

From Mulhern to Otto-Fisher

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“This is a big loss, not just for the athletics department and the university but for the entire community. There is no way for us to be able to thank Don or repay him for everything that he has done in his time here,” said UW-Superior Athletics Director Nick Bursik. “He has gone above and beyond in getting his student-athletes and staff involved in the community, and you can’t say enough about the job he has done transforming our women’s basketball program into a national power.

“At the same time we respect Don’s desire to put his family first and accept a position that gets him closer to the most important people in his life. We thank him for all of his contributions to our department and university and wish him well at St. Kate’s.”

Mulhern came to UW-Superior in 2006 and immediately began to build a resume that in the end sees him leave as the school’s all-time wins leader.

In 2012 Mulhern helped guide the Yellowjackets into the WIAC playoffs, ending a nearly-decade long drought. The following season Mulhern and the Yellowjackets enjoyed their best finish to-date in the WIAC, placing fourth during the regular season and hosting a conference playoff game, advancing to the WIAC semifinals after an emotional win over UW-River Falls. More success followed in 2013-14, as the Yellowjackets advanced to the WIAC championship game for the first time in school history.

The 2014-15 season was UW-Superior’s final

season in the WIAC, and Mulhern’s Yellowjackets saved the best for last, riding the explosive play of WIAC Player of the Year Sally Linzmeier and a strong supporting cast to the school’s first-ever conference championship, and a second-straight appearance in the WIAC championship game.

UW-Superior moved its sports teams to the UMAC in 2015-16 and the success has kept flowing for Mulhern and the Yellowjackets. In two seasons the Yellowjackets are 32-0 in regular season conference play, collecting a pair of conference regular season championships and two UMAC playoff championships in the process. The playoff titles thrust the Yellowjackets into the national spotlight, giving them consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

Along the way Mulhern’s teams set numerous school records, including consecutive wins, a record broken several times, as well as wins in a season, conference wins in a season, and most points scored in a season.

“It’s hard to express my feeling for the current team and the players who have played for me during my tenure at UW-Superior. The student-athletes have truly been my family away from my family, and words can’t express my gratitude toward these young ladies,” Mulhern said. “I have been blessed to have the chance to coach a great group of student-athletes, and enjoyed it tremendously. Also, I want to thank the current coaching staff and former coaches at UW-Superior for the wonderful support, love, and memories.”

Mulhern leaves UW-Superior with an all-time

record of 149-142, including a mark of 101-37 over the last five seasons.

With Mulhern’s departure, assistant coach Zach Otto-Fisher has been elevated to interim head coach of the Yellowjackets. Otto-Fisher, who graduated with a degree in legal studies from UW-Superior in 2008, joined Mulhern’s staff a year ago.

“I realize the timing of this is not ideal, and I also realize that there is never an ideal time to leave a place that you love. The program couldn’t ask for a better person to seamlessly transition than Zach Otto-Fisher, and with his enthusiasm and knowledge, and this team’s strong leadership, the future is very bright for this year’s team,” Mulhern said. “I will be their biggest fan, and a part of me will always be with them, rooting them on.”

Prior to coaching at UW-Superior, Otto-Fisher spent three seasons as the head girls basketball coach at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School in Minnesota where he helped move five players on to college basketball, including two who reached the NCAA Division I level. In addition, Otto-Fisher has been a member of the coaching staff of the Minnesota Fury, one of the top AAU basketball programs in the Upper Midwest, for five seasons.

“I am very thankful to be given the opportunity to step into a position with such a competitive, driven, and passionate group of players and coaches,” Otto-Fisher said. “The support that this campus gives the program is second to none and I look forward to building on the success and culture that Coach Mulhern has instilled here at UW-Superior.”

Late Goal Pushes Augsburg Past Yellowjackets

Augsburg 2, Yellowjackets 1

The Yellowjacket men's soccer team entered play Tuesday rolling. After a solid win over Macalester at home Friday, the Yellowjackets had won three in a row - a far cry from where they

Yellowjackets a year ago, picked up his first goal of the season, an unassisted blast from about 20 yards out, evening the score at 1-1.

The tie score didn't hold, however. With under 10 minutes to play the Auggies were awarded a

'Jackets fall in four sets to UW-Stout

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25-14 (Stout), 25-21 (Superior), 25-11 (Stout), 25-21 (Stout)

SUPERIOR, Wis. (September 12, 2017) - Superior pushed former WIAC opponent UW-Stout to the limit, but Stout powered through to hand Superior their first home loss of the season. The 'Jackets were led by Ashley Runck (Lakeville, Minn./Apple Valley) who notched eight kills, and Emily VerWay (Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Simley) who had 21 assists.

Stout took the first set by 11, as they went on a late run to win the set. In the second set, the teams went back and forth, and then Superior came back from a 15-13 deficit to take a 19-18 lead after one of Runck's kills. Stout then called a timeout, which fueled the Yellowjackets to score three straight, all served by VerWay, and eventually won the set on a service error from Stout.

The Blue Devils would win sets three, and set four would be as close as the second. Superior went up 5-0 with VerWay at the service position, but would soon fall behind after a Stout run to make the game 14-12 Blue Devils. Superior mounted a run towards the end of the match, scoring twice on an error by Stout, along with a kill from Elise Ertl (Phillips, Wis./Phillips), but the Blue Devils would secure the match 25-21.

Mackenzie Dahlin (Kaukauna, Wis./Kaukauna) turned in another good game at libero, recording 21 digs on the match, along with two assists, while freshman Ertl and sophomore Brylee Colligan (Bemidji, Minn./Bemidji) stepped up for Superior recording six and seven kills respectively.

The Yellowjackets will take their talents on the road this weekend as they play in three games in two days, including their first UMAC matchups of the season against North Central and Bethany Lutheran Saturday Sept. 16.



Photo of Jon Bucklew taken by Jade Jenson

were at this time a year ago.

Well, all good things must end, and that's what happened to the Yellowjacket winning streak on this day. The Auggies from the newly-christened Augsburg University (formerly Augsburg College) scored one goal early and one goal late, holding in for a 2-1 win over the Yellowjackets at Edor Nelson Field in Minneapolis.

Augsburg opened the scoring in the 12th minute when Tommy Picka scored his first of the year from the right side of the box to make it 1-0.

It stayed that way well past halftime before the Yellowjackets, who outshot the Auggies 13-12, came back to tie the game. Jon Bucklew (Somerset, Wis./Somerset), the leading scorer for the

penalty kick, and Aidan Sim-Campos knew what to do, putting the ball past Yellowjacket goalkeeper Dalton VonKaenel (Eagan, Minn./Eagan H.S.). His second of the year put the Auggies ahead 2-1.

VonKaenel was making his first career start in goal for the Yellowjackets, and he made six saves on the day.

Clark Page made three saves in the winning effort for the Auggies.

Up Next: The Yellowjackets (3-2, 0-0 UMAC) continue their road swing and will open up conference play when they take on Minnesota Morris Saturday, September 16. Game time is set for 2:00 p.m.