



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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UW-Stevens Point Football Preview

UW-Stevens Point (0-0) vs. #4 Hardin-Simmons University (0-0)

Saturday, September 3 - 1 p.m.

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

2005 WIAC Standings

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

This Weekend in the WIAC

Whitewater at St. Norbert, 1 p.m.
Hardin-Simmons at Stevens Point, 1 p.m.
Oshkosh at William Penn, Iowa, 1 p.m.
Upper Iowa at Stout, 6 p.m.
Dubuque, Iowa at Platteville, 7 p.m.
St. John's, Minn., at Eau Claire, 7 p.m.
La Crosse at South Dakota State, 7 p.m.

Game Outlook:

The Pointers play the first of two challenging non-conference games against the top teams in the NCAA Division III when they host Hardin-Simmons in the season opener. The Cowboys were 10-1 last season and are ranked fourth in this year's preseason poll. The game marks the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

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 first time ever.

Texas Tangles:

UW-Stevens Point has never played Hardin-Simmons, but does have experience with Abilene, Texas, having played at Abilene Christian in the 1977 NAIA playoffs and suffering a 35-7 loss. That matchup is the only time the Pointers have faced a Texas opponent.

Hardin-Simmons has plenty of experience against Wisconsin, playing at UW-Stout in 2003 and losing 31-21. The Cowboys also swept UW-Whitewater, winning 25-7 on the road in 1999 and 37-8 at home in 2000. It is the third time in seven years Hardin-Simmons has opened in Wisconsin.

2005 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Site	Quick Facts
Sept. 3	Hardin-Simmons	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	First-ever meeting between schools
Sept. 17	at Linfield, Ore.	3:30 p.m.	McMinnville, Ore.	Linfield has won 33 straight regular season games
Sept. 24	Waldorf, Iowa	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers won inaugural meeting 41-7 last year
Oct. 1	at UW-La Crosse	3 p.m.	La Crosse	Eagles picked to win fourth straight WIAC championship
Oct. 8	UW-Whitewater	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers have lost five straight Homecoming games
Oct. 15	UW-River Falls	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Falcons' 24-22 win denied Pointers 2004 WIAC title
Oct. 22	at UW-Oshkosh	1:30 p.m.	Oshkosh	103rd meeting - longest of any two Division III publics
Oct. 29	UW-Eau Claire	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Six of last seven meetings decided by five or less
Nov. 5	at UW-Platteville	2 p.m.	Platteville	Pointers have beaten Pioneers 14 straight times
Nov. 12	UW-Stout	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	UWSP posted 23-7 win last year in Menomonie

Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point returns 10 starters from last year's team that finished 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Pointers played plenty of tight games last season, posting three straight fourth quarter comeback victories before having their last rally fall short in a 24-22 loss at UW-River Falls in last year's season finale.

The Pointers return quarterback Brett Borchart, who ranked fourth in the NCAA Division III in total offense, as well as first-team All-WIAC running back Cody Childs.

Defensively, cornerback Chase Kostichka and free safety Jared Flesch are both starting for the fourth straight year.

Cowboys Update:

Hardin-Simmons finished 10-0 in the regular season and lost to American Southwest Conference rival and eventual national runner-up Mary Hardin-Baylor 42-28 in last year's NCAA Division III playoffs.

Hardin-Simmons lost five All-American players from last year's squad, but still has plenty of experience returning players. Quarterback Jordan Neal is in his fourth year as a starter and completed 66 percent of his passes a year ago. Honorable mention All-American kick returner Jared May is the team's top pass catcher.

The Cowboys return one All-American in cornerback Will Galusha, who earned second-team honors and this year's preseason conference Defensive Player of the Year and preseason All-American honors despite missing the final three games with a broken leg. Galusha had six straight games with an interception before the injury.

Hardin-Simmons has been one of the nation's winningest programs in recent years with a 67-10 record over the past seven years. Based on winning percentage, the Cowboys are the winningest college football program in Texas among all divisions since 1990.

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 113-56-2 record in his 18th 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 was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in April.

Hardin-Simmons coach **Jimmie Keeling** has a 127-36 record in his 16th year with the Cowboys. Hardin-Simmons dropped football in 1963, but Keeling resurrected the program in 1990 and has achieved significant success with 10 conference championships and five conference Coach of the Year awards.

Starting Strong:

UW-Stevens Point has won five straight season openers and 11 of their last 12 with the only loss coming in 2000 against Northern State.

The Pointers are opening the season at home for the fifth time in the past six years and have won 10 of their last 11 home debuts. UW-Stevens Point is 15-2 in home openers under John Miech with the only losses coming in 2000 to Northern State and in 1993 to Michigan Tech.

Daunting Task:

Few teams in the country are playing two ranked teams in non-conference competition, while UW-Stevens Point opens the year with two teams ranked in the top four. In addition to fourth-ranked Hardin-Simmons, the Pointers are also playing top-ranked Linfield on Sept. 17.

Three other teams have scheduled two non-conference games against ranked foes. Christopher Newport is playing #7 Rowan and #15 Salisbury, Allegheny is playing #6 Washington & Jefferson and #25 Wooster and Brockport State has three ranked foes, playing #7 Rowan, #17 Ithaca and #23 St. John Fisher. None of those teams are playing both ranked opponents in the first two games.

The conference season doesn't get any easier as UW-Stevens Point will end up playing five ranked teams in its first seven games. The Pointers open league play with #9 UW-La Crosse and #21 UW-Whitewater before facing #22 UW-Eau Claire.

Defensive Challenge:

Having to replace all four starters on the defensive line and two linebackers, the Pointers' defense will be tested early with the top two offensive teams in the country from last season. Linfield averaged 510.8 yards per game and Hardin-Simmons rolled up 507.9 yards per game last season.

Linfield also averaged 50.0 points per game and Hardin-Simmons was second at 47.5 points per game. The Pointers do return everyone in the secondary and Dave Taynor has taken over as the new defensive coordinator.

D3football.com Preseason Top 25

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

Backcourt to Backfield:

A familiar name to UW-Stevens Point athletics fans may line up at wide receiver on Saturday as Brad Kalsow is on the roster after playing guard on the Pointers' national championship basketball team last winter.

Kalsow was a high school teammate of Pointers' quarterback Brett Borchart at Huntley (Ill.) and was a sophomore when Borchart was a senior. Kalsow played in 28 basketball games last season and averaged 2.2 points. His older brother, Jason, is UW-Stevens Point's all-time leading scorer in basketball and was last year's Division III Player of the Year.

Welcome Back:

Three players on UW-Stevens Point's projected starting lineup for Saturday were previous players for the Pointers who did not play last season.

Cory Flisakowski was a first-team All-WIAC all-purpose back in 2002 and the team's leading rusher in 2003, but missed last season with a shoulder injury. He is scheduled to start at running back.

Adam Spoehr was the team's rookie of the year as a tight end in 2003 and did not play last year, but will start at defensive end Saturday.

Peter Prusinski was a reserve defensive tackle in 2003 and sat out last year, but is in the projected lineup for the 2005 season opener.

Experience Counts:

UW-Stevens Point may have new starters at over half of its positions, however, all but one projected starter has been on the Pointers' roster during the past two years.

The only unfamiliar face in the starting lineup is fullback Damon Mehlberg, who played the past two years at Joliet (Ill.) Junior College. Though he hasn't played yet for the Pointers, Mehlberg may still be a familiar name to Pointer fans as the primary running back for Bloomington (Ill.) High School, which beat Stevens Point Area Senior High in 2002.

Catching On:

With the loss of its top two receivers and tight end from last year, the Pointers didn't need to look far for replacements. Both starting receivers were on the Pointers' roster last year at different positions.

Cody Childs was a first-team All-WIAC running back, but did have 50 catches last year. He will also likely see time at running back on Saturday as well.

The other starting receiver, Jacob Dickert, has been the Pointers' backup quarterback the past two years behind starters Scott Krause and Brett Borchart. Dickert completed four of seven pass attempts last year and also played on kickoff coverages.

Super-Sized:

One of the Pointers' trademarks is boasting one of the biggest offensive lines in Division III football and this season is no different. The five starters weigh in at an average of 291.4 pounds and range in size between 280 and 305 pounds. Even the reserves are huge with two backups checking in over 300 pounds.

Kicking Around:

Dan Heldmann and John Ryan have been fighting for the placekicking position since the beginning of the 2004 season and are still in a close battle for duties on Saturday. Last year, the pair rotated chores on every other kick and, early this week, Miech was unsure which would be the primary kicker on Saturday.

Quick Hits:

Extra points and field goals will provide an interesting family connection for the Pointers as long snapper Jesse Dickert will pass the ball to his brother Jacob, the holder...UW-Stevens Point is picked for third in the WIAC preseason poll with UW-La Crosse tabbed to repeat as champion and UW-Whitewater picked for second. The Pointers received one first place vote...UW-Stevens Point and Hardin-Simmons are scheduled to play again next season on Sept. 2 in Abilene, Texas.