



# University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Sports Information

Jim Strick, Sports Information Director

140 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 Baseball Playoff Notes

### Regional Participants

\* - **UW-Stevens Point** is in the tournament for the eighth time in 11 years and is hosting for the second straight year. The Pointers won their third straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament title with a 9-2 win over UW-Oshkosh.

\* - **St. Thomas** became the first team in the eight-year history of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament to come through the loser's bracket to win the title. The Tommies have won six of the eight MIAC tournaments and are in the NCAA field for the 12th time in 13 years.

\* - **Ripon** captured its fourth straight Midwest Conference tournament crown and is in the regional for the sixth time in the past nine years. The Red Hawks, who placed second in the Midwest Conference North Division, were the top seed in the regional last year and finished runner-up.

\* - **St. Olaf** shared the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title with St. Thomas and earned an at-large berth to the tournament. The Oles are making their 18th regional appearance and looking for their first trip to the World Series.

\* - **UW-Oshkosh** claimed its 28th Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship and is making its 23rd trip to the NCAA tournament. The Titans received an at-large bid to the event and are playing on the road in a regional for the first time since 1980.

\* - **St. Scholastica** dominated the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and is the nation's highest-scoring team. The conference does not have an automatic bid and the Saints were given an at-large berth for their fourth tournament appearance.

### NCAA Division III Wisconsin Rapids Regional

#### All Games at Witter Field, Wisconsin Rapids

#### Wednesday, May 16

Game 1 - Noon - UW-Stevens Point (28-14) vs. St. Scholastica (36-6)

Game 2 - 3:30 p.m. - St. Thomas (32-10) vs. UW-Oshkosh (32-10)

Game 3 - 7 p.m. - Ripon (21-13) vs. St. Olaf (31-8)

#### Thursday, May 17

Game 4 - Noon - Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2

Game 5 - 3:30 p.m. - Winner Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3

Game 6 - 7 p.m. - Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3

#### Friday, May 18

Game 7 - Noon - pairings to be determined

Game 8 - 3:30 p.m. - pairings to be determined

Game 9 - 7 p.m. - pairings to be determined

#### Saturday, May 19

Game 10 - Noon - pairings to be determined

Game 11 - 3:30 p.m. - pairings to be determined

### Pointers This Week:

For the second straight year, UW-Stevens Point hosts an NCAA Division III baseball regional as the Pointers return to the site of their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament victories from the past three years at Witter Field in Wisconsin Rapids. The Pointers will take on St. Scholastica in the opening round for the third straight year.

### Head Coach Pat Bloom:

UW-Stevens Point coach Pat Bloom carries a 126-59 record in his fourth season with the Pointers. Bloom ranks second on the school's all-time wins list and guided the Pointers to the NCAA Division III World Series in 2006. He is a 2001 graduate of UW-Stevens Point and earned a Master's Degree in Sports Sciences from Miami University (Ohio).

### At Stake:

The winner of this weekend's regional earns a berth to the NCAA Division III World Series May 25-29 at Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton. Seven other regionals are being conducted this week around the country and the eight winners will gather in Appleton to decide the national champion. The Wisconsin Rapids regional winner will open the tournament against the Ferrum, Va. regional winner on Friday, May 26 at 10 a.m.

## Pointer Update:

UW-Stevens Point captured its third straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament title, but went undefeated through the weekend for the first time since 2002. The Pointers are making their ninth NCAA Division III tournament appearance, including the eighth in 11 seasons.

## Team Notes:

- \* - UW-Stevens Point's current seven-game winning streak is its longest since winning 14 straight midway through the 2005 season.
- \* - This weekend marks the fifth time the Pointers have played a tournament at Witter Field and UW-Stevens Point has won the title the previous four times with three straight WIAC tournament wins and a title in last year's NCAA regional. The Pointers own an 18-3 all-time record in Wisconsin Rapids.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point is the top seed in the regional for the third time. The Pointers also held the spot in 2002 and 2005 and finished runner-up both times.
- \* - The Pointers are 10-5 in one-run games this season after posting a 2-11 record in such games last year. All four of their postseason losses last year were one-run defeats.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point has led the NCAA Division III in home runs the past two years and ranks third in the country this year with 45 homers.
- \* - The Pointers have played in the WIAC tournament title game nine of the last 11 years, winning the event six times. They have won at least one game in the tournament 11 consecutive years.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point needs two wins for its seventh 30-win season in school history. All of the 30-win campaigns have been since 1997.
- \* - The Pointers played 20 of their last 24 regular season games at home with their only road games coming on back-to-back days at St. Norbert and UW-Stout.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point's 10 saves are one short of a single-season school record. The Pointers have had just five complete games in 42 starts this year, including two nine-inning complete games.
- \* - The Pointers have outscored their opponents 81-42 in the eighth and ninth innings of games this year. They are hitting .387 and have hit 15 home runs over the final two innings. The Pointers are hitting .257 over the first two innings of games.
- \* - The Pointers have been successful on 21 of their last 24 stolen base attempts since a doubleheader on April 18 at UW-Stout. They are nine-for-10 during the month of May and are 51-for-55 in May the past two years.
- \* - Of the last 15 home runs allowed by Pointers' pitchers, 10 have been solo shots and four have been two-run homers. In fact, nine of the last 11 round-trippers hit by the Pointers have also been solo homers.
- \* - UW-Stevens Point is 21-3 when holding its opponents to five runs or less.
- \* - The Pointers hit .375 in their three WIAC tournament games last week and held their opponents to just a .216 average. UW-Stevens Point left 37 runners on base in the three games, including 15 against UW-Stout.

## Probable Starters/Pitching Rotation

- \* - Senior catcher/first baseman **Adam Evanoff** (Plover, WI) shares the WIAC lead with 68 hits and ranks fourth in the conference with a .389 batting average. He hit a solo homer in the eighth inning to give the Pointers a 5-4 win over UW-Whitewater last week. A first-team All-WIAC first baseman, Evanoff recently moved to catcher and has thrown out five of nine base stealers in nine starts.
- \* - Junior second baseman **Tim Schlosser** (Oconomowoc, WI) has been red hot over the last 17 games with a .438 average, 22 RBI's and seven home runs. He hit three homers and drove in seven runs in a regular season loss to UW-Oshkosh and was seven-for-14 in last week's WIAC tournament.
- \* - Junior shortstop **Justin Bushong** (Rhinelander, WI) opened the year two-for-23, but is now hitting .281 and has hits in 10 of the last 12 games. He had a key two-run single for UW-Whitewater in the Warhawks' 2004 NCAA regional title game win over St. Thomas.
- \* - Junior third baseman **Stewart Larsen** (Sturgeon Bay, WI) has started 26 straight games since an early season injury and went five-for-10 in last week's WIAC tournament.
- \* - Junior leftfielder **Joel Hojnacki** (Plover, WI) leads the WIAC with 15 stolen bases and ranks third in the league with 46 runs scored. He hit for the cycle and had a grand slam in a win over Manchester (Ind.) earlier this year.
- \* - Junior centerfielder **Brandon Scheidler** (Chippewa Falls, WI) is tied for the WIAC lead with 68 hits and currently has a 12-game hitting streak after hitting in 14 straight games earlier this year. He hit three home runs in last year's NCAA regional tournament. Scheidler does not have an error in 89 fielding chances.
- \* - Senior rightfielder **Ryan Byrnes** (Beaver Dam, WI) leads the WIAC with 31 walks. He is among the Pointers' career offensive leaders with a .352 average, 20 home runs and 119 RBI's.
- \* - Freshman rightfielder/first baseman **Brad Archambeau** (Watertown, WI) has made 13 starts each at rightfield, first base and designated hitter. He has started 36 straight games and leads all WIAC freshmen with a .380 batting average, ranking eighth overall.
- \* - Junior catcher **Ben Warwick** (Green Bay, WI) has committed one error in his last 116 fielding chances. He has hits in four of his last five games with an at-bat.
- \* - Junior righthanded pitcher/designated hitter **Jordan Zimmermann** (Auburndale, WI) is ranked 50th among all draft eligible players, including 23rd among college players by ESPN.com. He was a second-team All-American in 2006 and was the regional Most Outstanding Player. Opponents are hitting just .215 off him this season. The Pointers are 16-3 with him in the starting lineup, including 10-3 as designated hitter and 6-0 as a starting pitcher.
- \* - Junior righthanded pitcher **Brandon Hemstead** (DeForest, WI) ranks fifth in the WIAC with a 2.73 ERA and third with 54 strikeouts. He has an 11-1 career record, including a 4-0 mark this season.
- \* - Junior lefthanded pitcher **Mike Thrun** (Franklin, WI) was the winning pitcher in the WIAC title game for the second straight year after allowing five hits over eight innings against UW-Oshkosh on Saturday. He has a 1.93 ERA over his last four starts.
- \* - Sophomore righthanded pitcher **Garrett Nix** (Osseo, WI) threw a one-hit shutout against UW-Platteville earlier this year and allowed one run over eight innings to beat UW-La Crosse. He has a 2.65 ERA over his last three starts.
- \* - Senior righthanded pitcher **Matt Mehne** (Amherst, WI) ranks second in the WIAC with five saves and beat UW-Stout in the WIAC tournament with three innings of two-hit shutout relief.

## **Regional Participants Quick Facts**

### **Ripon**

- \* - Posted a 3-8 record on its spring trip to Clearwater, Fla., but won its next 11 games and has an 18-5 record up north.
- \* - Played two games against regional participants, sweeping UW-Stevens Point 4-2 and 10-9 in 12 innings on April 21.
- \* - Won its fourth straight Midwest Conference tournament title with 6-5 win over St. Norbert.
- \* - Had a 28-game Midwest Conference winning streak snapped on April 28 in a 5-4 loss to Lawrence.
- \* - Coach Bob Gillespie began coaching at Ripon in 1980. He was the head coach for 16 years and then served as assistant coach under his father, Gordie, for 10 seasons before returning to the helm again last season.
- \* - Senior Jordan Baitinger was named the Midwest Conference Pitcher of the Year.
- \* - Making its sixth NCAA Division III tournament appearance, finishing regional runner-up in 2002 and 2006.

### **St. Olaf**

- \* - Started the year 18-1 with its only loss coming in the third game of the season to UW-Stout.
- \* - Went 6-6 over its last 12 games, including four losses to St. Thomas.
- \* - Posted a 4-5 record against regional participants, sweeping UW-Oshkosh, splitting with St. Scholastica and taking one of five meetings with St. Thomas.
- \* - Shared the MIAC regular season title with St. Thomas, but lost to the Tommies 7-3 in the tournament title game.
- \* - Making its 18th regional appearance and looking for its first World Series appearance.
- \* - Coach Matt McDonald was named the MIAC Coach of the Year.
- \* - Ranked third in the NCAA Division III with a .359 team batting average as of May 6.

### **St. Scholastica**

- \* - Posted 13 shutouts this season and ranks third nationally with a 2.33 team ERA. Leads the country with 347 strikeouts against just 82 walks.
- \* - Leads the NCAA Division III in scoring at 11.0 runs per game. Also has a national-best .561 slugging percentage and 27 triples.
- \* - Blake Eller ranks second in Division III with 12 triples and 67 runs scored.
- \* - Scored 20 or more runs in a game eight times.
- \* - Had a 37-game Upper Midwest Athletic Conference winning streak snapped in a 2-1 loss to Bethany Lutheran on April 26.
- \* - Won its 11th consecutive UMAC tournament title with an 8-2 win over Minnesota-Morris.
- \* - Finished 1-4 against regional foes with two losses to St. Thomas, one loss to UW-Stevens Point and a split with St. Olaf.
- \* - Making its fourth NCAA tournament appearance and will play UW-Stevens Point in every appearance, having also played the Pointers in 1999, 2005 and 2006.

### **St. Thomas**

- \* - Making its 12th NCAA Tournament appearance in the last 13 years.
- \* - Went 7-4 against teams in the regional, sweeping St. Scholastica, losing twice to UW-Stevens Point, splitting with UW-Oshkosh and taking four of five games from St. Olaf.
- \* - Won its sixth MIAC tournament title and became the first team in the eight-year history of the tournament to come through the loser's bracket to win the tournament.
- \* - Became the first team in 87 seasons of MIAC baseball to win five consecutive conference titles.
- \* - Has won the regular-season or post-season MIAC title in each of the last 12 seasons.
- \* - Has won 30 or more games for the ninth time in 10 seasons.
- \* - Chris Bullis earned MIAC tournament MVP honors, hitting nine-for-15 and earning pitching win in title game.

### **UW-Oshkosh**

- \* - Making its 23rd NCAA Division III tournament appearance and first since 2003. Has 101 postseason victories and 17 World Series appearances.
- \* - Playing on the road in a regional for just the second time. The only other time was in 1980 at Benedictine (Ill.).
- \* - Won its 28th WIAC regular season title and first since 1999.
- \* - Went 3-6 against other regional participants, losing twice to St. Olaf, splitting with St. Thomas and taking two of three meetings with UW-Stevens Point.
- \* - Brian Gerl shares the NCAA Division III lead and set a WIAC single-season record with 10 saves.

### **UW-Stevens Point**

- \* - Won its sixth WIAC tournament title in nine years, including its third straight with a 9-2 win over UW-Oshkosh.
- \* - Has led the NCAA Division III in home runs the past two years and ranks third with 45 this season.
- \* - Went 6-4 against other regional participants with two wins over St. Thomas, one win over St. Scholastica, two losses to Ripon and wins in three of five games with UW-Oshkosh.
- \* - Reached regional title game in past three tournament appearances in 2006, 2005 and 2002.
- \* - Top-seeded team in the regional for the third time in six years (also in 2005 and 2002).
- \* - Marks the 29th consecutive year that a WIAC school has hosted a regional tournament.