

2010 Sports Report

By Jake Schneider, Assistant Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Quite frankly, after the summer that we experienced in 2010, my interest level in penning an article about anything turf-related is as low as trice-retired Brett Favre's quarterback rating this year. So, let's talk sports instead. For a relatively small-market state, we sure are lucky to have a host of professional and collegiate teams that are consistently competitive and entertaining. And, because I'm a complete and total homer, my loyalties collapse as quickly as the Metrodome's roof at our state's boundaries. In no particular order, here are my Wisconsin sports thoughts and feeble audition for Rick Reilly's job. Enjoy.

Badger Football

For all of the great memories that the Badgers created on their run to the Rose Bowl, it's difficult for me to get past the missed opportunities in Pasadena. A missed field goal, a dropped pass, a questionable call, and an opposing linebacker wearing far more arm bands than necessary are some of the bitter memories of the game. Personally, I would've liked to have seen a steady dose of Montee Ball and John Clay running between the tackles instead of taking deep shots down the field. Sure, I understand that you have to pass occasionally to keep the defense honest, but TCU's speed was negated and their lack of size was accentuated when they followed the big eaters up the middle. Oh well, it was still a great season, and after the Michigan State game, who would've imagined that they would've been in the position that they finished. Looking ahead, I believe that they are returning enough talent next year to have a similar run, but it will largely depend on finding a capable replacement for Scott Tolzien and a defensive playmaker like J.J. Watt.

Da Packers

Clearly, the highlight of the year was the Sunday-night drubbing that the Packers handed the Cowboys. Chad and I attended this game with two of our employees, Reid and Omar (a Cowboys fan). It was particularly memorable because the wallop that Pack applied to the Cowgirls was equal only to the thrashing that Omar took from us before, during, and after the game. There were a significant amount of Spanish curse words directed at the field and at certain co-workers that night. As an aside, if there's a better setting to watch a game than Lambeau at night, I'd like to see it. Considering all of the season-ending injuries that the Packers sustained throughout the year, it's a minor miracle that they managed to reach the playoffs, and, as I write this (a day after they took down the Eagles), they have a chance to make some real noise. After this year, even the biggest haters of Mike McCarthy and Ted Thompson have to admit that they did one heck of a job keeping this team together.

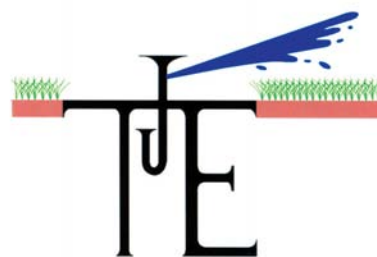
The Brew Crew

If the Giants could win it all in 2010, who says that the Brewers can't this year. Sure, they didn't sign Cliff Lee or Carl Crawford, but the additions of Zack Greinke and Shaun Marcum give them a more-than-respectable starting rotation, at least on paper. Combine that with an offense with enough weapons to provide good run support, and there's potential for them to be contenders. It sure would be great to see playoff baseball return to Milwaukee.

Badger Basketball

As you probably know by now, the Badgers are my second true love (behind the future Mrs. Schneider). Accordingly, I'd be remiss if I neglected to mention Badger basketball. It doesn't seem to be a great year to be an average team in the Big Ten. However, by this point I should have learned not to doubt Bo and his boys. Although Michigan State doesn't seem to be living up to their preseason ranking, the conference has many teams capable of beating anyone on a given night. If the team stays healthy and shoots a high percentage beyond the arc, there's no reason that they can't be a factor in the Big Ten title race and win a few games in the tournament.

I hope that everyone is having a productive yet relaxing winter, that your greens are resting comfortably, that you have been able to take advantage of the many educational opportunities offered by our state's associations and vendors, and that Mother Nature is more friendly in 2011.



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