



Women's Soccer

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

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UW-Stevens Point Predicted To Capture Second Consecutive Title

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the defending conference champion, is expected to capture the 2005 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) women's soccer championship, according to the league's sports information directors.

UW-Stevens Point received eight out of nine first-place votes in the conference poll. The Pointers have won 11 of the 13 all-time WIAC titles and have registered a 91-2-4 record in WIAC regular season matches.

UW-Stevens Point has appeared in eight straight NCAA Division III Tournaments and has claimed the WIAC Tournament crown 12 of the past 13 seasons. The Pointers' eight consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances is the second-longest streak in Division III and their 17 straight winning seasons is the fifth-longest run in Division III women's soccer.

UW-Oshkosh claimed the remaining first-place vote in the league predictions and is pegged to place second in the conference race. The Titans have finished third in the WIAC the past three seasons. UW-Oshkosh tied a school record with 15 wins in 2004 and returns Michelle John, who claimed NCAA Division III All-Central Region second team status last year.

UW-River Falls returns Sarah Carlson, who was named the WIAC co-Player of the Year in 2003. The Falcons have accumulated 42 victories over the last three seasons, marking the most wins for the program over a three-year span.

UW-Stout established a school record with 15 wins last year. The Blue Devils return three of the top four scorers in the WIAC from a year ago, but must replace all-region performers Carrie Schrank and Melissa Ballweg, who were both starters since their freshmen seasons.

UW-Eau Claire has reached the championship game of the WIAC Tournament three of the last five seasons. Marcia Foltz returns for her senior season after leading the team in points and goals each of the last two years.

UW-La Crosse has increased its victory total each of the last three seasons and its 11 wins last year were the most for the program since the 1999 squad had 12.

2005 Preseason Picks

- | | <u>2004 Record</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Stevens Point (8) | (16-5-1, 7-1) |
| 2. Oshkosh (1) | (15-4-3, 5-1-2) |
| 3. River Falls | (12-5-1, 4-3-1) |
| 4. Stout | (15-3-2, 6-1-1) |
| 5. Eau Claire | (7-10-1, 3-4-1) |
| 6 (tied). La Crosse | (11-7-1, 4-4) |
| 6 (tied). Whitewater | (9-9-1, 3-4-1) |
| 8. Platteville | (8-12, 1-7) |
| 9. Superior | (6-8-4, 0-8) |

()--First-Place Votes

*Voted on by WIAC Sports Information Directors

UW-Whitewater has not had a losing season in head coach Greg Henschel's five years and returns 80 percent of its goal scoring from a year ago.

UW-Platteville moves its games to 10,000-seat Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium, making it the largest NCAA Division III soccer venue in the country. The Pioneers were the sixth-most improved team in NCAA Division III in 2004, going from 2-16 in 2003 to 8-12 last season.

UW-Superior went unbeaten (6-0-4) in non-conference action during the 2004 campaign.

Team Vitals

Eau Claire

Head Coach: Sean Yengo; 9th season; 96-55-10 record at UWEC / 96-55-10 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 13/9 Starters Returning/Lost: 9/2 Returning All-WIAC: Marcia Foltz, Sr., F; Emily Meisinger, Jr., D; Becky Westbrook, Jr., D

La Crosse

Head Coach: Sara Burton; 12th season; 102-79-12 record at UWL / 102-79-12 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 11/8 Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4 Returning All-WIAC: Stephanie Harbaugh, Sr., Goalie; Mandy Rue, Jr., F

Oshkosh

Head Coach: Erin Leinweber; 2nd season; 15-4-3 record at UWO / 39-49-6 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 14/6 Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3 Returning All-WIAC: Michelle John, Jr., MF; Nicole Kunick, Sr., F; Stacy Stroud, Sr., D

Platteville

Head Coach: Chris Bianchi; 3rd season; 10-28 record at UWP / 10-28 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/14 Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5 Returning All-WIAC: None

River Falls

Head Coach: Sean McKuras; 4th season; 42-14-3 record at UWRF / 42-14-3 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 13/7 Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3 Returning All-WIAC: Sarah Carlson, Sr., F; Amy Jensen, Jr., MF; Ashley Peterson, Jr., D

Stevens Point

Head Coach: Sheila Miech; 19th season; 265-83-22 record at UWSP / 265-83-22 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 13/8 Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6 Returning All-WIAC: None

Stout

Head Coach: David Morris; 7th season; 58-45-8 record at UWS / 58-45-8 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/6 Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4 Returning All-WIAC: Shannon Hermes, Jr., F; Kelly Stolarczyk, Sr., F

Superior

Head Coach: Chris Perez; 5th season; 13-53-6 record at UWS / 13-53-6 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/4 Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4 Returning All-WIAC: None

Whitewater

Head Coach: Greg Henschel; 6th season; 54-33-1 record at UWW / 54-33-1 overall Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 25/4 Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3 Returning All-WIAC: Jacie Hein, Sr., MF