



# 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](mailto:jstrick@uwsp.edu) Web: <http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics>

## UW-Stevens Point Men's Hockey Notes

### 2004-05 Pointer Schedule/Results

**2004-05 Record:** 12-10-3 overall, 7-6-1 NCHA

**Breakdown:** 9-2-2 home, 3-8-1 away

**Current Streak:** 1-game winning streak

Oct. 29	UW-Eau Claire	W	3-1
Nov. 5	Hamline	W	4-2
Nov. 6	Bethel	L	4-0
Nov. 12	at St. Olaf	L	5-3
Nov. 13	at Gustavus Adolphus	W	5-3
Nov. 19	Concordia-Moorhead	T	4-4 ot
Nov. 20	Augsburg	W	4-2
Nov. 24	at St. Thomas	L	4-2
Dec. 3	UW-Stout*	T	5-5 ot
Dec. 4	UW-River Falls*	W	7-4
Dec. 10	UW-Eau Claire*	W	7-3
Dec. 11	at UW-Eau Claire*	L	4-2
Jan. 2	Lawrence	W	6-3
Jan. 7	at UW-Superior	T	3-3 ot
Jan. 8	at St. John's (Minn.)	L	3-1
Jan. 14	at UW-Superior*	L	4-3
Jan. 15	at St. Scholastica*	W	9-6
Jan. 21	at St. Norbert*	L	7-2
Jan. 22	at Lake Forest*	L	3-2
Jan. 28	Lake Forest*	W	3-2
Jan. 29	St. Norbert*	L	6-2
Feb. 4	St. Scholastica*	W	4-2
Feb. 5	UW-Superior*	W	7-5
Feb. 11	at UW-River Falls*	L	5-2
Feb. 12	at UW-Stout*	W	8-2
Feb. 18	Lake Forest#		7:30 PM
Feb. 19	Lake Forest#		7:30 PM

Home games in bold at Willett Arena

\* - indicates NCHA regular season game

# - indicates NCHA playoff game

### NCHA Quarterfinal Playoffs

**#4 seed UW-Stevens Point (12-10-3 overall)**

**vs. #5 seed Lake Forest College (11-13-1 overall)**

**Fri., Feb. 18-19, 7:30 p.m. - Willett Arena - Stevens Point, Wis.**

### Pointers This Week:

The Pointers open the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs at home this weekend with a quarterfinal series against Lake Forest. UW-Stevens Point is the fourth seed in the playoffs, while Lake Forest is the fifth seed. The series will be a best-of-two games plus a possible mini-game with the winner advancing to a single-game semifinal on Feb. 26. The Pointers have advanced to the conference semifinals eight straight years.

### Radio:

The games can be heard live on WWSP (89.9 FM) with Nick Cornette and Tony Bastien on the broadcast.

### Head Coach Joe Baldarotta:

The winningest coach in UW-Stevens Point history, Joe Baldarotta carries a 246-140-32 career record in his 14th season. Baldarotta has been named NCHA Coach of the Year four times during his career and was the 1993 Division III Coach of the Year when he guided the Pointers to the national championship. He has had a winning season in 12 of his 13 previous seasons.

## Around the NCHA

### NCHA Standings - Feb. 14

	Conf.	Overall
	W L T Pts	W L T
St. Norbert	12 0 2 26	20 2 3
Superior	9 2 3 21	16 2 7
River Falls	9 5 0 18	16 7 2
<b>Stevens Point</b>	<b>7 6 1 15</b>	<b>12 10 3</b>
Lake Forest	7 7 0 14	11 13 1
Stout	2 9 3 7	9 12 4
St. Scholastica	2 10 2 6	4 16 5
Eau Claire	1 10 3 5	8 13 4

### 2005 NCHA Playoffs

#### Feb. 18-19 - Quarterfinals

- (8) Eau Claire at (1) St. Norbert
- (7) St. Scholastica at (2) Superior
- (6) Stout at (3) River Falls
- (5) Lake Forest at (4) Stevens Point

#### Feb. 26 - Semifinals

at highest remaining seeds

#### Mar. 5 - Championship

at highest remaining seed

## Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point sealed a first round home playoff series with an 8-2 victory over UW-Stout on Saturday. Tom Vernelli scored his first career hat trick, scoring goals in each period. Vernelli and Dan Francis each scored first period goals as the game was tied at 2-2. However, the Pointers took over from that point as Vernelli and Mike Brolsma each scored goals in the final two periods and Nate Sorenson and Chris Gehrke each tallied scores in the third period.

The victory came one night after the Pointers lost at UW-River Falls 5-2 as the Falcons scored three third period goals to earn the victory. Anthony Forgione and Ryan Kirchhoff each scored goals in the first period for UW-Stevens Point.

## Team Notes:

\* - Road teams in NCHA quarterfinal games are 4-69-7 all-time since the round was added in 1992-93. UW-Stevens Point has three of the four road wins and is the only team ever to win a road quarterfinal series with a sweep at UW-Stout in 2001 and a split with a mini-game win last year at UW-Superior. The other road win came in 1995 when UW-Eau Claire beat UW-River Falls, but lost the next night in a mini-game.

\* - UW-Stevens Point is 22-5-7 in home NCHA playoff games, including a 12-1-2 mark in its last 15 contests. The Pointers have won 15 of its 17 home series with the only losses coming in the 1999-2000 finals when they tied and lost to UW-Superior and in the 1996-97 semifinals when they lost a mini-game to UW-Superior.

\* - The Pointers are 12-2-2 all-time in NCHA quarterfinal games, having won seven of their eight first round series. The only time the Pointers lost a quarterfinal series was in 1995-96 at UW-Superior when the teams split and the Yellowjackets won a mini-game.

\* - UW-Stevens Point is 10-3 all-time in mini-games and 6-3 in NCHA mini-games. Lake Forest has never played a mini-game.

\* - The Pointers have scored first in four straight games after falling behind in 24 of their previous 27 games. UW-Stevens Point is now 5-2 when scoring first this season. The Pointers have been outscored 18-3 in the first period of their 10 losses this year.

\* - UW-Stevens Point ranks fourth in Division III on the power play at 25.4 percent (36-for-142). In their 12 wins, the Pointers have scored on 32.9 percent (24-for-73) of power plays, while scoring on just 14.0 percent (7-for-50) in their 10 losses.

\* - UW-Stevens Point has outscored teams 32-9 in the third period of its 12 wins and been outscored 16-6 in its 10 losses.

## Individual Notes:

\* - Freshman forward **Tom Vernelli** (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.) continued his stellar play with his first career hat trick on Saturday.

Vernelli had five points over the first 12 games before the holiday break and has 16 points in the 13 games since the break.

\* - Senior forward **Ryan Kirchhoff** (Fairway, KS) had points in each game over the weekend to extend his scoring streak to six games. He now has 20 points in the last 14 games.

\* - Sophomore forward **Brett Coburn** (Addison, IL) had a career-high three assists in the win over UW-Stout. In fact, Coburn entered the game with a total of six assists among his 23 career points in 53 previous games played.

\* - Freshman defenseman **Nate Sorenson** (Tomah, WI) has scored two of his three goals in the first minute of periods. He scored 26 seconds into the game at Gustavus Adolphus and 22 seconds into the third period at UW-Stout. They are the only two goals the Pointers have scored in the first minute of periods all season.

## Scouting the Opponent

Lake Forest has been one of the hottest teams in the NCHA over the second half of the league season, winning six of its last eight games to earn the fifth seed. The recent stretch has come following a seven-game losing streak at mid-season that dropped the Foresters to 5-11-1 overall and 1-5 in the NCHA.

Over the last eight games, Lake Forest has held opponents to a total of 21 goals with six coming in Friday's 6-3 loss at UW-Superior. The Foresters had five different players score in Saturday's 5-2 win at St. Scholastica.

Tyler Canal has been the team's leading scorer with 15 goals and 20 assists for 35 points. He has a 10-game scoring streak and has scored points in 22 of the team's 25 games. Cody Brown and Joel Cameron have alternated in goal over the last 15 games. Brown leads the team with a 3.03 goals against average and .907 save percentage.

Lake Forest is 1-16-4 all-time in NCHA playoff games and won its first postseason series in its first-ever home series last year with a win and tie against UW-Stout. The Foresters also had ties in 2003 at UW-Stevens Point, 2002 at UW-Superior and 1993 at UW-Superior. Of the Foresters' last 14 playoff games, 13 have been decided by three goals or less.

## Series History

UW-Stevens Point leads the all-time series over Lake Forest 45-25-2 and is 22-5-1 in the past 27 meetings. The home team is undefeated in the last eight games of the series as the teams split their regular season series the past three years, including this season as each team posted a 3-2 victory on its home ice.

The Pointers lead the postseason series 5-0-1, taking a 6-5 win and 3-3 tie in the 2002-03 quarterfinals. They also played in the 1998 NCHA quarterfinals and 1991 NCAA quarterfinals. All six games were played in Stevens Point.

## NCHA Playoff Procedures

The NCHA quarterfinal round features a two-game series format with a possible 20-minute mini-game if the teams split or tie both games. The two games will feature a typical five-minute sudden-death overtime. If the mini-game is tied, then 20-minute sudden-death overtimes will be played.

The semifinals and finals will take a single-elimination format with sudden-death 20-minute overtime periods, if tied.

\* - In a change this season, the teams will be re-seeded for the semifinals with the highest remaining seed hosting the lowest remaining seed. The semifinals will also be played at two sites on Feb. 26 and the finals will be played on March 5.

\* - If the teams split or tie both of the two games in the quarterfinals, a 20-minute mini-game will be played following the completion of Saturday night's game (In effect, a third game).

\* - If the mini-game results in a tie, the game will continue in a sudden-death format with the two teams playing 20-minute sudden death periods.

\* - The NCHA playoff champion will earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III tournament and join five other automatic berths, one independent team and two at-large selections in the nine-team national field.