



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

Jim Strick, Sports Information Director
103 Health Enhancement Center - Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715-346-2840 Fax: 715-346-3626 e-mail: jstrick@uwsp.edu Web: <http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics>

UW-Stevens Point Football Preview

#15 UW-Stevens Point (2-2, 0-1) vs. #18 UW-Eau Claire (3-1, 1-1)
Saturday, October 9 - 1 p.m.
Carson Park (6,500) - Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2004 WIAC Standings

	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Platteville	1	0	4	0
Stout	1	0	3	0
La Crosse	1	0	2	1
Whitewater	1	1	4	1
Eau Claire	1	1	3	1
Oshkosh	0	1	3	1
Stevens Point	0	1	2	2
River Falls	0	1	0	4

Last Week in the WIAC

La Crosse 35, Stevens Point 14
Eau Claire 37, River Falls 15
Platteville 7, Whitewater 6
Stout 65, Waldorf 7

This Week in the WIAC

Stevens Point at Eau Claire, 1 pm
La Crosse at Oshkosh, 1 pm
Stout at Whitewater, 1 pm
River Falls at Platteville, 2 pm

Game Outlook:

UW-Stevens Point looks to rebound from a conference-opening loss to UW-La Crosse last week with its third game this season against a ranked team. The Pointers are ranked 15th in the NCAA Division III poll and travel to 18th-ranked UW-Eau Claire this week as both teams look to avoid their second conference defeat. Five of the last six meetings between the teams have been decided by five points or less.

Radio:

The game can be heard live on WSPT (1010 AM) radio with Scott Krueger on the call.

Series History:

UW-Stevens Point leads the all-time series 39-28-5 and won last year's meeting over the Blugolds 31-28 after building a 31-0 lead midway through the third quarter and hanging on for the victory. Jason VanderVelden had a school-record 43 carries and gained 204 yards for the Pointers in the win.

The home team has won five straight meetings in the series with UW-Stevens Point's last victory at Carson Park coming in a 27-26 triumph in 1998.

2004 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Site	Quick Facts
Sept. 11	Tri-State, Ind.	W 57-3	Stevens Point	Borchart throws 5TD's and runs for 1 TD in first start
Sept. 18	Linfield, Ore.	L 46-35	Stevens Point	Pointers' first non-conference D-III loss since 1981
Sept. 25	at Waldorf, Iowa	W 41-7	Forest City, Iowa	Borchart throws for 248 yards in second quarter
Oct. 2	UW-La Crosse	L 35-14	Stevens Point	Pointers hampered by seven turnovers in defeat
Oct. 9	at UW-Eau Claire	1 p.m.	Eau Claire	Five of last six meetings decided by five points or less
Oct. 16	at UW-Stout	1 p.m.	Menomonie	Pointers look to avenge 37-27 loss from 2003 season
Oct. 23	UW-Oshkosh	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	102nd meeting - longest of any two Division III publics
Oct. 30	at UW-Whitewater	1 p.m.	Whitewater	UWSP's 2002 win at Whitewater was first since 1986
Nov. 6	UW-Platteville	2 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers have beaten Pioneers 13 straight times
Nov. 13	at UW-River Falls	2 p.m.	River Falls	UWSP has won four of past five matchups

Pointer Update:

Seven turnovers hurt the Pointers in their conference opener on Saturday as they fell to UW-La Crosse 35-14 at Goerke Field. The game was tied 14-14 at halftime, but the Pointers had turnovers on four straight possessions in the second half as the Eagles put 21 points on the board to pull away for the victory.

Brett Borchart was 24-for-37 passing for 237 yards and also ran for 89 yards on 13 attempts to lead the Pointers. Cody Childs caught seven passes for 67 yards and rushed for 42 yards.

After UW-La Crosse scored the game's first touchdown, Dan Heldmann and John Ryan both hit field goals to pull the Pointers to within 7-6. Another Eagles' touchdown made it 14-6 before Borchart had a two-yard touchdown run and passed to Tony Romano for a two-point conversion just prior to halftime.

Brett Ehret totaled 13 tackles, including nine solo stops, to lead the UW-Stevens Point defense.

Blugold Update:

UW-Eau Claire bounced back from its first loss of the season by breaking open a close game in the third quarter for a 37-15 win over UW-River Falls.

The Blugolds opened the year with impressive non-conference wins at defending national champion St. John's and Illinois Wesleyan before losing to UW-Whitewater.

Joe Gast carried 30 times for 135 yards and four touchdowns, including three one-yard scoring runs last week for UW-Eau Claire. Gast scored on a one-yard run with five seconds left in the first half before UW-River Falls tied the game in the third quarter. Another one-yard Gast touchdown put the Blugolds ahead for good with 7:09 left in the quarter.

UW-Eau Claire held UW-River Falls to just 180 total yards and zero yards passing for the game. The Blugolds were five-for-six on third down plays in the second half.

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 109-54-2 record in his 17th season. Miech currently ranks fifth on the all-time WIAC wins list. 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 15 of his 16 seasons with the Pointers.

UW-Eau Claire coach **Todd Hoffner** has a 32-22 career record in his sixth season with the Blugolds. Previously, Hoffner spent eight seasons as an assistant coach with Miech at UW-Stevens Point. He was the defensive coordinator his final two years after serving as Pointers' offensive coordinator the four previous seasons.

Giving it Up:

The Pointers were devastated by seven turnovers last week, marking their most in a game under coach John Miech and the most since since a 31-22 loss to UW-Eau Claire on Oct. 10, 1987. In both games, UW-Stevens Point had four interceptions and three fumbles. The Pointers already have 13 turnovers this year after turning the ball over 17 times all of last season. UW-Stevens Point turned the ball over twice inside the five-yard line and were also held to a field goal after being stopped on its own one-yard line.

Happy Halftimes:

UW-Stevens Point had its streak snapped last week of leading at halftime in eight straight games, but still managed a tie when it scored a touchdown and two-point conversion with 1:53 left in the half.

The Pointers have now outscored opponents 221-56 in the first half over the last nine contests. In the game prior to the nine-game streak, they trailed UW-Stout 31-7 at halftime.

Ranking Respect:

UW-Stevens Point is the only team in this week's D3football.com rankings with two losses. In fact, 15 of the 25 teams in the poll are undefeated. The D3football.com poll started last season and the Pointers have been ranked in every poll.

Five WIAC teams made the rankings this week and unbeaten UW-Stout was listed as also receiving votes.

Big Games:

Incredibly, Saturday's game marks the eighth time the Pointers have played a game featuring two ranked teams in the past two seasons (total of 15 games).

Last year, UW-Stevens Point played Augustana, UW-La Crosse, UW-Stout, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater while both the Pointers and their opponent were ranked. This year, the Pointers have already played second-ranked Linfield and third-ranked UW-La Crosse.

D3football.com Top 25 - Oct. 4

Rank, Team	Rec.
1. Mount Union, Ohio (20)	4-0
2. Linfield, Ore. (5)	3-0
3. UW-La Crosse	2-1
4. St. John's, Minn.	4-1
5. Springfield, Mass.	3-0
6. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas	4-0
7. Wheaton, Ill.	4-0
8. Hardin-Simmons, Texas	4-0
9. Trinity, Texas	5-0
10. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio	4-0
11. Rowan, N.J.	3-1
12. Capital, Ohio	3-1
13. Wooster, Ohio	4-0
14. Washington & Jeff., Pa.	5-0
15. UW-Stevens Point	2-2
16. Ithaca, N.Y.	3-1
17. St. John Fisher, N.Y.	5-0
18. UW-Eau Claire	3-1
19. Salisbury, Md.	5-0
20. UW-Platteville	4-0
21. Wartburg, Iowa	4-1
22. Montclair State, N.J.	2-1
23. Concordia-Moorhead	4-0
24. UW-Whitewater	4-1
25. Delaware Valley, Pa.	4-0

Not Over Yet:

Don't write off the Pointers' WIAC title chances with one league loss. UW-Stevens Point has won three WIAC championships the past six years and has had at least one loss every year. In fact, despite their success, the Pointers have been 2-0 in the WIAC just once in the past seven years. In 2001, the Pointers were 2-2 and won their last three games for the title and in 1998, UW-Stevens Point was 1-2 and lost its conference opener to UW-River Falls before winning its last four league games.

Turf Wars:

The Pointers will play on artificial turf the next two weeks after playing on fake grass only 10 times in school history.

UW-Eau Claire has a new field turf surface that debuted two weeks ago. The Pointers played on field turf last year and won 19-15 at Augustana. All-time the Pointers are 4-5-1 all-time on artificial surfaces. They lost at UW-Stout in 2002, but won their three previous games on the surface - all at the Metrodome from 1998-2000.

Offensive Output:

UW-Stevens Point continues to lead the WIAC and rank 11th nationally in total offense at 473.2 yards per game. The Pointers are the top passing team in the WIAC and 15th in the country at 297.0 yards per game. The average is 0.8 yards more than UW-Platteville, which has led the WIAC in passing five straight years.

Over the past seven games, the Pointers are averaging 519.0 total yards per game and their 386 yards against UW-La Crosse was the first time they've been held under 400 yards since gaining 366 last year at UW-Oshkosh.

Top Tackler:

Pointers' junior free safety Steve Garvoille leads the WIAC in total tackles with 39 tackles in four games. Garvoille also ranks 17th in the NCAA Division III in solo tackles with 29. He has at least eight tackles in every game.

Garvoille played his first two seasons at UW-Whitewater and sat out last season because of the WIAC transfer rule.

Big Returns:

The Pointers had two 40-plus yard kickoff returns last week as Kurt Kieblock had a 46-yard return and Kasey Morgan had a 44-yard return before UW-La Crosse "squib" kicked the final three times. Morgan also had a 40-yard return against Linfield. The Pointers lead the WIAC in kickoff returns with a 22.6 yard average.

Take Your Pick:

UW-Stevens Point quarterback Brett Borchart leads the WIAC in passing at 270.0 yards per game and total offense at 321.0 yards per game. The sophomore has had plenty of targets with four receivers ranking among the top six in the WIAC in yards per game.

Tony Romano leads the league with a 93.8 yard average. Kurt Kielblock is fourth with a 64.0 average, Jake VanDerGeest is fifth at 55.7 and Ross Adamczak is sixth at 54.5.

Meanwhile, Cody Childs leads the team in receptions and ranks third in the WIAC with 20 catches.

Nationally, Borchart ranks sixth in total offense and 25th in passing efficiency. Romano is 33rd in receiving yards per game.

Running the Show:

The Pointers have three players among the top 10 in the WIAC in rushing, including quarterback Brett Borchart, who ran for 89 yards last week and averages 51.0 yards per game to rank 10th. Cody Childs ranks seventh at 64.8 yards per game and Dustin Robinson is ninth at 51.2 yards per game.

Game Notes:

Neither the Pointers nor their opponents have converted a fourth down this season. Both UW-Stevens Point and its opponents are zero-for-seven...UW-Stevens Point has lost its homecoming game five straight years, but has only seven home losses the past five years...UW-Eau Claire defensive line coach Joel Hornby played for the Pointers from 1995-98...Last week's game marked the first time the Pointers have been shutout in the second half since Nov. 2, 2002 in a 37-13 loss to UW-Stout...The Pointers lead the WIAC in offense, but have scored quickly, ranking last in time of possession at 27:04 per game...UW-Eau Claire punter Mitch Schaeuble ranks eighth in Division III at 40.9 yards per kick.