### 1998-99 NCHA Results

#### Friday, Feb. 5
River Falls 3, St. Norbert 2*  
Stevens Point 7, Eau Claire 4*  
Superior 4, Bemidji 2*  
Stout 6, Lake Forest 1*

#### Tuesday, Feb. 2
St. Scholastica 5, Bethel 4  
Bemidji 4, Gustavus Adolphus 3  
Superior 8, Augsburg 5

#### Sunday, Jan. 31
Eau Claire 5, Lake Forest 2*

#### Saturday, Jan. 30
River Falls 3, Bemidji 2*  
St. Norbert 3, Stevens Point 1*  
Eau Claire 8, Lake Forest 4*  
Stout 5, St. Scholastica 0*

#### Friday, Jan. 29
Bemidji 3, River Falls 2*  
Stout 4, St. Scholastica 0*  
St. Norbert 4, Stevens Point 3 OT*

#### Tuesday, Jan. 26
Eau Claire 3, St. Olaf 2

#### Saturday, Jan. 23
Stevens Point 5, River Falls 2*  
Superior 4, Lake Forest 2*  
Bemidji 7, St. Scholastica 1*  
St. Norbert 5, Stout 2*

#### Friday, Jan. 22
River Falls 4, Stevens Point 3*  
Lake Forest 2, Superior 1*  
Bemidji 7, St. Scholastica 3*  
St. Norbert 7, Stout 3*  
Eau Claire 9, Milwaukee School of Engineering 1

#### Wednesday, Jan. 20
St. John's 4, Bemidji 3 OT

#### Tuesday, Jan. 19
St. Scholastica 9, Hamline 3

#### Saturday, Jan. 16
River Falls 6, Lake Forest 1*  
Eau Claire 4, St. Norbert 4 OT*  
Bemidji 6, Stevens Point 4*  
Superior 9, St. Scholastica 4

#### Friday, Jan. 15
Stevens Point 5, Bemidji 3*  
Superior 6, St. Scholastica 3*  
St. Norbert 5, Eau Claire 2*  
River Falls 2, Lake Forest 1*

#### Tuesday, Jan. 12
Superior 4, St. Thomas 0

#### Saturday, Jan. 9
River Falls 3, Eau Claire 1  
Bemidji 6, Stout 3*  
St. Scholastica 6, Marian 3  
Lake Forest 6, Fleming 3

#### Friday, Jan. 8
St. Norbert 1, Superior 1 OT*  
River Falls 3, Eau Claire 1*  
Bemidji 5, Stout 4*  
St. Scholastica 5, Marian 2  
Lake Forest 4, Seneca 3

#### Thursday, Jan. 7
St. Norbert 5, Superior 3*

#### Wednesday, Jan. 6
Lake Forest at Ryerson

#### Monday, Jan. 4
Manitoba 4, Bemidji 1

#### Saturday, Jan. 2
River Falls 14, Marian 0  
St. Norbert 1, Superior 1 OT*  
Eau Claire 1, St. John's 0  
St. Scholastica 1, Bethel 0

#### Friday, Dec. 18
Bemidji 3, Augsburg 1

#### Saturday, Dec. 12
St. Norbert 12, St. Scholastica 1*  
Superior 6, Stevens Point 2*  
Stout 8, Eau Claire 3*  
Bemidji 7, Bentley 0

#### Friday, Dec. 11
Stevens Point 3, Superior 2 OT*  
St. Norbert 8, St. Scholastica 2*  
Eau Claire 2, Stout 2 OT*  
Bemidji 8, UM-Crookston 5

#### Saturday, Dec. 5
Superior 6, River Falls 4*
St. Scholastica 8, Eau Claire 7* OT
St. Norbert 9, Lake Forest 1*

**Friday, Dec. 4**
River Falls 1, Superior 0*
Eau Claire 9, St. Scholastica 3*
St. Norbert 5, Lake Forest 1*
Stout 5, St. Olaf 0

**Tuesday, Dec. 1**
River Falls 5, Stout 2*

**Sunday, Nov. 29**
St. Thomas 4, Bemidji 3

**Saturday, Nov. 28**
Lake Forest 6, St. Scholastica 2*
Bemidji 5, St. Thomas 4

**Friday, Nov. 27**
St. Scholastica 4, Lake Forest 3*

**Sunday, Nov. 22**
St. Olaf 4, St. Scholastica 1

**Saturday, Nov. 21**
Bemidji 4, St. Norbert 1*
Superior 7, Eau Claire 6*
Stevens Point 4, Augsburg 4
St. Mary's 3, Lake Forest 2
St. Olaf 4, St. Scholastica 3

**Friday, Nov. 20**
St. Norbert 4, Bemidji 0*
Superior 7, Eau Claire 3*
Stevens Point 10, Hamline 2
Lake Forest 4, St. Mary's 4 OT
River Falls 9, Stout 1

**Thursday, Nov. 19**
River Falls 4, Stout 2

**Tuesday, Nov. 17**
Eau Claire 3, Gustavus Adolphus 0
Superior 6, St. John's 3

**Saturday, Nov. 14**
Stevens Point 4, Lake Forest 3
Superior 5, Bemidji 3
Gustavus Adolphus 4, River Falls 3

**Friday, Nov. 13**
Lake Forest 4, Stevens Point 3*
Bemidji 3, Superior 1*
River Falls 3, Augsburg 2 OT
Gustavus Adolphus 5, Stout 4 OT

**Tuesday, Nov. 10**
Stevens Point 4, St. Mary's 1
Stout 5, St. Thomas 4

**Saturday, Nov. 7**
St. Norbert 7, Lake Forest 1
Superior 5, St. Scholastica 1
Stevens Point 6, Stout 3*
River Falls 8, Eau Claire 3
Bemidji 7, Air Force 3

**Friday, Nov. 6**
Lake Forest 6, St. Norbert 6 OT
Superior 4, St. Scholastica 1*
Stevens Point 9, Stout 7*
River Falls 4, Eau Claire 3*
Bemidji 3, Air Force 2 OT

**Saturday, Oct. 31**
Lake Forest 2, Bemidji 1*
St. Norbert 4, Stevens Point 1
Eau Claire 6, Marian 2
Air Force 5, Stout 1

**Friday, Oct. 30**
Bemidji 2, Lake Forest 1*
St. Norbert 2, Stevens Point 1
Eau Claire 4, Marian 0
Air Force 3, Stout 2

**Tuesday, Oct. 27**
River Falls 2, Stout 1*

**Saturday, Oct. 24**
Stout 3, Eau Claire 2
RIT 5, St. Norbert 4

**Friday, Oct. 23**
Eau Claire 9, Stout 5
St. Norbert 7, Fredonia 0
*NCHA Games

**2000-2001**
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**Head Coach:** Steve Freeman  
**Assistant Coaches:** Bob Ritzer, Mickey Keating, Jeff Heil
Falcons Lose to Superior at NCAA Tourney

March 17, 2001

The Falcons dropped a 3-1 decision to UW-Superior in the third-place game at the NCAA Div. III tournament Saturday afternoon in Rochester, NY. UW-Superior, now 30-4 overall, led 1-0 after the first-period and 2-0 after the second. Superior's Rob Ziemmer scored a power-play goal at 17:44 of the first-period. UWS scored with just :37 to play in the second-period when Allen Hasbargen scored. In the third, UWS went ahead 3-0 at 15:34 when Ryan Kalbrener scored.

The Falcons averted a shut-out at 18:53 of the final period when Eliot Komar scored his first goal of the season. Jared Anderson and Jeff Bernard got the assists.

The Falcons, now 23-10-2 overall, were 0-9 on the power play. UWS was 1-4. The Falcons outshot the Jackets 30-16. Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 13 saves and UWS's Nate Ziemski stopped 29 shots.

Falcons Lose to RIT, 5-2

March 16, 2001

RIT jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead and went on to beat the Falcons, 5-2, in the NCAA Div. III semi-finals Friday night in Rochester, NY.

RIT, now 27-0-1 overall, scored just :29 into the game when John Day scored on a deflection off a slapshot from the point. The Tigers scored two power play goals before the first period was over. The first, by Derek Hahn, came at 7:44 and the second was by Sam Hill at 8:36.

The Falcons, now 23-9-2 overall, got back to within 3-1 at 2:57 of the second-period when Nate Kotewa scored with an assist to Rheese Carlson and Jared Anderson. RIT scored next at 3:17 when Hill scored his second goal of the game. But the Falcons got back to within 4-2 when Jeff Bernard scored at 15:54. He was assisted by Jess Johnson and Anderson. RIT added an empty-net goal at 19:53 of the third-period.

Both teams had 8 penalties for 16 minutes.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 25 saves and Tiger goalie Tyler Euzerman made 26 saves.

The Falcons face UW-Superior at 3:30 pm (ET) Saturday in the tournament's third-place game.

Falcons Headed to Frozen Four

March 10, 2001

Jeff Bernard scored at the 9:37 mark of the third period to lift the Falcons to a 2-1 victory over New England College and advance to the NCAA Div. III Frozen Four.

The Falcons won Friday night's contest, 8-1, in the first game of the quarterfinal series.

Winning a face off in the offensive zone, Bernard fired a slapshot from the half boards that beat Pilgrim goaltender Ryan Thomson. It was Bernard's 22nd goal of the season.

Facing elimination, New England kept the close. After outshooting the Pilgrims 54-22 Friday night, the Falcons held just a 32-28 advantage on Saturday night.

Jacque Vezina made 27 saves to earn the victory while Thomson stopped 30 shots.

Adam Kragthorpe gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead with 1:14 elapsed from the second period. Rob Novak won a face off in the offensive zone that Kragthorpe fired past Thomson.

The Pilgrims tied the score when Ryan Enrico scored his second goal of the tournament. John Rose fired a shot on Vezina that popped into the air into the slot. Enrico grabbed the puck and fired a wrister into the net.

The Falcons up their record to 23-8-2, while the Pilgrims end their season at 20-10.

The Falcons will travel to an undetermined location in the east to face RIT in the national semifinal on Friday. UW-Superior and Plattsburgh will meet in the other semifinal.

Boben, Falcons Win Game One of NCAA Quarterfinal

March 9, 2001

Carl Boben scored a pair of goals and had three assists as the Falcon men's hockey team dismantled New England College, 8-1, in game one of the NCAA Quarterfinals Friday night at Hunt Arena.
The Falcons came out fast, scoring three times and outshooting the Pilgrims 25-6 in the first 20 minutes. Boben put the Falcons on the board with a breakaway goal at 14:47 of the first period. Starting goaltender Ryan Thomson stopped Boben's initial shot, but the junior was able to direct the puck into goal while crashing into Thomson.

A little over a minute later, Tyler Sawchyn banged home a rebound goal to give the Falcons a 2-0 lead. Joe Dustin would add a slapshot from the left point for a three-goal advantage heading into the second period.

The Falcons would score twice in the first ten minutes of the period and force Thomson out of the game. Evan Stensrud scored at 7:36, and Matt Elsen tallied a goal at 9:49 before Ryan Enrico scored the Pilgrims' only goal of the game. Boben added a short-handed goal 58 seconds into the final stanza. Jamie Steinert and David Almquist each scored for the final tally.

Falcon goaltender Jacque Vezina went untested most of the night, but stopped 21 of 22 shots on goal for the victory. Thomson made 26 saves on 31 shots on goal before giving way to Sumner Stetson, who made 20 saves.

The Falcons outshot the Pilgrims 54-22 for the game, but did not score a power-play goal. The Falcons were 0-for-6 with a man advantage while New England College was also 0-for-6.

The team improves to 22-8-2 overall while the Pilgrims fall to 20-9. The Falcons will go for the series sweep tomorrow night at Hunt Arena. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Drop 4-2 Decision at UW-Superior**  
March 3, 2001

The Falcons lost a 4-2 decision at UW-Superior in the NCHA Finals series Saturday night.

UWS won the best two-out-of-three game series over the Falcons, 1-0-1. The two teams tied on Friday, 2-2

UWS led 2-0 after the first period off a power-play goal by Jeff Glowa at 7:36 and a goal at 12:19 by Chris Hackett. The Falcons scored twice in the second period and that stanza ended with UWS leading, 3-2. Matt Elsen scored a power-play goal at 10:27 to make it 2-1. UWS went ahead 3-1 with a goal by Josh Liebenow at 15:02. Jared Anderson got the Falcons to within 3-2 at 16:35 with a power-play goal. UWS added an empty-net goal at 19:53 of the final period.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 22 saves adn UWS's Nathan Ziemski stopped 22 shots.

The Falcons await an NCAA Div. III National Tournament bid and will find out if they earn a spot. Pairings will be announced on Monday, March 5.

**Falcons Skate to 2-2 Tie at UW-Superior**  
March 2, 2001

The Falcons skated to a 2-2 tie at UW-Superior Friday night in the first game of the NCHA Finals series. The tie snapped a 19-game winning streak by UWS.

All the goals were scored while teams were on the power-play.

After a scoreless first period, the Falcons grabbed a 1-0 lead at :43 of the second period when Evan Stensrud scored a power-play goal. Adam Kragthorpe and Jeff Bernard picked up the assists. At 2:29 UWS tied the game while on a 5-3 power-play. Kris Wilson got the goal.

The Falcons jumped out to a 2-1 lead in the third period when Jess Johnson scored a power-play goal with assists to Kragthorpe and Bernard. But UWS tied the game later in the period when Josh Liebenow scored a short-handed goal.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina had an outstanding game making 28 saves, including 13 in the third period. The Falcons had 29 shots on goal.

The Falcons play at UWS on Saturday with action starting at 7:05 p.m. The winner of the game will win the NCHA playoff title.

**Bernard Delivers Falcons to NCHA Finals**  
Feb. 24, 2001

Jeff Bernard scored 2:04 into overtime to give the Falcons a 1-0 mini-game victory and a 2-1 series win over St. Norbert Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Bernard took a pass at the right face off dot and skated just in front of the end line where he fired a wrister that beat Green Knight goaltender Chancy Colquhoun. The goal put the Falcons in the NCHA Finals where they will travel to UW-Superior next Friday and Saturday.

After being beaten, 5-2, in the game two of the series, the Falcons came out smoking in the mini-game. The team outshot the Green Knights, 16-2, for the 15-minute mini-game and two minutes of overtime.
The Falcons were forced into a mini-game via a four-goal performance from Shane Dickson. Dickson scored St. Norbert's first four goals of the game and gave the Green Knights a 4-1 lead after two periods.

Rheese Carlson scored the Falcons first goal of the contest at 5:20 of the first period.

Bernard cut the lead to 4-2 on a power-play goal at 6:24 of the third period, but Maris Ziedins scored two minutes later to give the Green Knights a three-goal advantage.

Vezina Stones Green Knights in Game One

Feb. 23, 2001

Sophomore goaltender Jacque Vezina stopped 29 shots and Joe Dustin broke a 1-1 tie with his second goal of the season as the UW-River Falls men's hockey team defeated St. Norbert, 2-1, in game one of the NCHA Semifinals.

Vezina was sharp all night, including a perfect third period where he saved all 11 Green Knight shots on goal. The Green Knights had a chance to tie the game in the last two minutes when Jamie Steinert received a two-minute minor for charging the goaltender, but St. Norbert couldn't get one by Vezina.

With the score tied 1-1, Dustin scored the eventual game-winner at the 16:44 mark of the second period. After Dustin's first shot from the point was blocked, the defenseman regained control around the left face-off dot and fired a wrister past Green Knight netminder Ryan Gill.

Gill stopped 25 of the Falcons' 27 shots on goal.

The Falcons took the early lead on Jeff Bernard's 20th goal of the season, a power-play goal at 8:49 of the second period.

St. Norbert tied the game at 12:03 on a breakaway goal by Maris Ziedins.

The game was marred by 26 penalties, totaling 52 minutes. The Falcons went 1-4 on the power play while the Green Knights were held scoreless on four attempts with a man advantage, including the chance in the final two minutes.

The Falcons lead the series 1-0 and will go for the series sweep and a chance to play in the NCHA Finals against the winner of the UW-Superior-UW-Stevens Point series. The deciding game of the series is Saturday night at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Advance to Semifinals with 3-1 Win

Feb. 17, 2001

Jamie Steinert tapped home a rebound goal with 3:23 left in the third period to break a 1-1 tie and lead the Falcons to a 2-0 series sweep of Lake Forest Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

After Jeff Bernard flung a wrister from the right side of the crease, Steinert found the puck and beat a diving Mason Black to score the game winner.

Bernard later added an empty net goal for the game's final tally.

Brad Thomas' slapshot from the slot tied the game at 11:54 of the final stanza. After a turnover in the Falcon zone, Thomas fired a shot through a screen and beat goaltender Jacque Vezina topshelf.

The Falcons carried a 1-0 lead heading into the third period. At 11:36 of the second period, Adam Kragthorpe's ninth goal of the season broke a scoreless tie. On a 3-on-2 break, Evan Stensrud fired a cross-crease pass to a streaking Kragthorpe. The sophomore stopped just outside the right face off circle and fired a wrister past Black's shortsie.

Much like Friday night, the Falcons dominated offensively, outshooting the Foresters 37-25 for the game. However, Black kept Lake Forest in the game by stopping 26 of 27 shots in the first two periods. Vezina made 24 saves for the victory.

The Falcons will now host St. Norbert in the NCHA Semifinals. St. Norbert is coming off a two-game sweep of St. Scholastica. Game time for Friday and Saturday nights contest is 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

Three-goal Third Period Lifts Falcons to Playoff Victory

Feb. 16, 2001

Ryan Vieux capped off a three-goal third period with his third goal of the season to lift the Falcons to a 4-3 victory over Lake Forest Friday night in an NCHA Quarterfinal contest.

Vieux wristed a shot from the blue line that found its way through the traffic in front, past Forester goaltender Mason Black at 13:15.

Just 1:15 prior to Vieux's heroics, Matt Brunni tied the score on a deflection.

The Falcons entered the third period trailing 2-1, but a Rheese Carlson goal knotted the game :25 into the period.

Carl Boben would give the Falcons their first lead of the game at 8:04. Boben faked a pass on a 2-on-1 break and was able to sneak a wrister past Black's shortsie.
The Falcons outshot Lake Forest, 39-19, but for the first two periods, Black kept the Foresters in the lead. The senior goaltender made 25 of the Falcons’ 26 shots on goal. He would allow three goals on 13 shots in the final stanza.

His counterpart, Jacque Vezina stopped 16 shots for the victory.

The Foresters made their shots count early on. At 8:34 of the first period, Erik Hawkins scored on a rebound goal to give the Foresters a 1-0 lead. David Evans gave the Foresters a two-goal advantage with a wrister from the slot at :31 of the second period.

Jeff Bernard cut the lead in half with his 18th goal of the season.

With a win or tie tomorrow night, the Falcons will move on to the NCHA Semifinals. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Sweep Weekend, Earn 2nd in NCHA
Feb. 10, 2001

After beating UW-Stevens Point on Friday night, 7-3, the team swept the weekend by beating UW-Eau Claire, 3-1 on Saturday night. In the process, the Falcons claimed second place in the NCHA with a 10-4 mark.

The Falcons scored a goal in each period, starting in the first period at the 9:07 mark when Jeff Bernard scored on assists from John and Jamie Steinert.

Jared Anderson added a power-play goal at 4:42 in the second period. Matt Elsen put the game away with a goal at 8:56 in the third period.

Nick Tietjan added Eau Claire's lone goal for the final tally.

The Falcons were outshot in the game, 27-25, but netminder Jacque Vezina made 26 saves to earn the win.

The Falcons will host Lake Forest in the first round of the NCHA playoffs. Game times for Friday and Saturday are 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Get the Point, Win 5-2
Feb. 3, 2001

The Falcon men's hockey team vaulted past UW-Stevens Point in the NCHA standing after a 5-2 victory against the Pointers Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

The 653 spectators saw the Falcons jump out to a 1-0 lead under a minute into the first period when Jared Anderson scored on a power-play goal. After Jeff Bernard won a face-off in the offensive zone, Evan Stensrud fired a slapshot from the point that hit Anderson in the slot. The puck fell to Anderson feet where he was able to control the puck and flinging a wrister through Pointer Dave Cinelli's legs.

Bernard would later add a goal at the 10:50 mark to make it 2-0 after the first 20 minutes of play. The Falcons dominated the end-to-end action in the opening stanza, outshooting the Pointers 20-13.

The Falcons would up the margin to 3-0 on Rheese Carlson's second goal of the season. Matt Elsen's centering pass from behind the net found a charging Carlson in the crease. Carlson then wristed a shot past a diving Cinelli with 5:30 elapsed in the second.

The Pointer would cut the lead to 3-2 later in the period. Defenseman Craig Busse beat Jacque Vezina with a slapshot from the blueline at the 9:17, and Ryan Maxson cut the lead to one with a short-handed goal at 19:28. Maxson took a pass from Matt Interbartolo at the blue line, cut to the slot, and beat Vezina stickside.

But Vezina would be sharp after that, stopping all eight shots he faced in the final period. Vezina made 27 saves for the win. Cinelli stopped 32 shots in the contest.

The Falcon put the game away early in the third when Carl Boben scored on a breakaway goal less than five minutes into the period. They later iced the game with a fluke goal at 6:00. While fighting to dig the puck out of the corner, Jess Johnson directed the puck towards the crease. When Cinelli went to clear the puck, it hit the heel of his stick and went into the goal.

The Falcon went 2-for-4 on the power play while the Pointer were held 0-for-4 with a man advantage.

The Falcons improve to 16-6-1, 8-4 in conference. With the loss, the Pointers are now 15-8, 7-5 in the NCHA.

Next weekend, the Falcons will travel to Stevens Point on Friday and Eau Claire on Saturday.

Falcons' Monster 3rd Period Crushes Blugolds
Feb. 2, 2001

Falcon head coach Steve Freeman was hoping the team would save some goals for Saturday night as UW-River Falls scored five times in the third period to destroy UW-Eau Claire, 7-1, in front of 662 fans at Hunt Arena Friday night.

Trailing 1-0 on a Jamie Minor first period goal, the Falcons took the lead with a pair of goals in the second period. Jess Johnson tied the game with a goal at 6:46 of the period.
Evan Stensrud would later score the eventual game-winner at 12:35. Defenseman Eliot Komar found a streaking Rob Novak at the blue line. Novak was forced past the goal where he flipped a centering pass to Stensrud who flipped a wrister past Scott Sutton. Sutton was playing in place of the injured Jon Walker, who started the game only to leave late in the first period.

The Falcons continued to put pressure on Sutton in the third, scoring five goals in 14 shots. Jeff Bernard started the fireworks at 1:11. Two minutes later, David Almquist's rebound goal made it 4-1. Jared Anderson, Rob Novak, and Ryan Vieau would later score in the period for the final tally.

Sutton was playing in place of the injured Jon Walker, who started the game only to leave late in the first period.


The Falcons improve to 15-6-1, 7-4 in the NCHA while the Blugolds fall to 9-13, 3-8 in conference.

The Falcons will next play UW-Stevens Point Saturday night at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Earn 7-4 Win at Lake Forest
Jan. 27, 2001
The Falcons snapped a three-game losing streak with a 7-4 win at Lake Forest Saturday night.

Jeff Bernard and Carl Boben each scored twice to lead the Falcons. UWRF jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period off goals from Boben at 9:57 and Evan Stensrud at 18:24. LFC made it a 2-1 game in the second period with a goal at 5:01. But just 18 seconds later the Falcons went ahead 3-1 when Bernard scored. The Falcons scored twice more before the period was over to take a 5-1 lead. Jess Johnson scored at 10:06 and Rheese Carlson scored at 16:38. Boben scored his second at 2:33 of the third period before LFC scored at 12:27. Bernard got his second goal at 13:39. LFC scored at 16:04 and 19:33.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 16 saves and the Falcons had 45 shots on goal.

The Falcons return to action Friday when they host Eau Claire at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena. Saturday the Falcons host UW-Stevens Point, also at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Lose Third Straight at St. Norbert
Jan. 26, 2001
The Falcons lost their third straight game, 4-0, at St. Norbert Friday night.

St. Norbert took a 1-0 lead after one period and led 4-0 after two. Faron Duthie scored at 13:10 of the first period to give the Green Knights the lead. Adam Sedgwick scored a short-handed goal at 4:46 of the second period to put his team ahead 2-0. Maris Zeidins scored at 7:58 and Felix Angst at 19:01 of the second period to end the scoring.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 35 saves and SNC's Ryan Gill stopped all 25 shots he faced.

The Falcons fall to 13-5-1, 5-3 in the NCHA. The Falcons will play at Lake Forest on Saturday with the game time set for 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Come Up Short Against Green Knights
Jan. 20, 2001
St. Norbert broke open a 1-1 tie with three unanswered goals in the second period to beat the Falcons, 4-3, in an NCHA contest Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons started strong, scoring on a Matt Elsen wrister from the slot at the 4:20 mark of the first period to take a one goal lead. However, the Green Knights answered with an Adam Sedgwick power-play goal at 17:41 of the period to tie the game at 1-1.

In the second period, the Green Knights dominated, outshooting the Falcons 13-7. Ryan Wempe started the period with a power-play goal at 1:26.

Ten minutes later, Chris Bodnar scored on a 3-on-2 break to make it 3-1. Bodnar took a pass from Trent Dickson, skating up the left side. Bodnar pulled up at the face-off dot and ripped a slapshot past Falcon goaltender Jacque Vezina's shortside.

Shane Dickson added a power-play goal with 15:51 elapsed in the second period for St. Norbert's final tally. The Green Knights killed the Falcons on the power play all night, going 3-for-9. The Falcons were just 1-for-9.

The Falcons tried to mount a comeback in the final stanza. Jared Anderson scored with 5:39 left in the game to cut the lead to 4-2. Jess Johnson added a goal with :14 remaining in the contest, but it wasn't enough.

The Falcons fall to 13-5-1, 5-3 in the NCHA. The Green Knights improve to 11-4-2, 5-2 in the conference. The two teams will hook up again next Friday at De Pere. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m.
Foresters Cut Down Falcons, 4-1

Jan. 19, 2001

Lake Forest jumped out to a 3-0 advantage and was never threatened after that as they defeated the Falcons in an NCHA contest Friday night at Hunt Arena.

Dan Holmes gave Lake Forest a 1-0 lead when he followed his wrister from the slot and poked home a rebound past Falcon goaltender Jacque Vezina at the 1:49 mark of the first period.

Ten minutes later, Bill Boyes scored on a power-play goal to make it 2-0. David Evans added a goal with 18:04 elapsed in the second period to give the Foresters the three-goal advantage.

The Falcons tried to claw themselves back into the game in the third period, but could only manage a Jamie Steinert goal at 6:49.

Frankie Demasi added an empty net goal for the final tally.

The Falcons outshot Lake Forest 39-25, but most of those shots came from the perimeter. However, Mason Black was up to the challenge, no matter what the Falcons threw at him. The Forester goaltender stopped 38 shots while his counterpart Vezina made 21 saves.

The Falcons finished 0-for-5 on the power-play. Lake Forest scored a power-play goal on two attempts with a man advantage.

The Falcons drop to 13-4-1, 5-2 in the NCHA. The Foresters improve to 9-4-2, 3-3 in conference.

The Falcons will play St. Norbert tomorrow night at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Defeat St. Olaf, 6-2

Jan. 6, 2001

The Falcons scored three times in the first 5:26 and rolled to a 6-2 victory over St. Olaf Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Six different players scored goals for the the second consecutive night.

At the 2:27 mark of the opening period, Carl Boben's breakaway goal gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead.

Evan Stensrud put the Falcons up 2-0 when he scored a power-play goal 1:24 later. Stensrud beat Ole goaltender Garret Hasti after defenseman Adam Kragthorpe fired a slapshot wide. The puck ricocheted off the boards to the waiting Stensrud in front of the crease.

Jess Johnson finished the flurry of goals with his eighth goal of the season at the 5:26 mark.

The Oles would cut the lead to 3-1 on a Aaron Opheim wrister 8:53 into the second period, but the Falcons would respond with three unanswered goals, spanning the next 18 minutes.

Jamie Steinert, Matt Elsen and Rob Novak each scored goals for the Falcons.

The Falcons outshot the Oles 35-21 for the game. Jacque Vezina made 19 saves to get the victory.

The Falcons improve to 13-3-1 while St. Olaf dips to 2-9.

The team will next play Lake Forest in NCHA action Jan. 19 against Lake Forest at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Topple Gusties

Jan. 5, 2001

Tied at 1-1, the Falcons scored a pair of power-play goals in the second period and coasted to a 6-1 win over Gustavus Adolphus at Don Roberts Arena Friday night.

With just over five minutes elapsed in the second period, Rob Novak scored on an assist from Jeff Bernard to give the Falcons a 2-1 lead. At 13:59, Evan Stensrud's sixth goal of the season made it 3-1.

The Falcons finished the game 3-for-7 on the power play. The Gusties were 0-for-4 with a man advantage.

The Falcons continued to put pressure on the Gusties in the second period, scoring three goals on five shots.

Defenseman Ryan Vieau scored his first collegiate goal at the 8:12 mark of the third period. Jared Anderson would increase the Falcon lead to 5-1 with a power-play goal at 9:49, and Carl Boben scored on a breakaway goal with :23 left in the game.

The Falcons outshot the Gusties in every period and held a 27-15 edge for the game. Jacque Vezina made 14 saves for his eighth victory of the season.

The Falcons improve to 12-3-1 while the Gusties fall to 2-8-2.
The Falcons will play St. Olaf Saturday night at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Lose Non-Conference Matchup with UW-EC**

Dec. 16, 2000

A sluggish Falcons squad never could get it going as they dropped a non-conference matchup, 3-2, with UW-Eau Claire Saturday night at Hobbs Ice Arena.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first period via Jared Anderson's sixth goal of the season with 16:47 elapsed in the first period. Anderson went top shelf to beat Blugolds goaltender Scott Sutton.

However, Sutton was sharp the rest of the way, stopping 33 of the Falcons' 35 shots. Jacque Vezina made 19 saves in the loss.

The Blugolds tied the game with an Adam Sklader goal in the second period, and put the game away with a pair of power-play goals in the third period.

Adam Kragthorpe scored with just :09 remaining in the contest for the final tally.

The loss does not hurt the Falcons in the NCHA standings as the two teams will play their conference games after the winter break.

The Falcons fall to 11-3-1, and will play at Gustavus Adolphus Jan. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**Almquist, Kragthorpe lead Falcons to 6-2 Win**

Dec. 15, 2000

David Almquist and Adam Kragthorpe each scored a pair of goals as the Falcons defeated Augsburg, 6-2, in front of 772 spectators at Hunt Arena Friday night.

With the score tied at 1-1, Almquist floated a wrister from below the left circle past Auggie goaltender Bernie Reis for his third goal of the season at 4:07 of the second period.

Seven minutes later, Kragthorpe's one-timer from the left face-off dot gave the Falcons a 3-1 lead.

Augsburg would cut the lead to 3-2 going into the third period on a Jaro Cesky power-play goal, but the Falcons came out roaring in the third period.

The Falcons outshot the Auggies 13-9 in the decisive period. Kragthorpe scored on a slapshot from the right circle to make it 4-2. Less than a minute later, Carl Boben beat Reis with a deke and a backhand for a three goal lead. Boben would later find a streaking Almquist in front of the crease. Almquist redirected the puck top-shelf for the final tally.

The Falcons were outshot for the game, 28-26, due to a lackluster second period. However, goaltender Jacque Vezina was up to the task stopping 26 shots in the contest.

Augsburg grabbed the lead early in the first period with a power-play goal from Joe Johnson, but the Falcons quickly erased the lead when Jeff Bernard flung a wrister from the left face-off circle past Reis. Bernard took a pass from Shane Fukushima while moving away from the goal, turn around, a fired the puck past Reis' shortside.

The Falcons improve to 11-2-1 while the Auggies fall to 5-6. The Falcons will next play at UW-Eau Claire for a non-conference tilt. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Drop 3-1 Decision to Johnnies**

Dec. 10, 2000

St. John's scored two goals in the second period to beat the Falcon men's hockey team, 3-1, Sunday afternoon.

After a scoreless first period, Shawn Knorr score an even-strength goal at the 3:30 mark of the period. Ten minutes later Kevin Willey scored to make it 2-0.

That would be all Rick Gregory would need. The sophomore netminder stopped 17 shots for the victory.

Matt Elsen cut the lead to 2-1 with a goal at 18:22 in the third period, but St. John's added an empty net goal for the final tally.

The Falcons fall to 10-2-1 and will play Augsburg next Friday night at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

**Fukushima, Anderson Lead Falcons to Win**

Dec. 9, 2000

Shane Fukushima and Jared Anderson each scored goals to lead the Falcons to a 2-1 win at Concordia-Moorhead Saturday night.

The Falcons, now 10-1-1 overall, will play at St. John's at 2 p.m. on Sunday.
Concordia-Moorhead scored the only goal of the first period at 13:07. Fukushima's goal at 6:31 of the second period tied the game. Anderson got the game-winner at 13:16 of the second period with the Falcons on the power-play.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 21 saves and the Falcons had 32 shots on goal.

Bernard's Hat Trick Lifts Falcons Over Saints
Dec. 2, 2000

Senior forward Jeff Bernard scored three times and Jamie Steinert added a pair of goals as the Falcons destroyed St. Scholastica, 12-3, Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

A crowd of 558 saw the Falcons outshoot the Saints 36-15 in the contest and score six times in 11 shots in the third period.

David Almquist started the scoring just 1:49 into the game when he beat Saint goaltender Jason Nordby for a short-handed goal. Bernard would add two goals in the next nine minutes to make the score 3-0. The Saints' Neil Runbeck cut the lead to two with a power-play goal at the 16:23 mark of the period.

After trading goals to start the second period, the game quickly got out of hand. Shane Fukushima and Steinert scored his first goal to make the score 6-2 after 40 minutes. Steinert would add a short-handed goal in the third period. Jess Johnson, Matt Elsen, Ryan Saverine, and Tyler Sawchyn also scored goals in the third period.

Jacque Vezina made 12 saves for the win. Nordby finished with 24 saves before giving way to Greg Buell who gave up three goals in three shots on goal.

The Falcons improve to 9-1-1, 5-1 in the NCHA. The Saints fall to 3-5, 0-4 in conference.

The Falcons will next play at Concordia-Moorhead on Saturday, Dec. 9. Game time is 7:00 p.m.

Falcons Lose First Game of the Season
Dec. 1, 2000

The Falcon men's hockey team dug a hole they could not escape from Friday night as UW-Superior scored three times in the first 3:20 of the game en route to defeating the Falcons 5-3 at Hunt Arena.

Jeff Glowa, Cameron Zan Sandt, and Jay Stewart each scored for the Yellojackets before most of the 1,032 spectators were in their seats. Stewart's short-handed goal at the 3:20 mark gave Superior a 3-0 lead. The Falcons would come back with a pair of goals in the second period. Adam Kragthorpe's one-timer from the left circle cut the lead to 3-1. Then, at 18:11 in the period, Jamie Steinert found Carl Boben behind the defense. A deke and a backhand past Nathan Ziemski made the score 3-2.

Jeff Bernard tied the game at 7:23 in the third period with his eighth goal of the year, a wrister from the left circle.

Superior took the lead for good when Rob Ziemmer scored a rebound goal at the 13:35 mark. Superior put the game away with a fluke goal by Carl Hanson. Trying to dump the puck into the Falcon zone, Hanson hit a glass divider. The puck ricocheted off the divider past the out-of-position Jacque Vezina.

The Yellowjackets outshot the Falcons 30-23. The Falcons went 2 for 7 on the power play. Superior was 1 for 4 with a man advantage.

The Falcons will continue with NCHA action tomorrow night when they face St. Scholastica at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Falcon Power Play Sinks Tommies
Nov. 18, 2000

The Falcons' winning streak remained intact as UW-River Falls defeated St. Thomas, 5-4, at Hunt Arena Saturday night.

A crowd of 632 saw the Falcons go 4 for 8 on the power play for the victory.
The Falcons scored two straight power-play goals to open up a 2-0 lead in the first five minutes of the game. Jess Johnson's rebound goal and Rob Novak's fourth goal of the season gave the Falcons a quick two-goal lead.

The Tommies answered with Eric Wenkus goal to cut the lead to 2-1 after a period.

After an Adam Kragthorpe power-play goal gave the Falcons another two-goal lead, St. Thomas answered with a pair of power-play goals to tie the game at 3-3.

The Falcons would take the lead for good when Jeff Bernard and Rob Novak scored back-to-back goals within two minutes of each other in the third period.

Falcon goaltender Jacque Vezina stopped 30 shots in the contest while his counterpart Brad Moore made 21 saves.

The Falcons are now riding an eight-game win streak and are 8-0-1 overall. The Tommies fall to 1-4-1.

The Falcons will return to NCHA action with a game against UW-Superior. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

**Falcons Deck Cards, 5-2**

Nov. 17, 2000

Five different Falcons scored as the men's hockey team defeated St. Mary's, 5-2, Friday night at Hunt Arena.

After the Cardinals jumped out to a 1-0 just over two minutes into the game when Matt Hangge scored on a power-play goal.

However, the Falcons would come back to score three times in the first period to take a 3-1 lead after 20 minutes. Jared Anderson's breakaway goal, his fourth goal of the season, tied the game at 1-1 at the 10:16 mark of the period. Evan Stensrud and Jeff Bernard would also score in the period to give the Falcons a two-goal advantage. Stensrud would also add a pair of assists in the contest.

St. Mary's would cut the lead to 3-2 with a power-play goal at the 4:20 mark of the second period, but Jess Johnson's redirection off an Evan Stensrud shot put the Falcons up 4-2.

Carl Boben would add the lone goal in the third period for the final tally.

Jacque Vezina stopped 21 shots for the win. Eric Richardson made 26 saves in a losing effort.

The Falcons improve to 7-0-1 on the year. The Cardinals fall to 2-2-1.

The Falcons will be in action tomorrow night when they will host St. Thomas at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Beat UWS, 5-2**

Nov. 11, 2000

Shane Fukushima and Evan Stensrud each scored twice to lead the Falcons to a 5-2 win at UW-Superior Saturday night.

With the win the Falcons improve to 6-0-1 overall and they are 4-0 in the NCHA.

The Falcons led 1-0 after one period off of Fukushima's first goal at 8:31. The Falcons exploded for four straight goals in the second period. Stensrud scored at 8:09. The Falcons then got three straight power-play goals to take the commanding lead. Jess Johnson scored at 9:11, Stensrud at 13:29 and Fukushima at 14:36. UWS scored at 18:51 of the second period and at 12:14 of the third period.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 26 saves to get the win and the Falcons had 19 shots on goal.

**Falcons Win at St. Scholastica, 6-1**

Nov. 10, 2000

The Falcons won a 6-1 NCHA game at St. Scholastica Friday night to raise their overall record to 5-0-1.

The Falcons led 3-1 after one period and 5-1 after two. Shane Fukushima, Jeff Bernard and Matt Elsen all scored first-period goals for the Falcons. Jess Johnson and Elsen both scored in the second period and Jared Anderson scored the team's final goal in the third. Elsen's second goal and Anderson's goal came with the Falcons on the power-play.

Falcon freshman goalie Kris Unise made 15 saves to pick up his first collegiate win. The Falcons had 29 shots on goal.

The Falcons travel to UW-Superior for a 7:05 p.m. game on Saturday.
Falcons Win at Stout, 5-2
Nov. 4, 2000

The Falcon took a 5-2 win at UW-Stout in a NCHA game Saturday night to sweep the weekend series.

UWRF took a 2-0 lead after one period. Jared Anderson and Adam Kragthorpe scored the Falcon goals. But the Blue Devils scored the only two goals in the second period to tie the game, 2-2.

The Falcons dominated the final period scoring three goals. Shane Fukushima scored a power-play goal at 1:23, Jamie Steinert scored at 9:04 and Jess Johnson scored at 19:16.

Falcon goalie Landon Luther picked up the win making 27 saves. The Falcons had 42 shots on goal, including 18 in the third period.

The Falcons are at St. Scholastica on Friday for a 7:30 p.m. game. Saturday the Falcons are at UW-Superior for a 7:05 p.m. contest.

Falcons Win NCHA Opener, 7-2
Nov. 3, 2000

The Falcon men's hockey team scored four goals in the first period and coasted to a 7-2 victory over UW-Stout in the teams NCHA opener.

At the 3:25 mark of the opening period, Dan Miller found a streaking Adam Kragthorpe, who beat Blue Devil goaltender Justin Wiskie for a 1-0 lead.

Seven minutes later, Tim Beres' first goal of the season, a slapshot from the right circle, gave the Falcons a 2-0 lead. Freshman Rob Novak added his third goal of the season, and Jess Johnson scored his first collegiate goal to give the Falcons a 4-0 lead after a period.

Stout cut the lead to 4-2 in the first three minutes of the second period. After Cullen Flaherty scored to make it 4-1, Lewie Kellin's diving goal cut the lead in half.

The Falcons answered back with three unanswered goals to put the game away. Senior Jeff Bernard scored twice while freshman Jamie Steinert added a short-handed goal for the final score.

The Falcons dominated the game, outshooting the Blue Devils 43-19. Landon Luther, in for the injured Jacque Vezina, made 17 saves for the win. Justin Wiskie stopped 36 shots in the loss.

The Falcons are now 3-0-1, 1-0 in the NCHA. Stout drops to 2-1, 0-1 in the NCHA.

The two teams will meet up tomorrow night at Dunn County Arena. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Blitz UM-Crookston in Home Opener
Oct. 27, 2000

In their first home game, the Falcon freshman looked liked veterans scoring five goals in the team's 10-1 victory over UM-Crookston Friday night at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons dominated the Golden Eagles, peppering goaltenders Michael Dickson and Jeff Horner with 57 shots. The Golden Eagles could only manage 18 shots against the Falcons' stingy defense.

Shane Fukushima put the Falcons up early when the junior scored on the second shift of the game. His second goal of the season made the score 1-0. He would later add another goal in the second period.

But the real story was the freshman. Jamie Steinert added his second goal of the season at the 10:37 mark of the first period to make the score 2-0. Matt Elsen and Evan Stensrud each added their first collegiate goal. Rob Novak scored his first two goals of his career, as well.

Three Falcon seniors also came through for the Falcons. Jeff Bernard, David Almquist, and Jared Anderson each added goals.

Goaltender Jacque Vezina stopped 17 shots for his first victory of the season.

The Falcons will next open the NCHA season when UW-Stout visit Hunt Arena on Friday night. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Fukushima Scores in OT to Lift Falcons
Shane Fukushima scored at the 3:47 mark of overtime to give the Falcons their first win of the season, a 3-2 victory over the Marian Sabres.

The Falcons jumped out to a 1-0 lead at the 8:27 mark of the first period when Jeff Bernard scored on a power-play with assists from Eliot Komar and Adam Kragthorpe.

Fifty-six seconds into the second period, Marian's Dan Odegard tied the game at 1-1 with a power-play goal.

The Sabres took the lead in the third period on a short-handed goal by Tom Kostsapolous.

With 3:39 left in the game, Falcon Jamie Steinert tied the game with his first collegiate goal.

That set up Fukushima's heroics.

Goaltender Landon Luther, making his first career start, stopped 16 shots for the victory. Terry Dunbar saved 42 shots, but it wasn't enough.

The Falcons are now 1-0-1 on the year and will face UM-Crookston Friday at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Open Season With Tie at Marian

The Falcons opened their 2000-2001 season with a 1-1 tie at Marian College on Friday night.

Falcon defenseman Adam Kragthorpe scored with just 1:55 to play in the game to get the team the tie. Marian scored a goal at 4:11 of the first period to take a 1-0 lead. The lead held up until Kragthorpe's goal. He was assisted by Jeff Bernard and Eliot Komar.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 25 saves. Both teams had two shots in the overtime period. The Falcon shed a 40-26 lead in shots on goal. The Falcons were 0-5 on the power-play while Marian was 0-2.

The Falcons play a second game at Marian at 2 p.m. on Saturday.
## 2001-2002 Falcon Men's Hockey Roster

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**Head Coach:** Steve Freeman  
**Assistant Coaches:** Bob Ritzer, Mickey Keating
2001-2002 Falcon Men's Hockey Schedule

March 3, 2002

18-9-2 overall, 3-3-2 WIAC, 7-5-2 NCHA

Oct. 26 Marian
River Falls 5, Marian 3

Oct. 27 Marian
River Falls 4, Marian 2

Nov. 2 Eau Claire
River Falls 2, Eau Claire 2 OT

Nov. 3 Stevens Point
River Falls 4, Stevens Point 0

Nov. 9 St. Scholastica*
River Falls 5, St. Scholastica 1

Nov. 10 Superior*
River Falls 3, Superior 3 OT

Nov. 16 at Hamline
River Falls 4, Hamline 1

Nov. 17 at Bethel
River Falls 6, Bethel 1

Nov. 30 at Lake Forest*
River Falls 7, Lake Forest 1

Dec. 1 at St. Norbert*
St. Norbert 5, River Falls 2

Dec. 7 St. Thomas
St. Thomas 5, River Falls 4 OT

Dec. 8 St. Mary's
River Falls 4, St. Mary’s 0

Dec. 14 at Augsburg
River Falls 4, Augsburg 2

Dec. 15 St. John's
River Falls 6, St. John’s 1

Jan. 5 Gustavus Adolphus
River Falls 4, Gustavus 3

Jan. 9 Concordia-Moorhead
River Falls 2, Con.-Moorhead 0

Jan. 18 at Stout*
Stout 2, River Falls 1 OT

Jan. 19 Stout*
River Falls 5, Stout 0

Jan. 22 St. Olaf
St. Olaf 4, River Falls 3

Jan. 25 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 4, River Falls 2

Jan. 26 at Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 5, River Falls 3

Feb. 1 at Superior*
River Falls 4, Superior 3

Feb. 2 at St. Scholastica*
River Falls 6, St. Scholastica 2

Feb. 8 St. Norbert*
St. Norbert 2, River Falls 1

Feb. 9 Lake Forest*
River Falls 4, Lake Forest 0

Feb. 15 NCHA Quarterfinals
River Falls 4, Eau Claire 2

Feb. 16 NCHA Quarterfinals
River Falls 6, Eau Claire 2

March 1 NCHA Finals
St. Norbert 3, River Falls 2 2OT

March 2 NCHA Finals
Stevens Point 2, River Falls 1
Falcons Take Fourth in NCHA Tourney

Mar. 2, 2002

After a 3-2 double overtime loss to St. Norbert Friday night, the Falcons struggled Saturday against Stevens Point, losing 2-1 to take fourth in the NCHA playoffs at St. Norbert.

Despite taking less than half the shots that the Falcons took, the Pointers set the pace in the first period, taking advantage of their first power play opportunity by scoring at 13:55. Mike Brolsma gave the Pointers the early lead, and they never trailed after that.

At 18:49 of the first period, Stevens Point made it 2-0 at the hand of Nick Molski.

The Falcons responded early in the second period at 1:09 when Jess Johnson scored even strength from assists by Mike Salmela and Evan Stensrud.

After that, however, the Falcons went dry in scoring, even though the Pointers had twice as many penalties by midway through the third period.

Jacque Vezina stopped 18 of the Pointers' 20 shots on goal; the Falcons got one by Bob Gould, out of 45.

Both teams' records finish at 18-9-2 overall on the season.

Falcons Knocked From Title Contention in Double OT

Mar. 1, 2002

After almost three and a half hours of intense playoff hockey, the Falcons lost a double overtime thriller, 3-2, to St. Norbert in Friday night's NCHA semifinal game at St. Norbert.

The Green Knights won on a blue-line shot from Jason Deitsch at 7:44 into the second overtime period.

The Falcons had created a 2-0 lead after two periods, but the Green Knights responded with their first goal only 10 seconds into the third period and the tying goal at 12:14.

Evan Stensrud scored the Falcons' first goal at 15:41 of the second period, scratching a delayed penalty. There weren't any penalties called until midway through the third period. Stensrud's goal was assisted by John Conboy.

Rheese Carlson put the Falcons at a two-goal advantage a minute after Stensrud, scoring at 16:51 of the second period from Ambrose Tappe.

Jacque Vezina stopped 18 shots in regulation while his teammates put up 26 shots on SNC goalie Ryan Gill. In the first overtime, the Green Knights outshot the Falcons 15-9, but Vezina held tough. By the second overtime, though, the 3-1 shot advantage took its toll and Vezina couldn't stop one.

Penalties totalled just three by the game's finish, two against SNC in the third period, and one on the Falcons in the first overtime.

The loss drops the Falcons to 18-8-2 and into the NCHA third-place game Saturday at St. Norbert, game time 3 p.m. The Falcons will face UW-Stevens Point, who lost to UW-Superior Friday, 4-3, in overtime.

Falcons Advance to Semi-final

Feb. 16, 2002

A 6-2 Saturday night performance sealed the Falcons' NCHA first round sweep of UW-Eau Claire at Hunt Arena.

The Blugolds scored the first goal of the evening at 13:30 of the first period on a power play, but Falcon Josh Schlipp replied 36 seconds later with an answer, a shot that hit Blugold goalie Scott Sutton and trickled in.

In the second period, Rob Novak extended the Falcon lead to 2-1 after Marc-Andre Lalande's near blue-liner ricocheted off Sutton and Novak backhanded it in at 11:52.

The Falcons outshot UWEC 13-3 in each of the first and second periods, but the Blugolds continued to play tough and aggressive hockey.

Early in the third period, the Falcons opened up the game. At 3:21 Steve Moe scored his second goal of the season from Lalande and Adam Kragthorpe.

Again at 5:44, the Falcons made it 4-1 on a power play when Evan Stensrud rebounded a Kragthorpe shot for the score.

Then at 14:12, the Blugolds made it 4-2 on power play when Greg Harris scored his second goal of the game.

In the final minute, Sutton came way out of the crease to stop an Ambrose Tappe breakaway, but they both dove, the puck came loose on contact between them, and Jamie Steinert grabbed it and escorted it into the empty net for the 5-2 lead.
Nate Kotewa finished the Blugolds off at 19:42 with the 6-2 goal from the right edge of the net, assisted by Nick Hanrahan.

Vezina stopped 10 of 12 Blugold shots on goal; the Falcons had 38 shots against Sutton.

The Blugolds visited the penalty box seven times; the Falcons were only charged with four. But UWEC was 2-for-4 on the power play; the Falcons 1-for-7.

The Falcons, now 18-7-2, advance to the NCHA semifinal game against St. Norbert on March 1. The game will be hosted by St. Norbert at a time yet to be determined.

**Falcons Beat Eau Claire in Playoffs**

Feb. 15, 2002

The Falcons held tough with a 3-2 third period lead to take the game 4-2 after an empty net goal Friday night at Hunt Arena against the Blugolds.

Despite few opportunities to score in the early half of the first period, the Falcons came back shooting in the ladder half, and Jamie Steinert put the Falcons on the scoreboard first at 12:54, getting the goal from Evan Stensrud and Josh Schlipp.

Eau Claire responded at 7:17 of the second period, tying the game with a wrap around the left pole and a shot to the net on the right side by Matt Gehr.

Two minutes later, however, the Falcons went back on top when a Blugold defender brought the puck in front of his goalie, where Jim Murphy gave him a hit and sent the puck backwards into the net.

Stensrud made it 3-1 later at 12:04 on a spectacular backhander from near the center of the left circle. Assists went to Mike Salmela and John Conboy.

On an early third period power play, the Blugolds' Erik Strand cut the game to one goal, 3-2 with a rebound goal.

Playing a predominantly defensive final period, the Falcons held the Blugolds from scoring for the remainder of the game, and shortly after Eau Claire pulled their goalie, Conboy scored an empty netter to finish the contest off, at 19:01.

Jacque Vezina stopped 27 of the 29 shots against him. The Falcons mustered 27 shots on goal.

The Falcons served six penalties for 12 minutes; the Blugolds served nine penalties for 26 minutes.

The Falcons, now 17-7-2, play UWEC in the second game of the best two-out-of-three game series on Saturday at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons fall 2-1 to St. Norbert**

Feb. 8, 2002

The Green Knights took two power play goals within one minute (5-on-3 then 5-on-4) during the second period to beat the Falcons 2-1 Friday night at Hunt Arena.

It was a defensive battle throughout, so when the Green Knights got a two-man advantage at 11:18, they didn't hesitate.

At 11:28, Maris Ziedins put St. Norbert on the scoreboard on a rebound that came straight off Jacque Vezina and then at 12:25, still with a man advantage, the Green Knights made it 2-0 when Chris Bodnar scored a one-timer from Jason Deitsch's pass from the right side.

It wasn't until 17:34 of the final period, again on a Knights power play, that the Falcons scored short-handed. Jim Murphy put it in the net with an assist from John Conboy.

Vezina stopped 23 shots in 59:30 of play; Ryan Gill saved 21 shots.

Each team tallied six penalties.

The loss drops the Falcons to fifth place in the NCHA at 6-5-2.

Saturday the Falcons, now 15-7-2 overall, host Lake Forest at Hunt Arena. Game time is set for 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Earn 6-2 Win at St. Scholastica**
Feb. 2, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team earned a 6-2 win at St. Scholastica on Saturday night.

The Falcons led 3-0 after one and 6-1 after two. UWRF scored the first six goals of the game. In the first period, Josh Schlipp scored unassisted at 8:55. At 9:08 Jess Johnson scored with assists to Ambrose Tappe and Rheese Carlson. Johnson netted his second of the game at 11:37 with assists to Adam Kragthorpe and Marc-Andre LeLande.

In the second, Rob Novak started the scoring with a goal at 4:43 with Jim Murphy getting the one assist. At 12:51 Jamie Steinert scored with Tappe assisting. Erik Ste. Marie scored the final Falcon goal at 14:46 with assists to Mike Salmela and Nick Hanrahan. CSS scored at 17:30 of the second and at 6:53 of the third period.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 25 saves and the Falcons had 45 shots on goal.

Saturday the Falcons, now 15-6-2 overall, host St. Norbert on Friday at Hunt Arena. Game time is set for 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Win at UWS, 4-3
Feb. 1, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team came back from a 3-2 third-period deficit and 40 saves from goalie Jacque Vezina to earn a 4-3 win at UW-Superior Friday night.

John Conboy scored the first goal of the game at 5:15 of the first period. Just :29 later Josh Schlipp scored to make it a 2-0 game. Evan Stensrud and Schlipp assisted on the first goal and Jess Johnson and Stensrud assisted on the second. UWS made it a 2-1 game at 17:48 of the period when Randy Curry scored.

UWS tied the game 2-2 in the second period. Tim Schneider scored at 17:59.

UWS took a 3-2 lead at :55 of the final period. Kris Wilson got the go-ahead goal.

But the Falcons responded with two goals to get the win. Stensrud tied the game at 1:34 with Joe Dustin assisting. Nick Hanrahan picked up the game-winner at 10:40 with John Conboy and Steve Moe assisting.

Saturday the Falcons, now 14-6-2 overall, play at St. Scholastica with the puck dropping at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Drop 5-3 Decision at UWEC
Jan. 26, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team lost a 5-3 decision at UW-Eau Claire Saturday night.

The game was tied 1-1 after one period and UWRF led 3-2 after two. UWRF's Rheese Carlson opened the scoring with a goal at 9:33 of the first period. UWEC's Rob Ouimette scored a power-play goal at 13:08 to tie the game. The Falcons went ahead at 6:19 of the second period when Carl Boben scored. UWEC tied the game again at 7:35 when Phil Cherneski scored. UWRF took a 3-2 lead at 14:58 when Josh Schlipp scored a power-play goal. It was all UWEC in the final period. Ouimette scored his second at 1:58, Jamie Minor gave the Blugolds the lead for good with a power-play goal at 7:28 and Cherneski scored his second of the game at 8:46.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 28 saves and UWEC's Scott Sutton stopped 29 shots.

Friday the Falcons, now 13-6-2 overall, play at Superior. Game time is set for 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Lose 4-2 Decision at UWSP
Jan. 25, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team dropped a 4-2 NCHA decision at UW-Stevens Point Friday night.

The game was tied 1-1 after one period and UWSP led 2-1 after two. UWRF tied the game in the third period but then UWSP scored two goals, the last into an empty-net, to get the win.

UWSP's Zenon Kochan scored a short-handed goal at 5:42 of the first period. UWRF's Jess Johnson tied the game at 11:17 of the first with a power-play goal. Kochan scored the only goal of the second period to give UWSP a 2-1 lead at 1:28. In the third, Evan Stensrud scored at 12:27 to tie the game at 2-2. But UWSP's Nick Glander scored at 14:00 and Bryan Fricke added an empty-net goal at 19:53.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 21 saves. UWSP's Bob Gould made 29 saves.

Saturday the Falcons play at UW-Eau Claire with game time set for 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Falter to St. Olaf
Jan. 22, 2002
Despite a two-goal third period comeback attempt as well as outshooting the Oles 49-20, the Falcons couldn't put the puck in the net as St. Olaf topped the Falcons 4-3 Tuesday night at Hunt Arena.

The Oles turned a 1-0 Falcon lead around with four straight goals and then suppressed the UW-RF comeback from tying the game. Taking the first penalty at 1:36 in the contest didn't deter the Falcons and they made it a quick 1-0 lead at 3:33 when Carl Boben's unassisted shot glanced off Ole goalie Garret Hasti's leg pad and slipped through his legs into the net.

The Falcons continued to pelt Hasti for the remainder of the first period, outshooting the Oles 15-2.

But in the second period, St. Olaf flipped the game on its head. The Falcons still outshot the Oles 18-12, but Jacque Vezina couldn't contain three of those 12.

The Oles tied the game at 5:50 on a twice rebounded power play goal. A little later at 10:24, the Oles struck again off a two-on-one when Dan Norsten's pass set up Nick Hanson's one-timer and the Ole lead.

The third goal of the period came with just three seconds to go when Brandon Smiejka tipped in a Justin Bronce shot.

Early in the third, the Oles continued their streak with a fourth goal at 4:56 from point blank.

Down 4-1, the Falcons continued to hustle, and they finally got two breaks around mid-period. At 11:26, Nate Kotewa scored on a Falcon second-effort from just outside the crease after Hasti saved Rheese Carlson's put-back. Boben also assisted on the goal.

Shortly after, at 14:29, it was Jamie Steinert who got a quick breakaway from Mike Salmela and put away the one-on-one just to the right side of Hasti.

Looking for the tying goal late in the period, the Falcons pulled Vezina at 18:45, but the man-advantage wasn't enough. The Oles held on for the upset.

The Falcons again outshot St. Olaf 16-6 in the third period for a game total of 49-20. Only six penalties were called: three for each squad.

The loss drops the Falcons to 13-4-2 overall and boosts the Oles over .500 to 8-7-2.

This weekend the Falcons embark on their first of four straight NCHA road games. They visit Stevens Point Friday for a 7:30 contest and Eau Claire Saturday for a 7:05 game.

Falcons Shut Down Blue Devils, 5-0; Freeman breaks record and Vezina ties record

Jan. 19, 2002

After being upset by the UW-Stout Blue Devils Friday night, head coach Steve Freeman and the Falcons came back with a physical 5-0 shut-out over the Blue Devils Saturday night in Hunt Arena.

The victory raised Freeman to 117 career wins, making him UW-RF's all-time winningest coach. The shut-out bumped goalie Jacque Vezina up to four on the year, which ties a Falcon single-season record. Two others have also captured four shut-outs: Paul Mitchell in the Falcons' 1973-74 season and Jeff Heil in 1996-97.

Jamie Steinert put the Falcons on the scoreboard at the end of the first period after Mike Salmela shot from the point and Rob Novak scrambled for the rebound. He got it to Steinert at the left edge of the net, and after playing with it for a few short seconds, Steinert drew goalie Ben Plester out and slipped it in behind him for the goal.

The Blue Devils switched up the goalie spot from Friday night despite Jeff Dotson's stellar performance in the 2-1 Stout win.

The second period came and went without a score, but then the Falcons exploded in the third.

At 5:07, Carl Boben added the second score after both Steinert and Novak tried to rebound it in.

Two minutes later, at 7:10, Adam Kragthorpe rocketed a shot past Plester from between the circles. Rheese Carlson and Nate Kotewa assisted on the goal.

Moments later, at 8:52, the Falcons added No. 4 during a Blue Devil power play when Nick Hanrahan took the puck all the way down the ice from the right side and in across, all the while fighting off a Blue Devil defender. He then cut across Plester's face and nailed the open top left corner for the Falcon short-handed goal.

Boven finished the Blue Devils off at 13:45 with his second goal of the night when Steinert dished it to him for a breakaway run and he blew another shot by Plester top shelf, left side.

In the first and third periods, the Falcons outshot the Blue Devils 13-7 and 15-4. Overall, they shot 36 against Plester.

Vezina repelled all 17 of Stout's shots on goal.
The Falcons were 0-for-2 on the power play while the Blue Devils were 0-for-6. More than twice as many penalties were called against the Falcons: seven to three.

Tuesday night the Falcons host St. Olaf at 7:05 in a make-up game before going on the road next weekend to Stevens Point Friday for a 7:30 contest and Eau Claire Saturday for a 7:05 game.

Falcons Upset by Stout, 2-1, in OT

Jan. 18, 2002

With the winning goal in overtime, UW-Stout beat the Falcons for the first time since 1978, 2-1, in overtime at the Dunn County Ice Arena Friday night.

After a nearly two-period stalemate, the Blue Devils got on the scoreboard when Matt Olson captured a power play goal at 18:02.

Then with seven minutes left in the third period, the Falcons evened the score when Rob Novak scored from a Jamie Steinert assist. The Falcons overwhelmed Blue Devil goalie Jeff Dotson with shots, but he saved 57 of them to keep his teammates in the contest. Jacque Vezina stopped 33 Stout shots on goal.

In overtime, each team got two shots on goal in 2:47 time, but it was Stout that put it through. Cale Finseth beat Vezina top shelf for the game winner.

Six penalties were called: four on Stout, two on the Falcons.

The Falcons fall to 12-3-2 on the year and 3-2-2 in NCHA play. The Blue Devils come to Hunt Arena for a rematch Saturday night. Game time is set for 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Shut Out Cobbers; Freeman Ties Record

Jan. 9, 2002

A pair of first period goals proved to be enough cushion to best Concordia-Moorhead as the Falcons won 2-0 Wednesday night at Hunt Arena, giving head coach Steve Freeman his 116th career win.

One more win will give Freeman sole possession of the title All-Time Winningest Coach at UW-RF.

The Falcons let only 30 seconds slip through their grasp on their opening power play before forward Jess Johnson got a dish-off from Josh Schlipp and Jim Murphy just inside the right circle and banged it in at 3:35 in the first period.

Ten minutes later, at 13:32, Jamie Steinert flew toward the goal but held onto the puck. Swinging around the back of the net, he slung the puck around the corner and scored the Falcons' second goal of the night. Rheese Carlson got credit for an assist.

After that period, where the Falcons took their 2-0 lead with a 16-3 shots-on-goal advantage, the Cobbers stepped up. In both the second and third periods, Concordia-Moorhead matched the Falcons' shots on goal (8 and 7) but couldn't beat Jacque Vezina.

Vezina came away with 18 saves; his teammates mustered 31 shots against Cobber goalie Jason Gregoire.

The Falcons were 1-for-4 on the power play, the Cobbers 0-for-6. But the Falcons took two five-minute major penalties, the latter also a game disqualification on John Conboy with 53 seconds left in the contest.

The Falcons will next play at UW-Stout on Jan. 18. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Beat Gusties in Overtime

Jan. 4, 2002

Forward Matt Elsen scored at the 1:21 mark of overtime to lift the Falcon men's hockey team to a 4-3 victory over Gustavus Adolphus Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Elsen just crossed the blue line when he sent a half-hearted wrister toward Gusty goaltender Jared Phillips. The puck trickled through Philips legs and gave the Falcons a hard fought victory.

River Falls (11-2-2) could not shake the pesky Gusties (8-7). After taking the lead at the 1:54 mark of the first period on Nick Hanrahan's one-timer, Gustavus scored 3:20 later on Aaron Allars wrister from the left face-off dot.
The Falcons had a 2-1 lead at the end of the first 20 minutes after Carl Boben scored at the 10:56 mark of the first period.

The two teams played a scoreless, lackluster second period before the Gusties tied the score at 2-2 on Sam Johnson's goal.

But Gustavus answered back again, sending the game into the extra session when Jerod Klava scored an unassisted tally with 2:13 left in the game.


The Falcons will next play Concordia-Moorhead Wednesday Jan. 9 at Hunt Arena. The puck is set to drop at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons defeat St. John's, 6-1
Dec. 15, 2001

With four goals in the first half of the second period, the Falcons were easy winners Saturday night at Hunt Arena over the St. John's Johnnies, a 6-1 final.

Josh Schlipp started up the scoring column, but not until 17:31 of the first period when a Ryan Vieau bounced over to him left of the net. A quick flick into the right top corner of the net put the Falcons up 1-0. Jess Johnson also assisted.

Then, right away in the second period, the Falcons rattled off four goals in less than seven minutes — the first three on only four shots on goal, and the first one the period's first shot on goal.

Jim Murphy took the puck up the right side of the ice, stopped to shake off a defender, and looked to pass. Finding nothing, he kept it and skated across the front of the net, shooting for the score at 2:36. Johnson assisted.

Then at 5:07, Matt Elsen muscled his way through a Johnny behind the net, dished the puck to Nate Kotewa, came across the front where Kotewa gave it back, and then shot it past goalie Rick Gregory as he (Elsen) was getting knocked down.

At that point, with the Falcons up 3-0, Johnny coach John Harrington retired Gregory for the night. Aaron Bulman came in relief, but he held out only a minute and a half.

A Johnson pass found Schlipp on a breakaway. He faked Bulman out front then pulled off to the left and lifted the puck in for the score at 6:49. Erik St. Marie also got credit for an assist.

The final goal of the period came at 9:17 after Mike Salmela's shot, caught up in front of the net, was rebounded after a moment by Nick Hanrahan for the 5-0 goal. Josh Magnuson helped out as well.

The Johnnies lone goal came at 4:53 in the third period on a long shot through open ice — not really crowded — and by Jacque Vezina.

Elsen added his second goal of the evening at 12:50 of the third. Vieau took a shot out top, Kotewa rebounded it to Bulman's pads, and then Elsen finished with the one that got by, merely five seconds after one of the Falcons' five power plays expired.

The Johnnies were 0-for-4 with the extra man, and both teams had seven penalties for 14 minutes each.

Vezina stopped 12 shots on goal, and the Falcons shot a total of 35 against the duo of Gregory and Bulman.

The win boosts the Falcons to 9-2-2 and drops St. John's to 5-6-0. The Falcons are now off on holiday break until the first weekend of January. They first travel to St. Olaf Jan. 4 for a 7 p.m. game, and then host the Jan. 5 contest with Gustavus Adolphus at 7:05 p.m. in Hunt Arena.

Men's Hockey Defeats Augsburg
Dec. 14, 2001

The UW-River Falls men's hockey team scored four unanswered goals, including three in the final stanza, en route to a 4-2 victory over Augsburg College Friday night at the Augsburg Ice Arena.

The Falcons (9-2-2) fell behind early in the second period, but rattled off four straight tallies for the team's second straight victory.

Defenseman Marc-Andre Lalande's first collegiate goal tied the score at 1-1 with 6:46 elapsed in the second period.
The score remained tied until the third period when Josh Schlipp's 11th goal of the year gave the Falcons a lead they would not relinquish. The power-play goal came at 3:51 of the period.

Just seconds later, Joe Dustin scored the game-winner at 3:34. Each team tacked on another goal for the final tally. The Falcons outshot the Auggies 9-8 in the final period, but 35-28 for the entire game.

Falcon netminder Jacque Vezina stopped 26 shots of the win. Peter Samargia made 31 saves in a losing effort.

With the loss, Augsburg fell to 5-6-1.

The Falcons will next play St. John's Saturday night at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Shut Out St. Mary's**

Dec. 8, 2001

Holding St. Mary's scoreless on 19 shots on goal, Jacque Vezina and the Falcons beat the Cardinals 4-0 Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

In a scramble in front of the net, Jess Johnson and Jim Murphy both took shots at the goal, but it wasn't until Johnson's second try that the puck went in to start the Falcons at 14:51 in the first period. Josh Schlipp also got credit for an assist.

Early in the second, right after a face-off, the Falcons kicked it out to Mike Salmela and he fired a shot through from downtown. The assist went to Nate Kotewa.

Meanwhile, the Cardinals couldn't manage to get a shot to Vezina in the second period until 10 minutes in, and they ended up with only two.

Later in the second, Jamie Steinert added his number to scoring column on a quick lift shot from a pass by Matt Elsen and assisted by Rob Novak.

Finally in the third period, Schlipp found Johnson to bring the puck up the ice and he passed to Murphy at the corner of the goal for the finisher at 8:30 during a power play.

The Falcons had 37 shots on goal and four penalties. The Cardinals had seven penalties and were 0-for-3 on the power play. The Falcons were 1-for-6.

Next weekend the Falcons continue their battle with the MIAC. Friday night they travel to Augsburg for a 7 p.m. game, and Saturday the Falcons host St. John's at 7:05 p.m.

**St. Thomas Upsets Falcons in OT**

Dec. 7, 2001

St. Thomas took their only lead of the game at 3:56 in overtime to defeat the Falcons 5-4 at Hunt Arena Friday night.

Despite jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first period, the Falcons couldn't hold the Tommies back in the next two.

Midway through the third period, St. Thomas scored on a long shot from the left side to tie the contest, 3-3. Almost three minutes later, Adam Kragthorpe propelled the Falcons back ahead when he took a Josh Schlipp shot stopped by the defense and rebounded it right into the back of the net.

Two minutes after that, though, the Tommies replied with another goal from behind the circles.

Then in overtime, the Tommies continued to out-shoot the Falcons — they held a 38-24 shot on goal advantage through three periods — until Dax Leepar busted out on a breakaway and beat Jacque Vezina in the corner of the net.

Overall shots were 45-27 in favor of the Tommies. Penalties were once again a big factor as both teams contributed for 50 penalty minutes. The Falcons had 11 for 30 minutes; the Tommies had 10 for 20 minutes.

Vezina took the loss, while Bob Tallarico netted in the Tommy win.

First period Falcon goals came at the hands of David Almquist (assisted by Rheese Carlson and Carl Boben) and Schlipp (assisted by Jim Murphy). Schlipp scored his second goal of the night in the second period, unassisted on a 1-on-2 where he sprinted down the left side, curved around through the circle and beat Tallarico with an angle just sharp enough to make it in.

The loss drops the Falcons to 7-2-2 on the year; the Tommies are now 7-2-0.

Saturday night the Falcons will go after another MIAC team, St. Mary's, at 7:05 p.m. in Hunt Arena.

**Men's Skaters Suffer First Loss of the Season**
Dec. 1, 2001

The UW-River Falls men's hockey team lost for the first time in 10 contests as they dropped a 5-2 decision at St. Norbert Saturday night in De Pere.

After a scoreless first period, the Green Knights took a 2-0 advantage when Andy Trann and Jason Deitsch scored in the first 4:36 of the second period. Falcon junior Nick Hanrahan cut the lead in half when he scored his third goal of the season at the 10:20 mark of the period.

St. Norbert answered with a pair of power-play goals to put the game away. Kyle Peterson's sixth goal of the season and Brant Kersey's second tally of the year gave the Green Knights a 4-1 lead with 16:16 left in the game.

Falcon Matt Elsen's power-play goal, his fourth of the year, at the 8:53 reduced the deficit to 4-2, but Faron Duthie slammed the door with his 11th goal of the season at 12:17.

The game was marred by 89 penalty minutes. The Falcons compiled 16 penalties for 46 minutes while the Green Knights had 16 penalties for 43 minutes.

The Green Knights capitalized on their power plays, going 3-of-11 on the evening. The Falcons went 1-of-9 with the man advantage.

Green Knight goaltender Ryan Gill stopped 18 shots for the victory. Jacque Vezina made 23 saves in a losing effort.

The Falcons drop to 7-1-2 on the year, 3-1-2 in the NCHA. The Green Knights improve to 9-2, 5-0 in conference. The Falcon will next face St. Thomas on Dec. 7 at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Win at Lake Forest, 7-1
Nov. 30, 2001

The Falcons got goals from seven players en route to a 7-1 win at Lake Forest Friday night.

After a scoreless first period the Falcons led 4-1 after two. UWRF got on the board first at :54 of the second period when Matt Elsen scored a power-play goal. LFC tied the game with a power-play goal at 3:16. UWRF scored three more times before the period was over. Jim Murphy scored at 6:30, Josh Schlipp scored a power-play goal at 11:57 and Nick Hanrahan scored at 14:38. The Falcons added three more in the third - Jess Johnson scored at 8:24, Adam Kragthorpe scored a power-play goal at 16:02 and Carl Boben added a short-handed goal at 17:51. Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 18 saves to get the win and the Falcons had 52 shots on goal.

Saturday the Falcons play at St. Norbert College with action starting at 7:05 p.m. UWRF and SNC were tied for first place in the NCHA when the weekend began.

Falcons Win at Bethel, 6-1
Nov. 19, 2001

The Falcons got two goals from Rob Novak and Evan Stensrud to win a 6-1 decision at Bethel College Saturday night.

Novak scored the game's first goal at 11:23 of the first period. Bethel tied the game about two minutes later and that's how the first period ended. UWRF scored twice in the second. Stensrud scored at 5:20 and Josh Schlipp scored at 16:10 to give the Falcons a 3-1 lead after two. In the third, Matt Elsen scored a power-play goal at 3:55, Stensrud got his second at 7:01 and Novak got his second, a power-play goal, at 18:21.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 17 saves and the Falcons had 54 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 6-0-2 overall, play again on Nov. 30 at Lake Forest. Action starts at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Top Pipers, 4-1
Nov. 16, 2001

The Falcons picked up a 4-1 win over Hamline Friday night at the Fairgrounds Coliseum

The Falcons, now 5-0-2 overall, led 2-0 after the first period on goals by Carl Boben and Steve Moe. UWRF led 4-0 after two. Jess Johnson and Josh Schlipp picked up the goals. Hamline made it a 4-1 game in the third period when Troy Kleven scored. UWRF's Jim Murphy picked up two assists.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 32 saves while the Falcons had 23 shots on the Hamline goal.

Saturday the Falcons play at Bethel at 8 p.m.

Falcons deadlock with Superior, 3-3
Nov. 10, 2001

The Falcons and Yellowjackets both recorded exactly 30 shots on goal as they tied Saturday night, 3-3 in overtime, at Hunt Arena.

After the Falcons took a 2-1 lead at the end of two periods, the Yellowjackets responded early in the third when a pass from behind the net set up a one-timer for the tying goal.

And at 8:04 in the third, despite being outshot by the Falcons for the first time all game, the Jackets added another, a low-percentage goal that made it 3-2 Superior lead.

The goal knocked the wind out of the Falcon offensive effort momentarily, but they recovered, and by the 14th minute, they were back strong. After a John Conboy shot was saved by Nathan Ziemske and Jim Murphy's rebound was similarly stopped, Josh Schlipp stuck with it and flipped it through for the tie.

Then both Vezina and Ziemske felt the last-minute heat, but the game remained tied for overtime.

In the overtime period, the Falcons dominated, holding the Jackets without a shot on goal as they threatened Ziemske with three. But it wasn't enough, and the two NCHA rivals came out deadlocked, 3-3.

The two early goals were scored by Rob Novak, with a Joe Dustin assist, and Jess Johns on, with Schlipp and Murphy assists.

Novak's in particular was a shot from just inside the right circle that ricocheted off the left pipe and in.

Vezina weathered all 30 shots on goal with 27 saves: 10, 13, 4 and 0 by period. Meanwhile the Falcons shot 5, 7, 15 and 3 shots on goal.

There were six penalties, four on the Falcons. Neither team scored on power play; the Falcons were 0-for-1 and the Jackets 0-for-3.

The Falcons are now 4-0-2 (2-0-2 in the NCHA) while the Jackets are 1-2-1 (1-1-1 in the NCHA).

Next weekend the Falcons hit the road against Hamline on Friday at 7 p.m. and Bethel on Saturday at 8 p.m.

Falcons hand St. Scholastica 5-1 loss

Nov. 9, 2001

Five different Falcons contributed goals as UW-RF beat St. Scholastica in NCHA play, 5-1, Friday night at Hunt Arena.

As Falcon goalie Justin Ferguson repelled seven shots on goal the entire contest, the Falcon offense pummeled the Saints with 39 shots on goal.

Josh Schlipp started the scoring for the Falcons at 8:59 in the first period when he knocked in a shot from a one-handed Jim Murphy pass from the corner. The play was also assisted by John Conboy.

St. Scholastica responded later in the first, though, when Phil McDonald's power play shot from the point got tipped in by Jason Brabec just in front of Ferguson.

In the second period, the Falcons pulled away with the lead as Jess Johnson broke in front of the net and faked the goalie, scoring on a soft push into the net, at 1:55. Murphy and Jamie Steinert both contributed assists on the Falcons' first power play goal of the season.

Just over three minutes after that, Murphy raced across the face of the goalie and got him to go down, leaving the right side of the net open for the goal at 5:17, assists by Schlipp and Conboy.

A period later, after the Saints went without a shot on goal in the second period, Carl Boben made it 4-1. He shot a one-timer off the post that fooled a lot of people into thinking it was a goal, but then came back seconds later from the other side for good. Conboy had an assist.

The Falcons finished the scoring off at 13:12 with another power play goal by Matt Olsen, after Adam Kragthorpe had his long-range shot saved and Evan Stensrud's rebound shot went off the post.

The Falcons had six of the 17 penalties during the game and went 2-for-8 on the power play.

UW-RF moves to 4-0-1 (2-0-1 in the NCHA) and St. Scholastica drops to 0-3-0 overall and in the NCHA. The Falcons return to Hunt Arena Saturday night when they host the UW-Superior Yellowjackets at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons blank UW-Stevens Point, 4-0

Nov. 3, 2001

Jacque Vezina was unbeatable Saturday night at Hunt Arena as the Falcons shut out the Pointers, 4-0, in NCHA play.
The Falcons started early when Carl Boben threw the puck toward goal from the left sideboard and Jamie Steinert re-directed it into the right corner of the net. The goal, one the Falcons' very first shots on goal, came at 5:28.

At 2:09 in the second period, the Falcons made it 2-0 with another pass from the corner. This time Evan Stensrud set up Rob Novak in the left circle for a one-timer that blew by Pointer goalie Ryan Scott.

Later, at 14:33, the Pointers made a stab at getting on the scoreboard with a rebound into the net, but the referee called it off, saying it was kicked in. After that, the Pointers struggled to muster any offense at all.

With Vezina having held his own despite 15 saves in the period, the Falcons turned their attention to Scott, and Novak beat him again, teaming up with Stensrud. Stensrud, turning around back near the blue line, flung the puck on goal, and Novak tipped it through the goalie's legs for the 3-0 Falcon lead at 18:49.

Keeping the Pointers to just six shots on goal in the final period, the Falcons added a finishing touch at 18:30 with Carl Boben and Rheese Carlson both in one-on-ones across the blue line. Boben couldn't go all the way, but Carlson picked it up in the left circle and sent it to the back of the net.

Vezina captured all 27 Pointer shots, while Scott stopped 21 of the Falcons' 25. Of the nine penalties in the game, the Falcons served five.

Now 3-0-1, next weekend holds two more home games, St. Scholastica on Friday night and UW-Superior on Saturday. Both are NCHA contests and start at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena. The loss drops the Pointers to 2-2-0.

Eau Claire Scores Two in Third to Tie, 2-2

Nov. 2, 2001

Two Blugold goals in the latter half of the third period put UW-Eau Claire back in the game and gave them the eventual 2-2 tie after a scoreless overtime period.

The Blugolds first game of the season started off slowly as the first period went by scoreless and penalty-less.

Early in the second period, though, the Falcons broke onto the scoreboard when Josh Schlipp got a breakaway pass from Jess Johnson, deaced from the right side of the net to the left, and flipped the puck by Blugold goalie Scott Sutton, at 3:19.

In the third period, the Falcons struck again when Carl Boben hit Jamie Steinert on a pass from the corner, and Steinert flippepd it in from point blank. The goal came at 6:14 in the third period.

Six minutes later, the Blugolds breathed new life into their offense. They took more shots in the third period than in the first two combined, and at 12:28, Rob Quimette grabbed a rebound and put it back for the goal.

And at 17:44, during a scramble at the net, the Blugolds came away with another goal, this time via Greg Harris.

Tied 2-2, the Blugolds sent the game into overtime, but neither team could muster another goal.

Jacque Vezina anchored the net for the Falcons all 65 minutes, coming up with 24 saves. Sutton came away with 30 saves.

There were only five penalties the entire game, three on the Falcons.

The tie puts the Falcons at 2-0-1 and the Blugolds at 0-0-1. Next up for the Falcons is UW-Stevens Point Saturday, 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

Hanrahan's Goal Lifts Falcons to Sweep

Oct. 27, 2001

Junior forward Nick Hanrahan's breakaway goal at the 6:41 mark of the third period broke a 2-2 tie and lifted the Falcons to a 4-2 victory over Marian College Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Defenseman Ryan Vieau threaded a two-line pass to Hanrahan at the blue line. The junior then flicked the puck between the legs of Sabre goaltender Terry Dunbar.

The Sabres took an early 1-0 lead at 1:02 of the first period when Ken McKay's slapshot from the point, ricocheted off Falcon goalie Justin Ferguson into the goal. The shot was the first of the game by either team.

The score remained 1-0 until 1:04 of the second period when the Falcons answered. On a 2-on-1 break, forward Rob Novak faked a pass and fired a wrister to beat Dunbar topshelf gloveside.

The Sabres reclaimed the lead on Tommy Kotsopoulos' first goal of the season with 4:03 elapsed in the second period.
Evan Stensrud would later tie the game with the Falcons' first power-play goal of the season to tie the game at 2-2 heading into the final stanza.

Forward Matt Elsen added the Falcons' final tally with an empty net goal at the 19:46 mark of the third.

Ferguson, making his first ever start for the Falcons, stopped 17 of the Sabres 19 shots on goal to earn the victory. Dunbar made 27 saves in defeat.

The Falcons are now 2-0 on the season and will start NCHA play next weekend when they welcome UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stevens Point to Hunt Arena. Game times for the Friday and Saturday games are 7:05 p.m.

**Men's Hockey Wins Home Opener, 5-3**

Oct. 26, 2001

Freshman Josh Schlipp scored a pair of goals to lead the Falcons to a 5-3 victory over Marian College Friday night at Hunt Arena.

The 5-foot-11, 170-pounder from Chisago Lakes, Minn. scored his first goal as a Falcon at the 7:20 mark of the third period to give River Falls a comfortable 4-1 lead. He later added an empty net goal to ice the game.

But the Sabres bounced back, tallying twice in a minute and a half to cut the lead to 4-3. Ian Carroll found an open net at the 15:04 mark the period when John McKey connected on a cross-ice pass, finding Carroll on the left side of the crease. Dan Odegard's wrister from the slot cut the lead to single goal.

The Falcons took a 2-0 lead heading into the final stanza after scoring lone goals in the first and second period.

Sophomore Evan Stensrud opened the scoring at 18:59 of the first period when he banged home his own rebound on Sabre goaltender Terry Dunbar. Senior Carl Boben scored 1:15 into the second period to give the Falcons a two-goal advantage.

Marian cut the lead in half 52 seconds into the third when Brad Hawkins beat Falcon goaltender Jacque Vezina.

Freshman Jim Murphy tallied his first collegiate goal at 7:01 of the third period.

The Falcons outshot the Falcons 40-23 in the contest. Vezina made 20 saves for the victory. Dunbar stopped 35 shots in a losing effort.

The Falcons are now 1-0 on the year and will face Marian Saturday at Hunt Arena. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.
# 2002-2003 Falcon Men's Hockey Roster

**as of Oct. 25, 2002**

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**Head Coach:** Steve Freeman  
**Assistant Coaches:** Bob Ritzer, Mickey Keating  
**Student Manager:** Nick Siergiej
2002-2003 Falcon Men's Hockey Schedule

March 17, 2003

23-7-1 Overall, 6-1-1 WIAC, 11-2-1 NCHA

Oct. 25 Milwaukee School of Engineering
River Falls 11, Milwaukee School of Engineering 2

Oct. 26 Milwaukee School of Engineering
River Falls 7, Milwaukee School of Engineering 1

Nov. 1 at Eau Claire*
River Falls 10, Eau Claire 1

Nov. 2 at Stevens Point*
River Falls 7, Stevens Point 2

Nov. 8 at St. Scholastica*
River Falls 7, St. Scholastica 1

Nov. 9 at Superior*
River Falls 0, Superior 0 OT

Nov. 15 Hamline
River Falls 5, Hamline 0

Nov. 16 Bethel
River Falls 6, Bethel 0

Nov. 22 Lake Forest*
River Falls 3, Lake Forest 2

Nov. 23 St. Norbert.*
River Falls 5, St. Norbert 2

Dec. 3 St. Scholastica
River Falls 8, St. Scholastica 1

Dec. 6 at St. Thomas
St. Thomas 5, River Falls 2

Dec. 7 at St. Mary's
River Falls 5, St. Mary's 4

Dec. 13 Augsburg
River Falls 8, Augsburg 1

Dec. 14 St. John’s
St. John's 2, River Falls 1

Jan. 4 St. Olaf
River Falls 3, St. Olaf 1

Jan. 10 Stout*
River Falls 8, Stout 0

Jan. 11 at Stout*
River Falls 6, Stout 2

Jan. 14 at Gustavus Adolphus
River Falls 4, Gustavus Adolphus 2

Jan. 24 Stevens Point*
River Falls 3, Stevens Point 2 OT

Jan. 25 Eau Claire*
River Falls 9, Eau Claire 3

Jan. 31 Superior*, 7:05 p.m.
Superior 5, River Falls 3

Feb. 1 St. Scholastica*
River Falls 11, St. Scholastica 2

Feb. 7 at St. Norbert*
St. Norbert 3, River Falls 2 OT

Feb. 8 at Lake Forest*
River Falls 4, Lake Forest 1

Feb. 14 St. Scholastica, NCHA First Round, 7:05 p.m.
River Falls 3, St. Scholastica 0

**
Feb. 15 St. Scholastica, NCHA First Round, 7:05 p.m.
River Falls 14, St. Scholastica 2

**
Feb. 28 NCHA Semifinals (hosted by St. Norbert) vs.
Superior
Superior 6, River Falls 3

**
March 1 NCHA Third Place Game (hosted by St. Norbert),
vs. Stevens Point
Stevens Point 5, River Falls 2

**
March 12 St. John's
River Falls 2, St. John's 0

^ March 15 at St. Norbert
St. Norbert 5, River Falls 2

^ * NCHA Games
** NCHA Playoff Games
^ NCAA Playoff Games
Falcons Lose at St. Norbert, 5-2

March 15, 2003

The Falcon men's hockey team dropped a 5-2 decision at St. Norbert on Saturday in the NCAA Div. III quarterfinals.

SNC led 1-0 after one and 4-1 after two. SNC's Michael Buchan opened the scoring with a goal at 10:03 of the first period. He was assisted by Jim Underwood and Trent Dickson. He scored off a rebound from about 20 feet in front of the Falcon goal.

The Falcons tied the game just 20 seconds into the second period when Aaron Degerness scored a power-play goal with assists to Matt Olsen and Jim Murphy. Degerness got to a rebound and was able to flip the puck past the SNC goalie. But SNC scored three times before the period ended. Connor Hughes scored an unassisted goal at 5:43. Hughes picked up a loose puck in the slot and scored from 10 feet out. At 8:27 SNC's Kelly Wosnack scored an unassisted goal. After a faceoff in the Falcon zone, Wosnack picked up the loose puck and scored from 20 feet out. At 12:05, SNC scored the final goal of the period. Terry Wilson got the goal with assists to Wosnack and Andy Trann. Wilson tipped the puck past Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina.

UWRF made it a 4-2 game at 8:34 of the third period. Mike Salmela scored a power-play goal from 10 feet in front of the SNC goal. He was assisted by Murphy and Degerness. SNC added a short-handed empty net goal with 17 seconds to play. Brant Kersey was credited with the score.

Vezina made 22 saves for the Falcons while SNC's Chancy Colquhoun made 16 saves.

The Falcons end their season with a 23-7-1 record. SNC improves to 27-1-2 and advances to the NCAA Div. III semifinals next weekend at a site to be determined.

Falcons Beat St. John's 2-0, Advance to Quarterfinals

March 12, 2003

The Falcons broke a 54-minute scoreless streak with the game-winner, a loose rebound, to beat MIAC champion St. John's 2-0 in the NCAA tournament play-in game Wednesday night at Hunt Arena.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina withstood 31 shots on goal in the physical defensive duel.

A shot from the middle of the right circle put the puck in the crease and, for a while, Johnny goalie Rick Gregory appeared to have it covered, but Nate Hansen found a way to put it in the net at 14:15 of the third period. Assists went to Josh Magnuson and Nate Kotewa.

Pulling their goalie with 50 seconds to go in the game, the Johnnies put on the pressure, but Marc-Andre Lalande sent the puck off the glass from the Falcon zone and it slid all the way to the open net at 19:36.

The Johnnies dominated shots on goal early, taking a 14-5 first period advantage. Four and a half minutes into the contest SJU put the puck in the net off a skate. The play was nullified. Shots were even, 7-7, in the second period and 10-10 in the third.

UW-RF drew seven penalties; SJU served six. The Falcons were out-shot 31-22.

The win boosts the Falcons overall record to 23-6-1 and pits them against No. 1-seeded St. Norbert in the NCAA quarterfinals Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the Cornerstone Community Center in Ashwaubenon, Wis.

Falcons Lose to UWSP in NCHA Third Place Game

March 1, 2003

The Falcon men's hockey team lost a 5-2 decision to UW-Stevens Point in the game for third place in the NCHA Peters Cup playoffs held in Ashwaubenon Saturday afternoon.

UWSP led 1-0 after one and 2-1 after two. UWSP got on board at 4:14 of the first period when Zenon Kochan scored with an assists to Sean Leahy and Andy Corran. UWRF tied the game at .52 of the second period when Jim Murphy scored with an assist to Aaron Degerness. UWSP took back the lead for good at 1:07 when David Scott scored with assists to Derrick Johnson and Justin Micek. UWSP took a 3-1 lead at 5:50 of the third period when Micek scored a short-handed goal. Jordan Blair got the assist. The Falcons got back to within 3-2 at 4:16 when Nate Kotewa scored with assists to Rheese Carlson and Jess Modahl. UWSP went ahead 4-2 when Blair scored a power-play goal at 11:54 with an assist to Nick Glander. UWSP added an empty net goal at 19:23. Johnson scored the goal with assists to Micek and Corran.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin and UWSP's Ryan Scott both had 22 saves.

The Falcons, now 22-6-1 overall, will wait until March 9 to see if they have earned a berth in the NCAA Div. III tournament.

Falcons Lose to UWS in NCHA Semifinals

Feb. 28, 2003

The Falcon men's hockey team lost a 5-2 decision to UW-Stevens Point in the game for third place in the NCHA Peters Cup playoffs held in Ashwaubenon Saturday afternoon.

UWSP led 1-0 after one and 2-1 after two. UWSP got on board at 4:14 of the first period when Zenon Kochan scored with an assists to Sean Leahy and Andy Corran. UWRF tied the game at .52 of the second period when Jim Murphy scored with an assist to Aaron Degerness. UWSP took back the lead for good at 1:07 when David Scott scored with assists to Derrick Johnson and Justin Micek. UWSP took a 3-1 lead at 5:50 of the third period when Micek scored a short-handed goal. Jordan Blair got the assist. The Falcons got back to within 3-2 at 4:16 when Nate Kotewa scored with assists to Rheese Carlson and Jess Modahl. UWSP went ahead 4-2 when Blair scored a power-play goal at 11:54 with an assist to Nick Glander. UWSP added an empty net goal at 19:23. Johnson scored the goal with assists to Micek and Corran.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin and UWSP's Ryan Scott both had 22 saves.

The Falcons, now 22-6-1 overall, will wait until March 9 to see if they have earned a berth in the NCAA Div. III tournament.
The Falcon men's hockey team won a 6-3 decision to UW-Superior in the NCHA semifinals played Friday night in Ashwaubenon.

The Falcons had a 2-1 lead after one period. Aaron Degerness scored just 22 seconds into the period to give UWRF the early lead. Matt Elsen and Adam Kragthorpe got the assists. UWS tied the game at 3:33 when Randall Smisko scored a power-play goal with an assist to Dale Lupul. The Falcons got that goal back at 12:42 when Jamie Steinert scored with assists to John Cowboy and Elsen. UWS tied the game with another power-play goal at 12:50 of the second period. Chris Hackett got the goal with an assist to Steve Rodberg. The Falcons took back the lead at 14:29 when Elsen scored unassisted.

UWS scored four times in the third period to get the win. The Jackets tied the game again at 6:30 with Yann Poirier getting the goal with assists to Beau Moyer and Colin Kendall. The Jackets took a 4-3 lead at 10:13 when Smisko scored what proved to be the game winner with an assist to Kyle Nosan. Ryan Kalbrener scored the Jackets’ fifth goal at 16:45 with assists to Poirier and Lupul. Reed Larson scored an empty-net goal at 19:04 with Lupul getting his third assist of the night.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 21 saves and UWS's Nathan Ziemski stopped 18 shots.

The Falcons, now 22-5-1 overall, will play UW-Stevens Point in the NCHA tournament's third place game. Action starts at 3:05 p.m. at the Cornerstone Arena. UWS will play St. Norbert in the title game that starts at 7:05 p.m. St. Norber topped UW-Stevens Point, 3-1, to advance to the title game.

Falcons Advance to Semifinal with 14-2 Win

Feb. 15, 2003

Josh Schlipp scored four goals to lead the Falcons to a 14-2 victory and NCHA first round series sweep against St. Scholastica Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons scored on 7-of-10 power play opportunities and amassed 48 shots on goal in the contest. The win gave UW-RF the 2-0 sweep.

There were 26 penalties called, and the Saints served 15 for 46 minutes.

In the first period, Evan Stensrud scored first at 8:50 shooting behind left-moving traffic to hit the open right side of the net. Aaron Degerness got a pass at the right corner of the crease from Jim Murphy to score at 10:06 on a power play. The penalty was the first part of a double minor against Saint Gordon Burnett, who collected four penalties on the night. The second minor allowed Tony Sikich to find the net at 10:55.

The Saints then responded when a Jamie Coffey shot was redirected past Jacque Vezina by Mike Rossa at 12:14 on a power play. At 13:49, Stensrud passed to Rob Novak at the right side of the crease for a quick put-in to make it 4-1. Sikich finished the period's scoring when he went 2-on-1 with Schlipp but kept it and scored the wrister.

In the second period, Schlipp scored his first at 1:23, and Murphy set up Degerness at 2:30. Both were power play goals. At 3:35, Stensrud skated down the left boards, looked for Jamie Steinert on the 2-on-1 but scored it himself. Then at 4:27, Schlipp struck again hitting the left post and in. Novak rebounded an Adam Kragthorpe shot at 6:20 for the 10-1 power play goal. And at 12:16, CSS's Josh Martalock rebounded a shot for the team's second goal.

The third period saw Schlipp score his hat trick goal at 2:46 just under the crossbar. At 3:28 Nate Kotewa made it 12-2, and then Schlipp scored No. 4 shorthanded after weaving through the Saint-controlled zone and backhanding the puck in against back-up goalie Cory Lonke. Matt Elsen put in the final score at 17:11 on the power play.

Vezina saved 24 shots on goal. Josh Liebig took the loss in goal for the Saints.

The Falcons improve to 22-4-1 and advance to an NCHA semifinal game with UW-Superior Friday, Feb. 28. St. Norbert will host the semifinals Friday and championship/third place games Saturday. St. Norbert plays UW-Stevens Point Feb. 28.

Falcons Take Game 1

Feb. 14, 2003

The Falcon men's hockey team won game one of the NCHA first round series 3-0 over St. Scholastica Friday night at Hunt Arena.

Two first-period goals got the Falcons out front and a shutout by Dan Meneghin sealed the deal as the Falcons move a step closer to the semifinals.

Game two of the first round series will be Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. in Hunt Arena.

Tony Sikich scored the opening goal at 7:15 of the first with an assist from Joe Dustin.

Josh Schlipp made it a two-goal lead at 18:44 with help from Dustin and Sikich.

The game went scoreless in the second period as the Saints out-shot UW-RF 9-8.

Matt Elsen finished the scoring column at 17:04 of the third period with a goal assisted by Jim Murphy.

Less than half of the 15 penalties on the night created power plays. UW-RF was 0-for-4 with the extra man.
The Falcons finished the contest with 32 shots on goal, and Meneghin made 16 saves.

The Falcons are now 21-4-1 overall.

Falcons Win, 4-1, at Lake Forest
Feb. 8, 2003

The Falcon men's hockey team ended the regular season with a 4-1 win at Lake Forest on Saturday night.

UWRF led 2-0 after one period and 3-1 after two. Jamie Stei

nert started the scoring for the Falcons at 7:44 of the first period. He was assisted by Adam Kragthorpe and Even Stensrud. UWRF went ahead 2-0 at 15:23 when Jess Johnson scored with an assist to Joe Dustin. LFC made it a 2-1 game at 13:39 of the second period when Ryan Panet scored a power-play goal. The Falcons got the two goal lead back at 16:39 when Dustin scored with assists to Stensrud and Rob Novak. Johnson scored the only goal of the third period, at 19:35 into an empty net, with assists to Josh Schlip and Marc-Andre Lalande.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 26 saves to get the win. UWRF had 34 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 20-4-1 overall and 11-2-1 in the NCHA, will host St. Scholastica on Friday and Saturday in the first round of the NCHA playoffs. Game time both nights is 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

Falcons Lose in OT at SNC, 3-2
Feb. 7, 2003

The Falcons lost a 3-2 overtime decision at St. Norbert Friday night.

The loss moves St. Norbert into first place in the NCHA with 23 points. The Falcons are now tied for second place with UW-Superior. Both teams are 10-2-1 for 21 points. If both UWS and UWRF win Saturday night, UWS will place second and UWRF third in the final NCHA standings. UW holds the tie breaker over UWRF. The first tie breaker is head-to-head games between teams and UW has a 1-0-1 advantage in the series this year.

The first period was scoreless and both teams scored in the second period. UWRF got on the board first when Jamie Stei

nert scored at 1:05 with assists to Even Stensrud and Adam Kragthorpe. SNC tied the game at 4:33 when Jim Underwood scored. SNC took a 2-1 lead at 13:05 of the third period when Jason Deitsch scored. With the goalie pulled, the Falcons tied the game with just 14 seconds to play. Matt Elsen got the goal with an assist to Stensrud. SNC got the winner at 2:36 of the overtime when Faron Duthie scored.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 30 saves and the Falcons had 21 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 19-4-1 overall and 10-2-1 in the NCHA, play at Lake Forest on Saturday with the puck dropping at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Win 11-2 vs. St. Scholastica
Feb. 1, 2003

Matt Elsen scored a hat trick to lead the Falcons to an 11-2 win over St. Scholastica Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons out-shot the Saints 42-20 and scored five goals in the second period and three in each of the first and third periods. UW-RF finished 4-for-8 on the power play.

Evan Stensrud scored the first goal after breaking free from a hold behind the net and shooting the puck around the right corner of the post. He was assisted by Rob Novak and Jamie Steinert at 1:33.

Elsen got a nice setup from Novak and Stensrud out front and put away the second goal at 9:24, on the game's first power play opportunity, a 6-on-4.

Eight seconds later, however, the Saints' Cale Finseth got an open look from the right circle and beat Dan Meneghin top shelf glove side at 9:32 while the Saints were still shorthanded.

Elsen produced his second goal of the night at 16:00 of the first period at the edge of the right circle from a Jim Murphy pass. Mike Salmela also got an assist.

Half a minute (0:32) into the second period while cycling the puck on a power play, Murphy fired the puck from the middle of the right circle, and it hit the crossbar and went in. Elsen got an assist on the play.

Then at 1:11, on another power play, Josh Schlip got a pass from the left side and his one-timer between the circles made it a 5-1 game. Marc-Andre Lalande and Steinert got assists.

The Saints then served another sentence in the penalty box, their third in a little more than two minutes, and Jess Johnson met a slow bouncing Salmela shot that had been deflected at the right corner of the crease and scored at 3:35.

Johnson went back-to-back at 6:54, scoring his second goal while following Rheese Carlson in traffic in front of the net. Johnson's shot hit the pipe in the top right, but it went in enough for the score. Lalande also got an assist.
St. Scholastica then pulled goalie Josh Liebig for Cory Lonke, and the Saints shortly after made it 7-2 on their second short-handed goal of the evening when Brian Charneski got a pass-back from a teammate and scored the one-timer gloveside.

Later in the second period the siren went off for a Johnson hat trick, but referees called the goal off saying the puck was kicked in. He had gotten a pass to the open right side of the net.

Murphy finished the second period scoring at 15:19 when he got away from a defender for a breakaway against Lonke and came in from the right, juked, and backhanded the goal on the left. Aaron Degerness and Ryan Vieau got assists.

Elsen scored his hat trick goal at 5:59 of the third period from Murphy and John Conboy. Stensrud, behind the net, passed to Tony Sikich at the right corner of the crease for a 11:17 goal, also assisted by Steinert.

Goal No. 11 came at 12:02 at the hands of Schlipp on a delayed penalty. He followed traffic blinding the goalie on the left side and shot it through. An assist went to Carlson.

There were 16 penalties in the contest; the Saints served 10, including the first five. The Falcons went to the box six times.

Meneghin finished with 18 saves.

The Falcons, now 19-3-1 overall and 10-1-1 in the NCHA, venture to St. Norbert and Lake Forest next weekend for the final NCHA matchups of the regular season. Game times are 7:05 p.m. Friday in De Pere and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Lake Forest.

Falcons Lose to Superior, 5-3

Jan. 31, 2003

The Falcons were unable to come back from a 3-0 first period deficit despite coming within one at the end of the game and lost 5-3 to UW-Superior Friday night at Hunt Arena.

Josh Schlipp's score just in front of the net from a Rob Novak pass at 19:07 in the third period left the Falcons just short at 4-3. Nevertheless, Jacque Vezina left the net after the face-off for the second time on the night and Superior's Colin Kendall chased a loose puck down the left boards, beating the Falcons and passing to Josh Liebenow for the empty net goal at 19:37.

Superior amassed a 3-0 lead in the first period. After Vezina went well out of the crease to prevent a breakaway, Rob Whidden got to the puck first, skated around Vezina, and put the Yellowjackets on the scoreboard at 11:39 of the first.

Reed Larson hit the left corner of the net to get goal No. 2 at 13:08, and Chris Niemiec put a breakaway shot between Vezina's legs five minutes later. Vezina slowed it down, reached behind himself with one hand but couldn't stop the puck before it crossed the line for the 17:43 goal.

The Falcons got one back late in the second period, at 19:06, when Evan Stensrud set up behind the left circle, fired a shot and Aaron Degerness tipped it in for the power play score. Jim Murphy also got an assist.

The Falcons narrowed the Jacket lead to 3-2 at 8:46 of the third period scoring at the hands of Steve Moe, who was assisted by Nate Kotewa.

Superior pulled back to a two-goal lead at 13:50 when Randoll Smisko rebounded a teammate's shot on the power play.

Hunt Arena housed 1,063 fans. Both teams scored once with the extra man; UW-RF had four chances and UW-5 had five. The Falcons out-shot the Yellowjackets 30-26.

The Falcons, now 18-3-1 overall and 9-1-1 in the NCHA, host St. Scholastica Saturday at Hunt Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Top UWEC, 9-3

Jan. 25, 2003

The Falcons scored four goals in the first and third periods and went on for a 9-3 win over UW-Eau Claire Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first period. Nate Hansen started the scoring at 3:27. Evan Stensrud scored a power-play goal at 5:04 and Matt Elsen scored a power-play goal at 9:40. With just five seconds to play in the period Mike Salmela scored to make it 4-0. UWEC scored a goal at 6:42 of the second period to make it a 4-1 game. UWRF's Tony Sikich scored at 17:28 to make it 5-1. But UWEC scored a power-play goal at 18:19 to make it a 5-2 game after two. Sikich scored his second of the night at 2:43 of the final period. UWEC scored another power-play goal at 10:02. But UWRF scored he final three goals of the game. Jess Modahl scored at 10:28, Jim Murphy a power-play goal at 15:45 and Erik Ste. Marie at 17:03.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 18 saves to get the win. The Falcons had 32 shots on goal. UWRF finished 3-5 on the power play and UWEC was 2-3.
The Falcons improve to 18-2-1 overall and 9-0-1 in the NCHA. The Falcons, in first place in the NCHA, host UW-Superior on Friday at Hunt Arena. Action starts at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Beat Pointers in Overtime, 3-2**

Jan. 24, 2003

The Falcons had a two-goal lead matched by UW-Stevens Point in the third period but then scored the game-winner in overtime to beat the Pointers 3-2 at Hunt Arena Friday night.

Just 43 seconds into the overtime period, still on a power play from a late third period Pointer bench penalty for too many men on the ice, Evan Stensrud passed across an opening to Jim Murphy just inside the right circle, and his shot beat Ryan Scott for the game.

The Falcons got their other two goals from Nate Kotewa and Ryan Vieau in the first and second periods. Kotewa came around from the back of the net and drew Scott away from the post while the puck trickled in next to the post. The goal was also assisted by Matt Elsen at 10:40 of the first period.

Vieau scored on a penalty shot at 5:56 of the second period. His shot beat Scott between the legs.

The Pointers came back at 6:28 and 10:36 of the third period, the latter a power play goal, to tie the game at twos and send it to overtime.

The game was very physical, beginning right at the drop of the puck. Fifteen penalties were called, eight against the Falcons.

The Pointers outshot UW-RF 33-28. UW-RF was 1-for-3 on the power play; UW-SP was 1-for-4.

The Falcons improve to 17-2-1 overall and 8-0-1 in the NCHA. They host UW-Eau Claire Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

**Falcons Win at Gustavus Adolphus, 4-2**

Jan. 14, 2003

The Falcons bounced back from a two-goal deficit to earn a 4-2 win at Gustavus Adolphus Tuesday night.

The Gusties scored twice within 15 seconds in the first period to take a 2-0 lead. Craig Jankowski scored at 12:35 and Sam Johnson scored at 12:50. The Falcons got back to within 2-1 when Aaron Degerness scored a power-play goal, his sixth of the season, with Matt Elsen and Evan Stensrud assisting. With Falcon Jim Murphy in the penalty box, Nate Kotewa tied the game with an unassisted short-handed goal at 16:39 of the first period. It was Kotewa's eighth goal of the season and a team-leading third short-handed goal of the year. There was no scoring in the second period. The Falcons put the game away in the third scoring twice. Elsen scored what proved to be the game-winner, with the Falcons on the power play, at 11:04. Murphy and Mike Salmela got the assists on Elsen's seventh goal of the season. Just 15 seconds later the Falcons scored again with Rob Novak getting the goal with an assist from Elsen. It was Novak's eighth goal of the year. Elsen's three-point game gives him 21 points on the year.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 25 saves to get the win, his seventh of the year. UWRF was outshot in the first period, 12-3. The Falcons had 23 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 16-2-1 overall and 7-0-1 in the NCHA, next host UW-Stevens Point on Jan. 24. Game time at Hunt Arena is 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Beat Stout, 6-2**

Jan. 11, 2003

Rob Novak and Evan Stensrud each scored twice to help lead the Falcon men's hockey team to a 6-2 win at UW-Stout Saturday night.

UWRF led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 after two. Novak scored both goals in the first period. The first came at 4:30 and the second at 9:33. Stensrud scored the team's first two goals of the second period, at 4:44 and 16:32. At 19:54, Jamie Steinert scored to make it a 5-0 game. Stout scored at 2:24 of the final period. But Aaron Degerness scored at 9:43 to make it a 6-1 game. Stout scored the final goal of the night at 18:50.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 22 saves to get the win. The Falcons had 61 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 15-2-1 overall and 7-0-1 in the NCHA, travel to Gustavus Adolphus on Tuesday for a non-conference game that starts at 7:05 p.m.

**Falcons Blank Stout, 8-0**

Jan. 10, 2003

Eight different Falcons scored and Jacque Vezina was perfect against 20 shots in an 8-0 win over UW-Stout Friday night at Hunt Arena.
The Falcons scored four goals in the first period, including three in the first nine minutes, to set the pace for the evening. Rheese Carlson began the onslaught at 5:54 with an assist from Josh Magnuson.

Marc-Andre Lalande scored the second goal, on the game’s first power play, unassisted at 7:07 from behind the right circle. Josh Schlipp made it 3-0 with an 8:35 goal with help from Jess Johnson.

Evan Stensrud scored the final goal of the period at 15:14 with assists from Rob Novak and Adam Kragthorpe.

Stensrud then went on to assist four consecutive goals, beginning with Novak’s at 15:45 of the second period. Jamie Steinert also contributed an assist.

Johnson opened up the third period with a 2:10 goal from Stensrud, Steinert made the game 7-0 at 9:55 on a breakaway passed from Stensrud, and then Mike Salmela finished the contest off at 19:25 on the power play, assisted by Stensrud.

The Falcons finished 2-for-7 with the extra man; the Blue Devils were 0-for-5. The referees called 18 penalties, and eight, all minors, were served by Falcons.

Vezina stopped all 20 of the Blue Devils' shots on goal. The Falcons shot 50 against Stout netminder Jeff Dotson.

The Falcons, now 14-2-1 overall and 6-0-1 in the NCHA, travel to UW-Stout Saturday. Action starts at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Beat St. Olaf, 3-1
Jan. 4, 2003

The Falcons scored three goals in the second period to give them victory, 3-1, over St. Olaf Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Josh Schlipp began the scoring at 2:40 of the second period, crashing the crease and getting the puck through with help from Jim Murphy and Jess Johnson. It was the only even-strength goal of the night.

At 10:53, Johnson made it 2-0 from between the circles when he backhanded the puck off the inside of the post and in. The goal was unassisted and on a Falcon power play.

Schlipp added his second of the night at 15:06 on the power play with help from Mike Salmela and Evan Stensrud.

The Oles responded to the 3-0 deficit at 10:09 of the third period, capitalizing on a power play of their own. Mike Jewison scored it with assists from Keith Townsend and Ronn Guild.

Dan Meneghin saved 19 shots on goal. The Falcons shot 40.

There were 19 penalties called, nine against UW-RF. The Falcons were 2-for-6 with the extra man. The Oles were 1-for-6.

The Falcons advance to 13-2-1 on the season. UW-RF has a home-and-away series against UW-Stout next weekend, hosting the home game Friday night at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

Falcons Lose to Johnnies, 2-1
Dec. 14, 2002

Nineteen seconds after the Falcons scored the tying goal with 1:01 left in the game, St. John's put the winner in the net to beat UW-RF 2-1 at Hunt Arena Saturday night.

After abandoning the net for an extra attacker in the closing minutes of the third period, Marc-Andre Lalande sent the puck across the front of the crease and Jim Murphy knocked it in to give the Falcons a tie, 1-1, with 1:01 left in the game. Aaron Degerness was also in the play.

But before the celebration died down, St. John's Darryl Smoleroff got the puck by Jacque Vezina with help from Ryan Langenbrunner and Scott Bjorklund at 19:18.

The Johnnies' first goal came at 15:59 of the second period on power play by Brady Lundblad with assists from Kevin Willey and Smoleroff.

Vezina saved 22 shots on the night. The Falcons shot 25 against Johnny Rick Gregory.

The Falcons went 0-for-3 on the power play; St. John's was 1-for-2. A total of 11 penalties were called, 6-5 with SJU serving the extra one.

The loss, UW-RF's first at home this year, drops the Falcons to 12-2-1 on the season as they take their three-week break for the Holidays. UW-RF next hosts St. Olaf at Hunt Arena Jan. 4 at 7:05 p.m.
Falcons Beat Augsburg, 8-1
Dec. 13, 2002

Jim Murphy scored two goals to help lead the Falcon men's hockey team to an 8-1 win over Augsburg on Friday night at Hunt Arena.

UWRF held a 1-0 lead after one period and led 5-0 after two. Tony Sikich scored his first collegiate goal at 13:41 of the first period. Joe Dustin got the assist. Murphy scored at :40 of the second period with Matt Elsen and Marc-Andre Lalande assisting. Rob Novak gave the Falcons a 3-0 lead at 7:53 with Dustin assisting. Murphy scored a power-play goal at 9:15 with Elsen and Mike Salmela getting the assists. The Falcons final goal of the period came from Nate Hansen at 17:43 with Sikich and Dustin assisting. It was Dustin's third assist of the game. AC made it a 5-1 game at :19 of the third period when Brady Fougner scored. The Falcons took advantage of a five-minute major penalty on Augsburg with two power-play goals. Adam Kragthorpe scored the first at 4:39 and Jamie Steinert the second at 6:56. Elsen and Lalande assisted on the first and Sikich and Kragthorpe on the second. Josh Schlipp scored the Falcons final goal at 8:14 with Steve Moe and Jess Johnson assisting.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 23 saves in raising his record to 6-0 on the year. AC goalies Erik Young (31) and Pete Samargia (13) combined for 44 saves. Young played the first two periods.

The Falcons, 12-1-1 overall, host St. John's on Saturday at Hunt Arena with action starting at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Edge St. Mary's, 5-4
Dec. 7, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team scored four goals - two on power play - in the third period to turn around a 2-1 deficit and beat St. Mary's 5-4 Saturday night at Winona.

After the Falcons took a 1-0 lead after one period of play on a Jamie Steinert goal assisted by Rob Novak and Evan Stensrud, the Cardinals responded with two early second period scores to take away the lead.

Lenny Hofmann and Sam Phillips scored at 1:11 and 2:58 to turn the momentum around and enter the final period on top.

UWRF came up with two goals in the first half of the period to make it a 3-2 game. Aaroan Degerness scored on the power play with help from Mike Salmela and Stensrud, and Josh Schlipp put the puck in from Tony Sikich and Adam Kragthorpe.

But St. Mary's didn't give up. At 10:21 Cardinal B.J. Gaustad evened the score unassisted.

Two minutes later, at 12:23, Jim Murphy scored his first of two consecutive goals to propel the Falcons ahead once again. His first was assisted by Ryan Vieau, and his second, at 13:44 on another power play, by Degerness and Jess Johnson.

St. Mary's Hofmann pulled the game back to within one at 18:50, but Dan Meneghin and the Falcons held them off for the win.

The Falcons outshot St. Mary's in two of three periods and overall, 40-34. Both teams spent considerable time in the penalty box; River Falls 20 minutes and St. Mary's 16.

Meneghin made 30 saves.

The win puts the Falcons at 11-1-1 overall. Next weekend they host Augsburg and St. John's at Hunt Arena Friday and Saturday. Both games start at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Lose at UST, 5-2
Dec. 6, 2002

St. Thomas handed the Falcon men's hockey team its first loss of the season, 5-2, Friday night in St. Paul.

UST led 2-0 after one and 4-1 after two. UST got first period goals from Peter Brooks at 13:53 and Chris Hood at 16:23 to take the lead. UST went ahead 3-0 at 4:40 of the second period when Anthony Blumer scored. UWRF got back to within 3-1 when Nate Kotewa scored a short-handed goal at 17:03. But the Tommies got that goal back at 18:20 when David DuBord scored a power-play goal. In the third, UWRF got a power-play goal at 17:31 when Matt Elsen scored. UST got the final goal, short-handed into an empty-net, by DuBord at 19:21.

UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina made 21 saves and the Falcons had 41 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 10-1-1 overall, play at St. Mary's on Saturday with action starting at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Dominate Saints, 8-1
Dec. 3, 2002

The Falcons scored five goals in the first period alone as they dominated St. Scholastica, 8-1, Tuesday night at Hunt Arena.
Jim Murphy, Jamie Steinert and Matt Elsen all had two-goal performances in the win. The Falcons outshot the Saints 40-13 with Jacque Vezina in net.

Rheese Carlson drifted off-center to the right and fired the first goal past CSS's Josh Liebig. He was assisted by Josh Magnuson at 2:18.

Shortly after, at 3:26, Murphy put his first in net with help from Elsen and Aaron Degerness.

Jess Johnson pulled up on Liebig's left side, squared and knocked the puck in at 5:57 for the 3-0 lead, assisted by Jess Modahl.

St. Scholastica got one back at 8:39, just more than 20 seconds into the game's first power play opportunity. Gordon Burnett had his shot redirected past Vezina. It was also the first CSS shot on goal.

Steinert capitalized on the Falcons' first power play chance at 14:42 with a goal aided by Mike Salmela.

Elsen finished the opening period's scoring with a rebound goal from an Evan Stensrud shot. Murphy also assisted.

UWRF scored a pair more in the second period, beginning when Murphy had a two-on-one but kept it. He skated to the right corner of the crease, came back across the front and lifted the puck past CSS goalie Cory Lonke, who replaced Liebig after the UWRF fifth goal. Murphy's score came at 11:36 of the second with John Conboy and Degerness assisting.

The other goal came at the hand of Steinert. After Josh Schlipp hit the pipe on a close-proximity shot from the right, Schlipp tried again moments later, but Lonke made the save. Johnson rebounded, but again Lonke saved. Finally Steinert backhanded the puck in over Lonke's shoulder at 18:17. Both Johnson and Schlipp got credit for helping.

Elsen made it 8-1 in the third period with an open shot at Lonke that caught part of his glove but went in. The goal was at 14:21 and was assisted by Adam Kragthorpe and Marc-Andre Lalande.

UWRF's 40 shots were distributed 14, 17 and 9 over the three periods. Vezina finished with 12 saves.

There were 17 penalties on the night; the first three resulted in goals. UWRF finished 2-for-8 on the power play; CSS was 1-for-3. CSS served 22 of the game's 34 penalty minutes.

The Falcons improve to 10-0-1 on the year. This weekend UWRF travels to St. Thomas Friday and St. Mary's Saturday.

**Falcons Upset No. 1 in the Nation, St. Norbert, 5-2**

Nov. 23, 2002

The Falcons toppled the USCHO.com No. 1 by a 5-2 score Saturday night at Hunt Arena. Entering the third period on top 2-0, the Falcons gave up four Green Knight power plays but scored half of its six shots on goal to win the period 3-2 and the game.

The Falcons began the night with an immediate goal at 1:22 when Jamie Steinert passed across the face of St. Norbert goalie Eric Van Den Bosch to Evan Stensrud, who tipped in the opening score from the right side of the crease.

At the end of the period, 19:31, Adam Kragthorpe added another score to the Falcon lead with an open look between the circles that he fired through. Assists went to Rob Novak and John Conboy.

Shots on goal for the first and second periods were nearly identical. St. Norbert edged the Falcons 8-7 in the first and tied 12-12 in the second.

The Falcons made a statement as the third period opened, scored their third goal at 0:30 when Aaron Degerness' shot glanced off Van Den Bosch's shoulder and in. Degerness was assisted by Matt Elsen and Jim Murphy.

The Green Knights turned right around, though, and took one back at 1:38 as Kyle Peterson, skating across the circles looking for a shot, shot on to the puck and passed back to Trent Dickson for a one-timer at the right edge of the crease.

The Falcons' second third period shot on goal was also the team's second third period goal. Nate Kotewa chased Van Den Bosch into the corner to play the puck. Van Den Bosch misplayed it, Kotewa passed it across the front, and a Green Knight defender involved in a scramble there slid into the net and brought the puck with him for the goal. Kotewa was assisted by Tony Sikich.

At 13:09, nine seconds after a St. Norbert power play expired, Brant Kersey took a shot from the point after a teammate swung and missed between the circles, and Kersey's shot was deflected in midair past UWRF goalie Jacque Vezina. The score cut the Falcon lead to 4-2.

Shortly after, a short-handed SNC team took a rebound off Vezina behind the net for a wrap-around that went under Vezina but did not cross the line.

The Green Knights pulled Van Den Bosch just after an 18:24 penalty against the Falcons, thus taking a two-man advantage. But the Falcons held on, and put the game out of reach when Novak grabbed out of the air in his own zone and flipped it out to Kotewa, who skated down and took a hard shot into the empty net for the shorthanded goal at 19:58.

Vezina repelled 28 of SNC's 30 shots on goal. The Falcons mustered 25 against Van Den Bosch. Neither team was successful on the power play. UWRF was 0-for-6; SNC went 0-for-7.
Falcons Edge Foresters

Nov. 22, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey squad broke a 2-2 tie on a power play midway through the third period to defeat Lake Forest 3-2 Friday night at Hunt Arena.

Josh Schlipp slapped the puck through at 9:59, half a minute into the power play, with assists from Marc-Andre Lalande and Jess Johnson to get the game winner. Forester goalie Cody Brown stopped 24 of the 27 Falcon shots on goal. Lake Forest put 30 against Falcon Dan Meneghin.

Ryan Vieau scored first in the contest, just 2:01 into the game and unassisted.

The Foresters caught up in the second period with two goals at the hand of Dave Williams. Williams' first was a breakaway shot that beat Meneghin. The second was on a power play. Between his goals, Nate Kotewa scored for the Falcons on a second rebound. He was assisted by Joe Dustin and Tony Sikich.

After two, it was tied 2-2. The Foresters, after outshooting the Falcons in both of the first two periods, mastered only five to UWRF's 11.

Of 13 penalties in the game, the Falcons were charged with eight, all minor penalties. UWRF was 1-for-5 with the man advantage; LFC went 1-for-8.

The Falcons improve to 8-0-1 with the win. The Foresters are now 3-3-1. UWRF welcomes St. Norbert to Hunt Arena Saturday night for a bout with the top team in the nation. UWRF is currently fourth in the USCHO.com Division III poll.

Falcons Top Bethel, 6-0

Nov. 16, 2002

Nate Hansen scored twice and goalie Jacque Vezina recorded his second straight shutout as the Falcons beat Bethel, 6-0, Saturday night at Hunt Arena.

Hansen, playing for the first time at forward, scored at 9:59 and 13:58 of the second period to give UWRF a then 4-0 lead. Joe Dustin gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead in the first period when he scored at 13:31. Marc-Andre Lalande scored at 8:05 of the second period to put the Falcons ahead, 2-0. Hansen then scored twice before the period was over to give UWRF a 4-0 lead after two. The Falcons added two insurance goals in the third. Matt Elsen scored at 13:27 and Jess Johnson at 17:52, with the Falcons on the power play. Aaron Degerness picked up two assists.

Vezina picked up his second shutout of the season making 22 saves. He helped the Falcons kill off a 5-on-3 Bethel power play advantage in the second period. He had three saves in the first period, 10 in the second and nine in the third. He now has eight career shutouts which ties him with Jeff Heil (1994-97) and Brady Alstead (1995-99) for the UWRF record.

UW-RF improves to 7-0-1 and will return to NCHA play next weekend. Friday the Falcons host Lake Forest and Saturday St. Norbert. Both games start at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons Blank Pipers, 5-0

Nov. 15, 2002

Five different Falcons scored as Dan Meneghin recorded his first collegiate shutout to beat Hamline 5-0 Friday night at Hunt Arena.

Meneghin stopped all 20 Fighting Piper shots on goal, and his teammates hurled 50 against HU goalie Tom Lovett.

Joe Dustin started things off for the Falcons at 13:07 in the first period with a shot from the corner just inside the blue line that caught the open bottom left corner of the net. Dustin received assists from Jamie Steinert and Evan Stensrud.

UW-RF added two more in the second period, first at the hand of Stensrud, who put in a second rebound at 5:17 off Rob Novak's original shot from behind the right circle. Steinert had the first rebound attempt.

At 10:35, capitalizing on the squad's first power play opportunity, Adam Kragthorpe banged one in from the point. He was assisted by Matt Elsen and Jim Murphy.

Late in the third period, already on top 3-0, the Falcons added two more to finish off the Pipers. At 18:00, Ryan Vieau knocked the fourth goal in from near the blue line on the left side. His assist came from Nate Kotewa.
50 seconds later, Josh Schlipp led Jess Johnson and another Falcon on a 3-on-1. Schlipp dished off to Johnson, and the junior forward put the puck by Lovett top shelf right side. Schlipp and Jess Modahl were credited with assists.

There were only four penalties in the contest, none in the first period and one overall against the Falcons.

UW-RF improves to 6-0-1 and will host Bethel at Hunt Arena Saturday night, starting at 7:05 p.m.

Falcons, Yellowjackets Stalemate, 0-0

Nov. 9, 2002

The goalies were spectacular in a deadlocked match between the Falcons and the defending national champs in Superior Saturday night.

Jacque Vezina came up with 32 saves in a perfect 65-minute effort, including three overtime saves. Yellowjacket Nathan Ziemski saved all of the Falcons' 28 shots on goal. The Falcons were unable to put anything against Ziemski in the overtime.

Both teams had just three penalties a piece and two power play opportunities.

The Falcons' record is now 5-0-1 (3-0-1 in the NCHA). Superior, after beating Stout in overtime Friday, goes to 3-1-1 (2-1-1 in the NCHA).

Next weekend the Falcons host Hamline and Bethel. Both games start at 7:05 p.m. in Hunt Arena.

Falcons Get 7-1 Win at St. Scholastica

Nov. 8, 2002

Jamie Steinert scored twice to lead the Falcons to a 7-1 win at St. Scholastica Friday night.

UWRF led 1-0 after one and 4-0 after two. Rheese Carlson started the scoring for the Falcons at 13:24 of the first period to give UWRF a 1-0 lead. Jim Murphy scored a power-play goal at :43 of the second period. Steve Moe added a goal at 5:28 and Josh Schlipp scored an unassisted goal at 13:08 to put UWRF ahead 4-0 after two. CSS made it a 4-1 game with a goal at 1:23. But the Falcons scored three more times before the period was over. Steinert scored his first at 3:27 and added a power-play goal at 5:32. Nate Kotewa scored the final Falcon goal at 13:23. Mike Salmela had three assists.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 30 saves to get the win. UWRF had 42 shots on goal.

The Falcons, now 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the NCHA and ranked No. 7 in the Nov. 4 USCHO poll, play at UW-Superior on Saturday with the puck dropping at 7:05 p.m. UWS was ranked No. 4 in the Nov. 4 USCHO poll.

Falcons Earn 7-2 Win at UWSP

Nov. 2, 2002

The Falcons scored five straight third period goals and went on to earn a 7-2 win at UW-Stevens Point Saturday night.

UWRF took a 1-0 lead after one period when Steve Moe scored at 13:14. UWSP tied the game in the second when Adam Kostichka scored at 11:25. UWRF went ahead at 12:16 when Rob Novak scored to make it 2-1. UWSP tied the game again at 19:58 when Mike Broslma scored. But then the Falcons went on a rampage to get the win. Mike Salmela got the eventual game-winner at 1:23. Jim Murphy scored at 5:56, Jess Johnson at 9:58, Josh Schlipp at 16:20 and Josh Magnuson at 18:58. Schlipp and Evan Stensrud each had two assists. Murphy and Magnuson scored power-play goals. UWRF outshot UWSP 11-6 in the third period and 26-25 for the game.

UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin made 30 saves, including 11 in the first period. UWSP's Ryan Scott stopped 20 shots.

The Falcons, now 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the NCHA, play at St. Scholastica on Friday. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Win Big at UWEC

Nov. 1, 2002

The Falcons exploded for seven second period goals and went on to a 10-1 win at UW-Eau Claire Friday night.

UWRF led 2-0 after one period off a power-play goal by Josh Schlipp and the second by Joe Dustin. In the second, Steve Moe scored at 16:21 and UWEC made it a 3-1 game with a goal at 14:38. UWRF scored four goals in 3:30 of the period. Jess Modahl scored at 10:31, Aaron Degeneress a power-play goal at 10:08. Moe again at 9:16 and finally Nate Kotewa at 7:01. Rob Novak scored at 5:26 and Jim Murphy got the final goal of the period at 1:40. Evan Stensrud scored the only goal of the third period, at 2:35.

Falcon goalie Jacque Vezina made 32 saves to get the win. UWEC had 32 shots on goal. The Falcons finished 3-7 on the power-play and held UWEC scoreless in three chances.
The Falcons, now 3-0 overall and 1-0 in the NCHA, play at UW-Stevens Point on Saturday. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Complete Sweep of MSOE, 7-1

Oct. 26, 2002

Saturday the Falcons had more shots on goal than Friday, 57, and managed to put seven in the net to beat MSOE 7-1 for the opening weekend sweep at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons came out strong in the first period, assaulting MSOE goalie Marcus Feferman with 29 shots on goal, but Feferman held his own and allowed just two goals.

Evan Stensrud started the UWRF scoring at 7:40 with an unassisted power play goal, his second goal of the season.

Less than a minute later, Jess Modahl played with the puck a little on the right side of the crease before lifting it top shelf gloveside past Feferman.

Early in the second period, Feferman left the crease to play the puck to the right side, but Nate Kotewa got it back at the blue line, turned and shot it. Feferman, retreating back, went airborne sideways and caught it, sliding to the boards.

But a minute later, Jamie Steinert scored the first of two consecutive goals on the night, a shorthanded goal assisted by Matt Elsen. Steinert's next goal came at 6:25 with help from Josh Schlipp and Modahl.

Just seven seconds into his third power play, MSOE's Nicholas Wedster, who also drew three minor penalties on the night, had his slapshot go by UWRF goalie Dan Meneghin.

Scoring next for the Falcons was Marc-Andre Lalande from the corner, through a couple people, at 9:01. The assist went to Stensrud.

UWRF's seventh goal came at the hands of Jess Johnson who fought through a defender and swung his stick at the puck, knocking it by Feferman. Modahl got the assist by throwing the puck at the crease.

Meneghin saved 17 of 18 shots in the Falcon crease while Feferman stopped 50 of the Falcons' 57 shots on goal.

The Falcons served eight minor penalties, MSOE seven. UWRF was 2-for-6 on the power play; MSOE was 1-for-7.

The Falcons improve to 2-0 after the opening weekend. UWRF now goes on a four-game road trip beginning next weekend at UW-Eau Claire Friday and UW-Stevens Point Saturday.

Falcons Rout MSOE, 11-2

Oct. 25, 2002

The Falcon men's hockey team amassed 11 goals to win in the season opener against Milwaukee School of Engineering Friday at Hunt Arena.

Anxious to break into the new season, freshman Aaron Degerness made a memorable debut performance by taking and scoring on the Falcons' first shot on goal at 0:16. He was assisted by Jim Murphy and Matt Elsen.

The Falcons had four goals in the first six minutes Friday, the second one at 3:12 when Nate Kotewa and Josh Magnuson went two-on-one against Raider goalie Marcus Feferman. Kotewa passed to Magnuson just in front and Magnuson put the puck in the net. Rheese Carlson also had an assist on the play.

At 5:04, Rob Novak scored from Evan Stensrud, and 45 seconds later, Marc-Andre Lalande made it 4-0 with assists from Josh Schlipp and Jess Johnson.

Stensrud then finished off the Falcon first period scoring at 12:20 on the power play, assisted by Adam Kragthorpe.

MSOE got on the scoreboard at 13:44 on a shot from the right circle that squeezed between Jacque Vezina's shoulder and the post. David Pederson scored on one of four shots in the period.

In the second period, Jamie Steinert became the sixth Falcon scorer. He was the recipient of a pass out front and went one-on-one with the goalie. His shot hit Feferman but trickled into the net. Stensrud had the pass for assist.

Nearly four minutes later, Johnson had an open opportunity against the goalie and missed, but he came back immediately across the front and got a pass from Jess Modahl to score UWRF's seventh goal.

Magnuson scored his second goal of the night at 10:31 from Joe Dustin.

In the third period, the Falcons added three more. Modahl got his first goal as a freshman at 2:56 from Schlipp and Johnson. Kotewa started his senior season with a goal at 9:11 from Carlson.
At 15:37, MSOE's Joe Swanson knocked a shot at Vezina's foot from behind the net and the puck found its way around the pole and in for the Raiders' second score.

Johnson finished the scoring column with No. 11 at 19:10 from a Schlipp assist.

The Falcons totaled 46 shots on goal; Feferman stopped 35. MSOE had 16 shots on goal, 14 stopped by Vezina.

UWRF was 1-for-3 on the power play, MSOE 0-for-3. Both teams had five penalties for 10 minutes.

The Raiders return Saturday night for another contest with the Falcons. The game is at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

NCHA play follows on MSOE's heels as the Falcons embark on a four-game road trip to UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stevens Point, St. Scholastica and UW-Superior beginning Nov. 1.

Falcons Open Season This Weekend

Oct. 21, 2002

If anything is safe to assume in the highly competitive NCHA, it is that the 2002-03 Falcon men's hockey team has the talent to win at least 18 games.

"We have our entire team back in tact from last year [18-9-2], including our veteran goaltender, Jacque Vezina," Head Coach Steve Freeman said.

Vezina is closing in on a number of UW-River Falls career goalie records and will anchor the traditionally strong defense with the Falcons two-time All-American defenseman Adam Kragthorpe.

"It is a veteran team and we expect those guys to perform at a high level," Freeman said.

Offensively, the team's top scorer, sophomore Josh Schlipp, returns with help from a new batch of guys that were recruited to put the puck in the net. Soliciting goal scoring talent from the USHL, Freeman brought three impact freshmen to the ice at Hunt Arena.

The "hard-nosed, two-way player" who captained the USHL's Rochester Mustangs, Aaron DeGerness, has impressed coaches with his work ethic and leadership. His former Roseau, Minn., teammate, Jesse Modahl, will step to the front lines of the Falcon offense with a high card in skill after helping his Sioux City Muskateers claim the USHL championship. And the Des Moines Bucs product, Nate Hansen, offers both sides of the puck some size at 6-foot, 180 pounds, as well as strong athleticism.

"We need to bury some more pucks. Last season we led the NCHA in team defense and we want to continue that trend if we can, but we need to finish better around the net and score more goals," Freeman said. "We hope we've addressed that in some of our off-season work and improvement from the returning players and then these new additions."

Two other newcomers to the Falcon hockey scene will solidify the goalie situation behind Vezina, now in his final season.

Hailing from British Columbia, Canada, BCHL all-star Daniel Meneghin offers UWRF three years of experience in the crease. Meanwhile, Steve Witkowski joins the Falcons after posting Vezina-like numbers in Waterloo and what coaches have called spectacular play at times at Bethel College.

"That gives us a lot more depth at goaltender and pushes Jacque (Vezina) a little bit. I think that's going to be a real healthy situation," Freeman said.

After a season of unreached potential culminated in a fourth place finish in the NCHA playoffs last year, six Falcon seniors have one last chance to take River Falls back to the Frozen Four.

"We were very up and down, and we were a little disappointed in the way we ended last season," Freeman said. "Now with an older team and some seniors on our roster, I think that'll really motivate us a little bit more as far as the guys just being a little more eager and ready to go all the time, realizing that this is their last season."

In terms of personnel, this Falcon team has the feel of a league title contender, which is the least one could say of the new feel of Hunt Arena. Equipped with brand new dasher board technology that debuted at the Salt Lake City Olympics earlier this year and is featured by five top NHL teams, including the Minnesota Wild, Hunt Arena was the premier collegiate arena to install CheckFlex with GlassFlex. Upon impact, the new dasher boards and glass will move eight to 12 inches at the top. The Falcons also have renovated locker rooms that allow the team more open space.

Although Freeman doesn't think the improvements to his squad make UW-RF vulnerable to overconfidence, he does assert that the NCHA could yield as many as four or five ranked teams in the nation and hopes the Falcons are among that group.

"Obviously with everybody back our depth and experience is going to be very helpful in this tough league," Freeman said. "The constant battles and fearsome competition within the NCHA really forces every team to play at a very high level."

Hunt Arena hosts the season opening weekend Friday and Saturday night against the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Both games start at 7:05 p.m.

NCHA play follows on MSOE's heels as the Falcons embark on a four-game road trip to UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stevens Point, St. Scholastica and UW-Superior beginning Nov. 1.