



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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UW-Stevens Point Football Preview

#6 UW-Stevens Point (0-0) vs. Tri-State University (0-1)

Saturday, September 11 - 1 p.m.

Goerke Field (4,000) - Stevens Point, Wisconsin

2004 WIAC Standings

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

This Weekend in the WIAC

Tri-State at Stevens Point, 1 pm
Eau Claire at Illinois Wesleyan, 1 pm
River Falls at Concordia-St. Paul, 1 pm
Whitewater at St. Xavier (Ill.), 1 pm
Oshkosh at Concordia (Wis.), 1:30 pm
Stout at DePauw (Ind.), 1:30 pm
La Crosse at Minn.-Duluth, 6 pm

Game Outlook:

The Pointers open the 2004 season ranked ninth in the NCAA Division III and host Tri-State University in a non-conference game. UW-Stevens Point had a bye week to open the year, while Tri-State lost its season opener to Washington & Jefferson (Pa.) 31-0 last week. Saturday's game is the annual "Spud Bowl" game.

Radio:

The game can be heard live on WSPT (1010 AM) radio with Scott Krueger calling the play-by-play and Ken Kulick providing the analysis.

Series History:

The teams are meeting for the second time with UW-Stevens Point winning the first encounter 63-0 last year in Angola, Ind. The Pointers led 35-0 at halftime and outgained the Thunder 542-139 for the game. Quarterback Scott Krause was 18-for-19 passing for 269 yards and five touchdowns in the victory.

Spud Bowl History:

UW-Stevens Point is 16-1 in annual Spud Bowl games, beating Butler 56-7 in last year's event. The only loss was a 28-21 overtime defeat to Northern State (S.D.) in 2000. Five of the past six Spud Bowls have been decided by five points or less.

2004 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Site	Quick Facts
Sept. 11	Tri-State, Ind.	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers won teams' first meeting last year 63-0
Sept. 18	Linfield, Ore.	2 p.m.	Stevens Point	Linfield has won 24 straight regular season games
Sept. 25	at Waldorf, Iowa	1 p.m.	Forest City, Iowa	First-ever meeting between schools
Oct. 2	UW-La Crosse	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Eagles favorite in WIAC; Pointers picked for second
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:

UW-Stevens Point returns 17 starters from last season's team that finished 8-2 overall. The Pointers are picked for second in the WIAC by the conference's Sports Information Directors.

UW-Stevens Point has eight starters back on offense, but lost first-team All-American quarterback Scott Krause, who is now playing with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. On defense, the Pointers have nine starters returning, though they must replace Nick Haffe, who led the team in tackles the past three seasons.

Thunder Update:

Tri-State lost its season opener last week 31-0 at Washington & Jefferson in Washington, Pa. Washington & Jefferson jumped out to a 24-0 half-time lead in the victory. It was Tri-State's 11th straight defeat after an 0-10 season in 2003.

The Thunder returned 14 starters from last year's team. Freshman Terrance Summers led the team with 77 yards rushing on 18 carries last week. Senior Jim Oliver, Jr. is back at quarterback and was 17-for-34 passing for 130 yards. Senior Ben Darnell caught eight passes for 77 yards. Tri-State did not cross midfield in the first half, but threatened to score several times in the second half and did not punt.

Out of the Gates:

UW-Stevens Point has won four straight season openers and 10 of their last 11 with the only loss coming in 2000 against Northern State.

The Pointers are opening the season at home for the fourth time in the past five years and have won nine of their last 10 home debuts. UW-Stevens Point is 14-2 in home openers under John Miech with the only losses coming in 2000 to Northern State and in 1993 to Michigan Tech. All-time, UW-Stevens Point is 182-109-8 at Goerke since the stadium opened in 1932.

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 107-52-2 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.

Tri-State coach **Bob Frey** is 0-11 in his second season with the Thunder. Frey coached the past eight years at MacMurray (Ill.), leading the team to a 10-0 regular season and an NCAA playoff appearance during the 2002 season. A 1985 Mount Union graduate, he won six conference titles during his stint at MacMurray.

Spud Bowl:

Saturday's game will be the 16th annual "Spud Bowl" game, which recognizes the area's potato industry. The annual "Spuds and Suds" picnic begins outside Goerke Field at 3 p.m. The picnic features all-you-can-eat potatoes, bratwurst, chili and potato cake. There also will be Point Beer and Coca-Cola available. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for UW-Stevens Point students with ID and children 12-and under.

The Spud Bowl is a local scholarship fund for UW-Stevens Point students with a farm or agri-business background.

Divisional Play:

Tri-State is in its first season affiliated with the NCAA Division III after moving from the NAIA. UW-Stevens Point has won 15 straight regular season non-conference games against Division III opponents with the last loss coming Sept. 26, 1981 at St. Norbert 10-7.

The last Division III non-conference team to win a regular season game at Goerke Field was also St. Norbert, beating the Pointers 13-10 on Sept. 21, 1974. UW-Stevens Point has beaten 13 straight Division III non-conference teams at home since that loss.

Indiana Encounters:

This week's game is the Pointers' eighth meeting with a school from Indiana. UW-Stevens Point is 5-2 in those games, beating Tri-State last year and Valparaiso in 1988 and 1989.

The Pointers played Butler in 1994, 1995, 2002 and 2003, splitting the four games.

High Ranking:

UW-Stevens Point is ranked sixth in the latest national poll by D3football.com. The Pointers also were ranked 19th in the preseason poll by Street & Smith's.

The Pointers were ranked in all 14 polls by D3football.com last season, which was the first year that the organization published a poll.

D3football.com Top 25 - Sept. 6

Rank, Team	Rec.
1. Mount Union, Ohio (21)	1-0
2. Linfield, Ore. (3)	0-0
3. UW-La Crosse (1)	0-0
4. Springfield, Mass.	0-0
5. Wartburg, Iowa	1-0
6. UW-Stevens Point	0-0
7. Capital, Ohio	1-0
8. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas	0-0
9. St. John's, Minn.	0-1
10. Montclair State, N.J.	1-0
11. Trinity, Texas	1-0
12. Ithaca, N.Y.	0-0
13. Wheaton, Ill.	0-0
14. Bethel, Minn.	1-0
15. Hardin-Simmons, Texas	0-0
16. Hampden-Sydney, Va.	1-0
17. UW-Eau Claire	1-0
18. Brockport State, N.Y.	1-0
19. Rensselaer Poly, N.Y.	0-0
20. Rowan, N.J.	1-0
21. East Texas Baptist	0-1
22. Lycoming, Pa.	0-0
23. Bridgewater, Va.	0-1
24. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio	1-0
25. Johns Hopkins, Md.	1-0

Streak Speak:

UW-Stevens Point closed the 2003 season with five straight victories and enters this week with the fifth-longest winning streak in Division III.

Defending national champion St. John's (Minn.) lost to UW-Eau Claire last week, so Trinity (Conn.) currently has the nation's longest win streak at 14 games since its league does not compete in the postseason.

Monmouth (Ill.) has won eight straight, Hampden-Sydney (Va.) has seven straight wins and Shenandoah (Va.) has won six straight. All three teams opened their seasons last weekend. Three other teams extended their win streaks to five games with wins last week: Howard Payne (Texas), Lakeland (Wis.) and Thomas More (Ky.).

Scoring Surge:

UW-Stevens Point closed the 2003 season by scoring 164 points over its final three games, marking the highest total the Pointers have ever scored over a three-game span. They beat UW-Whitewater 60-30, UW-Platteville 55-21 and UW-River Falls 49-15. The Pointers set a single-season school record last season with 39.8 points per game.

Ruland Honored:

UW-Stevens Point senior offensive lineman Cliff Ruland was named to the third-team preseason All-American squad by Football Gazette. The 6-2, 309-pound Ruland started all 10 of the Pointers' games last season at right tackle.

Quarterback Connection:

The scheduled starter at quarterback on Saturday is sophomore Brett Borchart, who played last season at Saginaw Valley State (Mich.), which finished the regular season as the top-ranked NCAA Division II squad. Borchart played in one game and attempted one pass. He redshirted in 2002 and was a teammate of current Pointer punter Ryan Prochnow.

Borchart also played prep basketball at Huntley (Ill.) High School with Pointers' forward Jason Kalsow, who was the leading scorer on last year's NCAA Division III championship team.

Rare Meeting:

Tri-State is in its first year as a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and Saturday's game will be the first time the Pointers have ever played a team from the league. Other members are Adrian, Albion, Alma, Hope, Kalamazoo, Olivet and Wisconsin Lutheran.

Transfer Talk:

Borchart isn't the only transfer expected to make an impact on the Pointers' lineup. Tim Bartsch, who transferred from St. Cloud State, will start at defensive tackle and Joe Parks, who attended Northern Michigan, is expected to see time at linebacker. Steve Garvoille, who played two seasons at UW-Whitewater and sat out last season with the Pointers, is expected to start at free safety. Also, Jake VanDerGeest, who was at UW-Madison the past two years, will return kicks and play wide receiver. Overall, eight of the Pointers' 22 starters and the punter started their careers at another school.

Game Notes:

UW-Stevens Point is the only WIAC school playing at home this weekend. Six other teams are all on the road and UW-Platteville has the week off. Last week, only UW-Whitewater was home among the four games...The Pointers will host the top two teams in Sports Illustrated's preseason top 10 as UW-La Crosse was ranked No. 1 and next week's opponent, Linfield (Ore.), was ranked No. 2...UW-Stevens Point is picked for second in the WIAC preseason poll behind UW-La Crosse...Last year's shutout of Tri-State was the Pointers' first shutout since 1997 against UW-Platteville.