



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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UW-Stevens Point Football Preview

#21 UW-Stevens Point (6-4 in 2002) vs. #24 Augustana, Ill. (7-2 in 2002)
Saturday, September 6 - 1 p.m.
Ericson Field (3,800) - Rock Island, Illinois

2002 Final WIAC Standings

	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
La Crosse	6	1	7	4
Eau Claire	5	2	8	2
Stout	4	3	7	3
Stevens Point	4	3	6	4
Whitewater	4	3	5	5
Oshkosh	2	5	4	6
River Falls	2	5	3	7
Platteville	1	6	2	7

This Weekend in the WIAC

Chadron State (NE) at River Falls, Noon
 Whitewater at Mt. Union (OH), 12:30 p.m.
 Stevens Point at Augustana (IL), 1 p.m.
 Upper Iowa at Oshkosh, 1 p.m.
 Olivet Nazarene (IL) at Platteville, 6 p.m.
 Howard Payne (TX) at La Crosse, 6 p.m.

Game Outlook:

A pair of preseason nationally ranked squads collide in the season opener as UW-Stevens Point travels to Augustana for the first time ever. The Pointers are ranked 21st in the NCAA Division III polls by Lindy's and D3football.com, while Augustana is ranked 24th by D3football.com. The Vikings were 7-2 last year with one of the two losses coming in a 20-17 defeat to the Pointers in the season opener. The Pointers return 18 starters from last year's team that finished 6-4 overall.

Radio:

The game can be heard live on WKQH (104.9 FM) radio with Scott Krueger calling the play-by-play and Ken Kulick providing the analysis. The station will broadcast all 10 Pointer games this season.

Series History:

UW-Stevens Point won the only previous meeting, posting a 20-17 victory over the Vikings in last season's opener in Stevens Point. Scott Krause ran a nine-yard quarterback draw for the game-winning touchdown with 1:50 remaining in the game.

Augustana averaged 301.0 yards rushing per game and ranked fifth in the NCAA Division III in the category last season, but was held to 153 yards on the ground by the Pointer defense.

The teams are not scheduled to play again next year.

2003 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time (CT)	Site	Quick Facts
Sept. 6	at Augustana, Ill.	1 p.m.	Rock Island, Ill.	Pointers edged Vikings 20-17 in 2002 in first-ever meeting
Sept. 13	at Tri-State, Ind.	12:30 p.m.	Angola, Ind.	First time schools have ever met
Sept. 27	Butler	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Teams combined for 988 total yards in 2002 Butler win
Oct. 4	at UW-La Crosse	1 p.m.	La Crosse	Defending WIAC champs take field in conference opener
Oct. 11	UW-Stout	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Blue Devils favorite in WIAC; Pointers tabbed second
Oct. 18	UW-Eau Claire	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Four of last five meetings decided by five pts. or less
Oct. 25	at UW-Oshkosh	1 p.m.	Oshkosh	101st meeting - longest of any two Division III publics
Nov. 1	UW-Whitewater	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	UWSP coming off first win at Whitewater since 1986
Nov. 8	at UW-Platteville	2 p.m.	Platteville	Pointers have beaten Pioneers 12 straight times
Nov. 15	UW-River Falls	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	UWSP has won three of past four matchups

Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point returns nearly everyone from last year's squad that finished 6-4 overall. The Pointers have 18 starters back from a year ago.

On offense, first-team All-WIAC senior Scott Krause is a preseason third-team All-American by Football Gazette and has started 29 consecutive games at quarterback, taking every snap last year and all but three snaps as a sophomore.

The Pointers have three returning all-conference players in the backfield in first-team fullback Jason VanderVelden, first-team tailback Cory Flisakowski and second-team flanker Kurt Kielblock.

All five starters are back on the offensive line and three are expected to start again this year.

Defensively, senior linebacker Nick Haffeled led the WIAC in tackles last year and has led the team the past two seasons. Sophomore Brent Maxwell is also back at linebacker, while cornerbacks Chase Kostichka and Jared Flesch started every WIAC game as freshmen last year and junior Ryan Bentley is a two-year starter at strong safety. Juniors Clint Bakken and Craig Johnson lead the defensive line.

2003 WIAC Preseason Poll

1. Stout (6)
 2. Stevens Point (1)
 3. Whitewater (1)
- tie La Crosse
5. Oshkosh
6. Eau Claire
7. Platteville
tie River Falls
() - first place votes

2003 CCIW Preseason Poll

1. Wheaton (4)
- tie Augustana (3)
3. Millikin (1)
tie Illinois Wesleyan
5. North Central
6. Carthage
7. Elmhurst
8. North Park
() - first place votes

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 99-50-2 record in his 16th season. Miech is attempting to become the sixth coach in WIAC history to reach 100 career wins. Of the 21 WIAC coaches with at least 42 wins, Miech's .662 winning percentage ranks fifth. He is a 1975 graduate of UW-Stevens Point and is the all-time winningest coach in Pointers' history. Miech has had a winning record in 14 of his 15 seasons with the Pointers.

Augustana coach **Jim Barnes** boasts a 61-20 career record in eight seasons of coaching. Barnes is in his fourth season at Augustana and has a 24-7 record with Vikings after previously coaching at Wooster (Ohio) for five seasons. Barnes is a 1981 graduate of Augustana.

Viking Update:

Augustana has some spots to fill from last year's 7-2 squad, but the Vikings have one of the top traditions in Division III football and usually don't have much trouble reloading.

In fact, the Vikings are 204-43-1 (.843 pct.) since 1979 and have posted 24 consecutive winning seasons during that span, marking the seventh longest current streak in all divisions of college football. Augustana won four consecutive national titles from 1983-86.

Augustana returns five starters on offense and eight on defense.

Offensively, the Vikings return their leading rusher, Kyle Zick, who ran for 853 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Zick had a school record six touchdowns in a win over Elmhurst. The quarterback, senior Brad Wendell, is also back after throwing for 11 touchdowns a year ago. Tom Anthony caught 33 of the team's 59 pass completions and is also back.

The biggest holes to fill are on the offensive line where the Vikings lost four starters, including first-team All-American tackle J.D. Sheldon and second-team All-American center Bob Paulin.

The defense ranked sixth in Division III last year while allowing just 222.0 yards per game. The Vikings ranked 17th in rushing defense at 88.1 yards per game and return preseason third-team All-American Mike Hansen on the defen-

sive line. Mike Brasile also returns after earning second-team all-conference accolades a year ago.

Junior Steve Szpenjowski led the team in tackles last season and was a second-team All-CCIW pick, while senior Matt Furlong was a first-team all-conference performer from his strong safety position.

The Vikings have a strong kicking game with junior Mike Clark, who has made 15 of 22 field goals over the past two seasons and 61 of his 67 career extra point attempts.

D3football.com Preseason Top 25

Rank, Team	2002 Rec.
1. Mount Union, Ohio	14-0
2. Wheaton, Ill.	10-2
3. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio	8-2
4. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas	10-1
5. Howard Payne, Texas	9-1
6. St. John's, Minn.	12-2
7. Linfield, Ore.	10-1
8. Rowan, N.J.	10-1
9. Ithaca, N.Y.	7-3
10. Trinity, Texas	14-1
11. Wartburg, Iowa	10-2
12. UW-Stout	7-3
13. Hardin-Simmons, Texas	8-2
14. Bridgewater, Va.	11-1
15. UW-La Crosse	7-4
16. Lycoming, Pa.	6-3
17. Ohio Northern	5-5
18. Wabash, Ind.	12-1
19. Hanover, Ind.	10-1
20. Hampden-Sydney, Va.	8-2
21. UW-Stevens Point	6-4
22. Central, Iowa	8-2
23. Wash. & Jefferson, Pa.	9-3
24. Augustana, Ill.	7-2
25. Wooster, Ohio	8-2

New Additions:

UW-Stevens Point may have 18 returning starters, but the Pointer coaches have bolstered that group with four incoming transfers in the projected starting lineup.

Of the four transfers, three were starters at a Division II school last year. Defensive tackle Josh VanderVelden was the defensive MVP at Michigan Tech, fullback Robb Kolodziej started at guard for Minnesota State-Mankato and punter Ryan Prochnow kicked for Saginaw Valley State (Mich.), ranking 24th in Division II at 39.7 yards per punt. Wide receiver Cody Childs redshirted as a running back at UW-Madison last year.

Overall, 10 of the Pointers' projected starters played or redshirted at a previous school. The others, in addition to the four newcomers, are guard Doug Mittelstaedt (Wisconsin), center Peter Moskal (UW-Platteville), running back Cory Flisakowski (Illinois), defensive tackle Clint Bakken (Wisconsin), defensive tackle Tim Lium (UW-Eau Claire) and linebacker Brent Maxwell (St. Cloud State).

Changing Sides:

Another shake-up in the starting lineup is on the offensive line where starting senior guards Doug Mittelstaedt and Justin England both played on the defensive line last year. Right tackle Tom Wallace is the only returning offensive lineman in the same position. Right guard Cliff Ruland moved to left tackle and left tackle Peter Moskal moved to center.

Starting Strong:

UW-Stevens Point has won its season opener eight of the past nine seasons with the only loss coming in a 28-21 overtime loss to Northern State (S.D.) in 2000.

This year's game is the first time the Pointers have opened on the road

since a 28-26 win at Northern State 1999. The Pointers are 6-1-1 in their last eight season openers on the road, having won four straight.

Divisional Play:

The last time UW-Stevens Point lost a regular season non-conference game to a Division III opponent was Sept. 26, 1981 when the Pointers lost at St. Norbert 10-7. The Pointers have won 14 straight regular season games against non-conference Division III foes, though the first two wins in the streak were later forfeited to Augsburg and St. Norbert in 1982.

This week's game is the fourth time the Pointers have played a regular season non-conference game against a Division III opponent since facing Thomas More (Ky.) in 1994. Last year's game with Augustana and meetings with Ohio Northern the past two seasons were the only other such contests.

Border Patrol:

Illinois may not seem far away, but this week's game will be the Pointers' first trip across the Wisconsin's southern border in 32 years since a 27-10 loss at Eastern Illinois in the 1971 season opener.

All-time, the Pointers have played just 11 games against teams from the Land of Lincoln with eight of the matchups coming from 1948 or earlier. In addition to last year's game with Augustana, the Pointers also played Eastern Illinois in 1973 and had matchups with Bradley, Illinois Wesleyan and Northern Illinois during the 1930's and 1940's. Six of the previous 11 games with Prairie State teams have been played in Illinois.

Rare Meeting:

Along with Augustana last season, UW-Stevens Point has played only one other current College Conference of Illinois-Wisconsin member in history, losing to Illinois Wesleyan 13-0 in 1934 and 7-0 in 1935.

Turf Wars:

Augustana has a new field turf surface that debuted last year. Saturday will mark the Pointers' first-ever game on the surface. All-time the Pointers are 3-5-1 all-time on artificial turf. They lost at UW-Stout last year, but won their three previous games on the surface - all at the Metrodome from 1998-2000.

UW-Stevens Point also tied Pacific Lutheran in the 1987 NAIA Championship game at the Tacoma Dome, lost to Portland State (Ore.) in the 1987 season opener, lost to Concordia-Moorhead in the 1986 Division III playoffs at Fargo Field and lost to Dayton and South Dakota State in back-to-back weeks to open the 1986 season.

Home Grown:

UW-Stevens Point has just one player on its current 100-man roster that hails from outside the state of Wisconsin. Freshman defensive back Nate Langlois is a native of Elgin, Ill. and the only out-of-state player.

The Pointers have seven players who played at Stevens Point Area Senior High School and all are listed among the top two players on the depth chart at their respective position. Four are starters in running back Cory Flisakowski, tight end Ross Adamczak, fullback Robb Kolodziej and cornerback Chase Kostichka. The three backups are all freshmen in offensive tackle Mike Kovatch, cornerback Joel Hojnacki and defensive end Jake Nantell.