



UW-Stout

218 Sports and Fitness Center

Menomonie, WI 54751

Office: 715-232-2275

FAX: 715-232-1684

E-mail: pittl@uwstout.edu

World Wide Web: <http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics>

August 25, 2003

Schedule

Friday, August 29
Volleyball at UW-River Falls Tourney, vs. Whitworth, 6 p.m.
vs. Central, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 30
Volleyball at UW-River Falls Tourney, vs. Macalester, noon.
vs. St. Olaf, 2 p.m.

M & W Cross Country Jamie Block Alumni/ Intrasquad Meet, 9:30 a.m.
Soccer at St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn., 4 p.m.

Sunday, August 31
Soccer vs. Bemidji State, at Duluth, Minn., 4 p.m.

Wednesday, September 3
Volleyball at Bethel College, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 5
Volleyball at Augsburg Tourney vs. Bethany, 4 p.m.
vs. St. Benedict, 8 p.m.
Soccer vs UW-Superior, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 6
Volleyball at Augsburg Tourney vs. St. Olaf, 11 a.m.
place matches, 1 or 3 p.m.

M & W Cross Country at Tom Barry Invite Green Bay, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, September 9
Tennis at UW-Eau Claire, 3:30 p.m.
Soccer at St. Thomas, 5 p.m.

Friday, September 12
Volleyball at Trinity Tourney, San Antonio, Texas, TBA

Soccer vs. Marantha Baptist, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 13
Football vs. Hardin-Simmons, 1 p.m.
Tennis vs. St. Scholastica at St. Paul, Minn., 9 a.m.

Volleyball at Trinity Tourney, San Antonio, Texas, TBA

Tuesday, September 16
Tennis vs. St. Mary's, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17
Soccer at UW-La Crosse, 4 p.m.

Friday, September 19
Tennis vs. UW-La Crosse, 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball vs. UW-Whitewater, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 20
Tennis vs. UW-Stevens Point, 10 a.m.
Football at Augustana, SD, 1 p.m.
Volleyball vs. UW-Oshkosh, Noon

M & W Cross Country at St. Olaf Invite, 11 a.m.

Sunday, September 21
Soccer at UW-Whitewater, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23
Volleyball vs. Northwestern College, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24
Tennis vs. UW-River Falls, 3:30 p.m.
Soccer at St. Mary's, Winona, Minn., 4 p.m.

Friday, September 26
Volleyball at UW-Eau Claire Tourney

Saturday, September 27
Football vs. St. Thomas, 7 p.m.

UP THIS WEEK!!!

BLUE DEVIL SEASONS TO GET UNDERWAY

Welcome back to the Blue Devil This Week, a weekly compilation of last week's action and what lies ahead for the upcoming week. Don't forget to check out the Blue Devil web page for up-to-date information about UW-Stout athletics.

Thank you for your interest and support of Blue Devil athletics. - Layne Pitt, Sports Information Director

SOCCER

The Blue Devils will open the season this weekend by traveling to Duluth, Minn., to play St. Scholastica, Saturday, Aug. 30 at 4 p.m., then will face off against NCAA Division II opponent Bemidji State the following day, Sunday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. The Blue Devils finished last year at 7-5-5, 2-2-4 in the WIAC. Stout will open the home and conference season Friday, Sept. 5 when they host UW-Superior at 7 p.m. at Nelson Field.

VOLLEYBALL

The Blue Devils jump into action, Friday, Aug. 29 at the UW-River Falls sponsored Falcon Invitational. The Blue Devils were ranked 19th in the first AVCA preseason poll and picked to finish third in the WIAC. Stout will play Whitworth College at 6 p.m. and Central of Iowa at 8 p.m. The second day of the invitational will see Stout playing Macalester at noon. and St. Olaf at 2 p.m. The Blue Devils, who were 31-6 overall last season, will open the home portion of their schedule Wednesday, Sept. 19 by hosting defending national champion UW-Whitewater at 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

The Blue Devil football team has the biggest wait of all teams, not getting their season underway until Saturday, Sept. 13 when they host Hardin-Simmons University at 1 p.m. The Blue Devils were given the top spot in the preseason WIAC poll. Stout was given the top spot in the WIAC preseason poll, garnering six first place votes from conference sports information directors. Stout has been ranked as high as 10th the Sports Illustrated preseason poll, was in the top 20 in three other polls and the top 25 in a fifth poll. Joe Kersten, Ben Knepper and Josh Towner were named preseason All-America. Stout finished the season at 7-3 overall, 4-3 in the WIAC.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

After a week of training, the Blue Devils will hold an intrasquad and alumni meet, Saturday, Aug. 30 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Menomonie High School course. The meet is named after Jamie Block, a former Blue Devil cross country and track performer who passed away after competing in a half-marathon last fall.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

After a week of training, the Blue Devils will hold an intrasquad and alumni meet, Saturday, Aug. 30 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Menomonie High School course. The meet is named after Jamie Block, a former Blue Devil cross country and track performer who passed away after competing in a half-marathon last fall. The Blue Devils are coached by first year coach Josh Buchholtz.

TENNIS

The Blue Devils, under first year coach Mark Noll, will look to improve on what was a promising 2002 campaign, but start off with a stiff challenge when they travel to perennial conference champion, UW-Eau Claire, Friday, Sept. 12 at 3:30 p.m. The Bugolds are coached by former Blue Devil standout Tom Gillman.

DEVOTED BLUE DEVIL FAN PASSES AWAY

MENOMONIE - Bill Duncan, a regular fixture at UW-Stout athletic events, passed away at his home, Friday, Aug. 22. Born and raised in Eau Claire, Duncan resided in the Menomonie area the past 60 years where he was a regular at UW-Stout and Menomonie High School sporting events. Wheelchair bound, Duncan regularly parked his wheelchair on the east end of Johnson Fieldhouse for basketball and volleyball events, and drove his specially equipped van up to the fence of baseball, softball and football fields. Duncan would regularly keep his own statistics or try his hand at photographing the athletes in action. Duncan received the UW-Stout Athletic Distinguished Service Award in 1986.

For up-to-date results and stats, check out the Blue Devil Athletic web site.

BLUE DEVILS PICKED TO WIN CONFERENCE IN PRESEASON FOOTBALL POLL

MADISON - For the second consecutive season, UW-Stout is favored to win the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) football title, according to the league's sports information directors. The Blue Devils, who fell about one foot short on a two-point conversion play that would have likely secured the conference title in 2002, received six first-place votes in this year's poll. Over the past three seasons, UW-Stout has posted a 23-7 overall record, the best-ever record over a three-year period in the Blue Devils' 90-plus years of football, and the best overall record in the WIAC in that three-year span. UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater each received one first-place vote in the preseason poll. The Pointers are pegged to finish second, while the Warhawks are picked to finish third with UW-La Crosse, the defending league champion.

2003 Preseason Predictions (Voted on by WIAC Sports Information Directors)

1. UW-Stout (6); 2. UW-Stevens Point (1); 3. (tied) UW-Whitewater (1); 3. (tied). UW-La Crosse; 5. UW-Oshkosh; 6. UW-Eau Claire; 7. (tied) UW-Platteville; 7. (tied) UW-River Falls

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED RANKS BLUE DEVILS 10TH

MENOMONIE - Just when you thought the preseason poll season for football was coming to an end, the granddaddy of all sports publications gave the UW-Stout football program a top 10 boost. Sports Illustrated recently ranked the Blue Devils 10th in the NCAA Division III preseason poll. In four previous polls this summer, Stout has been ranked 12th (D3football.com), 19th (Football Gazette), 11th (Lindy Sports Annuals) and 16th (Street & Smith's). Sports Illustrated is the only publication so far to stray from selecting three-time defending champion Mt. Union at the top spot. Instead, the international circulation magazine gave the honor to St. John's University, relegating Mt. Union to second place. The Blue Devils open their season Saturday, Sept. 13 by hosting Hardin-Simmons University at 1 p.m.

Sports Illustrated Division III Top 10

1. St. John's, Minn; 2. Mt. Union, Ohio; 3. Rowan, NJ; 4. Wabash, Ind; 5. Washington & Jefferson, Pa; 6. Wheaton, Ill; 7. Bridgewater, Va; 8. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio; 9. Hanover, Ind; 10. UW-Stout.

BLUE DEVILS RANK IN TOP 20 IN TWO PRESEASON POLLS

MENOMONIE - The UW-Stout football team ranked in the top 20 in two more preseason polls released in early August. The Blue Devils ranked 12th in the D3football.com Preseason Top 25 and 19th in Don Hansen's National Weekly Football Gazette NCAA III Top 40. Earlier in the summer, Stout ranked 11th in the Lindy's Sports Annual poll and 16th in Street & Smith's Division III poll. Offensive lineman **Ben Knepper (Sr, Rice Lake)** and defensive lineman **Joe Kersten (Sr, Menasha)** were named to the D3football.com preseason All-America team. Both had been named to the Don Hansen preseason team earlier in the summer. Stout finished last season at 7-3 overall, 4-3 for a third place tie in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC). The Blue Devils, who return their entire offensive starting line-up, open their season Saturday, Sept. 13 by hosting Hardin-Simmons at 1 p.m. at Don & Nona Williams Stadium. The Cowboys are ranked 13th by D3football.com and 21st by Don Hansen.

D3football.com Preseason Top 25

1. Mt. Union, Ohio; 2. Wheaton, Ill; 3. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio; 4. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas; 5. Howard Payne, Texas; 6. St. John's, Minn; 7. Linfield, Ore; 8. Rowan, NJ; 9. Ithaca, NY; 10. Trinity, Texas; 11. Wartburg, Iowa; 12. UW-Stout; 13. Hardin-Simmons, Texas; 14. Bridgewater, Va; 15. UW-La Crosse; 16. Lycoming, Pa; 17. Ohio Northern; 18. Wabash, Ind; 19. Hanover, Ind; 20. Hampden-Sydney, Texas; 21. UW-Stevens Point; 22. Central, Iowa; 23. Washington & Jefferson, Pa; 24. Augustana, Ill; 25. Wooster, Mass. The next five (alphabetically): Case Western, Concordia-Moorhead, Kings Point, McDaniel, Wittenberg.

Don Hansen's Football Gazette Preseason NCAA III Top 40

1. Mt. Union, Ohio; 2. St. John's, Minn; 3. Trinity, Texas; 4. Wabash, Ind; 5. Rowan, NJ; 6. Linfield, Ore; 7. Wheaton, Ill; 8. Brockport State, NY; 9. Bridgewater, Va; 10. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio; 11. Wittenberg, Ohio; 12. Wartburg, Iowa; 13. Hanover, Ind; 14. Muhlenberg, Pa; 15. UW-La Crosse; 16. Washington & Jefferson, Pa; 17. John Carroll, Ohio; 18. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas; 19. UW-Stout; 20. Augustana, Ill; 21. Hardin-Simmons, Texas; 22. Alma, Mich; 23. Howard Payne, Texas; 24. Coe, Iowa; 25. Lycoming, Pa; 26. Ohio Northern; 27. Widener, Pa; 28. King's, Pa; 29. Rensselaer Tech, NY; 30. Hartwick, NY; 31. Central, Iowa; 32. Redlands, Calif; 33. Johns Hopkins, Md; 34. UW-Eau Claire; 35. McDaniel, Md; 36. Cortland State, NY; 37. Hobart, NY; 38. Lake Forest, Ill; 39. Capital, Ohio; 40. Worcester State, Mass.

TOWNER JOINS KNEPPER, KERSTEN AS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA

MENOMONIE - Offensive lineman **Josh Towner (Sr, La Crosse/Onalaska)** joined **Ben Knepper (Sr, Rice Lake)** and **Joe Kersten (Sr, Menasha/Fox Valley Lutheran)** as a preseason All-America pick as Don Hansen's Football Gazette released their 2003 NCAA Division III Preseason All-America teams.

Towner was placed on the team's second team offense, while Knepper, an offensive tackle, was a first team pick and Kersten, a defensive end, was a second team choice. This is the third preseason All-America team Knepper has been placed on. This is Kersten's second summer honor. Towner was a 2002 second team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) pick and an honorable mention choice in 2001. Towner, a fourth year starting center, was a 2002 Football Gazette second team all-west region choice.

The Blue Devils averaged 225.1 yards per game on the ground, second in the WIAC only to the wishbone offense of UW-River Falls. As a team, Stout averaged a conference-high 398.1 total offensive yards per contest. Stout's three picks to the squad is matched only by Baldwin-Wallace, which had two first team selections and a third team. Four other WIAC players were selected to the squads. Knepper was placed on preseason football teams by Street & Smith's and Lindy's Sports Annuals. Kersten joined Knepper on the Lindy's team.

The Blue Devils, which are nationally ranked by Lindy's (11th) and Street & Smith's (16th), open the 2003 season Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. at Don & Nona Williams Stadium against top 25 team Hardin-Simmons.

BLUE DEVILS RANKED 11TH IN LINDY'S PRESEASON POLL

MENOMONIE - The UW-Stout football team ranked 11th in the Lindy's Sports Annuals 2003 Division III Top 25 preseason poll and offensive lineman **Ben Knepper (Sr, Rice Lake)** was named to Lindy's 2003 All-Division III first team and defensive lineman **Joe Kersten (Sr, Menasha)** was named to the second team. Earlier this summer, Stout was ranked 16th in the Street & Smith's preseason poll and Knepper was named to that publication's preseason All-America team.

Stout opens the 2003 season when they host Hardin-Simmons University, Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. The Cowboys were picked 13th in the Street and Smith's poll. Lindy's has selected that game as a key game in their "Don't Miss These" category. The magazine makes comments about every team in their top 25. About Stout, the magazine said, "Running back Luke Bundgaard powers offensive unit that returns all of last year's starters." Defending national champion Mt. Union was ranked No. 1, with St. John's getting the No. 2 spot. UW-Stevens Point was ranked 21st. Stout will travel to Stevens Point October 11.

Knepper helped produce one of the Blue Devils' top running games of all time. The Blue Devils averaged 225.1 yards per game on the ground, second only to the wishbone offense of UW-River Falls. As a team, Stout averaged a league-high 398.1 total offensive yards per contest. Knepper started all 10 games despite a mid-season injury and surrendered only one sack the entire season, that coming in the opening game. The Blue Devils ran 65 percent of their running plays to Knepper's side, said offensive coordinator Rod Carey. Kersten, a 2002 first team all-conference player, was a physical force to be reckoned with on the defensive line. At 6-5, 290-lbs, Kersten finished with 22 tackles, 13 solo, with 10 tackles for losses of 34 yards and had five sacks. Kersten has drawn the interest of several NFL scouts.

The Blue Devils finished the 2002 season at 7-3 overall, 4-3 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC). Stout finished in a tie for third in league play, but missed out on the conference title in the final seconds of the final game of the season with eventual conference champion UW-La Crosse.

2003 Lindy's Division III Top 25

1. Mt. Union (Ohio); 2. St. John's (Minn); 3. Rowan (NJ); 4. John Carroll (Ohio); 5. Bridgewater (Va); 6. Wabash (Ind); 7. Trinity (Texas); 8. Hanover (Ind); 9. Washington & Jefferson (Va); 10. Linfield (Ore); 11. UW-Stout; 12. Wheaton (Ill); 13. Hardin-Simmons (Texas); 14. Pacific Lutheran (Wash); 15. Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio); 16. Mary Hardin-Baylor (Texas); 17. Wittenberg (Ohio); 18. Central (Iowa); 19. Widener (Pa); 20. Wartburg (Iowa); 21. UW-Stevens Point; 22. Howard Payne (Texas); 23. Brockport State (NY); 24. Alma (Mich); 25. St. Norbert (Wis).

STREET & SMITH'S RANKS STOUT 16TH; KNEPPER ALL-AMERICA

MENOMONIE - The University of Wisconsin-Stout football team ranked 16th in the 2003 Street and Smith's Division III Preseason Football poll recently released. In addition, the national publication awarded preseason All-America status to Blue Devil offensive lineman **Ben Knepper (Sr, Rice Lake)**.

The Blue Devils finished the 2002 season at 7-3 overall, 4-3 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC). Stout finished in a tie for third in league play, but missed out on the conference title in the final seconds of the final game of the season with eventual conference champion UW-La Crosse. Stout returns their entire offensive starting unit, which is anchored by Knepper, a 6-foot, 4-inch, 305-lb tackle. Knepper was a unanimous first team all-WIAC pick, and was an All-America choice by Don Hansen Football Gazette (third team) and D3football.com (second team).

Knepper helped produce one of the Blue Devils' top running games of all time. The Blue Devils averaged 225.1 yards per game on the ground, second only to the wishbone offense of UW-River Falls. As a team, Stout averaged a league-high 398.1 total offensive yards per contest. Knepper started all 10 games despite a mid-season injury and surrendered only one sack the entire season, that coming in the opening game. The Blue Devils ran 65 percent of their running plays to Knepper's side, said offensive coordinator Rod Carey.

Stout not only returns their entire offensive unit, but return up to seven starters on the defensive side of the ball. Stout has posted the top defensive squad in the WIAC the last three seasons and their rushing defense, which last year allowed only 50 yards per game, has been ranked nationally in the top five over that time period.

Stout opens the 2003 season when they host Hardin-Simmons University, Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. The Cowboys were picked 21st in the Street and Smith's poll.

National champion Mt. Union was the No. 1 choice in the poll, with perennial power St. John's ranked No. 2. UW-La Crosse ranked 11th and UW-Stevens Point and UW-Eau Claire were named as part of the best of the rest.

2003 Street and Smith's Division III Preseason Football poll

1. Mt. Union (Ohio); 2. St. John's (Minn); 3. Rowan (NJ); 4. Wabash (Ind); 5. Wheaton (Ill); 6. Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio); 7. Washington & Jefferson (Va); 8. Trinity (Tex); 9. Brockport State (NY); 10. Linfield (Ore); 11. UW-La Crosse; 12. Bridgewater (Va); 13. Wartburg (Iowa); 14. Lycoming (Pa); 15. Augustana (Ill); **16. UW-Stout**; 17. Muhlenberg (Pa); 18. Hanover (Ind); 19. Wittenburg (Ohio); 20. Central (Iowa); 21. Hardin-Simmons (Tex); 22. Widener (Pa); 23. Alma (Mich); 24. Worcester State (Mass); 25. Ohio Northern.

Best of the Rest: Pacific Lutheran, Wilkes, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stevens Point, King's Point, Mary Hardin-Baylor, Waynesburg, Washington (Mo) University, John's Hopkins, Redlands, Coe, Lake Forest, Westfield State

BLUE DEVILS RANKED 19TH IN AVCA, 3RD IN WIAC PRESEASON POLLS

MENOMONIE - Returning a strong front line, the UW-Stout volleyball team was ranked 19th in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) preseason poll. The Blue Devils, which finished last season at 31-6 overall, their best finish since 1994, tied for 19th with Williams, Mass, College. Stout finished third in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) last season with a 6-2 conference finish and are picked to finish third again in the WIAC preseason poll. UW-River Falls got the top nod, and defending NCAA champion UW-Whitewater was picked second. Stout received one first place vote.

The Blue Devils return nearly their entire starting line-up, led by senior **Brooke Viegut (Abbottsford)**, an All-Midwest Region Honorable Mention choice, who was UW-Stout's leading hitter with 3.86 kills per game and their leading defensive player with 531 digs, only three short of the school single-season record. Viegut is flanked sophomore **Tanille Zenner (Athens)**, who was named the AVCA National Freshman of the Year. She also garnered All-America Third Team recognition after setting a school record with 107 block assists and posting a hitting percentage of .343 with 3.56 kills per contest and 160 total blocks (1.28 blocks per contest). Junior **Lindsay Mensink (Ostrander, Minn)** returns at the other middle spot where she averaged 0.83 blocks per game and pounded out 2.65 kills per contest.

Last year's libero, junior **Erin Heger (Chaska, Minn)**, may be called upon to take over the setter spot that was vacated when Laura Bogenschutz opted not to return to school. As the libero, Heger was a backrow specialist who earned All-WIAC Defensive Team honors with 469 digs. **Senior Gretchen Schroer (Eau Claire)** finished the 2002 campaign with a 2.58 kills per game average. The Blue Devils also return senior **Katie Wagie (Fort Atkinson)**, junior **Scotter Aspen (Eau Claire)** and sophomore and **Rachel Lindbo (Stewartville, Minn)**.

Stout opens the 2003 season when they travel to the UW-River Falls Tournament, Aug. 29-30. Stout opens the tournament against 17th ranked Whitworth College and 13th ranked Central College of Iowa.

WIAC Preseason Poll

1. River Falls (5); 2. Whitewater (3); 3. Stout (1); 4. Eau Claire; 5. La Crosse; 6. Oshkosh; 7. tie, Platteville, Stevens Point; 9. Superior

AVCA Division III Coaches Top 25

1. Washington, Mo; 2. Juniata, Pa; 3. Trinity, Texas; 4. UW-Whitewater; 5. Cal State-Hayward; 6. La Verne, Calif; 7. UW-River Falls; 8. Emory, Ga; 9. Mount St. Joseph, Ohio; 10. Elmhurst, Ill; 11. Wittenberg, Ohio; 12. Ohio Northern; 13. Central, Iowa; 14. Puget Sound, Wash; Wartburg, Iowa; 16. St. Thomas, Minn; 17. Whitworth, Wash; 18. Nebraska Wesleyan; 19. tie, UW-Stout, Williams College; 21. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio; 22. Southwestern, Texas; 23. Nazareth, NY; 24. Bethel, Minn; 25. Wellesley, Mass.

UW-STOUT VOLLEYBALL TEAM EARNS ACADEMIC AWARD

MENOMONIE - The American Volleyball Coaches Association has named UW-Stout as one of a record-number 205 volleyball programs as a recipient of the 2002-03 AVCA Team Academic Award. The previous best of 178 was awarded last year (2001-02). The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors college and high school teams that displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and a 4.10 cumulative team GPA on a 5.0 scale during the school year. Nominating head coaches must be AVCA members. UW-Stout finished last season with a 31-6 overall record, second best in school history, and finished third in the WIAC.

Recipients of the award range from NCAA Division I institutions to high school girls and boys teams. The college ranks produced 102 programs that met the requirements for the award. The breakdown of college representation includes 35 NCAA Division I programs, 18 NCAA Division II programs, 26 NCAA Division III programs, 15 NAIA programs, one NCCAA institution and seven two-year college programs. A record-total of 103 high school programs earned the distinction, including Crystal Springs Uplands School (Hillsborough, Calif.) and Wheeling High School (Wheeling, Ill.) placing both boys and girls squads on the award list. The previous high for the prep ranks was 84 awards in 1996-97. NAIA schools tied their top number, achieved in back-to-back years of 1997-98 and 1998-99. Several of this years award recipients achieved success on the court, as well as in the classroom. A total of 26 teams that earned the AVCA Team Academic Award also earned a berth in their respective collegiate post-season tournaments.

Over 600 different schools have won the award programs 11-year history. Three institutions have earned it every year, NCAA Division II Augustana College (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Jonesboro High School (Jonesboro, Ark.) and Ross S. Sterling High School (Baytown, Texas). Historically, schools from 49 states and two countries (outside the United States) have won the award. For 2002-03, the award-winning programs represent 42 states and Korea. Wisconsin boasts the most schools having earned the designation with 37 in the 11-year history of the program, and 15 this year. Illinois follows with 36 overall and 14 on the current list.

"The AVCA Team Academic Award captures the true essence of the student-athlete, and the AVCA is honored to recognize these schools for excellence in the classroom," Katherine McConnell, AVCA executive director said. "We are especially pleased to bestow this prestigious award to a record number of teams for the second year in a row."

Stout opens the 2003 season Friday, Aug. 29 when they participate in the UW-River Falls Invitational.

BLUE DEVIL SOCCER OUT TO PROVE PRESEASON POLL WRONG

MENOMONIE - The UW-Stout soccer squad will be out to prove Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) sports information directors wrong this season.

The Blue Devils, who finished last season with a 7-5-5 overall record, and 2-2-4 in the WIAC, were picked seventh in the WIAC preseason poll. Perennial conference champion UW-Stevens Point was picked first, but UW-Eau Claire garnered the two votes the Pointers did not carry. Underclassmen will have to take on the scoring roles for the Blue Devils, who lost all-time leading scorer Nellie Sivertsen to graduation. But the youngsters should be up to the task.

Sophomore forward **Kelly Stolarczyk (Elk River, Minn)** took much of the scoring pressure off Sivertsen last year, punching through 10 goals and adding three assists. Sophomore **Heidi Schultz (River Falls)** added three goals and delivered five assists. Junior midfielders **Carrie Schrank (Reedsburg)** and **Krista Hight (Brookfield)** were the team's assists leaders, with Schrank passing off eight and Hight six. Schrank also added two goals of her own.

Junior goalkeeper **Melissa Ballweg (Merrimac)** started the final 16 matches of the season and posted a goals against average of 1.17. She recorded 97 saves a year ago and was the benefactor of a strong defense that allowed a school record 20 goals. Seniors **Diane Ehlen (Bloomington, Minn)**, **Sarah Geiger (West Bend)** and **Desiree Nardini (White Bear Lake, Minn)** return to the defensive backfield. Nardini is back after a year off due to injury, while Ehlen missed nine contests due to injury in 2002.

Matches will again be played on campus as soccer continues to make improvements on Nelson Field, the first women's-soccer-only lighted stadium in Wisconsin. Stout opens their season Saturday, Aug. 30 when they meet St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., then will face Bemidji State the following day, again in Duluth.

2003 WIAC Preseason Poll

1. Stevens Point (7); 2. Eau Claire (2); 3. Oshkosh; 4. Whitewater; 5. River Falls; 6. La Crosse; 7. Stout; 8. Platteville; 9. Superior
()—First-place votes

MARK NOLL NAMED UW-STOUT WOMEN'S TENNIS COACH

MENOMONIE - Mark Noll has been named as the head coach of the UW-Stout women's tennis team. Noll, a UW-Stout graduate, served as the interim women's tennis coach in the spring of 2003. No stranger to Blue Devil athletics, Noll has been a women's assistant basketball coach for three years, a position he will carry on with. Noll was also an assistant men's basketball coach at Stout. Noll will continue to be an instructor in the physical education department.

"I want to bring a new atmosphere into the women's tennis program," Noll said. "We will accomplish that by working as hard as we can during both practice and competition. I appreciate the opportunity to be the head women's tennis coach and expect to bring the program along slowly. I look forward to the challenges of coaching in the WIAC (Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference)."

Noll, a native of nearby Colfax, has worked with AAU girls programs for the last 15 years, having run AAU camps and tournaments, including serving as tournament supervisor and coach for the immensely popular Great Lakes Shootout held every summer in Menomonie and the surrounding communities. Noll and his wife, Kara, live in Menomonie with their two children, Jackson and Tyler.

BLUE DEVIL GYMNASTS EARN ALL-AMERICA ACADEMIC HONORS

MENOMONIE - Eight UW-Stout gymnasts were given 2003 All-American academic awards by the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches (NACGC). As a team, UW-Stout ranked 18th among 69 teams given the honor. The Blue Devils had a combined 3.3747 grade point average for the last academic school year. The list included NCAA Division I, II and III schools. Stout was the No. 2 ranked Division III school. To be considered for the individual award, student-athletes had to post a minimum GPA of 3.50 for the past academic year.

The following Stout gymnasts received the academic awards: Jenny Rosinsky, Jr, Green Bay, Wis., psychology, 4.00; Tiffany Reber, Sr, Mantorville, Minn., dietetics, 3.93; Mandy Neuman, So, St. Paul, Minn., dietetics, 3.92; Shanna Kissinger, So, Sioux City, Iowa, early childhood education, 3.82; Courtney Maitrejean, Fr, Chisago City, Minn., art, 3.78; Tasha Pasch, Sr, Northfield, Minn., vocational rehabilitation, 3.76; Erika Opoien, Sr, Superior, Wis., vocational rehabilitation, 3.64; Jill Birschbach, So, Chilton, Wis., apparel design, 3.53

ANITA COENEN NAMED AS ASSISTANT TRAINER

MENOMONIE - UW-Stout has named Anita Coenen as an assistant athletic trainer. Originally from Chippewa Falls, Coenen served as the interim athletic trainer and first assistant athletic trainer at NCAA Division I Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., during the last school year. She was the head athletic trainer at Northland College in Ashland from 1999-2002. A certified athletic trainer, Coenen is a UW-Eau Claire graduate where she worked as a student athletic trainer. Coenen also teaches health and safety classes through the American Red Cross. In addition to working in the Training Center, Coenen will also serve as an instructor in the Physical Education Department. Serving more than 350 student/athletes, the UW-Stout Athletic Training Center works with the 14 UW-Stout intercollegiate programs. Recently married, the former Anita Boos currently resides in Altoona with her husband, Ben Coenen.

Football
Record: 0-0, 0-0

Date / Opponent / Time or Result

Sat., Sept. 13 / Hardin-Simmons / 1 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 20 / at Augustana / 1 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 27 / St. Thomas / 7 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 4 / at UW-Oshkosh* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 11 / at UW-Stevens Point* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 18 / UW-Whitewater* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 25 / UW-River Falls* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 1 / at UW-La Crosse* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 8 / at UW-Eau Claire* / 1 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 15 / UW-Platteville* / 1 p.m.

*denotes WIAC game

Volleyball
Record: 0-0, 0-0

Date / Opponent / Time or Result

Fri., Aug. 29-30 / at UW-River Falls Tourney
vs. Whitworth, 6 p.m.
vs. Central, 8 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 30 / at UW-River Falls Tourney
vs. Macalester, noon
vs. St. Olaf, 2 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 3 / at Bethel College / 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5-6 / at Augsburg Tourney / TBA
Sept. 12-13 / at Trinity Tourney / TBA
Fri., Sept. 19 / UW-Whitewater* / 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 20 / UW-Oshkosh* / Noon
Tues., Sept. 23 / Northwestern College / 7 p.m.
Sept. 26-27 / at UW-Eau Claire Tourney / TBA
Fri., Oct. 3 / UW-Stevens Point* / 7 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 8 / at UW-Superior* / 7 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 15 / UW-Eau Claire* / 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 17 / at UW-La Crosse* / 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 18 / at UW-Platteville* / Noon
Wed., Oct. 22 / at UW-River Falls* / 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 24 / UW-Stout Tourney / 4, 6, 8 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 25 / UW-Stout Tourney / 10 a.m., 12, 2 p.m.
Oct. 31-Nov. 1 / at UW-River Falls Tourney / TBA
Tues., Nov. 4 / WIAC Quarterfinals / TBA
Fri., Nov. 7 / WIAC Semi-Finals / TBA
Sat., Nov. 8 / WIAC Finals / TBA
Nov. 14-15 / NCAA DIII Round One / TBA

*denotes WIAC contest

Soccer
Record: 0-0, 0-0

Date / Opponent / Time or Result

Sat., Aug. 23 / Alumni Game / 1 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 30 / at St. Scholastica Classic / 4 p.m.
vs. St. Scholastica
Sun., Aug. 31 / at St. Scholastica Classic / 4 p.m.
vs. Bemidji State
Fri., Sept. 5 / UW-Superior* / 7 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 9 / at St. Thomas / 5 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 12 / Maranatha Baptist / 7 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 17 / at UW-La Crosse* / 4 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 21 / at UW-Whitewater* / 3 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 24 / at St. Mary's / 4 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 27 / at Upper Iowa / 1 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 28 / at Gustavus Adolphus / 1 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 30 / UW-Stevens Point* / 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 5 / at UW-Oshkosh* / 3 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 8 / at Augsburg / 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 10 / University of Mary / 7 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 14 / UW-Eau Claire* / 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 17 / UW-Platteville* / 7 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 22 / at UW-River Falls / 3 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 24 / Finlandia University / 7 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 27 / Wisconsin Lutheran / 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 1 / Nebraska Wesleyan / 1 p.m.
Nov. 5-9 / WIAC Tournament / TBA
Nov. 13 / NCAA Tourney begins / TBA

*denotes WIAC contest

Women's
Cross Country

Date / Meet / Time or Result

Sat., Aug. 30 / Alumni/Intra-Squad / 10 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 6 / at Tom Barry Invite / 11 a.m.
Green Bay, Wis.
Sat., Sept. 20 / at St. Olaf Invitational / 11 a.m.
Northfield, Minn.
Fri., Oct. 3 / Midwest Challenge / 4 p.m.
at Colfax/UW-Stout & UW-Eau Claire co-host
Sat., Oct. 11 / at Pine Hill Invite / 10:40 a.m.
Duluth, Minn.
Fri., Oct. 24 / at Lake Wissota Invite / 4 p.m.
Chippewa Falls, Wis.
Sat., Nov. 1 / at WIAC Championships / 11 a.m.
at Colfax, Wis./UW-Stout hosts
Sat., Nov. 15 / at NCAA Division III Reg/ 11 a.m.
at Colfax, Wis.
Sat., Nov. 22 / at NCAA Division III Nat'l / 11 a.m.
at Hanover, Ind., College

Men's
Cross Country

Date / Meet / Time or Result

Sat., Aug. 30 / Alumni/Intra-Squad / 10 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 6 / at Tom Barry Invite / 11:45 a.m.
Green Bay, Wis.
Sat., Sept. 20 / at St. Olaf Invitational / 11 a.m.
Northfield, Minn.
Fri., Oct. 3 / Midwest Challenge / 4 p.m.
at Colfax/UW-Stout & UW-Eau Claire co-host
Sat., Oct. 11 / at Pine Hill Invite / 11:40 a.m.
Duluth, Minn.
Fri., Oct. 24 / at Lake Wissota Invite / 4 p.m.
Chippewa Falls, Wis.
Sat., Nov. 1 / at WIAC Championships / 12 p.m.
at Colfax, Wis./UW-Stout hosts
Sat., Nov. 15 / at NCAA Division III Reg/ 12 p.m.
at Colfax, Wis.
Sat., Nov. 22 / at NCAA Division III Nat'l / 12 p.m.
at Hanover, Ind., College

Tennis
Record: 0-0, 0-0

Date / Opponent / Time or Result

Fri., Sept. 12 / at UW-Eau Claire* / 3:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 13 / at Bethel / 9 a.m.
vs. St. Scholastica
Tues., Sept. 16 / St. Mary's / 3 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 19 / UW-La Crosse* / 3:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 20 / UW-Stevens Point* / 10 a.m.
Wed., Sept. 24 / UW-River Falls* / 3:30 p.m.
Mon., Sept. 29 / Hamline University / 3:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 10 / at UW-Oshkosh* / 3:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 11 / at Edgewood College / TBA
Oct. 25-26 / at WIAC Championships / TBA
Madison, Wis.

*denotes WIAC match