

Blue Devil Report

Fall sports wrap-up

Overall, a successful Blue Devil sports season

So much for playing for the future. The 1997 UW-Stout sports season was played for the present and, overall, it was a successful season with all six of the teams showing improvement.

The Blue Devil football team generated more excitement than in quite some years when they finished with a 6-4 overall record and a 5-2 conference record that tied them for second place. Along the way, Stout defeated UW-La Crosse, UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point on their way to their best conference finish since 1965.

The Blue Devil soccer team posted a 9-9 overall record and 3-5 in league play, their best finishes in three years as a varsity program. The volleyball squad turned their season around from a year ago, finishing at 17-14. The women's tennis team placed fourth at the conference tournament and had their first ever No. 1 doubles champion.

Two women cross country runners earned All-America honors — the first time in more than a decade that has happened — and the Blue Devil men had an all-conference performer.

And the future looks equally as good for all of the fall sports with very few performers lost to graduation.

Football

Keyed by record-setting performances by quarterback **Matt Bunyan** (Jr., Janesville), the Blue Devil football team came up with a season that fifth year coach Ed Meierkort has been dreaming about.

Bunyan passed for a single season school record 3221 yards and 33 touchdowns, breaking Tim Peterson's 1989 marks of 2956 passing yards and 20 passing touchdowns. Bunyan also led the nation in total yards with 3216.

With wins over La Crosse, River Falls and Stevens Point, the Blue Devils even entertained thoughts about advancing to their first ever NCAA Division III playoff. The wins over the three teams was the first time in recent memory Stout has downed them in the same season.

Bunyan wasn't the only Blue Devil breaking records. With all of the touchdowns scored (45), kicker **Nolan Mosher** (So., Janesville) easily set a single season record for points after touchdowns, making 37-of-41 attempts. He is also tied for the career record with 53.

To catch those passes the Blue Devils had a strong contingent of receivers in **Scott Wojcik** (Sr., Marshfield), **Jesse Witcraft** (Jr., New Lisbon) and **Jim Pillars** (So., Chicago, Ill.). Wojcik and Pillars each caught nine touchdown passes, matching the mark set by Mark Rothwell in 1987. Witcraft, a track All-American, caught eight TD passes, including three against River Falls.

The Blue Devils were well represented on the all-conference team. Wojcik, offensive lineman **Jason Lehman** (Sr., Bruce), defensive linemen **Andy Wickstrom** (Sr., Menomonie) and **Mike Olson** (Sr., Farmington, Minn.) were first team picks, while Bunyan, offensive lineman **Jason Nesbitt** (So., Burlington), linebackers **Sam Standard** (Sr., Indianapolis, Ind.) and **Don Hagenbart** (Sr., Dousman) and cornerback **Joe Versteegen** (Jr., Little Chute) were second team picks. Honorable mention went to safety **Corey Morning** (Jr., Bloomer) and offensive lineman **Ben Leslie** (Jr., Eau Claire).

Soccer

Not to be outdone in record breaking performances, the Blue Devil women's soccer team rewrote a good portion of their record book this fall.

Alyssa Halverson (Jr., Rochester, Minn.), a transfer from St. Cloud State where she was the Huskie's starting goalkeeper, shed the goalkeepers cloak and became an opponent's goalie's enemy. By the time the middle of the season came around, Halverson had already broken the single season goals scored record and went on to rack up 14 goals scored, five assists and 33 points, all single season and career records. For her efforts, Halverson was named first team all-conference.

The Blue Devils finished the season at .500, the first time ever in their short three-year existence.

Tennis

Amy Jamieson (Sr., Dayton, Minn.) and **Lauren Mader** (So., Neenah) combined to win the WIAC No. 1 doubles crown, the first time any Blue Devil team has accomplished the feat.

Jamieson finished as the conference runner-up at No. 1 singles and Mader was runner-up at No. 2 singles.

The Blue Devils finished in fourth place in the conference, but finished with a 4-2 conference dual record.

Short of players — only seven on the roster — the Blue Devils improved their dual record to 7-5, one of the best dual records in Blue Devil women's tennis history.

Volleyball

Behind the hitting of All-Region performer **Stacy Stoddard** (Jr., St. Paul, Minn.), the Blue Devil volleyball team made some noise and picked up quite a few more wins along the way.

Stoddard finished with a school record 444 kills, to go along with her ever-increasing school record for career blocks that she established last season.

Tori Feit (So., Rushmore, Minn.) established a single match school record when she hit .818 in a match with UW-Oshkosh. Only two weeks earlier, Stoddard had set a single match mark of .800.

Setter **Jenny Kraczek** (So., Blaine, Minn.) matched a single match record in assists when she provided 63.

Joining Stoddard on the all-conference team was **Monica Cyrus** (Jr., Farmington, Minn.), who provided steady play at the net and back on defense, leading the team in digs.

Women's Cross Country

All season long, roommates **Katy Olsen** (Jr., Rice Lake) and **Katie Jacobson** (Jr., Eau Claire) pushed each other. Most of the season, it was Olsen that came out on top of the friendly rivalry.

But at the NCAA Division III Championships, in weather more fitting for a duck in an insulated rain coat, Jacobson thrived in the conditions and finished sixth, while Olsen finished a nearby 11th. Both earned All-American awards.

Despite finishing third at the conference meet and sixth at the NCAA Midwest Regional meet as a team, the Blue Devils did not advance to the national meet. But Olsen and Jacobson were not alone. Several members of the squad loaded up the car, drove to the national meet in Boston, Mass., cheered their teammates on and drove back.

During the conference meet, Olsen placed fourth, Jacobson was fifth, and the team moved up to a third place finish.

Men's Cross Country

Paul Gilles (Sr., Plum City) and **Jason Petersohn** (Sr., Manitowoc) were the steady, driving forces behind the Blue Devil men's cross country team. Gilles earned all-conference honors by placing 15th, as the Blue Devils finished sixth as a team.

Blue Devils host annual alumni game

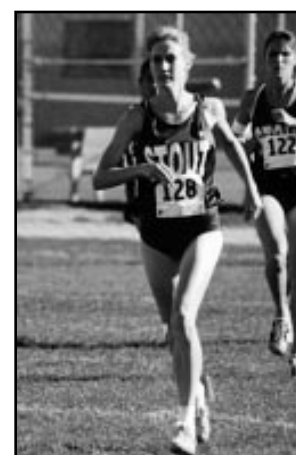
For former UW-Stout point guard Zak Alwin, it was just like old times as he scored 21 points to lead his team to a 76-48 win in the Blue Devils' annual alumni game.

Alwin, a former all-conference pick who now lives in Stevens Point, canned three 3-pointers, connected on four more shots from the floor and added four free throws.

Chuck Schaaf Jr., added 17 points for Alwin's team. Greg Fisher scored six points and Ted Huppert scored 10. For the Blue team, Gary Luecke scored 10 points and Greg Kosciuk chipped in five. Chad Greenquist also played in the contest. The teams were coached by former team managers Pat Grady and Mike McAndrews.



Quarterback and team most valuable player Matt Bunyan led the Blue Devils to a second place conference finish, Stout's best finish since 1965.



Katy Olsen, 128, placed 11th at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships, while Katie Jacobson, 122, placed sixth as both earned All-American status.



Paul Gilles, 6, and Jason Petersohn were the driving forces behind the Blue Devil men's cross country team.



Lauren Mader, left, and Amy Jamieson were the first UW-Stout women's tennis players to win the conference No. 1 doubles title.



Alyssa Halverson, a converted goalkeeper, broke all of the Blue Devil soccer scoring records.



Stacy Stoddard set a single season volleyball record when she recorded 444 kills.

For more information on the individual teams, see the UW-Stout Athletics Web site at <http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics>



Five enter Athletic Hall of Fame

Two vital cogs in the evolution of the UW-Stout women's cross country program, a baseball player who overcame illness to earn his way to the top of the school record books, a rugged rebounder on Stout's last men's basketball conference championship team and a three-time All-America wrestler were inducted into the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame Nov. 8, 1997. Cross country coach Lou Klitzke, cross country and track and field standout Sheila Geere, baseball player Jeff Kloes, basketball player Steve Zmyewski and wrestler Tom Ott are members of the 1997 induction class.

Sheila Geere Sheila Geere and UW-Stout athletics almost parted ways after her freshman year. What a loss that would have been for both the school's cross country and track and field programs.



Geere went on to win two indoor conference track titles in 1986, the 5000-meter run in 17:30 and the 3000-meter run in 10:12. During that same year, she earned four NAIA All-American awards, placing second in the indoor championships two-mile in a time of 10:47 and fourth in the 3000-meter, in a time of 10:04. She placed sixth at the 1986 NAIA outdoor championships in the 5000-meter and eighth in the 3000-meter.

"I didn't think I was good enough to run in college," Geere said, so she quit the program. Geere said cross country head coach and track and field distance coach Lou Klitzke, who was also inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, encouraged her to return to the team.

"Lou encouraged me and was a big influence in my life," Geere said. "He would write little letters and called. I figured I would let him quit bugging me and go out." The rest, as they say, was history.

As a freshman, Geere was voted the cross country team's most spirited. By her junior year, she was named most improved and was a member of the NAIA District 14 team. As a senior, she was named co-captain, and was the outdoor conference runner-up in the 5000- and 3000-meters runs and, at one time, held the school records.

Geere went on to coach cross country at her high school alma mater, Bloomington (Minn) High School, taking the team twice to the state meet. In 1992, she was named the Region 6AA coach of the year.

A hotel and restaurant major at Stout, Geere was known by her teammates for the meals she prepared for the team. Geere's work in the restaurant field took her to Colorado, where she is now self-employed while she pursues a masters degree in special education at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Lou Klitzke As the men's cross country coach beginning in 1977, Klitzke began seeing signs of interest in a women's program. Within two years, Klitzke established the women's team and, by 1982, his women's team qualified for the NCAA Division III national meet, which he said was one of his biggest thrills in sports. Klitzke also saw the men's program improve during the same time period.



"In 1982 and 1983, we had good runners and enough depth to be challenging as a team, both men and women," Klitzke said.

Klitzke coached cross country and the distance runners for track from 1977-87, and during that time had 14 All-Americans and one national champion in Jeff Wachter.

Klitzke, who taught psychology at Stout from 1960-90, was involved in running in the Menomonie community, establishing road races such as the American Cancer Society Fun Run, the Fourth of July Red Cedar Classic and the Wakanda Wander. Professionally, Klitzke established the Undergraduate Fellows honors organization, and developed and revised the Stout psychology program.

Klitzke and his wife, Liz, are retired and live in White Bear Lake, Minn.

Jeff Kloes More than 10 years after he hung up the glove for the UW-Stout baseball team, Jeff Kloes still holds several Stout baseball records including the single season records for at-bats (163), hits (81), doubles (16) and batting average (.496). He also owns the career records for at-bats (515) and hits (204) and is third in career batting average (.396).



A four-year starter for the Blue Devils, Kloes, a native of Appleton, Wis., put his career on hold before the start of his junior year to battle Hodgkin's disease, then returned to the Blue Devils.

As a catcher, he helped the team to two conference championships, was a three-time all-conference pick, a two-time NAIA District 14 player of the year and Area 4 player of the year as a senior.

Kloes, who lives in Eau Claire and is employed as the vice-president of sales of JBI Inc., in Osseo, has played with the Eau Claire Cavaliers, a semi-pro league, and has been named most valuable player four times. He is still active in baseball, playing part time with an amateur team in Hayward.

Thomas Ott Versatility defines Thomas Ott, who played football and baseball for the Blue Devils, but excelled at wrestling. Ott was the conference champion at 152 pounds on the 1966 WSUC championship team, and went on to place fourth at the NAIA championships later on in the season. With a 16-4-2 record, Ott was named the team's most valuable player.



In his four-year career, Ott posted a 59-28-5 career record and was a two-time co-captain and three-time All-American, advancing to national action during his freshman, junior and senior years. As a freshman, Ott finished seventh at the NAIA championships, and as a senior, he placed fifth.

During his Stout career, Ott tallied 10 varsity letters, was chosen baseball most valuable player in 1967 at third base and shortstop, and was a place kicker for the football team.

While at Stout, Ott was involved in the Chi Lambda fraternity and was a four year member of the S-Club, serving as both historian and secretary. Ott graduated from Stout in 1968 as a member of the first business administration class.

After graduation, Ott returned to Pennsylvania where he has been very active in coaching youth baseball in Montourville, Pa. He coached the Montourville American Legion Post 104 team to league championships in 1988, 1989 and 1990, and the regional championship in 1990.

Wrestling continued to occupy time on Ott's schedule. He has been a wrestling official for 23 years and seven times refereed the state championship finals match. Ott was inducted into the Muncy High School Hall of Fame in 1984.

Currently the manager of Baxter Plumbing and Heating in Hughesville, Pa., Ott has worked as a sales manager for Muncy Homes Inc., was the principal of Faith Tabernacle Christian Academy, and was a sales manager for ConChem Co.

Ott and his wife, Sharon, have three adult children, Thomas, Jamie and Melissa.

Steve Zmyewski A rugged rebounder and very capable scorer, Steve Zmyewski is currently ranked ninth on the Blue Devil career rebounding list (689), 25th on the all-time scoring list (860) and was a member of the last UW-Stout men's basketball team to earn a conference title.



Zmyewski recalls the year fondly, noting it as one of his biggest thrills in sports, especially defeating UW-Eau Claire at home by one point in the final game of the season to earn a share of the title with UW-Platteville.

During that 1974-75 championship season, Zmyewski was second on the team in scoring with 374 points and pulled down a team-high 280 rebounds.

During his tenure at Stout, Zmyewski was named all-conference, team captain and academic all-conference. He placed in the conference top 10 in field goal percentage, free throw percentage and rebounding. Zmyewski, who red-shirted after the championship season, called his time at Stout "five of the best years of my life."

"UW-Stout basketball provided me with excitement to last a lifetime," Zmyewski said. "My work ethic was so enhanced, I will be influenced forever. The people I met would remain in my heart for a lifetime. The education I was to receive would open new doors and give my life direction."

Zmyewski, originally from the East Coast of the United States, has remained close to the Menomonie area. He first taught industrial arts in La Crosse, then took a sales position with an insurance company in southeastern Minnesota. During that time, he coached at Houston (Minn) High School, posting a 34-6 record during his only two years and, in 1984, led the team to the school's first district championship in 57 years.

Bit by the bug to again work with high school age youth, Zmyewski picked up a master's degree in guidance and counseling, working first as a counselor at Waseca (Minn) Middle School, then at Mabel-Canton and Filmore high schools, where he is presently.

In 1990, Zmyewski was named the Southeast Minnesota Counselor of the Year and the Minnesota Counselor of the Year. Zmyewski is a licensed thoroughbred trainer and owned the 1992 Claiming Horse of the Year at Canterbury Downs in 1992.

Zmyewski currently resides in Houston, Minn., with his wife, Jill, a Stout graduate, and two teenage children, Kristina and Justin.

Bostrom receives service award

Around the Menomonie area sports scene, he is simply referred to as Jake.

After more than 20 years as the radio voice of the UW-Stout Blue Devils and nearly 30 years within the Stout and Menomonie communities, Jake Bostrom was the recipient of the UW-Stout Distinguished Service Athletic Award during the annual UW-Stout Hall of Fame Banquet.

Bostrom, who has done both play-by-play and color for both Stout and area high schools, came to Menomonie in 1968 as a member of the university's Student Services department, where he was assigned to advise the student newspaper, *The Stoutonia*, during the turbulent '60s.

Bostrom left the university in late 1971 to join Lutheran Brotherhood as a sales representative, which he is still affiliated with today.

Over the years, Bostrom has been associated with various Stout booster clubs, serving in nearly every office the organizations had, and was a prime force behind the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) organization.

The FCA was what actually got Bostrom involved in local radio when he started a pre-game minute featuring FCA athletes for what was then WMNE (now WMEQ radio). A few years later, he was at a Menomonie High School game in Eau Claire, and WMEQ owner/announcer Mike Phillips tapped Bostrom to help him with that game. The microphone has been his ever since.

"Receiving this award is a real thrill, a real kick," Bostrom said. "Some of the guys that have received this award have really served. You can't put a price tag on it."

Bostrom, and his wife of 34 years, Shirley, have two adult children, Kristen and Kari, and one grandson, Luther.

