



# University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

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## UW-Stevens Point Men's Hockey Notes

### 2004-05 Pointer Schedule/Results

**2004-05 Record:** 9-9-3 overall, 4-5-1 NCHA

**Breakdown:** 7-2-2 home, 2-7-1 away

**Current Streak:** 1-game losing 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*		7:30 PM
Feb. 5	UW-Superior*		7:30 PM
Feb. 11	at UW-River Falls*		7:00 PM
Feb. 12	at UW-Stout*		7:30 PM

**Home games in bold at Willett Arena**

\* - indicates NCHA regular season game

**UW-Stevens Point (9-9-3 overall, 4-5-1 NCHA)  
vs. Coll. of St. Scholastica (4-13-4 overall, 2-7-1 NCHA)**

**Fri., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Willett Arena - Stevens Point, Wis.  
vs. #3 UW-Superior (14-1-6 overall, 7-1-2 NCHA)  
Sat., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. - Willett Arena - Stevens Point, Wis.**

### Pointers This Week:

The Pointers conclude their home regular season schedule this weekend with league games against St. Scholastica and UW-Superior. UW-Stevens Point enters the weekend holding a one-point lead on fourth place in the NCHA standings. Saturday's game with UW-Superior continues a challenging stretch, marking the sixth time in 10 games that the Pointers have played one of the top three teams in the NCAA Division III rankings.

### Radio:

The games can be heard live on WWSP (89.9 FM) with Nick Cornette and Tony Bastien on the broadcast. Both games will also be broadcast live on WSPT (1010 AM) with Tom Weaver on the call.

### Head Coach Joe Baldarotta:

The winningest coach in UW-Stevens Point history, Joe Baldarotta carries a 243-139-32 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 - Jan. 31

	Conf.				Overall			
	W	L	T	Pts	W	L	T	Pts
St. Norbert	9	0	1	19	17	2	2	
Superior	7	1	2	16	14	1	6	
River Falls	7	3	0	14	14	5	2	
<b>Stevens Point</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	
Lake Forest	4	6	0	8	8	12	1	
Stout	1	6	3	5	8	9	4	
St. Scholastica	2	7	1	5	4	13	4	
Eau Claire	1	7	2	3	8	10	3	

### This Week in the NCHA

#### Friday, February 4

River Falls at St. Norbert, 7 pm  
Superior at Eau Claire, 7:05 pm  
Stout at Lake Forest, 7:30 pm  
St. Scholastica at Stevens Point, 7:30 pm

#### Saturday, February 5

Stout at St. Norbert, 7 pm  
St. Scholastica at Eau Claire, 7:05 pm  
Superior at Stevens Point, 7:30 pm  
River Falls at Lake Forest, 7:30 pm

## Pointer Update:

The Pointers split a weekend series to hold down fourth place in the NCHA standings.

UW-Stevens Point defeated Lake Forest 3-2 on Friday as Adam Kostichka scored two power play goals and Tom Vernelli notched the eventual game-winning goal in the third period. UW-Stevens Point held a 37-29 advantage in shots as Bryn Davies made 27 saves.

The Pointers lost to second-ranked St. Norbert 6-2 on Saturday. UW-Stevens Point trailed 5-0 before getting goals from Vernelli and Ryan Kirchhoff. The Green Knights outshot the Pointers 24-21 for the game.

## Team Notes:

\* - UW-Stevens Point continues its brutal stretch this weekend as Saturday's game with UW-Superior will mark the sixth time in 10 games that the Pointers play one of the top three teams in the NCAA Division III rankings.

\* - The Pointers had two power play goals against Lake Forest, but were held without a power play goal for just the fifth time this year in the loss to St. Norbert. UW-Stevens Point now ranks seventh in Division III on the power play at 24.2 percent (29-for-120). The Pointers lead the NCHA at 30.7 percent in league games. UW-Superior is third nationally on the penalty kill at 91.6 percent, having allowed just 13 power play goals in 154 shorthanded chances.

\* - UW-Stevens Point has been strong at home this year with a 7-2-2 record, compared to a 2-7-1 record on the road. Oddly, last year was just the opposite as the Pointers were 9-6 on the road and 4-5-3 at Willett Arena.

\* - The Pointers have scored first in a game just three times in 21 games this season. Dating to last season, the Pointers have fallen behind in 24 of their last 27 games. The games that the Pointers led were wins against Gustavus Adolphus and UW-River Falls and a loss to UW-Eau Claire. Both Gustavus Adolphus and UW-River Falls rallied to tie the game, but never took the lead.

\* - UW-Stevens Point has been bitten by allowing goals in the final minute of periods this year. St. Norbert had two goals in the final minute as the Pointers have now given up 12 goals in the last minute of a period, while scoring just twice. Of the 12 goals, seven have been scored in the last 20 seconds of a period.

## Individual Notes:

\* - Freshman forward **Tom Vernelli** (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.) extended his point-scoring streak to six straight games with goals in each game over the weekend. Vernelli now has goals in five of the last six games.

\* - Senior forward **Ryan Kirchhoff** (Fairway, KS) had three points over the weekend and now has 12 points in the last 10 games. His 21 points this season eclipses his total from each of the past two seasons.

\* - Senior forwards **Adam Kostichka** (Stevens Point, WI) and **Mike Brolsma** (Appleton, WI) are close to becoming the 17th and 18th players in school history to join the 50-goal club. Brolsma has 49 goals and Kostichka has 48 goals entering the weekend.

\* - Brolsma ranks sixth in the NCAA Division III in assists per game with 22 helpers in 20 games played. He leads the NCHA in scoring with 20 points and leads the league in assists with 16 in 10 league games.

\* - Kostichka leads the NCHA with 11 goals and ranks second with 17 points in 10 league games.

## Scouting the Opponents

St. Scholastica snapped a 12-game winless streak two weeks ago with a win over UW-Stout and then beat the Blue Devils again last weekend 5-1. Darren Richardson had two goals in the victory and leads the team with seven goals and nine assists for 16 points.

Goalie Matt Matak joined the team last weekend and made 32 saves in a 2-0 loss to UW-River Falls before stopping 39 shots in the win over UW-Stout. The Saints have struggled on special teams, ranking 66th of 67 Division III teams on the power play (11.3 percent) and 65th on the penalty kill (28.6 percent).

UW-Superior suffered its first loss of the season on Saturday in a 2-0 defeat at UW-River Falls, snapping its 21-game unbeaten streak. The Yellowjackets entered the weekend as the nation's top-ranked team and also tied UW-Stout 2-2 on Friday.

Michael Wiggins ranks second nationally in goals per game with 23 goals in 21 games. He also ranks second in the country with nine power play goals. Kyle Nosan is ninth nationally with 23 assists.

UW-Superior ranks third in the country in scoring defense, having allowed just 40 goals for an average of 1.90 per game.

## Series History

UW-Stevens Point is 38-5-2 all-time against St. Scholastica as the Saints' five wins came the first five meetings in the series, including four victories during UW-Stevens Point's first varsity season in 1981-82. St. Scholastica's last victory came during the 1986-87 season.

The Pointers trail the all-time series to UW-Superior 49-41-5 in the most played rivalry in UW-Stevens Point history. The Pointers are 1-14-3 in the last 18 meetings with the lone victory coming 6-4 in last year's NCHA quarterfinals. The teams are playing for the third time this season.

## U.S. College Hockey Online

### NCAA Division III Rankings - Jan. 31, 2005

Rank, Team	Record	Pts.	Last
1. St. John's, Minn. (6)	17-0-2	214	3
2. St. Norbert, Wis. (9)	17-2-2	211	2
<b>3. UW-Superior</b>	<b>14-1-6</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1</b>
4. Manhattanville, N.Y.	14-1-1	171	4
5. Norwich, Vt.	13-2-3	157	6
6. Middlebury, Vt.	13-3-2	142	5
7. Oswego State, N.Y.	15-3-3	136	8
8. UW-River Falls	14-5-2	114	9
9. Trinity, Conn.	13-2-1	103	10
10. Fredonia State, N.Y.	13-3-3	76	7
tie Bowdoin, Maine	11-2-3	76	12
12. St. Thomas, Minn.	10-3-4	58	14
13. Hobart, N.Y.	11-3-2	29	11
14. Babson, Mass.	11-4-3	28	NR
15. Rochester Inst. of Tech., N.Y.	10-6-1	22	13

**Others Receiving Votes:** Curry 20, Colby 19, Geneseo State 12, Utica 9, Amherst 3, Bethel 2, New England College 2.