



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

UW-Stevens Point (3-4, 1-3 WIAC) vs. UW-Eau Claire (2-5, 1-3 WIAC)
Saturday, October 28 - 1 p.m.
Carson Park (6,500) - Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2006 WIAC Standings

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

Last Week in the WIAC

La Crosse 42, Eau Claire 14
Stevens Point 27, Oshkosh 24 (OT)
River Falls 24, Stout 20
Whitewater 49, Platteville 21

This Week in the WIAC

La Crosse at Stout, 1 p.m.
River Falls at Platteville, 1 p.m.
Stevens Point at Eau Claire, 1 p.m.
Whitewater at Mary-Hardin Baylor, 1 p.m.

Game Outlook:

Coming off its first WIAC victory of the season with a dramatic overtime win over UW-Oshkosh, the Pointers look to maintain their momentum against UW-Eau Claire. UW-Stevens Point is playing on the road for the sixth time in eight games this season.

Broadcast:

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 be available on the UW-Stevens Point athletics website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics/>.

Series History:

UW-Stevens Point leads the all-time series 39-30-5 as the Blugolds have won two straight, including a 17-3 win last year for its first win at Goerke Field since 1987. The Pointers have not won in Eau Claire since a 27-26 win in 1998 as the home team had won six straight before last year. Six of the last eight meetings have been decided by five points or less.

In last season's encounter, the Pointers had 399 total yards and were inside the Blugolds' 40-yard line seven times, but scored just three points. UW-Stevens Point threw five interceptions, including one that was returned for a touchdown by Brad Alexjun. Joe Gast rushed for 137 yards for the Blugolds and Dustin Robinson had 95 yards rushing for UW-Stevens Point.

2006 UW-Stevens Point Schedule/Results

| Date | Opponent | Time/Result | Site | Quick Facts |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Sept. 2 | at Hardin-Simmons | L 49-17 | Abilene, Texas | UWSP drops season opener for just third time in 14 years |
| Sept. 16 | UW-La Crosse | L 36-14 | Stevens Point | Four first half turnovers cost Pointers in defeat |
| Sept. 23 | at Waldorf | W 45-7 | Forest City, Iowa | Pointers amass 510 total yards in taking 38-0 halftime lead |
| Sept. 30 | at Trinity Internat'l | W 35-0 | Deerfield, Ill. | Defense allows just 104 total yards and four first downs |
| Oct. 7 | at UW-Whitewater | L 31-13 | Whitewater | Pointers held to 47 total yards through three quarters |
| Oct. 14 | at UW-River Falls | L 20-17 | River Falls | UWSP drops final game of longest road trip since 1972 |
| Oct. 21 | UW-Oshkosh | W 27-24ot | Stevens Point | Berg forces two fumbles returned for touchdowns |
| 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:

UW-Stevens Point pulled out a dramatic homecoming victory over UW-Oshkosh on Saturday as Ryan Graboski kicked a 32-yard field goal for a 27-24 overtime victory, giving the Pointers their first WIAC win of the season.

UW-Stevens Point fell behind 14-0, but was keyed by two defensive touchdowns that were both forced on sacks by Lincoln Berg. Berg, who also had a team-high 13 tackles, returned the first 25 yards for a touchdown and Brandon Czys brought back the second eight yards for a score. Brett Hirsch also had 13 tackles in the win.

Jacob Dickert had nearly half of the Pointers' 238 total yards as the senior caught 12 passes for 113 yards, including a four-yard touchdown late in the first half that gave the Pointers a 17-14 halftime lead.

Kasey Morgan had an interception on UW-Oshkosh's possession in overtime, setting up the game-winning field goal.

Blugolds Update:

UW-Eau Claire has lost two straight games, including a 42-14 setback to UW-La Crosse on Saturday. The Blugolds scored a touchdown with nine seconds left in the half to trail 21-14 at intermission, but were then outgained by the Eagles 283-61 in the second half.

UW-Eau Claire was outgained 511-237 for the game and was held to just 48 yards rushing in the loss. Kyle Paulson was 20-for-37 passing for 189 yards and Scotty Osborn had six catches for 61 yards.

The Blugolds gave third-ranked St. John's its tightest game of the year in the season opener with a 15-11 decision. They have struggled offensively, ranking last in the WIAC at 245.5 yards per game, including just 90.0 yards rushing per contest.

Kicker Craig Kolb made his first nine field goal attempts of the season and has made all of his field goal tries from inside 41 yards.

The Coaches

UW-Stevens Point coach **John Miech** has a 120-66-2 record in his 19th season. Miech's victory total ranks fourth in WIAC history and he entered the season ranked 18th among all active NCAA Division III coaches. Miech is a 1975 graduate of UW-Stevens Point and has twice as many wins as any other coach in Pointers' history.

UW-Eau Claire coach **Todd Glaser** is in his first year with the Blugolds after serving as the head coach at Marietta (Ohio) for the past three years and posting a 13-17 record. He played at UW-Eau Claire from 1987-90 and was the team's defensive coordinator in 1997 and 1998 after a two-year stint as head coach at Neillsville High School.

Working Overtime:

Last week's win over UW-Oshkosh kept the Pointers' outstanding record in overtime games intact. UW-Stevens Point is now 6-2 all-time in overtime contests and has won four straight.

The Pointers' most recent overtime game prior to Saturday came in UW-Oshkosh's last visit to Goerke Field in 2004. The past seven overtime games have all been at home and six have been played under the current college format. UW-Stevens Point won two NFL-style overtime games when the WIAC used the tiebreaking procedure in 1981 and 1982.

The only double overtime game in school history was a 30-27 win over UW-Eau Claire in the 2001 finale.

Defensive Offense:

The Pointers had two defensive touchdowns last week as Lincoln Berg and Brandon Czys both returned fumbles for touchdowns, marking the first time that's happened since Nov. 7, 1998 when Andy Palzkill returned an interception and Clint Kriewaldt brought back a fumble in a win at UW-Stout.

In fact, Berg's return was the first time the Pointers had a fumble return for a score since Wes Kornowski against Tri-State in 2003. The Pointers hadn't had two fumble returns for touchdowns in a single season since 1998.

It marked the first career touchdown for both players. UW-Stevens Point had one defensive touchdown all of last season.

Two-Minute Drill:

Jacob Dickert's four-yard touchdown catch with 1:31 left in the first half on Saturday marked the fourth time in seven games this season that the Pointers have scored in the final two minutes of the first half.

In fact, two of the scores came on the final play of the half as Ryan Graboski had a field goal against UW-River Falls and Dickert had a touchdown catch against Hardin-Simmons. Brad Kalsow also had a four-yard touchdown catch with 34 seconds left at Trinity International.

D3football.com Top 25 - Oct. 22

| Rank | Team (1st place votes) | Rec. |
|------|---------------------------|------|
| 1. | Mount Union, Ohio (22) | 7-0 |
| 2. | UW-Whitewater (3) | 7-0 |
| 3. | St. John's, Minn. | 8-0 |
| 4. | Capital, Ohio | 7-0 |
| 5. | Wesley, Del. | 7-0 |
| 6. | Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas | 6-1 |
| 7. | Rowan, N.J. | 5-1 |
| 8. | Hardin-Simmons, Texas | 5-1 |
| 9. | Occidental, Calif. | 6-0 |
| 10. | UW-La Crosse | 5-1 |
| 11. | Whitworth, Wash. | 7-0 |
| 12. | Central, Iowa | 7-0 |
| 13. | Cortland State, N.Y. | 7-0 |
| 14. | Springfield, Mass. | 7-0 |
| 15. | Wilkes, Pa. | 7-0 |
| 16. | Linfield, Ore. | 4-2 |
| 17. | Hobart, N.Y. | 6-0 |
| 18. | Christopher Newport, Va. | 6-1 |
| 19. | St. John Fisher, N.Y. | 7-1 |
| 20. | Ithaca, N.Y. | 6-1 |
| 21. | Mount St. Joseph, Ohio | 7-0 |
| 22. | Union, N.Y. | 5-1 |
| 23. | Wartburg, Iowa | 6-1 |
| 24. | Trinity, Texas | 6-1 |
| 25. | Wheaton, Ill. | 6-1 |

Punt Patrol:

UW-Stevens Point leads the WIAC in net punting behind Luke Frisch, who ranks 13th in the country in punting average at 39.3 yards per kick, and a coverage unit that has allowed just 10 returns for a total of 78 yards on 34 punts.

Both will be tested this week by the league's leading punt returner in UW-Eau Claire's Craig Polifka, who ranks 24th in the nation at 12.4 yards per return.

Lincoln's Day:

Saturday's game marked a career day for Pointers' senior Lincoln Berg. Having moved from defensive back to linebacker just one week prior, Berg had two blindside blitzes on UW-Oshkosh quarterbacks that both resulted in fumbles that were returned for touchdowns. Both plays were the first sacks and forced fumbles of his career. He returned one of the loose balls himself for the Pointers' first touchdown and also had a career-high 13 tackles, including nine solo stops.

Berg was named the WIAC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance. He has accounted for six of the 14 turnovers forced by the Pointers' defense this year with four interceptions as well.

Successful Comeback:

Just three weeks removed from surgery to remove his appendix, Jacob Dickert had another big day on Saturday with 12 catches for 113 yards against UW-Oshkosh, resulting in nearly half of the Pointers' 238 total yards. He had six catches for 56 yards last week against UW-River Falls after having surgery on Sept. 30 - the same day the Pointers played at Trinity International. Dickert's 6.2 receptions per game would easily lead the league, but he does not meet the minimum games to count in league statistics.

Tackling Success:

Brandon Czys had 10 tackles in last week's game, marking the fifth time he's had at least 10 in a game this season. Czys currently leads the WIAC and ranks 56th in the country with 68 tackles for an average of 9.6 tackles per game. He has 42 solo tackles and his 6.0 per game ranks 27th in the nation. The only two games Czys did not have 10 tackles were the lopsided wins over Waldorf and Trinity International.

On Call:

Pointers' backup quarterback Nick Venden has already appeared in five games this year and has performed admirably, including Saturday's game against UW-Oshkosh. Venden replaced injured Brett Borchart with 13 seconds left and threw a 23-yard pass to get the Pointers in position for a "Hail Mary" attempt. In overtime, he completed a 10-yard pass on third-and-11 to Adam Spoehr to set up the game-winning field goal. Venden has completed 16 of 28 passes for 290 yards and two touchdowns in his intermittent playing time.

Clutch Kick:

Pointers' sophomore Ryan Graboski had made just two career field goals prior to Saturday's game when he booted two more field goals, including the game-winning 32-yarder in overtime. The winning tally marked Graboski's first career kick from longer than 25 yards. It also matched the Pointers' longest field goal since a 33-yarder in the fourth game of the 2004 season against UW-La Crosse.

Timely Turnovers:

When Kasey Morgan intercepted a UW-Oshkosh pass on the Titans' overtime possession, it marked the fourth straight overtime game the Pointers won by forcing a turnover on their opponent's possession. Chase Kostichka had an interception in 2004 against UW-Oshkosh, Brett Maxwell had an interception in 2002 against UW-Platteville and Paul Schmitt forced a fumble in 2001 against UW-Eau Claire.

Quick Hits:

Pointers' wide receiver Brad Kalsow suffered a broken ankle on Saturday and will miss the remainder of the season...The Pointers had lost six straight homecoming games prior to last week's victory...Despite rushing for a total of 91 yards over the past three games, Cody Childs still ranks third in the WIAC and 52nd in the country in rushing at 91.1 yards per game...Pointers' senior Eric Reible ranks third in the WIAC in kickoff returns at 25.3 yards per return...Free safety Brett Hirsch had 13 tackles last week for the second straight game since joining the starting lineup.

UW-Oshkosh's pass interference penalty that denied an apparent game-winning touchdown with 13 seconds left was only the second pass interference penalty called against an opposing defender all season. The other came in the endzone near the end of the first half at Hardin-Simmons... UW-Oshkosh had the ball for 37:06 of Saturday's game after UW-River Falls held the ball for 36:28 of the 60 minutes the previous week.