Women’s Basketball

2000-2001 Women’s Basketball Schedule/Results

Nov. 17 at Winona Tournament (UW-Parkside, Hamline, UWRF)
River Falls 61, Hamline 50
Nov. 18 at Winona Tournament (UW-Parkside, Hamline, UWRF)
River Falls 86, Winona 85 OT
Nov. 21 vs. Bethel
River Falls 101, Bethel 75
Nov. 24 UWRF Tourney
River Falls 66, North Park 39
Nov. 25 UWRF Tourney
River Falls 70, Northwestern 55
Nov. 30 Concordia-Moorhead
River Falls 71, Concordia-Moorhead 56
Dec. 2 at Whitewater*
River Falls 64, Whitewater 61
Dec. 5 at Viterbo
Viterbo 61, River Falls 55
Dec. 9 at Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 60, River Falls 47
Dec. 13 Superior*
River Falls 89, Superior 61
Dec. 30 Luther
Luther 78, River Falls 61
Jan. 3 Stout*
River Falls 90, Stout 76
Jan. 6 at La Crosse*
River Falls 83, La Crosse 79
Jan. 10 Stevens Point*
River Falls 70, Stevens Point 66
Jan. 13 at Eau Claire*
River Falls 67, Eau Claire 52
Jan. 17 Platteville*
River Falls 78, Platteville 74
Jan. 20 Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 71, River Falls 60
Jan. 27 Whitewater*
River Falls 68, Whitewater 65
Jan. 31 at Superior*
River Falls 78, Superior 60
Feb. 3 La Crosse*
River Falls 88, La Crosse 69
Feb. 7 at Stout*
Stout 101, River Falls 77
Feb. 10 Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 74, River Falls 64
Feb. 14 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 90, River Falls 59
Feb. 17 at Platteville*
River Falls 81, Platteville 60
Feb. 19 WIAC Tourney
River Falls 78, Stout 66
Feb. 21 WIAC Semifinals
Eau Claire 70, River Falls 54

* WIAC Games
Falcon Women Run Past Stout, Gain Revenge

Feb. 19, 2001

Behind the strength of a 29-2 first-half run, the UW-River Falls women's basketball team ran a 78-66 win over UW-Stout Monday evening in a WIAC Tournament first-round battle at Karges Center.

The Falcons (18-7), who fell 101-77 to the Blue Devils (18-7) Feb. 7 in Menomonie, allowed Stout to jump out to a 15-4 lead before they opened the floodgates.

UW-RF led 34-23 at halftime, but the Blue Devils drew to within three points in the second half before the Falcons pulled away for good.

Tara Wakefield, who hit 3-of-5 3-pointers, paced the Falcons with a game-high 19 points. Melissa McKernon added 17 points and Andrea Long pitched in 15.

Long snared a game-high 10 rebounds, Mara Reif-Wenner tallied a game-high four dishes and Abby Nelson grabbed three steals.

Tanya Halbach led Stout with 18 points, 15 in the second half.

UW-RF hit 24-of-64 field goals, while Stout went 24-for-66. Both teams made seven treys, but UW-RF only attempted 15 to Stout's 22.

With the win, UW-RF earned a WIAC semifinal matchup vs. UW-Eau Claire (20-5) to be held Wednesday at Zorn Arena in Eau Claire. The teams split during the regular season.

Falcon Women End Losing Streak, Down Platteville

Feb. 17, 2001

UW-River Falls nailed its first six 3-point field goal attempts to seize a 22-11 lead en route to an 80-61 defeat of UW-Platteville Saturday evening on the final night of the WIAC regular season.

The Falcons, who ended the evening shooting 9-of-11 (.818) from 3-point land, ended a three-game WIAC losing skid with the win and improved to 17-7, 11-5 WIAC. The Pioneers fell to 9-15, 5-11.

UW-RF, which led 35-21 at halftime, nailed 32-of-47 (.681) field goal attempts, while limiting UW-P to 24-of-63 shooting from the floor. The Falcons outrebounded the Pioneers 33-22.

Andrea Long paced UW-RF with a game-high 21 points, while Abby Nelson, who hit 5-of-6 3-pointers, added 17. Melissa McKernon added 13 points and Mara Reif-Wenner 12.

McKernon snagged a game-high 10 rebounds and added a game-high five assists.

Laurie Buechel paced the Pioneers with 15 points. Angie Sisson added 13 points and Allison Rotramel 12.

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

Pointers Drub Falcon Women Hoopsters, 90-59

Feb. 14, 2001

UW-Stevens Point extended UW-River Falls' WIAC losing skid to three games with a 90-59 shellacking of the Falcons Wednesday evening in Stevens Point.

The Pointers (18-5, 10-5), who led 19-15 after the first 10 minutes, used a 21-4 run to open up a 40-19 lead and never looked back. UW-SP held a 42-24 lead over the Falcons (16-7, 10-5).

With the loss, UW-RF is tied with the Pointers for fourth place in the WIAC, behind first-place UW-Oshkosh (12-3 WIAC), who lost 52-47 to La Crosse (6-9) Wednesday, second-place UW-Eau Claire (11-4) and third-place UW-Stout (11-5).

Kari Groshek paced Point with 16 points. Carry Boehning and Amie Schultz added 15 each and Nikki Seaman pitched in 12.

Mara Reif-Wenner led UW-RF with 13 points and Melissa McKernon added 12. Andrea Long snagged a game-high 10 rebounds and Abby Nelson dished out seven assists.

The Falcons shot only 20-of-59 (.339) from the floor and were outrebounded 40-30.

The Falcons will round out their regular season schedule Saturday when they travel to UW-Platteville to battle the Pioneers in a WIAC tilt set to begin at 7 p.m.
Falcon Women Fall To UW-EC, Brantner

Feb. 7, 2001

UW-Eau Claire senior Jessie Brantner poured in 23 points, including 18 on 6-of-8 3-point shooting, as the Blugolds ran a 74-64 WIAC win past UW-River Fall Saturday at Karges Center.

With the win, UW-EC (17-5, 10-4) avenged a 67-52 loss to the Falcons (16-6, 10-4) suffered Jan. 13 at Zorn Arena and moved into a second-place tie with UW-RF.

UW-RF used a 17-2 run to take a 58-53 lead in the second half, but UW-EC countered with a 16-4 run of its own to take the lead for good.

Mara Reif-Wenner paced UW-RF with 15 points. Melissa McKernon added 13, Abby Nelson 12 and Sarah Pollock 11.

Megan Murphy was the only Blugold other than Brantner to net double figures in the scoring department, as she pitched in 12 points, nine in the first half.

UW-EC connected on 27-of-55 (.491) field goals, while the Falcons managed to hit only 22-of-61 (.361) shots from the floor.

UW-RF outrebounded UW-EC 42-30. McKernon snagged a game-high 11 rebounds.

The Falcons will return to action Wednesday, when they travel to UW-Stevens Point to battle the Pointers in a WIAC tilt scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose at Stout, 101-77

Jan. 31, 2001

Stout took a 101-77 win over the Falcons in a WIAC game Wednesday night in Menomonie.

Stout led 40-32 at the half and outscored the Falcons 61-45 in the second half.

Andrea Long scored 17 points to lead the Falcons, now 16-5 overall and 10-3 in the WIAC. She also had a team-high seven rebounds. Melissa McKernon added 15 points, Sarah Pollock 11 and Mara Reif-Wenner and Tara Wakefield each scored 10. The Falcons shot 25-63 (.397) from the field and 24-31 (.774) from the line.

Stout was led by Tanya Halbach who scored 29 points off the bench. Stout shot 36-76 (.474) from the field and 19-40 (.475) from the line. Stout held a 48-45 advantage in rebounds.

Saturday the Falcons return to Karges Center and host UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m. in another WIAC contest.

Falcons Take Care of Superior Business

Jan. 31, 2001

After trailing 34-33 at intermission, the UW-River Falls women's hoopsters pulled away for a 78-60 WIAC victory over UW-Superior Wednesday evening in Superior.

With the win, the Falcons improved to 15-4 on the year, 9-2 in league play; meanwhile, Superior fell to 2-17, 0-12.

Abby Nelson, who shot 8-of-11 from the floor (including 5-of-6 from beyond the arc), led the Falcon attack with 24 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three steals in playing all 40 minutes.

Andrea Long, who snagged a team-high 13 rebounds, added 18 points for River Falls. Sarah Pollock, who drained 2-of-3 treys, pitched in 15 points.

Sheri Domitrovich led the Yellowjackets with 25 points, 18 boards (14 on the offensive end), two assists and three steals.

Saturday the Falcons host UW-La Crosse in a WIAC game at the Karges Center. Action starts at 3 p.m.

Falcons Lose to Oshkosh, 71-60

Jan. 20, 2001

The Falcons lost a 71-60 decision to UW-Oshkosh in a battle for first place in the WIAC at Karges Center Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons, now 13-4 overall and 7-2 in the WIAC, trailed 37-19 at halftime. Oshkosh shot .625 and RF .364 in the first half. The Falcons outscored the Titans, 41-34 in the second half.
Andrea Long led the Falcons with 17 points and seven rebounds. Sarah Pollock scored 15 points and had five rebounds. The Falcons shot 21-46 (.457) from the field and 14-22 (.636) from the line.

Oshkosh was led by Kristin Steckmesser who scored 16 points. She was one of five Titans who scored in double figures. Amanda Dickerson scored 13 points and had a game-high 11 rebounds. Oshkosh shot 24-45 (.533) from the field and 18-23 (.783) from the line.

The Falcons will next host UW-Whitewater on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Karges Center. Action will start at 1 p.m.

Falcons Top Platteville, 78-74
Jan. 17, 2001

The Falcons held off a pesky UW-Platteville squad 78-74 Tuesday evening at Knowles Center to up their season record to 13-3 and finish the first half of the WIAC season with a 7-1 mark.

UW-River Falls led the Pioneers (8-8, 4-4) 41-32 at intermission, and benefited from big plays at big junctures to fend off the visitor's comeback attempt.

Andrea Long, who shot 8-of-9 from the charity stripe, paced the Falcons with 18 points, while Melissa McKernon added 16, Abby Nelson 15 and Sarah Pollock 14.

Tifanie Brady led Platteville and all scorers with 19 points.

Nelson distributed a game-high seven assists and collected a game-high three steals.

Platteville shot 29-of-60 (.483) from the floor compared to River Falls' 28-of-63 (.444) rate of accuracy, but the Falcons outrebounded the Pioneers 37-32.

Saturday the Falcons host UW-Oshkosh is a game for first place in the WIAC. Action starts at 3 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Win at UWEC, 67-52
Jan. 13, 2001

The Falcons snapped a five-game losing streak to UW-Eau Claire with a 67-52 win Saturday night in Eau Claire.

The Falcons, now 12-3 overall and 6-1 in the WIAC, are one game behind first-place UW-Oshkosh, which beat UW-Stevens Point (72-62) Saturday night. The win was the Falcons third in the last 20 games against UWEC.

With RF leading 47-46 with 4:48 to play, the Falcons went on a 11-2 run to take control of the contest.

Andrea Long led the Falcons, which led 30-29 at the half, with 23 points and she had six rebounds. Sarah Pollock scored 14 points and led the Falcons with 11 rebounds. Mara Reif-Wenner scored 11 points and had six assists. The Falcons shot 24-55 (.436) from the field and 15-23 (.652) from the line. The Falcons had 44 rebounds.

UWEC was led by Megan Murphy who scored 16 points and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds. UWEC shot just 19-69 (.275) form the floor and 10-13 (.769) from the line. UWEC was just 4-26 from three-point range. UWEC had 46 rebounds.

Wednesday the Falcons return to WIAC play when they host UW-Platteville at 7 p.m. at the Karges Center.

Falcons Top Point, 70-66
Jan. 10, 2001

The Falcons faced a 35-29 halftime deficit, but came out with a 70-66 WIAC win over UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

The Falcons outscored the Pointers by 41-31 in the second half.

Andrea Long led the Falcons with 19 points and 14 rebounds. Melissa McKernon added 17 points and eight rebounds. Abby Nelson scored 10 points and led the team with five assists. The Falcons shot 23-50 (.460) from the field and 20-26 (.769) from the line.

UWSP was led by Carry Boehning who scored 17 points. The Pointers were 27-62 (.435) from the field and 7-10 (.700) from the line.

The Falcons, now 11-4 overall and 5-1 in the WIAC, will travel to UW-Eau Claire Saturday for a WIAC game that starts at 7 p.m.
Falcons Win at La Crosse, 83-79  
Jan. 6, 2001

Andrea Long scored 35 points to help lead the Falcons to an 83-79 WIAC win at UW-La Crosse Saturday night.

Long's 35 points is a season-high. She scored 13 first-half points and added 22 in the second half. The Falcons trailed 42-38 at halftime, but outscored the Eagles, 45-37 in the second half.

Long finished 11-15 from the field and 13-15 from the line. She also led the team with 12 rebounds. Mara Pollock scored 11 points and played the entire game. Melissa McKernon led the Falcons with nine assists.

The Falcons shot 29-59 (.492) from the field and 21-25 (.840) from the line.

La Crosse was led by Jill Murray who scored 17 points. La Crosse shot 27-57 (.474) from the field and 18-26 (.692) from the line.

Wednesday the Falcons, now 10-3 overall and 4-1 in the WIAC, return to Karges Center to host UW-Stevens Point. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Win Over Stout, 90-76  
Jan. 3, 2001

The Falcons had five players score in double figures to get a 90-76 win over UW-Stout Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

Andrea Long led the Falcons with 17 points. Mara Reif-Wenner and Melissa McKernon each added 16 points and McKernon led the Falcons with 10 rebounds. Sarah Pollock added 14 points and Abby Nelson scored 13. The Falcons held a 40-30 lead at the half.

The Falcons will next travel to UW-La Crosse for a WIAC game on Saturday. Tip off is set for 3 p.m.

Falcons Lose to Luther, 78-61  
Dec. 30, 2000

The Falcons had a 33-31 halftime lead, but Luther College outscored the Falcons by 19 points in the second half to get a 78-61 win at Karges Center Saturday afternoon.

Andrea Long scored 20 points to lead the Falcons, but she was the only player to reach double figures. Melissa McKernon added nine points and she led the Falcons with four rebounds. The Falcons shot just .423 from the field (22-52) and were 5-13 from three-point range. The Falcons are now 8-3 overall.

Luther had four players in double figures led by Amanda Smith with 18. Angie Mohs led the Norse, now 6-2 overall, with eight rebounds. The Norse shot .545 (30-55) from the field and were 5-10 from three-point range. Luther had a 36-24 advantage in rebounds.

The Falcons will next host UW-Stout in a WIAC game on Wednesday at the Karges Center. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

McKernon, Women's Hoopsters Sting Yellowjackets  
Dec. 13, 2000

Melissa McKernon's superior performance helped UW-River Falls (8-2, 2-1) to a convincing 89-61 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference victory over UW-Superior (2-6, 0-4) Wednesday evening at the Karges Center.

The Falcons led 42-18 at intermission, then coasted to the 28-point win over the Yellowjackets.

McKernon — who shot 12-of-15 from the floor, 4-of-5 from 3-point land — poured in a game-high 29 points. She complemented her scoring output with a game-high nine rebounds, three steals and a pair of assists.

Sarah Pollock, who fired at a 3-for-3 clip from 3-point territory, added 16 points for the Falcons, while Andrea Long pitched in 14 points, 12 of which came in the second half. Tara Wakefield contributed 13 points off the bench.

Sheri Domitrovich and Kelly Krieg netted 13 points each for the Yellowjackets. Domitrovich also had seven boards and five assists.

Abby Nelson dished out nine assists for the Falcons, while Mara Reif-Wenner added six. Nelson picked up eight steals.

UW-RF outshot Superior .565 (39-of-69) to .367 (22-of-60). Each squad attempted 14 treys, with the Falcons canning eight and the Yellowjackets six.
The Falcons outrebounded Superior by a 38-32 count. Superior had 20 turnovers, the Falcons committed 15.

UW-RF will return to action Dec. 30 when it hosts Luther in a non-conference tilt scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

**Unbeaten Women's Hoopsters Fend Off Whitewater**

**Dec. 2, 2000**

UW-River Falls preserved its unblemished season mark Saturday, as it kicked off its Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference season with a 64-61 victory over UW-Whitewater on the road.

With the win, the Falcons improved to 7-0, while the Warhawks dipped to 2-2.

Whitewater, which led 7-2 early in the game and trailed 21-18 at intermission, started the second half with a 9-2 run, but UW-RF took the lead for good at 39-37 with 10-minutes, 52-seconds remaining when junior Andrea Long hit a pair of charity shots.

Long, who hit 7-of-14 field goals and 8-of-8 freebies, paced UW-RF with a game-high 22 points, while junior Abby Nelson and senior Mara Reif-Wenner added 12 points each.

Becky Nystrom paced the Warhawks with 15 points, while Katie Rechlicz pitched in 13 and Brenda Brooks, who shot 4-of-8 from 3-point land, contributed 12.

Reif-Wenner dished out a game-high five assists and grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds.

UW-RF shot a dismal 7-of-31 from the floor in the first half, but drained 12-of-18 attempts in the second stanza to shoot .388 for the game. Whitewater, which shot .276 in the first half, netted 41.8 percent of its shots in the game.

The Falcons will return to action Tuesday, when they travel to La Crosse to take on Viterbo College in a non-conference affair.

**Falcons Fly Past Eagles to Tournament Title**

**Nov. 25, 2000**

Led by all-tournament team selections junior Andrea Long and senior co-captain Mara Reif-Wenner, the UW-River Falls women hoopsters captured their second tourney crown in as many weeks.

After routing North Park (Ill.) College 66-39 Friday to earn a berth, the Falcons (5-0) ousted Northwestern (Minn.) College (5-2) 70-55 Saturday afternoon to claim top team honors at their own UW-River Falls Tournament.

"We came out looking better in the first half," Falcon coach Cindy Hovet said. "We were looking for scoring opportunities and playing better team defense."

Long and junior Melissa McKernon paced UW-RF with 17 points each in against the Eagles, while freshman Pam Bonczyk, who shot 3-of-5 from 3-point land, pitched in 13 points.

Northwestern junior Renee DeMars tallied game-high scoring honors with 25 points, while her sister, Jessica DeMars, added 12. Both were named to the all-tournament squad.

Long pulled down a game high 11 boards, while Reif-Wenner dished out six assists and Bonczyk collected three steals.

In the third-place contest, North Park fended off Marian College 55-54. North Park junior Heather Fitzgerald, who netted 15 points against Marian, rounded out the all-tournament squad.

UW-RF will return to action Thursday when they host Concordia-Moorhead (Minn.) in a non-conference battle scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the Karges Center. The Falcons will then travel to UW-Whitewater Saturday to take on the Warhawks in their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener.

"5-0 is really nice," Hovet said. "But I know our conference teams are going to be tougher than our non-conference opponents."

**Long Scores 30 to Lead Falcons Over North Park**

**Nov. 24, 2000**

Andrea Long scored 30 points to lead the Falcons to a 66-39 win over North Park Friday night at the Karges Center.

The Falcons, now 4-0, led by just 28-27 at halftime. Long scored 20 second-half points to pace the Falcons. She finished 10-14 from the field and 10-11 from the line. She also had eight rebounds. Sarah Pollock and Abby Nelson each scored nine points and Mara Reif-Wenner grabbed eight rebounds. Pollock had seven rebounds, two assists and one steal.
The Falcons will face Northwestern, Minn., in the title game of the River Falls Tournament. Northwestern beat Marian College, 85-38 in the other semifinal.

Falcons Hang 100, Make Royals Blue
Nov. 21, 2000

UW-River Falls' women's basketball team put on an offensive show Tuesday at its home opener.

The Falcons routed Bethel (Minn.) College 101-75, with junior Andrea Long netting a charity shot with 1-minute, 24-seconds, left in the contest to push UW-RF into triple digit scoring figures.

UW-RF improved its unblemished season mark to 3-0, while the Royals dropped to 0-1.

"Seventy-five is too many points on the other side of the scoreboard," UW-RF skipper Cindy Hovet said. "But, when you get 101, I guess that's alright."

Bethel's Joelle Purcell put the visitors up 2-0, but the Falcons pulled away to a 54-34 halftime lead en route to the rout.

Junior Melissa McKernon paced the Falcons with a game-high 21 points, while Long (19 points), senior Mara Reif-Wenner (17), junior Tara Wakefield (14) and junior Sarah Pollock (12) joined the double-digit scoring party.

Junior Abby Nelson dished out a team high seven assists for UW-RF; Long swatted two Royal shots and pull ed down seven caroms; and McKernon and Reif-Wenner each tallied four steals.

Junior Laura Jacobs led all Bethel scorers with 20 points, sophomore Michelle Rogne pitched in 19.

The Falcons, who shot at a sizzling .621 clip from the floor in the second stanza, hit 58.6 percent of its field goal attempts in the contest, while Bethel shot only .423.

The Royals held a 39 to 35 edge in rebounds, but committed 26 turnovers to UW-RF's 19.

"It was a fun game," Reif-Wenner said. "We just need to learn from it and continue to improve, play better defense."

UW-RF will return to action Friday when it hosts the two-day River Falls Tournament. The Falcons will face North Park (Ill.) in a first-round contest slated to begin at 6 p.m.

Falcons Beat Winona St. in Overtime
Nov. 18, 2000

The Falcons won the Winona St. Tournament with a 86-85 overtime win against host Winona St. Saturday afternoon.

Andrea Long scored five of the team's eight points in the extra session. She scored 28 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the game.

Melissa McKernon added 20 points. Sarah Pollock chipped in 15, and Mara Reif-Wenner tallied 13 for the Falcons.

The Falcons led after the first half 39-37, but the Warriors came back to tie the score after regulation. Winona St. had a chance to win at the end, but a missed free throw by Amanda Brown with :07 remaining gave the Falcons new life.

The Falcons will next play Bethel Tuesday night at the Karges Center. Tip off is 7 p.m.

Falcons Open Season With Win Over Hamline
Nov. 17, 2000

The Falcons opened their 2000-2001 season with a 60-51 win over Hamline Friday night at the Winona Tourney.

Mara Reif-Wenner led the Falcons with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Andrea Long scored 13 points and Sarah Pollock added 10 points and five rebounds. The Falcons held a 35-32 lead at the half. The Falcons shot 21-64 from the field (.328) and held a slight (45-43) advantage in rebounds.

Saturday the Falcons play again at the Winona Tourney.
# 2001-2002 Falcon Women's Basketball Roster

as of Jan. 8, 2002

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Ht</th>
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<td>Nicole Harberts</td>
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<td>Sr</td>
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<td>Christi Crews</td>
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<td>P</td>
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**Head coach:** Cindy Hovet  
**Assistant coaches:** Chris Harmon, Mara Reif-Wenner  
**Student assistant coaches:** Amber Dornfeld, Lucy Williams
2001-2002 Falcon Women's Basketball Schedule

Feb. 25, 2002

Nov. 16 at University of Redlands Tournament (Redlands, UWRF, Chapman, St. Benedict), River Falls 63, Redlands 4

Nov. 17 at University of Redlands Tournament (Redlands, UWRF, Chapman, St. Benedict), St. Benedict 62, River Falls 48

Nov. 20 at Bethel River Falls 72, Bethel 43

Nov. 25 at St. Scholastica River Falls 62, St. Scholastica 56

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Dec. 15 Viterbo River Falls 74, Viterbo 64

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Jan. 16 at Platteville* Platteville 60, River Falls 36

Jan. 19 at Oshkosh* Oshkosh 74, River Falls 41

Jan. 26 at Whitewater* Whitewater 83, River Falls 74

Jan. 30 Superior* River Falls 74, Superior 61

Feb. 2 at La Crosse* River Falls 61, La Crosse 61

Feb. 6 Stout* Stout 72, River Falls 65

Feb. 9 at Eau Claire* Eau Claire 68, River Falls 55

Feb. 13 at Stevens Point* Stevens Point 78, River Falls 55

Feb. 16 Platteville* River Falls 66, Platteville 62 OT

Feb. 18 WIAC Quarterfinals Stevens Point 78, River Falls 34
Falcons Come Back, Tip UW-Platteville In OT

Feb. 16, 2002

The UW-River Falls women's basketball team erased a double-digit second-half deficit and tipped UW-Platteville 66-62 in overtime Saturday in a WIAC contest at the Karges Center.

The Falcons (11-14, 5-11), who lost to the Pioneers 60-36 Jan. 16, trailed 29-20 at intermission, but outscored UW-P (13-12, 8-8) 35-26 in the second half and 11-7 in the extra session.

Senior Melissa McKernon paced UW-RF with 15 points. Freshman Darcy Olsen, who played 41 minutes, added 11 points, while freshmen Erin Effle and Amber Sickels pitched in eight points each. Junior Nicole Harberts snagged eight rebounds and Olsen dished out eight assists.

Crystal Stietz led the Pioneers with a game-high 24 points.

Falcons Women Drop WIAC Decision To UWSP

Feb. 13, 2002

The UW-River Falls women's basketball team fell 78-55 to UW-Stevens Point Wednesday evening in a WIAC tilt at the Karges Center.

UWRF fell to 10-14 overall and 4-11 in the WIAC, while the Pointers improved to 22-2 on the year and 13-2 in league play.

UWSP led 36-25 at intermission.

Freshman Erin Effle, who made 7-of-9 freebies, paced the Falcons with 14 points. Senior Sarah Pollock added nine points. Effle snagged a game-high eight rebounds and freshman Darcy Olsen dished out three assists.

Kari Groshek paced the Pointers with 19 points and five boards. Tara Schmitt pitched in 13 points and Carry Boehning contributed 10 points, eight in the first half.


The Pointers outrebounded the Falcons 33-30 and committed 21 turnovers to UWRF's 24.

UWRF will return to action Saturday, when it hosts UW-Platteville in a WIAC matchup slated to begin at 3 p.m.

Falcons Lose at UWEC

Feb. 9, 2002

The Falcon women's basketball team dropped a 68-55 decision at UW-Eau Claire Saturday night.

UWEC held a 33-32 lead at the half, Lisa Bartsch led the Falcons scoring 13 points off the bench. She also led the team with six rebounds. Erin Effle and Nicole Harberts scored 10 points each. The Falcons were 22-49 (.449) from the field, including 3-9 (.333) from three-point range. UWRF was 8-11 (.727) from the line.

UWEC was led by Katie Murphy who scored 16 points. UWEC was 25-50 (.500) from the field, including 5-11 (.455) from three-point range. UWEC was 13-20 (.650) from the line. UWEC held a 34-24 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 10-13 overall and 4-10 in the WIAC, will host UW-Stevens Point on Wednesday at the Karges Center. Action starts at 7 p.m.

Falcons Women Cagers Test UW-Stout, But Falter in Final Moments To Fall, 72-65

Feb. 6, 2002

Despite a valiant team effort, the UW-River Falls women's basketball team (10-12, 4-9) dropped a 72-65 decision to WIAC-leading UW-Stout (18-4, 13-1) Wednesday evening at the Karges Center.
The Falcons, who led 35-27 at intermission, jumped out to an 11-2 lead in the opening five minutes, but the Blue Devils used an 11-0 run to regain the lead less than three minutes later. The contest proved to be a barn-burner from there on out.

Senior Melissa McKernon paced the Falcons with 20 points. Freshman Darcy Olsen added 15 points and senior Tara Wakefield pitched in 13 points. Freshman Amber Sickels pulled down a game-high eight rebounds, Wakefield distributed five assists and McKernon collected five steals.

Sophomore Laura Verdegan led the Blue Devils with 10 points, six rebounds and three steals.

Stout's victory marked the first time in the teams' last five meetings that the visiting club has collected a win.

Falcons Win at UWLC, 61-51

Feb. 2, 2002

The Falcons women's basketball team won a 61-51 WIAC decision at UW-La Crosse Friday evening.

Erin Effle led the Falcons with 21 points. She had nine rebounds and three blocks. Nikki Harberts added 10 points and four rebounds. Melissa McKernon added 10 points, four rebounds and a team-high five assists. Lisa Bartsch led the Falcons with 11 rebounds and she scored two points. UWRF shot 24-57 (.421) for the game, including 6-16 (.375) from three point range. UWRF was 7-14 (.500) from the line.

UWLC was led by Amanda Cushman who scored 14 points. Karen Berg led the Eagles with 11 rebounds. UWLC, now 6-14 overall and 2-10 in the WIAC, was 19-52 (.365) from the field, including 5-19 (.263) from three-point range. UWLC was 8-14 (.571) from the line.

UWRF, now 10-11 overall and 4-8 in the WIAC, will host UW-Stout on Wednesday at the Karges Center. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

Falcon Women Snap Skid, Silence Superior, 74-61

Jan. 30, 2002

UW-River Falls' women's basketball team defeated WIAC foe UW-Superior 74-61 Wednesday evening at the Karges Center to garner its first win in 25 days and snap a five-game losing skid.

The Falcons (9-11, 3-8) led the Yellowjackets (2-17, 0-12) 38-27 at intermission.

Freshman Erin Effle paced UW-RF with a game-high 23 points. Senior Melissa McKernon added 17, sophomore Nicole Harberts pitched in nine and freshman Darcy Olsen contributed eight.

Harberts pulled down a team-high 12 boards, senior Tara Wakefield dished out five assists and sophomore Lisa Bartsch collected three steals.

Senior Lacey Catanzarite and freshman Lindsey Anderson led UW-S with 17 points each. Junior Jolene Gudmunson added 15.

The Falcons hit 25-of-66 (.379) field goals, 7-of-21 (.333) from beyond the arc, while the Yellowjackets canned 20-of-64 (.313) shots from the floor, including 4-of-12 (.333) treys.

UW-S made 17-of-24 (.708) freebies, while the Falcons bottomed 17-of-31 (.548) charity shots.

The Yellowjackets held a 52-43 edge in rebounds.

UW-RF will return to action Saturday, when it travels to UW-La Crosse to battle the Blugolds in a league affair. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose, 83-74, at UW-Whitewater

Jan. 26, 2002

Melissa McKernon scored 18 points but it wasn't enough as the Falcon women's basketball team lost an 83-74 WIAC decision at UW-Whitewater Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons held a 44-32 lead at the half, but were outscored, 51-30, in the second half.

Nicole Harberts scored 15 points, Erin Effle 14 and Darcy Olsen 13 for the Falcons. Effle led the team with six rebounds and Olsen led with six assists. The Falcons were 27-56 (.482) from the field, including 7-18 (.389) from three-point range. UWRF was 13-18 (.722) from the line.
UWW was led by Wendy Gagnon who scored 23 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Katie Rechlicz added 18 points. UWW was 26-52 (.500) from the field, including 8-13 (.615) from three-point range. The Warhawks were 23-28 (.821) from the line. UWW held a 34-28 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 8-11 overall and 2-8 in the WIAC, host UW-Superior on Wednesday at the Karges Center. Action starts at 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose at Oshkosh, 74-41
Jan. 19, 2002
The Falcons women's basketball team dropped a 74-41 WIAC decision at UW-Oshkosh Saturday afternoon.

Oshkosh led 27-15 at the half and outscored the Falcons 47-26 in the second half.

Darcy Olsen led the Falcons with 12 points. Amber Sickels, who scored five points, led the Falcons with nine rebounds. The Falcons were 15-59 (.254) from the field, including 3-18 (.167) from three-point range. UWRF was 8-18 (.444) from the line. UWRF had a 44-37 advantage in rebounding.

UWO had five players scored in double figures led by Kay Mokolajczak and Melissa Schweitzer who scored 12 each. UWO was 27-58 (.466) from the field, including 6-22 (.273) from three-point range. Oshkosh, now 14-9 overall and 7-2 in the WIAC, was 14-19 (.737) from the line.

The Falcons, now 8-10 overall and 2-7 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Whitewater on Jan. 26 for a 3 p.m. game.

Falcons Lose at Platteville
Jan. 16, 2002
The Falcons women's basketball team was led in scoring by Erin Effle with 13 points, but it wasn't enough as UW-Platteville took a 60-36 win Wednesday night in Platteville.

UWP held a 33-17 lead at the half and outscored the Falcons 27-19 in the second half. Effle was 6-13 from the field and 1-2 from the line. Amber Sickels added seven points. Nicole Harberts led the Falcons with seven rebounds. The Falcons were 14-58 (.241) from the field, including 2-13 (.154) from three-point range. UWRF was 6-11 (.545) from the line.

UWP was led by Grace Foster who scored 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Crystal Stietz scored 17 points and Tiff Plesch added 11. UWP was 23-56 (.411) from the field, including 7-19 (.368) from three-point range. UWRF, now 9-7 overall and 4-4 in the WIAC, was just 7-16 (.438) from the line. UWRF held a 43-41 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 8-9 overall and 2-6 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Oshkosh on Saturday for a 3 p.m. game.

Falcons Lose to Eau Claire, 65-49
Jan. 12, 2002
The Falcons women's basketball team stayed right with the Blugolds early, but the second half proved fatal as UW-EC outscored the Falcons 37-24 for the 65-49 final in the Karges Center Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons trailed only 28-25 at half-time. Erin Effle led the Falcon offensive effort with a 20-point game along with six rebounds. Melissa McKernon and Lisa Bartsch each added eight points. McKernon also accumulated four rebounds, four assists and a block. Bartsch came down with five rebounds. Darcy Olsen also helped the Falcons with seven points and three assists.

The duo of Janel Soppeland and Kristi Channing dominated the Blugold offense with 19 and 18 points, respectively. Soppeland also contributed nine rebounds and five assists. Channing had seven rebounds and a block. Both leaders had two steals.

The Falcons shot 39.6% from the floor and made all seven free throws. The Blugolds shot 43.4 field goal percentage, including 48% in the second half.

The Falcons, now 8-8 overall and 2-5 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Platteville on Wednesday for a WIAC game. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose at UWSP, 65-45
Jan. 9, 2002
The Falcons women's basketball team dropped a 65-45 WIAC game at UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night.

UWSP jumped out to a 20-4 lead in the first 13:07 of the game and held a 28-19 lead at the half.

Melissa McKernon and Erin Effle each scored 10 points to lead the Falcons. McKernon led the team with eight rebounds. The Falcons were 19-57 (.333) form the field, including 2-12 (.167) from three-point range. UWRF was 5-10 (.500) from the line.
UWSP was led by Kari Groshek who scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. UWSP was 24-52 (.462) from the field, including 3-14 (.214) from three-point range. UWSP was 14-28 (.500) from the line. UWSP held a 43-35 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 8-7 overall and 2-4 in the WIAC, host UW-Eau Claire on Saturday at the Karges Center. Game time is 3 p.m.

Falcons Beat UW-La Crosse in OT

Jan. 5, 2002

The Falcons women's basketball team beat UW-La Crosse in overtime, 68-64, Saturday at the Karges Center.

UWRF was down 30-26 at the half, but came back to tie the game at the end of the second half, 55-55. The Falcons outscored the Eagles 13-9 in the overtime.

Darcy Olsen led the Falcons with 22 points. Melissa McKernon had 16 and Sarah Pollock had 11. McKernon led the Falcons with 10 rebounds. UWRF was 20-58 (.345) from the field, including 8-22 (.364) from three-point range.

La Crosse, now 4-9 overall and 0-5 in the WIAC, was led by Brooke Croshier who scored 21 points. Coshier also led the Eagles with 13 rebounds. La Crosse was 25-72 (.347) from the field, including 2-16 (.125) from three-point range.

The Falcons, now 8-6 overall and 2-3 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Stevens Point on Wednesday. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Drop WIAC Decision at Stout, 63-57

Jan. 2, 2002

The Falcons women's basketball team dropped a 63-57 WIAC decision at UW-Stout Wednesday night.

UWRF held a 26-25 lead at the half, but were outscored 38-31 in the second half.

Lisa Bartsch led the Falcons with 13 points. Sarah Pollock scored 12, Nicole Harberts 11 and Tara Wakefield 10. Harberts led the Falcons with 11 rebounds. UWRF was 18-56 (.321) from the field, including just 2-11 (.182) from three-point range. The Falcons were outrebounded, 50-40.

Stout, now 10-3 overall and 5-0 in the WIAC, was led by Amy Zelinger who scored 13 and Sara Kahl who added 11. Erin Churchill led the Blue Devils with 12 rebounds. Stout was 19-48 (.396) from the field.

The Falcons, now 7-6 overall and 1-3 in the WIAC, host UW-La Crosse on Saturday in a WIAC contest at Karges Center. Tip off is set for 3 p.m.

Falcons Drop 63-56 Decision at Upper Iowa

Dec. 30, 2001

The Falcons women's basketball team lost a 63-56 decision at Upper Iowa Sunday afternoon.

UI led 32-22 at the half and the Falcons outscored their opponent by 34-31 in the second half, but it wasn't enough. Melissa McKernon led the Falcons with 15 points and she had 10 rebounds. Tara Wakefield also scored 15 points and she had four rebounds. Erin Effle led the Falcons with 11 rebounds, but she did not score. The Falcons shot under 30 percent for the second straight game. They finished 17-59 (.288) from the field. UWRF held a 42-36 advantage in rebounds. UI, now 7-2 overall, was led by Tynisha Downing who scored 18 points and Tara Heller who added 13. UI shot 19-48 (.396) from the field.

The Falcons, now 7-5 overall, will return to WIAC play on Wednesday when they travel to Stout. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose at Luther, 62-35

Dec. 29, 2001

The Falcons women's basketball team dropped a 62-35 decision at Luther College Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons trailed 29-20 at halftime, but were outscored 33-15 in the second half. Sarah Pollock led the Falcons with eight points. Melissa McKernon scored six and Amber Sickels five. McKernon had seven rebounds and Erin Effle and Sickels had six each. The Falcons shot just 13-54 (.241) for the game, including 7-30 (.233) in the second half. Luther, now 5-4, was led by Amanda Smith who scored 17. Luther shot 23-44 (.523) from the field for the game.

The Falcons, now 7-4 overall, will play at Upper Iowa on Sunday, Game time is 1 p.m.

Falcons Beat Viterbo, 74-64

Dec. 12, 2001
The Falcons women's basketball team had five players score in double figures for a 74-64 win over Viterbo Saturday afternoon at the Karges Center.

Erin Effle led the way with 16 points and she led the Falcons with 12 rebounds. Nicole Harberts added 15 points and nine rebounds. Lisa Bartsch scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Darcy Olsen chipped in 13 points. The Falcons were 11-26 (.423) from the field, including 2-9 (.222) from three-point range. The Falcons were 28-37 (.757) from the line. The Falcons held a commanding 40-23 advantage in rebounding.

Viterbo, now 6-6, was led in scoring by Kara Brandau who scored 30. She also led her team with six rebounds.

The Falcons, now 7-3 overall, will next play at Luther on Dec. 29. Game time is 3 p.m.

Falcons Win at UWS, 69-53
Dec. 12, 2001

The Falcons women's basketball team got 20 points from freshman Erin Effle and won a WIAC game at UW-Superior Wednesday night, 69-53.

Effle also led the Falcons in rebounding with 11. Melissa McKernon and Darcy Olsen each scored 12 points. Nicole Harberts had eight rebounds and McKernon seven. The Falcons shot 27-60 field goal attempts and went 9-15 (.600) free throws. The Falcons held a commanding 44-32 advantage in rebounds.

UWS was led by Lindsey Anderson who scored 13 points. Heidi McKay led the Jackets with 11 rebounds.

Saturday the Falcons host Viterbo College in a non-conference game at the Karges Center. Game time is 3 p.m.

Women's Cagers Drop 23rd In Row To UW-Oshkosh
Dec. 8, 2001

UW-River Falls fell 71-49 to UW-Oshkosh Saturday in a WIAC contest held at the Karges Center.

With the setback, their 23rd straight to the Titans dating back to 1989, the Falcons fell to 5-3 overall and 0-2 in the league. UW-O improved to 7-1, 3-0.

UW-RF led 15-13 midway through the first half, but trailed 32-26 heading into the break. The Titans netted three consecutive 3-pointers to commence the second half and pulled away from there.

Senior guard Kristin Steckmesser paced UW-O with a game-high 16 points, 14 of which she tallied after intermission, on 7-of-15 field goal shooting. Junior Melissa Schweitzer added 15 points, junior Brenda Utech 14 and junior Libby Sievert 13.

Freshman Darcy Olsen, who hit 3-of-5 3-point attempts, led Falcon scorers with 13 points. Freshman Erin Effle pitched in 12 points and senior Melissa McKernon netted 11.

Effle, who pulled down 11 caroms, tied for game-high rebounding honors with Titan sophomore Kay Nikolajczak. Olsen and junior Nicole Harberts dished out three assists each for UW-RF, while UW-O senior Jamie Turtenwald collected a game-high four dishes.

UW-O connected on 27-of-52 (.519) shots from the floor, while the Falcons hit 20-of-64 (.313). The Titans made 9-of-16 3-pointers and the Falcons netted 5-of-15. Neither team visited the charity stripe very often, as UW-O canned 8-of-10 attempts and the Falcons made 4-of-8 freebies.

The Falcons will return to action Wednesday, when they travel to UW-Superior to take on the Yellowjackets in a WIAC tilt.

Women Hoopsters Blast Northwestern, 63-38
Dec. 4, 2001

UW-River Falls pasted Northwestern (Minn.) 63-38 Tuesday evening in a non-conference contest at the Karges Center.

The Falcons improved to 5-2 on the season, while the Eagles dropped to 7-3.

UW-RF fell behind 2-0, but rattled off an 18-3 run to pull away for good.

Freshman Darcy Olsen paced the Falcons with a game-high 18 points on 7-of-13 shooting, including a 4-of-7 performance from 3-point territory. Senior Melissa McKernon, who nailed 6-of-10 shots and 3-of-5 3-pointers, added 17 points, and freshman Erin Effle pitched in 13.

Effle snared a game-high 13 rebounds, while freshman Amber Sickels and senior Tara Wakefield each dished out four assists.

Jessica DeMars led Northwestern with 11 points and nine rebounds.

UW-RF hit 25-of-60 field goal attempts and went 9-of-21 from beyond the arc. The Eagles bottomed 16-of-55 shots from the floor, and missed all 12 of its tries from 3-point land.
Each team committed 15 turnovers.

UW-RF will return to action Saturday, when it hosts UW-Oshkosh in a WIAC matchup at the Karges Center. Tip-off is slated for 3 p.m.

**Falcons Win at Silver Lake, 55-35**

Nov. 28, 2001

Led by Darcy Olsen's 15 points, the Falcons won at Silver Lake, 55-35, Tuesday night.

Olsen was 7-10 from the field, including 1-2 from three-point range for her 15 points. She also had four rebounds, two assists and a steal. Erin Effle finished 5-9 from the field for 10 points and she led the team with nine rebounds. Melissa McKernon and Nikki Harberts each scored eight points. The Falcons were 26-54 from the field, including 2-6 from three-point range. UWRF was 7-10 from the line. Jamie Werneck led SL with 11 points. SL shot 14-50 from the field and 4-7 from the line. The Falcons held a 25-20 halftime lead and outscored SL 30-18 in the second half.

Saturday the Falcons, now 4-1 overall, open WIAC play hosting Whitewater at the Karges Center. Action starts at 3 p.m.

**Falcon Women's Basketball Team Clobbers Bethel**

Nov. 20, 2001

The UW-River Falls women's basketball team broke open a close contest by outscoring Bethel 45-18 in the second half en route to a 72-43 win Tuesday night at Arden Hills, Minn.

The Falcons led by just two points after the first 20 minutes of play, but shot 56.7 percent from the field in the second half to easily beat the Royals.

Senior forward Melissa McKernon led the way for the Falcons, scoring 23 points on 7-of-14 shooting and a perfect 8-of-8 from the charity stripe. Tara Wakefield and Erin Effle each added 13 points while Effle led the team in rebounding with nine.

The Falcons shot 47.5 percent from the floor for the game while the Royals were held to just 35.6 percent shooting.

Laura Jacobs tallied nine points to lead the Royals.

The Falcons are now 2-1 and will face St. Scholastica on Sunday Nov. 25. Tip off is set for 1 p.m. at the Karges Center.

**Falcon Women get 2nd Place in the University of Redlands Tourney**

Nov. 17, 2001

The River Falls women flew to California and beat the University of Redland, 63-41 on Friday night. They came back to play in the championship game tonight vs. St. Benedict, but lost to them, 62-48 for 2nd place in the tournament.

In Friday's win, Melissa McKernon scored a game high 17 points, Nicole Harberts had 15 points, and Tara Wakefield had 13.

The Falcons led 25-15 after the first half. They continued to lead into the second to win the game.

Monique Allen scored 11 points for the University of Redland. Kelly Medlen had 6.

The Falcons 20-of-47 field goal attempts, 5-of-13 from 3-point land. University of Redlands hit only 12-of-43 field goal attempts, and 1-of-12 were from 3-point land.

During tonights championship game versus The College of St. Benedict, Erin Effle scored 17 points, Wakefield had a 11, and McKernon mad 10.

The Falcons were down after the first half 32 to 21. They stayedd down throughout the rest of the game to lose it 62-48.

St. Benedict's Leah Laurich had 16 points, Michelle Barlau had 11, and Kim Johnson came out with 10.

The Falcons made 22-of-52 attempted field goals, 8-of-23 were from 3-point land. St. Benedict made 20-of-58 with 7-of-20 attempted being 3-pointers.

These two games were the Falcons first regular season games. The Falcons record is now 1-1. The Falcons face Bethel on Tuesday night in Bethel at 7 p.m.
## 2002-2003 Falcon Women's Basketball Roster

**as of Nov. 18, 2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Ht</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gina Astedt</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>Fr</td>
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<td>Miranda Biteler</td>
<td>G</td>
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<td>Fr</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Lindsay Rasmussen</td>
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<td>Baldwin, Wis. (Baldwin-Woodville)</td>
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<td>Darcy Olsen</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Lisa Bartsch</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>Sr</td>
<td>Vernon Center, Minn. (Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial)</td>
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<td>Chantele Melgaard</td>
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<td>Rochester, Minn. (Mayo)</td>
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<td>Concetta Smith</td>
<td>P</td>
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<td>Jr</td>
<td>Bruno, Minn. (East Central)</td>
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<td>Erin Effle</td>
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<td>So</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Christi Crews</td>
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<td>Bri Biebighauser</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Fr</td>
<td>Roseville, Minn.</td>
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</table>

**Head coach:** Cindy Hovet  
**Assistant coaches:** Kathy Holbrook, Mara Reif-Wenner  
**Student assistant coach:** Takeo Morisaki  
**Student managers:** Fusako Kawano, Erin Larson, Roy Jackson
2002-2003 Falcon Women's Basketball Schedule

10-15 Overall, 4-12 WIAC

Nov. 23 at Chicago Tournament (Chicago, UWRF, Whittier, Kenyon)
River Falls 72, Chicago 63

Nov. 24 at Chicago Tournament (Chicago, UWRF, Whittier, Kenyon)
Kenyon 63, River Falls 58

Nov. 26 Bethel
River Falls 59, Bethel 38

Dec. 1 at St. Scholastica
River Falls 64, St. Scholastica 63

Dec. 4 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 73, River Falls 57

Dec. 7 Oshkosh*
River Falls 56, Oshkosh 46

Dec. 11 at La Crosse
La Crosse 74, River Falls 62

Dec. 13 at Viterbo Tourney (Viterbo, UWRF, Judson, Martin Luther)
River Falls 55, Martin Luther 34

Dec. 14 at Viterbo Tourney (Viterbo, UWRF, Judson, Martin Luther)
Judson 73, River Falls 52

Dec. 31 at Northwestern
River Falls 66, Northwestern 61

Jan. 4 Whitewater*
River Falls 83, Whitewater 63

Jan. 8 at Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 57, River Falls 41

Jan. 13 Macalester
River Falls 69, Macalester 40

Jan. 15 Superior*
River Falls 78, Superior 61

Jan. 18 at Platteville*
Platteville 50, River Falls 40

Jan. 22 at Stout*
Stout 89, River Falls 74

Jan. 25 at Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 100, River Falls 49

Jan. 29 La Crosse*
La Crosse 68, River Falls 53

Feb. 1 at Whitewater*
Whitewater 62, River Falls 53

Feb. 5 Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 70, River Falls 53

Feb. 8 Eau Claire*
Eau Claire 60, River Falls 47

Feb. 12 at Superior*
River Falls 89, Superior 56

Feb. 19 Stout*, 7 p.m.
Stout 65, River Falls 56

Feb. 22 Platteville*, 3 p.m.
Platteville 62, River Falls 58

Feb. 24 WIAC First Round, at Eau Claire, 7 p.m.
Eau Claire 76, River Falls 41
Falcons Lose WIAC Playoff Game at UWEC  
Feb. 24, 2003  
The Falcons lost, 76-41, in the first round of the WIAC playoffs at UW-Eau Claire Monday night.

UWEC held a 31-25 lead at the half and outscored the Falcons 44-16 in the second half. The Falcons had only one player score in double figures, Bri Biebighauser with 10. Erin Effle, the Falcons leading scorer, was limited to two points. Chantele Melgaard scored nine points and Jill Crandall scored eight points and had five rebounds. UWEC was led by Kristi Channin who scored 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds. She finished 7-12 from the field, including 6-13 (.462) from three-point range. UWRF finished 9-14 (.643) from the line. UWEC was led by Katie Murphy who scored 16 points. Rachel Becker scored 14 points and Brooke Wozniak led both teams with 17 rebounds. UWEC held a 53-38 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons end their season with 10-15 overall record.

Falcons Lose Close One to Platteville  
Feb. 22, 2003  
The Falcons lost a 62-58 WIAC decision to UW-Platteville Saturday afternoon in their final game of the season at the Karges Center.

UWRF held a 32-24 lead at the half. The Falcons were led by Lisa Bartsch who scored 13 points and picked up 8 rebounds. Darcy Olsen and Brianna Biebighauser each added 11 points for the Falcons. Erin Effle picked up 9 rebounds and 5 points. The Falcons shot 19-51 (.373) from the field, including 6-13 (.462) from three-point range. The Falcons were 14-24 (.583) from the line. UWP was led by Angie Sisson who scored 16 points and Shannon Boatman who grabbed 14 rebounds.

The Falcons are now 10-14 overall and 4-12 in the WIAC and will play at UW-Eau Claire on Monday in the first round of the WIAC tournament. The Blugolds, 24-1 overall and 16-0 in WIAC play, finished first in the final conference standings. The Falcons lost twice to the Blugolds, 57-41 on Jan. 8 at UWEC and 60-47 on Feb. 8 in River Falls.

Falcons Lose to Stout, 65-56  
Feb. 19, 2003  
The Falcons lost a 65-56 WIAC decision to UW-Stout Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

UWS held a 36-23 lead at the half. The Falcons were led by Erin Effle who scored 17 points. Chantele Melgaard added 16 points for the Falcons. The Falcons shot 17-56 (.304) from the field, including 4-17 (.235) from three-point range. The Falcons were 18-22 (.818) from the line. UWS was led by Lindsey Erichsen who scored 16 points and she grabbed 16 rebounds.

The Falcons, now 10-13 overall and 4-11 in the WIAC, will next host UW-Platteville on Saturday at the Karges Center with action starting at 3 p.m.

Falcons Win at UWS, 89-56  
Feb. 12, 2003  
Darcy Olsen scored a season-high 25 points to help lead the Falcon women's basketball team to an 89-56 win at UW-Superior Wednesday night.

The Falcons held a 48-24 lead at the half. Olsen finished 7-14 from the field, including 5-8 from three-point range. She was 6-7 from the line and had eight rebounds and eight assists. Erin Effle scored 19 points and Lisa Bartsch added 13. Effle led both teams with 12 rebounds. UWRF was 31-61 (.508) from the field, including 11-19 (.579) from three-point range. The Falcons were 16-24 (.667) from the line. UWS, now 1-20 overall and 0-14 in the WIAC, were led by Molly Ray who scored 17 points.

The Falcons, now 10-12 overall and 4-10 in the WIAC, will next host UW-Stout on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Falcons Lose to UWEC, 60-47  
Feb. 8, 2003  
The Falcon women's basketball team dropped a 60-47 WIAC decision to UW-Eau Claire Saturday afternoon at the Karges Center.

UWEC held a 25-20 lead at the half and outscored the Falcons 35-27 in the second half. UWRF was led by Erin Effle who scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds. She finished 7-12 from the field and a perfect 3-3 from three-point range. Darcy Olsen scored nine points and had five rebounds and Jill Crandall scored eight points and had five rebounds. UWEC was led by Kristi Channing who scored 14 points. Brooke Wozniak scored 11 points and led both teams with 12 rebounds, nine on the offensive end. The Falcons were 18-41 (.439) from the field, including 7-13 (.538) from three-point range. UWRF was just 4-6 (.667) from the line. UWEC finished 21-53 (.396) from the field, including 3-17 (.176) from three-point range. The Blugolds were 15-26 (.577) from the line. Both teams finished with 32 rebounds.
The Falcons, now 9-12 overall and 3-10 in the WIAC, play at UW-Superior on Wednesday with game time set for 7 p.m.

**Falcons Lose to Stevens Point, 70-53**  
Feb. 5, 2003

The Falcons were defeated by UW-Stevens Point, 70-53 on Wednesday night at Karges Center.

Erin Effle led the team with 13. Chantele Melgaard had 12 points and 7 rebounds. UWRF finished 19-54 (.352) from the field, including 3-13 (.231) from three-point range. UWSW was 12-13(.923) from the line. Cassandra Schultz and Cassandra Heuer each picked up 16 points for the Pointers. Tara Schmitt had 11 rebounds and 9 points. UWSP is now 16-4 overall and 8-3 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 9-11 overall and 3-9 in the WIAC, play UW-Eau Claire on Saturday Afternoon at Karges Center. Game time is 3 p.m.

**Falcons Defeated By Whitewater**  
Feb. 1, 2003

The Falcons were defeated by UW-Whitewater, 62-53, on Saturday afternoon in Whitewater.

Darcy Olsen led the team with 17 points and 6 rebounds. Erin Effle picked up 11 points. Chantele Melgaard had 9 points and 7 rebounds. UWRF finished 19-55 (.345) from the field, including 7-22 (.318) from three-point range. UWSW was 8-13(.615) from the line. Amy Morris scored 21 points and had 11 rebounds to lead UW-Whitewater. Warhawk, Nya Geschke scored 18 points. UW-Whitewater is now 9-9 overall and 4-7 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 9-10 overall and 3-8 in the WIAC, play UW-Stevens Point on Wednesday night at Karges Center. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Falcons Defeated By La Crosse**  
Jan. 29, 2003

The Falcons were defeated by La Crosse, 68-53 on Wednesday night at Karges Center. UW-River Falls was 4-31 (.129) from the field in the first half. The score after the first half was 28-11 La Crosse.

Erin Effle had a double-double scoring 21 points and grabbing 10 rebound. Chantele Melgaard had 9 points and 7 rebounds. UWRF finished 19-55 (.345) from the field, including 7-22 (.318) from three-point range. UWSW was 8-13(.615) from the line. Amy Greil scored 15 points and had 17 rebounds to lead UW-La Crosse. Eagle Karen Berg scored 14 points and grabbed 8 rebound. UW-La Crosse is now 9-9 overall and 4-6 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 9-9 overall and 3-7 in the WIAC, play at UW-Whitewater on Saturday. Game time is 3 p.m.

**Falcons Lose at UW-Oshkosh**  
Jan. 25, 2003

The Falcons were defeated by Oshkosh, 100-49 on Saturday night at Oshkosh. UW-Oshkosh made 10 of its first 13 field goal attempts (5 three pointers) to take a 27-12 lead. In the second half Oshkosh went on a 22-8 scoring run , making nine of its first 11 field goal attempts. Earlier in the season the Falcons defeated UW-Oshkosh, 56-46.

Chisato Nakaike and Brianna Biebighauser each had 10 points for the Falcons. Erin Effle grabbed 7 rebounds. UWRF finished 16-52 (.308) from the field, including 6-16 (.375) from three-point range. UWSW was 11-22 (.500) from the line. Kay Mikolajczak scored 15 points to lead UW-Oshkosh. Four other Titans scored in the double digits. UW-Oshkosh is now 15-3 overall and 6-3 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 9-8 overall and 3-6 in the WIAC, face UW-La Crosse on Wednesday night at Karges Center for a WIAC game. Game time is 7 p.m..

**Falcons Lose at UW-Stout**  
Jan. 22, 2003

The Falcons were defeated by Stout, 89-74 on Wednesday night at Stout.
Erin Effle scored 14 points and 7 rebounds. Christi Crews scored 12 points and Lisa Bartsch had a double-double scoring 10 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Bartsch was also 4-4 (.100) from the line. UWRF finished 28-65 (.431) from the field, including 4-11 (.364) from three-point range. UWRF was 14-25 (.560) from the line. Tanya Halbach scored 23 points to lead UWS. Laura Verdegan had a double-double scoring 13 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. UW-Stout is now 14-3 overall and 6-2 in the WIAC.

The Falcons, now 9-7 overall and 3-5 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Oshkosh on Saturday night for a WIAC game. Game time is 7 p.m..

**Falcons Lose at UWP, 50-40**

Jan. 18, 2003

The Falcon women's basketball team scored a season-low 40 points in a 50-40 loss at UW-Platteville on Saturday night.

Erin Effle scored 10 points, the only Falcon to score in double figures. She also led the Falcons in rebounds with 12. Only six Falcons scored in the game where UWRF finished 13-50 (.260) from the field, including 3-13 (.231) from three-point range. UWRF was 11-15 (.733) from the line. Nikki Harberts finished with six points and 10 rebounds for the Falcons. Angie Sisson scored 12 points to lead UWP, now 11-5 overall and 4-3 in the WIAC. UWRF was also outrebounded, 44-40.

The Falcons, now 9-6 overall and 3-4 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Stout on Wednesday for a WIAC game. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Falcons Top UWS, 78-61**

Jan. 15, 2003

Chantele Melgaard scored 17 points to help lead the Falcon women's basketball team to a 78-61 win over UW-Superior Wednesday night at the Karges Center.

Melgaard finished 6-8 from the field, including 1-2 from three-point range. She was 4-8 from the line. She also had four rebounds, four assists, one block and five steals in 33 minutes of action. Four other Falcons scored in double figures. Darcy Olsen scored 14 and had nine rebounds and three assists. Miranda Biteler scored 13 points and had six rebounds and five assists. Lisa Bartsch scored 12 points and led the Falcons with 10 rebounds. She had five assists, two steals and a block. Jill Crandall added 10 points. UWRF was 27-63 (.426) from the field, including 7-15 (.467) from three-point range. The Falcons were 11-16 (.688) from the line. UWRF had three players scored in double figures led by Jodie Johnson with 13 points. She also led the Jackets with eight rebounds.

The Falcons, now 9-5 overall and 3-3 in the WIAC, travel to UW-Platteville on Saturday for a WIAC game with the Pioneers. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Falcons Defeat Macalester, 69-40**

Jan. 13, 2003

The Falcon women's basketball team beat Macalester, 69-40 on Monday night.

UWRF had a 35-19 lead after the half and outscored Macalester 34-21 in the second half by Nikki Harberts who scored 16 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Chantele Melgaard added 13 points and six assists. Miranda Biteler scored 13 points. UWRF was 27-59 (.458) from the field, including 7-17 (.412) from three-point range. The Falcons were 8-8 (1.00) from the line.

Macalester, now 1-10 overall, was led by Afton Hanson who scored 21 points and had six rebounds. Sarah Jacoby scored eight points. Macalester was 16-48 (.333) from the field, including 2-4 (.500) from three-point range. Macalester was 6-7 (.857) from the line.

The Falcons, now 8-5 overall and 2-3 in the WIAC, will next host UW-Superior on Wednesday at the Karges Center with action starting at 7 p.m.

**Falcons Lose at UWEC, 57-41**

Jan. 8, 2003

The Falcon women's basketball team dropped a 57-41 WIAC decision at UW-Eau Claire Wednesday night.

UWEC held a 31-23 lead at the half and outscored the Falcons, 26-18 in the second half. UWRF was led by Erin Effle who scored 13 points and grabbed five rebounds. Darcy Olsen added nine points and four assists. UWRF was 17-51 (.333) from the field, including 2-8 (.250) from three-point range. The Falcons were 5-6 (.833) from the line.

UWEC, now 13-1 overall and 5-0 in the WIAC, was led by Becca Spareth who scored 13 points. Kristi Channing scored nine points and led both teams with 13 rebounds. UWEC was 20-53 (.377) from the field, including 2-15 (.133) from three-point range. UWEC was 15-20 (.750) from the line. UWEC held a commanding 44-26 advantage in rebounding.

The Falcons, now 7-5 overall and 2-3 in the WIAC, will next host Macalester College on Monday at the Karges Center with action starting at 7 p.m.
Falcons Beat Whitewater

Jan. 4, 2003

The Falcon women's basketball team defeated UW-Whitewater 83-63 in a WIAC game, at Karges Center today.

The Falcons were up at the half 42-23, and in the second half the Falcons scored 41 more to bring them to the victory. Five falcons had point totals in the double digits. Darcy Olsen and Chantele Melgaard led the team in points each had 20. Olsen was 4-5 from 3 point range. Nikki Harberts had 15 points. Lisa Bartsch finished with 11, and Miranda Biteler had 10 and was 2-2 from three point range. Harberts led the Falcons with eight rebounds. UWRF was 31-58 (.534) from the field, including 10-13 (.769) from three-point range. UWRF was 11-15 (.733) from the line. UW-Whitewater now 5-3 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, was led by Nya Geschke who had 25 points and nine rebounds.

The Falcons, now 7-4 overall and 2-2 in the WIAC, will next travel to UW-Eau Claire on Wednesday. Game time is 7 p.m.

Falcons Beat Northwestern

Dec. 31, 2002

The Falcon women's basketball team defeated Northwestern 66-61, at Ericksen Center today.

The game was tied at the half 28-28, but in the second half the Falcons pulled ahead for the win. Nikki Harberts led the Falcons with 20 points. Darcy Olsen finished with 14, and Lisa Bartsch had 13. Harberts also led the Falcons with eight rebounds. UWRF was 25-59 (.424) from the field, including 3-13 (.231) from three-point range. UWRF was 13-13 (.1000) from the line. Northwestern now 6-6 overall, had four players score in double figures led by Sara Toonneson with 23.

The Falcons, now 6-4 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, will next host UW-Whitewater on Saturday at the Karges Center. Game time is 3 p.m.

Falcons Lose to Judson in Title Game

Dec. 14, 2002

The Falcon women's basketball team lost to Judson, 73-52, in the championship game at the Viterbo College Tournament played Saturday in La Crosse.

Judson led 32-29 at the half, and outscored the Falcons, 41-23, in the second half. Erin Effle was the only Falcon to score in double figures with 13. Amber Sickels finished with nine. Effle also led the Falcons with six rebounds. UWRF was 25-59 (.424) from the field, including 4-17 (.235) from three-point range. UWRF was 10-21 (.476) from the line. Judson, now 10-5 overall, had four players score in double figures led by Charmaine Rogers with 16.

The Falcons, now 5-4 overall, will next play on Dec. 31 at Northwestern College. Game time is 1 p.m.

Falcons Top Martin Luther

Dec. 13, 2002

Erin Effle scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help lead the Falcons to a 55-34 win over Martin Luther College on Friday night at the Viterbo College Tourney.

Effle finished 8-16 from the field, including 2-4 from three-point range. She was 1-4 from the line. Darcy Olsen also finished in double figures with 10 points. She had two assists, two rebounds and one steal. Nikki Harberts had 10 rebounds and scored five points for the Falcons, who led 22-20 at the half. UWRF finished 23-58 (.397) from the field, including 4-9 (.444) from three-point range. UWRF was 5-11 (.455) from the line. UWRF held a 48-28 advantage in rebounding. MLC was led by Sarah Gronholz who scored 10 points. UWRF outscored the Knights, 33-14 in the second half.

The Falcons, now 5-3 overall, compete in the Viterbo College Tournament again on Saturday.

Falcons Drop WIAC Game at La Crosse, 74-62

Dec. 11, 2002

The Falcons had four players score in double figures, but it wasn't enough as UWLC took a 74-62 WIAC win in La Crosse Wednesday night.

UWLC held a 44-30 lead at the half. Nikki Harberts led the Falcons in scoring with 14 points and in rebounding with eight. Erin Effle scored 13 points and had two blocked shots. Darcy Olsen scored 11 points and had three assists. Amber Sickels scored 10 points and had six rebounds. UWRF shot 23-60 (.383) from the field, including 3-13 (.231) from behind the arc. The Falcons were 13-20 (.650) from the line. UWLC, now 4-4 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, was led by Amy Greil who had 16 points. Jacquie Bartz led the Eagles with nine rebounds.
The Falcons, now 4-3 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, compete in the Viterbo College Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

**Falcons Topple Titans, 56-46**

Dec. 7, 2002

A late-game 12-1 run broke an even contest into the eventual 56-46 Falcon victory, the team's first against UW-Oshkosh since the 1988-89 season, at the Karges Center Saturday afternoon.

Darcy Olsen and Amber Sickels led the Falcons with 15 points a piece. Erin Effle finished with 13.

The Falcons led most of the contest, including a 19-11 lead toward the end of the first half. The Titans came back to a 23-21 halftime score and kept the pressure on until the UWRF run with 7:23 to go.

The Falcons shot 43.8 percent from the field (21-48) and made 76.9 percent of their 13 free throws. Oshkosh suffered from a 29.2 percent field goal shooting percentage.

Olsen knocked down three from behind the arc and played the full 40 minutes. Effle led the squad in rebounds (10), assists (5), and steals (5). Chantele Melgaard had five rebounds; Sickels pulled down four. Melgaard scored seven points. Olsen had three assists; Lisa Bartsch assisted twice. Melgaard had two blocks and two steals.

Oshkosh was led in scoring by Libby Sievert (13) and Melissa Schweitzer (10).

The Falcons, now 4-2 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC. Wednesday the Falcons travel to UW-La Crosse for a 7 p.m. contest before competing in the Viterbo Tourney next weekend.

**Falcons Lose at UWSP, 73-57**

Dec. 4, 2002

The Falcons dropped a 73-57 WIAC decision at UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night.

UWSP led by just 33-30 at the half, but outscored the Falcons, 40-27, in the second half. Amber Sickels led the Falcons with 17 points. Erin Effle was the only other Falcon to score in double figures finishing with 12. Lisa Bartsch, who scored eight points, led the Falcons with nine rebounds. UWSP had four players score in double figures led by Amanda Nechuta and Cassandra Schultz with 17 each. Nechuta led the Pointers with 12 rebounds. UWRF was 21-55 (.382) from the field, including 5-11 (.455) from three-point range. UWRF was 10-14 (.714) from the line. UWRF held a 43-34 rebounding advantage.

The Falcons, now 3-2 overall and 0-1 in the WIAC, host UW-Oshkosh on Saturday at the Karges Center. Action starts at 3 p.m.

**Falcons Win at St. Scholastica, 64-63**

Dec. 1, 2002

Darcy Olsen scored 19 points to help lead the Falcons to a 64-63 win at St. Scholastica Sunday afternoon.

UWRF held a 59-46 lead with 3:14 to play. But CSS outscored the Falcons, 17-5, down the stretch to make it a close game. CSS led 30-29 at the half. Olsen finished 5-10 from the field and was a perfect 3-3 from three point range. She was 6-6 from the line to score her season high point total. Erin Effle added 16 points going 7-13 from the field and 2-3 from the line. She had six rebounds and three steals. Lisa Bartsch led the Falcons with eight rebounds and she had three steals. UWRF was 25-56 (.446) from the field, including 4-8 (.500) from three point range. The Falcons were 10-16 (.625) from the line. CSS was led by Jackie Plasha who scored 16 points.

The Falcons, now 3-1 overall, open WIAC play on Wednesday at UW-Stevens Point. Tip off is set for 7 p.m. UWSP won the NCAA Div. III National Championship last year.

**Falcons Beat Bethel, 59-38**

Nov. 26, 2002

Three Falcons scored 10 points each to help the Falcons to a 59-38 win over Bethel College Tuesday night at the Karges Center.

Darcy Olsen, Lisa Bartsch and Erin Effle each scored 10 points. Effle led the Falcons with six rebounds. UWRF was 25-65 (.385) from the field, including 5-13 (.385) from three point range. The Falcons finished 4-8 (.500) from the line. Effle also led the Falcons with five assists and three steals. Amber Sickels and Jill Crandall each scored eight points. Crandall had five rebounds.

The Falcons, now 2-1 overall, will play at St. Scholastica on Sunday with action starting at 3 p.m.

**Falcons Lose to Kenyon in Title Game**

Nov. 24, 2002

Three Falcons scored 10 points each to help the Falcons to a 59-38 win over Bethel College Tuesday night at the Karges Center.
The Falcons had three players score in double figures, but still lost a 63-58 decision to Kenyon in the championship game at the University of Chicago Tournament played Sunday afternoon.

The game was tied, 23-23, at halftime, but Kenyon outscored the Falcons, 40-35 in the second half. Erin Effle led the Falcons with 25 points and six rebounds. She was 7-17 from the field, including 1-1 from three point range. She finished 10-11 at the line. Jill Crandall was 5-8 from the field and 1-2 at the line for 11 points and Nikki Harberts added 10 points. UWRF was 21-51 (.412) from the field, including 2-10 (.200) from three point range. The Falcons were 14-16 (.875) from the line. Kenyon had a 37-26 advantage in rebounds.

The Falcons, now 1-1 overall, will host Bethel on Tuesday at the Karges Center. Action starts at 6 p.m.

Falcons Open With Win at Chicago
Nov. 22, 2002

Erin Effle scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to help lead the Falcons to a 72-63 win over the University of Chicago Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons will play Kenyon in the championship game of the Chicago Tourney at 2 p.m. Sunday. Kenyon beat Whittier, 67-53 in the other semifinal.

Effle finished 10-13 from the field for her 20 points. Nikki Harberts and Amber Sickels each added 13 points. Harberts, Darcy Olsen and Chantelle Melgaard each had five rebounds. The Falcons dominated on the boards with a 35-20 advantage. UWRF was 30-51 (.588) from the field, including 3-8 (.375) from three point range. The Falcons finished 9-14 (.643) from the line. Olsen and Lisa Bartsch each had four assists while Bartsch and Melgaard each had three steals.

Falcons Open Season at Chicago Tournament
Nov. 20, 2002

By Jess Perry

As the Falcon women's basketball season is opening up, Falcon Head Coach Cindy Hovet believes that the team strengths this season will include improved athleticism, team chemistry, work ethic and balance.

“Our team has really committed to our system, which was specifically designed to fit them,” Hovet said. “If they compete and give 100 percent every day this team can get a lot done this season.”

Returning players who saw a lot of action last season are sophomore guards Amber Sickels and Darcy Olsen, sophomore post player Erin Effle, and senior forwards Nicole Harberts and Lisa Bartsch.

“Our seniors, Nikki and Lisa, have been critical leaders for us since last spring. They are positive and caring teammates, which really helps keep our team together,” Hovet said. “Both of them will bring consistency for us on the court.”

Effle received WIAC honorable mention honors last season. In her rookie year with the Falcons, Effle led the team in scoring, averaging 11.3 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game. She finished sixth in rebounding and ninth in scoring in the WIAC.

With Sickels, Olsen, Effle, Harberts, and Bartsch returning, Hovet feels the team will have depth. “I think our depth will be better than it has been in the past,” Hovet said. “I think this will be a big strength for us.”

Effle received WIAC honorable mention honors last season. In her rookie year with the Falcons, Effle led the team in scoring, averaging 11.3 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game. She finished sixth in rebounding and ninth in scoring in the WIAC.

From the freshmen class, Hovet feels that Miranda Biteler, Jill Crandall, Chantele Melgaard and Kendra Sticha have the potential to make a huge impact with the team.

The status of freshman Gina Astedt is up in the air at this point. Astedt tore her ACL this summer, but Hovet is anticipating her return after Christmas.

Since the team is young, Hovet thinks that consistency will be one thing the team needs to work on.

“Lack of experience can be either an advantage or a disadvantage,” Hovet said. “It depends on how your team responds to it.”

Hovet feels that the young players on the team are progressing well.

“Our young players are looking good right now. A little more up and down than I like to see, but that's part of being young. It's a steep learning curve when you go from high school into college, but our players are picking things up and working really hard.

“We have to make sure they have a lot more ups than downs, and that they know how to handle the downs when they come along. They know I'm expecting them to contribute to our success regardless of their year on our team.”

Hovet believes that rebounding will be an important aspect of the Falcon game.

“We need to be a strong rebounding team. Rebounding is an area we have made a commitment to in practice, but it's really all about effort and being smart with positioning,” Hovet said. “There will be a lot of games either won or lost by rebounding this year.”

Hovet said the team also needs to be able to bounce back and pick each other up when things get tough.
“Usually that comes with experience, but for us it's going to have to come from our young team spirit and feistiness,” Hovet said.

Another strength Hovet feels this young team possesses is its chemistry.

“Our chemistry is really good. Our players care about each other and have committed to playing together,” Hovet said. “They realize our success this year will live or die with them together. They are a fun group to coach, no question about that!”

One of the challenges the Falcons need to meet this season is playing with consistency.

“We play in an extremely tough conference so we face challenges every single week. As a young group we have to be able to relax and play the way we are capable of playing on a consistent basis,” Hovet said. “There is no lead that's comfortable and no deficit that can't be overcome in this league, we need to understand that. Every day is a new day, and we have to take advantage of each one...regardless of what happened the day before.”

If the Falcons keep working hard each day, Hovet feels that they’ll be a very tough team to beat at crunch time.

“I really want to see how good this team can be. We have the right players doing the right things, now we need to see it come together as we get into our games,” Hovet said. “If we play loose, have fun, and work harder than our opponents...this team can exceed any goals that could possibly be set for them at this point.”

With the season still early in the making, Hovet isn’t sure how the season will unfold, but she said she thinks the Falcons will be better than people anticipate.

“I’m really excited that if they go out there and just play every day and give it all they’ve got, and if they go out with no fear, they could be awfully good,” Hovet said. “They are a really fun group to coach. Only time will tell how good they can be as a team if they all stick together. We are incredibly young right now, but we’re improving each day and are looking forward to the season.”