**Mens Basketball**

**1998-1999**

**UW-River Falls**

**SEASON SCHEDULE - RESULTS & LEADERS - as of 02/19/99**

### ALL GAMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECORD:</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>AWAY</th>
<th>NEUTRAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL GAMES...........</td>
<td>(9-16)</td>
<td>(6-6)</td>
<td>(3-9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE...........</td>
<td>(4-12)</td>
<td>(3-5)</td>
<td>(1-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-CONFERENCE......</td>
<td>(5-4)</td>
<td>(3-1)</td>
<td>(2-2)</td>
<td>(0-1)</td>
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### DATE       TIME OPPONENT         SCORE W/L ATTEND  HIGH POINTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov. 20  5:30 pm</th>
<th>vs Emory &amp; Henry</th>
<th>65-76 L 452 (12)Pat Ptacek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21  2 p.m.</td>
<td>at Shenandoah University</td>
<td>87-60 W 467 (17)Nic Been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24  7 p.m.</td>
<td>NORTH CENTRAL BIBLE</td>
<td>107-45 W 150 (17)Lamar Westberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Superior 59-57 W 212 (18)Tony Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-OSHKOSH 64-86 L 315 (11)Nic Been</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Platteville 47-78 L 1331 (10)Tony Fisher (10)Scott Liebmann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>at Winona State University 85-93 L 483 (16)Pat Ptacek (16)Scott Liebmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 16  7 p.m.</td>
<td>HAMLINE UNIVERSITY 73-70 W OT 295 (25)Tony Fisher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 29  8 pm</td>
<td>MIDLAND LUTHERAN 71-59 W 400 (22)Chad Coss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 30  8 p.m.</td>
<td>MOUNT MARTY 45-51 L 300 (12)Pat Ptacek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6   7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-STOUT 67-81 L 100 (21)Tony Fisher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9   7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Whitewater 62-79 L 81 (21)Tony Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 11  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Eau Claire 56-60 L 375 (18)Tony Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-LA CROSSE 69-61 W 100 (22)Tony Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-STEVEN'S POINT 38-64 L 456 (15)Nic Been</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-SUPERIOR 74-83 L 270 (20)Tony Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 23  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Oshkosh 66-69 L 290 (21)Tony Fisher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-PLATTEVILLE 54-79 L 379 (24)Tony Fisher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30  7 p.m.</td>
<td>at St. Scholastica 65-60 W 200 (16)Tony Fisher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3   7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Stout 58-69 L 800 (19)Sulieman Holman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6   7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-WHITEWATER 86-61 W 275 (19)Pat Ptacek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 10  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-La Crosse 60-67 L 242 (17)Lamar Westberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* at UW-Stevens Point 53-59 L 800 (12)Chad Coss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 17  7 p.m.</td>
<td>* UW-EAU CLAIRE 79-75 W 545 (23)Lamar Westberry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19  7 p.m.</td>
<td>at UW-La Crosse 54-70 L 164 (13)Pat Ptacek</td>
<td></td>
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### ATTENDANCE SUMMARY:

| HOME................ | 3,585 | 299 |
| AWAY................ | 5,445 | 454 |
| NEUTRAL............. | 452   | 452 |
| TOTAL................ | 9,482 | 379 |
# 2000-2001 Falcon Men's Basketball Roster

**as of Jan. 25, 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Ht</th>
<th>Wt</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Hometown (High School)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rich Melzer</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minn. (River Falls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shawn Timm</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Baldwin, Wis. (Baldwin-Woodville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kent Becker</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Jr</td>
<td>Stone Lake, Wis. (Hayward)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chris Becker</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Stone Lake, Wis. (Hayward)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ryan Pertile</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Three Lakes, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Scott DeWyre</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>So</td>
<td>Glenwood City, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Jeff Holt</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Elmwood, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Kevin Becker</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Stone Lake, Wis. (Hayward)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Matt Kukla</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Eden Prairie, Minn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Tim Duncan</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>So</td>
<td>Lemont, Ill. (Marist)</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Brian Mathison</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>So</td>
<td>Cumberland, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Steve Barnier</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>So</td>
<td>Forest Lake, Minn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Jesse Lam</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Brookfield, Wis. (East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Pat Ptacek</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Prescott, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Mike Mueller</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Osseo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Edmund Johnson</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>Jr</td>
<td>Indianola, Iowa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Head coach:** Rick Bowen  
**Assistant coaches:** Jeff Berkhof, Sam Huffman  
**Student assistant coaches:** Nic Been, Pedro Renta  
**Managers:** Dan Holle, Mike Jaeb, Cortez Robinson, John Christopherson, Scott Fowler
2000-2001 Men's Basketball Schedule/Results

Nov. 18 at Southwestern College Classic (UWRF, Georgetown, Austin, Redlands)
River Falls 81, Austin College 59

Nov. 19 at Southwestern College Classic (UWRF, Georgetown, Austin, Redlands)
River Falls 64, Southwestern 41

Nov. 21 at St. Olaf
River Falls 70, St. Olaf 57

Nov. 25 Southwest State
Southwest State 81, River Falls 73

Nov. 29 Hamline
River Falls 73, Hamline 54

Dec. 2 Whitewater*
River Falls 71, Whitewater 67

Dec. 5 at Northwestern
Northwestern 78, River Falls 73

Dec. 9 Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 90, River Falls 85

Dec. 13 at Superior*
River Falls 76, Superior 64

Dec. 29 Cenex Harvest States Tourney (Mary, Doane, Dana, UWRF), 6, 8 p.m.
Mary 91, River Falls 85

Dec. 30 Cenex Harvest States Tourney (Mary, Doane, Dana, UWRF), 6, 8 p.m.
River Falls 90, Dana 69

Jan. 3 at Stout*
River Falls 77, Stout 74

Jan. 6 La Crosse*
River Falls 75, La Crosse 65

Jan. 10 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 74, River Falls 59

Jan. 13 Eau Claire*
River Falls 73, Eau Claire 65

Jan. 17 at Platteville*
River Falls 82, Platteville 67

Jan. 20 at Oshkosh*
River Falls 71, Whitewater 70

Jan. 31 Superior*
Superior 69, River Falls 66

Feb. 3 at La Crosse*
River Falls 65, La Crosse 61

Feb. 7 Stout*
River Falls 95, Stout 90

Feb. 10 at Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 67, River Falls 58

Feb. 14 Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 75, River Falls 72

Feb. 17 Platteville*
Platteville 65, River Falls 64

Feb. 20 WIAC Tourney
Oshkosh 95, River Falls 87 OT

* WIAC Games
Highshaw Jumper Helps Platteville Upset Falcon Men

Feb. 17, 2001

George Highshaw, who shot a perfect 3-of-3 on the night, drained a 14-foot jumper with 7.3 seconds left to help UW-Platteville (14-10, 7-9) upset UW-River Falls (14-10, 9-7) 65-64 Saturday evening at Karges Center on the final night of the WIAC regular season.

The Falcons' Kent Becker, attempting to penetrate to the basket for the game-winner, slipped in the closing seconds and was unable to release a high-percentage shot.

UW-RF, which led 32-28 at halftime and led by as much as 11 in the second half, owned an eight-point lead with 2-minutes, 59-seconds left in the contest, but were outscored 9-0 the rest of the way.

Pat Ptacek netted a game-high 24 points for the Falcons on 10-of-13 shooting from the floor. Brian Mathison added 12.

Beau Buchs and Brad Stangel paced the Pioneers with 15 points each. Tyler Selk pitched in 12.

The Falcons hit 27-of-45 (.600) field goals, while UW-P hit 26-of-50 (.520). Both teams collected 23 rebounds.

Edmund Johnson and Ptacek both snared seven rebounds, while Kevin Becker dished out a game-high six assists.

The Falcons will return to action Tuesday, when they host a yet-to-be-named opponent in the first round of the WIAC Tournament.

Falcons Gunned Down By Pointer Bombs

Feb. 14, 2001

Three-pointers turned out to be the difference in UW-River Falls' 75-72 WIAC setback to UW-Stevens Point Wednesday evening at Karges Center.

The Pointers (17-6, 9-6), whose first 18 points came via 3-pointers, shot 15-of-27 (.577) from 3-point territory in the game, while the Falcons' (14-9, 9-6) Kent Becker, who scored a game-high 27 points, missed a potential game-tying trey in the final second of the game.

After Wednesday's games, the Pointers, Falcons, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater are all tied for first place in the league with identical 9-6 conference marks.

UW-RF trailed by as much as 16 points in the second stanza, but outscored UW-SP 14-5 over the last six minutes of the game to keep the fans on the edge of their seats.

UW-SP carried a 46-34 lead into intermission behind the strength of 10 first-half 3-pointers.

Brent Larson led the Pointers' 3-point barrage with a four for eight performance, while Jay Bennett and Josh Iserloth nailed three bombs apiece. Kalonji Kadima and Neal Krajnik added two each.

Becker, who shot 9-of-14 from the field, canned 4-of-9 3-pointers, including one from the top of the key with under 10 seconds to go to cut the Pointers' lead to one.


Larson paced UW-SP with 14 points. Iserloth added 11 and Kalonji 10.

UW-RF will return to action Saturday when it hosts UW-Platteville in a WIAC tilt scheduled to commence at 7 p.m. at Karges Center.

Falcons Top Stout, 95-90

Feb. 7, 2001

Rich Melzer scored a career-high 30 points to lead the Falcons to a 95-90 win over UW-Stout Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

The Falcons, now 14-7 overall and 9-4 in the WIAC, remain in first place in the WIAC with the win.

Melzer was 12-19 from the field and 6-7 from the line. He also led the team with 11 rebounds and four blocked shots coming off the bench. Kent Becker added 19 points, six rebounds, six assists and four steals for the Falcons, which led 53-36 at the half. Brian Mathison scored 14 points and Pat Ptacek added 11 points and 10 rebounds. The Falcons shot 30-55 (.545) from the field and 28-40 (.700) from the line. The Falcons finished with 42 rebounds.

Stout was led by Pat Von Veldt who scored 20 points and Aaron Vachowick who added 16. Stout shot 30-77 (.390) from the field and 19-23 (.826) from the line. Stout finished with 35 rebounds.

UWRF held two 16-point leads in the second half. Stout cut the lead to one (86-85) with 1:02 to play. But Becker made 7-8 free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Saturday the Falcons play another WIAC game, at UW-Eau Claire, with tip off set for 7 p.m.
Falcons Win at La Crosse, 65-61; Bowen Gets 200th Win

Feb. 3, 2001

Edmund Johnson scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help lead the Falcons to a 65-61 win at UW-La Crosse Saturday night. The win keeps the Falcons in first place in the WIAC and gave Coach Rick Bowen his 200th career win.

The Falcons, now 8-4 in WIAC play and 13-7 overall, led 37-35 at the half. UWLC took a 61-60 lead when Ben Bemis scored a basket with 1:36 to play. But with one minute to go Brian Mathison hit two free throws to give the Falcons the lead for good. Kevin Becker hit 1-2 free throws with :16 to play and Johnson went 2-2 from the line with :03 to go to ice the win.

Kent Becker added 15 points for the Falcons. Rich Melzer scored 13 points. The Falcons shot 26-50 (.520) from the field and just 9-18 (.500) from the line. UWLC was 25-51 (.490) from the field and just 2-4 (.500) from the line.

Eddie Hebert led UWLC with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Bowen has a 200-183 career record at UWRF. He is in his 15th season with the Falcons.

Wednesday the Falcons host UW-Stout at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center in another WIAC game.

Falcons Fall to Superior, Remain in First Place

Jan. 31, 2001

Rich Melzer's buzzer-beating 3-point try just missed its mark, and the UW-River Falls men's basketball team suffered a 69-66 WIAC setback to UW-Superior Wednesday evening at Karges Center.

The Falcons (12-7, 7-4) maintained its sole possession of the league's top spot, however, as second-place UW-Whitewater lost to UW-Platteville.

River Falls, which held a 26-23 advantage at intermission, led the Yellowjackets (14-5, 7-5) by as much as eight points in the second half, but also trailed by the same count before attempting a furious comeback in the closing minutes.

Kent Becker paced the Falcons with a game-high 23 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the floor, including a 3-pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining on the clock to draw the Falcons to within 67-66, and 7-of-8 shooting from the charity stripe.

Edmund Johnson and Melzer pitched in 14 points each.

Cody Kastern led Superior with 19 points, while Vince Thomas and Brandon Vesel added 14 points apiece.

The Falcons outrebounded the Yellowjackets 42-27.

River Falls will return to action Saturday, when it travels to UW-La Crosse for a WIAC tilt. Opening tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

Falcons Win at Whitewater, 71-70

Jan. 27, 2001

Matt Kukla hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Falcons to a 71-70 win at UW-Whitewater Saturday night.

Whitewater took a 70-68 lead with just seven seconds to play when Aubrey Lewis-Byers hit two free throws. That set up Kukla's game-winner and improve the team's record to 7-3 in WIAC play and 12-6 overall. The win puts the Falcons alone in first place in the WIAC.

Edmund Johnson led the Falcons in scoring with 16 points and in rebounding with nine. Kent Becker scored 15 points and had four rebounds and seven assists. Kukla, who was 2-6 from three-point range, finished with 12 points and four assists. Pat Ptacek scored 10 points. The Falcons, who trailed 34-32 at the half, shot 27-48 (.563) from the field and 13-16 (.813) from the line.

Whitewater was led by Lewis-Byers who scored 24 points. Robert Smith scored 12 points and led his team with seven rebounds. The Warhawks were 28-55 (.509) from the field and 8-10 (.800) from the line. The Falcons held a slight, 27-25, advantage in rebounds.

Wednesday the Falcons host UW-Superior at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Lose at Oshkosh, 89-60

Jan. 20, 2001

The Falcons dropped an 89-60 decision at UW-Oshkosh Saturday afternoon to dropped their WIAC record to 6-3 and go 11-6 overall.
The Falcons trailed by just 36-34 at the half, but were outscored 53-26 in the second half.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 14 points and he had four rebounds. Pat Ptacek was the only other Falcon to score in double figures with 11. The Falcons shot 20-49 (.408) for the game from the field and 16-19 (.842) from the line.

Oshkosh had five players score in double figures led by Justin Kamps with 25. Tom Dworak scored 17 points and had a game-high 13 rebounds. Oshkosh shot 34-60 (.567) from the field and 10-13 (.769) from the line. Oshkosh had a 35-24 advantage in rebounds.

The Falcons will next play at UW-Whitewater on Saturday, Jan. 27. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Get 82-67 Win at UW-Platteville
Jan. 17, 2001
Brian Mathison scored a season-high 23 points to help lead the Falcons to an 82-67 win at UW-Platteville Wednesday night to keep UWRF in first place in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 11-5 overall, trailed 38-37 at halftime. Mathison finished 9-12 from the field and 3-4 from three point range. He was 2-3 from the line. He also had four assists. Pat Ptacek, Edmund Johnson and Shawn Timm all scored 15 points. Johnson led all rebounders with 11. The Falcons shot 28-49 (.571) from the field and 18-20 (.900) from the line. The Falcons outscored the Pioneers by 45-29 in the second half.

UWP was led by Deau Buchs who scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. UWP shot 24-57 (.421) from the field and 12-17 (.706) from the line.

Saturday the Falcons are on the road again at UW-Oshkosh. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Beat UWEC, 73-65
Jan. 13, 2001
The Falcons got 20 points from Rich Melzer as they topped UW-Eau Claire, 73-65 to remain in first place in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 10-5 overall and 5-2 in the WIAC, were tied with UWEC and UW-Stevens Point going into Saturday's games. UWSP got beat by UW-Oshkosh (85-76) which gives the Falcons first place all by themselves near the halfway point of the WIAC season.

Melzer scored 20 points and grabbed six rebounds in the win. Kent Becker added 16 points and five rebounds. Brian Mathison scored 10 points and had five rebounds. Shawn Timm scored 10 points to help the Falcons cause. UWRF shot 25-47 (.532) from the field and 19-24 (.792) from the line. They had 38 rebounds.

UWEC was led by Jason Larson who scored 27 points. UWEC was 21-63 (.333) from the field and 14-18 (.778) from the line.

The Falcons will next travel to UW-Platteville on Wednesday. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Fall at Stevens Point, 74-59
Jan. 10, 2001
The Falcons jumped out to a 10-point lead at the half, but lost a 74-59 decision at UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night.

The Falcons led 33-23 at the half, but were outscored 51-26 in the second half. SP went on a 20-5 run to start the second half.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 14 points and four rebounds. Kent Becker added 13 points, four rebounds and five assists. Pat Ptacek scored 10 points. The Falcons shot 23-50 (.460) from the field and just 5-13 (.385) from the line.

Both the Falcons and Pointers are now tied for the WIAC lead with 4-2 records. The Falcons are 9-5 overall and UWSP is 12-2.

Saturday the Falcons host UW-Eau Claire at the Karges Center in a WIAC game that will start at 7 p.m.

Falcons Beat La Crosse, 75-65
Jan. 6, 2001
Kent Becker scored 24 points to help the Falcons win, 75-65, over UW-La Crosse in a WIAC game Saturday night at the Karges Center.
The Falcons held a slim 35-34 lead at the half. Edmund Johnson added 16 points and Rich Melzer scored 13 for the Falcons. Melzer led the Falcons with nine rebounds and three assists. The Falcons shot 28-52 (.538) from the field but just 15-24 (.625) from the line.

La Crosse was led by Scott Meerstein who scored 16 points and Eddie Hebert who added 12.

Wednesday the Falcons, now 4-1 in the WIAC and 9-4 overall, are in action again when they are at UW-Stevens Point for a 7 p.m. WIAC game. The Falcons are in first place in the WIAC going into Wednesday's game.

**Falcons Win at Stout, 77-74**

Jan. 3, 2001

The Falcons came up with a big second half to win at Stout, 77-74, Wednesday night in Menomonie.

The Falcons trailed, 40-34, at halftime. But the Falcons outscored Stout, 43-34, in the second half to get the win.


Saturday the Falcons return to Karges Center and will host UW-La Crosse. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Melzer's 21 Points Leads Falcons to Win**

Dec. 30, 2000

Rich Melzer scored a team-high 21 points and the Falcons beat Dana College, 90-69 Saturday night at the Karges Center.

Melzer was one of four Falcons who scored in double figures. Kent Becker added 17 points and eight rebounds. Pat Ptacek and Edmund Johnson each scored 11. Everyone who played for the Falcons scored and the Falcons hit the 90 point mark for the first time this year. Johnson led the Falcons with nine rebounds.

Michael Johnson led Dana with 23 points and eight rebounds. The Falcons held a 45-26 lead at the half. UWRF shot .500 from the field (30-60) and were 28-36 from the line (.778). The Falcons had a 42-35 rebound advantage.

Wednesday the Falcons travel to UW-Stout for a WIAC game that starts at 7 p.m.

**Mary University Is Hot From Field; Gets Win Over Falcons**

Dec. 29, 2000

The Falcons put together a strong effort, but it wasn't enough as Mary University took a 91-85 win Friday night at the Karges Center.

Mary held a 42-32 lead at the half. The Falcons got to within three points late in the second half, but Mary was able to hit free throws down the stretch to get the win and raise their record to 9-3.

The Falcons, now 6-4, were led by Brian Mathison with 20 points. Edmund Johnson scored 16, Kent Becker 13 and Rich Melzer 12. Mathison led the Falcons with six rebounds, but the Falcons were outrebounded by 32-23 in the game. Mary hit 11-16 three-pointers in the game. Doug Wick, who was 6-8 from three-point range, led the Mauraders with 18 points. He was one of six Mary players to score in double figures. Mary shot .604 (32-53) for the game and the Falcons hit on .516 (33-64).

Saturday the Falcons host Dana College at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

**Falcons Down Superior On Road**

Dec. 13, 2000

In a contest which was close for the majority of its duration, UW-River Falls pulled away late to score a 76-64 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference road win over UW-Superior Wednesday evening.

The Falcons (6-3, 2-1), who held a slim 35-34 lead heading into the break, pulled out the win despite being outrebounded 47-30.

Shawn Timm buried 5-of-8 3-point attempts and paced UW-RF with 20 points. Kent Becker, who was 2-of-2 from beyond the arc, added 18 and Rich Melzer pitched in 13.
Tony Peterson led the Yellowjackets with 14 points. Jason Strilzuk added 12, Brett Gunderson 10 and Brandon Vesel 10.

Becker dished off a game-high eight assists and also collected four steals.


The Falcons will return to action Dec. 29, when they begin play at their own Cenex Tourney.

**Becker Helps Lift Men's Hoopsters Over Whitewater**

**Dec. 2, 2000**

UW-River Falls junior Kent Becker put on quite a show Saturday, as the Falcons overcame an early deficit to upend UW-Whitewater 71-67 in their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener at the Karges Center.

Becker, who scored UW-RF's first and last points in the victory, netted game-high scoring honors with 33 points, while snagging four boards, dishing out three assists and collecting two steals. Becker shot 8-of-15 from the field, including 3-of-5 accuracy from 3-point land, and 14-of-15 from the charity stripe.

Becker also nailed a 35-foot buzzer beater at the end of the first half to give the Falcons a 27-24 at intermission.

The Falcons, who tallied only four points in the game's first 10 minutes, 15-4 with nine minutes left before the break, but put together an 18-5 run to take their first lead of the game at 22-20 with 1:35 left in the half on a trey courtesy of senior Shawn Timm.

With 17:36 to go in the game, Warhawk sophomore Aubrey Lewis-Byers hit a jumper to put Whitewater up 32-31, but 34 seconds later, Becker drained a trey to give the Falcons a lead they would never relinquish.

Senior Pat Ptacek complemented Becker's scoring barrage with 12 points, while freshman Rich Melzer pitched in eight. Junior Edmund Johnson pulled down a game-high 12 boards, 10 on the defensive end, for the Falcons, while sophomore Brian Mathison led the team with four dishes.

Junior Jake Wolter led Whitewater with 19 points, 15 from beyond the arc, and Lewis-Byers totaled 17 points, 10 under his season average.

The Falcons shot .434 from the field, .519 in the second half, just over the Warhawks' 42.9 percent accuracy rate.

UW-RF will return to action Tuesday when it travels to Northwestern (Minn.) for a non-conference contest slated to begin at 7 p.m.

**Cagers Tune Pipers**

**Nov. 29, 2000**

Behind the red-hot shooting of senior Pat Ptacek and fancy passing of sophomore Scott DeWyre, UW-River Falls coasted to a 73-54 non-conference victory over Hamline (Minn.) University Wednesday evening in the Karges Center.

Ptacek, who bottomed 8-of-9 field goals and 7-of-9 charity shots, paced the Falcon attack with 23 points, while DeWyre dished off six assists in the 19-point victory.

UW-RF improved its season mark to 4-1, while Hamline fell to 0-4.

The Pipers kept things close for the majority of the opening half, trailing only 24-22 with 6-minutes, 17-seconds remaining before intermission, but, sparked by a senior Shawn Timm trey, UW-RF capped the half with a 15-4 run to take a 39-26 lead into the break.

Juniors Kent Becker and Edmund Johnson complemented Ptacek's scoring output with 11 points each, while sophomore Brian Mathison pitched in eight.

Junior Jeff Cambell led the Pipers with 13 points.

Sophomore Steve Barnier pulled down a team-high seven caroms for UW-RF, while freshman Rich Melzer swatted two shots.

DeWyre and Mathison collected four steals apiece.

The Falcons fired at a .491 clip from the field, compared to Hamline's 37.5 percent accuracy rate.

UW-RF will return to action Saturday, when they kick off their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schedule by hosting UW-Whitewater at the Karges Center. Opening tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

**Mustangs Buck Men's Hoopsters**

**Nov. 25, 2000**
If Southwest State (Minn.) was the Roadrunner, UW-River Falls was Wile E. Coyote.

The Falcons spend most of Saturday evening trying to play catch-up basketball, but never quite caught up, as they dropped an 81-73 decisions to the Mustangs in a non-conference tilt contested in the Karges Center.

In losing, UW-RF (3-1) suffered its first setback of the 2000 campaign, while Southwest State improved to 3-4.

Southwest State started the game with a 16-4 run and led by as much as 17 in the opening half, but the Falcons managed to seize a 34-32 lead by intermission.

The Mustangs, however, outscored UW-RF 16-3 in the first 4 minutes, 23 seconds, of the second half and then fended off the chasing Falcons to victory.

Southwest State's Scott Koenen recorded game-high scoring honors with 30 points, while Jared Miller tossed in 17 points and Chad Koenen contributed 16.

Rich Melzer paced the Falcons with a team-high 16 points, while Shawn Timm added 15. Kent Becker and Edmund Johnson also reached double figures in scoring with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

The Mustangs' Scott Koenen, Chad Koenen and Josh Pruesse, along with UW-RF's Melzer and Johnson tied for game-high rebound numbers with eight each.

Becker dished out six assists for the Falcons and also grabbed four steals.

UW-RF will return to action Wednesday, when it hosts Hamline (Minn.) University in a non-conference game scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Make Quick Work of St. Olaf

Nov. 21, 2000

St. Olaf didn't provide much of a challenge for Rick Bowen's UW-River Falls men's hoops squad Tuesday, as the Falcons smoked St. Olaf 70-57 on the road.

Rich Melzer and Shawn Timm poured in 22 points each to lead all scorers, while Kent Becker added 14. Matthew Hofkens paced St. Olaf with 20 points. Timm shot 6-of-12 from 3-point land.

Melzer hauled in eight boards and Becker recorded five assists for UW-RF.

The Falcons shot .463 from the floor, while St. Olaf hit only 39.6 percent of its field goal attempts.

UW-RF will return to action Saturday, when it hosts Southwest State in a non-conference affair to begin at 7 p.m. in the Karges Center.

Falcons Win Twice in Texas

Nov. 19, 2000

The Falcons opened their 2000-2001 season in style winning twice at the Southwestern University Classic held in Georgetown, Texas on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday the Falcons topped Austin College, 81-59 and Sunday the Falcons beat Southwestern, 64-41.

In Saturday's win, the Falcons trailed at the half, 35-34, but dominated the second half, 47-24. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 20 points and he had eight rebounds. Kent Becker scored 17 points and led the team with nine rebounds and six assists. Scott DeWyre scored 14 points and Pat Ptacek scored 13 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

In Sunday's win, the Falcons held a 36-15 lead at the half. DeWyre was the only Falcon to score in double figures with 10. Shawn Timm scored eight points while Melzer and Tim Duncan added seven each. Melzer and Edmund Johnson each had seven rebounds.

The Falcons next play at St. Olaf on Tuesday with game time set for 7 p.m.
# 2001-2002 Falcon Men's Basketball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Ht</th>
<th>Wt</th>
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<td>Jeff Holt</td>
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<td>Scott DeWyre</td>
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**Head coach:** Rick Bowen  
**Assistant coaches:** Jeff Berkhof, Sam Huffman, Pedro Renta  
**Manager:** Dan Holle, Mike Jaeb, Cortez Robinson, Todd Schultz, Todd Willems, John Christopherson, Joe Behnke
Falcon Sports Archive

2001-2002 Falcon Men's Basketball Schedule

17-9 overall, 9-7 WIAC

Nov. 17 at Bethel, Ind.
Bethel 97, River Falls 94
Nov. 19 at Lake Forest
River Falls 72, Lake Forest 59
Nov. 24 St. Thomas
River Falls 68, St. Thomas 66
Nov. 27 at Southwest State
Cancelled

Dec. 1 at Whitewater*
Whitewater 65, River Falls 62
Dec. 4 Northwestern
River Falls 84, Northwestern 73
Dec. 8 at Oshkosh*
River Falls 78, Oshkosh 68
Dec. 12 Superior*
River Falls 60, Superior 51
Dec. 15 at Simpson
River Falls 82, Simpson 74
Dec. 21 Viterbo
River Falls 80, Viterbo 70
Dec. 29 Cenex Harvest States Classic (St. John's vs. Luther, 6 p.m; UWRF vs. Loras, 8 p.m.)
River Falls 71, Loras 60
Dec. 30 Cenex Harvest States Classic (St. John's vs. Luther, 6 p.m; UWRF vs. Luther, 8 p.m.)
River Falls 60, Luther 36
Jan. 2 Stout*
River Falls 79, Stout 61
Jan. 5 at La Crosse*
La Crosse 71, River Falls 63
Jan. 9 Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 94, River Falls 79
Jan. 12 at Eau Claire*
River Falls 62, Eau Claire 53
Jan. 16 Platteville*
Platteville 66, River Falls 62
Jan. 19 Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 65, River Falls 60
Jan. 26 Whitewater*
River Falls 82, Whitewater 75 OT
Jan. 30 at Superior*
River Falls 84, Superior 77
Feb. 2 La Crosse*
La Crosse 80, River Falls 74
Feb. 6 at Stout*
River Falls 70, Stout 68
Feb. 9 Eau Claire*
River Falls 66, Eau Claire 64
Feb. 13 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 77, River Falls 74
Feb. 16 at Platteville*
River Falls 78, Platteville 67
Feb. 19 at La Crosse (WIAC Quarterfinals)
River Falls 91, La Crosse 82
Feb. 21 at Oshkosh (WIAC Semifinals)
Oshkosh 86, River Falls 80
Melzer Named to NABC All-West Region Team

March 22, 2002

Falcon Rich Melzer (So., Minneapolis, Minn.) has been named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches/Pontiac Division III All-West Region team. Melzer led the Falcons, which finished 17-9 overall and 9-7 in the WIAC, in scoring averaging 21.6 points a game and rebounding with 7.8 a game. He was 232-453 (.512) from the field and 96-128 (.750) from the line. He led the team with 55 blocks and had 40 assists and 17 steals. He averaged 34.2 minutes played a game. Earlier this year he was named to the first All-WIAC team.

He joins five others on the first All-West team. Five players were named to the second team and five others to a third team. Eighty-eight players from eight districts are now eligible for the Division III All-American team which will be announced at the end of the NCAA men's basketball season.

Johnson Receives Honorable Mention

Becker, Melzer Named to First All-WIAC Team

Feb. 26, 2002

Falcon men's basketball players Kent Becker (Sr., Stone Lake, Wis. Hayward HS) and Rich Melzer (So., Minneapolis, Minn. River Falls HS) have both been named to the first All-WIAC 2002 team. Edmund Johnson (Sr., Indianola, Iowa) received honorable mention.

Becker is named to the team for the second straight year. He was given honorable mention after the 2000 season. The 5-11 guard was the backbone of the Falcons this year despite missing action with a back injury. But the injury did not stop him from putting up some impressive numbers. He finished second in scoring averaging 14.1 points a game. He led the team in steals (39) and finished second in assists (80). He averaged 3.3 rebounds a game and only two turnovers a game while averaging 31.4 minutes a game. He was 93-193 (.482) from the floor, including 23-67 (.343) from three-point range. He led the team at the line going 115-139 (.827). He is the team's all-time career free throw shooter going 338-411 (.822). During the year he became the school's 15th 1,000-point scorer. He finished his career with 1,105 points, putting him 14th on the all-time list. His other career numbers are outstanding - 340-716 (.474), including 87-229 (.379) from three-point range. He finished with 371 career rebounds and 347 assists. His assist total puts him third all-time.

Melzer had a solid second season and is the only sophomore on the first All-WIAC team. He led the team in scoring in 2002 with 561 points - 21.6 a game. He is second in scoring in the league. He is third in the WIAC in rebounding averaging 7.8 a game. He led the WIAC in blocked shots with 55. Melzer, who was given honorable mention to the 2001 All-WIAC team, was 232-453 (.512) from the field and 96-128 (.750) from the line. He had 40 assists and 17 steals while averaging a team-high 34.2 minutes a game. He has already scored 905 career points and grabbed 230 career rebounds. He is averaging 18.1 points and 6.8 rebounds a game.

Johnson was a workhorse inside for the Falcons in his four-year career. In 2002 he was third on the team in scoring averaging 12.2 points a game. He was second in rebounding with 6.5 a game and finished sixth in the WIAC. He finished second in the WIAC in field goal percentage, 126-198 (.636) and led the team in that category. He was 53-67 (.791) from the line. He had 21 assists, 24 steals and 14 blocked shots. His 515 career rebounds places him sixth in Falcon history. In his career he was 336-556 (.604) from the field and 135-191 (.706) from the line. He averaged 8.1 points and 5.2 rebounds a game. The Falcons finished 17-9 overall in 2002 and 9-7 in the WIAC and in fifth place. UWO won a first-round WIAC playoff game at UW-La Crosse, 91-82, before losing at UW-Oshkosh, 86-80, in the semifinals. The win at La Crosse was the first for the Falcons in WIAC playoff history.

Falcons Lose at UWO in WIAC Semifinal

Feb. 21, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team lost in the WIAC semifinals, 86-80, Thursday night at UW-Oshkosh.

The Falcons, now 17-9 overall, trailed 38-27 at the half. UWRG got to with five, 79-74, when Scott DeWyre scored with 1:45 to play. The Falcons made it a 82-77 game with :52 to play when Kent Becker scored on a drive. But UWO hit some key free throws down the stretch to keep the lead. With just :10 to play Tim Duncan hit a three-pointer to make it a 84-80 game. But the Titans hit two more free throws before the game was over for the final margin.

The Falcons were led in scoring by Rich Melzer who scored 28 points and he grabbed 10 rebounds, also tops on the team. Kent Becker added 17 points and a team-high six assists. Scott DeWyre added 13 points. UWRG was 31-64 (.484) from the field, including 7-21 (.333) from three-point range. UWRG was 11-15 (.733) from the line.

Tim Dworak led UWO with 31 points and Scott Sowinski scored 22. UWO was 29-44 (.659) from the field, including 8-15 (.533) from three-point range. UWO was 20-24 (.333) from the line.

Falcons Win at UWLC in WIAC Playoffs

Feb. 19, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team won a first-round WIAC playoff game at UW-La Crosse, 91-82, Wednesday night. It is the first win ever for the Falcons in a WIAC playoff game.
With the win the Falcons advance to the WIAC semifinals on Thursday at UW-Oshkosh. UWO beat UW-Superior, 73-56, on Tuesday in Oshkosh. In other first-round games, UW-Whitewater defeated UW-Stout, 85-77, and UW-Stevens Point beat UW-Platteville, 72-57.

The Falcons, now 8-7 overall, led 41-39 at halftime at La Crosse. Rich Melzer led the Falcons scoring 28 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Melzer finished 10-19 from the field and 8-11 from the line. Kent Becker added 24 points going 6-11 from the field and 11-13 from the line. Edmund Johnson, who finished 7-9 from the field and 5-6 from the line, added 19 points. UWRF was 29-54 (.537) from the field, including 2-8 (.250) from three-point range. UWRF was 31-38 (.816) from the line. The 91 points is the second most by the Falcons this year. (UWRF scored 94 in a 97-94 season-opening loss at Bethel, Ind., on Nov. 17.)

UWLC was led by Eddie Hebert who scored 26 points, Scott Meerstein who scored 15 and Tom Westhoff who chipped in 11. UWLC was 33-75 (.440) from the field, including 14-30 (.467) from three-point range. UWLC was just 2-2 (1.000) from the line. The Eagles had a slight 35-34 advantage in rebounding.

**Falcons Win at UWP, 78-67**

**Feb. 16, 2002**

The Falcon men's basketball team picked up a 78-67 WIAC win at UW-Platteville Saturday night. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 18 points and had nine rebounds. Kent Becker scored 16 points and Edmund Johnson scored 15 points and led UWRF with 10 rebounds. UWRF was 30-50 (.600) from the field, including 3-8 from three-point range. UWRF was 15-20 (.750) from the line.

**Falcons Lose at UWSP, 77-74**

**Feb. 13, 2002**

The Falcons dropped a close 77-74 WIAC decision at UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night.

UWSP held a 41-33 lead at the half, but the Falcons went on a 10-2 run to start the second half and tie the game, 43-43. The Falcons led 74-73 with 42 seconds to play but then UWSP's Kalonji Kadima scored on a lay-up with .22 to play. Kadima later hit two free throws to seal the win.

Brian Mathison and Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 18 points each. Scott DeWyre added 17 and Edmund Johnson 13. Melzer led the Falcons with seven rebounds. UWRF was 26-49 (.531) from the field, including 10-17 (.588) from three-point range. UWRF was a perfect 12-12 from the line.

UWSP was led by Kadima who scored 24. Josh Iserloth scored 13. Iserloth led the Pointers with six rebounds. UWSP held a 25-22 advantage on the boards. UWSP was 27-50 (.540) from the field, including 9-17 (.529) from three-point range. They were 14-21 (.667) from the line.

The Falcons, now 15-8 overall and 7-7 in the WIAC, will play at UW-La Crosse in the first round off the WIAC playoffs on Tuesday. The Falcons finished fifth in the standings and UWLC was fourth.

**Mathison's Three-Pointer Lifts Cagers to Win**

**Feb. 9, 2002**

Brian Mathison hit a three-pointer with just three seconds to play to help lift the Falcon men's basketball team to a 66-64 win over UW-Eau Claire Saturday night at the Karges Center.

UWRF led 63-58 with 1:21 to go when Rich Melzer scored on a dunk. UWEC cut to within 63-60 when Andy Witte hit a jumper with .38 to play. UWEC took a 64-63 lead with just .23 to play when Dan Archambault hit a three-pointer and was fouled by Edmund Johnson. Archambault hit the free throw to give his team the lead. Then Mathison nailed a three-pointer to give the Falcons the win.

Melzer led the Falcons with 24 points and 10 rebounds. Johnson scored 17 and Mathison 11. UWRF was 28-61 from the field (.459), including 4-13 (.308) from three-point range. UWRF was 6-10 (.600) from the line.

UWEC, now 11-12 overall and 3-11 in the WIAC, was led by Jason Larson who scored 23. Witte added 15. UWEC was 22-58 (.379) from the field, including 9-27 (.333) from three-point range. UWEC was 11-13 (.846) form the line.

The Falcons, now 15-7 overall and 8-6 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Stevens Point on Wednesday. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

**Mathison Hits Three-Pointer to Lead Falcons**

**Feb. 6, 2002**

Falcon Brian Mathison hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to help lead the men's basketball team to a 70-68 win at UW-Stout Wednesday night.
Falcons Lose to UWLC, 80-74
Feb. 2, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team dropped an 80-74 WIAC decision to UW-La Crosse Saturday night at the Karges Center.

UWLC led 37-30 at the half. The Falcons had four players score in double figures led by Rich Melzer who had 20. He had six rebounds. Edmund Johnson scored 18 points and led the Falcons with 12 rebounds. Kent Becker scored 11 and Brian Mathison 10. UWRF was 23-55 from the field (.418), including 5-19 (.263) from three-point range. UWRF was 23-26 (.885) from the line.

Matt Schultz led the Eagles with 21 points and Eddie Hebert added 20. Tom Westhoff had eight rebounds. UWLC was 27-56 (.482) from the field. The Eagles won the game from three-point range where they were 15-28 (.536). They were 11-17 (.647) from the line. UWLC, now 15-6 overall and 8-4 in the WIAC, had a 35-32 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 13-7 overall and 6-6 in the WIAC, will play at UW-Stout on Wednesday. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Melzer Scores 39 to Lead Falcons Over UWS
Jan. 30, 2002

Rich Melzer scored a career-high 39 points to help lead the Falcon men's basketball team to an 84-77 win at UW-Superior Wednesday night.

Melzer, who scored 38 points on Saturday at home against Whitewater, was 16-24 from the field and 7-10 from the line for the 39 points. He had five rebounds, two assists and three blocks. Edmund Johnson added 16 points and five rebounds and Kent Becker scored 13 points. UWRF held a 41-38 lead at the half.

UWS was led by Cody Kastern who scored 17 points and had seven rebounds.

The Falcons, now 13-6 overall and 6-5 in the WIAC, will host UW-La Crosse on Saturday. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Top UWW in OT, 82-75
Jan. 26, 2002

UWRF's Rich Melzer scored 38 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to help lead the Falcons to an 82-75 overtime win over UW-Whitewater Saturday night at the Karges Center.

Melzer led all scorers and rebounders in the game. UWW, now 14-5 overall and 7-4 in the WIAC, was in first place in the WIAC going into the contest. Melzer was 13-24 from the field and 12-16 from the line. He also blocked three shots. The 38 points is the most by a Falcon since Jan. 25, 1984 when Jon Williams scored 38 in a 98-95 overtime win over UW-Superior. The 19 rebounds is the most since Brock Bentzon grabbed 20 on Nov. 17, 1979 in a game against Mt. Senario (RF 93, MS 65). Kent Becker added 14 points and five assists and Scott DeWyre scored 13 points before fouling out late in the game. UWRF was 26-63 (.413) from the field, including 4-14 (.286) from three-point range. UWRF was 26-33 (.788) from the line.

UWW held a nine-point, 67-58 lead with 3:10 to go in the game. The Falcons drew within 67-64 with 2:02 to play when Scott DeWyre hit a three-pointer. With 48 to go, Becker hit two free throws to tie the game, 67-67. UWW's Lewis-Byers hit a two-pointer with :23 to go to give his team a 69-67 lead. Becker then hit a short jumper with :07 to play to tie the game. In the OT, UWRF scored six straight points, a jumper by Edmond Johnson and two jumpers by Melzer to take a 76-71 lead.

UWW was led by Aubrey Lewis-Byers who scored 25 points, shooting 10-11 from the field and 5-6 from the line. He had seven rebounds. Londen Donlow, who was 4-5 from three-point range, had 14 points and five rebounds. Damon Garrett and Jonathan Hodges each scored 11 points. The Warhawks were 32-65 (.492) from the field, including 6-19 (.316) from three-point range. They were 5-9 (.556) from the line.

The Falcons, now 12-6 overall and 5-5 in the WIAC, will play at UW-Superior on Wednesday. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose to UWO; Becker Reaches 1,000th Career Point Total
UWRF's Kent Becker scored his 1,000th career point but it wasn't enough as UW-Oshkosh took a 65-60 win Saturday night at the Karges Center.

Becker led the Falcons with 18 points. He now has 1,010 in his career. Matt Kukla scored 11 and Rich Melzer 10. UWO held a 32-30 lead at the half. The Falcons shot 22-45 (.489) from the field, including 4-17 (.235) from three-point range. The Falcons were 12-14 (.857) from the line.

UWO, now 14-3 overall and 6-3 in the WIAC, was led by Tim Dworak who scored 21 points and grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds. Nick Scherer scored 13 points. UWO was 26-61 (.426) from the field including 8-21 (.381) from three-point range. Oshkosh was a perfect 5-5 from the line. UWO held a 31-27 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 11-6 overall and 4-5 in the WIAC, will host UW-Oshkosh at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center on Jan. 26.

Falcons Lose to UWP, 66-62

Jan. 16, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 66-62 decision to UW-Platteville Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

UWP held a 33-25 lead at the half. Rich Melzer was the only other Falcon to score in double figures with 10. Edmund Johnson led the Falcons with nine rebounds and he scored six points. UWRF shot 22-52 from the field (.423), including just 3-11 (.273) from three-point range. UWRF was a perfect 15-15 from line.

UWP was led by Tyler Selk who scored 17 points and he scored his 1,000th career point in the game. He led the Pioneers with seven rebounds. Bryan Stangel scored 15 points and Ben Schambow scored 11. UWP shot 21-49 (.429) from the field including 6-17 (.353) from three-point range. UWP was 18-23 (.783) from the line. UWP, now 10-7 overall and 3-5 in the WIAC, held a 34-25 advantage in rebounding.

Saturday the Falcons, now 11-5 overall and 4-4 in the WIAC, will host UW-Oshkosh at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Top Eau Claire, 62-53

Jan. 12, 2002

The Blugolds cut an early 27-15 Falcon lead to just one more than midway through the second half, but UW-RF responded with a 9-2 run and the eventual 62-53 win in Eau Claire Saturday night.

After battling back and forth to 11s, the Falcons broke out in a 16-4 run with a pair of Tim Duncan three-pointers and help from Edmund Johnson.

At the half, the Falcons held a 27-18 advantage. But the Blugolds came back in a hurry. Experiencing an offensive dry streak for five minutes, the Falcons saw their once 12-point lead evaporate to one, 42-41, with 7:25 to go.

A pair of Johnson lay-ups and a Brian Mathison three sparked the Falcon response and in just over a minute, they were back ahead by eight, 49-41.

The Falcons then kept their lead steady until fouling kicked in with just over a minute left. The game was never closer than seven in the waning minutes, and got as far as 12 again before the Falcons took the win at 62-53.

The trio of Johnson, Rich Melzer and Mathison all scored in double-digits. Johnson had 15 with 13 rebounds. Melzer scored 14 with eight boards and four blocks. Mathison finished with 11 points, seven rebounds, two assists and a steal. Duncan finished with eight points and five assists.

Eau Claire's Jason Larson led all scorers with 20, followed by Will Jefferson with 10 and Andy Witte with eight. Witte led his teammates in rebounding with 10. Larson boarded nine.

The Falcons shot 56% from the field in the second half and finished at 50% for the game. The Blugolds were 19.4% in the first half but came back with 42.4% in the second.

The Falcon win boosts them to 11-4 overall and 4-3 in the WIAC. The Blugolds drop to 10-6 overall and 2-5 in WIAC play.

Next up for the Falcons is Platteville on Jan. 16 in the Karges Center at 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose to UWSP

Jan. 9, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 94-79 WIAC decision to UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

UWSP led 48-44 at the half and outscored the Falcons 46-35 in the second half.
UWRF was led by Matt Miler and Justin Taiber who both scored seven points. LC held a 29-27 (.526) lead at the half. The seven three-pointers is second in UWRF history. He also had three assists and three steals. Edmund Johnson added 14 points and five rebounds and Rich Melzer scored 13 points and led the Falcons with eight rebounds. The Falcons were 9-15 (.604) from the field, including 10-15 (.667) from three-point range. The Falcons had a 32-18 advantage in rebounding.

Stout was led by Jeff Vandenberghe who scored 18, Barrington Smith who scored 13 and Nate Templer who scored 11. Stout shot 23-50 (.460) from the field, including 9-20 (.450) from three-point range. The Falcons, now 10-2 overall, play at UW-La Crosse. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose at La Crosse, 71-63
Jan. 5, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 71-63 WIAC decision at UW-La Crosse Saturday night. UWLC had a 32-23 lead at the half. The Falcons had four players score in double figures - Kent Becker had 15, Brian Mathison and Edmund Johnson had 13 each and Rich Melzer finished with 11. Melzer led the Falcons with 14 rebounds. The Falcons shot 26-59 (.441) from the field, but were just 3-20 (.150) from three-point range.

UWL, now 11-3 overall and 4-1 in the WIAC, was led by Eddie Hebert who scored 21 and had nine rebounds off the bench. UWLC shot 24-55 (.436) from the field and 7-27 (.259) from three-point range. UWL was 16-19 from the line and the Falcons were 8-14. Saturday the Falcons, now 10-3 overall and 3-2 in the WIAC, host UW-Stevens Point on Wednesday with tip off set for 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Beat Stout, 79-61
Jan. 2, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team improved to 3-1 in WIAC play with a 79-61 win over UW-Stout Wednesday night at the Karges Center. Matt Kukla had the hot hand for the Falcons. He finished with a career-high 27 points going 10-12 from the field and 7-8 from three-point range. The seven three-pointers is second in UWRF history. He also had three assists and three steals. Edmund Johnson added 14 points and five rebounds and Rich Melzer scored 13 points and led the Falcons with eight rebounds. The Falcons were 32-53 (.604) from the field, including 10-15 (.667) from three-point range. The Falcons had a 32-18 advantage in rebounding.

Stout was led by Jeff Vandenberghe who scored 18, Barrington Smith who scored 13 and Nate Templer who scored 11. Stout shot 23-50 (.460) from the field, including 9-20 (.450) from three-point range. Saturday the Falcons, now 10-2 overall, play at UW-La Crosse. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Top Luther, 60-36
Dec. 30, 2001

The Falcon men's basketball team won its seventh straight game, beating Luther College, 60-36, Sunday night at the Karges Center. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 13 points and Kent Becker added 11. Edmund Johnson led all rebounders with 13. The Falcons shot 22-52 (.423) from the field, including 7-17 (.412) from three-point range. The Falcons were 9-12 from the line. UWRF held a 27-17 lead at the half.

LC was led by Matt Miler and Justin Taiber who both scored seven points. LC held a 29-28 advantage in rebounding. LC shot 13-36 (.361) from the field and 6-9 (.667) from the line. Luther is 0-10 this year. Wednesday the Falcons, now 9-2 overall, return to WIAC play when they host UW-Stout at the Karges Center. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Beat Loras, 71-60
Dec. 29, 2001

The Falcon men's basketball team raised its overall record to 8-2 with a 71-60 win over Loras College Saturday night at the Karges Center. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 26 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Kent Becker scored 16 points, had six rebounds and a team-high seven assists. Matt Kukla scored 13 points and had six assists while Edmund Johnson scored 10 points and had five rebounds. The Falcons shot 24-44 for the game (.545). UWRF had a 35-24 advantage in rebounds.

Loras, now 4-3, was led by Matt Urhoff who scored 13 points. The game was tied, 26-26, at the half. In the first game of the Cenex-Harvest States Classic, St. John's beat Luther, 60-39. On Sunday at 6 p.m., St. John's faces Loras and the Falcons play Luther at 8 p.m. All games are at the Karges Center.

Falcons Top Viterbo, 80-70
Dec. 21, 2001

The Falcon men's basketball team got 24 points from Rich Melzer to beat Viterbo, 80-70, Friday night at the Karges Center.
The Falcons, now 2-1 in the half. Melzer was 10-17 from the field and 4-9 from the line. He also led the Falcons with seven rebounds. Brian Mathison added 15 points and Kent Becker 13 to help the Falcon cause. The Falcons shot 31-59 from the field (.525), including 5-18 (.278) from three-point range. The Falcons were 13-21 (.619) from the line.

Viterbo, 3-1, was led by Mike Brodus who scored 21 and Mike Glass who added 16.

The Falcons, now 7-2 overall, will host the Cenex - Harvest States Classic Dec. 29-30 at the Karges Center. On Dec. 29 at 6 p.m., St. John's plays Luther. UWRF will play Loras at 8 p.m. On Dec. 30 at 6 p.m., St. John's plays Loras and UWRF faces Luther at 8 p.m.

**Falcons Win at Simpson, 82-74**

Dec. 12, 2001

The Falcon men's basketball team won a non-conference game at Simpson, 84-72, Saturday afternoon.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons scoring 26 points. He was 13-17 from the field and also grabbed five rebounds. Chris Becker added 12 points shooting 4-6 from three-point range. Kent Becker added 11 points, five rebounds and three assists. The Falcons were 28-55 (.509) from the field, including 10-22 (.455) from three-point range. UWRF was 16-23 (.696) from the line.

Simpson was led by Jesse Harris who scored 23 points and he had four rebounds. Jason Snyder scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds. SC was 25-67 (.373) from the field, including 4-16 (.250) from three-point range. Simpson was 20-23 (.870) from the line. UWRF held a 36-31 advantage in rebounds.

The Falcons, now 6-2 overall, will next host Viterbo College on Friday at the Karges Center. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Falcons Top UWS, 61-50**

Dec. 12, 2001

The Falcon men's basketball team won its second straight WIAC game, 61-50, over UW-Superior Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

Three Falcons scored in double figures - Brian Mathison led the way with 14, Rich Melzer added 13 and Edmund Johnson 10. Johnson led the Falcons with seven rebounds. Scott DeWyre, who had four points and three assists, had six rebounds. The Falcons were 26-62 from the field (.419), including 5-13 from three-point range (.385). UWRF held a 28-22 halftime lead.

UWS was led by Don DeFoe who scored 10 points. Jason Strilzuk and Matt Bailey each scored nine. Bailey and Tony Peterson each had eight rebounds. UWS was 20-61 from the field (.328), including 5-20 from three-point range (.250). UWS outrebounded the Falcons, 41-39.

Saturday the Falcons, now 5-2 overall and 2-1 in the WIAC, play a non-conference game at Simpson College. Tip off is set for 3 p.m.

**Men Cagers Pull Away From Northwestern, 84-73**

Dec. 4, 2001

UW-River Falls defeated Northwestern (Minn.) 84-73 in a non-conference contest held Tuesday at the Karges Center.

The Falcons, who led by as much as 10 in the first half and held a 37-32 edge at intermission, improved to 3-2 on the year. The Eagles, who held the lead early in the second half, dropped to 5-6.

Kent Becker led the Falcons with a team-high 20 points. Rich Melzer added 19 points, while Brian Mathison pitched in 12 and Jesse Lam 11.

Mathison pulled down a team-high five rebounds, Scott DeWyre dished out nine assists and Lam collected four steals.

John Reeves paced Northwestern with 27 points.

The Falcons hit 29-of-59 field goals, including 7-of-15 from 3-point land, while the Eagles drained 22-of-53 shots from the floor, 13-of-26 from beyond the arc. UW-RF hit 19-of-27 free throws, and the Eagles netted 16-of-18 attempts from the charity stripe.

Each team collected 31 rebounds. UW-RF turned the ball over 19 times to the Eagles' 24.

The Falcons will return to action Saturday, when they travel to UW-Oshkosh to battle the Titans in a WIAC affair. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m.

**Falcons Drop WIAC Opener at Whitewater, 65-62**

Dec. 1, 2001

The Falcon basketball team opened WIAC play with a 65-62 loss at UW-Whitewater Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons, now 2-2 overall and 0-1 in the WIAC, led 34-27 at halftime, but were outscored 38-28 in the second half.
Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 21 points and nine rebounds. He had two blocks and two steals. Kent Becker scored 14 points and also had nine rebounds. Edmund Johnson added 10 points. The Falcons shot 24-54 from the field and 12-18 from the line. Whitewater was led by Aubrey Lewis-Byers who scored 21 points and was a perfect 9-9 from the field. The Warhawks were 25-61 from the field and 8-19 from the line. UWW had a 38-31 advantage in rebounds.

Tuesday the Falcons will host Northwestern College at the Karges Center with action starting at 8 p.m.

**Falcons Game at Southwest State Cancelled**

Nov. 27, 2001

The Falcon basketball game at Southwest State, Minn., has been cancelled due to winter weather conditions.

The two teams tried to find a date to make the game up, but none could be found, according to Falcon Coach Rick Bowen.

UWRF will open WIAC play on Saturday at UW-Whitewater with game time set for 3 p.m.

**Falcons Beat St. Thomas, 68-66**

Nov. 24, 2001

The Falcons overcame a 37-32 halftime deficit to beat St. Thomas, 68-66, Saturday night at the Karges Center in front of 1,000 fans.

Kent Becker hit a jumper with 36 seconds to play to break a 66-66 tie and help lead the Falcons to the win. Becker tied the game with 1:42 to play when he hit a three-pointer. Becker finished with 15 points and five rebounds. Scott DeWyre led the Falcons with 22 points going 10-of-12 from the field, including 6-of-8 from three-point range. Rich Melzer, who had three blocks, scored 13 points and led the Falcons with eight rebounds.

St. Thomas, which entered the game with a 3-0 record, was led by Brendan Finn who scored 23 points. Cole Butler added 17 points. St. Thomas led by 14 points with 13:23 to play before the Falcons, now 2-1, started cutting into the lead.

The Falcons play at Southwest State on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

**Men's Basketball Team Wins at Lake Forest**

November 19, 2001

The UW-River Falls men's basketball team jumped out to a 40-22 halftime lead and cruised to a 72-59 win at Lake Forest College on Monday night.

Center Edmund Johnson led the Falcons with 20 points on 10-of-12 shooting. Rich Melzer added 14 points on 7-of-14 shooting and led the team with eight rebounds. Scott DeWyre scored 11 points on 4-of-4 from the field, including a perfect 3-of-3 from behind the arc. Brian Mathison scored nine points on 3-of-4 three-point shooting.

Senior guard Kent Becker led the team with seven assists.

Bryan Bertola paced the Foresters with 15 points.

The Falcons shot 53.6 percent from the field in the contest, while Lake Forest shot just 44.7 percent from the floor.

The Falcons are now 1-1 and will play St. Thomas on Nov. 24 in the team's home opener. Tip off is set for 7:00 p.m. at the Karges Center.

**Falcon Men Lose to Bethel in First Regular Season Game**

November 17, 2001

In a close game, 97-94, the UW-River Falls men could not get by Bethel, Indiana. River Falls was up following the first half 50-37, but could not hold the lead in the second half.

The five starters, Brian Mathison, Rich Melzer, Edmund Johnson, Kent Becker, and Scott DeWyre, saw a lot of action tonight. Melzer led the team in points tonight with 33, Becker added 26 points including 2-out-of-3 3-pointers.

Johnson had 10 rebounds, while DeWyre had 9 assists.

Josh Weimer led the Bethel Pilots with 18 points. Thomas Jackson added 14.

UWRF connected on 33-of-62 shots from the floor, 3-of-10 from behind the arc. The Pilots made 32-of-65 field goal attempts, including 13-of-23 3-pointers.

The Falcons are now 0-1 overall. The Falcons are at Lake Forest on Monday at 7 p.m.
# 2002-2003 Falcon Men's Basketball Roster

as of Nov. 20, 2002

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<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Micah Helfrey</td>
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<td>Jr</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chris Becker</td>
<td>G</td>
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<td>Jr</td>
<td>Stone Lake, Wis. (Hayward)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Jesse Lam</td>
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<td>So</td>
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<td>Kevin Widiker</td>
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<td>Sr</td>
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<td>Kevin Becker</td>
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<td>Jr</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jr</td>
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**Head coach:** Rick Bowen  
**Assistant coaches:** Jeff Berkhof, Sam Huffman  
**Student coach:** Dan Holle  
**Managers:** Joe Behnke, Kurran Sagan, Todd Schultz

## Falcon Redshirt Players

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<th>No</th>
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<td>175</td>
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<td>Kenny Marton</td>
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2002-2003 Falcon Men's Basketball Schedule

Feb. 28, 2003

16-10 Overall, 10-6 WIAC

Nov. 22 at Bethel Tourney (UWRF vs. Northwestern, 6 p.m.)
River Falls 79, Northwestern 60
Nov. 23 at Bethel Tourney
Championship Game
River Falls 89, Bethel 87 OT

**Nov. 26 Macalester**
River Falls 86, Macalester 73
Nov. 29 vs. Embry-Riddle
Embry-Riddle 80, River Falls 77
Nov. 30 vs. Cabrini, 6 p.m.
River Falls 67, Cabrini 64

**Dec. 4 Stevens Point***
Stevens Point 71, River Falls 63
Dec. 7 at Oshkosh*
River Falls 79, Oshkosh 71

**Dec. 11 La Crosse***
River Falls 70, La Crosse 66
Dec. 14 at Viterbo
Viterbo 66, River Falls 55

**Dec. 29 Cenex Harvest States Classic (UWRF, Wisconsin Lutheran, St. Thomas, Buena Vista)**
St. Thomas vs. Buena Vista
St. Thomas 78, Buena Vista 74

**UWRF vs. Wisconsin Lutheran**
River Falls 82, Wisconsin Lutheran 65

**Dec. 30 Cenex Harvest States Classic (UWRF, Wisconsin Lutheran, St. Thomas, Buena Vista)**
Third Place Game
Buena Vista 90, Wisconsin Lutheran 64

Championship Game
St. Thomas 77, River Falls 72
Jan. 4 at Whitewater*
Whitewater 86, River Falls 75

**Jan. 8 Eau Claire***
River Falls 79, Eau Claire 64

Jan. 11 Marian
River Falls 96, Marian 60
Jan. 15 at Superior*
River Falls 65, Superior 56

**Jan. 18 Platteville***
River Falls 77, Platteville 70
Jan. 22 Stout*
Stout 88, River Falls 79

**Jan. 25 Oshkosh***
River Falls 56, Oshkosh 55
Jan. 29 at La Crosse*
River Falls 81, La Crosse 65

**Feb. 1 Whitewater***
Whitewater 71, River Falls 63
Feb. 5 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 74, River Falls 61
Feb. 8 at Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 77, River Falls 70

**Feb. 12 Superior***
River Falls 62, Superior 56
Feb. 19 at Stout*
River Falls 92, Stout 86 OT
Feb. 22 at Platteville*
River Falls 78, Platteville 72
Feb. 25 WIAC First Round vs. Eau Claire
Eau Claire 68, River Falls 65
Falcons Lose WIAC Playoff Game to UWEC

Feb. 25, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 68-65 decision to UW-Eau Claire in the first round of the WIAC playoffs Tuesday night at the Karges Center.

UWEC held a 31-27 lead at the half. The Falcons were led by Rich Melzer who scored 33 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. He finished 14-30 from the field and 5-8 from the line. Matt Kukla was the only other Falcon to score in double figures finishing with 12. UWRF was 25-57 (.439) from the field, including 4-14 (.286) from three-point range. The Falcons were 11-16 (.688) from the line.

UWEC was led by Dan Archambault who scored 20 points. He had five rebounds, four assists and two steals. Jason Larson added 18 points and had five rebounds. Andy Witte scored 10 points and finished with seven rebounds. Nate Beck had seven rebounds and Tyler Birkel had six rebounds. UWEC finished 23-55 (.418) from the field, including 5-17 (.294) from three-point range. UWEC, now 17-9 overall, was 17-22 (.773) from the line.

The Falcons finish the season with a 16-10 overall record.

Falcons Defeat Platteville in Double Overtime

Feb. 22, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team defeated UW-Platteville, 78-72 in double overtime, Saturday night.

Platteville held a 34-29 lead at the half. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 31 points and 13 rebounds. Senior Tim Duncan scored 14 points and had seven rebounds. Micah Helfrey scored 10 points. The Falcons shot 27-60 (.450) from the field, including 10-21 (.476) from three-point range. They finished 14-21 (.667) from the line. UWP was led by Tyler Selk who scored 20 points and had 16 rebounds.

The Falcons finish the regular season with a 16-9 overall record and they are 10-6 in the WIAC. The Falcons finished third in the WIAC for the season. UWRF will play sixth ranked Eau Claire Tuesday at Karges Center, tipoff will be at 7 p.m., Other WIAC games Tuesday night will be UW-La Crosse (#8) at UW-Stevens Point (#1)--7 p.m., UW-Stout (#5) at UW-Oshkosh (#4)--7 p.m., and UW-Platteville (#7) at UW-Whitewater (#2)--7 p.m.

Falcons Get 92-86 Overtime Win at UW-Stout

Feb. 19, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team had four players score in double figures as they won at UW-Stout, 92-86 in overtime, Wednesday night.

Stout held a 41-32 lead at the half and the game was tied 75-75 at the end of regulation. The Falcons outscored Stout, 17-11, in the overtime. It was the second time this year the two teams played an overtime game. Stout won an 88-79 game at the Karges Center in January.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 34 points and 11 rebounds. Brian Mathison scored 17 points and had seven rebounds. Matt Kukla scored 14 points and Jesse Lam added 12. The Falcons shot 31-68 (.456) from the field, including 8-19 (.421) from three-point range. They finished 22-34 (.647) from the line. UWS was led by Andy Bray who scored 26 points and had 14 rebounds.

The Falcons, now 15-9 overall and 9-6 in the WIAC, will next play at UW-Platteville on Saturday with action starting at 7 p.m.

Falcons Top Superior, 62-56

Feb. 12, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team beat UW-Superior, 62-56, Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

UWRF held a 30-28 lead at the half. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 29 points and 11 rebounds. He finished 10-22 from the field and 9-12 from the line. Brian Mathison finished with 12 points and Micah Helfrey scored 10 and had six assists. UWRF was 20-56 (.357) from the field, including 2-17 (.118) from three-point range. The Falcons were 20-25 (.800) from the line. UWS, now 4-18 overall and 1-13 in the WIAC, was led by Cody Kastern and Andrew Browning who each scored 14 points. Kastern led all rebounders with 15.

The Falcons, now 14-9 overall and 8-6 in the WIAC, will next play at UW-Stout on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Drop 77-70 Decision at UWEC

Feb. 8, 2003
The Falcon men's basketball team dropped a 77-70 WIAC decision at UW-Eau Claire Saturday night.

UWRF trailed by 31-29 at halftime and UWEC outscored the Falcons 46-41 in the second half. UWRF was led by Rich Melzer who scored 39 points. He also led both teams with 13 rebounds. He had two blocks and a steal. He finished 15-23 from the field and 9-13 from the line. The only other Falcon to score in double figures was Brian Mathison who had 10. UWRF was 26-55 (.473) from the field, including 4-14 (.286) from three point range. UWRF was 14-21 (.667) from the line. UWEC was led by Jason Larson who scored 33 points and he had 11 rebounds. He was 9-18 from the field, including 7-11 from three point range and 8-12 from the line. Andy Witte, who had 10 rebounds, scored 13 points, Nate Beck scored 10 and Dan Archambault scored 10 and had nine assists. UWEC also finished 26-55 (.473) from the field and 8-22 (.364) from the line. UWEC, now 14-8 overall and 6-7 in the WIAC, was 17-24 (.708) from the line.

The Falcons, now 13-9 overall and 7-6 in the WIAC, host UW-Superior on Wednesday at the Karges Center with tip off set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Lose to UWSP, 74-61**

Feb. 5, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 74-61 WIAC decision to UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night in Stevens Point.

The Falcons held a 37-31 lead at the half, but were outscored 43-24 in the second half. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 22 points and he had eight rebounds. Matt Kukla scored 12 points. Jesse Lam scored 11 points. The Falcons finished 21-47 from the field (.447) including 6-11 (.545) from three-point range. They finished 13-21 (.619) from the line. UWSP was led by Nick Bennett who scored 21 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Jason Kalsow scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds. UWSP outrebounded the Falcons, 38-18.

Stevens Point is now 18-12 overall and 6-5 in the WIAC. The Falcons, now 13-7 overall and 7-4 in the WIAC, play at UW-Eau Claire on Saturday night with tip off set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Lose to UWW, 71-63**

Feb. 1, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team lost a 71-63 WIAC decision to UW-Whitewater Saturday night at the Karges Center.

The Falcons held a 34-22 lead at the half, but were outscored 49-29 in the second half. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 27 points and he had five rebounds. He had four assists, three blocks and two steals. Matt Kukla and Brian Mathison each scored 12 points. The Falcons finished 24-56 from the field (.429) including 3-14 (.214) from three point range. They finished 12-19 (.632) from the line. UWUWW was led by Aubrey Lewis-Byers who scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Londen Donlow scored 20 points and had nine rebounds. Jonathan Hodges scored 12 points and led UWUWW with 10 rebounds. UWUWW outrebounded the Falcons, 44-29.

The Falcons, now 13-7 overall and 7-4 in the WIAC, play at Stevens Point on Wednesday. Game time is for 7 p.m.

**Melzer Scores 54 in a Men's Hoops Win**

Jan. 29, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team beat UW-La Crosse, 81-65, Saturday night in La Crosse.

Falcon Rich Melzer picked up 54 points and 16 rebounds. Melzer was 20-27 (.740) from the field and 14-16 (.875) from the line. UWRF was 31-53 (.585) from the field and was 1-5 (.200) from three-point range. UWRF was 18-26 (.692) from the line. UW-La Crosse, now 5-14 overall and 1-9 in the WIAC, was led by Casey Taggatz, who scored 29 points. Jason Scheunemann led the Eagles in rebounds grabbing 13.

The Falcons, now 13-6 overall and 7-3 in the WIAC, play at UW-Eau Claire on Saturday night with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Defeat Oshkosh, 56-55**

Jan. 25, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team beat UW-Oshkosh Saturday night at Karges Center. The score was 35-25 Oshkosh at the half. Throughout the second half the Falcons were down by 10 or more until about 15 minutes into the half. With just 1 minute left to play the Falcons were down by 2 points. They fouled giving Oshkosh's Dain Christensen a chance at a free throw. Christensen missed, and with 18 seconds left Falcon Matt Kukla shot one from 3 point land and made it to win the game.

Rich Melzer led the team with 19 points and had 9 rebounds. Brian Mathison and Micah Helfrey each had 8 points. UWRF was 21-41 (.512) from the field and was 2-7 (.286) from three-point range. UWRF was 12-22 (.545) from the line. UW-Oshkosh, now 14-4 overall and 5-4 in the WIAC, was led by Tim Dworak, who scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Andy Fernholz who scored 14 points.
The Falcons, now 12-6 overall and 6-3 in the WIAC, play at UW-La Crosse on Wednesday night with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Lose to Stout in Overtime**

Jan. 22, 2003

The Falcon men's basketball team lost to Stout 88-79 in overtime Wednesday night at Karges Center. The score was 67-66 River Falls with 1.6 seconds to play in the second half when Barrington Smith was injured on a blocking foul. Casey Chapman took the shots from the line for the Blue Devils. He missed the first shot, but tied the game when he made the second. The Blue Devils dominated the overtime scoring 21 points to the Falcons' 12.

Rich Melzer had a double-double tonight when he scored 34 points and had 14 rebounds. Melzer was also 14-15 (.933) from the line. Brian Mathison added 15 points for the Falcons. Jesse Lam had 12. UWRF was 26-65 (.400) from the field, but struggled from three-point range scoring only 3-16 (.188). UWRF was 24-28 (.857) from the line. UW-Stout was 32-69 (.464) from the field, including 11-25 (.440) from three-point range. UWS was 13-18 (.722) from the line. UW-Stout, now 11-5 overall and 6-2 in the WIAC, was led by Casey Chapman, who scored 27 points. Andy Brey had a double-double scoring 22 points and grabbing 12 rebounds.

The Falcons, now 11-6 overall and 5-3 in the WIAC, host UW-Oshkosh on Saturday night at the Karges Center with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Get 77-70 Win Over UWP**

Jan. 18, 2003

Matt Kukla scored 26 points to help lead the Falcon men's basketball team to a 77-70 win over UW-Platteville Saturday night at the Karges Center.

Kukla tied the school record for the second time in three game with eight three-pointers. He finished 8-9 from behind the arc. He was 9-11 from the field. He also had four rebounds. Rich Melzer added 18 points and a team-high five rebounds. He had three assists, one block and three steals. Micah Helfrey scored 14 points and led the Falcons with four assists. He had two steals. UWRF was 31-50 (.620) from the field, including 10-17 (.588) from three-point range. UWRF was just 5-11 (.455) from the line. UWP, now 5-10 overall and 2-5 in the WIAC, was led by Tyler Selk who scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Falcons, now 11-5 overall and 5-2 in the WIAC, host UW-Stout on Wednesday at the Karges Center with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Win at UWS, 65-56**

Jan. 15, 2003

Micah Helfrey scored 18 points to help lead the Falcons to a 65-56 win at UW-Superior Wednesday night.

The Falcons held a slim 24-23 lead at the half, but outscored UWS 41-33 in the second half to get the win. Helfrey had five rebounds, five assists and one steal in 34 minutes of action. Matt Kukla scored 17 points and had four rebounds and five assists. Rich Melzer had another double-double finishing with 15 points and 13 rebounds. He blocked three shots and had five steals. UWRF was 26-59 (.441) from the field, including 7-18 (.389) from three-point range. The Falcons were 6-7 (.857) from the line. Kukla finished 5-10 from three-point range. UWRF was led by Cody Kastern who scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds.

The Falcons, now 10-5 overall and 4-2 in the WIAC, host UW-Platteville in a WIAC game at the Karges Center on Saturday. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Kukla Scores 35 to Pace Falcons to Win**

Jan. 11, 2003

Falcon Matt Kukla scored a career high 35 points, hitting 8-14 three-pointers, to help lead the men's basketball team to a 96-60 win over Marian College Saturday afternoon at the Karges Center.

The eight three pointers in a game ties the Falcon school record. Kukla finished 11-18 from the field and 5-5 from the line. He had four rebounds, five assists and one steal in 29 minutes of action. Rich Melzer had a double-double finishing with 23 points and 10 rebounds. He had two assists and two blocks. Every Falcon who played, scored in the game. UWRF finished 35-62 (.565) from the field, including 11-27 (.407) from three-point range. UWRF was a perfect 15-15 from the line. Marian was led by Mike Westerbeke, who scored 14 points. Brian Crowe led the Sabres with seven rebounds. MC was 21-49 (.429) from the field, including 5-17 (.294) from three-point range. They finished 13-18 (.722) from the line.

The Falcons, now 9-5 overall and 3-2 in the WIAC, play a WIAC game at UW-Superior on Wednesday with action starting at 7 p.m.

**Falcons Top UWEC, 79-64**

Jan. 8, 2003

The Falcons, now 9-3 from three who scored 14 points. Brian Crowe led the Sabres with seven rebounds. MC was 21-49 (.429) from the field, including 5-17 (.294) from three-point range. They finished 13-18 (.722) from the line.
The Falcons men's basketball team outscored UW-Eau Claire 50-35 in the second half to break open the game and earn a 79-64 WIAC win at the Karges Center Wednesday night.

The game was tied 29-29 at the half. UWRF was led by Rich Melzer who scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Jesse Lam added 14 points, Matt Kukla 12 and Micah Helfrey 11. UWRF finished 29-50 (.580) from the field, including 4-7 (.571) from three-point range. The Falcons were 17-25 (.680) from the line.

UWEC, now 10-3 overall and 3-2 in the WIAC, was led by Jason Larson who scored 31 points. Dan Archambault added 14 points. Nate Beck led the Blugolds with six rebounds. UWEC was 29-50 (.580) from the field, including 4-7 (.571) from three-point range. The Falcons were 17-25 (.680) from the line.

The Falcons, now 8-5 overall and 3-2 in the WIAC, host Marian College on Saturday at the Karges Center. Action starts at 3 p.m.

Falcons Lose to Whitewater
Jan. 4, 2003

The Falcons dropped a 86-75 decision to Whitewater in a WIAC game played Saturday night at the Kachel Gym in Williams Center in Whitewater.

Whitewater held a 46-30 lead at the half. In the second half the Falcons fought back scoring 45 points to Whitewaters 40, but time ran out with the Warhawks ahead. UWRF was led by Rich Melzer who scored 35 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Matt Kukla and Jesse Lam each had 11 points for the Falcons. UWRF was 24-43 (.558) from the field, including 5-12 (.417) from three-point range. UWRF was 22-32 (.688) from the line. Whitewater was led by Aubrey Lewis-Byers who scored 28 points. Londen Donlow scored 22 points and had eight rebounds. Nicholas Smith and Earnest Williams each scored 11 points. Whitewater is now 9-2 overall and 2-1 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 7-5 overall and 2-2 in the WIAC, face UW-Eau Claire on Wednesday at home for a WIAC game that starts at 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose to St. Thomas
Dec. 30, 2002

The Falcons dropped a 77-72 decision to St. Thomas in the Cenex Harvest States Championship game played Monday night at the Karges Center.

UST held a 37-34 lead at the half and outscored the Falcons 40-38 in the second half to improve to 6-2 on the year. UWRF was led by Rich Melzer who scored 25 points and grabbed eight rebounds. He had five assists. Matt Kukla, who was 5-8 from three-point range, scored 15 points, had five rebounds and five assists. Brian Mathison added 14 points. UWRF was 27-65 (.415) from the field, including 10-21 (.476) from three-point range. UWRF was 8-11 (.727) at the line. St. Thomas was led by Mark Paulson who scored 14 points. Jimmy Storis scored 13 points and had eight rebounds. Kevin Fitzgerald scored nine points and also grabbed eight rebounds.

In the third place game, Buena Vista topped Wisconsin Lutheran, 90-64.

The Falcons, now 7-4 overall and 2-1 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Whitewater on Saturday for a WIAC game that starts at 7 p.m.

Falcons Top Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec. 29, 2002

The Falcons outscored Wisconsin Lutheran 51-28 in the second half to earn an 82-65 win over the Warriors Sunday night at the Karges Center in the Cenex Harvest States Tournament.

WLC (1-9) had a 37-31 lead at the half, but the Falcons dominated the second half to get the win. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with a double double scoring 25 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Brian Mathison scored 13 points and had nine rebounds. Micah Helfrey added 12 points and six assists, UWRF was 32-57 (.561) from the field, including 4-11 (.364) from three-point range. UWRF finished 14-19 (.737) at the line. Jess Pfeifer, who was 6-14 from three-point range, finished with 22 points to lead the Warriors. UWRF had a 47-28 advantage in rebounding.

In the other semifinal game, St. Thomas (5-2) topped Buena Vista (4-2), 78-74.

The Falcons, now 7-3 overall, will face St. Thomas in the championship game of the Cenex Harvest States Tournament on Monday. Tip off is set for 8 p.m. The third place game will feature Wisconsin Lutheran and Buena Vista and that contest starts at 6 p.m.

Falcons Lose at Viterbo, 66-65
Dec. 14, 2002
The Falcons dropped a 66-65 decision at Viterbo College on Saturday night.

The Falcons had a 38-28 lead at the half, but were outscored in the second half, 38-27. Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Micah Helfrey and Jeff Holt each scored 13. Holt had four rebounds and Melzer blocked two shots. UWRF was 22-53 (.415) from the field, including 8-19 (.421) from three-point range. UWRF was 13-19 (.684) from the line. Viterbo was led by Justin Kirking who scored 20 points and Mark Kunlien who scored 12 adn grabbed eight rebounds.

The Falcons, now 6-3 overall and 2-1 in the WIAC, will next host the Cenex-Harvest States Tourney on Dec. 29-30 at the Karges Center. UWRF plays Wisconsin Lutheran at 8 p.m. In the first game at 6 p.m. St. Thomas faces Buena Vista.

**Falcons Top La Crosse, 70-66**

Dec. 11, 2002

The Falcons had four players score in double figures to get a 70-66 win over UW-La Crosse Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons with 10 points and he finished with 11 rebounds. He had two assists and three blocks. Brian Mathison, who went 3-3 from three-point range, scored 14 and had six rebounds. Matt Kukla, who was 3-6 from three-point range, had 14 points and three assists. Jesse Lam scored 12 points and had seven rebounds and a blocked shot. UWRF was 22-49 (.449) from the field, including 6-10 (.600) from behind the arc. The Falcons were 20-30 (.667) from the line.

UWLC, now 3-4 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, was led by Casey Taggatz who scored 15. He was 4-8 from three-point range. Eric Dougall and Rocky Bouldin each scored 10. The Eagles were 26-63 (.413) from the field, including 11-22 (.500) from behind the arc. UWLC was 3-5 (.600) from the line. UWRF had a 38-35 advantage in rebounds.

The Falcons, now 6-2 overall and 2-1 in the WIAC, play at Viterbo on Saturday with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Beat Titans, 79-71**

Dec. 7, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team outscored UW-Oshkosh by 10 in the second half to defeat the Titans 79-71 Saturday afternoon in Oshkosh.

Rich Melzer and Micah Helfrey collaborated for 32 of the teams' 39 second-half points, and Melzer finished with 34, his third game this season over 30 points. Melzer played all 40 minutes and pulled down 11 rebounds. Jesse Lam had four boards.

The Falcons trailed 42-40 at the half, but took the lead for good with 6:33 left in the contest. UWRF went 11-for-13 at the free throw line in the final three minutes. The last UWRF field goal was made with 3:15 to go.

Helfrey was second in points for UWRF with 18. Matt Kukla and Kevin Becker both had eight.

Chris Becker led in assists with four, followed by Melzer and Kukla with three. Melzer also had three blocks. Chris Becker had a pair of steals.

The Falcons shot 72 percent from the field; UWO was 72.7 percent.

The Falcons, now 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the WIAC, host UW-LaCrosse Wednesday. Game time is 7 p.m at the Karges Center.

**Falcons Lose to UWSP, 71-63**

Dec. 4, 2002

The Falcon men's basketball team opened WIAC play losing to UW-Stevens Point, 71-63, Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

UWSP held a 41-33 lead at the half. UWRF was led in scoring by Rich Melzer who netted 25 points. He was 8-18 from the field and 9-13 from the line. Matt Kukla was the only other Falcon to score in double figures finishing with 13. Jesse Lam led the Falcons with seven rebounds. UWRF was 21-50 (.420) from the field, including 7-15 (.467) from three-point range. UWRF was 14-20 (.700) from the line. UWSP, now 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the WIAC, had four players score in double figures led by Neal Krajnik and Jason Kalsow who each scored 15. Josh Iserloth scored 11 and Ron Nolting 10. Kalsow and Nick Bennett each had eight rebounds. UWSP was 25-46 (.543) from the field, including 6-11 (.545) from three-point range. UWSP was 15-20 (.750) from the line. UWSP held a 31-24 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 4-2 overall and 0-1 in the WIAC, play at UW-Oshkosh on Saturday. Game time is 3 p.m.

**Falcons Beat Cabrini**

Nov. 30, 2002

The Falcons earned a 67-64 win over Cabrini Saturday night in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Rich Melzer led the Falcons in scoring with 28 points. He was 13-24 from the field and 2-2 from the line. He also led the team with
seven rebounds and six blocked shots. Micah Helfrey scored 13 points and led the Falcons with seven assists. Jesse Lam also scored in double figures finishing with 11. He had five rebounds. Kevin Becker had three assists and five steals. UWRF was 30-58 (.517) from the field, inclucing 3-11 (.273) from three point range. The Falcons weree 4-6 (.667) from the line. Cabrini, now 2-2 this year, was led by Tim Maddox who scored 25 points. Brian Wood led all rebounders with 14.

The Falcons, now 4-1 overall, open WIAC play on Wednesday when they host UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

**Falcons Lose at Embry-Riddle, 80-77**

Nov. 29, 2002

Rich Melzer scored 35 points but it wasn't enough as the Falcons lost, 80-77, at Embry-Riddle Friday night. The game was played in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Melzer's 35 points was a season high and the total put him over the 1,000 point mark in his career. He now has scored 1,019 career points. He is in his 35th year with the Falcons. In his freshman season he scored 344 points and added 561 points as a sophomore. He also led the Falcons with 10 rebounds. Matt Kukla scored 12 points and Jesse Lam added 10. Melzer had three blocks, three steals and two assists. Micah Helfrey led the Falcons with eight assists and he scored eight points. Kukla missed a three pointer at the buzzer. UWRF was 29-55 (.527) from the field, including 6-17 (.353) from three point range. UWRF was 13-16 (.813) from the line. E-R got 29 points from Harold Pierson and 25 points from Chinwuba Agha.

The Falcons, now 3-1 overall, play Cabrini at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

**Falcons Beat Macalester, 86-73**

Nov. 26, 2002

Rich Melzer scored 31 points to help lead the Falcons to a 86-73 win over Macalester Tuesday night at the Karges Center.

Melzer finished 13-20 from the field and 5-7 from the line. He also led the Falcons with eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals. Jesse Lam added 16 points and four rebounds. Matt Kukla scored 15 points and finished with six rebounds and three assists. Kukla finished 5-8 from three point range for all of his points. UWRF was 28-51 (.549) from the field, including 7-16 (.438) from three point range. The Falcons were 23-32 from the line, led by Micah Helfrey who was 6-6.

The Falcons, now 3-0 overall, play Embry-Riddle at 8 p.m. on Friday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

**Falcons Top Northwestern, 79-60**

Nov. 22, 2002

Rich Melzer scored 22 points while Micah Helfrey and Brian Mathison added 17 each to help the Falcons to a 79-60 win over Northwestern College Friday night at the Bethel, Minn., College Tournament.

UWRF, 1-0 overall, led 44-30 at the half. Melzer was 10-18 from the field and 2-5 from the line. He also had nine rebounds to lead the Falcons. Helfrey was 6-8 from the field, including 2-3 from three-point range. He was 3-5 from the line. He led the Falcons with five steals. Mathison was 6-11 from the field and 5-8 from three point range. UWRF was 32-71 (.451) from the field and 10-25 (.400) from three point range. The Falcons finished just 5-13 (.385) from the line.

The Falcons play Bethel at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the championship game. Bethel beat Finlandia, 92-69 to advance to the title game.

**Falcons Open Season at Bethel Tournament**

Nov. 20, 2002

*By Bob Burrows*

Ask Falcon men's basketball coach Rick Bowen why he is excited about the 2002-03 season and the first thing he'll do is point to Rich Melzer.

"He's having a good pre-season," Bowen said about the junior, who was named to the All-WIAC first team and NABC All-Midwest Region teams a year ago. "I think this is one of the first times in my career at River Falls that I've had one of the premier players in the league. Not to take anything away from the guys who have been here in the past, but Rich is 6-8."

But Bowen also knows that in order for the Falcons to be successful, they're going to have to rely on a lot more than just Melzer.

"The one thing I can guarantee you will happen with Melzer, every time he gets the ball in the low post he's going to be double- and triple-teamed," Bowen predicted. "Rich has to recognize when he has a shot and when to kick it out. If we can establish an outside game, that will free things up for Rich inside."

With that said, the Falcons will open the 2002-03 season Friday night against Northwestern College of St. Paul Friday at 6 p.m. in the first game of the Bethel College Tournament. Bethel and Finlandia (Mich.) play the nightcap with the winners squaring off Saturday at 8 p.m. The Falcons will open at home on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 8 p.m. against Macalester in the second game of a doubleheader with the Falcon women, who host Bethel at 6 p.m.
Bowen's enthusiasm about the upcoming season is easy to understand if you start with Melzer. The former All-Big Rivers Conference Player of the Year at River Falls High School is a two-time All-WIAC pick who averaged 21.6 points and 7.8 rebounds a game as a sophomore. He is just 95 points away from joining the school's exclusive 1,000 point club and is on pace to finish his career among the top three in both scoring and rebounding at UW-RF.

Melzer has been selected as a pre-season All-American by both Street & Smith's Basketball Magazine and DIIIHoops.com.

But Bowen also has other reasons to be optimistic. Senior co-captain Brian Mathison returns after starting every game last year while averaging 8.6 points and 3.4 rebounds a game. The 6-3 forward had back-to-back buzzer beating three-pointers to lift the Falcons to a pair of wins last season and scored in double figures in 11 games, with a season-high 18 points against UW-Stevens Point.

"Brian Mathison is one of those unheralded guys who is just a good player," Bowen said. We're going to need him."

The Falcons' biggest challenge entering the season is replacing All-WIAC players Kent Beckert and Edmund Johnson. Becker, who was named the WIAC basketball Scolar-Athlete, started at guard for four years and finished his career with 1,015 points. He also is the Falcons' career leader in free throw percentage (.822) while Johnson is the school's all-time leader in field goal percentage (.604).

Bowen dipped into the junior college level to try and fill the holes left by the graduation of Becker and Johnson and the departure of Scott DeWyre with a year of eligibility remaining. He brought in 5-9 Micah Helfrey from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College to step into a starting guard role while recruiting some inside presence in the form of 6-8 Grant Glazier and 6-6 Nick Byl, both from Rochester, Minn., Community College. Guard Josh Wacholz also joins the Falcons from Rochester Community and Technical College.

"This was a unique year," Bowen said. "We had four junior college kids, three from Minnesota and one from Arizona, who were very interested in us and they fit. Two of them have some size - 6-6 and 6-8 - and another fits a desperate need we have at point guard. The recruiting just kind of fell into place and that allowed me to redshirt our entire freshmen class, and I like them."

Bowen said junior Kevin Becker has emerged from the shadow of his older brother Kent to become one of the Falcons' best defensive players who will be looked to contribute on offense as well.

In order for Bowen's plan to free up Melzer inside to work, he said the Falcons will have to get some long-range production from senior co-captain Tim Duncan and juniors Matt Kukla and Chris Becker, twin bother of Kevin.

"One of those three guys has to consistently provide us with a three-point shooter," he said. "The one who does will play the bulk of the time."

Sophomores Jesse Lam and Jeff Holt also return for the Falcons. Lam appeared in all 26 games for the Falcons last season, averaging 3.5 points and 1.5 rebounds a game while Holt, an Elmwood High School graduate, saw action in 13 games and scored a total of nine points.

Bowen said this season is shaping up as a dogfight in the battle for the WIAC crown. Last year's tri-champions, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Whitewater and UW-Stevens Point, are all ranked in the top 25 in the nation in the preseason poll while the Falcons received honorable mention.

"The thing that really scares me is, we could be very good but could still finish third or fourth," he said. "But I think we're capable of challenging for a league title, and that's saying that with three teams from our league in the top 25 and we're not one of them."

Bowen said one thing he hopes carries over from last year is the fan support at Karges Center.

"That's been one of the most rewarding things for me personally," he stated. "I hope that continues. "Obviously championship teams have great fan support," he added. "Turning Karges Center into a true home court advantage is something I think we can do. I think it's been started."