



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 Men's Basketball Notes

2003-04 Pointer Schedule/Results

Current Record: 27-5 overall, 11-5 WIAC

Streak: 7-game winning streak

Breakdown: 15-2 home, 9-3 away, 3-0 ntl.

Nov. 21 Northland	W 67-37
Nov. 22 Kendall	W 80-66
Nov. 29 Marian	W 83-39
Dec. 3 UW-River Falls	W 56-38
Dec. 6 Calumet	W 96-60
Dec. 7 Carroll	W 80-68
Dec. 10 at UW-Stout	W 73-64
Dec. 21 #Kalamazoo	W 70-52
Dec. 22 #UW-Oshkosh	W 63-55
Dec. 31 at Edgewood	W 72-54
Jan. 3 UW-Eau Claire	W 70-58
Jan. 7 at UW-Platteville	L 63-60
Jan. 10 at UW-La Crosse	W 83-39
Jan. 14 UW-Whitewater	L 71-69
Jan. 17 at UW-Superior	L 57-54
Jan. 21 UW-Oshkosh	W 68-53
Jan. 26 at Viterbo	W 67-52
Jan. 28 UW-Stout	W 84-70
Jan. 31 UW-La Crosse	W 70-61
Feb. 3 at UW-River Falls	L 70-59
Feb. 7 UW-Platteville	W 69-51
Feb. 10 at UW-Whitewater	W 79-59
Feb. 14 at UW-Eau Claire	W 80-68
Feb. 17 at UW-Oshkosh	W 63-61
Feb. 21 UW-Superior	L 61-52
Feb. 24 \$UW-Superior	W 83-73
Feb. 26 \$UW-Oshkosh	W 70-59
Feb. 28 \$UW-Platteville	W 68-50
Mar. 4 +Benedictine (Ill.)	W 84-58
Mar. 6 +at Gustavus Adolphus	W 66-55
Mar. 12 +at Puget Sound	W 100-79
Mar. 13 +Lawrence	W 82-81 ot
Mar. 19 +John Carroll (Ohio)	7:00 PM
Mar. 20 +Williams/Amherst	1/3:30 PM

- Game at Las Vegas, Nev.

\$ - WIAC Tournament

+ - NCAA Division III Tournament

Home games at Quandt Fieldhouse

NCAA Division III Championship

#1 Williams (29-1) vs. #5 Amherst (27-3)

#10 UW-Stevens Point (27-5) vs. #13 John Carroll (26-5)

Semifinals - Fri., March 19 - 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (CST)

Third Place/Title Game - Sat., March 20 - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (CST)

Salem Civic Center - Salem, Va.

Pointers This Week:

Three first-time final four participants join the defending champion this weekend at the NCAA Division III championship in Salem, Va. UW-Stevens Point and John Carroll both are in their first appearance and play in one semifinal. Last year's champion Williams plays archrival Amherst in the other matchup. The Pointers are making their second championship appearance of any kind, having also played in the 1984 NAIA championship game.

Broadcast:

Games involving the Pointers can be heard live on WSPT (97.9 FM). Scott Krueger will do the play-by-play and John Zellmer will provide the analysis.

The championship game will be televised live on Fox Sports Net South.

Head Coach Jack Bennett:

Jack Bennett boasts a 169-53 record in his eighth season with the Pointers. Bennett currently ranks third on the school's all-time wins list and is 15th on the all-time WIAC coaching victories list. Bennett's .761 career winning percentage ranks third in WIAC history of coaches with at least three seasons at the helm.

2004 NCAA Division III Tournament

Sectional Semifinals - March 12

Tacoma, Wash. Sectional

Lawrence 86, Sul Ross State 79 (ot)
UW-Stevens Point 100, Puget Sound 79

Wooster, Ohio Sectional

John Carroll 76, Maryville (Tenn.) 74
Wooster 58, Illinois Wesleyan 53

Williamstown, Mass. Sectional

Keene State 82, Rochester 79
Williams 78, Brockport State 50

Lancaster, Pa. Sectional

Amherst 92, New Jersey City 74
Franklin & Marshall 92, Gwynedd-Mercy 74

Sectional Finals - March 13

Tacoma, Wash. Sectional

UW-Stevens Point 82, Lawrence 81 (ot)

Wooster, Ohio Sectional

John Carroll 70, Wooster 64

Williamstown, Mass. Sectional

Williams 79, Keene State 64

Lancaster, Pa. Sectional

Amherst 82, Franklin & Marshall 70

NCAA Division III Final Four

March 19-20 at Salem, Va.

Williams vs. Amherst, 5:00 (CST)

UW-Stevens Point vs. John Carroll, 7:00

Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point won a thrilling overtime battle over in-state rival Lawrence on Saturday to advance to its first Division III semifinal. Junior Eric Maus hit a baseline jumper with five seconds left and a last-second Lawrence shot bounced off the rim as the Pointers hung on for an 82-81 victory at Tacoma, Wash.

Nick Bennett scored 25 points in the title game and hit a three-pointer with nine seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime. He also scored his 1,000th career point in the second half. Jason Kalsow had 20 points and 10 rebounds.

In the sectional semifinals, the Pointers defeated host Puget Sound 100-79. Bennett had a career-high 37 points and Kalsow had 19 points and 11 rebounds in the victory. UW-Stevens Point held the nation's third-highest scoring team to just 30 points at halftime and a season-low point total.

Scouting the Opponents

John Carroll features a balanced attack with no player averaging more than 23 minutes per game and 11 players averaging at least 13 minutes per contest. Seven players average at least 6.3 points per game, led by David Gibbons at 14.2 points per game off the bench. Gibbons was a first-team all-conference selection, while second-team pick Jerry Angel averages 12.2 points.

The Blue Streaks won both the Ohio Athletic Conference regular season and tournament titles for the second straight year. They bring a nine-game winning streak into this weekend's semifinals.

Williams is the defending national champion and features one of the nation's top point guards in Michael Crotty, who leads the nation with 7.9 assists per game. Ben Coffin was last year's final four MVP and leads the squad this year with 16.4 points and 10.1 rebounds per game.

The Ephs have won 18 straight games since losing to their semifinal opponent Amherst 78-62 on Jan. 10. They also beat Amherst 84-80 in overtime and 79-67 in the conference title game. Williams defeated Division I Holy Cross on its home floor earlier this season. The Ephs rank 10th in the nation in offense at 84.6 points per game and fourth in field goal percentage defense at 37.0 percent.

Amherst leads the country in scoring margin, outscoring opponents by 23.3 points per game. The Lord Jeffs also rank fifth nationally in scoring offense at 87.3 points per game as five players average double figures, led by Andrew Schiel at 13.7 points per game. Adam Harper averages 12.5 points and ranks fifth in the country at 3.4 steals per game.

The Lord Jeffs suffered two of their losses to Williams and also lost to Trinity (Conn.). They opened the season with 15 straight wins before their first loss to the Ephs.

Series History

UW-Stevens Point has never faced any of the other three teams in this year's field.

The Pointers have played two Ohio Athletic Conference opponents, beating Mount Union 68-67 in overtime in the 1997 Sweet 16 and defeating Heidelberg 33-27 in the 1923 season opener. UW-Stevens Point has never played a New England Small College Athletic Conference opponent.

Championship Notes:

* - UW-Stevens Point is 9-3 all-time in NCAA tournament games, reaching the Elite Eight in 1997 and 2000 prior to this year's final four appearance. UW-Stevens Point has been eliminated by the eventual national runner-up in all three previous appearances, losing to Nebraska Wesleyan in 1997, UW-Eau Claire in 2000 and Gustavus Adolphus in 2003.

* - In addition to its four NCAA appearances, the Pointers played in seven NAIA national tournaments, finishing runner-up in 1984 with current Milwaukee Bucks coach Terry Porter and St. Louis University coach Brad Soderberg in the backcourt. The Pointers lost to Fort Hays State (Kan.) 48-46 in overtime in the title game.

* - UW-Stevens Point was a dual member of the NAIA and NCAA for several years before becoming an exclusive NCAA member in 1993-94 and playing in its first NCAA tournament in 1997.

* - The four postseason victories this season match the most the Pointers have ever won. They won four games to reach the 1984 championship game.

* - WIAC teams are 75-26 all-time in NCAA tournament play with eight of the losses coming to other WIAC teams. Of the 25 WIAC qualifiers since 1988, this year's UW-Stevens Point squad was the 18th to reach the Sweet 16.

* - This weekend marks the 10th time a WIAC team has reached the final four. The conference has won six national championships in its nine previous appearances. UW-Platteville won national titles in 1991, 1995, 1998 and 1999 while finishing third in 1992. UW-Whitewater won titles in 1984 and 1989 after a fourth place finish in 1983. UW-Eau Claire was runner-up in 2000. WIAC teams had won eight straight final four games before UW-Eau Claire's loss.

* - All three conferences represented at this year's final four has won a national title within the past five years. UW-Platteville won in 1999, while Otterbein from the Ohio Athletic Conference won in 2002 and Williams won the title last year.

* - The Pointers' matchup with John Carroll marks the first time two first-time semifinal participants have met since UW-Eau Claire played Salem State (Mass.) in 2000. Along with Amherst, the last time a final four had three first-time participants was in 1999.

* - UW-Stevens Point is the second school in Division III history to have both its men's and women's teams reach the national semifinals. Centre (Ky.) also accomplished the feat in 1988-89. Both Centre teams lost in the semifinals, so no school has ever reached both title games in the same year.

* - Since 1991, only two other Division III schools have made appearances in both basketball final fours. Rochester (N.Y.) and New York University are the only others to accomplish the feat.

* - UW-Stevens Point's women's ice hockey team also is in the semifinals this weekend in Middlebury, Vt., making the school the first to reach three final fours in one winter sports season.

* - UW-Stevens Point is the only Division III institution to qualify for all four basketball/hockey finals four at least once. The Pointers have made six trips in men's hockey. Three others have qualified at least once in three of the four -- St. Thomas (WBB, MBB, MH), Salem State (MH, WBB, MBB) and Plattsburgh State (MH, WH, MBB). Plattsburgh State is in both hockey semifinals this weekend.

* - St. Thomas is the only other Division III school to have a hockey team and a basketball team in the final four the same year, reaching the men's hockey and women's basketball fields in 2000.

* - Since 1995, only one team has won the national championship in its first final four appearance. Catholic (D.C.) won the title in its first trip in 2001.

Team Notes:

* - UW-Stevens Point's 27 victories mark the third time in school history the Pointers have reached that level. They were 27-2 in 1991-92 and 28-4 in 1983-84. The Pointers had a streak of four straight WIAC titles end this season, but won the WIAC tournament to earn the NCAA bid.

* - The Pointers are 4-1 when trailing at halftime this year and are shooting 58.1 percent in the second half of those games. They rallied to beat Lawrence, Gustavus Adolphus, Carroll and UW-Stout, but lost to UW-River Falls.

* - The Pointers are shooting 58.1 percent from the field during the NCAA tournament. Nick Bennett is shooting 60.9 percent from three-point range (14-for-23) and averaging 25.8 points per game in the postseason.

* - UW-Stevens Point averages just 9.7 turnovers per game and has had fewer than 10 turnovers in 16 of its 32 games.

* - The Pointers have had one player foul out all season in 32 games, coming when Jason Kalsow fouled out in the regular season finale against UW-Superior.

* - UW-Stevens Point has played games on back-to-back days four times this year and won all eight of those games. The only time they played at night and then the next afternoon was on Dec. 6-7 when they swept Calumet and Carroll.

* - The Pointers drained half-court shots at the end of the first half of both games in the sectional. Jon Krull made one against Puget Sound and Tamaris Relerford converted a long-distance shot against Lawrence. They were the first half-courters the Pointers have made all season. Neal Krajnik also drained a long three-pointer at the first half buzzer in the Pointers' NCAA first round win over Benedictine.

* - UW-Stevens Point is 3-0 on neutral courts this year. All of those games were over 2,000 miles away and oddly, two were against the two closest schools to Stevens Point. The Pointers played Lawrence in Tacoma, Wash. and UW-Oshkosh in Las Vegas, Nev.

* - The Pointers had the rare distinction of beating a team four times this year with four wins over UW-Oshkosh. In addition to two regular season games, the teams played in the Las Vegas tournament and the WIAC semifinals. The Titans advanced to last year's Elite Eight.

* - UW-Stevens Point defeated every WIAC team this season for the second straight year. After losing twice to UW-Superior in the regular season, the Pointers beat the Yellowjackets in the WIAC quarterfinals.

* - UW-Stevens Point is 41-1 in its last 42 games against non-WIAC opponents since a loss to Edgewood on Dec. 29, 1999. The only loss during the span was a 75-62 loss to Gustavus Adolphus in last year's NCAA first round. The Pointers have won 35 straight regular season non-conference games.

* - Saturday's overtime win over Lawrence was the Pointers' first overtime game in over two years since a 91-80 win over UW-Whitewater on Jan. 23, 2002. Prior to the game, 49 of the team's last 50 wins were by five points or more. The only exception was a 63-61 win over UW-Oshkosh on Feb. 17.

* - The Pointers have been ranked in the D3hoops.com top 25 poll for 45 consecutive weeks. The last time they weren't in the rankings was the final poll of the 2000-01 season. This year, they spent the first six weeks at No. 2. Their lowest ranking this season was No. 14 on Jan. 18. The UW-Stevens Point women's team has also spent 45 straight weeks in the poll.

Individual Notes:

#10 Tamaris Relerford, 5-8, Jr., Guard, Beloit, Wis.

* - Has started the past 12 games and made 16 starts this season.

* - Ranks second in WIAC in assist/turnover ratio in WIAC games only with 33 assists and 16 turnovers.

* - Made nine consecutive three-point shots during span in late January.

* - Ended regular season by making 18 straight free throws.

* - Had season-high 11 points in regular season loss at UW-Superior. Career high is 16 points during freshman season against UW-La Crosse.

* - Has played in all 87 career games, making 20 starts.

#12 Eddie Zirbel, 6-3, Jr., Guard, Bristol, Wis.

* - Has appeared in 14 games as a reserve point guard.

* - Had career-high four points in win over Marian.

#20 Neal Krajnik, 6-1, Sr., Guard, Manitowoc, Wis.

* - Team's only senior. Started 13 of team's first 14 games and was team's starting point guard the past two seasons.

* - Scored season-high 16 points and hit back-to-back threes with under nine minutes left to spark WIAC semifinal win over UW-Oshkosh.

* - Ranks second in WIAC with 47.8 three-point field goal percentage. Ranks fourth in steals at 1.8 per game.

* - Had a streak of 38 straight games with a steal from 2/13/02 to 12/7/03.

* - Led WIAC in steals in 2002-03 at 2.07 per game.

* - Led WIAC in assists in 2001-02 at 4.5 per game.

* - Has played in 111 of a possible 112 career games, making 72 starts. Has a career record of 90-22. Had career-high 21 points in WIAC tournament win over UW-Platteville as a sophomore.

#22 Brett Hirsch, 6-1, Fr., Guard, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

* - Started first 12 games, averaging 18.9 minutes per game over first 14 games. Has averaged 4.0 minutes over past 18 games.

* - Outstanding defender, who had 11 steals in first 14 games.

* - Scored a career-high 12 points in first game this season against Northland.

#24 Keven Bradley, 6-1, Soph., Guard, Omro, Wis.

* - Played in 13 games as a reserve guard.

* - Scored career-high six points against Calumet.

* - Has scored 11 of 18 points this season from the free throw line, attempting 16 free throws in 51 minutes played.

#25 Kyle Gruszczynski, 6-6, Jr., Guard, Seymour, Wis.

* - Played in all 32 games this season, making two starts at mid-season against UW-La Crosse and UW-Whitewater.

* - Had season-high 15 points in start at UW-La Crosse. Career-high is 19 points last season at UW-Platteville.

* - Matched career high with six rebounds against Puget Sound while posting his second-highest minutes played total of the season with 26.

* - Scored 10 points in 22 minutes of win at Gustavus Adolphus. Had eight points in NCAA first round win over Benedictine.

* - Has just 11 turnovers in 32 games and has 30 turnovers in 60 career games.

* - Played freshman season at University of Wisconsin-Madison, appearing in six games for the Badgers.

#32 Cory Krautkramer, 6-5, Fr., Forward, Cameron, Wis.

- * - Played in 12 games this season as a backup forward.
- * - Notched career-high five points in win over Calumet.
- * - Grabbed five rebounds in victory over Marian.

#33 Nick Bennett, 6-5, Jr., Forward, Stevens Point, Wis.

- * - First-team All-WIAC selection. Has started all 32 games.
- * - Set single-season school record with 76 three-pointers made.
- * - Ranks 23rd on school's all-time scoring list with 1,010 points. Scored 1,000th point in second half against Lawrence.
- * - Averaging 25.8 points in NCAA tournament this year after posting career-high 37 points against Puget Sound, 25 against Lawrence, 24 against Benedictine and 17 against Gustavus Adolphus. Also led team with 18 points in last year's NCAA tournament game against Gustavus Adolphus.
- * - Has made 14 of 23 three-point shot attempts during NCAA tournament for 60.9 percent rate.
- * - Has made a three-pointer in 30 of team's 32 games.
- * - Team is 21-0 this season when he scores 14 points or more. Has reached that mark in all seven postseason games.
- * - Leads WIAC in assist/turnover ratio with 90 assists and 39 turnovers. Ranks second in free throw shooting, fourth in three-point shooting and fifth in field goal percentage.
- * - Led league in three-point percentage last year and ranked second in free throw and field goal percentage.
- * - Had 29 points in wins over Kalamazoo and UW-Stout. Also had 29 points last year against Viterbo.
- * - Son of coach Jack Bennett.

#34 Jon Krull, 6-4, Fr., Guard, Marshall, Wis.

- * - Saw limited playing time over first 20 games of season, averaging 5.5 minutes per game. Has started 11 of last 12 games, averaging 25.4 minutes per game.
- * - Averaging 10.1 points per game since joining starting lineup. Averaged 1.9 points over the first 20 games.
- * - All 23 steals have come since becoming a starter. Has a steal in all 12 games.
- * - Had a career-high in three straight games, capped by a 15-point performance in WIAC semifinals against UW-Oshkosh. Also had 15 points - all in the first half - against Puget Sound.
- * - Scored 2,094 career points in high school, including 36 in 2002 Division 2 state championship game.

#40 Matt Bouche, 6-6, Soph., Forward, Dane, Wis.

- * - Appeared in 18 games as a reserve forward.
- * - Totaled career-high numbers with eight points and seven rebounds in win over Marian.
- * - Shooting 76.9 percent from the field (10-for-13).

#42 Brian Bauer, 6-5, Soph., Forward, Auburndale, Wis.

- * - Made five starts at mid-season and has played in 31 of team's 32 games this season.
- * - Scored season-high 12 points in loss at UW-Platteville.
- * - Had career-high 15 points in key late season win over UW-Whitewater last season in first career start.

#44 Jason Kalsow, 6-7, Jr., Forward, Huntley, Ill.

- * - Two-time first-team All-WIAC selection.
- * - Ranks third in WIAC in points, rebounds and assists.
- * - Ranks 14th on school's all-time scoring list with 1,208 points.
- * - Has started all 87 games during three-year career.
- * - Has scored in double figures in every game this season.
- * - Has seven double-doubles and six other games with nine rebounds, finishing one rebound short of a double-double. Had double-doubles in both sectional games.
- * - Posted career-high 28 points in second game of the season against Kendall to earn Pointer Tipoff Classic MVP honors.
- * - Had career-high 11 assists last year at UW-Platteville and had nine assists and seven rebounds this year at UW-Platteville.
- * - Made nine career three-pointers over first two seasons and has hit 21 shots from behind the arc this year.

#45 Mike Prey, 6-6, Soph., Forward, Shawano, Wis.

- * - Has appeared in 24 games off the bench.
- * - Played a season-high 14 minutes in NCAA tournament opener against Benedictine.
- * - Had a career-high six points in NCAA sectional victory over Puget Sound.
- * - Has made six of seven field goal attempts during NCAA tournament.

#50 Eric Maus, 6-9, Jr., Center, Green Bay, Wis.

- * - Has started all 32 games this season after appearing in all 55 games during the past two years as a reserve.
- * - Hit game-winning basket with five seconds remaining in overtime in sectional final win over Lawrence.
- * - Totaled career-high 18 points in late season win at UW-Whitewater.
- * - Notched 17 points in WIAC tournament title game against UW-Platteville.
- * - Posted first career double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds in victory at UW-Oshkosh.
- * - Had eight points, eight rebounds and six assists in victory at Gustavus Adolphus.
- * - Ranks second in WIAC in assist/turnover ratio with 68 assists and 36 turnovers. Ranks 20th in league in scoring, 14th in rebounding and 13th in assists.

#52 John Gleich, 6-9, Jr., Center, Wheaton, Ill.

- * - Played in 12 games as a backup post player.
- * - Had season-best numbers with four points and four rebounds at UW-La Crosse.
- * - Scored career-high 10 points against Mount Senario as a freshman.