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^College FB Focus<

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MADISON, Wis. (AP) \_ Workmen have replaced the twisted chain-link fences and broken steel railings in front of the student sections at Camp Randall Stadium. The debris has been cleared and the blood stains wiped away.

All physical signs of the stampede that injured 69 fans last week following Wisconsin's win over Michigan have disappeared. But emotional wounds and psychological scars remain as the 15th-ranked Badgers prepare to play No. 3 Ohio State Saturday in a game that probably will determine the Big Ten champion.

Some students are so scared that they have decided to stay home and watch the game on television. And some players are still haunted by memories of piled bodies, blue faces and screams for help.

''When you have a traumatic experience like that, it takes time to recover,'' team doctor Greg Landry said. ''It's not something you forget about in one week.''

Most Wisconsin players already were in the locker room when students rushed the field, but about 10 Badgers witnessed the shocking scene and several participated in life-saving rescues.

''Of course, it's affected them,'' coach Barry Alvarez said. ''We had one guy who performed CPR out there. They saw bodies that turned blue, people who had stopped breathing. It's hard to imagine the trauma and emotion they went through.''

After consulting with doctors and counselors, Alvarez instructed his players to stop talking about the incident with the media.

''We need to put this behind us and look forward,'' he said. ''We have a big game coming up, and we have to eliminate outside distractions. We've been on an emotional rollercoaster ... Now we have to settle down and focus on the game.''

Alvarez, who has transformed the Badgers from a 1-10 team in 1990 to a Big Ten contender, said he's not sure how his players will react Saturday.

''I don't think we'll know until we take the field,'' he said. ''It's just another situation we have to deal with. We're not going to use it as an excuse and we're not going to use it as a motivation.''

Offensive lineman Joe Panos, who pulled several unconscious fans from a pile, said the frightening experience hasn't dampened the team's enthusiasm for Saturday's game \_ the biggest in Madison since the Badgers beat Minnesota in 1962 to clinch their last Rose Bowl berth.

''I'm even more excited than last week,'' Panos said. ''I've been waiting four years for this kind of game. Everyone's up for it. It's probably the most important game we're going to play.''

The remarkable recovery of the most seriously injured students has helped the healing process. Only two remained hospitalized Thursday, and both were in good condition.

''It would have been much harder to deal with if someone had died,'' Landry said. ''When you get through something like this without any loss of life, you have to feel fortunate.''

The school held four ''debriefing'' sessions this week to help students cope with their feelings about the stadium stampede. Students were given updates on the injured, and health officials offered suggestions on how to deal with the trauma.

Some, like Tom Bernthal, are having a difficult time blocking out those painful images.

Bernthal, general manager of The Daily Cardinal student newspaper, was caught in the crush as thousands of students surged toward the field in the northeast corner of the stadium. His head was bloodied by a flying foot, and his friend Bret Quereau was pinned under a rail.

Bernthal helped rescue Quereau, then accompanied him to the hospital, which was filled with ''bloody, sobbing, dazed people.''

''It was like a war zone,'' he said. ''Everytime I talk about it, I see those visions over and over. I don't think I'll ever forget it.''

Neither will school officials, who announced new security measures aimed at preventing a repeat of last week's incident.

To reduce overcrowding in the 12,500-seat student section, the band will be moved to another area and students will be required to exchange their season passes for paper tickets and hand stamps. Last Saturday, some people apparently smuggled passes to friends outside the stadium, who then jammed into the already packed section.

There also will be more speakers installed behind the student section to relay safety messages, increased monitoring of aisles and new fences equipped with escape-latches.

But Bernthal, who will watch Saturday's game from the press box, isn't convinced the changes will prevent students from storming the field again if the Badgers win.

"Most of the campus wasn't personally affected by what happened last week," he said, "and you don't really understand how dangerous it is until it happens to you. I'm scared it could happen again."

Others think students will be more subdued than usual.

"They'll be enthusiastic, but they won't forget what happened," said Kathryn Misurek, editor of The Daily Cardinal.

Roger Howard, associate dean of students, said there has been a "jumble of emotions" on campus this week.

"The most significant reaction has been one of great relief that we escaped without anyone dying," he said. "But there's also been a lot of anger and finger-pointing. Whenever you have a tragic event, it's natural to look for someone to blame. It's a way of trying to make sense out of a senseless event."

Some students blamed police and security guards for trying to push people back into the stands, while others speculated that the stampede was triggered by rowdy, drunken students.

"It's sad that we have to find a scapegoat," Misurek said. "I really don't think anyone was to blame. It was just a horrible accident."

Continuing questions about stadium safety have almost overshadowed the crucial game against undefeated Ohio State, which leads Wisconsin by a game in the Big Ten standings. If the once-beaten Badgers defeat the Buckeyes, Illinois and Michigan--State, they will post their best regular-season record since 1912, go to only their fourth Rose Bowl and make their first postseason appearance since 1984.

Panos said Wisconsin students have contributed to the team's turnaround.

"I think we have the greatest fans in the country," he said. "We appreciate them and they appreciate us. They're our 12th man."

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