Men’s Basket Ball 2009-2010

2009-10 UW River Falls Men’s Basketball Roster

Jan. 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Hgt.</th>
<th>Wgt.</th>
<th>Yr.</th>
<th>Hometown/Last Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ben Gresmer</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Hudson/Hudson HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aaron Anderson</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Stillwater, MN/Stillwater HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Zach Smith</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Rochester, MN/John Marshall HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Spencer Shelman</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant, IA/Iowa Central CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dijon Reese</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN/Transition HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jontae Koonkaew</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Apple Valley, MN/Apple Valley HS</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Brady Hannigan</td>
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<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Oakdale, MN/North St. Paul HS</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Justin Behnke</td>
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<td>Michael Adams</td>
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<td>So.</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN/South HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Danny Johnson</td>
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<td>6-2</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Jake Voeltz</td>
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<td>Jr.</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Ollie White</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Mound, MN/Mound-Westonka HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Wade Guerin</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Bloomington, MN/St. Croix Lutheran HS</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Storm Harmon</td>
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<td>Sr.</td>
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<td>Eric Gilbertson</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Zach Peterson</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Circle Pines, MN/Centennial</td>
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Head coach: Jeff Berkhof
Assistant coaches: Pedro Renta, Scott Kelly
Athletic performance coach: Carmen Fata
Storm Harmon
Forward
6-2
205
Senior
#35
Altoona, Wisconsin

Dijon Reese
Guard
5-9
160
Senior
#10
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Career Highs
Points: 25 vs. Whitewater, Jan. 5, 2008

Spencer Shelman
Guard
6-3
200
Senior
#5
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Career Highs
Points: 10 vs. Whitewater, Jan. 3, 2009
Rebounds: 5 vs. Judson, Nov. 21, 2008
Assists: 3 vs. Oshkosh, Feb. 14, 2009

Wade Guerin
Center
6-8
240
Junior
#34
Bloomington, Minnesota
Career Highs
Points: 17 vs. St. Scholastica, Nov. 18, 2008
Rebounds: 12 vs. Stevens Point, Jan. 7, 2009

Brady Hannigan
Guard
6-4
190
Junior
#14
Oakdale, Minnesota
* WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll 2009
* Newcomer of the Year 2008
* WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll 2008
Career Highs
Points: 16 vs. Stout, Feb. 20, 2008
Rebounds: 9 vs. La Crosse, Feb. 11, 2009

Danny Johnson
Guard
6-2
190
Junior
#23
Stillwater, Minnesota
Career Highs
Points: 17 vs. Whitewater, Feb. 24, 2009
Rebounds: 6 vs. Judson, Nov. 21, 2008
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Jontae Koonkaew   | Guard    | 5-9    | 175    | Junior  | #12    | Apple Valley, MN  | * Most Valuable Player 2009  
* WIAC Player of the Week, Dec. 15-21, 2009  
* All-WIAC Honorable Mention 2007  
* Newcomer of the Year 2007  
Career Highs  
Points: 28 vs. Stout, Feb. 18, 2009  
| Jake Voeltz       | Forward  | 6-4    | 215    | Junior  | #32    | River Falls, WI   | * John Kinney Award 2009  
* John Kinney Award 2008  
* WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll 2007  
Career Highs  
Assists: 17 vs. Stout, Feb. 18, 2009  
Rebounds: 4 vs. Whitewater, Feb. 21, 2009 |
| Michael Adams     | Guard    | 5-9    | 165    | Sophomore | #22 | Minneapolis, MN   | * John Kinney Award 2008  
* John Kinney Award 2007  
Career Highs  
Points: 2 vs. Macalester, Dec. 29, 2008  
Rebounds: 1 vs. Whitewater, Jan. 3, 2009 |
| Aaron Anderson    | Guard    | 6-4    | 205    | Sophomore | #3  | Stillwater, MN    | * Newcomer of the Year 2009  
Career Highs  
Points: 21 vs. Eau Claire, Feb. 7, 2009  
Rebounds: 8 vs. St. Scholastica, Nov. 18, 2008  
Assists: 5 vs. Whitewater, Feb. 24, 2009 |
| Justin Behnke     | Guard    | 5-11   | 170    | Freshman | #21   | Rochester, MN     |  
High School: John Marshall  
High School: Rochester, MN    |
| Eric Gilbertson   | Forward  | 6-4    | 230    | Freshman | #40   | River Falls, WI   |  
High School: River Falls  
High School: River Falls    |
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<th>School 2</th>
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<td>Ben Gresmer</td>
<td>Guard</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hudson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zach Peterson</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Circle Pines, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Forward</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Mound, Minnesota</td>
<td>Mound-Westonka</td>
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Feb. 17, 2010
9-16 Overall; 3-13 WIAC

Nov. 17 River Falls 66, Viterbo 49
Nov. 20 at Crown College Tip Off Classic
River Falls 92, Crown 70
Nov. 21 Augsburg 84, River Falls 75
Nov. 24 St. Thomas 72, River Falls 71
Nov. 28 Sioux Falls 77, River Falls 74

Dec. 2 Superior 83, River Falls 81* (OT)
Dec. 5 Stevens Point 73, River Falls 61*
Dec. 10 Eau Claire 74, River Falls 68*
Dec. 12 River Falls 82, Oshkosh 73
Dec. 15 River Falls 71 Northwestern 52
Dec. 20 River Falls 85, St. Scholastica 61
Dec. 29 River Falls 94, George Fox 59
Dec. 30 River Falls 74, Macalester 40

Jan. 6 Stout 78, River Falls 53*
Jan. 9 Whitewater 70, River Falls 57*
Jan. 13 River Falls 83, La Crosse 75*
Jan. 16 Platteville 79, River Falls 65*
Jan. 23 Stout 85, River Falls 78*
Jan. 27 Superior 87, River Falls 72*
Jan. 30 Oshkosh 71, River Falls 69*

Feb. 3 Eau Claire 76, River Falls 71*
Feb. 6 River Falls 69, Whitewater 68* (OT)
Feb. 13 Stevens Point 68, River Falls 47*
Feb. 17 La Crosse 73, River Falls 71*
Feb. 20 Platteville 85, River Falls 61*

**Game Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Bo Ryan Court, UW-Platteville</td>
<td>UW-Platteville 85, UW-River Falls 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-La Crosse 73, UW-River Falls 71</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Stevens Point, Wis. - Bennett Court</td>
<td>UW-Stevens Point 68, UW-River Falls 47</td>
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<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 69, UWW 68</td>
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<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-Eau Claire 76, UW-River Falls 71</td>
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<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-Oshkosh 71, UW-River Falls 69</td>
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<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium</td>
<td>UW-Superior 87, UW-River Falls 72</td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Johnson Fieldhouse Menomonie, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-Stout 85, UW-River Falls 78</td>
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<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-Platteville 79, UW-River Falls 65</td>
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<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>La Crosse, Wis. (Mitchell Hall)</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 83, UW-La Crosse 75</td>
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<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Whitewater, WI</td>
<td>UWW 70, UW-River Falls 57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis. Karges Center</td>
<td>UW-Stout 78, UW-River Falls 53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>St. Paul, Minn. (Leonard Center)</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 74, Macalester 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 94, George Fox 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Duluth, MN (Reif Gym)</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 85, St. Scholastica 61</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 71, Northwestern College 52</td>
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<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Kolf Sports Center - Oshkosh, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 82, UW-Oshkosh 73</td>
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<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Eau Claire, WI - Zorn Arena</td>
<td>UW-Eau Claire 74, UW-River Falls 68</td>
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<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-Stevens Point 73, UW-River Falls 61</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis.</td>
<td>UW-Superior 83, UW-River Falls 81</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Sioux Falls, South Dakota</td>
<td>University of Sioux Falls 77, UW-River Falls 74</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>River Falls, Wis.</td>
<td>St. Thomas 72, UW-River Falls 71</td>
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<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Saint Bonifacius, Minn</td>
<td>AUG 84, UW-River Falls 75</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Saint Bonifacius, Minn</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 92, CROWN 70</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>R.W. Beggs Senior Gymnasium</td>
<td>UW-River Falls 66, Viterbo University, Wis. 49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Falcon News

Koonkaew, Guerin, Shelman Named to All-WIAC Teams

March 4, 2010

Guard Jontae Koonkaew (Jr., Apple Valley, Minn.) and forwards Wade Guerin (Jr., Bloomington, Minn. St. Croix Lutheran HS) and Spencer Shelman (Sr., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa) have all been named to All-WIAC men's basketball teams.

Koonkaew and Guerin earned honorable mention and Shelman was named to the All-Sportsmanship team.

Koonkaew also earned honorable mention to the team in 2007 and 2009. He tied for the team lead in scoring averaging 13.9 points a game. He also led the Falcons with 98 assists and 42 steals. He averaged 3.8 rebounds a game. Koonkaew, 5-9, 175 pounds, was 130-287 (.453) from the field, including 24-63 (.381) from three point range. He finished 63-83 at the line. He scored in double figures in 18 games and had a season-high 24 points in an 82-73 win over UW-Oshkosh on Dec. 12. He led UWRF in scoring in 12 games. He was named the team's Player of the Week four times.

Guerin, 6-8, 240 pounds, tied for the team lead averaging 13.9 points a game. He led the Falcons in rebounding averaging 7.9 per game. He was second in assists (52) and blocked shots (8). He also had 21 steals. Guerin finished 132-257 (.514) from the field, including 19-50 (.38) from behind the arc. He was 65-96 (.677) from the line. He led the Falcons in scoring five times and in rebounding 13 times. He scored a career-high 23 points in the team's game at Superior on Jan. 27. He grabbed a career-high 21 rebounds in the team's game at La Crosse on Jan. 13. He had double-doubles in eight contests. He was named the team's Player of the Week four times. He was named the WIAC Player of the Week on Feb. 2.

Shelman, 6-3, 200 pounds, averaged 5.3 points and 2.4 rebounds a game. He was 41-104 (.394) from the field, including 18-55 (.327) from behind the arc. He was 33-40 (.825) from the line. Shelman scored a career-high 14 points in the team's game against Augsburg on Nov. 21. He also had a career-high six rebounds in the game against Superior on Jan. 27. The WIAC's All-Sportsmanship team is for individuals that displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout the season. The team included one member from each school as selected by that school.

Falcons Lose Season Finale at UWP

Feb. 20, 2010

The Falcon men's basketball team lost an 85-61 WIAC game at UW-Platteville on Saturday night.

Jake Voeltz led the Falcons with 20 points. He was the only Falcon to score in double figures. Wade Guerin added nine points. The Falcons shot 22-53 from the field and 3-15 from behind the arc. UWRF finished 14-19 at the line. Zach Peterson led the Falcons with a career-high nine rebounds.

In the first half the Pioneers had an early lead, but the Falcons had leads until the 3:32 mark. UWRF's biggest lead was 17-12 with 10:07 to play when Brady Hannigan made a layup. With 7:21 to play Voeltz made two free throws to put the Falcons up by four, 21-17. But UWP went on a 7-0 run to take a 24-21 lead with 5:31 to play. In the final 2:07 of the half UWRF outscored the Falcons, 10-0. UWRF's Curt Hanson hit a three at the buzzer to make it a 41-31 UWRF lead. Voeltz led the Falcons in the first half with 12 points. He was 5-6 from the field and 2-2 at the line. Peterson led the Falcons with five first half rebounds.

The Pioneers continued to build on their first half lead and the Falcons could never get the deficit to single digits. UWRF led by 28, 63-38, with 13:44 to play when Hanson hit a layup.

Hanson led the Pioneers with 24 points and Mike Shaw added 23. UWP shot 29-53 from the field and a hot 11-16 from three-point range. They were 16-21 at the line.

UWRF finishes its season 9-16 overall and 3-13 in WIAC play.

Falcons Fall at Buzzer to UW-L, 73-71

Feb. 17, 2010

In a near duplicate of the shot he missed last season at Karges Center, UW-La Crosse's Tony Mane drilled a 19-foot fall away at the buzzer to sink River Falls 73-71.

Last year, Mane missed at the buzzer from the same exact spot to secure RF's 63-62 win. This time however, Mane drilled it to end the Falcon's four-game winning streak over UWL.

With 0:37 remaining Trevor Stratton hit a step-back three pointer to give the Eagles a four point lead. Which was their largest lead of the night.

Just seconds later, Danny Johnson answered for RF with a three of his own.

The Falcons were forced to foul Cory Denger, who hit one of two from the line to give UWL a two point lead.
Jontae Koonkaew made an ankle breaking move to free himself and hit a free throw line jumper to tie the game with 0:16 left.

That set the stage for Mane's fade away to beat the buzzer and end the home season for the Falcons.

Stratton lead the Eagles with 17 points. Mane ended with 13 on 5-19 shooting.

Stratton l

lead the Eagles with 17 points. Mane ended with 13 on 5-19 shooting.

Jake Voeltz was the Falcons leading scorer with 14 points. Johnson and Koonkaew added 12 a piece. Wade Guerin finished a point away from another double-double, he ended with nine points and 10 boards.

River Falls will conclude its season on Saturday at UW-Platteville. Game time on Bo Ryan Court is set for 6 p.m.

Falcons Lose WIAC Game at UWSP

Feb. 13, 2010

The Falcon men's basketball team fell at UW-Stevens Point on Saturday evening, 68-47.

The Falcons were led in scoring by Jontae Koonkaew who had 18 points on the night to go along with an assist and four rebounds. No other Falcons scored in double figures in today's game. Wade Guerin added nine points, three rebounds and one assist.

The Falcons fell behind early in the ball game as Stevens Point ran off to an 11-2 lead to start the game. Koonkaew and Guerin accounted for most of the Falcon scoring in the first half. With 6:23 left in the game Koonkaew hit a layup and was fouled and would sink the free throw from the charity stripe to bring the Falcons within points, 26-14. But the Pointers kept the pressure on and led by 17 points, 37-20 at the half.

Koonkaew would begin the second half as hot as he was in the first half knocking down a three point shot to cut the Pointer lead to 16, 39-23.

But Stevens Point, ranked No. 6 in the D3Hoops.com poll, continued to pull away. The Pointers had a 56-29 lead when Danny Johnson hit a shot from beyond the arc to make the score 56-32 with 10:03 to play. The closest the Falcons could get after that was 65-47 when Johnson, who finished with six points, hit another three with 2:21 to play.

The Falcons shot 16-46 from the field, including 3-14 from behind the arc. They were 12-17 from the line. UWSP shot 27-61 from the field, including 3-15 from three-point range. They were 11-21 from the line. The Falcons dominated the boards with a 42-24 rebounds advantage.

The Falcons will play their final home game of the regular season on Wednesday when they host UW-La Crosse at the Karges Center. Action starts at 7 p.m.

Falcons Hot Start Fuels Upset Over Whitewater 69-68 in OT

Feb 6, 2010

River Falls jumped out to a 23-2 lead to open the game, but needed overtime to knock off the highly-ranked Warhawks of UW-Whitewater. In the final seconds of overtime, Danny Johnson rebounded a miss by UWW's DJ Dantzler and threw it the length of the court to run out the clock on the upset.

Whitewater came into the game ranked No. 6 in this weeks D3Hoops.com Poll, but didn't come ready to play. The game started rather slow with the Falcons leading just 4-0 in the opening four minutes.

Basketball is a game of runs and the Warhawks went on one of their own. Whitewater outscored the Falcons 21-4 over the next seven minutes to tie the game.

The lead traded hands 11 times in the remaining seven minutes of regulation.

Dupree Fletcher got a look from 17-feet to win the game at the buzzer for UWW. The ball hit the front iron, sending the game to overtime.

With nine seconds remaining in overtime, Mitchell made one of two from the line to clip the Falcon lead to one. Brady Hannigan mishandled the rebound and it rolled out of bounds.

Dantzler's look at three was short and Johnson was able to lob the ball down court to seal the victory.

Wade Guerin (16), Jontae Koonkaew (19), and Jake Voeltz (15) were the three Falcons in double figures. Johnson also chipped in nine.

Phil Negri lead the Warhawks with 16, all of which came in the second half.

The win is River Falls first conference win at the Karges Center this season. The Falcons improve to 9-13 on the season.
With the loss the Warhawks fall back into a tie atop of the WIAC standings at 9-3 with UW-Stevens Point.

River Falls will travel to Quandt Fieldhouse on Saturday to take on the No. 4 ranked Stevens Point Pointers. Tip-off is set for 5:00pm.

Falcons Fall Short in 76-71 Loss to UW-Eau Claire

Feb 3, 2010

The Falcon men’s basketball team lost a 76-71 WIAC game to UW-Eau Claire on Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

The loss is the fifth straight for the Falcons. UWRF held a 45-37 lead at the half, but were outscored, 39-26, in the second half.

In the second half the Falcons had a double-digit lead for about four minutes. But UWEC went on a 6-0 run to make it a 56-49 game with 13:28 to play. Jake Voeltz hit two free throws with 13:06 to put UWRF ahead by nine, 58-49. But The Blugolds went on another 6-0 run to cut the lead to 58-56 with 11:09 to go.

The Falcons responded with a run of their own to take an eight-point lead with 8:01 to play. Voeltz and Koonkaew hit layups and Wade Guerin made 1-2 free throws. Spencer Shelman hit a three to give the Falcons the eight-point advantage.

But then UWEC went on an 11-0 run to take control of the contest. UWEC led, 70-66, with 4:48 to go when Nick Bartlett made a layup, was fouled, and made the free throw to complete the three-point play.

The Falcons weren’t done yet and got to within one point, 70-69, when Jontae Koonkaew hit a three with 1:42 to go to make it a 70-69 game. UWEC hit all four free throws they attempted in the last 27 seconds of the game to seal the win.

Voeltz scored a career-high 24 points to lead the Falcons. He was 9-13 from the field and 6-7 at the line. Koonkaew added 14 points. Guerin finished with a his seventh double-double of the year scoring 13 points and grabbing nine rebounds. He also led the Falcons with four assists.

UWRF shot 25-49 (.510) from the field, including 5-11 (.455) from behind the arc. They finished 16-19 (.842) from the line. The Falcons had a slight, 32-31, advantage in rebounds. UWRF turned the ball over 17 times to just seven for the Blugolds.

UWEC was led by Marcus Rich who scored 20 points off the bench. Amadou Fofana added 19 points.

The first half featured four ties in a close contest that the Falcons blew open over the last four minutes. With 12:19 to play the Falcons held a seven point, 20-13 lead when Wade Guerin hit a jumper. UWEC cut the lead to one, 22-21, when Colin Boon hit a free throw with 9:37 left. The teams were never separated by more than three points for the next five minutes. With 4:21 to play the game was tied, 31-31. But from then the Falcons outscored the Blugolds, 14-8 to take a 45-37 lead into the half.

The Falcons, now 8-13 overall and 2-10 in the WIAC, will next host UW-Whitewater at 7 p.m., on Saturday at the Karges Center. UWW, 17-3, is ranked No. 6 in this week’s D3Hoops.com poll. They are in first place in the WIAC with a 9-2 record.

Guerin Named WIAC Player of the Week

Feb. 2, 2010

Basketball player Wade Guerin (Jr., Bloomington, Minn. St. Croix Lutheran HS) has been named the WIAC Player of the Week for his efforts with the Falcons last week.

Guerin was named the WIAC men's basketball player of the week according to league Sports Information Director, Matt Stanek.

Guerin was the team's top player in two games last week. Guerin, 6-8, 240, led the Falcons in scoring in both WIAC games. At Superior, he scored 23 points shooting 10-15 from the field, including 3-7 from three-point range. Against Oshkosh, he scored 21 points shooting 8-14 from the field, including 1-3 from behind the arc. He was 4-6 at the line. He also led the Falcons with 13 rebounds. It was the sixth double-double game for Guerin. In the two games he was 18-29 (.620) from the field and 4-10 (.400) from behind the arc. He was 4-6 at the line for 44 points. He had 17 rebounds and five assists in 74 minutes of playing time. This year Guerin leads the Falcons in scoring (14.6), rebounding (8.1) and blocks (7). He also has 40 assists and 19 steals.

The Falcon men's basketball team will host two WIAC games this week. On Wednesday the Falcons host UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m. On Saturday UWRF hosts UW-Whitewater at 7 p.m. Both games will be played at the Karges Center.
Falcons Comeback Falls Just Short, 71-69

Jan. 30, 2010

The Falcons lost a 71-69 decision to the UW-Oshkosh Titans Saturday night at the Karges Center. River Falls trailed by 10 points late, but had a look to win it at the buzzer.

Oshkosh lead by 10 with 1:31 remaining in the game. Spencer Shelman went to the line and hit the front end of a one-and-one. He missed the second, but grabbed his own rebound and was immediately fouled again. This time Shelman drilled both.

Moments later, Shelman hit a deep three pointer that to cut the Titan lead to three points. UWO's Luke Miller hit one of two from the free throw line to make it a two possession lead once again.

Wade Guerin responded with five straight points, that sandwiched two more Titan free throws.

River Falls fouled Cory Whitter with six seconds to go and the Titans leading by a point. Whittwer hit the first, but missed the second. Guerin hauled in the rebound and raced to the other end of the court. He launched a 27-footer that skipped off the back of the rim to close out the game.

Oshkosh's All-American D.J. Marsh was slowed for much of the game, entering the second half with only two points and three fouls. Marsh fouled out right before the Falcon comeback. He ended with 15.

River Falls finished this game extremely short-handed. Aaron Anderson and D.J. Reese remain out with injuries. Jontae Koonkaew left in the first half with an injury and Jake Voeltz hasn't fully recovered from his ankle injury.

Guerin lead the way for River Falls, finishing with a game-high 21. He also pulled down 13 rebounds.

Brady Hannigan ended with 16 points, one off his career-high.

Shelman ended with 11, his fifth double digit output of the season.

The Falcons will host UW-Eau Claire on Wednesday at the Karges Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Falcons Fall in Superior, 87-72

Jan. 27, 2010

The Falcons dropped their third straight conference, this one to the UW-Superior Yellowjackets 87-72 in Superior. The Jackets were lead by a balanced scoring attack that saw four players with 15 points or more.

River Falls lead by ten early in the game. Storm Harmon's three with 12:56 left in the opening half gave RF a 22-12 lead. In the remaining minutes of the half the Falcons made just one field goal.

After Harmon's basket the Yellowjackets scored the games next 22 points. Harmon hit another trey right before the half to end the run and make the half time score 34-25 Superior.

Superior was able to keep RF at a distance for most of the second half. The Falcons got within four a couple times, but were unable to get any closer.

Late in the half, Superior opened up the game taking a 19-point lead with 1:16 to go.

Wade Guerin lead the Falcons in scoring with 23, but he managed just four boards. Jontae Koonkaew and Harmon were the other Falcons in double figures.

Dan Culy lead the Jackets with 20 points. Superior's Marcus Helland just missed a double-double with 15 points and 9 rebounds.

Up next River Falls will battle the UW-Oshkosh Titans on Saturday at Karges Center. Tip off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Falcons Drop WIAC Game at UW-Stout, 85-78

Jan. 23, 2010

The Falcon men’s basketball team lost at UW-Stout, 85-78, on Saturday night moving its record to 8-10 on the season.

Stout got off to a great start. The Blue Devils began the game hitting two consecutive shots from beyond the arc. Ollie White finally got the Falcons on the board with a three point shot of his own. Spencer Shelman hit another three point shot with 16:13 left in the first half to cut the UWS lead to 8-6. Wade Guerin tied up the game with 9:08 left in the first half when he hit a basket. 27-27. The two teams would trade baskets for most of the remaining time in the half. Stout would take a six-point lead into halftime, 50-44.

The second half would go much the same as the first for both of the teams as they mainly traded baskets. With 7:45 left in the game Danny Johnson hit a three pointer to put the Falcons within two points, 67-65. The Falcons comeback attempt would not be successful though as the Blue Devils would make their free throws down the stretch.
Four Falcons would score in double figures against the Blue Devils on Saturday night. Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcons with 23 points, five rebounds and an assist. Guerin recorded a double-double scoring 19 points and adding 11 rebounds. Brady Hannigan added 13 points and Ollie White contributed 10 points to the Falcons. The Falcons shot 43.4 percent from the field in the contest and went 10-30 from downtown. The Falcons shot 75 percent from the free throw line as well. The Falcons allowed the Blue Devils to 49.2 percent from the field and shot 40 percent from the three point line.

The Falcons, now 2-7 in WIAC play, will next play a WIAC game at UW-Superior on Wednesday with action set to start at 7 p.m.

**Short-Handed Falcons lose to Hot-Shooting Pioneers, 79-65**

**Jan. 16, 2010**

Four Pioneers scored over 16 points to lead UW-Platteville to victory over UW-River Falls. Everytime RF pulled themselves back into the game, UWP answered with some big buckets.

The Falcons were without two starters, Jake Voeltz and Aaron Anderson. Also, back-up PG D.J. Reese is out for the year with a broken ankle.

Storm Harmon and Spencer Shelman were up to the task early in this game. Shelman scored the first four Falcon points. Harmon came off the bench with a trey and a pair of offensive putbacks.

River Falls trailed by 11 at two different occasions in the first half, but was able to get back within four at the half.

Within the first five minutes of the half Platteville pushed the lead to 12. The Falcons clawed back to within five, but they never got closer then that.

Back-to-back three pointers by UWP's Curt Hanson and Mike Shaw with just under 10 minutes remaining extended the lead to 13 and they never looked back.

The Pioneers extended their lead to as many as 20, before pulling out a 14-point win.

Hanson (22), Shaw (16), Nick Allen (16) and Shane Kieler (16) were the four Pioneers in double-figures. Only two other members of the team scored in the game. Hanson and Kieler both shot 7-11 from the field in the game.

Jontae Koonkaew (16) and Wade Guerin (15) were the two Falcons in with over 10 in the contest. The pair combined to shoot just 10-30 from the field.

River Falls goes to 8-9 on the season overall and 2-6 in conference play on the first trip through the double round robin schedule.

The Falcons are off on Wednesday and will be back in action Saturday at Johnson Fieldhouse in Menomonie. The tip-off against the UW-Stout Blue Devils is at 6 p.m.

**Falcons Knock Off No. 24 Eagles, 83-75**

**Jan. 13, 2010**

Jake Voeltz and Jontae Koonkaew combined to score the games first nine points to give UW-River Falls a lead it would not relinquish. RF came away victorious 83-75 at Mitchell Hall in La Crosse to get back to .500.

La Crosse entered the game ranked No. 24 in the D3Hoops.Com Poll.

River Falls jumped out to a 13-2 lead in the first five minutes of the game. Voeltz had seven of the 13, including the first five to open the contest.

LAX cut the lead to four later in the half. The Falcons responded with a 10-2 run, to push the lead back to 12.

Jordan Rumpel scored to beat the buzzer and cut the lead to 10 at the break.

River Falls lead in the second half by scores between nine and 16, until the 2:42 mark.

The Eagles got to within five with just 38 seconds remaining. Following that basket the Falcons went 7-8 from the line to close out the victory.

Koonkaew ended with a team-high 20 on 7-10 shooting. Wade Guerin was second on the team with 19 points, but he also pulled down a career-high 21 rebounds. That ranks 6th all-time at UWR.

Voeltz had 11 and Spencer Shelman was the fourth Falcon in double figures with 14. Shelman made his first start of the season in place of the injured Aaron Anderson.

Tony Mane was the games leading scorer with 23 to lead the Eagles.

River Falls record now stands at 8-8 overall and 2-5 in WIAC play.
Falcons limited the Scots to just 8 points and had two steals. Koonkaew and Dijon Reese each had three assists. UWRF shot 14 for 40, at Macalester just eight two point baskets. The Falcons would begin to draw down the lead in the second half. Jontae Koonkaew began the Falcon comeback with a jumper in the early part. With 10:35 left in the second half Wade Guerin hit a layup and was fouled. After hitting the free throw the Falcons pulled within six points. Following the Falcon run the Warhawks responded with a barrage of three point shots that ultimately sank the Falcons hope of victory.

The Falcons shot 44 percent from the field. The Falcons did not shoot well from behind the arc finishing 0-7 from downtown. Jake Voeltz led the Falcons with 18 points and added five rebounds and two assists. Guerin put in 15 points of to go along with 11 rebounds to cap off his double-double performance. Brady Hannigan also scored in double figures adding 12 points for the Falcons. Defensively the Falcons had six steals and two blocks.

The Falcons, now 7-8 overall and 1-5 in the WIAC, will next play at UW-La Crosse on Wednesday with tip off set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Streak Snapped at Home to Rival Stout, 78-53

Jan. 6, 2010

Jerrel Enerson-Matthews scored 32 points to pace Stout in their 25 point rout of River Falls. Stout took the lead with 10:35 remaining in the first half and never looked back, winning 78-53.

The Falcons had won five in a row coming into tonight's contest.

The game was back-and-forth for the games first 10 minutes. Nathan Staidl scored to give the Blue Devils a one point lead which they never relinquished.

Stout increases their lead to as many as 14 in the frist half. Enerson-Matthews hit a 27-foot bomb at the buzzer to give Stout a 12 point half time lead.

Wade Guerin had 13 first half points. Including a thunderous two-hand slam and two three-pointers.

In the second half it was more of the same. The Blue Devils continued to increase their lead. Enerson-Matthews had 16 of his game-high 32 in the second session.

Stout shot 14-25 from the field in the second half. They ended the game with a 50% clip (32-64).

River Falls was 17-58 (.293) from the field including an unusual 4-24 from deep. Danny Johnson and Aaron Anderson were a combined 1-11 from three-point land.

Guerin lead the Falcons with 23 points and seven rebounds. Just five Falcons scored in this game. Jontae Koonkaew was the only other Falcon in double figures, he had 10.

River Falls goes to 7-7 on the year, losing for the first time since Dec. 9th at Eau Claire. On Saturday, the Falcons would begin to draw down the lead in the second half. Jontae Koonkaew began the Falcon comeback with a jumper in the early part. With 10:35 left in the second half Wade Guerin hit a layup and was fouled. After hitting the free throw the Falcons pulled within six points. Following the Falcon run the Warhawks responded with a barrage of three point shots that ultimately sank the Falcons hope of victory.

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River Falls goes to 7-7 on the year, losing for the first time since Dec. 9th at Eau Claire. On Saturday, the Falcons will travel to Kachel Gym to take on the Whitewater Warhawks. The Warhawks are ranked No. 4 in the D3Hoops.com Poll this week. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

Falcons Earn Fifth Straight Win, 74-40, at Macalester

Dec. 30, 2009

The Falcon men's basketball team won its fifth straight game with a 74-40 win at Macalester on Wednesday night.

The 40 points is the fewest allowed by the Falcons in a game this year. In the team's first game the Falcons allowed 49 points in a win (66-49) over Viterbo.

The Falcons had a strong first half jumping out to a 7-0 lead just two minutes into the game. Danny Johnson started the scoring with a three followed by baskets by Jontae Koonkaew and Jake Voeltz. The Falcons used a full court press for most of the first half that forced eight Macalester turnovers. UWRF played great defense in the half allowing Macalester just eight two-point baskets. The Falcons went on a 13-0 run and held MC scoreless in over five minutes of play. UWRF's biggest first half lead was 27 - which was the difference at halftime. UWRF led, 43-16, after 20 minutes.

Voeltz led the Falcons with 14 points and six rebounds in the first half. Wade Guerin scored seven points and had two steals. Koonkaew and Dijon Reese each had three assists. UWRF shot 14-25 from the field and limited the Scots to just 8-30 shooting from the field. MC did not hit a three pointer, or attempt a free throw, in the first half. The Falcons were 3-7 from behind the arc and 12-17 at the line.

The Falcons kept the defensive pressure up in the second half forcing the Scots into 10 turnovers. The Falcons limited the Scots to just 11 points in the first 12 minutes of the second half. The Falcons had two...
39 point leads in the second half. The last came with 6:17 to play, 69-30.

All 15 Falcon players in uniform played in the game. Voeltz led all scorers with 19 points. Johnson scored 12 and Koonkaew 10. Voeltz also led the Falcons with eight rebounds. Zach Peterson, who scored four points, had four rebounds and Reese scored four points and led the team with four assists.

UWRF shot 25-47 (.532) from the field, including 5-14 (.357) from behind the arc. UWRF was 19-27 (.704) from the line. The Falcons held a 38-30 advantage in rebounding.

Macalester, now 2-7, was led by Pierce Peters who scored eight points. Colin Keeley, who scored six points, led the Scots with nine rebounds. MC was 18-58 (.310) from the field, including 2-17 (.118) from three-point range. They were 2-4 (.500) from the line.

The Falcons, now 7-6 overall, will return to WIAC play on Wednesday when they host UW-Stout at 8 p.m., at the Karges Center. The Falcons are 1-3 in WIAC play. UWS enters the game 5-7 overall and 0-4 in WIAC games.

Falcons Roll Continues with Convincing Win, 94-59
Dec. 20, 2009

Coming off the Holiday Break the Falcons didn't miss a beat. River Falls won its fourth consecutive game in blow out fashion beating the George Fox Bruins 94-59.

RF never trailed in the game after scoring the games first eight points. Jake Voeltz and Brady Hannigan each scored twice within three feet of the basket to get the early lead.

Voeltz had 12 of his game-high 21 in the first 10:10 of action.

The Bruin's Dan Lingenfelder hit a three to cut the lead to 23 with 3:50 to go in the first half. Following that shot, the Falcons would score 15 of the next 19 to take a 34 points lead into the break.

Spencer Shelman lead the run with eight points. All eight of his points came in three consecutitive offensive possessions, spanning just 43 seconds.

River Falls continued to pour it on in the second half, pushing the lead well above 40. With the starters on the bench the Falcons would put up just seven points the remaining ten minutes.

With 6:11 remaining the Falcons took a 47 point lead, the largest of the night.

RF did a fantastic job sharing the basketball tallying 25 assists. Jontae Koonkaew and Shelman each had five.

Voeltz was the games leading scorer with 21. Koonkaew (10), Shelman (10), Wade Guerin (12), and Danny Johnson (13) all were in double digits.

Evan Atwater lead the Bruins with 11.

River Falls improves to .500 on the year, 6-6. This is the fourth straight win for the Falcons.

Tomorrow the Falcons will travel to Macalester College to battle the Scots. Tip-off is at 7:30 pm.

Falcons Win Third Straight, 85-61, at St. Scholastica
Dec. 20, 2009

The Falcons went on the road to face St. Scholastica and avenge a heart-breaking overtime defeat a season ago. River Falls started strong and finished stronger in an 85-61 win on Sunday afternoon. For the Falcons, it was their third win in a row.

St. Scholastica kept the game close for the first 10 minutes before RF took over behind a 15-4 run. Danny Johnson led the run with three three-pointers. The Falcons would hold a double digit lead the rest of the contest.

In the second half, River Falls continued to dominate. With 6:57 to play Dijon Reese put home a lay-up to push the lead to 28, 73-45, the largest of the game.

RF shot 35-56 (.625) from the field in the game. They were 8-19 (.421) from behind the arc and 7-9 (.778) from the line.

Four Falcons put up double-figures. Wade Guerin led the Falcons with 14 points. Jake Voeltz (13), Brady Hannigan (12) and Johnson (11) were the others with over 10 points. Johnson finished 4-6 from the field, including 3-5 from behind the arc.

Zach Peterson was the game's leading rebounder, he pulled down seven. The Falcons dominated in rebounding finishing with a 35-20 advantage.

The Falcons, now 5-6 overall, will next host George Fox University on Dec. 29 at 7 p.m., at the Karges Center.
Voeltz’s 23 lead Falcons in Rout of Eagles, 71-52

Dec. 15, 2009

Jake Voeltz scored a career-high 23 to lead the Falcons to a 71-52 win at the Karges Center over Northwestern. For RF, it was their first win at home this season.

Voeltz had a huge first half that put the Falcons in control early. At the half RF lead 37-31.

Voeltz had 12 points and 9 rebounds in first half alone. Brady Hannigan and Aaron Anderson had nine and eight points respectively in the opening half.

Four minutes into the second half, Northwestern cut the lead to three. RF then went on a 13-1 run to pull ahead for good.

Anderson got the run started when he knocked down a three following a Hannigan miss from the line. RF never looked back.

The Falcons extended their lead to as many as 22 late in the contest.

Voeltz lead all scores with 23 points and was the games leading rebounder with 14. He was 9-13 from the field and 5-6 from the line.

Anderson and Hannigan were the other Falcons in double figures.

This is River Falls second win in a row. There record now stands at 4-6. They will travel to Duluth, Minn., to do battle with St. Scholastica on Sunday. Tip-off will be at 3 p.m.

Men’s Basketball Breaks Losing Streak; Defeats Oshkosh

Dec. 12, 2009

By Matt Amos
UWRF Sports Information

The Falcon men’s basketball team broke a six game losing streak with an 82-73 win over the Titans of UW-Oshkosh.

Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcons with 24 points in the game. Koonkaew made six out of 11 attempted field goals, including two out of three of his 3 point attempts. Koonkaew also made 10 out of 12 attempted free throws throughout the game.

Wade Guerin was second in scoring for the Falcons with 15 points in the game. Guerin made five of his seven attempted field goals and three out of four free throws.

Oshkosh opened up the game with eight consecutive points, but Koonkaew sparked up the Falcons after nailing a three pointer at 16:38. The Falcons would take an 11-10 lead at 12:48 following a layup by Spencer Shelman.

Once the Falcons took the lead, they did not relinquish it for the entire game. The Falcons maintained a lead of over five points for the majority of the first period.

The Falcons continued to dominate the court in the second period and maintained a lead of over 10 points for most of the remainder of the game. At 7:59 the Falcons had their highest lead of the game, 18 points, after a three point shot by Aaron Anderson.

Jake Voeltz and Spencer, as well as Koonkaew and Guerin, ended the game with double figures in points scored. Voeltz had thirteen points and made three of four free throw attempts in the game. Spencer had eleven points and made four of five free throw attempts.

D.J. Marsh led the Titans in scoring with 29 points. Following Marsh was John Flanigan with fourteen points and Brian Washington with 11.

As a team, the Falcons made 24 field goals out of 43 attempts and 25 free throws out of 32 attempts. The Falcons also had 14 turnovers to the Titan’s nine.

The Falcon’s victory over the Titans is their first win at Kolf Sports Center in eight games. The Falcons now hold a combined record of 3-6 and a WIAC record of 1-3. Following the loss, Oshkosh has a record of 4-5 and a WIAC record of 1-2.

The Falcons next game is this Tuesday at Karges Center versus Northwestern. The game is set to begin at 8:00 p.m.
Falcons Skid Continues, Lose to Blugolds 74-68

Dec. 10 , 2009

The Falcons traveled to Zorn Arena to tangle with the Blugold for their first WIAC road game. River Falls never lead in the game, losing for the sixth consecutive time. Four Blugolds scored in double-figures in the Eau Claire win.

EC opened the game on a 17-5 run. River Falls is no stranger to large deficits at Zorn. Last year, River Falls nearly rallied from a 23-point hole.

Aaron Anderson hit a three to cut the lead to nine and awaken the Falcons.

Eight minutes later, Jontae Koonkaew scored to tie the game at 27. It was the first tie since 0-0 and it would be the last. Eau Claire built their lead to seven at the break.

Eau Claire held a five to eight point lead most the second half.

River Falls pulled within two with 2:26 remaining in the half following a Koonkaew three-point play and a Wade Guerin lay-up.

Eau Claire went 4-4 from the line to close out the victory in the games last half minute.

Colin Boone lead all Blugolds in scoring with 18. Geoff Probst, Nick Bartlett, and Josh Prince were also in double figures.

Koonkaew was the games leading scorer, he had 20. Jake Voeltz had 16 points and 11 rebounds for his first double-double of the season.

The Falcons lost their sixth straight and will travel to Oshkosh this weekend. Tip-off at the Kolf Sports Center will be at 7 p.m.

Falcons Drop 5th Straight, 73-61

Dec. 5 , 2009

River Falls came into their battle with Stevens Point on a four-game skid. The road didn't get any easier as the Pointers walked away with a 12-point victory. Jared Jenkins lead UWSP with 19 points, 11 of them coming in the last eight minutes.

With 6:44 remaining in the first half, RF took a 23-15 lead. The Falcons would not score again for over seven minutes. UWSP went on a 14-0 during that time.

The Pointers were able to build their second-half lead to 14, behind a balanced scoring attack.

River Falls pulled back within six just moments later. Aaron Anderson, Jontae Koonkaew and Danny Johnson all hit threes during the quick run.

Just when it looked like RF was getting back into the game, six quick points highlighted by a Scott Hoelzel reverse dunked, put the game out of reach.

On the ensuing RF possession, Jenkins had a monster block to put the exclamation point on the game.

Jenkins lead all scores with 19 points. Hoelzel had 14 rebounds to go along with 14 points.

Koonkaew was the Falcon's leader with 17 points. Brady Hannigan was the only other Falcon in double figures with 14.

The Falcons fall to 2-5 on the year and are currently on a five game losing streak.

On Wednesday, RF travels to Zorn Arena to take on the Eau Claire Blugolds. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

Falcons Force OT, Fall Short 83-81

Dec. 2 , 2009

UW-Superior escaped the Karges Center with a 83-81 overtime win. In overtime, Dwight Hill scored seven points, including the games final five to preserve the win.

Aaron Anderson forced overtime with a buzzer-beating three, but the Jackets were able to escape with a two-point win.

River Falls trailed 70-65 with 2:41 remaining.

Despite three missed free throws down the stretch, the Falcons found themselves down by only two with 0:18 left.

UWS' Dan Culy had a chance with under 10 second remaining to put the game on ice. He needed to knock down both free throws for a two possession lead. Culy made the first, but missed the second, giving the Falcons life.

Anderson found himself open with just seven seconds remaining from the top of the key. He missed his first attempt, but an athletic play by Jontae Koonkaew kept the ball alive. Koonkaew was able to get the ball back out to Anderson, who knocked down the three with 0.4 remaining.
In overtime, UWS' Dwight Hill tied the game at 81 with a three point bomb, in the face of Koonkaew with 50 seconds remaining.

Thirty seconds later, Hill scored on a floater to give the Jackets a two-point lead.

Spencer Shelman got a look at a three for the win, but missed. Guerin's tip was too strong and the Jackets escaped.

UWS opened the game taking a 26-9 lead, 13 minutes in. River Falls went on a 15-4 run to get back within four points. The run was sparked by 10 Jake Voeltz points.

Superior took a 35-27 lead into the break.

The Falcons opened the second half 12-0 run to take a 39-35 lead.

The second half was marked by eight ties and seven lead changes.

Superior's Jake Smith lead all scores with 26 points and he also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Four Falcons scored in double-figures. Voeltz lead the Falcon scores with 18 points. Guerin, Koonkaew and Anderson each scored over 10 as well.

Guerin grabbed 14 rebounds to get his first double-double of the season.

River Falls falls to 2-4 overall and a perfect 4-0 at home, was led by Jack Ridgeway who scored 23 points. He was 7-18 from the field, including 9-29 (.690) from the line. They were 21-29 (.724) from the line. UWRF led for most of the rest of the half. There was one tie, 62-62, with 6:52 to play. From then, UWRF grabbed a five point, 67-62 lead, with 5:53 to go. The Falcons last led, 71-70, with 2:07 to play. USF's Thomas Frame scored on a jumper with 1:19 to play to give his team a 72-71 lead. USF when ahead, 76-72 with just 23 seconds to play when David Maxwell hit two free throws. Jake Voeltz hit two from the charity stripe with five seconds to go to pull the Falcons to within two, 76-74. The Falcons were forced to foul and USH hit 1-2 free throws with four seconds to play. The Falcons were able to inbound the ball but could not get a shot off.

Voeltz led the Falcons with 20 points and seven rebounds. He also had three assists, a block and a steal. Wade Guerin added 14 points and six rebounds and led the Falcons with two steals. Hannigan scored 11 points and had four rebounds. Koonkaew, who led the Falcons with four assists, had nine points and seven rebounds.

The Falcons shot 25-63 (.397) from the field, including 3-7 (.429) from three-point range. They were 21-29 (.724) from the line. UWRF held a 42-40 advantage in rebounds.

USF, now 8-2 overall and a perfect 4-0 at home, was led by Jack Ridgeway who scored 23 points. He was 7-9 from behind the arc. Frames, who scored 13 points, led the Cougars with seven rebounds. USF shot 24-49 (.490) from the field, including 9-21 (.429) from behind the arc. They were 20-29 (.690) from the line.

The Falcons, now 2-3 overall, will open WIAC play on Wednesday hosting UW-Superior at the Karges Center. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Comeback Falls a Point Short, Tommies Escape 72-71**

Nov. 24, 2009

The Falcons Men’s Basketball played their first ranked opponent of the 2009-10 season. The St. Thomas Tommies entered the Karges Center ranked in the top 5 of the D3Hoops.Com Poll. River Falls gave them everything they could handle, but the Tommies escaped with the win.

The Falcons scored the games first six points. The Tommies failed to get on the board in the games first five minutes.

River Falls held its last lead of the game with 8:11 remaining in the first half at 19-18. Tyler Nicolai hit a jumped to give UST its second and final lead of the game.

UST built their advantage to nine, just minutes later thanks to a 12-0 run. The Falcons played without PG Jontae Koonkaew for over 10 minutes of the first-half, he was sidelined with foul trouble.
River Falls cut the lead to three just before the break. Nicolai hit a pair of free throws to extend the halftime lead to five.

St. Thomas opened up a 15 point lead with just 7:05 remaining in the game. Aaron Anderson immediately answered with a three on the ensuing possession.

Moments later, Jake Voeltz scored on a three-point play following a Brady Hannigan missed free throw. The basket and a free throw cut the lead to 10.

Anyone at the Karges Center could tell this game was far from over. Finishing off an 8-0 the Falcons trailed by just five with 4:16 to go.

River Falls would get within four a few trips later. Two quick UST baskets extended the lead to eight with 1:35 left.

Again it looked the Tommies were starting to pull away. Soon after, Voeltz knocked down two from the line and Hannigan scored slashing to the basket.

Nicolai missed the front end of a one-and-one. Sam Eicher then fouled Johnson in the act of shooting, he made one of two. Eicher then lost the rebound out of bounds.

Nicolai grabbed Koonkaew as he was trying to break free from a screen. Koonkaew drilled the two foul shots and the UST lead was only one point.

After Joe Scott missed the front end of a one-and-one the Falcons had a chance with just 15 seconds remaining to take the lead.

River Falls had some good looks at the basket from inside but were unable to covert.

Hanningan had a chance for a half-courter but was unable to get the ball away.

Nicolai lead the Tommies with 19 points on 5-12 shooting. Three Falcons were in double figures. Voeltz, Hannigan and Wade Guerin with 18, 17, and 10 respectively.

Voeltz was 5-6 from the field and 8-10 from the charity stripe.

For Hannigan, he established his career-high (17) in points as a Falcon. He reached that on 7-9 shooting. Hannigan also pulled down six rebounds.

Guerin also finished a rebound short of a double-double for the third time this season.

Up next the Falcons travel to Sioux Falls, SD to take on the University of Sioux Falls. That game will be Saturday. Tip-off has been changed from 4 p.m and is now set for 6 p.m.

Falcons Struggle from the Charity Strip, Lose

Nov. 21, 2009

The Falcons Men’s Basketball team dropped their first game of the year Saturday Night in the championship game of the Coach’s vs. Cancer Crown College Tip Off Classic. Augsburg scored 53 second half points on their way to a 84-75 win over River Falls. The Falcons were just 9-21 (.429) from the free throw line in the game. The loss drops the Falcons to 2-1 on the year.

This game was all about scoring streaks, beginning with River Falls leading 2-0 of a Brady Hannigan layup. Then Augsburg would score 10 straight points to take a 10-2 lead. The Falcons would battle back scoring 15 of the next 18 points to make it 17-13 Falcons who would lead 36-31 at the break.

In the second half River Falls would push their lead to six before Augsburg would battle back to take the lead for good at 49-47. They would put the game away with 4:12 remaining when Ben Flavin’s free throw gave Augsburg a 76-61 lead capping off an 11-0 by the Auggies.

Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcons going 8-12 (.750) part of a game high 21 points. He also added five assists, a block and a steal.

Three other Falcons scored in double digits for the Falcons, Wade Guerin had 17 points, Spencer Shelman 14 points and Danny Johnson finished with 10. It is the second straight game that four Falcons scored in double digits.

The Falcons shot 45.2 percent (28-62) from the field and 10-20 (.500) from beyond the arc. The Falcons were just 9-21 (.429) from the charity strip and have now converted just 43.9 percent (18-41) of there free throws this season. The Falcons turned the ball over 10 times in the game and also out rebounded Augsburg 37-34.

The loss drops the Falcons to 2-1 overall. The Falcons are next in action on Tuesday at 7 p.m., when they host No. 4 ranked St. Thomas at the Karges Center.
Four Falcons Score in Double Figures in Win at Crown

Nov. 20, 2009

Four Falcons scored in double figures to help lead the men's basketball team to a 92-70 win over Crown College on Friday night.

The Falcons won their first round game at the Crown Tournament with 17 players seeing action.

Jontae Koonkaew led UWRF with 18 points and he had five assists. He finished 8-9 from the field, including 1-2 from behind the arc. Aaron Anderson added 17 points, five rebounds and two assists. He was 5-10 from three-point range. Wade Guerin finished with 15 points and led the Falcons with nine rebounds. He was 6-9 from the field. Brady Hannigan scored 10 points and had four assists. Dijon Reese led UWRF with eight assists.

UWRF led 50-37 at the half after shooting 16-26 (.615) from the field. The Falcons scored the first five points of the game and never looked back. The team's biggest lead was 20 points, 47-27, with 5:01 to play. It came when Anderson hit a three-pointer. Crown got to with 13 at halftime by outscoring the Falcons, 10-3, in the final five minutes of the half.

The Falcons kept the pressure on in the second half and led by 30 points, 92-62, with 2:02 to play. The team's lead never got closer than 13 points in the second half.

UWRF shot very well throughout the game and finished 37-73 (.587) from the field, including 10-23 (.435) from behind the arc. UWRF was just 8-18 (.444) from the line. The Falcons had a 39-28 advantage in rebounds.

Crown was led by Mike Landers who scored 18 points.

The Falcons, 2-0 overall, will next play Augsburg in the championship game of the Crown Tourney on Saturday. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. Augsburg defeated Loras, 96-69, to reach the finals.

Falcons Open Season With 66-49 Win at Viterbo

Nov. 17, 2009

The Falcon men's basketball team opened the 2009-10 season with a 66-49 win at Viterbo University Tuesday night in La Crosse.

Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcon attack with 18 points, six assists, and five rebounds. Brady Hannigan tallied 11 points, six rebounds and three steals. Aaron Anderson added 11 points in the victory.

After falling behind 4-0 to open the game, the Falcons took their first lead of the game with 12 minutes remaining in the first half on a three-point field goal by Spencer Shelman. The Falcons never looked back. RF led by as many as 21 points in the first half before taking a 36-21 lead into halftime.

In the second half VU cut the lead to 11 with 10:15 remaining on a Joe Lopez field goal. But the Falcons proved too strong outscoring VU 19-13 in the closing 10 minutes to seal the victory.

Scott Buschman led VU with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Strong three-point shooting helped the Falcons overcome a wide free throw disparity in the game as VU shot 21 more free throws than RF.

The Falcons shot 29-57 (.509) from the floor including 7-17 (.412) from beyond the arc. The Falcons finished the game 1-2 at the free throw line and outrebounded VU 34-28.

The Falcons, 1-0 overall, will next play Crown College on Friday at the Crown College Tipoff Classic. The game starts at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons Set to Open Season on Tuesday

Nov. 13, 2009

By Steven Linzmeier

UWRF Sports Information

Excitement and expectations surround the UW-River Falls men’s basketball team coming into the new season. A year ago, the Falcons finished sixth in the WIAC and they return their entire starting line-up.

Last year, the Falcons finished 11-15 overall and 5-11 in WIAC play. They finished sixth overall and were defeated by Whitewater in the opening round of the WIAC playoffs.

Nine members from the 2008-09 WIAC All-Conference team have graduated. Everyone expects the conferences’ top teams to reload this season.

Four WIAC teams are ranked in the preseason D3Hoops.com poll. UW-Stevens Point at No. 10, UW-Whitewater at No. 13, UW-Platteville at No. 17 and UW-Oshkosh at No. 24.
“No one really knows what to expect, the conferences’ top seven teams could be on a collision course,” said Falcon Head Coach Jeff Berkhof.

Berkhof begins his fourth season as the Falcons head coach. He is 30-47 overall in his career at UWRF, but this marks his 18th year with River Falls. He played with the Falcons from 1992-94. Following that he was former Head Coach Rick Bowen’s top assistant for 12 seasons. Berkhof spent one season as the school’s interim head coach before getting the job for good in 2007.

From last year’s team, the Falcons lost Jesse Elling and Steve Farmer to graduation, and Colin Utke decided not to return for his sophomore year.

A season ago, the Falcons had three players earned All-WIAC honorable mention; Jontae Koonkaew, Aaron Anderson and Jake Voeltz. All three are back and will once again be relied on as the team’s key contributors.

Koonkaew averaged 15 points and 4.8 assists a game last year, coming off a knee injury that cost him most of the 2007-08 season. He led the WIAC in assists.

“He makes us go,” Berkhof said. “When his play is better, our team is better.”

Voeltz got his first real chance to play as a Falcon last year, and he made the most of it. He averaged 11.2 points and 5.5 rebounds a game, and lead the team with 59 offensive rebounds.

Anderson made an immediate impact as a freshman in 2008-09. He led the team in field goal percentage and three-point percentage. Anderson hit 44-88 from behind the arc, while averaging 8.8 points per game.

Other key returners for the Falcons include; Wade Guerin, Spencer Shelman and Danny Johnson and Brady Hannigan.

Guerin and Hannigan combined with Anderson, Koonkaew and Voeltz to make the majority of the starts last season. Guerin was third on the team in scoring with 9.3 points per game. He was also the team’s leading rebounder, grabbing over six rebounds a game.

Hannigan will begin his third season as a Falcon. Last year he averaged just over six points a game. A lot of what Hannigan does on the court doesn’t show up in the box score. He is the team’s top defender and saves multiple possessions a game on pure hustle.

“Brady has been our hardest worker in the offseason,” Berkhof commented.

Shelman and Johnson will continue to be key role players for the Falcons. Shelman is the team’s only senior coming into the season. Last year, his first with the Falcons, he averaged about four points a game. Shelman played in all 26 games and had the lowest amount of turnovers among the players that played in all the games.

Johnson also played in all 26 games. He shot 43 percent from the field and from the three-point line. He was also second on the team in assists.

D.J. Reese returns this season after missing the last year and a half. Reese got off to a good start in 2007-08 before being ruled ineligible due to academics after the semester break. Reese will provide point guard depth, which will allow Johnson to play his more natural position of two-guard.

The Falcons also bring in a solid recruiting class that will need to provide depth on the front line.

Along with the season opener on Tuesday at Viterbo, the Falcons are looking forward to their first home game. They will take on the No. 4 team in the country on Nov. 24, the St. Thomas Tommies.

“Last year, we took one step-up the ladder,” Berkhof said. “Now, we must take that next step. It’s going to be tougher, but it’s a step we expect to take.”
Head Coach

Jeff Berkhof

Entering his fourth season at the helm of the UW-River Falls Falcons, Head Coach Jeff Berkhof has several key players back for the 2009-10 season and expectations are high.

It was just five seasons ago when the Falcons claimed the WIAC regular season conference championship. Berkhof was the top assistant at that time and after finishing his 12-year span as an assistant coach with the Falcons in 2006, was handed the reigns from Rick Bowen, the all-time winningest coach in UWRF basketball history.

The Falcons finished 11-15 overall in 2008-09. UWRF reached a season goal by earning a spot in the WIAC playoffs finishing in sixth place. The Falcons lost two WIAC games in overtime. The Falcons went on the road to UW-Whitewater in the WIAC playoffs and played well in a five-point loss.

With eight letter winners returning, including all five starters, the Falcons are looking for even more success in the upcoming season.

Berkhof was the interim head coach during the 2006-07 season. UWRF finished 10-16 overall and 5-11 in the WIAC with no seniors on the roster. The Falcons lost two WIAC games by one point (Eau Claire 63, RF 62; Platteville 65, RF 64) and four other games (conference and non-conference) by five points or less.

Berkhof had the interim title removed in April of 2007 and during the 2007-08 season the Falcons finished 9-16 and 3-13 in the WIAC.

Berkhof is no stranger to Falcon basketball. He is entering his 18th season in some capacity as a Falcon. Before joining the coaching ranks, Berkhof spent two seasons playing for the Falcons from 1992-94. During his senior season, he averaged 17.4 points per game; he was selected to the 1994 All-WSUC team and was chosen Co-MVP and Co-Captain by his teammates.

Before coming to UW-River Falls, Berkhof played two years at Worthington, Minn., Junior College. He holds the single game scoring mark at Worthington with 44 points scored in a Minnesota State Junior College Tournament game in 1992. In 1997, he was inducted into the Minnesota Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame. Prior to his time at Worthington JC, he attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., and was a member of the SDSU football squad.

While an assistant to the men's basketball program, Berkhof was also the head women's golf coach at UW-River Falls from 2002-06. He was named the WIAC women's golf Coach of the Year in 2004 after leading the golf team to a third place finish in the WIAC meet.

The Hills, Minn., native received his masters of education degree in sport management at the University of Minnesota in 2005. He completed his bachelor of science degree at UW-River Falls with a major in physical education and a minor in athletic coaching in 1994.

Along with being the head men's basketball coach, Berkhof is an instructor in the health and human performance department at UW-River Falls.

Jeff and his wife, Jill, reside in Hudson. Jill is a UW-River Falls alumna and fifth grade teacher at Lake Elmo, Minn. They have one son, Benjamin, who turned five this past June.

Assistant Coaches

Pedro Renta

Pedro Renta enters his fourth season as an assistant on the Falcon coaching staff.

Along with his on-the-floor coaching duties, Renta is involved with recruiting, game preparation, player development and coordinates the academic monitoring program. Renta started his coaching career with the Falcons as a volunteer assistant from 2000-2003. Following 2003, he spent time as the head coach at Ellsworth High School in Wisconsin. Renta, who has worked various basketball camps throughout the Midwest, also directs the Falcon summer basketball camps.

The Milwaukee native received his undergraduate degree from UW-River Falls in Spanish education with a minor in athletic coaching in 2001. Pedro and his wife Susan reside in Hudson. They have two sons; Mateo and Andre.
Carmen Pata began his coaching career at UW-River Falls in 2000 when he was hired as the assistant strength and conditioning coach. He held that position until 2005 when he was promoted to his current position as head strength and conditioning coach.

Pata received his B.A. degree in biology, chemistry and athletic coaching from UWRF in 2000 and is completing his M.A. degree in exercise science from Texas-El Paso. Pata is a certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association and an active member of the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association. He has authored several articles related to strength and conditioning for the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association, Indiana Wishbone Coaches Association, and the American College of Sports Medicine. He also works with local high schools’ sport performance programs and teaches about sport nutrition. Pata is still an active competitor in Olympic lifting, weightlifting, and strongman competitions.

Pata and his wife, Katie, reside in River Falls.