Wisconsin State Journal

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Sports Extra

Money crunch hits women's athletics

By R.R. Lenz
State Journal Sports Writer

(Part one of a three-part series.)

The growth of women's athletics at the University of Wisconsin is a matter of dollars and sense.

Money — or the lack thereof — and the ability to make decisions that both the women's and men's programs can live with and continue to grow in are the two biggest headaches facing the UW Department of Intercollegiate Athletics today.

"The entire women's budget has been thrown upon the men's budget," said Wisconsin Athletic Director Elroy Hirsch. "We (the athletic department) have only the three sources of income — men's football, basketball and hockey. And that income has been relatively stable because we have not raised ticket prices.

"With the growth of the women's program and inflation within a year or maybe two we're going to have to get some financial help or raise ticket prices or we're going to have to cut back the men's program to continue to support the women's."

Working with Hirsch in an attempt to solve the money crunch is Kit Saunders, who has been the women's director of athletics since the university began that 12-sport intercollegiate program in 1974.

Saunders recognizes the lack of funding available, but at the same time is attempting to build a program of equal caliber to the men's.

The problem then: How do you build a program without money?

When the somebody in the athletic department gets more money, that means somebody somewhere is going to get less. And when the athletic department says it needs more money, the somebodies somewhere start to squirm.

Those methods most seriously considered for getting more money include, one, getting it from the Legislature; two, reorganization of the athletic department so that some sports are deemphasized in importance, and three, ticket price increases and cutbacks in the men's non-income sports, which are all but football, hockey and basketball.



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— Elroy Hirsch



'Most of the changes we want to make cost more money. And while we're talking about cutbacks, I should mention, too, that this has affected the men's program. There are a number of men's teams that once had buses and now travel in vans. The men's wrestling and track teams have to use vans many times.'

— Kit Saunders

Feeling of urgency

Complicating the money problem is Title IX and a discrimination suit recently filed against the university by women's basketball Coach Edwina Qualls.

Title IX, which guarantees equality between men and women for all schools receiving federal aid, and the Qualls suit have created a feeling of urgency, one that is shared by almost every university nationwide as it attempts to upgrade its women's athletic program.

Basically, Qualls' suit charged the university with being lax in its attempt to upgrade the women's program. The complaint specified four major areas — team travel, facilities, scholarships and parity between coaching staffs — where Qualls felt there were major discrepancies between the men's and women's program.

"We had addressed a lot of the problems in the (Qualls) complaint before it was made public, which tells you that we had been aware of the problems and had been working on them," Saunders said.

"We still have some problems in some of the areas — like the crew house. Since we only have one crew house and we have a men's and women's team, that kind of tells you that an addition is the only answer. And that's going to cost a lot of money."

Saunders does not appear to be trying to ram the women's program down the men's throats. She is well aware that the lack of money exists throughout the department — and is not simply an excuse used by the men.

"Most of the changes we want to make cost more money," Saunders said. "And while we're talking about cutbacks, I should mention, too, that this has affected the men's program. There are a number of men's teams that once had buses and now travel in vans. The men's wrestling and track teams have to use vans many times.

"So it's not a problem that's just affecting the women's teams. It's a funding problem that's affecting everybody."

So intradepartment cuts don't have to be made, both Saunders and Hirsch obviously would prefer to have the money needed come from outside the department.

"I feel the university has got to come to the rescue and help us solve our problems," Saunders said. "And I think we're getting to the point where people realize that.

"When you talk about Title IX, it's the university that has the responsibility to see that men and women have equal opportunities. So I think that as soon as the university is convinced that we're being financially responsible and that we're not being extravagant, if they really want a good athletic program, they'll have to help us out."

Legislature may help

Both Hirsch and Saunders believe the Legislature may be prevailed upon to provide the extra money. But Hirsch was quick to note, "That's a very easy thing to say. But it isn't just Wisconsin. You're looking at 27 campuses. If they (the Legislature) do it for us, they'll have to do it for the other 26.

"I just think that some support should be forthcoming. I can see the problems also in the days of the tight buck. And I would have to imagine that if you have X number of dollars to put into a welfare program or into intercollegiate athletics, obviously intercollegiate athletics has to take the low priority."

The money will definitely not be appropriated from academic areas of the university, according to Irving Shain, who as university chancellor will ultimately decide where the money will come from.

"I would make that decision, yes," Shain said, adding, "Of course, it will be a decision based upon the advice of the Athletic Board.

"I haven't reviewed the matter far enough yet to make a final decision. Certainly, though, we will make no cutbacks in our academic programs to support the athletic program."

HEW defines Title IX

Part of the reason why nobody is making a decision on the lack of money is due to Health, Education and Welfare, the federal department responsible for the enforcement of Title IX. Right now, the HEW is trying to figure out what Title IX means and, until it does, it prevents schools from knowing just how far they have to go to reach equality between their men's and women's programs.

One of the big hangups for the HEW and every university is the question of non-income versus income sports. Saunders believes that income sports — which are only men's football, basketball and hockey at Wisconsin — must be included when considering equality of the programs.

"I think that we have to have a proportionate number of full scholarships for men and women — and that includes the income sports like men's football, basketball and hockey in that proportion," she said.

"It doesn't make any sense to me to have different scholarship programs for men and women or one for income sports and one for everyone else."

Saunders' beliefs translate into the women's program more than doubling the number of full scholarships it has now. The men's program, which accounts for 55 percent of the athletes at Wisconsin, has 175 full scholarships available. The women's program has 38 1/3. Forty-five percent, to represent the number of women athletes, of 175 scholarships would give the women's program almost 79 full scholarships.

Hirsch, Saunders disagree

Hirsch does not share Saunders' opinion.

"I think the two programs should have equal scholarships over and above the income sports," Hirsch said. "Now Title IX does not say you can do that. But the only way we can survive is if we take men's football, basketball and hockey and keep them as strong as possible. So obviously, they'll maintain their level of income.

"When it comes to non-income sports, we are already equal in scholarships. Where the inequality comes is when you equate the three income sports. But they're unique. I don't think you can put those in the same category.

"If you set aside the three income sports and then take all of the non-income sports and then spend the same amount per capita per student, then that is equality."

Saunders does not share that reasoning. But Saunders also faces a ticklish problem since she is the head of a program that contributes no income and whose program is an extension of a department that does.

Would she like to be given her own budget to spend throughout the women's program as she sees fit?

"That would be the ideal situation," Saunders said. "But that's not possible as long as the department's income comes from the three men's sports. If I was given a separate budget, the money at first would have to come from the university."

But while Saunders understands the current financial problem, she also doesn't want to be put in a position of having to stunt the growth of the fledgling women's program.

"I'm not a super patient person and I've had to learn that things just don't happen overnight," said Saunders, who served as the Wisconsin women's sports coordinator for eight years before the women's program became intercollegiate.

"I always enjoy a little frustration," she added. "Probably if everything got real smooth and simple, I'd have to find something else to do."

But for now, things probably won't get much easier.

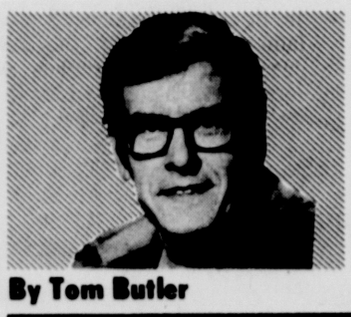
As an example, when asked if she found the men always understanding about some of the problems in the women's program, Saunders smiled and answered: "Well, sometimes it is difficult."

And when asked the same question about the women, Hirsch replied: "I would rather not answer that."

And so it goes.

(Part two: Wisconsin women's recruiting, scholarships and sports information.)

Kalasmiki's grades cool off UW's optimism



By Tom Butler

Wisconsin football never seems to enjoy a very long interlude of optimism. Mike Kalasmiki's ineligibility is a case in point.

Dave McClain's program has been riding on a wave of euphoria since the 48-10 victory over Minnesota that gave the Badgers a winning season last fall. Recruiting seemed to be going well, according to McClain, and generally there was a feeling of optimism about next season.

Then, poof! The bubble burst. Kalasmiki, the guy who became the catalyst at quarterback last fall, is dropped from school. It came at a most inopportune time, although I guess there never is an opportune time for something like that.

Still, with recruiting season heading into the final weeks, it does not help to have your starting quarterback declared scholastically ineligible. The same thing happened a year ago with Anthony Dudley.

I find it a little hard to figure how a young man with Kalasmiki's obvious potential can let something like this happen. By the time an athlete reaches his junior year he ought to have the "system" pretty well figured out. It shouldn't be too tough attending classes, studying a few hours a day and maintaining the minimum requirements needed to retain eligibility.

Granted, the fall semester puts a tremendous strain on a football player. I sometimes wonder how some of these guys do manage it. They work tremendously hard at meetings, practicing and lifting weights through most of an afternoon, and then are expected to study late into the night.

Sometimes it's physically impossible. Whether the skeptics agree or not, it takes an enormous amount of dedication and sacrifice to participate in college athletics at this level. They pay for any glory or fringe benefits that might accrue.

Those who never learn how to budget their time — when to work and when to play — are the ones who usually flunk out. So now it's Kalasmiki.

According to McClain, or at least the official line from the athletic department, Kalasmiki will make every available effort to acquire enough credits to regain eligibility by attending Madison Area Technical College. Then, Kalasmiki must have these outside credits accepted by the University of Wisconsin before being re-admitted. All this is chancy at best.

This means Kalasmiki definitely will miss spring practice, a most important period when so much preparation is made for the regular season. There isn't much time during three weeks to prepare for the first game. That's why spring ball becomes so crucial.

Next season, the Badgers open Sept. 8 at Purdue against quarterback Mark Herrmann and most of that Boilermaker crew that whipped Georgia Tech so convincingly in the Peach Bowl last month.

McClain covets the option attack, but he abandoned it last fall because of a combination of circumstances. First, freshman John Josten got hurt, providing Kalasmiki a chance to show his stuff. Second, the offensive line wasn't suited to the option attack.

It seemed obvious, then, that this spring the Badgers would concentrate on their "throw game," as McClain calls the offense with Kalasmiki at the controls. Kalasmiki had the best success moving the team and it seemed apparent the other quarterbacks would have to show plenty to move ahead of him.

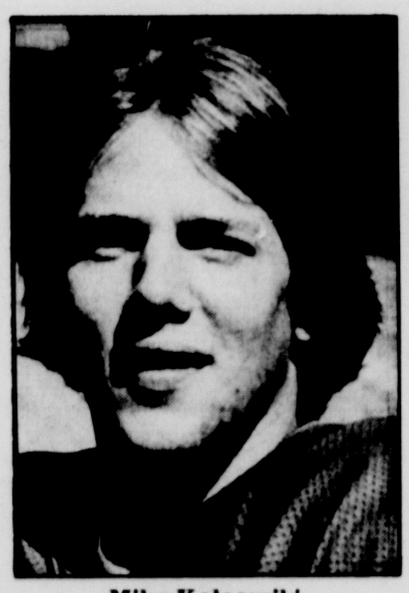
Kalasmiki never had a complete year of varsity football. He injured his knee and underwent surgery after the Ohio State game as a sophomore. He missed last spring practice while rehabilitating the knee. Now, even if he returns next fall, it will be without the benefit of spring drills.

What Kalasmiki's absence will do, though, is leave the quarterback position wide open for people like Josten, Scott Moeschl, Jeff Buss, Kevin Motl and Evansville's Steve Parish, who transferred to Wisconsin from Kansas State and sat out last fall, directing the scout team.

Kalasmiki joins a long list of UW athletes who flunked out at one time or another. Some, like Jug Girard in football and Ron Jackson in basketball, never returned. Even Ron VanderKelen played only the 1962 season because of ineligibility one fall and a knee injury another.

A year ago McClain lost No. 1 quarterback Dudley and Lee Washington, a starting linebacker. Nobody can accuse Wisconsin of being a football factory, I guess.

If Kalasmiki never returns it will be a decided loss. Anybody who can throw like that will keep a team in a lot of games and win his share. With him, Wisconsin's football future showed promise. Without him, I'm not so sure.



Mike Kalasmiki

Two recent occurrences, the Kalasmiki situation and Phil Hubbard's knee problem, made me think about the vagaries of college athletics and the importance of the degree.

Hubbard, Michigan's once talented basketball star, looked like a shadow of his former self here a couple weeks ago. A knee injury had reduced his efficiency to about three-quarters of what it was two years ago. If that persists, his pro future is clouded indeed.

Just about everybody agrees that Kalasmiki possesses a pro arm. But his chances are doubtful without that senior college season.

Wisconsin's Kalasmiki to go to Madison Tech

By Associated Press

Quarterback Mike Kalasmiki, voted the most valuable player on the University of Wisconsin football team last season, says he's enrolled at Madison Area Technical College.

Kalasmiki, who flunked out of Wisconsin after the first semester, could return to Wisconsin if he completes his courses at the technical school and wins an appeal for readmission.

"I'll be back next fall," said Kalasmiki, a junior from Addison, Ill.

Sports on TV

TODAY

10 a.m. — Women's basketball — Highlights of the Badger Invitational, taped at UW Field House; WHA-TV, Ch. 21.

11 a.m. — Challenge of the Sexes — Nancy Lopez vs. Hale Irwin in golf; Kathy Johnson vs. Mike Wilson in gymnastics; Melanie Smith vs. Rodney Jenkins in show jumping; WISC-TV, Ch. 3.

12:45 p.m. — NBA basketball — Chicago Bulls at Denver Nuggets; WISC-TV, Ch. 3.

12:30 p.m. — NCAA basketball — Virginia Tech vs. Louisville; cable Ch. 2.

1 p.m. — NCAA basketball — Marquette at Duke; WMTV, Ch. 15.

1 p.m. — Superstars — Participants include Wayne Grimditch, George Gervin, Bryan Trottier, Earnie Shavers, Jimmy Young, Toller Cranston, Shep Messing, taped at Freeport, the Bahamas; WKOW-TV, Ch. 27.

2:15 p.m. — Boxing — USSR and USA amateurs in team competition taped at Las Vegas; WKOW-TV, Ch. 27.

3 p.m. — Golf — Andy Williams San Diego Open; WISC-TV, Ch. 3.

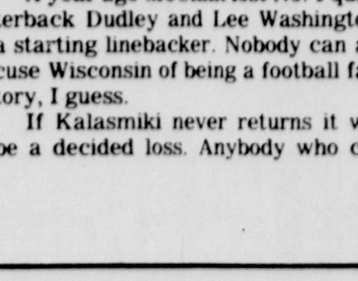
3 p.m. — Sportsworld — World pro skiing championship, taped at Aspen, Colo.; Women's World Cup surfing, taped off Oahu, Hawaii; Celebrity off-road race, taped at Riverside, Calif.; World Karate Association welterweight title bout, taped at Tokyo, Japan; cable Ch. 4.

3:30 p.m. — Wide World of Sports — World weightlifting championships, taped at Gettysburg, Pa.; Men's World Cup skiing coverage; WKOW-TV, Ch. 27.

5 p.m. — Bob Johnson Hockey Show; WKOW-TV, Ch. 27.

6 p.m. — Pro soccer; WHA-TV, Ch. 21.

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