

Wisconsin wins 61-48, upsetting LSU

BY ANDY BITTER
BADGER HERALD

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Maybe they were saving their best for the end of the season. Maybe the stars were lined up just right. Maybe it's something in the water. Whatever the explanation, it's unbelievable.

The Wisconsin men's basketball team upset LSU, the No. 4 team, with a 61-48 Thursday night to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in the modern era. The Badgers will face sixth-seeded Purdue, who defeated Gonzaga 75-66 earlier in the night. The game will be the fourth time these two teams will meet this year.

Wisconsin (21-13) put on a defensive clinic, as it kept LSU's two star forwards, Stromile Swift and Jabari Smith, in check. Swift and Smith only managed 12 points apiece, and the next highest point total on the team was seven points by Jermaine Williams, a backup forward.

In the end, the Badgers knew it was their defense that keyed the win.

"I think it was tough," UW forward Mark Vershaw said. "For the whole game, they didn't get anything easy. We built a cushion, and you could just see them get more frustrated as the game went on."

"We are very pleased with our effort," UW head coach Dick Bennett said. "Our ability to get all five guys on the floor to play hard was signifi-

cant. We weren't pretty and weren't sharp offensively, but we made LSU earn everything, and we took advantage of the opportunities."

In fact, LSU only managed to score 14 points in the first half to go with 14 turnovers. At one point, the Tigers didn't attempt a field goal for nearly five minutes. Guard Mike Kelley was the primary thorn in the Tigers' side, as usual. The junior tallied five steals and disrupted LSU's offensive sets tremendously.

"I just credit the system that we use and my teammates," Kelley said. "I think, sometimes defensively, I get praise for what I do on the court, but it's really a five-man defense. When you have guys behind you like Jon [Bryant] and Andy [Kowske] and all the other guys, we are able to shut down the athleticism of other people."

Neither team came out of the gates smoking, but LSU struck first when Swift sunk a three-pointer just over two minutes into the game. UW forward Andy Kowske hit a pair of baby hooks, but LSU managed to open up a 9-6 lead when Jermaine Williams put in a layup after grabbing an offensive board.

The Badgers, especially Vershaw could not get anything going early on. The junior air-balled his first field goal attempt, and it appeared to rattle him.

LSU went up 14-11, but Wisconsin countered with an 11-0 run to take its first lead of the game. Bryant hit a

three-pointer, and then Vershaw found him open two possessions later on a backdoor pass for a layup. On LSU's next possession, Kelley stole an errant pass and took it the length of the floor for a layup to put Wisconsin up 20-14.

Over that stretch, the Badgers' defense buckled down, as defenders grabbed two steals, coerced a five-second violation and forced two passes to go out of bounds. UW did this despite foul trouble to two of its big men, Kowske and Charlie Wills, who picked up two and three fouls in the half, respectively.

It was clear that because the game was so physical, neither team could find any rhythm in the first half. The halftime stats confirmed the lack of offensive fluidity, as the high scorer on both teams only had five points (Swift

and Vershaw).

LSU hit only 33.3 percent of its shots, but that still topped Wisconsin's 30 percent from the field.

In the second half, LSU finally broke its seven-minute drought when Smith converted a layup after forcing a turnover under the Badgers' basket.

As the game wore on, Wisconsin's defense got tougher. Over one three-possession stretch, Kowske blocked a shot by Smith, Linton stole an inbounds pass and guard Duany Duany forced a steal when LSU point guard Torris Bright tried to drive.

"I saw it around the seven-to five-minute mark," Linton said. "[LSU wasn't] running the court as hard, and they weren't posting up as hard. They were taking terrible shots. When you see things like that, you know you've got the guys."

Runners receive high honors at Nationals

INFORMANT RENE ZENO

Seven members of indoor track competed at the Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this month. All-Americans included Bereket Kiflu, John McMilliam and Elexis Sharangabo.

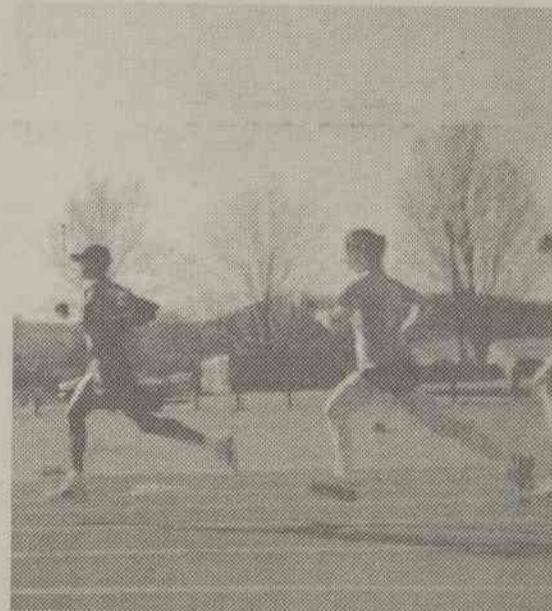
Sharangabo placed first in the 3000-meter. Kiflu ran the 5000-meter. According to Kiflu, while running, he encouraged himself with thoughts like: "hang on, you could be the hero."

John McMilliam ran the mile and the DMR relay.

"It was a great feeling, but I am glad it is over," said McMilliam.

Justin Turner ran the 5000-meters, almost qualifying for the finals. Renee Zeno ran the 55-meter and the 200-meter, finishing ninth. Jamar Bryson ran the mile and the DMR relay. William Restall ran the 400-meter and also ran in the DMR.

Also awarded All-American, the



Staff Photo

Track continues training for outdoor events.

DMR relay team finished just one second behind the winning team. The team expects equal success in outdoor events.

Women's soccer vs. SGA in fund-raiser

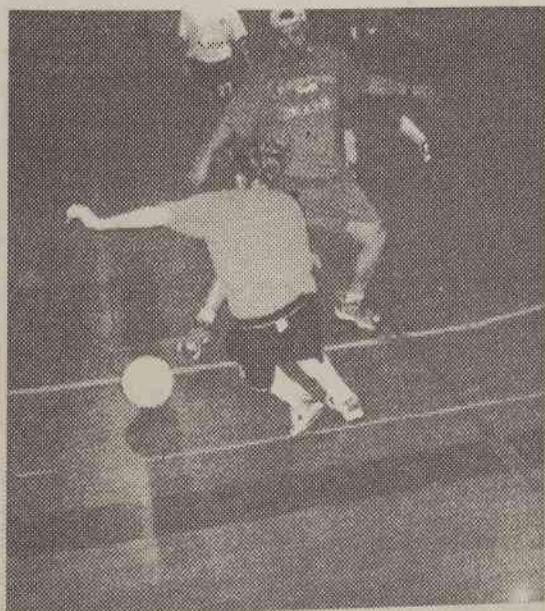


Photo by Maggie Singleton

Rachel Scalf maneuvers around SGA member in fundraiser game.

Tennis match update

BY RENE ZENO

The 2000 tennis team's nine members hit the courts on March 21. The game took place at Spartanburg Methodist College. These first matches were warm-ups for a promising season.

"Last year we went to Nationals

and the same is expected this year," said Jessica Rodriguez, junior.

Winning single matches were Camille Lacey and Katie Goetz. Kristan Cherry and Lovina Roy won one double match.