U-M: Bragging rights at stake versus Spartans

BY JOHN ELIGON
FREE PRESS
SPORTS WRITER

The Michigan-Michigan State rivalry usually falls short of the hype when the teams play in Ann Arbor, where the Spartans haven't won a football game since 1990. During their six-game home winning streak against MSU, the Wolverines' average margin of victory is a little more than 22 points.

In all-time games, Michigan is 46-18-3 at home against the Spartans.

But those numbers mean little to the No. 12 Wolverines.

They will be hyper for Saturday's showdown against the Spartans no matter what -- especially the players who grew up in the state of Michigan.

"It's really important" to go back home a winner, said U-M linebacker Roy Manning, a graduate of Saginaw High. "All your hometown people, they really get on you if you lose. I don't want to go back to Saginaw and have people looking at me and calling me a loser."

Michigan State will visit Michigan Stadium for the 97th meeting in the series, which U-M leads, 63-28-5.

U-M players said Michigan State week always takes on a special feeling -- from the unveiling of the Paul Bunyan Trophy (awarded to the winner) at a Sunday team meeting to the added intensity during practices.

This fire should be quite evident this weekend.

"When you get out on the field ... guys just play a little bit harder," said U-M linebacker Joey Sarantos, who attended Portage Northern. "They fight a little bit more, they go a little bit longer after the whistle. You just feel the energy on the field in the rivalry games."

But coach Lloyd Carr doesn't want all that energy to pour out through loose lips the week of the game. Before each season, he said, he warns his players.

"If there's things that come up that I don't like, I'm gonna address what I don't like," Carr said. "What you try to do is have a program that respects the opponent, that in victory is magnanimous. To me, it's a philosophy. It's a way that we try to do things at Michigan."

Early in the season, Michigan appeared to be the far superior team. The Spartans were 1-2 in nonconference games, with losses at Rutgers and at home against Notre Dame. Their lone victory came over Central Michigan.

But in Big Ten play the Spartans are 3-1, and two Saturdays ago they thrashed then-No. 19 Minnesota, 51-17. In conference games, MSU leads the league in total offense, rushing offense and scoring.

The difference-maker has been quarterback Drew Stanton, who played sparingly in the first three games because of a knee injury but has started all four conference games. In Big Ten games, Stanton leads the league in total offense and is fifth in rushing (first among quarterbacks).

MSU's recent success hasn't gone unnoticed in Ann Arbor.

"They might not have started off the way they wanted to," said U-M cornerback Marlin Jackson, "but they've gotten better week in and week out, and that's a dangerous team. It's always good to go up against a team that's playing their best football."

For someone like Sarantos, the rivalry always has been special, regardless of how well the Spartans are playing. Sarantos grew up as a Michigan fan because his father attended U-M. But he has many friends -- non-football players -- who attend Michigan State. Some of them, Sarantos said, would be calling him this week to talk smack.
"As a kid, you hear Michigan and Michigan State, you feel that rivalry just hearing those two schools," he said. "I always grew up not liking the colors green and white, especially together."

One thing that makes this rivalry so special is that many players will face friends they played with and against in high school.

Linebacker Ron Stanley, defensive end Clifton Ryan and wide receiver Matt Trannon are just a few of the Spartans U-M linebacker LaMarr Woodley said he was close to. Going against the receiver Trannon could prove especially exciting for Woodley because they play on opposite sides of the ball, meaning Woodley might get the opportunity to lay a hit on him.

And would taking aim at a friend be difficult to do?

"No, not at all," Woodley said with a smirk. "You gotta do what you gotta do."

NOTEBOOK: U-M freshman tailback Michael Hart was named the Cingular/ABC Sports All-America player of the week for his performance in the Wolverines' 16-14 victory over Purdue. Hart ran 33 times for 206 yards and caught a 25-yard touchdown pass. He also was named Big Ten offensive player of the week.

Hart and Oklahoma freshman Adrian Peterson are the only running backs to win the national award this season. Hart beat Miami (Fla.) quarterback Brock Berlin, Mississippi State tailback Jerious Norwood and Arizona State quarterback Andrew Walter for the award, on which fans voted.

Players of the week: Big Ten - - Hart; Minnesota junior running back Marion Barber III (11 carries for 138 yards and two touchdowns and a TD pass vs. Illinois); Minnesota junior linebacker Kyle McKenzie of Detroit DePorres (12 tackles, including nine solo and 2.5 sacks, and a forced fumble). Mid-American Conference West -- Toledo senior defensive end Phil Alexander (13 tackles, including two for loss, vs. Central Michigan); Northern Illinois senior quarterback Josh Haldi (15-for-22 passing for 333 yards and six TDs vs. Western Michigan). Great Lakes Conference -- Michigan Tech sophomore running back Lee Marana of Ishpeming Westwood (43 carries for 233 yards and three TDs vs. Ferris State); Northwood senior defensive back Martel Foster of River Rouge (three interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown, and four solo tackles vs. Grand Valley State). Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association -- Alma sophomore quarterback Josh Brehm of Ithaca (29-for-46 passing for 416 yards and four TDs vs. Kalamazoo); Adrian junior defensive back Dan McKeown of Walled Lake Central (three interceptions, three pass breakups and six tackles vs. Hope).

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Wayne falls to Ashland

Scott Harrison

DETROIT—Ashland spoiled Wayne State’s homecoming game Saturday, rallying from a 14-point deficit late in the fourth quarter to win, 28-21.

Tailback Antwan Hart, who went to Detroit Northwestern, scored on a 1-yard run with 38 seconds remaining to give Ashland (4-5, 3-5 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) the victory.

Ashland Coach Lee Owens dared Hart at halftime to make some big plays in his hometown.

"I challenged him," Owens said. "That is his town and for him to make some big plays.

"I've been working all season hoping to be a part of a game-winning decision," said Hart, who finished with 34 carries for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

Ashland began its comeback when Nick Strance threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Dalorean White to make it 21-14. After a Wayne State punt, Strance found White for a 66-yard touchdown on the first play of the drive to tie the score. Hart’s touchdown capped Ashland’s comeback.

Wayne State (1-7, 1-7) make the big plays early. Chris Middlebrooks had 30 carries for 112 yards and three touchdowns. Each of his scores was set up by big gains to freshmen receivers Darren Haynes and Gary Frisby.

Nolan Martin found Haynes for 75 yards and Frisby for 38 and 25 yards. Martin finished 16-of-33 for 262 yards and an interception.

"We played with a lot of emotion today, but dealing with this loss just puts more fuel on the fire to win," Martin said.

White had four catches for 138 yards and Strance was 16-of-30 for 218 yards with two interceptions.

More GLIAC

**Michigan Tech** 28, (at) **Ferris State** 6: Lee Marana had 43 carries for 233 yards and three touchdowns for Michigan Tech (8-0, 8-0), which is ranked eighth in Division II. Dan Hettlich completed 11 of 120 passes for 129 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown pass to Kirk Williams.

Ferris State (6-3, 6-2) was held to 202 total yards.

**Northwood** 35, (at) **Grand Valley** 14: Martell Foster and Jon Horn returned interceptions for touchdowns in a 21-point first quarter for Northwood (6-1, 8-1), which is ranked 18th in Division II. Grand Valley (6-2, 6-2) was ranked 10th.

Ryan Hukill scored on a 19-yard run and Demonte Collins caught a 4-yard touchdown pass to help Grand Valley cut its deficit to 21-14 in the third quarter. But Northwood put the game away in the fourth quarter on an 18-yard touchdown run by Eric Chrisinske and a 1-yard scoring run by Willie Johnson.

Northwood had five interceptions, including three by Foster.

(At) **Saginaw Valley** 42, **Northern Michigan** 7: Logan Barnhart, Justin Barcey, Michael Collins and Rick Cottengim had touchdowns in a 28-point second quarter that put the game away for Saginaw Valley (6-2, 6-2), which is ranked 19th in Division II. Saginaw Valley had seven sacks. Northern Michigan is 2-6 and 2-6.

Tiffin 15, (at) **Hillsdale** 13: Phil Martin had 25 carries for 201 yards, Mark Nicolet had 14 carries for 113 yards and Dan Wilson 17 carries for 70 yards and a touchdown for Hillsdale (2-7), which lost despite outgaining Tiffin (4-5), 493-296. Hillsdale had six turnovers.

**MIAA**

(At) **Alma** 38, **Kalamazoo** 14: Josh Brahm completed 29 of 46 passes for 416 yards and four touchdowns and Tyler Thelan had seven receptions.
for 152 yards and a touchdown for Alma (6-1, 4-0 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association), which is ranked 25th in Division III.

Tim Kaselitz completed 24 of 40 passes for 240 yards and two touchdowns with three interceptions for Kalamazoo (1-6, 0-4).

Hope 7, (at) Adrian 0: Joe Schwander threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Joe Verschueren in the third quarter for Hope (5-2, 4-0). Adrian is 4-3 and 1-3.

(At) Albion 41, Wisconsin Lutheran 7: Steve Wasil threw for 330 yards, including three touchdown passes to Craig Nabozny, for Albion (5-2, 3-1). Wisconsin Lutheran is 1-6 and 1-3.

Olivet 41, (at) Tri-State 21: Marcus Robinson passed for 164 yards and three touchdowns, and Terrance Summers, Clint Hetrick and Kemp Luchie had touchdown runs for Olivet (5-2, 2-2). Tri-State is 1-6 and 1-3.
Wisconsin 7, Michigan Tech 3

MADISON, Wis.

A.J. Degenhardt broke a 2-2 tie in the second period and Adam Burish added a short-handed goal less than four minutes later as No. 7 Wisconsin rallied to defeat Michigan Tech 7-3 Friday.

Robbie Earl and Nick Licari each had a goal and two assists, and Kyle Klubertanz and Joe Pavelski each added a goal and an assist for the Badgers.

Brandon Schwartz scored a goal and added an assist for Michigan Tech (0-3, 0-3 Western Collegiate Hockey Association), which held a 2-0 lead before Wisconsin (3-0, 1-0) rallied.

Cam Ellsworth made 35 saves for Michigan Tech, which was outshot 42-20. Wisconsin’s Bernd Bruckler stopped 17 shots.

Degenhardt snuck a shot from the left side under Ellsworth, then Burish scored with a hard wrist shot on a short-handed, 2-on-1 break with Licari 3:44 later to put Wisconsin up 4-2.

Last Friday, they defeated Mercyhurst 3-2. A week later, the Huskies used their special teams to gain the advantage.

Freshman Jordan Foote had a shot deflect off him and into the net on the power play, and Chris Conner found Schwartz with a perfect pass for a short-handed tip-in and a 2-0 lead.

After Wisconsin took the lead, Michigan Tech’s Lars Helminen cut his team’s deficit to 4-3 with 37.2 seconds remaining in the second period, but Joe Pavelski gave the Badgers a 5-3 lead on a power play six minutes into the third period.
Wisconsin 3, Michigan Tech 0

MADISON, Wis.

Brian Elliott has two shutouts in two games this season for Wisconsin, but he had trouble taking credit for his most recent one.

Elliott was forced to make only one save in the third period of the seventh-ranked Badgers' 3-0 victory over Michigan Tech Saturday night, which completed a Western Collegiate Hockey Association weekend sweep.

The sophomore had just 13 saves for the game, but that was enough to claim his second career shutout.

"The mentality I got into every game with is nothing gets past me," said Elliott, who made 18 saves last Saturday in an 8-0 blanking of Mercyhurst. "I think of it as a team shutout rather than my shutout."

Joe Pavelski had a goal and an assist for the Badgers (4-0, 2-0 WCHA), who outshot the Huskies 46-13, including 19-5 in the first period. It was the fourth two-point game in as many appearances this season for Pavelski, a freshman.

Jeff Likens and Ryan MacMurchy added goals, and Wisconsin blocked 14 of Michigan Tech's 44 shot attempts.

"I think I had one save in the last period," Elliott said. "That goes through your mind all period, 20 minutes long. But I think (defenseman) Tommy Gilbert had more saves than me in that last period because he blocked so many shots."

Bryce Luker stopped 43 shots for Michigan Tech (0-4, 0-4 WCHA), which has dropped its first four conference games for the first time since 1999. His performance in a losing cause was a bright spot to Michigan Tech coach Jamie Russell, whose team entered the game last in the WCHA in scoring defense.

But Russell was displeased with his team's effort.

"I think our guys approached the game as, 'Let's see what kind of goaltending we're going to get. Let's see what kind of effort we're going to put into it,'" Russell said. "I thought, in the first period for sure, we got beat to every loose puck, we lost all the battles along the walls. Give Wisconsin credit - I thought they played very well. But I think it was wait and see as to how we were going to come out, and that's unacceptable."

Wisconsin, which improved to 18-2 in its last 20 games against the Huskies, dominated the first period, getting 18 of the first 20 shots on goal and taking a 2-0 lead on a power-play goal by Likens and an even-strength goal by Pavelski.

MacMurchy added a goal in the second period for a 3-0 lead.
Elliott made his toughest save of the game on the Huskies' Ryan Markham late in the second period. Markham had a rebound chance from close range, but Elliott kicked out his left pad to deny the shot with his toe.

After scoring 11 goals against Mercyhurst on the opening weekend, the Badgers registered their second straight series with at least 10 goals. The last time that happened was in the 1991-92 season.
LINEMATES CLICK IN UW WIN
PREP PALS LICARI, CARLSON COMBINE ON CRUCIAL GOAL

By Todd D. Milewski
The Capital Times

When Nick Licari, Ross Carlson and Jake Dowell are sent out as the University of Wisconsin's line to start a period, it's clear what the Badgers need.

The trio brings energy, hard work and tenacity. Friday night, you could add a much-needed goal to that list.

Carlson and Licari, teammates in high school a few years back and now linemates at the UW, paired up on a critical goal early in the second period that set up the seventh-ranked Badgers' 7-3 victory over Michigan Tech in front of 10,718 fans at the Kohl Center.

Licari banged home a rebound of a Carlson attempt just 12 seconds into the second period, which followed an opening 20 minutes in which the Badgers held their ground but fell behind 2-0.

Six other players added goals later for the UW, including Dowell, but Licari's goal did wonders for the Badgers and started forming the cracks in Michigan Tech goaltender Cam Ellsworth's game.

"The reason we started them at the beginning of the game and the beginning of the second period is because they can create that energy," said Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves, whose team won the Western Collegiate Hockey Association opener for the first time in his three seasons as coach. "With Jake Dowell in there, they really got it going and got the ultimate result, and that's getting the goal. You see what it did to the bench and to the crowd. It got them into it, and we were able to roll with that."

Just 78 seconds later, freshman defenseman Kyle Klubertanz scored his first goal for the Badgers to tie it, and A.J. Degenhardt and Adam Burish later put a cap on a four-goal second period that gave the UW control.

It has been a number of years since they were strike partners at Duluth (Minn.) East High School, but Licari and Carlson knew they had some chemistry going and showed it against the Huskies.

"It was important for us to start off the second (period) strong," said Licari, who was a sophomore in high school when Carlson was a senior in the 1999-2000 season. "It's a tribute to my linemates working hard."

Dowell added his fourth goal of the season late in the third period to cap things off on a five-point night for the line. Last season, it took Dowell 28 games to reach the four-goal mark; this year, it took him three games.

That's emblematic of the spread of scorers the Badgers (3-0 overall, 1-0 WCHA) are featuring these days. They've had 10 players score their 18 goals through three games this season, and on Friday night got seven goals without a single one from the top line of Ryan MacMurchy, Andrew Joudrey and Matt Auffrey.

"That's what happens when you have balance," Eaves said. "You don't have all your eggs in one basket, so to speak. You have balance on all three lines, and it's tough for the opposing coach to say, 'We've got to cover this guy.'"

Whereas UW goaltender Bernd Bruckler didn't have a ton to do - he stopped 17 of the 20 shots he faced - the Badgers got to Ellsworth early and often in the final two periods. The Michigan Tech senior stopped each of the 17 shots the Badgers threw at him in the first period, but things started coming undone on Licari's goal.

A turnover behind the net left Carlson with a shot from the left side of the cage. Ellsworth made the save, but the rebound shot out to a wide-open Licari, who buried it.
Ellsworth stopped only 18 of 25 shots after the first period.

"I think he had a very good first period and it ended there," Michigan Tech coach Jamie Russell said. "Cam didn't have a good outing in the second and third periods. I don't think that's any shock to say that to anybody."

The Badgers held Huskies junior Chris Conner to one assist - albeit a nice one on Brandon Schwartz's short-handed goal - and two shots on goal. He was minus-3. Conner finished second to Bruckler in voting for preseason player of the year.

The Huskies (0-3, 0-3) closed their deficit to 4-3 on a Lars Hellminen goal with 37.2 seconds left in the second period, but the Badgers held them in check while scoring three more goals of their own. Wisconsin has outscored opponents 10-0 in the final period of its three games this season, something the players credit to their conditioning.

They can credit much of this win to the spark they got from Licari and his linemates.

"He's probably one of the hardest workers I've played with," Carlson said of Licari. "He'll go down and block shots for anybody. He'll be the first one in front of the train for our team, and that's what I appreciate about him."

**Michigan Tech 2 1 0 - 3 Wisconsin 0 4 3 - 7**

First period: MT - Foote 1 (Dora, Murphy), 9:23 (pp); Schwartz 2 (Conner), 12:36 (sh). Penalties: Batovanja, MT, 3:51; Auffrey, W, 7:27; Shelast, MT, 12:19; Likens, W, 13:40; Hellminen, MT, 16:23; W bench (too many men; served by Carlson), 17:40.

Second period: W - Licari 1 (Carlson), :12; Klubertanz 1 (Earl, Likens), 1:30 (pp); Deegenhardt 2 (Rowe, Olinger), 13:16; Burish 1 (Licari), 17:00 (sh). MT - Helminen 1 (Kerr, Schwartz), 19:22. Penalties: Gwilliam, MT, 1:07; Gilbert, W, 5:20; Wilkens, MT, 10:30; Ulvin, MT, 12:58; Earl, W, 12:58; Dowell, W, 16:07; Shelast, MT, 17:36; Drewiske, W, 17:36.

Third period: W - Pavelski 2 (Earl, Klubertanz), 5:58 (pp); Earl 2 (Pavelski, Klubertanz), 12:19; Dowell 4 (Licari), 17:04. Penalties: Scott, MT, 4:03; Earl, W, 7:46; Foote, MT, 8:34; Wilkens, MT, 13:11; Murphy, MT, 19:31; Klubertanz, W, 19:31.

Saves: MT (Ellsworth 17-11-7) 35; W (Bruckler 6-6-5) 17.


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**GRAPHIC: MICHELLE STOCKER/THE CAPITAL TIMES** Wisconsin's Joe Pavelski (right) falls on the puck as he works against Michigan Tech's Chris Conner Friday night. Pavelski scored a third-period goal in the Badgers' 7-3 WCHA-opening victory at the Kohl Center. UW's David Drewiske looks to pass as Michigan Tech's Mike Batovanja defends Friday night.
Badgers overpower Tech

From news services

A strong start to the second period allowed Nick Licari and Wisconsin to overcome another early deficit Friday night.

Licari scored 12 seconds into the second period, the first of four consecutive goals that propelled the No. 7 Badgers past Michigan Tech 7-3 at Madison, Wis.

Wisconsin trailed 2-0 after the first period for the second time in three games this season, but the Badgers rallied on second-period goals by Licari, Kyle Klubertanz, A.J. Degenhardt and Adam Burish.

"We started out the game pretty well, and I think it was important for us to start the second well," said Licari, who had a goal and two assists. "It's a tribute to my line-mates. It was an important start."

Robbie Earl also had a goal and two assists, and Klubertanz and Joe Pavelski each added a goal and an assist for the Badgers, who beat Michigan Tech for the 17th time in the past 19 games.

Brandon Schwartz scored a goal and added an assist for the Huskies, who enjoyed a 2-0 lead in a game at Wisconsin for the first time since 1998.

But Licari got the Badgers started off a rebound of a Ross Carlson shot created after a turnover behind the net.

Klubertanz tied the score on a power play 90 seconds into the third period, and Degenhardt and Burish scored 3:44 apart in the second half of the period to give Wisconsin the lead. The Badgers outshot the Huskies 42-20.

Minn.-Duluth 8, Minn. State (Mankato) 3: Marco Peluso scored three goals to lead Minnesota-Duluth to a victory over visiting Minnesota State (Mankato).

The Bulldogs scored five unanswered points in the second period, putting away what had been a close game. The Mavericks scored once at the end, but that was all they could muster.

Denver 5, St. Cloud State 2: Gabe Gauthier scored two short-handed goals, including the game-winner, to propel the defending champion Pioneers to a victory over St. Cloud State at Denver.

Colorado College 4, Air Force 1: Brett Sterling scored two goals as visiting Colorado College beat rival Air Force.

Colorado College center Marty Sertich added a power-play goal and two assist.

Bemidji State 5, Ferris State 2: Bemidji State got a goal and an assist from each of four players to beat visiting Ferris State.

Matt Pope, Andrew Murray, Brendan Cook and Blaine Jarvis each scored and notched an assist for Bemidji State.
BADGERS DIG OUT, BURY HUSKIES
UW TRAILS 2-0 AFTER THE FIRST PERIOD, BUT ROLLS TO A CONVINcing WIN OVER MICHIGAN TECH

Andy Baggot
Wisconsin State Journal

So far, the only thing missing from the repertoire of University of Wisconsin men’s hockey team this young season is a sense of panic.

For the second straight series opener, the Badgers dug themselves an early two-goal pit, then calmly stormed back to win.

UW rode exceptional balance on offense -- conversions from seven sources -- and rolled to a 7-3 Western Collegiate Hockey Association triumph over Michigan Tech before 10,718 fans Friday night at the Kohl Center.

The line of left winger Nick Licari, center Jake Dowell and right winger Ross Carlson fueled the comeback after spotting the Huskies an early 2-0 lead.

Licari provided the goal that jump-started UW -- a rebound score 12 seconds into the second period -- and added a pair of assists. Dowell accounted for a third-period goal, while Carlson had an assist and set up a ton of plays with his hustle and creativity.

Defenseman Kyle Klubertanz (power play), winger A.J. Degenhardt (4-on-4) and winger Adam Burish (shorthanded) did their part during a four-goal outburst in the second.

Winger Robbie Earl and center Joe Pavelski joined Dowell in scoring third-period goals for the Badgers (3-0 overall, 1-0 WCHA). Bernd Bruckler finished with 17 saves.

The comeback was a bit more forceful than the one UW turned in last Friday, when it rallied from a 2-0 first-period deficit to hand Mercyhurst a 3-2 loss.

You could make a case that the Badgers dominated the first 20 minutes this time, except for one small detail. They trailed 2-0.

UW gave up a power-play goal when the puck ricocheted off two of its own players on its way through the slot, then paid for a momentary burst of aggressiveness by one of its veteran defensemen en route to allowing a short-hander.

The Badgers generated 17 shots on goal in the first period -- six from the quality scoring area between and below the faceoff dots -- but Huskies goaltender Cam Ellsworth (35 saves) had answers for each.

Tech (0-3, 0-3) broke through 9 minutes, 23 seconds into the game, when a pass from the right circle by defenseman Marek Dora clipped Dowell in the slot, then appeared to deflect off Badgers defenseman Tom Gilbert and past Bruckler.

UW was on its second man-advantage of the game at 12:36 when the Huskies struck again. Gilbert, stationed along the left wall, pinched too deeply. When the puck popped free, winger Chris Conner and center Brandon Schwartz set sail on a 2-on-1. Conner fed Schwartz perfectly for the reroute.

The deficit was erased before most UW fans were back in their seats following intermission.

On the opening shift of the second, Carlson pounced on a turnover by defenseman Jake Obermeyer behind the Tech cage and walked out for a shot that Ellsworth denied. But Licari was there to convert the rebound 12 just seconds into the period.

The Badgers then tied it on the power play at 1:30. Klubertanz and Earl played a quick game of catch in the high slot before Klubertanz unleashed a one-timer that thumped cleanly behind Ellsworth.

UW started to pull away courtesy of more good work on special teams, but the Huskies refused to buckle.

The teams were skating 4-on-4 at 13:16 when Degenhardt...
walked out from behind the Tech cage in the left circle and found just enough room between the near post and Ellsworth to sneak a wrister home.

The Badgers made it 4-2 while shorthanded at 17:00. Burish and Licari went end-to-end after a foiled Tech scoring chance, with Burish finishing things off with a top-shelf wrister from the high slot past Ellsworth.

Dowell closed things out at 17:04 of the third, converting from the lower left circle.

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Second period: W -- Licari 1 (Carlson), :12; Klubertanz 1 (Earl, Likens), 1:30 (pp); Degennhardt 2 (Rowe, Olinger), 13:16; Burish 1 (Licari), 17:00 (sh). MT -- Helminen 1 (Kerr, Schwartz), 19:22. Penalties: Gwilliam, MT, 1:07; Gilbert, W, 5:20; Wilkens, MT, 10:30; Ulvin, MT, 12:58; Earl, W, 12:58; Dowell, W, 16:07; Shelast, MT, 17:36; Drewiske, W, 17:36.

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Saves: MT (Ellsworth 17-11-7) 35; W (Bruckler 6-6-5) 17.

Power plays: MT 1-for-6; W 2-for-8. Att. -- 10,718.
LAMP LIGHTED WITH PAIR REUNITED
NICK LICARI AND ROSS CARLSON PROVIDE A SPARK FOR THE BADGERS IN A WIN OVER MICHIGAN TECH

Andy Baggot
Wisconsin State Journal

For those who yearn to rekindle an old flame from your past, here is a story of hope.

Five years after skating what figured to be their final shift as linemates in high school, Nick Licari and Ross Carlson find themselves getting reacquainted on the same forward unit with the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team.

Their rediscovered chemistry was especially obvious Friday night when UW opened its Western Collegiate Hockey Association season by walloping Michigan Tech 7-3 before 10,718 fans at the Kohl Center.

The line of Licari, Carlson and center Jake Dowell combined for two goals, three assists, nine shots and more sustained intensity than anyone from Tech knew how to handle.

"It's been fun to watch (Licari and Carlson) kind of reunite and ignite that," Badgers coach Mike Eaves said.

Never was the connection between the former Duluth (Minn.) East High School wingers more apparent than when they provided the turning point of the game.

Despite a 17-8 advantage in shots on goal -- including a half-dozen high-grade chances -- the Badgers found themselves trailing 2-0 after the first period. Eaves started the Dowell line to start the second period for the same reason it was on the ice for the opening faceoff.

"They create energy," Eaves said.

Twelve seconds into their initial shift of the second, Carlson pounced on a turnover by defenseman Jake Obermeyer behind the Tech cage and walked out for a quick shot that Cam Ellsworth denied. But an unattended Licari, parked on the edge of the crease, converted the rebound for his first goal of the season.

"It was important for us to start the second strong," Licari said.

Properly ignited, the Badgers turned things over to their special teams to finish off the four-goal second. Defenseman Kyle Klubertanz (power play), winger A.J. Degenhardt (4-on-4) and winger Adam Burish (shorthanded) did the honors.

Winger Robbie Earl and center Joe Pavelski (power play) joined Dowell in putting the game away in the third. UW goaltender Bernd Bruckler finished with 17 saves.

The road that brought Licari and Carlson back together again has its share of curves and potholes. Licari was a sophomore and Carlson a senior the last time they skated together at Duluth East in the 1999-2000 season. Their final game was a loss to Blaine in the Minnesota ClassAA state championship game.

While Licari, 20, graduated and came to UW straight out of high school, Carlson, 22, spent three years in the U.S. Hockey League before signing with the Badgers. A knee injury and subsequent surgery in summer 2003 forced him to delay his debut until December.

"I was excited when (Carlson) came here," Licari said. "I was hoping I'd get a chance to play with him."

Eaves paired them on the same line only after some lobbying by Carlson. The chemistry between the wingers is exceeded only by their respect for one another.

"He'll be the first one in front of the train for our team," Carlson said. "That's what I appreciate about him."

The Badgers (3-0 overall, 1-0 WCHA) rolled on a night in which their top line of left wing Matt Auffrey, center Andrew Joudrey and right winger
Ryan MacMurchy was scoreless and a combined minus-5.

"That's what happens when you have balance," Eaves said.

The Huskies (0-3, 0-3) got everything they wanted in the first period. Winger Jordan Foote was credited with a power-play goal when a pass by Tech defenseman Marek Dora clipped Dowell in the slot then nicked Badgers defen-semester Tom Gilbert before slipping past Bruckler. Center Brandon Schwartz added a shorthander when Gilbert pinched too deep, sending Schwartz and winger Chris Conner on an odd-man rush.

But after putting on a 17-save show in the first 20 minutes, Ellsworth wilted. Huskies coach Jamie Russell came into the series hoping Ellsworth, a senior, would as-sert himself as the starter.

Sophomore Bryce Luker failed to take advantage of a similar opportunity last week in a pair of losses to Minnesota-Duluth.

"I'm open to suggestions at this point," Russell said.

Third period: W -- Pavelski 2 (Earl, Klubertanz), 5:58 (pp); Earl 2 (Pavelski, Klubertanz), 12:19; Dowell 4 (Licari), 17:04. Penalties: Scott, MT, 4:03; Earl, W, 7:46; Foote, MT, 8:34; Wilkens, MT, 13:11; Murphy, MT, 19:31; Klubertanz, W, 19:31.

Saves: MT (Ellsworth 17-11-7) 35; W (Bruckler 6-6-5) 17.

Power plays: MT 1-for-6; W 2-for-8. Att. -- 10,718.

Contact Andy Baggot at abaggot@madison.com or 252-6175.

GRAPHIC: Nick Licari
Wisconsin 7, Michigan Tech 3

A.J. Degenhardt broke a 2-2 tie in the second period and Adam Burish added a short-handed goal less than four minutes later as No. 7 Wisconsin rallied to defeat Michigan Tech 7-3 Friday.

Robbie Earl and Nick Licari each had a goal and two assists, and Kyle Klubertanz and Joe Pavelski each added a goal and an assist for the Badgers.

Brandon Schwartz scored a goal and added an assist for Michigan Tech (0-3, 0-3 Western Collegiate Hockey Association), which held a 2-0 lead before Wisconsin (3-0, 1-0) rallied.

Cam Ellsworth, making his first appearance of the season, made 35 saves for Michigan Tech, which was outshot 42-20.

Wisconsin’s Bernd Bruckler stopped 17 shots.

Degenhardt snuck a shot from the left side under Ellsworth, then Burish scored with a hard wrist shot on a short-handed, 2-on-1 break with Licari 3:44 later to put Wisconsin up 4-2.

Wisconsin opened the WCHA season with a win for the first time under coach Mike Eaves.

The Badgers had lost the conference opener in their first two seasons. But for the second time in three games this season, the Badgers had to rally from a 2-0 deficit after the first period.

Last Friday, they defeated Mercyhurst 3-2. A week later, the Huskies used their special teams to gain the advantage.

Freshman Jordan Foote had a shot deflect off him and into the net on the power play, and Chris Conner found Schwartz with a perfect pass for a short-handed tip-in and a 2-0 lead.

The last time Michigan Tech held a 2-0 lead at Wisconsin was Oct. 16, 1998, the first WCHA game at the Kohl Center. The Huskies held on for a 2-1 victory that game. Wisconsin answered with a pair of goals in the first 90 seconds of the second period.

Licari scored his first goal in 30 games dating to last season 12 seconds into the period, and Klubertanz leveled the game with a power-play goal shortly thereafter.

After Wisconsin took the lead, Michigan Tech’s Lars Helminen cut his team’s deficit to 4-3 with 37.2 seconds remaining in the second period, but Joe Pavelski gave the Badgers a 5-3 lead on a power play six minutes into the third period.

Earl and Jake Dowell scored later in the third period for Wisconsin.
Sports

Anchorage: Freshman Shea Hamilton was named the game’s most outstanding player after scoring two goals, including the game winner, in a 3-2 victory over Minnesota in the Nye Frontier Classic ... . It was just Anchorage’s second win over Minnesota in the last 14 games.

Colorado College: The Tigers are unbeaten (9-0-1) in their last 10 games against non-WCHA teams after sweeping Union College to open the season ... Senior goalie Curtis McElhinney has a .746 winning percentage with his 42-12-7 record.

Denver: With a 6-2 loss to Boston College last Friday, the Pioneers dropped to 1-6-1 overall against top-ranked teams since the start of the 2002-03 season .... The Pioneers have scored five power-play goals this season but have given up three short-handed goals ... . The Pioneers will unfurl their 2004 NCAA championship banner prior to Saturday’s game against St. Cloud State.

Michigan Tech: Senior Colin Murphy became the 59th player in the history of the program to record 100 or more points with his goal 24 seconds into the game against Minnesota Duluth last Friday .... . Michigan Tech named the west wing in honor of the longtime Tech fan and hockey historian who has traveled to virtually every Tech road game since the mid-1970s.

Minnesota: Ryan Potulny, a sophomore from Grand Forks, scored the game’s only goal with 31.9 seconds left in the game in last Friday’s 1-0 win over Massachusetts ... With five career shutouts, Kellen Briggs is tied for fifth most in school history ... . The Gophers had just two shots on goal in the first period against Massachusetts, the lowest single-period total for them in the last two seasons ... . In Saturday’s 3-2 loss to Anchorage, it was the first time in 19 games that the Gophers have lost when former Grand Forks Red River player Danny Lirmen has scored at least one point.

Minnesota Duluth: Evan Schwabe, the top returning scorer in the WCHA, is off to a solid start. He has four goals and three assists through four games .... Schwabe, named Bulldog captain, had two goals in each game against Michigan Tech .... . Duluth has outscored opponents 9-1 in the third period.

MSU-Mankato: Mankato’s Adam Gerlach was on the “America’s Funniest Home Videos” show Sunday. Gerlach and his wife had sent in a video of the reaction to changing light levels by their son, Joey. Gerlach had to sign a confidentiality agreement not to disclose how the show turned out when ABC flew him and his family to New York last summer to tape the program.

UND: The Sioux have been ranked No. 1 56 times since the 1997-98 season, more than twice as much as any other college hockey program in the nation ... . The Sioux do not play at Minnesota this year, the first time since 1947-48 that UND has not played in Minneapolis ... Freshman goalie Philippe Lamoureux prefers to be called Phil - as UND coaches and players call him - but he said he wants his given name listed in the newspaper as Philippe in keeping with family wishes.

St. Cloud State: The Huskies have replaced their outdated, hard-to-read scoreboards on the end of the National Hockey Center with modern scoreboards designed by Daktronics.

Wisconsin: The Suters keep on coming for the Badgers with a verbal commitment from Garrett Suter for next season. He’s the fifth Suter to play for Wisconsin, joining father Bob, brother Ryan and uncles Gary and John, all defensemen .... . Wisconsin had 14 power-play chances in a 3-2 win over Mercyhurst last Friday, tying a school record for chances in one game.
Area players part of Tech's success

Press-Gazette

The Michigan Tech football team, led by many area athletes, continues to dominate.

The Huskies, ranked No. 13 in the nation, crushed No. 7 Northwood 54-7 on Saturday in Houghton, Mich. The win improved MTU's record to 7-0 and gave them sole possession of first place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Two Green Bay Southwest High School graduates, Bryan Klett and Grant Botz, had solid performances in the win.

Klett, a sophomore linebacker, tied for the team lead with nine tackles, all of which were solo. Botz, a junior kicker, made 6 of 8 extra-point attempts.

More football

* Andy Walters, a Marinette graduate, was nominated for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association football defensive player of the week. Walters, a senior safety at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, had a 33-yard interception return for a touchdown, five tackles and a fumble recovery in the Warhawks' 46-17 win over UW-Stout. His 30 tackles (21 solo, nine assisted) ranks sixth on the team.

* Ryan Prochnow, a Green Bay Preble graduate, was nominated for the WIAC football special teams player of the week. Prochnow, a junior at UW-Stevens Point, averaged 39.3 yards on six punts in a 28-27 loss to UW-Eau Claire. He's averaging 37.2 yards per punt this season.

Cross country

* Tyler Sigl, a Seymour graduate, was nominated for the WIAC cross country runner of the week. Sigl, a freshman at UW-Platteville, won the Beloit Invitational in 25 minutes, 52 seconds for his first career collegiate win.

Soccer

* Nicole Kunick, a Southwest graduate, was nominated for the WIAC soccer player of the week. Kunick, a junior at UW-Oshkosh, scored the game-winning goal in the Titans' 2-1 win over Trinity International. She leads the team with 10 goals.

* E.J. Sesselmann, a Green Bay Notre Dame graduate, earned a shutout in UW-Whitewater's 2-0 win over UW-Superior. Sesselmann, a freshman, didn't have to make a single save on eight shots.

Volleyball

* Leah Rosenbaum, a Wrightstown graduate, was nominated for the WIAC volleyball player of the week. Rosenbaum, a freshman at UW-Oshkosh, led the Titans in kills in wins over Ripon (20 kills), Marion (17) and North Central (16). She's third on the team with 256 kills this season.

If you know of an area high school athlete who is excelling at the college level and has not been included in our On Campus Report, contact Jason Lauren at sports@greenbaypressgazette.com or call (920) 431-8222 or (800) 289-8221.
Van Hefty sweeps LMC tennis titles

Edgewood College sophomore Chelsea Van Hefty, a former De Pere High School star, won the No. 1 singles and doubles titles in the Lake Michigan Conference tennis tournament at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison.

Van Hefty, the top-seeded singles player, beat Wisconsin Lutheran's Katie Wrobel 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"To work so hard during the regular season and then have it all pay off at the end of the year is the most satisfying feeling," Van Hefty said. "I can't even explain how good it feels."

She teamed with Kathryn Wunnicke to upset Wrobel and Kate Shepard 6-4, 6-3 in doubles. The Wisconsin Lutheran team was the top seed; Van Hefty and Wunnicke were seeded third.

* University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh freshman Jamie Simon (Green Bay Southwest) was nominated as the top player in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3. She went 3-0 at No. 4 singles in dual meets against Lawrence, UW-River Falls and UW-La Crosse.

Football

Michigan Tech University is off to a fast start, and many area players have helped. The Huskies are 6-0, ranked No. 17 in the latest Division II national poll and are tied for first place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Junior wide receiver Brian Janeshek (Green Bay Preble), junior kicker Grant Botz (Southwest) and sophomore linebacker Bryan Klett (Southwest) each have had solid seasons.

Janeshek is tied for the team lead with 22 catches and three receiving touchdowns. He also is second with 359 receiving yards. Botz has made six of eight field goals and 32 of 36 extra points. Klett has 14 solo tackles, 10 assisted tackles, a half-sack and one interception.

Senior defensive back David Anderson (Ashwaubenon), freshman defensive back Chris Nowak (Green Bay Notre Dame) and senior defensive lineman Joe Bassindale (Bay Port) also have made contributions.

Anderson has six solo and four assisted tackles. Nowak has five solo and four assisted tackles. Bassindale has four solo and one assisted tackles.

* Ryan Englebert (Southern Door) was named the UW-Stout offensive player of the week and was nominated as the WIAC’s offensive player of the week for the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3.

Englebert, a sophomore running back, scored three touchdowns and ran for 172 yards on 22 carries to lead the Blue Devils to a 65-7 win over Waldorf College.

Also nominated for WIAC honors for that week: UW-River Falls fullback Nathan Anderson (Marietta) and UW-Platteville long snapper Tim Sommers (Bay Port). Both are freshmen.

Cross country

* UW-Oshkosh senior Liz Woodworth (Marietta) was named the WIAC’s top cross country runner for the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3.

She took first place at the Gold Race of Notre Dame Invitational. She ran the 5,000-meter course in 17 minutes, 10 seconds to win her second straight meet title.

Volleyball

* UW-Stevens Point freshman Shelly Maus (Southwest) was nominated for the WIAC volleyball player of the week for the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3.

The middle hitter had 38 kills, including team highs of nine against St. Norbert and Mount Mary College, in four matches. She has a team-high 271 kills through 23 matches.

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