



# University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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## UW-Stevens Point Baseball Playoff Notes

### Regional Facts

#### National Rankings:

In the American Baseball Coaches Association poll on May 9, UW-Whitewater ranked No. 1, UW-Stevens Point was 10th, St. Thomas was 19th and St. Scholastica was 26th.

#### The Teams:

**UW-Stevens Point** won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament title, while **UW-Whitewater** was the league's regular season champion and earned an at-large selection. **St. Thomas** won the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament titles. **St. Scholastica** received an at-large berth after winning the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, which does not have an automatic bid.

#### Series History:

\* - The Pointers own a 3-2 lead in the series with St. Scholastica. The Saints have won the past two matchups, including a 4-3 10-inning win in the 1999 NCAA tournament. They also beat the Pointers 2-0 at the Viterbo Tournament in 2000.

\* - UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater played seven times in a nine-day span with the Pointers winning four of the meetings and outscoring the Warhawks 58-31. UW-Whitewater leads the all-time series 80-74. The teams have never met in the NCAA tournament.

\* - St. Thomas leads the all-time series with the Pointers 4-3-1. The teams last met in the 2003 season opener at the Metrodome with St. Thomas winning 15-8 and the teams tying 3-3. They have played four times in four different NCAA tournaments with each team winning twice.

### NCAA Division III Whitewater Regional

#### Thursday, May 19

#2 UW-Whitewater (38-6) vs. #3 St. Thomas (30-10), 11:00  
#1 UW-Stevens Point (35-9) vs. #4 St. Scholastica (35-5-1), 2:30

#### Friday, May 20

First Round losers, 11:00  
First Round winners, 2:30

#### Saturday, May 21

Elimination Game, 11:00  
Championship Game, 2:30

#### Sunday, May 22

Championship Game (if necessary), Noon  
**Games at Prucha Field - Whitewater, Wis.**

### Pointers This Week:

Four teams gather in Whitewater this weekend for the opportunity at a berth in the NCAA Division III World Series in Appleton. UW-Stevens Point opens against St. Scholastica in the opening round, while UW-Whitewater plays St. Thomas in the other first round game. The Pointers and Warhawks have seen plenty of each other recently, meeting seven times in a nine-day span, including Sunday's WIAC tournament championship game.

### Head Coach Pat Bloom:

UW-Stevens Point coach Pat Bloom carries a 60-25 record in his second season with the Pointers. Bloom is the 2005 WIAC Coach of the Year while leading the team to its second-highest win total in school history. He is a 2001 graduate of the school and owns a Master's Degree in Sports Sciences from Miami (Ohio).

### NCAA Tournament History:

UW-Stevens Point is making its seventh trip to the tournament and first since 2002. The Pointers made their only World Series appearance in 1997 and are 10-13 all-time in the NCAA tournament. Five of the Pointers' previous five regional appearances have been played in Oshkosh. The only other was in Appleton in 1997 when the Pointers beat UW-Oshkosh for the title.

UW-Whitewater is making its 10th appearance and has been to the World Series twice, including a third place finish last year. St. Thomas is making its 12th appearance and has been to the finals three times, including three straight trips to the title game and a national championship in 2001. St. Scholastica is in its second trip to the tournament and did not qualify for the World Series.

## Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point clinched the WIAC tournament title in dramatic fashion last weekend with a 6-5 win over UW-Whitewater in the title game. Tim Schlosser hit a two-run homer to break a 4-4 tie in the top of the ninth and Matt Mehne recorded a strikeout to end the game and strand the tying run at third base. Matt Polomis hit a two-run homer in the eighth to tie the game for the Pointers.

## Team Notes:

- \* - UW-Stevens Point has slugged a national-best 85 home runs this season, which ranks seventh in NCAA Division III history. The national record is 104 homers in 1997 by Wooster (Ohio), which is, coincidentally, the team that eliminated the Pointers from their only World Series appearance.
- \* - The Pointers have homered in 40 of their 44 games this year and have lost three of the four games in which they failed to homer.
- \* - All 14 of UW-Stevens Point's regular position players hit a home run within the team's first 26 games this year. Ryan Jones, Steve Wiczek and Chuck Brehm all ranked among the top 12 individually in the NCAA Division III in home runs last week.
- \* - The Pointers have hit eight grand slams this season, including four by Chuck Brehm.
- \* - In addition to home runs, the Pointers have already set a single-season school record for most runs scored with 431, which is an average of 9.8 per game. Their .344 team batting average is also better than the previous school record.
- \* - The Pointers' WIAC tournament title was their fourth since 1999. They also won titles in 1999, 2001 and 2002. UW-Stevens Point has been among the top three finishers in the past nine WIAC tournaments.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point had just one error in the WIAC tournament until the ninth inning of the championship game when two errors gave UW-Whitewater a run.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point's 35 victories are the second-most in school history behind the 37-10 record of the 2002 squad. The Pointers have won at least 25 games in nine straight seasons and have five 30-win seasons over that span. The 47 games played in 2002 also marked a school record.
- \* - The Pointers have outscored opponents 134-53 in the first two innings of games this season. The only time they lost when holding a lead at any point after three innings was at UW-Oshkosh when they took a 4-3 lead in the top of the ninth and the Titans rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point has scored in double figures 22 times this season and won all 22 of those games. The Pointers have won 13 games by virtue of the 10-run rule this year.
- \* - All 13 of UW-Stevens Point's pitchers have thrown at least nine innings and made at least six appearances. In fact, the Pointers had a streak at midseason of 11 straight victories with 11 different winning pitchers.
- \* - The Pointers had a 7.38 team ERA after their Florida trip, but have a 3.80 team ERA since and currently lead the WIAC at 4.30 for the season.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point's bullpen is 10-1 this year with eight saves and a 3.33 ERA. Opponents are hitting just .278 against relievers.

## Probable Batting Order/Pitching Rotation

- 1 - Junior shortstop **Jake Frombach** (Stratford, WI) has led off and played shortstop for every game this season. He has struck out just 22 times in 346 plate appearances the past two years and leads all WIAC shortstops with a .944 fielding percentage. Frombach started at second base the past two seasons.
- 2 - Freshman third baseman **Tim Schlosser** (Oconomowoc, WI) hit the game-winning homer in the ninth inning of the WIAC title game. He split time at second and third base earlier in the year, but has made 15 straight starts at third.
- 3 - Senior first baseman **Ryan Jones** (Eau Claire, WI) is the school's all-time leader in home runs (49), hits (203), runs scored (185), RBI's (165), at-bats (583) and total bases (387). He could become the ninth player in Division III history to hit 50 career home runs. Jones was all-WIAC in 2002 and 2003, but missed most of 2004 with an injury.
- 4 - Senior designated hitter **Steve Wiczek** (Stevens Point, WI) has had the best offensive season of any player in school history. He has single-season school records with 64 RBI's, 16 home runs, 135 total bases and 80 hits. He needs four hits to tie UW-Oshkosh's Tim Jorgensen for the WIAC record set in 1995. Wiczek entered the year with 20 hits, 15 RBI's and a .194 average over the past three years. He has not played a single inning defensively this season. Wiczek has had 23 and 16-game hitting streaks and has a hit in 42 of the team's 44 games.
- 5 - Junior leftfielder **Chuck Brehm** (Spencer, WI) was the national Hitter of the Week from April 4-10 and has four grand slams this year. He earned the WIAC scholar athlete award and Academic All-District honor and will likely not play his final season next year. Brehm was cut from the team in 2002 and redshirted in 2003 before starting the third game of the 2004 season.
- 6 - Senior rightfielder/pitcher **Matt Polomis** (Wausaukee, WI) had thrown a total of two and two-thirds innings prior to this year and was called to the mound on April 5 at St. Norbert when the team played its eighth game in five days. He threw a two-hitter and has been in the rotation ever since. Polomis had two big hits in the WIAC tournament with a two-run single to beat UW-Oshkosh and a two-run homer to tie UW-Whitewater in the title game.
- 7 - Junior second baseman **Nat Richter** (Green Bay, WI) has hit .370 over the past two weekends after hitting .235 over the first 36 games of the year.
- 8 - Freshman catcher **Ben Warwick** (Green Bay, WI) split time much of the season, but has started eight straight games. He allowed 18 straight stolen bases to open the year, but has thrown out eight of the last 13 runners, including four straight.
- 9 - Freshman centerfielder **Joel Hojnacki** (Plover, WI) has made 11 straight starts and 32 for the season. He played football in the fall of 2003 and did not play baseball last year.
- \* - Senior lefthander **J.C. Reinke** (Bonduel, WI) has five complete games in his last six starts with a 2.06 ERA over the span. He was the national Pitcher of the Week after a two-hit shutout against UW-Whitewater on May 6.
- \* - Freshman righthander **Jordan Zimmermann** (Auburndale, WI) has a 3.90 ERA and 22 strikeouts in his last five starts.
- \* - Freshman righthander **Mike Rickert** (Bowler, WI) has a 3.00 ERA and 16 strikeouts over his last four starts.
- \* - Senior righthander **Kevin Pankow** (Oconomowoc, WI) has made a school record 62 career appearances and has allowed only one of 14 inherited runners to score this season.