

# Blue Devil Report

## Baseball comes up with best season since '91

By posting a 25-8 season, the UW-Stout baseball team put together their best season in more than five years as they tied for the Wisconsin State University Conference (WSUC) Northern Division title and advanced into the WSUC playoffs.

The softball Blue Devils didn't fare quite as well, going 19-23, but still went 5-3 in league play to tie for second in the Wisconsin Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WWIAC) West Division.

There were no national titles this year, but the men's track and field team advanced 10 performers to the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships in La Crosse – the most ever – and the women's team sent three to nationals.

### Baseball

A strong pitching staff led by second-team all-region pick **Ron Yessa** (Sr., Janesville), consistent hitting, fire on the basepaths and few errors helped the baseball team to their best record since 1991.

As a team, Stout hit .346 with second baseman **Barry Michlig** (Sr., Wausau) leading the way with a scorching .427 batting average. Yessa led the pitching staff with a 6-3 record and recorded 75 strikeouts in 69 innings pitched.

The Blue Devils shattered a team record in stolen bases, nabbing 80 in 93 attempts, with **Andy Koehler** (Jr., Stillwater, Minn.) leading the way with 18.

Stout put together a 12-game winning streak early in the season, getting off to their best start ever and ranked as high as 25th nationally.

Joining Yessa, Michlig and Koehler on the all-conference team were **Troy Gustafson** (Jr., Grand View), **Brad Shepherd** (So., St. Paul, Minn.) and **Luke Welch** (Jr., Menomonie). Honorable mention selections went to **J.R. Dachel** (Fr., Bloomer), **Ryan Hanson** (Fr., Austin, Minn.) and **Brian Day** (Sr., Stillwater, Minn.).

### Softball

The Blue Devil softball team proved to be a young team, with five freshmen and four other first year players on the roster.

**Carolyn Bare** (Jr., Superior) proved to be the leader of the team, both on the mound and at the plate. Bare appeared in 30 games, finishing with an 11-14 record. At bat, Bare led the team with a .403 batting average and was named to the all-region first team as a utility player.

**Amy Jamieson** (Jr., Dayton, Minn.) was a second team all-region player and, coming off a basketball knee injury, performed

admirably for the Blue Devils in centerfield and at shortstop in her first year of collegiate softball. Jamieson became the first student athlete in Stout history to be named to three all-conference teams in one school year. In addition to softball, Jamieson was all-conference in tennis and basketball.

Joining Bare and Jamieson on the all-conference team were **Cara Fenhouse** (Fr., Superior) and **Tanya Petrie** (So., Menomonie). **Tricia Ahlers** (Jr., Sheldon) was honorable mention.

### Men's track and field

A hamstring injury to six-time national champion **Terry Anders** (Sr., Cornell) at the national meet cast a cloud of gloom over the Blue Devils for the weekend. The injury kept Anders out of competition and wiped out a previously optimistic outlook for a top four finish.

But Stout nearly pulled off a top four finish. **Jason Lehman** (Jr., Bruce) was third in the discus, **Paul Gilles** (Jr., Plum City) was second in the steeplechase in school record time, **Mike Hallingstad** (Sr., Sparta) was fifth in the 400 and the 4 X 100-relay team was fifth. Stout had a chance to tie for fourth in the 4 X 400-relay – the final event of the meet – but a dropped baton eliminated the opportunity and Stout finished 11th.

While the national meet didn't meet expectations, the season did. Stout was third at the WSUC Championships, and the 4 X 200-relay team of Anders, Hallingstad, **John Boldt** (Jr., Hartland) and **Jesse Witcraft** (Sr., New Lisbon) set a college division record in winning the prestigious Drake Relays.

Lehman won both the shot put and discus at the conference meet, while Anders won the 200 and 400. The 4 X 100-relay also was first.

### Women's track and field

**Katy Olsen** (So., Rice Lake), **Katie Jacobson** (So., Eau Claire) and **Amber Olinger** (Fr., Fairmont, Minn.) led a youthful Blue Devil charge, with all three advancing to the national meet.

Olsen was the only to qualify to the finals, and finished ninth in the 5000-meter.

Jacobson twice broke the school record in the 800 meter, and Olinger was the conference runner-up in the high jump. Jacobson was second at conference in the 1500 and Olsen was second in the 3000 and 5000.

As a team, the Blue Devils moved up two notches to sixth place, and were five points out of fourth.



Averaging more than one strikeout per inning, Ron Yessa (Sr., Janesville) was named to the All-Midwest Region second team.



After being named to the WWIAC West Division softball team, Amy Jamieson (Jr., Dayton, Minn.) was the first Stout athlete to ever earn all-conference honors in three sports during one school year. Jamieson was also an all-conference pick in tennis and basketball this year.



Paul Gilles (Jr., Plum City), left, and Tim Hamill (So., Brookfield) qualified to the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Gilles finished second in a school record 8:56.34 and Hamill was 11th.



Katy Olsen (So., Rice Lake) placed ninth at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships in the 5000-meter run.

## Athletic conferences merge, form WIAC

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference combines the Wisconsin Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WWIAC) and the men's Wisconsin State University Conference (WSUC) into a single athletic conference. The new name, constitution and bylaws went into effect on July 1 and serve the same nine UW System institutions.



**UW-Eau Claire Blugolds**  
**UW-La Crosse Eagles**  
**UW-Oshkosh Titans**  
**UW-Platteville Pioneers**  
**UW-River Falls Falcons**  
**UW-Stevens Point Pointers**  
**UW-Stout Blue Devils**  
**UW-Superior Yellowjackets**  
**UW-Whitewater Warhawks**

## Blue Devils Online

Netscape: Intercollegiate Athletics at UW-Stout

Location: <http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics/athhome.html>

**Blue Devil Athletics** 

Men's Teams	Women's Teams
Baseball	Softball
Basketball	Basketball
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Soccer
Hockey	Gymnastics
Track and Field	Track and Field
Wrestling	Tennis
	Volleyball

Fall 1996 Schedule	Winter 1996-97 Schedule
Conference Opponents	Non-Conference Opponents
Media Links	Athletic Training Center
Athletic Facilities	Athletic Hall of Fame

Athletic Director: Dr. Steve Terry	Affiliations: NCAA Division III Wisconsin State University Conference Wisconsin Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Sports Information Director: Layne Pitt	
For more information: 715-232-2275	

<http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics/>