

Yellowjackets win fifth straight UMAC Men's Indoor Track & Field Championship

Yellowjacket Athletics The UW-Superior men's indoor track and field team won its fifth consecutive Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) championship at the Burns Wellness Commons on the campus of St. Scholastica on Saturday, March 6.

"I'm so proud of our men in their efforts today," head coach Glen Drexler said. "Once we put in our entries, we don't have much opportunity to change anything, so we put them in expecting a very close contest. There is some good talent in this conference - we just had good depth and a lot of guys who showed up and performed well."

The Yellowjackets scored 143 points, running away by 54 points. UWS used four event wins and their depth to pull away. Northwestern and Minnesota Morris finished second and third, respectively.

Tyler Finger (Clinton-

ville, Wis./Clintonville) won the 800-meter run in 2:04.85, Brett Goplen (Hugo, Minn./St. Croix Lutheran Academy) took the 60-meter hurdles in 9.08 and Andrew Grabarkewitz (Grand Rapids, Minn./Grand Rapids Senior) won the pole vault with a vault of 3.70 meters (12 feet, 1.5 inches). The 4x200-meter relay team of Mitchell Peterson (Foley, Minn./Foley), Steven Pearson (Superior, Wis./Superior Senior), Evan Westimayer and Lennon Shimon (Albert Lea, Minn./Albert Lea Senior) won that event in 1:35.88.

Grabarkewitz paced Superior individually, scoring 24 points on the day. He also ran second in the 400-meter dash in 52.34 and third in the 200-meter dash in 23.46.

Derrick Moe (Cloquet, Minn./Cloquet) completed a 1-2 finish for UWS in the 800, clocking a time of 2:04.91 for eight more points. Isaiah Arntson



The men's track and field team won their fifth straight UMAC championship on Saturday, March 6. UWS finished with 143 points, topping the field by 54.

Photo by Holden Law

(Esko, Minn./Proctor) was fifth in the race in 2:09.62 for another two points.

The 'Jackets scored 13 points as a team in the 5,000-meter run. Alex Fike (St. Paul, Minn./Harding Senior) finished third at 17:29.53, Connor Nelson (Rockford, Ill./Rockford Lutheran) was fourth at 17:38.37, Travis Gee (Minocqua, Wis./Lakeland Union) was fifth at 18:38.87 and Josh Porter (Osseo, Wis./Osseo-Fairchild) placed sixth at

19:23.73.

"We had some great PR performances," Drexler said. "We had some plain old gritty performances, too, but through it all, our guys worked very hard for this win and I'm very happy for all they put forward to earn this."

Nate Ohman (Lake Nebagamon, Wis./Northwestern) was sixth in the shot put with a mark of 12.31 meters (40 feet, 4.75 inches). Tanner Lee (Siren, Wis./Siren) finished

second in the weight throw with a mark of 14.67 meters (48 feet, 1.75 inches) and Brock Phernetton (Frederic, Wis./Frederic) was sixth with a heave of 13.44 meters (44 feet, 1.25 inches).

"I think we're really fortunate to have had this opportunity," said Drexler. "When we started talking about the season, we weren't sure we'd get through a single meet. So, to complete a season and get a championship meet, it's just really special."

GERC Empowers Students and Provides Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic

Liam Strong strong@uwsuper.edu

With the COVID-19 pandemic placing many student services at UWS in limited, remote settings, services like the Gender Equity Resource Center (GERC) have been thriving in their own ways on campus.

Though the services, programs, and interactions in the GERC have shifted to a primarily virtual medium, this

change has brought many benefits that provide resources to students. The GERC, which acts as the Women's and LGBTQ2+ Resource Center, creates an environment that advocates for individuals of any spectrum of diversity to explore their identities.

Along with developing larger conversations surrounding proponents of gender and sexuality, the GERC aims to give the UWS community a

safe place for students to express and ask questions about themselves.

Although the GERC has remained active during the pandemic, there are still difficulties the center faces. T Leeper, the GERC's Gender and Sexuality Programs Coordinator, expresses concern for engaging with students, and how the GERC can ensure a supportive shared physical space. "Virtual commu-

nity is difficult to cultivate," Leeper states. "In today's society, there are less people utilizing LGBT services because they don't want to be known by just one identity or calling their identity into question."

Despite their recent shift due to the pandemic, the GERC has excelled virtually with the quickness of online resources and readily accessible online engagement. This has allowed for the GERC to get creative, with a consistent calendar of events they routinely keep while still adding new exciting things to the mix.

One particular event is their monthly Lavender Lunch, which is a supportive space for students to discuss identity and simply be in each other's presence since human interaction is so limited. Along with the Lavender Lunch, which is held via Zoom, the GERC also works with the Department of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in their presentations of Community Talkbacks, which revolve around

many LGBTQ2+ topics. This month, their presentation is on Supporting Autistic LGBTQ+ Students, and it will take place on Thursday, March 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Leeper also understands that the lack of physical community is hard on the students they would meet with on a regular basis. Though the absence of support isn't easy on them, students still find ways to attend meetings, workshops, presentations, or lunches, regardless of being "Zoomed out." Zoom meetings have their positives, however. Depending on the person, some students have struggled with the online environment, but others have thrived.

"Students don't get misgendered as much due to an absence of facial cues," says Leeper. "There aren't any expectations for gender or identity performance. [Zoom] allows a space to curate your true self."

See GERC on Page 2



A white board inside the GERC office shares messages of support and positivity. The GERC is located in Swenson Hall 1031 and the center offers weekly virtual office hours every Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Photo by Lindsey Jalivay

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2021 SURF Applications Open Page 2

WIAC Hockey Playoffs Page 4

The Story of The Gull Page 5