall defensive performance because they are a very, very good attacking team.”

###

No. 21 Michigan State handles UW men

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Things can't get much worse for the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team.

The Badgers were shut out for the sixth time this season, allowed three goals for the second straight game and saw their winless streak reach 11 after a 3-0 loss to No. 21 Michigan State in a Big Ten Conference match Sunday afternoon in East Lansing, Mich. (Video highlights below)

UW (1-9-2 overall, 0-2-1 Big Ten) managed only one shot on goal in its third consecutive loss, a shot by senior midfielder Aaron Nichols in the 66th minute off a corner kick that was saved by Spartans goalkeeper Avery Steinlage.

Michigan State put 10 of its 12 shots on frame – senior Ryan Vint made four saves in the first half for the Badgers, while freshman Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) stopped three shots in the second half.

The Spartans opened the scoring thanks to an own goal

in the seventh minute. Vint made an impressive save on a point-blank shot by Cyrus Saydee, but the ball went into the air and appeared headed into the net. UW defender Kyle McCrudden tried to clear it off the line, but instead accidentally put it in.

MSU (10-3-0, 2-2-0) doubled the lead late in the half when a Badgers defender was called for fouling Brent Rosendall in the penalty box. Domenic Barone took the penalty kick, sent Vint to his left and coolly slotted his shot into the other side of the goal in the 41st.

Senior Jake Fullerton finished off the scoring in the 50th, getting a shot past the sprawling Jentsch after a scramble in the 6-yard box following a free kick.

###

Men's soccer takes tough defeat in East Lansing

Badgers fall to Michigan State 3-0

By Matthew Kleist

Sunday, October 17, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team (1-9-2) had their hands full Sunday when they took on 21st ranked Michigan State (10-3-0) in East Lansing.

Proving to be too much for the Wisconsin men, the Spartans recorded three goals in route to a 3-0 shutout of the Badgers.

The Spartans came out swinging, taking control of the game early. Scoring in the seventh minute, Michigan State took the 1-0 advantage on a Wisconsin own goal. Attempting to clear the ball after a MSU shot and save by Badger keeper Ryan Vint, the ball was deflected pass Vint for the score.

The Badgers were unable to climb out of the hole that they dug for themselves.

Firmly in control of the game, the Spartans continued their assault. Taking a total of seven shots in the first half, Michigan State directed six on goal.

MSU's second goal came just five minutes before half. Scoring on a penalty kick, Michigan State's Domenic Barone beat Vint for his sixth of the season.

Facing a 2-0 deficit going into the half time break, the Badgers decided to go in a different direction, putting in freshman keeper Max Jentsch for the second half. However, despite the change, the Spartans continued their dominance.

Capping off their rout of Wisconsin, MSU's Jake Fullerton put one past Jentsch in the 50th minute, giving the Spartans the 3-0 lead. The goal came off a set piece following a Badger foul.

Sunday's goal marks the second game in a row where the Badgers surrendered a score on a set piece. The last set piece goal coming against Michigan on Oct. 10; a goal that proved to be the deciding tally in the 3-2 loss.

Finishing the game with 12 shots, the Spartans put 10 shots on goal to Wisconsin's one shot on goal. The Badgers got their only shot on goal from the foot of senior defender Aaron Nichols. The pair of Wisconsin keepers made a combined seven saves, four by Vint and three by Jentsch.

The loss against Michigan State not only marks the Badgers' third straight loss, but also marks eleven games without a win (their only win coming in their first regular season game) and their worst loss of the season.

The Badgers return home this week for pair of home games. Wisconsin will host in-state rival UW-Green Bay Wednesday night and Big Ten opponent Northwestern Saturday night. The kick off for both games is 7p.m.

###

**UW men's soccer: Own goal
paves way to third straight
loss**

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

EAST LANSING, Mich. --
The University of Wisconsin
men's soccer team surrendered
an own goal in the eighth
minute en route to a 3-0 loss
at No. 21 Michigan State.

The Badgers (1-9-2, 0-2-1)
Big Ten lost their third
straight match.

Ryan Vint made four saves
against the Spartans (10-3, 2-
2), while freshman Max
Jentsch made three.

Wisconsin 0 0 - 0

Michigan State 2 1 - 3

First half: MSU -- Own Goal,
7:30.

Second half: MSU -- Barone,
40:29; Fullerton (Barone,
Thompson), 49:40.

Saves: W (Vint) 4, (Jentsch)
3; MS (Steinlage) 1.

Shots: W 2, MS 12. Corner
kicks: W 3, MS 3. Fouls: W
10, MS 8. Att. - 1,803.

###

Badgers to take on in-state rival Phoenix

Men's soccer takes break from conference play, hosts UW-Green Bay

By Noah Goetzel

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

The Badger Herald

The Wisconsin men's soccer team will take on UW-Green Bay at home Wednesday in a game that head coach John Trask considers the ideal matchup at this point in the season.

The 1-9-2 Badgers have not won in 11 games and are coming off a disheartening 3-0 loss to No. 16 Michigan State. Additionally, UW has not achieved its desired results in mid-week, non-conference games this season, defeating just one opponent in nine games.

However, Trask says Wednesday's match will be a great chance for Wisconsin to recover from this drought.

"Green Bay is absolutely the perfect team to play because of the type of players that they have," Trask said. "Not only are they good, they have an All-American frontrunner. They are feisty, they are physical and they come to compete. You have to be ready for that, and that is what we need tomorrow; we need a test."

The Badgers will have to keep a close eye on senior Phoenix midfielder JC Banks, who has already equaled UW's entire team scoring output this season with eight goals. Banks has also recorded five assists, accounting for 21 total points on the season.

"JC is a tremendously talented player," Trask said. "He's not just clever and mature in terms of his soccer mind and touch on the ball, he's a very dynamic athlete. He's the type of player that can take over a game from beginning to end. Whether he comes out of midfield or up front, he's going to be an absolute handful for us, and he is for anyone he plays. He's an exceptional talent in the college game, and he has really matured."

To address Banks' impressive offensive capabilities, sophomore center defender Kyle McCrudden said physicality would be key. McCrudden said that while he is incredibly fast and athletic, at just 5-foot-8 and 145 pounds, Banks is not very big.

McCrudden believes that pushing Banks around a little bit could get him to back off and become less aggressive. Organization on defense in the team's new 4-4-2 formation will also be critical, according to McCrudden.

Freshman defender Luke Goodnetter says facing Banks will be no different from facing Indiana's Will Bruin, Creighton's Ethan Finlay or any of the other dynamic offensive threats the team has had to deal with this season. Sticking to the game plan, giving Banks space and learning more about his style of play through game film will all help UW contain the Phoenix midfielder.

Goodnetter believes aggressive play and a strong desire to take advantage of scoring opportunities will yield success for the UW attacking unit.

"To be honest, I think we just need to be a little more feisty up top," Goodnetter said. "Really, we just have to start putting our body into [opposing players]. We've got to get goals more. We just have to want it more, that's what it comes down to."

Over the course of the season, Wisconsin has played well at times, but has also fallen victim to mistakes that have prevented the team from achieving the results UW players and coaches know they are capable of.

"We've had a lot of inconsistent play," Trask said. "It comes down to a lot of little things that I find when

you don't have a boatload of experience on the field, it's hard to cover for all these little mistakes that are being made."

Despite the numerous inexperienced players on the field for UW during almost every game, Trask believes the young defense has matured and meshed together sufficiently for the coaches to make a necessary formation change.

Instead of the team's typical 5-4-1 formation, Wisconsin will adopt a more attacking 4-4-2 formation Wednesday in hopes of gaining more scoring opportunities. Trask has yet to determine who will play alongside Chris Prince at forward against Green Bay.

Additionally, after giving up five goals in just one game and a half, Trask has decided midway through the MSU game to relinquish senior tri-captain Ryan Vint of his starting goalkeeper role, and will instead start freshman Max Jentsch in goal.

"Ryan has been told this was not just giving Jentsch some experience," Trask said. "At this point, Jentsch is the starting goalkeeper, now he has to earn the right to stay in goal. As I said to Ryan, I hope for Max Jentsch — as I hope for any player when given the opportunity — that they

perform heroically and never look back."

"That's my hope with every player I put on the field game in and game out starting," Trask continued. "That's all you can hope for as a coach. You wouldn't put the player out there if you didn't think he was the best at the time for the job, and that's what we think Max is right this second."

###

Wisconsin looks to end draught against UW-GB

By Matthew Kleist

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

It has been 46 days since the Wisconsin men's soccer team (1-9-2, 0-2-1 Big Ten) won a game. It may be fair to say that the team is now in panic mode, if they hadn't already been. As the only team in the conference without a Big Ten win, it is crunch time for the Badgers.

With only six games left before the Big Ten Tournament starts, Wisconsin is looking to finish the season strong by earning a handful of positive results.

Returning home after a thorough thrashing at the hands of Michigan State, the Badgers will host in-state rival UW-Green Bay (7-4-1) at the McClimon Soccer Complex Wednesday night.

Historically, the two teams are evenly matched, with the all-time series tied at 16-16-1.

Neither side has had the advantage in recent years either, with the series over the last nine years going 4-4-1. The Phoenix took the victory last season in a 1-0 shutout win when the Badgers traveled to Green Bay.

Having an impressive season, the Phoenix boast one of the nation's top players in senior midfielder J.C. Banks, who ranks among the top 20 in four offensive categories. With eight goals on the season and averaging 0.67 per game, Banks ranks 17th in the nation in both categories. He is also ranked 12th in total points and points per game with 21 and 1.75, respectively.

Aside from Banks, the Phoenix have a number of players who can put the ball away. With three goals and four assists of his own, Green Bay midfielder Tony Walls is also a threat on offense. All together, Green Bay can put 12 different players on the field that have at least one point on the season.

Against a high-powered offense like that of Green Bay, the Badger defense will need to be firing on all cylinders. Having a solid year of their own, the Wisconsin defense has only given up 18 goals this season.

In a game that is shaping up to be a defensive struggle for the Badgers on paper, it will be the ability of the Wisconsin offense to put up points that could be the difference. If the Badgers are able to get on the board first and early, the advantage will turn to them, as Green Bay has only won one

game where their opponent has scored the first goal.

In what appears to be an exciting matchup, the Badgers need to leave the field with a win in order to revitalize their season. Looking to enter the Big Ten Tournament with some momentum, Wisconsin needs a win more than ever.

###

**Men's soccer drops another in overtime, 4-3
Freshman Prince boosts Badgers to highest score total of season by knocking in 2 goals**

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The Badger Herald

It's starting to feel like salt on an open wound.

Facing in-state rival UW-Green Bay, the Wisconsin men's soccer team put up the most goals on the board in a single game all season. But it wasn't quite enough as the Badgers fell 4-3 in another overtime loss.

Playing in a new system, the squad was still searching for their second win of the season. It seemed like a reality when freshman forward Chris Prince lobbed the ball over the UWGB goalkeeper to put UW ahead 3-2 with 15 minutes left in the game.

It was Prince's second goal of the night, but it was definitely his most impressive.

"We caught the defense off guard, brought the goalie out, so I just put it over," Prince said. "It was a fun goal."

"[Prince's] second one was a goal scorer's goal," head coach John Trask said. "The instinct to lob the goal keeper

there was a lot like his goal at Indiana. Those are not necessarily learned things, those are instinctual. [Prince] really excites us. We'd love to see him get another one, to get his first natural hat trick. I'm not even sure how many goals he has now. He continues to impress us. He continues to get better like a lot of these young guys."

Prince wasn't the only impressive freshman on the field. Midfielder Joey Tennyson tallied his first collegiate goal to tie up the game at 2-2 off a free kick. Goalkeeper Max Jentsch also started in goal making a total of nine saves.

Jentsch certainly didn't have an ideal night with four goals against, but he still kept his team in the game.

"I thought he made some very good saves," Trask said. "He made some good saves. Bottom line, he's another one of the young bucks, he's a freshman. He's doing some very good things and he'll make a mistake here and there and that's to be expected."

Despite being so close to finally getting another win on the season, Green Bay wasn't ready for the game to be over yet.

Only five minutes later after Prince put the Badgers on top, the Phoenix's Sam Krenzien evened things out for the third time in the game off a header, ultimately pushing the game into overtime.

As the wind was getting stronger, both teams were fighting hard to knock in a goal to seal the victory. UWGB found that chance in the 96th minute of the game.

JC Banks bent the ball to the far post, right around Jentsch and freshman defender Luke Goodnetter to give UW its tenth loss.

"I didn't get as good of a hold on the ball as I would have liked," Jentsch said of the goal. "They just countered on us. That's pretty much it. He cut it in from the side-line and scored."

"I'm not sure exactly what happened on the left side of the field," Trask said. "Banks skated free — that's why he's an All-American — and it was smart bending it around our goalkeeper. One of our defenders was on the line and tried to knock it out — I don't know if the wind had an impact at that point, it was probably coming heavier than you'd anticipate normally and just couldn't turn it out."

Wisconsin just can't seem to walk away with a win.

Regardless of the disappointing loss, the squad still felt it played one of the best games it's played all season. It was the first game in which they scored three goals and generated a lot more offense.

"We played a good game," Prince said. "It's probably one of the best games we've played this year. I don't know. It just seems like we can't come away with a win no matter what we do."

The Badgers are frustrated, there's no doubt about it. It was clear in their faces and in the quiet manner they left the field.

Even with the frustration Trask wasn't angry with the squad or thoroughly disappointed after yet another loss. In fact, he was proud of the fight they put up against a team that was in the NCAA tournament last year.

"I was proud of the guys tonight," Trask said. "They know we've had a couple performances where I wasn't proud. Tonight I was proud of the effort given. I thought they battled for each other, I thought they battled for the university. We got beat. That was a team that was in the NCAA tournament last year

with a true All-American front runner. They're a good team."

Wisconsin has faced a very rough season and can't seem to catch a break or finish out a win. The guys are discouraged, but they are still fighting for each other — that much was clear when they started to get more aggressive as the clock ran.

Trask can only hope they can keep the fight alive through the rest of the season. Eventually they may finally find some success.

"I felt they had each others' backs to the 'nth' degree. It didn't come out for them. If we can keep that right that's going to be huge as we finish up the rest of the season and prepare for the Big Ten tournament."

###

Defense struggles in high-scoring OT loss

By Jack Doyle

Thursday, October 21, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team fell to UW-Green Bay 4-3 in overtime Wednesday night at the McClimon Complex to extend their winless streak to 12 matches.

Despite two goals from freshman forward Chris Prince, the Badgers (0-2-1 Big Ten, 1-10-2 overall) were unable to overcome the potent offense Phoenix offense led by All-American J.C. Banks and teammate Dan Krueger. Banks and Krueger gave the Wisconsin defense and freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch all they could handle by peppering the Badgers' goal with 16 shots and consistently sending in threatening crosses.

The result the most goals Wisconsin has allowed in a single game all season. The usually stout Badger defense was no match for the dynamic duo of Banks and Krueger. After Green Bay made their way into Wisconsin's penalty box, Krueger was found open and put the Phoenix ahead 1-0 in the ninth minute with a simple finish to the lower corner of the net.

But it didn't take long for the Badgers to tie it up. Twenty minutes later, senior Aaron Nichols broke through the Green Bay defense and hit a wide-open Prince, who coolly put it past Phoenix goalkeeper Ryan Wehking to even the score at 1-1. Neither team managed to muster another goal before halftime, but Banks almost made it 2-1 when he fired a shot off the post on a breakaway with just one minute remaining.

Not even 90 seconds into the second half, though, Green Bay pulled ahead. Unable to contain a blistering shot from freshman Phoenix forward Sam Krenzien, Jentsch let the ball sneak through his legs to an awaiting Krueger who tapped it in to give Green Bay the lead. Twenty minutes later, Wisconsin evened the score once again. Freshman Joey Tennyson scored his first collegiate goal with a bending left-footed free kick from about 25 yards out that caught Wehking off guard.

"Joey's been working hard on free kicks every day, so I guess it showed today," Jentsch said.

After Prince's second goal of the night, a lob over an oncoming Wehking in the 75th minute, Wisconsin achieved something it had not since its Oct. 3rd match at

Indiana: A lead. The tally also marked the first time the Badgers have notched three goals in a match this season.

But the Phoenix were not done. In the 81st minute Green Bay's Tony Patterson streaked down the right sideline and sent in a beautiful cross to Krenzien, who headed it into the net before Jentsch had a chance to react. After Jentsch made a spectacular diving save on another Banks free kick to preserve the 3-3 tie the match went into overtime.

The Green Bay onslaught did not stop. Jentsch was able to parry a Phoenix shot, but Banks found the rebound and put it far post to secure the 4-3 win for Green Bay.

Although the loss stings, Prince said the team did well Wednesday night.

"This is probably one of the best games we've played all year," he said. "I think we're all down after this game but I think tomorrow and the next day we can take a lot out of it."

"It just seems like we can't get away with a win," he added.

Wisconsin continues their home stand when they take on Big Ten foe Northwestern at 7

p.m. Saturday at the
McClimon Complex.

###

Phoenix come back, beat Badgers in OT

By Eric Anderson

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

The University of Wisconsin men's soccer team got its offense going Wednesday night, scoring a season-high three goals.

But once again the Badgers were on the wrong end of a one-goal game, falling to UW-Green Bay 4-3 in overtime in a non-conference match at the McClimon Complex.

"I was proud of our guys tonight," UW coach John Trask said in a news release. "It was cool to see our guys score three times. I just wish it would've ended 3-2 so they could have enjoyed all the hard work they put into the game."

Senior midfielder JC Banks (Milwaukee Riverside) was credited with the game-winning goal in the 97th minute for the Phoenix (8-4-1), who trailed 3-2 heading into the final 10 minutes of regulation.

Forward Chris Prince scored his third and fourth goals of the season and fellow freshman Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) made nine saves for UW (1-10-2), which has suffered all but one

of its losses by the slimmest of margins.

"I thought Max Jentsch made some very good saves," said Trask, whose team is winless in 12 games since winning its season opener. "Bottom line, he is another one of the young players. He's a freshman. He's doing some very good things, but he's still going to make a mistake here and there. That is expected."

UWGB went ahead twice through senior midfielder Dan Krueger, who scored his first goal of the year in the ninth minute and added his second in the 47th.

Prince equalized on a volley in the 29th, and another freshman, midfielder Joey Tennyson (Menomonee Falls), did the honors in the 69th. Tennyson drew a foul 30 yards out, then ripped a free kick past UWGB sophomore keeper Ryan Wehking for his first collegiate goal on the ensuing free kick.

"That was a great strike by Joey on the free kick," Trask said. "We know that is one of the things that he does very well, so it was great to see him rewarded for stepping up and doing that."

UW went ahead six minutes later when Prince raced onto a free kick by Jentsch – the

keeper took the kick from just outside his own goal box after the Phoenix were whistled offside – and chipped Wehking.

The three goals were the most for the Badgers since a 4-1 win over Penn State on Oct. 26, 2008 – a span of 33 games.

"I thought both of Chris Prince's goals were solid. The first one was just a good goal, and the second was a goal-scorer's goal," Trask said. "The instinct to lob the goalkeeper there was a lot like his goal at Indiana. Those are not necessarily learned things. Chris really excites us. He continues to impress us and continues to get better, like a lot of these young guys."

The Phoenix, though, answered with a freshman of their own. Forward Sam Krenzien (Wauwatosa West) got on the end of a cross from junior midfielder Tony Patterson (Menomonee Falls) and headed the ball past Jentsch for his third goal of the year in the 81st.

Banks netted his team-best ninth goal of the season, and sixth in the past four matches, after getting behind a UW defender 6:21 into the extra period.

"JC has a great understanding of where to get into spots where he's not seen," coach Tom Poitras said after the Phoenix outshot UW 16-8 to earn their fourth straight win.

The Badgers, who are 0-4-2 in overtime games, need to win four more games to avoid the worst record in program history – the 1998 team was 4-15-1.

"Tonight's game was another step forward," Trask said.

"You get the lead at 3-2, and holding onto it, those are more lessons that are going to have to be learned as we continue moving this thing forward. That's all part of it.

"Tonight I felt like the guys really had each other's backs. It didn't come out for them, but if we can keep that right, it's going to be huge as we finish up the rest of the season and prepare for the Big Ten tournament."

###

New formation sparks offense in loss
Trask's 4-4-2 system creates more pressure but Badgers still come up short

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, October 21, 2010

The Badger Herald

Wednesday night's men's soccer game at McClimon Soccer Complex featured seven goals, treacherous winds, a trilling overtime finish and an all too familiar result for the Badgers, as they lost to UW-Green Bay 4-3 in OT.

Wisconsin came out with a new look on offense, which pushed senior captain Aaron Nichols to forward to play alongside freshman striker Chris Prince

The new 4-4-2 formation helped UW reach its highest scoring output of the season, with three goals, and gave Prince some much needed assistance up front. Nichols' presence on the offensive end allowed Prince to contribute two stunning goals to keep Wisconsin in the game late.

"Well, usually we just played one up top, and that was me, and usually, I just hold the ball," Prince said. "Getting Aaron up there, he's looking to run off me and has a lot more speed, so it adds a lot more speed to the attack."

Prince said the new formation was one factor that contributed to UW's season-high three goals in the game because adding another player to the offensive attack allowed for more scoring opportunities, and as a result, more goals on the scoreboard.

Although the two goals look good on Prince's stat line, the end result of the game is all that really counts for Prince, who expressed an expected sense of frustration from the loss.

"We played a good game. It's probably one of the best games we've played this year. I don't know, it just seemed we can't come away with a win no matter what we do. I think playing our new formation is good. We got a lot from the game, so [we] hope to get better."

Head coach John Trask admitted some growing pains would accompany the new formation, but liked the different look from the offensive end. Trask noted forward Bryan Gerster as a key contributor for the game.

While Trask realizes the toll it takes on Prince to play as the team's only forward, he also acknowledged the toll it takes on the midfield and backs to man down.

The key decision on Trask's plate is whether to stick with the new formation and allow a lot of goals as long as the team is scoring a lot of goals, or to return to a defense-oriented formation where the team was losing games 1-0.

Despite the unfortunate loss for Wisconsin, Trask saw a lot of good things from the game that were less apparent in previous games.

"I was proud of the guys tonight," Trask said. "We've had a couple of performances that they know I wasn't proud of, and tonight, I was proud of the effort given. I thought they battled for each other; I thought they battled for the university."

In addition to the new formation, freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch played his first game for the Badgers as a full-time starter.

Jentsch allowed four goals, but recorded nine saves to help weather the Green Bay Phoenix's 15 shot offensive storm led by All-American midfielder JC Banks and fellow midfielder Dan Krueger, who scored two goals on the night.

"As a whole, we played a lot better than we had in the past, I thought," Jentsch said. "We actually scored some goals; it

was nice. Unfortunately, we allowed more goals than we scored, but everything was better this game.”

Jentsch said all of the goalkeepers are in a competition for who will in goal the next game.

Trask said Jentsch made some very good saves and is doing some great things on the field while making a few mistakes as well, which is to be expected of a freshman.

However, Trask did not confirm Jentsch would be the team’s goalkeeper moving forward. Instead, he said the coaching staff would talk about the options at goalkeeper the next couple of days.

###

**Badgers face tough foe in Northwestern
Wildcats come to Madison as men's soccer continues homestand**

By Kelly Erickson
Thursday, October 21, 2010
The Badger Herald

With only five games left in the season, the Wisconsin men's soccer team hosts another Big Ten matchup this Saturday against Northwestern.

After a tough 4-3 loss at home against UW-Green Bay, Wisconsin has to move on from the disappointing result and prepare for Saturday.

Head coach John Trask doesn't think moving on will be too difficult because despite the loss, he was still proud of the way his squad played. Wednesday's loss was the first game this season the Badgers scored three goals, but it just wasn't enough.

"As I told the team, I was proud," Trask said. "I was proud of the way they played. There's no negative feelings. It's not like I felt they bailed on each other or bailed on the plan, so I think we all move forward positively."

For a team that only scored eight goals through 12 games, scoring three goals in one was definitely a positive. Now, the

Badgers need to carry the offensive threat into the game against Northwestern.

Freshman forward Chris Prince — who scored two goals on Wednesday — feels like the Badgers can produce the same offense against the Wildcats.

"We're just going to come out like we did [Wednesday]," Prince said. "Pretty much the same thing. I think if we play the same way we did, we'll do good against them — should get a win."

Wisconsin (1-10-2, 0-2-1 Big Ten) is confident it can put up a fight, but Northwestern (7-5-2, 1-1-1 Big Ten) is a tough team, and the Wildcats ended their season in the third round of the NCAA Tournament last year.

Head coach Tim Lenahan is in his seventh season with the Wildcats and led them to a No. 11 ranking at the end of the season. Lenahan has a very powerful and speedy line-up with junior forward Oliver Kupe leading the team with six goals and All-American hopeful Matt Eliason contributing two goals and a total of eight points.

Trask knows Northwestern will be a challenge for his squad.

"They're extremely hard working, they have good balance," Trask said. "Coach Lenahan does a fine job. They get after you with speed. They've got some speed on their team. I don't know how many goals Eliason has but he's another very good front runner. They'll pose problems for us; hopefully we can continue scoring some goals and pose some problems for them going the other way."

In order to pose some problems for the Wildcats, the Badgers have to start relying on a lot of mental strength to get themselves pumped up for the game. After taking loss after loss after loss, it's really starting to wear the team down a little bit. But after facing Michigan State in what was probably their worst loss of the season, Wisconsin was able to put the most goals on the board it has all season.

Trask is confident the guys will be able to reach deep again and play a strong game against Northwestern.

"They're going to have to reach deep again," Trask said. "They did tonight after a tough game at Michigan State. Hopefully we're going to see some resiliency. Maybe stick to some of this, maybe change one or two little things and keep tweaking this to give the guys a chance to win the game

against Northwestern. It'll be a great challenge for us, another tournament tested team.”

While the losses are getting tougher, freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch knows the team can't focus on what's happened, they just need to move forward.

“We just have to get our heads straight again and go hard against Northwestern,” Jentsch said.

###

UW men fall on 70-yard shot in OT

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, October 24, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Following what has become a familiar refrain this season, the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team lost by one goal Saturday night.

But this might have been the most painful ending in a frustrating season.

Matt Eliason converted an 89th-minute penalty kick to force overtime and Jack Hillgard scored the game-winner when his drive from approximately 70 yards out bounced in over UW goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) in the 95th minute as Northwestern dealt UW its second consecutive 4-3 loss in a Big Ten Conference match at the McClimon Complex.

Freshman forward Chris Prince recorded the Badgers' first hat trick since 2006, capping the feat with goals in the 84th and 85th minutes to give UW a 3-2 lead.

"He is a very good player," said UW coach John Trask, whose team has scored eight goals in its past four matches after managing just six in the first 10 games. "I am looking forward to working with him

for the next 3½ years. There is something special about that kid."

The Badgers (1-11-2 overall, 0-3-1 Big Ten) scored three or more goals in back-to-back games for the first time since 2005. Yet they still saw their winless streak reach 13 after their 10th one-goal loss, one that came in the most unlikely fashion.

UW had a corner kick early in overtime, but the Wildcats cleared the ball out to Hillgard. The senior midfielder launched the ball down field, and it bounced at the top of the 18-yard box and sailed over Jentsch and into the goal. The Northwestern media relations report estimated the distance at 70 yards.

"It's one of those things that happens to every goalkeeper at some point in time during his career," said Northwestern coach Tim Lenahan, who recorded his 100th career victory. "Wisconsin played very well. Luck just hasn't been on their side this season. I guess the soccer gods were looking down on us tonight."

Prince put UW ahead in the 16th minute, but Lepe Seetane tied it for the Wildcats (8-5-2, 2-1-1) in the 24th and set up Oliver Kupe's go-ahead goal in the 51st. It remained that

way until the wild final 10 minutes of regulation.

Senior midfielder Aaron Nichols provided the service for Prince's equalizer, whipping in a cross from the left side that the former Chicago Fire Academy player headed in at the far post. Freshman midfielder Paul Yonga did the honors a minute later, playing Prince a ball that set up a blast that deflected off a Northwestern defender and into the net. It was Yonga's first career point.

"Yonga just keeps impressing us and keeps becoming a better player," Trask said. "There is a lot to like about him. There is something to like about every player on this team."

Prince has scored five goals in the past two games and has recorded half of the Badgers' 14 goals on the season. It was the seventh overtime match of the season for the Badgers, tying a program record set in 1982 and matched in 1996 and '97. UW is 0-5-2 in those games.

Prince's hat trick was the 23rd in program history. The most recent UW players to bag three goals in a game were Victor Diaz and Brian Bultman, who each scored three times in a 7-0 rout of

Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne
on Sept. 3, 2006.

Northwestern had to use three
goalkeepers, as both starter
Drew Kotler and backup
Tommy Tombridge left the
game due to injury.
Sophomore Jonathan Harris
came in for the overtime
period and claimed his first
career victory.

"It's one of the craziest games
that I've ever been a part of,"
Lenahan said.

###

**Let's all have a laugh,
Badgers lose in OT
Badgers lose 4-3 against
Northwestern in 2nd
consecutive overtime loss**

By Noah Goetzel

Sunday, October 24, 2010

The Badger Herald

In a bizarre episode of déjà vu, the Wisconsin men's soccer team lost 4-3 in overtime for the second time in one week after Sunday's loss to Northwestern.

Sunday's game in McClimon Soccer Complex featured the first career hat trick for freshman forward Chris Price, but it was not enough for the Badgers.

Trailing 2-1 for more than 30 minutes, Prince struck the back of the net in the 83rd and 84th minutes to put the Badgers ahead.

However, with just a minute and 16 seconds remaining in regulation, a foul during a scramble in the UW box awarded Northwestern's Matt Eliason a penalty kick, which he rifled into the upper right corner of the goal to knot the game up at 3-3.

In the 94th minute, the Wildcats (8-5-2) scored again off a long clear intended to reach a streaking NU striker. Wisconsin goalkeeper Max Jentsch charged for the ball as

it floated through the air, but came too late and misjudged the ball, allowing it to bounce over his head and into the goal.

"He's the number one," said head coach John Trask about Jentsch. "I feel horrible for him that the ball takes the bounce that it does and then goes over his head. It's a goalkeeper's nightmare — that's all you can say. I know Max will bounce back. He's a good goalkeeper and a better kid."

Hat trick hero Prince and senior captain defender/midfielder Aaron Nichols, who assisted Prince to tie the game at 2-2, echoed Trask's compliments to Jentsch, saying Jentsch is great and cannot be blamed for letting up the final unlucky goal Sunday night.

Like Wednesday's matchup against Green Bay, the Badgers fought back from a 2-1 deficit to go up 3-2, but ultimately fell because of a defensive lapse that led to a break away finish in OT.

"As you can imagine, it takes a lot out of you," Nichols said. "We did so much to get back into that game. I'm proud of everybody in this team. Everyone just gave everything they had for each other, had each other's backs and fought

back into that game. It just really kind of deflates you, but we're staying positive."

Nichols added that there are plenty of positives the team can take from that game. He emphasized resilience as an integral characteristic of the team that has aided the learning curve for the newcomers.

Despite the anguish from such a heart wrenching defeat, Trask and Nichols knew the team would come out with a positive attitude the next day.

"They're going to do what they always do," Trask said. "They're going to come back and work their asses off to try and become a better soccer team. That's what the coaching staff and the players are all about. If you look at the performance of my guys tonight [and] the way they fought again tonight, I have nothing but respect for every one of [our] guys in the white jerseys."

Bryan Gerster and Trevor Wheeler returned to the Badger's starting lineup Sunday after being limited by injuries part of the season. Gerster replaced Nichols at forward in UW's new 4-4-2 attack, while Wheeler played as an outside midfielder.

Prince complimented Gerster's level of commitment in a game where UW outshot NU 14-12 and Prince believed the team took control of the game.

"We took control...for pretty much the whole game," Prince said. "We were all confident; we felt a win coming. Especially myself, I felt confident that we were going to win, especially after putting in three goals. Somehow we just always make a mistake, and it cost us the game. Soon enough, we have to learn from it, but I think the next few games we are going to learn from it and hopefully turn it into a win."

In terms of what the team can take away from these back-to-back devastating OT losses, Trask found humor to make the best out of an unfortunate situation.

"I hope my team can have a laugh," Trask said. "They deserve to have a laugh. They're doing everything we ask and this will make us stronger. Believe it or not, this will make us stronger. Maybe sitting here a couple of years from now, we may all have a laugh."

###

Team falls in wild game, even more bizarre overtime goal

Men's soccer still searching for second Big Ten win

By Matthew Kleist

Monday, October 25, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team (0-3-1 Big Ten, 1-11-2 overall) dropped another heartbreaker Saturday night, falling to Northwestern (2-1-1 Big Ten, 7-5-2) 4-3 in overtime.

The Badgers began the scoring early, getting on the board first in the 16th minute. Freshman forward Chris Prince received the long ball from fellow freshman defender Paul Yonga, and after beating a defender, found the back of the net.

The Wildcats would get the equalizer in the 24th minute on a goal by freshman midfielder Lepe Seetane. Pressuring the Badger defense, Northwestern found themselves with the ball at the top of the UW penalty box. Seetane ripped a hard shot that was deflected by a Badger defender and past UW freshman keeper Max Jentsch.

"Lepe turned us well, he smacked it and it had some pace," head coach John Trask said. "It took that deflection,

[Jentsch] was not going to be able to do anything on that."

The Badgers would take the 1-1 tie into halftime, looking to get the lead back in the second half.

However, it would be the Wildcats taking the lead though. On a brilliant play by Northwestern forward Oliver Kupe, the junior put the ball on the net to score, but only after hitting the crossbar did the ball bounce back into the goal, giving the Wildcats the 2-1 lead in the 51st minute.

After a period where it looked as though Northwestern would put the game beyond the reach, Wisconsin finally found an answer in the 84th minute. Receiving a well played ball down the line, senior defender Aaron Nichols sent a cross into the Northwestern box. Controlling the cross, Prince directed the ball to the back of the net to tie the score.

Not even a minute later, Wisconsin was back on the attack. Fighting his way into the box, freshman defender Paul Yonga created just enough space to send the ball across the front of the goal. Continuing his spectacular night, Prince made an excellent play on the ball to fool Northwestern's keeper and once again scores for the Badgers.

"I rarely get into the box," Yonga said. "So when I did, I knew I had to fight my hardest to keep going and get a cross in."

"I was on the front post and I think the goalie thought that I was going to let the ball go back post," Prince said. "I just let it go through my legs and put it right back at him, and he wasn't expecting it."

With just over a minute left, Northwestern earned a penalty kick on a UW handball. Taken by Matt Eliason, Eliason kept the ball on the ground, putting it to the right of Jentsch and past the UW keeper.

The game would end just over four minutes into the first overtime period, when Northwestern senior midfielder Jack Hillgard played the ball from nearly 70 yards out. Jentsch came out to make a play on the ball, but misjudged the bounce. The ball went clear over Jentsch's head and into the goal, giving Northwestern the win.

When asked what the team will take away from Saturday's tough loss, Yonga responded, "Really, I don't know. There's got to be a reason we're losing right now. Hopefully, we'll learn how to fight through these loses."

###

Prince's big week earns Big Ten honor

By Eric Anderson

Monday, October 25, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

A day after his first collegiate hat trick, University of Wisconsin forward Chris Prince added another item to his quickly growing resume.

The freshman was named the Big Ten Conference Offensive Player of the Week in the wake of a five-goal week that put him among the conference leaders.

Prince had five of the Badgers' six goals last week, scoring twice in a 4-3 overtime non-conference loss to UW-Green Bay on Wednesday and adding three more in Saturday's 4-3 overtime loss to Northwestern. In each game, he gave UW a 3-2 lead, but the Badgers (1-11-2 overall, 0-3-1 Big Ten) couldn't hold on.

The hat trick was the first for UW since 2006 and took his season total to seven goals – half of the Badgers' total. Prince is tied for fourth in the Big Ten in goals and ranks fifth in goals per game (0.50).

###

**UW set for in-state
showdown**

Men's soccer, looking for a better defensive effort, will host UW-Milwaukee Wednesday night

By Noah Goetzel

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

The Badger Herald

Despite scoring a season-high three goals each in both its games last week, the Wisconsin men's soccer team (1-11-2) has allowed 11 goals in the past three games. Both defeats came in the form of 4-3 overtime losses. So this week, the Badgers must focus defensively against in-state rival UW-Milwaukee (5-7-2) at home Wednesday night

According to head coach John Trask, Milwaukee should be a good test for Wisconsin. The Panthers come in with the same 4-4-2 attack as the Badgers and will be hyped up to take down an underperforming foe in a game full of local ties between players.

"It's going to be a war," Trask said. "It's a derby. It's going to be a tight, tough, tough, tough game. Hopefully we're going to bounce back and be ready for them."

Milwaukee's offensive unit features Andrew Wiedabach, who has recorded four goals and three assists. Ross Van Osdol has four assists, and Jordan Record has propelled

the Panthers to victory twice with game-winning goals this season.

"From what I've seen so far, it's usually the three or four player on a team that brings a team across," junior defender Arnel Zahirovic said. "I think Milwaukee is the type of team that plays a very collective game, so it's not so much watching one player as it is the whole team."

Zahirovic added that ball possession in critical times and applying further pressure up the field would be necessary for the defense to minimize opponent goals and hopefully maintain a clean sheet against Milwaukee.

As seen last week, the offense is taking advantage of scoring opportunities, but it is up to Zahirovic and the Badger defense to prevent Milwaukee from doing the same.

The Badgers have thrilled fans with a barrage of goals but have been unsuccessful in holding opponents in check defensively since switching from a 4-5-1 to a more attacking 4-4-2 formation Oct. 17 against Michigan State.

Trask attributed many of the recent goals scored against the Badgers to the learning curve his defense full of newcomers has had to adjust to with the

new formation. However, he still asserted his overall discontent with the defensive vulnerability under the 4-4-2 formation.

"If we're going to consistently give up four to a good team, I don't know [if we'll stay with the 4-4-2]," Trask said. "I'd rather get back to losing 0-1 and stay in it than maybe losing 4-3. I'm not here to entertain a crowd with seven goals, I'm here to try put these guys in a position to win a soccer game."

Despite the recent defensive lapses, freshman forward Chris Prince was awarded Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week Monday after tallying five goals in just two games last week, including a hat trick effort in Wisconsin's loss to Northwestern.

Prince said it feels good to accomplish this accolade so early in his college career and hopes there is more success to come. Playing in the new 4-4-2 offense that creates more scoring opportunities was a key contributor to his increase in goal output.

"I'm definitely comfortable having [the team] look for me for a goal," Prince said.

"That's one of my strong points in the game, and I'm definitely getting more confident in that area. I don't

know if that will affect me, ###
but I think definitely me and a
couple of the other guys of the
freshmen are helping [the rest
of the team] along, maybe the
whole team too. Even though
we're younger, they still have
things they can learn from
too."

Milwaukee's recognition of
UW's sub-par record and the
intense stakes for state
bragging rights will keep the
Panthers eager for a win. To
overcome this, Prince said
mental focus and confidence
would be crucial
improvements necessary for
Wednesday's game.

For Prince, the team should
maintain a "must win"
mentality every game of the
season. The team must
continue this attitude
especially against its in-state
rival to get on the right track
heading into the Big Ten
Tournament.

"After losing so many games
throughout the season, there's
a certain point you don't want
to lose anymore," Prince said.
"I think in every game for the
past three games, our fight has
become a lot harder. We don't
want to lose the challenge for
every ball. Soon enough,
there's just going to be that
time where we don't let up at
all, we know the stakes and
just come out to win."

With recent history on their side, Badgers set to take on Panthers

By Jack Doyle

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

With only four matches remaining in the 2010 season for the Wisconsin men's soccer team (0-3-1 Big Ten, 1-11-2 overall), Wednesday night's contest at the McClimon Complex against UW-Milwaukee (3-4-0, 5-7-2) presents the best chance for the Badgers to notch a second victory on the year. Wisconsin has not lost to the Panthers since 2005.

To earn a third consecutive victory against their in-state rival, the Badgers must continue to go through their emerging star at forward, freshman Chris Prince. Prince won the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week award for his spectacular play in Wisconsin's 4-3 overtime losses to UW-Green Bay and Northwestern. The striker tallied two goals against the Phoenix and followed that performance with his first ever collegiate hat trick against the Wildcats. Prince now has a team-high seven goals on the season.

But while the Badgers nearly scored as many goals in last week's pair of games as they had in the previous 12

matches (seven), they also gave up four goals for the first and second time this season. The increase in goals allowed could be due to losing an extra midfielder by switching from a 4-5-1 formation to a 4-4-2, but some players did not feel it was a factor.

"I really don't [think so]," Prince said, when asked if the new formation led to a softer defense. "We did good defensively, it's just key mistakes we make in the back that allow goals."

To prevent another four-goal letdown, freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch and the Wisconsin defense need to contain Milwaukee's scoring threats, something they were unable to do when Green Bay and All-American J.C. Banks came into town.

The Panthers' offense flows through sophomore Andrew Wiedabach, who leads Milwaukee with 11 points off of four goals and three assists. Junior midfielder Ross Van Osdol is also a playmaker for the Panthers and has recorded four assists on the year.

After Wednesday night's game the Badgers travel to Ohio State for a Big Ten match-up against the No. 25 Buckeyes on Halloween before hosting the University of Illinois-Chicago and Penn State in

early November to wrap up their season.

###

**UW men's soccer: Badgers
stop winless streak as
freshmen lead the way**

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

**Wisconsin State
Journal/Madison.com**

Nick Janus and Joey
Tennyson scored 31 seconds
apart in the first 10 minutes as
the University of Wisconsin
men's soccer team defeated
UW-Milwaukee 2-0
Wednesday night at
McClimon Soccer Complex to
halt a 13-game winless streak.

Bryan Gerster assisted on both
goals for the Badgers (2-11-
2), who won for the first time
since defeating Santa Clara on
Sept. 4 in Irvine, Calif.

UW lost its next four games
after that win and had dropped
its past five before defeating
UW-Milwaukee.

Seven freshmen started for the
Badgers against the Panthers,
including Janus and
Tennyson.

###

Badgers shut out Panthers for win number two

By Jack Doyle

Thursday, October 28, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team can now breathe a sigh of relief.

After failing to win a match for nearly two months, the Badgers defeated UW-Milwaukee 2-0 behind freshman midfielder Nick Janus' first collegiate goal and two assists from senior forward Bryan Gerster for their second win of the season. Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch also recorded his first career shutout in the victory.

The story of the first half was Wisconsin's offense. With the team seemingly getting more comfortable with their 4-4-2 formation, the Badgers scored twice in the first 10 minutes of the match. Less than nine minutes into the game, Gerster made a run down the left side of the field before laying it off in the penalty box to Janus, who beat a defender before poking it past Milwaukee goalkeeper John Shakon.

For Janus, a prolific scorer in high school, that first goal was a long time coming.

"It just felt nice to get over the hump," Janus said.

It did not take long for Wisconsin to strike again. Just 31 seconds later, Gerster's cross from the right sideline found freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson at the near post for a textbook header goal. After the match, Gerster made it apparent he was much more concerned with getting the squad's first victory since the season opener than individual statistics.

"I don't really care if I get both of the assists as long as we win, which we finally did," Gerster said.

Just as noteworthy as Wisconsin's early goals was the defense holding Milwaukee scoreless. The Panthers were unable to get much of anything going, and Jentsch posted his first collegiate shutout while only having to make one save all night. Jentsch and the defense might have gotten a little lucky on one play, though.

After a Milwaukee player rifled a shot that struck the underside of the crossbar, the ball bounced to a fellow Panther, who had nothing but a wide-open net to shoot at. An apparent mishit, combined with the wind, sent the ball flying wide left and out of bounds.

Head coach John Trask thought the shutout would

provide Jentsch, who has allowed eight goals over the past two matches, with a confidence boost.

"It's huge," Trask said. "The other night was so unfortunate for Max. You see it in photos, you read about it, you see it on the bloopers on YouTube. That could have happened to any goalkeeper and he bounced back with confidence."

And the defense as a whole?

"Tonight was a good, solid defensive performance," Trask said. "I'm not into the 4-3 performances; this was my type of soccer game."

The Badgers will look to ride the momentum from Wednesday night's win into the weekend, when they go on the road to play No. 25 Ohio State Sunday afternoon.

###

Men's soccer finally has reason to smile

Early goal in 9th minute from Nick Janus propels UW to 2nd win of season

By Kelly Erickson

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

The Badger Herald

It was windy. It was cold. It was their first win in almost two months.

Finally getting their second win of the season the Wisconsin men's soccer team shutout the Milwaukee Panthers 2-0.

The last time Wisconsin got a win was Sept. 4 against Santa Clara at the UC Irvine College classic. The Badgers have seen their fair share of struggles this season, but they earned a win against the Panthers with the decisive goal from freshman Nick Janus just nine minutes into the game.

Off a beautiful assist from senior forward Bryan Gerster, Janus notched his first collegiate goal and the game-winning goal.

"It feels good just to get over the hump," Janus said of the goal. "I played forward in high school and club and I used to score goals and when I got here it was just kind of different. Getting used to the

college game, it's nice to finally get it."

Head coach John Trask just seemed elated to finally get another win and although he would have liked to get at least one more goal on the night he was proud to see Janus get his first goal.

"It's huge," Trask said. "He's been chomping at the bit. He feels like he hasn't put away some chances that he's had to get on the scoreboard. I would have loved to see Chris Prince get three goals tonight, but I think it's more important for our team dynamic getting Janus a goal like that. It was a great play leading up to it."

The Badgers took an early lead with Janus' goal, but Gerster wanted to give the squad a little more breathing room.

Only thirty seconds after the first goal Gerster brought the ball down the field and set up freshman Joey Tennyson for a header into the net. With the goals only thirty seconds apart it was the shortest amount of time between goals Wisconsin has had all season.

Gerster certainly had a big impact on the game with assists on both goals, but the win is what's really important for him.

"It finally felt good to win," Gerster said. "After all those games we lost on the road and in overtime losses. I don't really care if I get the assists as long as we win which we did so I feel good about it."

Along with all the struggles the Badgers have had this season the story of their youth goes right along side it. The freshmen on the team have consistently been a factor in all of the games this season. Finally they're rewarded for all of their hard work.

Both goals came from freshmen, showing they're more confident and experienced than their record probably gives them credit for.

"The freshmen have been good," Gerster said. "We thought we came in prepared. They came in the right spots tonight. Janus had a great goal. Same with Tennyson. I saw him cutting into the near post and I just put it right on his head and he put it in. They've all done a really good job. Especially Trevor Wheeler too and Chris Prince who has gotten in the last three games five goals, I think, so he's pretty hot right now."

Ever since switching from a 4-5-1 formation to a 4-4-2 the

Badgers have been producing more offense, but this was the first game where it really paid off for them. Since making the switch Wisconsin has scored eight goals in three games compared to the eight goals they scored in the twelve games before that.

The change in formation certainly seems to have had a positive effect on the squad, but Janus thinks the new formation doesn't deserve all the credit.

"Coach always says you can talk about formations, but we could play any formation, it doesn't really matter," Janus said. "I think it's just working together. We've been getting used to each other. We've got four different classes playing together. It was fun tonight. We had fun I think tonight so I think it was just the attitude change."

Wisconsin has certainly had a rough season and while its 2-11-1, 0-3-1 Big Ten record doesn't represent how tough of a team it has been all season, getting another win just gives a sense of relief.

"The team's been kind of down and we've been having heartbreakers like Green Bay and overtime — it's just been rough," Janus said. "It's good to get the win."

So finally in their second win of the season with only three regular season games left, the Badger bench was a happy place when the clock ticked down to zero.

Trask has been working hard with this team all season and while the win certainly could have come a lot sooner he was proud of the way the guys played.

"I'm not big into four goal games," Trask said. "This was my type of soccer. Take them on, make sure you've got numbers behind the ball, and be tough defensively. It was a good night for the guys and I'm so happy for them. They needed it, to be honest."

###

UW men top UWM to halt winless streak

By Eric Anderson

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Nick Janus and Joey

Tennyson (Menomonee Falls)

scored in a 31-second span in

the opening 10 minutes, and

fellow freshman Max Jentsch

(Hartland Arrowhead)

recorded his first collegiate

shutout as the University of

Wisconsin men's soccer team

ended a 13-game winless

streak by blanking UW-

Milwaukee 2-0 in a non-

conference match on a windy

Wednesday night at the

McClimon Complex.

It was the first win for the

Badgers (2-11-2) since a 2-1

victory over Santa Clara in

their season opener on Sept. 4.

The Panthers (5-8-2) had a 9-7

advantage in shots, but UW

put five of its shots on goal

compared to just one for

UWM.

Check back later for more

details.

###

Strong defensive effort leads to victory

Wisconsin increases intensity on defense, shuts out Milwaukee

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, October 28, 2010

The Badger Herald

After going winless for 13 games, the Wisconsin men's soccer team finally earned a victory Wednesday by shutting out UW-Milwaukee 2-0 at home in a tremendous defensive effort.

Head coach John Trask noted the positive outcome that came from moving defender Paul Yonga to the defensive midfielder position and sending senior captain Aaron Nichols to the defense to play right back, where he showed great leadership and athleticism.

However, it was a total team effort from Yonga, to the defensive line, to freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch, that solidified the victory despite playing without defender Blake Succa, who has led the team in minutes this season.

"When we get into the Big Ten, they're going to have a tougher challenge because there's better attacking players, but tonight was a good solid defensive performance," Trask said. "I'm not big into 4-3 games;

this was my type of soccer tonight."

While Trask would have liked to see the team pursue a third goal, he was proud of his young team's maturity to maintain the lead and continue improving each game.

"We keep pecking away at it," Trask said. "We're not going crazy on these guys; we know that it's just one thing after another. It was a good night for the guys. I feel happy for them. They needed it. They needed it so much."

Senior forward Bryan Gerster highlighted an improvement in the team's pride in terms of one-on-one defending Wednesday night, which had cost the team wins in last week's games. The team was finally able to clean up its bad mistakes in the backfield that resulted in what Gerster called lucky goals for opponents.

"We finally put it together and came out with a shut out," Gerster, who recorded assists on both Badger goals in the game, said.

The Badgers were a lot more aggressive and mentally prepared to play than Milwaukee, despite the strong winds throughout the game Gerster added.

Nichols has been playing all over the field on the season, but it seems like he has finally found his niche in providing much needed support for UW's young defensive unit. Trask's only knock against the captain is he can't play in more places on the field at a time.

"Nichols helped us secure the backfield with that athleticism and that senior leadership back there," Trask said. "I've said this to Aaron a few times, I wish I had three of him. I wish I had him at right at right back, right midfield and one of the two forward spots. Aaron is a tremendous competitor and we just seem to be a little more solid back there, and hopefully that can continue against Ohio State this weekend."

The game was an aggressive battle on defense, featuring 25 bookings and one yellow card, which is to be expected when facing an in-state rival.

"Madison versus Milwaukee, it's a Wisconsin battle, so it's always a big game," defender Kyle McCrudden said. "For both teams, it's a big build up. I think we came out hard, I think they did too, but I just think we knew it was going to be a physical battle, and if we wanted to win and stay in it, we would have to out-do them and have more energy than

them, and I think we came out well and did that.”

McCrudden and the rest of the Wisconsin team could all exhale a much deserved sigh of relief after finally accomplishing the win the team has been hoping and waiting for.

“It feels real good when you have a 13-game non-winning streak,” McCrudden said. “I thought we played well in the first half, which was really clutch to get two early goals. Janus and Joey both; they were two good goals and good buildups. It was also nice to hold on and get the second shutout of the year, so it’s nice to get good offense and good defense at the same time.”

###

Badgers head to Ohio looking for 3rd win Men's soccer finally gets 2nd victory, heads east to face stiff test in Buckeyes

By Kelly Erickson

Thursday, October 28, 2010

The Badger Herald

Hot off its second win of the season Wednesday, the Wisconsin men's soccer team is chasing a third as it heads to Ohio State this weekend.

In their last road game of the regular season, the Badgers (2-11-2, 0-3-1 Big Ten) hope to follow in the football team's footsteps and take down the higher-ranked Buckeyes.

With a change in formation that has helped lead to renewed confidence after finally getting another win, the Badgers know they'll be able to put up a strong fight on the road.

"It's big time for us especially since we have Ohio State this weekend," senior forward Bryan Gerster said. "I think Ohio State is ranked and we always play well against Ohio State. Hopefully we can carry this one into there and learn from our mistakes in the back since we just switched up the formations again so we still have a lot to learn in back as well as in front."

"I think we're going to come out pretty good against Ohio State."

As Wisconsin hits the road in hopes of getting its first Big Ten win, the team will face an Ohio State team who is 8-5-2, 2-2-0, meaning the squad will have a fight ahead of it.

With another huge Big Ten game on the road, the Badgers are confident they'll be able to come home with a positive result just like they did earlier in the season after getting a tie with powerhouse Indiana.

In order to pick up a win, Wisconsin will have to get by Ohio State sophomore goalkeeper Matt Lampson, who has played in all 15 games for the Buckeyes. Lampson has allowed only 12 goals this season while making 70 saves.

Not only do they have to keep up the new offense they've created in the last three games, the Badgers also have to stay strong on defense. OSU's top three scorers have combined for 10 goals on the season so far. Of those 10 goals, five of them were scored by senior forward Konrad Warzycha, six-foot-one forward who uses his size and physicality to his advantage.

As Gerster said, the Badgers do play well against the

Buckeyes. UW is only two games behind OSU at 11-13-1 in the series. Last season UW beat OSU at home 2-0 to break a five-game losing streak to OSU, which was also the last time Wisconsin defeated a ranked opponent.

Freshman forward Nick Janus knows the game will be tough, but believes the Badgers will be able to keep up with the Buckeyes.

"It's just like any other team," Janus said. "We just have to take it to them. We know it's going to be a hard game, but we'll just have to keep our energy up. It's just one of those games."

It may be, but the Badgers need to stay strong on the road and there's no doubt their recent win will help them.

If Wisconsin's domination over Ohio State this fall in football and women's hockey makes its way to Ohio with the squad, they have a good chance of creating another huge upset.

Trask only had one thing to say about the weekend's match up.

"We're going to knock them off like the football team did."

###

Badgers host OSU in search of third win of their season Men's soccer team looks for second straight victory

By Jack Doyle

Thursday, October 29, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

Following the Badger's (0-3-1 Big Ten, 2-11-2 overall) 2-0 shutout of UW-Milwaukee Wednesday night, Wisconsin head coach John Trask had this prediction for Saturday night's match at No. 25 Ohio State.

"We're gonna knock 'em off like the football team did."

To defeat the Buckeyes (2-2-0, 8-5-2), the Badgers will have to conjure at least a little bit of the magic the football had when they took down then-No. 1 Ohio State at Camp Randall Stadium. Although Wisconsin is brimming with confidence after its first victory in nearly two months, the Buckeyes present a much bigger challenge than the Panthers did.

Senior forward Bryan Gerster, who tallied two assists against Milwaukee, hopes Wisconsin can ride the momentum from Wednesday's victory and steal a win at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

"We always play well against Ohio State, so hopefully we

can carry this momentum into there," Gerster said. "I think we're going to come out pretty good against Ohio State."

The Buckeyes have plenty of firepower and are capable of ending Wisconsin's bid to double their shutout streak. Senior Konrad Warzycha leads Ohio State with 12 points off six goals, and he is complemented by sophomores midfielders Chris Hegngi and Austin McAnena, who both have nine points on three goals and three assists.

Knowing the Buckeyes have an abundance of offensive weapons, Gerster says the team has to buckle down on defense.

"We need to clean up the mistakes in the back," Gerster said. "With the shifted formation we still have a lot to learn back there."

Freshman Nick Janus, who scored his first collegiate goal Wednesday against the Panthers, said the team's defense will continue to improve with time and progressive adjustment to the 4-4-2 formation.

But while the defensive side of the ball has struggled for the most part with the new formation, the offense has transformed from a liability into a juggernaut, scoring

more goals in the past three games (eight) than it had the previous 12 (seven). Gerster said the formation change has caught a lot of opponents off guard.

"On the scouting report it says we are in a 4-5-1, so a lot of teams haven't seen the new formation and aren't prepared for that," Gerster said.

Following their road trip to Ohio State, Wisconsin will return to Madison to host the University of Illinois-Chicago on November 3rd at the McClimon Complex.

###

UW sports: Men's soccer ###

team wins in overtime

Wednesday, November 3,
2010

Wisconsin State

Journal/Madison.com

Freshman Joey Tennyson scored an overtime goal to lift the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team to a 1-0 victory over Illinois-Chicago in a non-conference game Wednesday night at McClimon Soccer Complex.

Tennyson scored his third goal of the season in the 96th minute as first-year Badgers coach John Trask earned a victory over his former team.

UW (3-12-2) peppered the Flames (7-10-0) with 10 of its 14 shots in the first half, but could not convert any scoring opportunities until Tennyson took a pass from Paul Yonga and beat UIC goalkeeper Steve Purdy to give the Badgers their first victory in eight overtime games this season.

UW is now 1-5-2 when going into extra time. The eight overtime games is a program record.

Goalkeeper Max Jentsch recorded four saves for the Badgers, who conclude their regular season on Saturday at home against Penn State.

Tennyson lifts UW over UIC in overtime

By Eric Anderson

Wednesday, November 03, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

One moment, it appeared as if the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team was headed for yet another one-goal loss.

Two minutes later, the Badgers were celebrating their second win in three games.

Freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson (Menomonee Falls) scored in the 96th minute, moments after UW sophomore defender Kyle McCrudden cleared a ball off the line on the other end, as the Badgers outlasted Illinois-Chicago 1-0 in a non-conference match Wednesday night at the McClimon Complex.

UW improved to 3-12-2 overall with its first win in an overtime game this season – the Badgers have had a program-record eight matches extended beyond 90 minutes, and are 1-5-2 in those games. Those losses are among their 11 one-goal defeats.

"It was a good finish by Joey Tennyson, just a good play overall," said UW coach John Trask, who coached UIC for five seasons before taking over the Badgers this season.

"I thought it was a good, competitive game tonight. I'm glad we finally found it within ourselves to score one in overtime. That was great for the guys' confidence."

Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) made four saves for UW, including one in the 91st minute, but needed help from his defense three minutes later. The Flames' Eric Frazier – a transfer from UW-Milwaukee – got behind the Badgers' backline and broke in alone on goal, then got Jentsch to go to the ground and had an open net to shoot at, but McCrudden swooped in to clear the ball in the nick of time.

Tennyson finished a one-timer past Flames keeper Steve Purdy off a feed from fellow freshman midfielder Paul Yonga, who got the ball after junior midfielder Colin Mani (Madison Edgewood) dug it free from traffic in front of the goal. Mani was credited with an assist on the play, his first in 35 career games.

The Badgers outshot UIC (7-10-0) by a 14-10 margin and forced Purdy into four saves as they ended the Flames' three-game winning streak.

"Getting the win in overtime tonight is huge," Trask said. "We keep moving, inching

this thing forward. We wish we could gain a foot or a yard really quickly, but this is going to help our confidence going into (Saturday's regular-season finale against) Penn State and then the Big Ten tournament."

###

**Trask's old, new teams
bring similar style of play
Same tactics on both sides
leads to UW's eighth
overtime match on the year**

By Kelly Erickson
Wednesday, November 3,
2010

The Badger Herald

If only every game was played on a Wednesday.

The Wisconsin men's soccer team took on Illinois Chicago — head coach John Trask's former team — and in their eighth overtime game of the season the Badgers notched another win.

For the third Wednesday night game in a row, freshman Joey Tennyson has scored a goal. The one against UIC was finally a game-winner.

"He's Wednesday night," Trask said. "If we could keep playing all the time on Wednesday night that'd be nice. Tennyson is coming on. He's a very talented player. That finish was just clinical and that was with his bad foot. He's got a lot of quality to him. We just need to keep working him and keep the expectations high for him."

The 1-0 victory would not have been possible if it were not for some other freshmen on the squad who have really

been making their mark on the team all season.

Tennyson is not the only freshman making a statement. Yonga played a solid defensive game with an assist on Tennyson's goal while goalkeeper Max Jentsch got the shut out victory.

For a freshman class, they're definitely starting to make an impact and find the right groove as they get ready for the Big Ten Tournament.

"It's great to see us be able to produce as freshman," Yonga said. "It's only going to get better as the seasons go on. It's good. Chris Prince has seven goals, Tennyson's getting goals, I'm getting assists, Nick Janus is getting points. It's good to have all these freshman contributions. It's only going to help in the future."

Through eight overtime games this season, this is Wisconsin's first overtime win and its third win overall. But it was not much of a surprise the teams were deadlocked 0-0 for 90 minutes. They played very similar games on both sides of the ball — the type of soccer Trask likes to play.

"I thought it was a good competitive game tonight," Trask said. "That was great

for the guy's confidence. They picked it up and covered each others' butts on the goal line to protect us from not losing and then allowed us a chance to win. It was a good finish by Joey Tennyson, just a good play overall."

Style Similarities

It's easy to see Trask has made his impression on both soccer programs. UIC still plays the way he set them up with while Trask is now shaping the UW program similarly.

With the same defensive shape on both sides and the same type of offensive attack, it's not surprising there were not many shots on goals or almost no goals at all for that matter.

"They definitely sat back and played their defensive line at midfield," freshman defenseman Paul Yonga said. "Coach Trask tries to do that with us too so our defensive shape was pretty much the same. Also when they did have the ball they did try to possess it for the most part. Those similarities on defense was the exact same I saw."

"They like to possess the ball and hold it and play less direct," freshman forward Joey Tennyson added. "That's kind of what we try to do too.

It was really similar types of play. It was hard to break their defense when they sat back like that.”

Overtime Success

With similar styles of play neither team scored through 90 minutes, pushing the Badgers into yet another overtime game on the season.

Through 17 regular season games so far, eight have gone into overtime, and three of those eight have gone into double overtime. But only in one of those games they scored the golden goal.

“I’m glad to see we finally found it within ourselves to score one in overtime,” Trask said of finally getting an overtime win. “We were 0-5-2 in overtime until this game. It’s huge. I told the guys as we keep inching this thing forward. I wish we could gain a foot or a yard real quick.”

“They’re battling for a playoff spot in their own conference tournament so it’s not like we played a rubbish team tonight. We knew they were going to put their heart into it because of everything between the two programs.”

###

Badgers finally taste overtime victory
Joey Tennyson's 95th minute goal gives UW 1-0 victory UIC

By Noah Goetzl
Wednesday, November 3, 2010

The Badger Herald

Despite suffering six tough losses off of game-winning goals in the final minutes of games this season, the Wisconsin men's soccer team could finally celebrate a thrilling finish of their own Wednesday after defeating University of Illinois Chicago 1-0 in overtime.

Freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson rifled a shot past the UIC goalkeeper and into the right corner of the net in the 95th minute to propel the Badgers (3-12-2, 0-4-1 Big Ten) to their second win in three games.

"It's great," said defensive midfielder Paul Yonga, who had the game-winning assist for UW. "UIC had been in three overtimes their last three games, and they won them all, so to come here and win our first overtime game, it's amazing. It's a totally different feeling than it was when we were losing. It's indescribable how good it feels."

After clutch tackles from defender Luke Goodnetter and forward Danny Ahlering, Yonga recovered possession for UW on the left side of Wisconsin's attacking third, and got free with a give-and-go with Colin Mani, then played a through ball to the streaking Tennyson for the finish.

"Danny Ahlering, the little tackle he makes is what springs this last little attack," head coach John Trask said. "He lays his body down for the good of the team. Guys are putting their bodies out there; that's all we can ask."

However, it was freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch and Wisconsin's defensive unit that made a goal saving clear on the goal to extend the game.

Jentsch diverted a NIU striker on a fast break toward the goal by forcing him wide and diving onto the ball, but the ball squirted free, and it appeared the Flames had a clear shot for the score. However, the reliable defense of Kyle McCrudden and Arnel Zahirovic submerged on the ball and cleared it away from the trouble.

"You can't really ask for anything more," Tennyson said. "If you make a mistake and your defense can cover

for you, it's good to know that the team is there to back you up."

In the Badgers' past three games, they have earned two victories and allowed only one goal. The team has not accomplished this feat at any other point this season.

Trask highlighted the defense as a strong point for the team and a major reason the team has elevated their game and results in the past three games.

"[UIC's] got three or four pretty special attacking players and I thought we did a pretty good job tonight. Are they of the same quality of some of the guys in the Big Ten? I don't know, but even Ohio State didn't create much against us, so we're getting that edge back instead of playing those 4-3 games, which were very difficult."

While the Badgers played solid defensively, increasing offensive opportunities and urgency to score will be a key factor the team will need to improve upon heading into Senior Night against Penn State Saturday and the Big Ten Tournament next week.

"I think we could just move the ball a little bit faster. Sometimes we dwell on the ball and the movement gets a little slow, which helps the

defense recover a little bit, so if we move the ball a little bit quicker and get the defense a little tired, then we can find those balls up to Princy who can lay it off to Nick Janus, and then we can move and score through that way.”

Trask added this victory was just another small step in the right direction that the team has consistently been able to make all season.

“It’s huge,” Trask said. “We keep moving. I told the guys we keep inching this thing forward; we wish we could gain a foot or a yard real quick. This is going to help us with confidence going into Penn State and then obviously the Big Ten Tournament. With Penn State, it’s a whole different test than we had tonight. Congrats to the guys for getting a shut out.”

###

Tennyson's OT goal lifts UW over Flames

By Matthew Kleist

Thursday, November 4, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The eighth time is a charm for the Wisconsin men's soccer team (0-4-1 Big Ten, 3-12-2 overall). Entering Wednesday night's contest, the Badgers had gone into overtime seven times. In those seven games, Wisconsin went 0-5-2, not exactly the results a team wishes for.

When the Badgers entered overtime for the eighth time this season Wednesday night, a winning result against the University of Illinois-Chicago (3-4-0 Horizon League, 7-10-0 overall) seemed unlikely.

Prior to the extra session, the Badgers and Flames played 90 minutes of scoreless soccer. From the opening whistle, neither team looked as though it wanted to win the game. As the game progressed, however, it became evident that possession was the key to both teams' game plans.

Wisconsin came into the night with the intent to control the ball defensively and in the midfield while looking for opportunities to send the ball forward on the attack. This philosophy is one that head coach John Trask has instilled

and employed wherever he has coached.

Before arriving at Madison, Trask was the head coach at UIC. It came as no surprise, then, that UIC played with the same defense-first style.

"Our defensive shape was pretty much the same," UW freshman midfielder Paul Yonga said.

"They like to possess the ball and hold it, play less direct," freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson said. "That's what we like to do too."

Despite a relatively slow paced game, both sides created solid goal scoring opportunities. After playing nearly nine minutes of back-and-forth possession, UIC broke into the UW defense. The Flames were able to get a good shot off, but on good effort by freshman keeper Max Jentsch, the ball was directed wide and out of play.

The Badgers nearly netted a goal just over a minute later. On a free kick just outside of the box, Tennyson was able to wrap the ball over the defensive wall, but put it just over the crossbar. Freshman forward Chris Prince also had his chance at a goal, putting a low shot toward the net that would go just wide with nine

minutes remaining in the first half.

The second half was much the same for both sides. Tennyson ripped a shot off that missed just wide to the right five minutes into the second half. The Badgers also put up some threats on set pieces, including a header off the post on a corner kick and a header blocked on the line following a free kick.

Neither side converted, though, resulting in a school-record eighth overtime appearance for UW. However, this time it was different as the Badgers ultimately celebrated a victory.

Following a pair a nicely time slide tackles to keep the ball in UIC's half, Yonga dished the ball off to junior defender Colin Mani, who played the one-two back to Yonga. He sent the ball through the center of the box, where it found the feet Tennyson who buried it in the back corner, giving the UIC keeper no chance at a save.

"I didn't know what else to do with the ball," Yonga said. "I heard a scream from my left, I just played the ball through and luckily Joey was there."

"It felt great," said Tennyson. "We needed an overtime win."

Trask, who defeated his former squad despite an overall disappointing season, said he expects to finish the season strong.

"It's huge," Trask said. "This is going to help us with confidence going into Penn State."

###

Seniors hope for win vs. PSU Last home game in some Badgers' careers as dangerous Nittany Lions come to Madison

By Noah Goetzel

Thursday, November 4, 2010

The Badger Herald

Coming off a well earned overtime win against UIC Wednesday, the Wisconsin men's soccer team (3-12-2, 0-4-1 Big Ten) will look to continue to improve against Big Ten rival No. 22 Penn State Saturday at the McClimon Soccer Complex.

Before the Badgers' final regular season match, fans, teammates and coaches will honor seniors Aaron Nichols, Bryan Gerster, Jon Rzepka and Ryan Vint for Senior Night.

"Our seniors have been the heart of our team," defensive midfielder Paul Yonga said. "It's been a difficult year for them, so we're going to go out there and try to win it for them. These last couple of games, we've been trying to work our hardest to build on our losing season, so we're going to...hopefully send them off in a good fashion."

Penn State will come to Madison boasting an impressive 11-5-1 record (2-2-1 Big Ten) and features one of

the fiercest offenses the Badgers have faced all season.

The Nittany Lions lead the Big Ten in goals, assists and overall points per game. Forward Corey Hertzog (14 goals) and midfielders Matheus Braga (12 assists) and Mackenzie Arment (12 points) lead the team offensively. Hertzog is also tied atop the Big Ten with five game-winning goals this season.

"[Braga] is a Brazilian kid; he strikes a very good ball," head coach John Trask said. "Yeah, Hertzog may be the best frontrunner we've seen. At least he's up in the same clientele as Will Bruin and Ethan Finlay. Hertzog is going to be a handful; he's a very good player, but Penn State has a lot of good players.

"We're going to have to be right mentally and ready for the battle, and it will be a battle. Hopefully a lot of fans will be out here because it will be an exciting college soccer game."

Freshman midfielder and Wednesday night's game winning goal-scorer Joey Tennyson feels confident the team can hold PSU's offensive firepower in check like it has against other top-notch goal scorers this season. Tennyson also believes the

Badgers' new 4-4-2 formation will continue to keep the team competitive in putting together offensive strikes of its own.

For the most part, Wisconsin will just need to continue doing what it has been doing defensively to limit Penn State's big players, Yonga said. He stressed that the Badgers will have to come out hard, but also control their emotions resulting from Senior Night.

While Trask has been proud of the team's performance in the past three games — especially on the defensive side of the ball, where the Badgers have allowed only one goal and earned two shutout victories — UW must step up in terms of creating and finishing scoring chances.

"Definitely room for improvement," Trask said. "Gerster hurt his toe the other day in training and just didn't seem to be moving as freely on it, that's why we used Danny Ahlering quite a bit. We're limited; we don't have a lot of forwards on the roster right now. It's who we are, and other guys are helping out and doing what they can."

Recognizing his team will probably not create a ton of scoring chances against PSU, Trask added that the Badgers

will instead have to take advantage of the few opportunities they do create and make sure to maintain their lockdown defense.

“We’ve got to stay razor tight in the back and we’re not going to create a ton of chances against that Penn State team,” Trask said.

“We’re going to have to finish off the couple that we create.”

“I know Chris Prince would love to score that hat-trick, but good players find that one chance in a game to make the difference,” Trask continued.

“We need him to score the one goal in a 1-0 win; that’s what we’re really looking for...we don’t want to be a team that gives up three or four goals.”

###

Badgers look to close out season on positive note

By Matthew Kleist

Friday, November 5, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team (0-4-1 Big Ten 3-12-2 overall) will take to the field for the last time this regular season at home Saturday night. The Badgers will host the No. 22 Nittany Lions of Penn State (2-2-1 Big Ten 11-5-1 overall) looking for their second straight win.

Coming off a mid week win, the Badgers hope to keep up the momentum against Penn State. Picking up their first overtime win, the team's confidence was boosted, helping them to prepare for this weekend's showdown.

"This [win] is going to help us with confidence going into Penn State," head coach John Trask said.

However, it is going to take more than a little boost in confidence to help Wisconsin against an impressive Penn State team. The Nittany Lions lead all Big Ten teams in goals with 35, scoring an average of 2.06 per game. On the other side of the ball, Penn State has allowed 21 goals, good enough to put them in a tie for second in that category, and a goals-against-average of 1.19.

Leading the Nittany Lions in goals in points, forward Cody Hertzog has found the back of the net 14 times this season, a number that puts him second in the Big Ten. Adding 4 assists to the mix gives the junior forward 32 points. Leading the team in assists is midfielder Matheus Braga with 12. Braga also has 5 goals of his own. As a whole, the Nittany Lions have eleven players who have scored a goal on the season, with seven who have netted two or more.

In preparation for Saturday's matchup, the Badgers look to practice light in order just to keep the team fresh. Also hoping to have players return from injury for the regular season finale, the coaching staff plans on easy workouts.

"We're going to take it easy these next couple of days," Trask said. "We need these guys to have their legs on Saturday."

In combination with a light workout, the Badgers are going to rely on their freshman players yet again to help lead the team. 3 of the top 5 point scorers on the team are freshman, with the top two coming from that class.

Looking for players like freshman forward Chris Prince, who has 7 goals, and freshman midfielder Joey

Tennyson, who has scored 3 times, to continue to improve on recent success, Trask depends on the team's freshman. Also in the mix of freshman who are breaking through are midfielder Nick Janus, who has scored once and has 3 assists, and defender Paul Yonga, who has tallied 2 assists and is a great midfield presence.

"They're [the freshman] going to do a lot of great things," Trask said. "And they do."

The Badgers are going to honor the 2010 seniors Saturday night before the start of the game. The team is hoping to end the season well for their seniors, feeling that they deserve to get the win.

"The seniors have been the heart of the team," Yonga said. "It's been a difficult year for them so we are going to go out there and try to win it for them."

###

UW men upset No. 22 Penn State

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

It was a tale of two penalty kicks Saturday night at the McClimon Complex.

Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) denied Penn State's Corey Hertzog from the spot in the 13th minute, while senior midfielder Aaron Nichols converted 15 minutes later as the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team surprised the 22nd-ranked Nittany Lions 1-0 in a Big Ten Conference finale.

Jentsch finished with six saves as the Badgers (4-12-2 overall, 1-4-1 Big Ten) became the first team this season to shut out Penn State (11-6-1, 2-3-1).

"The guys have bought in. They are playing for each other, they are playing for the school and it was an impressive performance tonight," UW coach John Trask said in a news release following his first Big Ten victory.

The goal and result made it a perfect Senior Night celebration for Nichols and fellow seniors Bryan Gerster, Jon Rzepka and Ryan Vint in

their final match at McClimon.

"That was the best way to end my senior year at home," said Nichols, who has played for three coaches in his four years – Jeff Rohrman, Todd Yeagley and Trask.

"But no matter what class it was out there tonight, freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors, everyone was working so hard out there. It made the night very memorable, and thanks to all of the guys it is a night that the seniors will never forget."

Jentsch made a diving stop on Herzog's penalty, which was ticketed for the lower right corner. The freshman went on to record his third clean sheet.

Nichols, meanwhile, slotted his penalty kick past Penn State keeper Warren Gross into the upper left corner of the net for his third goal of the season.

"Aaron Nichols' penalty kick was a senior captain's performance in a big game, not only saying that he'll take the kick, but him showing that maturity," said Trask, whose team has won three of its past four games. "The quality of the kick was so nice. No goalie would have saved it."

Despite the win, the Badgers still finished last in the Big Ten and will be the No. 7 seed for the conference tournament, which kicks off Thursday in State College, Penn. UW will face either Michigan or Ohio State in the first round. The Badgers lost to the Wolverines 4-2 and dropped a 1-0 decision to the Buckeyes.

###

**UW topples No. 22 Penn State on Senior Night
Aaron Nichols' penalty kick enough as men's soccer squeaks by in 1-0 game**

By Noah Goetzel

Sunday, November 7, 2010

The Badger Herald

The Wisconsin men's soccer team recorded its first two-game winning streak of the season after knocking off No. 22 Penn State 1-0 Saturday at the McClimon Soccer Complex in the team's final game of the regular season.

After being honored with fellow senior teammates before the game for Senior Night, senior captain Aaron Nichols scored the game-winning goal on a laser penalty kick to the top left corner of the net in the 26th minute to put the Badgers ahead 1-0.

"You couldn't go out on a better note," Nichols said. "Every single guy here, you could tell they were doing it for the seniors. They wanted to make this night pretty memorable, so thanks to the guys, it's a night that I will never forget."

After the game, head coach John Trask expressed his pride for his team, and the senior class consisting of Jon Rzepka, Bryan Gerster, backup goalkeeper Ryan Vint

and Nichols in particular. He was especially proud of Nichols' maturity and confidence in electing to put the team on his shoulders and take the penalty kick.

"I'm so proud for those seniors," Trask said. "Aaron has been awesome, and to see him bury the penalty kick — I mean that was senior captain stuff in his last game. The quality of the kick was the thing that was so nice to see. It didn't just dribble over the line; no goalie in the world would have saved it. That's the confidence that comes with knowing that they're becoming a pretty good soccer team."

The Badgers have now won three of their last four games and have recorded shutouts in each of their victories. Wisconsin will go into the Big Ten Tournament as the No. 7 seed with a record of just 4-12-2 (1-4-1 Big Ten), but appears to be improving and gaining confidence as a team since its 4-3 thrilling overtime loss against UW-Green Bay.

Saturday night's win would not have been possible without the six-save performance by goalkeeper Max Jentsch. Jentsch suffered from a collision in the box just 8:51 into the game that knocked the wind out of the freshman and left him on the

ground in agony. However, Jentsch recovered to make a diving stop on a Penn State penalty kick to save the game for UW.

"Max definitely didn't look like a freshman tonight in many ways — a lot like the rest of the freshmen," Trask said.

When Max went down, the whole team held its breath because senior captain goalkeeper Ryan Vint had an injured neck and back and the other backup, Jamal Habibi, could not play because he was recovering from a concussion.

"I was a little nervous," Nichols said. "I had my fingers crossed that he was going to be alright because I knew the next goalie in line was my roommate Colin Mani, who has never played a game in college. That was a big hit he took, but he's a strong kid, he's always fighting through and we know that he's our man. Especially on that one free kick save he made, that was absolutely huge; that was a game-saver."

Jentsch thought Wisconsin's defense played an integral role in supporting him during Penn State attacks to shutdown the explosive PSU frontline and earn the shutout for the team.

“[McCrudden] was great in the air, Arnel was great on (PSU’s star forward Corey) Hertzog, Nichols did a great job, Luke did a good job; everyone just played great today.”

Saturday night’s victory against the Nittany Lions was a typical Big Ten dog fest, featuring aggressive play out of both teams that led 28 combined fouls, five yellow cards (four of which were against UW) and two penalty kicks.

Trask thought his team effectively matched the intensity of the big, strong, physical Penn State team in a fashion the Badgers have been reluctant to accomplish earlier in the season. Going into the game, Trask said he wanted Wisconsin to look like the team that had 13 players on the field and was constantly outworking the opponent because that is what PSU is known for.

“I felt in fairness to us, we outworked them,” Trask said. “It wasn’t by a lot because they worked very hard as well, but I thought the extra work each individual put in made a big difference tonight.”

Trask added that his players have “bought in,” as they have realized that there is “something good” about the

team that has encouraged them to play hard for each other and play hard for UW. He said everyone is excited about the promising outlook that awaits his team at the Big Ten Tournament in University Park Thursday when the team takes on Ohio State.

“We’re just looking forward to getting on the plane to go to Penn State,” Trask said.

“There’s not much more I’m going to teach them at this point; I think the teaching is done. Now [it’s] the commitment and the rub of the ball because they all believe hopefully something good can come next weekend.”

###

Badgers get OSU in tourney opener

By Eric Anderson

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Last Sunday, Ohio State became the latest team to beat the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team by one goal, winning 1-0 in Columbus.

A week later, the Buckeyes got the same result on the same field, which means another matchup against the Badgers.

Ohio State topped Big Ten Conference regular-season champion Indiana 1-0 thanks to an own goal in a regular-season finale, claiming the No. 2 seed for the conference tournament.

UW (4-12-2) is the seventh seed for the event in State College, Penn., after finishing last in the conference. But the Badgers have won three of their past four matches, with the narrow loss to the Buckeyes the only blemish in that run. And after that game, UW coach John Trask praised his team for its performance, particularly in the second half.

The quarterfinal between the Badgers and Ohio State is set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, with the winner advancing to play

Michigan or Michigan State in a semifinal at noon Friday.

The tournament champion receives an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament, and the semifinals and final will be shown live on the Big Ten Network.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

At State College, Penn.

Thursday's quarterfinals

No. 1 Indiana (9-6-2) receives bye

No. 3 Michigan (11-4-3) vs. No. 6 Michigan State (11-6-1), 9 a.m.

No. 2 Ohio State (10-5-2) vs. No. 7 Wisconsin (4-12-2), 11:30 a.m.

No. 4 Penn State (11-6-1) vs. No. 5 Northwestern (8-7-2), 2 p.m.

Friday's semifinals

Michigan or Michigan State vs. Ohio State or Wisconsin, noon BTN

No. 1 Indiana (9-6-2) vs. Penn State or Northwestern, 2:30 p.m. BTN

Sunday's championship

Semifinal winners, 11 a.m. BTN

Note: Winner receives automatic NCAA tournament berth

###

Badgers close out regular season with 1-0 victory

By Matthew Kleist

Monday, November 8, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The regular season for the Badger men's soccer team (1-4-1 Big Ten, 4-12-2 overall) ended Saturday night.

Hosting the Nittany Lions of Penn State (2-3-1 Big Ten, 11-6-1), the Badgers looked to close out the season on a positive note.

In a game that favored the Nittany Lions on paper, it was the Badgers who came out on top, downing No. 22 Penn State 1-0 and earning the first Big Ten win of the season.

Attacking the Badgers with dangerous, sustained pushes, the Nittany Lions clearly outplayed Wisconsin early on.

The Penn State attack peaked when they were awarded a penalty kick on a controversial call. PSU superstar Corey Hertzog took the kick and despite the near automatic nature of a PK off the foot of such a tremendous player, the experienced striker was bested by Wisconsin's freshman keeper Max Jentsch.

"I just had to focus," Jentsch said. "Luckily he shot it right down the middle and I got my legs to it."

Giving up the penalty kick seemed to awaken the Badger offense. Attacking in the 27th minute, freshman forward Chris Prince battled for the ball near the Penn State endline. The Nittany Lion defender sent Prince to the ground inside the box, giving the Badgers their own chance at a penalty kick.

UW head coach John Trask selected senior defenseman Aaron Nichols to take the kick.

"We don't really tell the players who is going to take the penalty kicks," Trask said. "It's a vibe within the team. Players have to feel it and, no question that Aaron felt it."

Putting the ball in the upper left corner of the net, Nichols drove the shot home to give the Badgers the one-goal lead.

"It's a great feeling," Nichols said. "You want to go out with a good memory. I think that was the best way to end my career here."

Nichols' penalty-kick goal was all the Badgers needed to earn the victory, but the win did not come without its tense moments.

Penn State came out firing on all cylinders in the second half. The Nittany Lions brought the ball into the

Wisconsin box on multiple occasions, ripping shots that sailed just wide of the net.

Sensing that their time was running out, Penn State was desperate to net a goal. The Nittany Lions were given a free kick just 20 yards from the goal. On a kick that curved over and around the defense, Jentsch was forced to make an excellent save on the ball to preserve the one goal lead. Riding on the solid play of Jentsch, the Badgers held on to win their first Big Ten game of the year.

"I don't think you could have written it any better," Jentsch said.

###

UW keeper Jentsch earns Big Ten honor

By Eric Anderson

Monday, November 08, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

Much like the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team, freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) keeps getting better.

Jentsch collected his first Big Ten Conference Defensive Player of the Week award Monday, and also was named to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week.

He's the third Badgers player to claim a weekly Big Ten honor this season, following fellow keeper Ryan Vint and fellow freshman Chris Prince.

Jentsch recorded his second and third shutouts last week as UW posted 1-0 victories over Illinois-Chicago and No. 22 Penn State, making four saves against the Flames and stopping six shots – including a penalty kick – against the Nittany Lions.

His scoreless streak stands at 248 minutes, 17 seconds heading into Thursday's Big Ten Conference tournament quarterfinal against Ohio State in State College, Penn.

###

UW set to meet No. 2 seed Buckeyes in Big Ten tournament

Men's soccer team hopes to keep season alive against Ohio State

By Noah Goetzel

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

The Badger Herald

The Wisconsin men's soccer team (4-12-2) heads into the Big Ten Tournament in University Park, Pa., having won three out of its last four games and the No. 7 seeded Badgers will face No. 2 seed Ohio State at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday in the tournament's quarterfinal game.

Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch was awarded Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week Monday after recording two straight shutouts to help the team achieve its first two game winning streak of the season, and he'll need to keep his play at a high level throughout the tournament.

"He has improved like all the young guys, and the more minutes they get, the less they look like freshmen," head coach John Trask said. "We're going to need a great game out of Max, and he knows he's capable of it."

While Jentsch acknowledged it feels good to win the award, he didn't think too much of it

since it is only one week. The freshman feels the accolade just shows the team is working hard and improving. Trask added when the goalkeeper receives this type of award it is more of a team award, and Jentsch would be the first one to tell you that.

Despite starting for the Badgers as only a freshman, Jentsch said playing against older competition is nothing new to him.

"When I was younger I used to play up, so I'm kind of used to playing with older people," Jentsch said. "I've learned a lot this year about soccer. I've just learned how to make smarter decisions, how to slow the game down when it needs to be slowed down and just control how the pace of the game goes."

In UW's 3-1 stand the past four games, Ohio State was the one game UW failed to win, but freshman forward Chris Prince is confident about his team's chances against the 10-5-2 Buckeyes, who are the defending regular season and Big Ten Tournament champions.

"Coming in as the underdogs we really have nothing to lose," Prince said. "We're just going to take that sort of stance, fight as hard as we can and have fun. As long as

we're playing as we have been, we should be able to get the win."

The Badgers seem to possess a new surge of confidence since changing formations to start the second half of their match against Michigan State on Oct. 17. Ever since, UW's young squad has been improving and becoming more comfortable with the new 4-4-2 formation.

"Of course it took us a couple of games to get used to that formation, but [when] we started using the formation, that's when we started playing our best," Prince, who has scored five goals in the six games since the formation change, said. "I know the last four games have been the resolve of our formation change. We're all playing a lot better."

Trask said Ohio State will by no means be an easy first-round matchup because the Buckeyes have some very good and exciting players, including attacking midfielder Konrad Warzycha, who scored off a set piece to propel OSU to victory against the Badgers. Trask said Ohio State's strong defense and overall quality will be a difficult test for Wisconsin.

One thing that is certain is the Badgers will have no problem

adjusting to the intense level of play the Big Ten Tournament will bring.

“I expect us to come out with a lot of energy and just [be] willing to fight. Especially for our seniors, it’s possibly the last game they’re going to play in for the rest of their career,” Prince said.

“Definitely for all of us, it’s the last game of the season, so we don’t want to lose — we want to keep going and hopefully make it to the NCAA Tournament.”

###

Big Ten tournament, OSU loom for UW

By Matthew Kleist

Thursday, November 11, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

After finishing the regular season with a pair of shutout wins, the Wisconsin men's soccer team (1-4-1 Big Ten, 4-12-2 overall) travel to University Park, Penn. to participate in the Big Ten Tournament. The Badgers will take on rival Ohio State in the first round of the tournament.

The Badgers and Buckeyes met in the regular season when Wisconsin traveled to Columbus, with Ohio State taking the 1-0 win. In a close game that was decided by the first half goal, freshman keeper Max Jentsch made six saves, playing an impressive game despite allowing the goal.

Jentsch has really stepped up his game as the regular season came to an end. The young keeper started the last six games for the Badgers, where he went for a 3-3-0 record over that span. Even with a .500 record in those last six games, his impact has been tremendous, with the three losses coming in games decided by one goal.

Finding his rhythm, Jentsch won three of his last four starts, with all three wins in a

shutout fashion. He closed the Badgers' regular season with two shutout wins. That effort earned him Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week and a spot on the College Soccer News National Team of the Week.

The Badgers face an Ohio State (4-2-0, 10-5-2) team that earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament. The Buckeyes look to earn a second straight Big Ten Tournament championship after capturing the title last year.

Ohio State keeper Matt Lampson posted a goals-against-average of 0.68 during the regular season, giving up only 12 goals. Lampson tops the Big Ten in goals-against and save percentage, and sits second in saves. The Buckeyes have outscored opponents by a margin of 18-12 over the regular season. In contrast, the Badgers have given up 27 goals and only netted 18 of their own.

Leading the Buckeyes in scoring is forward Konrad Warzycha with seven goals on the season. Ohio State also puts a handful of other impact players on the field. Forward Chris Hegngi and midfielder Austin McAnena have each scored three times and have three assists. Finally, midfielder Sam Scales has two goals and four assists.

Wisconsin is led by freshman forward Chris Prince, who finished the regular season with seven goals. Also contributing to the Badger offense are senior defender Aaron Nichols with three goals and two assists, and freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson (three goals, one assist).

###

UW's travel woes prompt time changes

By Eric Anderson

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

The kickoff times for today's quarterfinals at the Big Ten Conference men's soccer tournament were moved back two hours after the University of Wisconsin encountered travel problems en route to State College, Penn.

The seventh-seeded Badgers (4-12-2) will take on No. 2 seed Ohio State (10-5-2) at 1:30 p.m.

Today's other games are third-seeded Michigan vs. No. 6 seed Michigan State at 11 a.m. and No. 5 seed Northwestern against fourth-seeded Penn State at 4 p.m.

###

Badgers oust Buckeyes on penalty kicks

By Eric Anderson

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

For the first time since 2003, the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team will play in the semifinals of the Big Ten Conference tournament.

Freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) made 11 saves for his third consecutive shutout, and the seventh-seeded Badgers made all five of their shots from the spot to oust second-seeded Ohio State 5-4 on penalty kicks following a 0-0 tie Thursday afternoon in State College, Penn.

The Buckeyes (10-5-3), who won the tournament last year, outshot UW by a whopping 30-5 margin. The Badgers (4-12-3) managed only one shot on goal – and that was by Bryan Gerster on their first shot in the fifth minute.

But UW held on to advance to a semifinal matchup against third-seeded Michigan (12-4-3) at noon Friday. The match will be televised live on the Big Ten Network.

"There is no question that we had plenty of opportunities to win today," Buckeyes coach John Bluem said. "But we just didn't have what it took to

score against one of the hottest teams in the Big Ten right now."

Jentsch made five saves in the second half and four in the 20 minutes of overtime to extend his shutout streak to 358 minutes, 17 seconds. He's allowed just one goal in the past 476 minutes.

Ohio State made its first three penalty kicks, and junior midfielder Austin Spohn, freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson (Menomonee Falls) and sophomore defender Kyle McCrudden answered for UW.

The Buckeyes' fourth shooter, Austin McAnena, missed and freshman forward Chris Prince put the Badgers ahead. Konrad Warzycha made his shot to keep OSU alive, but junior defender Arnel Zahirovic converted to put UW through to the semifinals.

UW, which lost to Michigan 3-2 on Oct. 10, has played in only two Big Ten tournament finals: the inaugural 1991 event and again in '93. The Badgers are 2-11-2 at the tourney since 1996.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

At State College, Penn.

Thursday's quarterfinals

No. 1 Indiana received bye

No. 3 Michigan 2, No. 6 Michigan State 1

No. 7 Wisconsin 0, No. 2 Ohio State 0, tie (Wisconsin advances 5-4 on penalty kicks)

No. 4 Penn State 3, No. 5 Northwestern 1

Friday's semifinals

No. 3 Michigan (12-4-3) vs. No. 7 Wisconsin (4-12-3), noon BTN

No. 1 Indiana (9-6-2) vs. No. 4 Penn State (12-6-1), 2:30 p.m. BTN

Sunday's championship

Semifinal winners, 11 a.m. BTN

Note: Winner receives automatic NCAA tournament berth

All-Big Ten

Prince and senior midfielder Aaron Nichols, the Badgers' top two scorers this season, were named to the All-Big Ten second team.

It's the second conference honor for Nichols, who was an All-Freshman Team choice back in 2007. The team captain is second on the team

with three goals, two assists and eight points.

Prince, who leads UW with seven goals, and midfielder Paul Yonga were two of four unanimous selections on the All-Freshman team.

Midfielder-forward Nick Janus, who has a team-best three assists for the Badgers, also made the team.

Senior midfielder Jon Rzepka was UW's sportsmanship award winner for the second consecutive season.

Indiana senior midfielder Andy Adlard (Brookfield East) was a first-team All-Big Ten selection. Adlard, who made the second team last fall, is second on the Hoosiers with five goals and 17 points and leads Indiana with seven assists.

Former UW coach Todd Yeagley, who led Indiana to the regular-season Big Ten title in his first season at his alma mater, was named Coach of the Year. Hoosiers junior forward Will Bruin was the Offensive Player of the Year, Ohio State junior defender David Tiemstra collected the defensive award and Michigan forward Soony Saad earned the Freshman of the Year award.

###

UW men's soccer: Badgers shock Ohio State in Big Ten tournament

Thursday, November 11, 2010
Wisconsin State Journal/Madison.com

The seventh-seeded University of Wisconsin men's soccer team helped kick off the first day of the Big Ten Conference tournament with a shocker.

All five Badgers scored in a penalty-kick shootout and advanced to the semifinals following a scoreless upset of No. 2 seed Ohio State on Thursday at Jeffrey Field in State College, Pa.

Ohio State (10-5-3) hit its first three penalty kicks, but missed the fourth attempt.

Junior Austin Spohn, freshman Joey Tennyson, sophomore Kyle McCrudden, freshman Chris Prince and junior Arnel Zahirovic beat Buckeyes keeper Matt Lampson. Zahirovic sealed the 5-4 shootout victory as the fifth shooter.

The Badgers (4-12-3) have won four of their past five matches — the lone loss was 1-0 to Ohio State on Oct. 31.

"We just didn't have what it took to score against one of the hottest teams in the Big

Ten right now," Ohio State coach John Bluem said.

UW will face third-seeded Michigan (12-4-3), which beat Michigan State 2-1 Thursday, in a semifinal today at noon.

UW fell 3-2 to Michigan on Oct. 10.

The Badgers, 0-6-2 in the tournament since 2003, won thanks to freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch of Hartland.

UW was outshot 30-5, but Jentsch made 11 saves and extended his shutout streak to 358 minutes, 17 seconds.

###

UW shocks defending champion Ohio State Men's soccer advances to second round of Big Ten Tournament

By Jack Doyle

Friday, November 12, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

The Wisconsin men's soccer team is peaking at the right time.

With their season on line, the Badgers advanced to the second round of the Big Ten Tournament after downing the defending Big Ten champion Ohio State 5-4 in penalty kicks.

Wisconsin (1-4-1 Big Ten, 4-12-3 overall), the No. 7 seed in the Tournament, and No. 2 Ohio State went back-and-forth for the first three shots in the shootout with all three players from each team converting. The Buckeyes' fourth shooter, Austin McAnena, missed his kick, and Wisconsin freshman Chris Prince put the Badgers up 4-3 after scoring his. Both teams went on to convert their last shots, with junior Arnel Zahirovic securing the win for the Badgers.

On paper, it appeared as if Wisconsin stole a win at Penn State's Jeffrey Field on Thursday afternoon. Ohio State held an absurd 30-5 shot advantage over Wisconsin

through 110 minutes of play, including 11-1 in shots on goal.

But Wisconsin freshman goalkeeper Max Jentsch held off the imposing Ohio State attack by posting a career-high 11 saves in the match. After 110 minutes of scoreless play, Jentsch has now played nearly six hours without giving up a goal. And after a couple of rough matches to start his season, the Hartland, WI native now boasts a 3-5-1 record with four shutouts.

The triumph over the Buckeyes is just the latest installment in Wisconsin's late-season turnaround. After a disastrous 2-12-2 start to their 2010 campaign, the postseason outlook for Wisconsin was bleak. But two straight wins, including a 1-0 decision over then-No. 22 Penn State, gave the Badgers an air of confidence they have brought into the Big Ten Tournament.

Wisconsin advances to the second round of the Big Ten Tournament for the first time since 2003, and now faces No. 3 seed Michigan on Friday at noon.

###

Michigan's late goal ends UW's season

By Eric Anderson

Friday, November 12, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

For the second straight day, Max Jentsch (Hartland Arrowhead) and the University of Wisconsin men's soccer team withstood a barrage by one of the top teams in the Big Ten Conference.

Michigan outshot the Badgers 14-1 in the opening 45 minutes, forcing the freshman goalkeeper to make five saves to keep the match scoreless.

But UW turned things around in the second half. The Badgers matched the Wolverines with five shots, racked up seven corner kicks while allowing only one and yielded just one shot on goal. Unfortunately for UW, that's all Michigan needed.

Freshman forward Soony Saad scored his 17th goal of the season – tops in the nation – off a give-and-go with his brother Hamoody in the 78th minute, giving the third-seeded Wolverines a 1-0 victory over the seventh-seeded Badgers in a Big Ten tournament semifinal in State College, Penn.

"The guys played their hearts out," UW coach John Trask

said in a news release. "They really did. I'm proud of the way they battled and the effort they put out there.

"Today it came down to the two (Saad) brothers. I said at halftime that we we wanted to try to contain them. If someone was going to beat us, we wanted to try to make (Michigan) turn to someone else, but the two brothers were still good enough."

UW finished 4-13-3 overall in its first season under Trask. The .275 winning percentage is the second-lowest in program history, and the four wins matched the fewest for a UW team – both dubious marks were set by the 1998 team, which went 4-15-1 (.225).

However, there were signs of progress for the Badgers, who started six freshmen Friday and brought another off the bench. They had three wins and a tie in their final six matches, allowing just two goals in that span. And they were in nearly every game – 12 of their 13 losses came by one goal, including five in overtime.

Friday's match, the Badgers' first appearance in a Big Ten semifinal since 2003, was yet another case of close, but not enough.

Despite UW's improved play after halftime, goalkeeper Chris Blais didn't need to make a save for Michigan (13-4-3), which also beat UW 3-2 on Oct. 10. Headers off free kicks and those corner kicks ended up high or wide of the goal.

Soony Saad, last year's Gatorade National High School Player of the Year and this year's Big Ten Freshman of the Year, had the best chance of the first half. He had Jentsch beaten on free kick in the fifth minute, but his shot clanged off the post.

Saad didn't miss when he got another good look at goal.

He beat two UW defenders on the left side, then touched the ball into his sophomore brother at the top of the box. With his back to goal, Hamoody Saad used his left foot to slide the ball back outside to his sibling, who never stopped his run and slotted a shot past Jentsch to the far post.

The late goal ended Jentsch's scoreless streak at 435 minutes, 34 seconds.

UW senior defender-midfielder Aaron Nichols played all 90 minutes despite not arriving in State College until late Thursday night. The Badgers' captain was too ill to

travel with the team and missed Thursday's 0-0 tie against second-seeded Ohio State, but made the trip after UW advanced 5-4 on penalty kicks.

It also was the collegiate finale for midfielder Jon Rzepka and forward Bryan Gerster, who had three of the Badgers' six shots. Keeper Ryan Vint, UW's other senior, didn't make the trip to State College because of a back injury, the Big Ten Network reported.

Midfielder Josh Thiermann (Stoughton) also is listed as a senior on the Badgers' roster, but the transfer from Notre Dame didn't play this season as he redshirted.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

At State College, Penn.

Thursday's quarterfinals

No. 1 Indiana received bye

No. 3 Michigan 2, No. 6
Michigan State 1

No. 7 Wisconsin 0, No. 2
Ohio State 0, tie (Wisconsin
advances 5-4 on penalty
kicks)

No. 4 Penn State 3, No. 5
Northwestern 1

Friday's semifinals

No. 3 Michigan 1, No. 7
Wisconsin 0

No. 4 Penn State 2, No. 1
Indiana 1

Sunday's championship

No. 3 Michigan (13-4-3) vs.
No. 4 Penn State (13-6-1), 11
a.m. BTN

Note: Winner receives
automatic NCAA tournament
berth

###

UW falls 1-0 in season-ending defeat

Men's soccer falls to Michigan State

By Matthew Kleist

Sunday, November 14, 2010

The Daily Cardinal

Reaching the semifinals of the Big Ten Tournament for the first time since the 2003 season, the No. 7 seed Wisconsin men's soccer team faced the No. 3 seed Michigan Wolverines. Winning the regular season matchup between these two teams, the Wolverines were the clear favorite in this contest.

Michigan's Soony Saad would net the only goal of the game. Coming in the 78th minute, Saad would receive a give and go pass from older brother Hamoody Saad to set up the shot that found its way home, beating Wisconsin freshman keeper Max Jentsch. The Wolverines held on to the 1-0 lead, halting the Badger postseason push only one day after Wisconsin defeated the defending Big Ten Champions, Ohio State.

The Wolverines ended the game with the advantage in both shots, overpowering the Badgers 19-6, and shots on goal with 6. Wisconsin failed to record a shot on goal, but had multiple opportunities to put one in the back of the net.

The Badgers found themselves with three solid chances in the final ten minutes of the game. First, coming with just under 10 minutes remaining, Wisconsin would be awarded a corner kick. The ball was sent in by freshman midfielder Joey Tennyson and found the head fellow freshman Luke Goodnetter but would fly just high.

Tennyson would give the Badgers another shot at tying the game in the 85th minute. Drawing a penalty in the corner, Tennyson and freshman forward Chris Prince would line up on the ball. The kick was taken by Prince, but senior defender Aaron Nichols' header went wide.

Making one last run, Nichols carried the ball down the right sideline and the Badgers would apply some pressure on the Wolverine defense, but could not find the goal to send the game into overtime.

"The guys played their hearts out," head coach John Trask said. "They really did. I'm proud of the way they battled and the effort they put out there.

The Badgers would end Trask's first season with the team staging an impressive late season run, giving

Wisconsin a final record of 4-13-3.

###

UW's Yonga, Prince on all-tourney team

By Eric Anderson

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Wisconsin Soccer Central

University of Wisconsin freshmen Paul Yonga and Chris Prince were named to the Big Ten Conference men's soccer all-tournament team after the Badgers advanced to the semifinals last week in the event in State College, Penn.

Yonga played all 200 minutes in UW's matches, a 0-0 tie against Ohio State and a 1-0 loss to eventual champion Michigan. The midfielder finished the season as the only player to start all 20 games for the Badgers (4-13-3).

Prince logged 187 minutes at the tournament and converted his shot as UW knocked off Ohio State 5-4 on penalty kicks following the quarterfinal tie. The forward was the Badgers' leading scorer this season with seven goals and 14 points.

Michigan, runner-up Penn State and semifinalist Indiana joined UW with two players apiece on the 11-member all-tournament team. Wolverines freshman forward Soony Saad was named Offensive Player of the Tournament, while junior goalkeeper Chris Blais collected the defensive award.

Men's soccer looking towards better results in 2011

With first year of rebuilding done, Trask eyes hardworking offseason

By Noah Goetzel

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

The Badger Herald

After upsetting No. 2 seeded Ohio State, eventual champion Michigan eliminated the Wisconsin men's soccer team from the Big Ten Tournament in a 1-0 decision in University Park, PA. Friday to end the Badgers' season.

Head coach John Trask saw a lot of progress in his first season at the helm of the team, but feels there is still room for a great deal of improvement for the 4-13-3 Badgers, as the team is currently not even close to what Trask expects of them.

"Satisfying, but not good enough," Trask said. "I thought we made some good improvements. It's not where we want to be obviously, but I think the last third of the season, as the guys continued to gain confidence and became better as a unit, we became what we had talked about — becoming a pretty good team."

Becoming a principled team both offensively and

defensively was key to UW's development throughout the season. Trask felt his young squad became a smarter soccer team that demonstrated growth in its ability to dictate the game by playing to its strengths while avoiding its weaknesses.

Trask came to Wisconsin as the team's third coach in three years and acknowledged there was an uncertain adjustment period where he had to feel out his new team, especially when an astounding 15 new players joined the Badgers this past August.

While the team will not have to adjust to the same drastic changes in personnel this offseason, Trask emphasized that team training this spring and summer will still be crucial if Wisconsin wants to be in any condition to compete come August 15 when formal practice restarts.

"Every training session this spring, every spring game [and] everybody's summer plans affect what's going to happen to this group of players," Trask said. "The level of commitment from now until August 15th needs to be much greater than it was even this year, or we're going to find ourselves in the same situation."

Next season's outlook looks promising for Wisconsin, as the Badgers return starting goalkeeper freshman Max Jentsch, who closed out the season with a 435:34 minute shutout streak before finally letting up a goal in the 78th minute to Michigan on Nov. 12.

The team will also return All-Big Ten Second Team award winner freshman forward Chris Prince, who led the team in scoring with 14 points off seven goals.

"I think we're all pretty excited. We're feeling pretty confident too, especially having won three out of the [last] four games (of the regular season) and being on a two-game winning streak," Prince said. "I know we're all confident and we know what [we] have to offer, so we're feeling good. We think we can do good things."

Wisconsin's Nov. 11 penalty shootout win against Ohio State marked the first time the team has made it to the semifinals of the Big Ten Tournament since 2003.

Despite returning eight starters, maturity and leadership will remain key unanswered questions for the Badgers to address.

“Maturity will be an issue again next year due to the [way the roster] is set up,” Trask said. “We lost a couple of very good seniors in terms of leadership. We’re going to need guys to step up into the leadership void. Whatever momentum we gained at the end of the season, the harsh reality is four wins [and] 13 losses is not even close to where we expect to be.”

The Badgers also lose senior captain right back Aaron Nichols, whose athleticism, versatility and leadership from the back played an essential role in supporting UW’s inexperienced lineup.

“As far as us, coach is just expecting to keep doing what we’ve been doing – just improving,” Nichols said. “It seems to me that every game we’re getting a little bit closer to where we want to be. The team mindset is that we’re starting to get a little confidence and maturity. A lot of the guys are really starting to step up and be confident. Everyone is great players. You see the guys are starting to believe in each other. It’s looking good.”

The season never ends for the Badgers, according to Trask, as his players received just a three-day break after tournament play before returning to training.

Wisconsin will immediately begin weight training, conditioning tests and other measures to help become the bigger, stronger, tougher and overall better team Trask is looking for.

“It was a theme I told our guys every day after every game when the performance wasn’t where it needed to be,” Trask said. “You can’t look back and say what could have been, what should have been; all you can do is affect the future, and that’s what we’re going to continue to try to do.”

“If we’re national champions [or Big Ten champions], then I guess we can rest on our morals,” Trask continued. “Up until then, we have to outwork Michigan State, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio State [and] Penn State. If we don’t, we’re going to fail again next year.”

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