



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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UW-Stevens Point Football Preview

UW-Stevens Point (0-0) vs. #11 Hardin-Simmons University (0-0)
Saturday, September 2 - 6 p.m.
Shelton Stadium (4,000) - Abilene, Texas

2005 WIAC Standings

	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Whitewater	7	0	14	1
Eau Claire	5	2	6	4
Oshkosh	4	3	7	3
La Crosse	4	3	5	4
Stout	3	4	6	4
Stevens Point	3	4	4	6
River Falls	2	5	3	7
Platteville	0	7	1	9

This Weekend in the WIAC

Upper Iowa at Stout, 5 pm (Thursday)
Eau Claire at St. John's, 1 pm
Ripon at Oshkosh, 1 pm
Platteville at Dubuque, 1 pm
Stevens Point at Hardin-Simmons, 6 pm
La Crosse at South Dakota State, 7 pm
Lakeland at Whitewater, 7 pm

Game Outlook:

UW-Stevens Point opens the 2006 season by traveling to Abilene, Texas to face 11th-ranked Hardin-Simmons. It marks the second straight year the two teams have opened the year on Labor Day weekend with the Cowboys posting a 38-12 win last year in Stevens Point. The game will be the first of seven road games for the Pointers this season.

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. A live webcast will also be available on the UW-Stevens Point athletics website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics/webcast.htm>.

Series History:

Hardin-Simmons won the only previous meeting between the two schools with a 38-12 victory last season in Stevens Point. The Cowboys rolled up 534 yards of total offense and outgained the Pointers 227-30 in the first quarter while building a 14-3 lead.

Brett Borchart threw for 186 yards and connected with Cory Flisakowski for an 18-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter that pulled the Pointers within 21-12. However, the Cowboys scored three times in the last seven minutes, including a pair of touchdowns in the final 2:03 to put the game away.

2006 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Site	Quick Facts
Sept. 2	at Hardin-Simmons	6 p.m.	Abilene, Texas	Hardin-Simmons won 38-12 last year in Stevens Point
Sept. 16	UW-La Crosse	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers 18-1 all-time in Spud Bowl games
Sept. 23	at Waldorf	1 p.m.	Forest City, Iowa	UWSP has beaten Warriors in both previous meetings
Sept. 30	at Trinity Int'l	2 p.m.	Deerfield, Ill.	Teams meeting for first time ever
Oct. 7	at UW-Whitewater	1 p.m.	Whitewater	Warhawks were 2005 NCAA Division III runner-up
Oct. 14	at UW-River Falls	2 p.m.	River Falls	Pointers have won four of last five meetings
Oct. 21	UW-Oshkosh	1 p.m.	Stevens Point	104th meeting - longest of any Division III state schools
Oct. 28	at UW-Eau Claire	1 p.m.	Eau Claire	Six of last eight meetings decided by five or less
Nov. 4	UW-Platteville	2 p.m.	Stevens Point	Pointers have beaten Pioneers 15 straight times
Nov. 11	at UW-Stout	1 p.m.	Menomonie	UWSP has beaten Blue Devils two straight years

Pointer Update:

The Pointers bring back 17 starters from last year's team that played a strong early season schedule and finished with a 4-6 record. UW-Stevens Point went 1-4 over its first five games with all five losses to teams ranked in the top 15 nationally at the time. The Pointers rallied to win their final two games of the season.

Four of UW-Stevens Point's replacements come in the secondary where all four starters graduated. Defensive end Dan Robinson led the team with 95 tackles last year and was the only first-team all-WIAC player.

Offensively, senior Brett Borchart is in his third year as a starter at quarterback and ranked second in the WIAC in total offense after leading the league in 2004. Senior running back Cody Childs was a second-team all-WIAC performer in 2005 for his third straight all-conference selection.

Cowboys Update:

Hardin-Simmons has 13 starters back from last year's 8-2 team. The Cowboys have a pair of preseason All-Americans in center Josh Knox and cornerback Will Galusha, though Galusha, a two-time All-American, will move to wide receiver this year.

Quarterback Jordan Neal was 20-for-28 passing for 283 yards last season against the Pointers, but suffered a season-ending injury early in the second game of the season and was granted a sixth season of eligibility. Neal is the American Southwest Conference preseason Offensive Player of the Year, while Galusha, also one of the nation's top kickoff returners, is the league's preseason Special Teamer of the Year.

Another player who returns from injury is defensive end Reggie Robinson, who was a first-team All-American in 2004 and missed all of last season. Robinson is a second-team preseason All-American.

The Cowboys ranked among the top 10 teams in Division III in both kickoff and punt returns last season.

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 117-62-2 record in his 19th season. Miech enters the season tied for fourth place on the WIAC all-time wins list with Mike Farley, who coached at UW-River Falls from 1970-88. Miech is a 1975 graduate of UW-Stevens Point and has twice as many wins as any other coach in Pointers' history.

Hardin-Simmons coach **Jimmie Keeling** has a 135-39 record in his 17th 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 of its last six season openers and 11 of its last 13 with the only losses coming last year to Hardin-Simmons and in 2000 against Northern State.

The Pointers are opening the season on the road for just the second time in six years.

On the Road Again:

Saturday's game will be the first of seven road games for the Pointers, matching the most they've ever played. UW-Stevens Point played seven of its 11 games on the road in 1987 and seven of its eight games away from home in 1914. The Pointers' three home games are their fewest since 1947.

The whole WIAC will get used to playing non-conference road games as the teams combine for 16 road games and just seven home games.

Fresh Faces:

Perhaps the biggest changes on the Pointers' roster this season have come in the coaching staff where offensive line coach Jon Verdegan is the only returning assistant coach from last year's team.

Jerry Olszewski, a former Pointers' player who was an associate head coach at Minnesota State-Mankato, has taken over as the defensive coordinator. Keith Turner, who played at UW-Superior and coached 16 years, including nine as head coach, at Vermillion J.C. in Ely, Minnesota, is the offensive coordinator.

My Abilene:

The Pointers are making their second visit to Abilene, having previously lost to Abilene Christian in the first round of the NAIA playoffs on Dec. 3, 1977.

The game was the Pointers' only postseason appearance prior to 1986. Current Pointers' head coach John Miech was an assistant coach with that squad. In fact, Miech returned to Texas the following two years as a graduate assistant coach at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

D3football.com Preseason Top 25

Rank, Team	Rec.
1. Mount Union, Ohio	14-1
2. UW-Whitewater	14-1
3. Rowan, N.J.	11-2
4. St. John's, Minn.	11-1
5. Capital, Ohio	10-3
6. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas	9-2
7. Linfield, Ore.	10-1
8. Wesley, Del.	12-2
9. Occidental, Calif.	9-1
10. Union, N.Y.	11-1
11. Hardin-Simmons, Texas	8-2
12. Delaware Valley, Pa.	12-1
13. Bridgewater, Va.	10-2
14. Augustana, Ill.	10-2
15. Wash. & Jefferson, Pa.	9-2
16. Concordia-Moorhead	10-2
17. Ohio Northern	8-2
18. Central, Iowa	9-2
19. Hobart, N.Y.	9-2
20. Wabash, Ind.	11-1
21. North Central, Ill.	9-2
22. Coe, Iowa	9-2
23. Wilkes, Pa.	8-3
24. Ithaca, N.Y.	8-3
25. Thiel, Pa.	11-1

Moving Around:

UW-Stevens Point's offensive backfield will feature a different look this season with junior Joe Parks as the expected starter at fullback. Parks was a linebacker for the Pointers in 2004 and played defensive end last season. He was an all-conference prep running back at Crivitz High School and earned all-state mention.

In addition, Jesse Dickert is slated as the backup at fullback. Dickert, whose brother Jacob is a starting wide receiver, was an offensive lineman and the team's long snapper last season.

Small Town Connection:

Once again this season, the Pointers' roster features plenty of connection to Iola-Scandinavia High School. The nearby school with an enrollment of 249 students has five players on the Pointers' projected two-deep roster for the weekend.

Added to the mix this season is starting safety Bryan Kelnhofer, who transferred from Northern Michigan. Other former Thunderbirds are starting junior cornerback Kasey Morgan, reserve junior defensive end Ryan Cresson, reserve sophomore running back Jack Marx and reserve junior wide receiver Luke Gunderson.

Hardwood to Gridiron:

Senior Brett Hirsch, who is in his first year as a reserve safety for the Pointers, was a member of UW-Stevens Point's NCAA Division III championship basketball teams in 2003-04 and 2004-05. Hirsch played in 53 career games for the Pointers and started the first 13 games of the 2003-04 championship season as a freshman.

He joins starting wide receiver Brad Kalsow as the second former basketball player to make the transition to football. Kalsow also played on the 2004-05 championship team.

All-Around Athletes:

Hirsch and Kalsow aren't the only two multi-sport athletes making their impact in football. Senior defensive lineman Mike Hayes placed third nationally in wrestling at heavyweight with a 28-4 record last season, while senior defensive back Bryan Buechel was an outdoor track All-American, running on the fourth place 1600-meter relay.

Sophomore linebacker Kyle Scofield had the nation's 22nd best shot put throw last year while placing third at the WIAC championships. Senior defensive lineman Peter Prusinski placed in the top five in both the shot put and discus at the WIAC meet.

Preseason Picks:

UW-Stevens Point is picked for fifth in the WIAC preseason poll. Last year's national runner-up UW-Whitewater is pegged to win the league for the second straight year.

Hardin-Simmons is tabbed second in the American Southwest Conference behind defending champion Mary Hardin-Baylor. In fact, both preseason favorites will play each other later this year as UW-Whitewater visits Mary Hardin-Baylor on Oct. 28 in Belton, Texas.

Under the Lights:

Saturday's game will mark the Pointers' first night kickoff since Sept. 22, 2001 at UW-Platteville. It is just the second night game in the 16-year history of Shelton Stadium.

Quick Hits:

The Pointers will leave for their trip on Thursday and fly into Dallas. They will visit the Dealey Plaza historical site and attend the Texas Rangers-Cleveland Indians game on Friday... UW-Stevens Point has just four freshmen listed on its 55-man travel roster and none in the starting lineup...The Pointers and UW-La Crosse share the longest current winning streaks in the WIAC at two games.