

SPORTS

Men's and Women's soccer bow out of NCAA Tournament after First Round

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Both UW-Superior soccer teams were announced as the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference champions on home soil in 2023, with the men's team edging past Bethany Lutheran courtesy of Karsten Kletti's lone goal, and a dominant 3-0 performance for the women's team against the University of Northwestern-St. Paul.

The men's seventh straight UMAC championship earned them a ticket to the NCAA tournament, where they traveled to Rolf Melby Field, home of St. Olaf College Oles.

The Yellowjackets came into the game with six straight wins and they were eager to continue that momentum and advance to the next round.

Despite giving up the first goal, the men's side remained resolute in their fight for a spot in the next round, with junior

Josh Bellamy equalizing from the spot to make it all-square in the first half, securing his 10th goal of the season.

Less than a minute later, the Oles restored their lead, before scoring five more unanswered goals to end the hopes of advancing for the Yellowjackets squad with the 7-1 victory going to the home team.

"Of course, it was great to score in the national tournament. Unfortunately, we didn't get the result we wanted on the day, and that hurt a lot for me," said Bellamy.

"Losing the way we did made the team want it that much more next year and prove that we are better than we showed; we have unfinished business."

Despite the disappointing loss, men's head coach Joe Mooney was optimistic for next year, and tried to take some positives from the outcome.

"Obviously as I look back, this result is not a reflection of the season. We had a lot of really good results, a good work ethic, and the chemistry is great in this team throughout.

We were drawn against a great side, and it felt like anything that could go wrong, did. I'm proud of our guys for not letting this define our season - we will learn from this," said Mooney.

The UW-Superior women's team remained in-state for their first-round bout against UW-La Crosse a former rival from Superior's time in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"We were really nervous about being the underdogs going up against a nationally ranked team, but I think it really lit a fire under us," said Emma Fornengo, junior for the women's team.

The women's side endured a hostile environment in their away match to UW-La Crosse.

A goal by Ellie Behnke in the 33rd minute separated the teams at half time, putting the Eagles ahead. Despite a late push from the Yellowjackets, it wasn't enough to force extra time against the Eagles, and the game finished 1-0, with UWS bowing out in the first round of the NCAA tournament in 2023.

Yellowjacket goalkeeper Quinn Clark received lots of praise for arguably her

strongest match for the women's soccer program. She finished the day with 18 saves, keeping the game to a one-goal margin.

"Even though the outcome wasn't a win, I'm still extremely proud of how everyone played," said Clark.

UW-Lacrosse had 42 shots throughout the game, with 19 on frame. "It was all thanks to our collaborative defensive shape. It made my job so much easier, so I think they deserve the credit!"



#3 Josh Bellamy dribbles past a Northwestern defender. Photo By Jack Barnett

Yellowjacket Track & Field looking to continue UMAC success

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With hockey and basketball getting into the heart of their seasons, the UW-Superior mens and womens track & field indoor season isn't far behind.

The Yellowjackets are coming off a great season, with both teams earning the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Indoor championships, for the women it was their first in program history.

Meanwhile, the men are looking to earn their eighth straight UMAC Indoor championship.

Head coach Glen Drexler looks to build off the recent success and sees similarities with past teams.

"We continue to go into the mindset of we got to earn everything we want because nothing comes easy," said Drexler.

"We got to go through the work of the season to continually and gradually get better because nothing is going to happen day one, it's going to happen throughout the course of the season."

On the mens side, junior Garrett Lynch reached Nationals in the Heptathlon event and is looking forward to coming back from break and getting right into the season.

"My favorite time of the year is coming up, we come back from winter break and the sole focus is on track for a couple weeks and I feel like you can make a lot of pr-

gress when that's all you have," said Lynch.

On the women's side, they are not only coming off the program's first indoor track & field championship but with many athletes also running cross country they earned a UMAC title only a month ago.

Halle Barker is one of those distance runners and has noticed that the team has been able to push each other in hopes of earning back-to-back titles.

"We have a really strong team for distance this year and we're kind of helping each other in making each other go faster by pushing each other in practices and work outs everyday," said Barker.

"So it's been very helpful to have a bunch of us there."

Even though we are still early in the season, Drexler likes what he has seen ahead of the team's first meet.

"We're ready to dive into this indoor season, and we have good rosters between the men and women to be able to do

what we gotta do and to chase some championships and have some national qualifiers as well."

The Yellowjackets first meet of the season is the CSS Early Bird Meet on December 29.

After break the Yellowjackets will host a home meet on January 20 in the Dr. Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse.



Yellowjacket Track & Field Practice in the MWC. Photo By Jeffrey McClure

Up Next in Sports

Men's BBall	Women's BBall	Men's Hockey	W Hockey	T&F
VS Crown College Dec. 8	VS Crown College Dec. 8	VS Northland College Dec. 9	@ St. Olaf Dec. 8	CSS Early Bird Track & Field Duluth, Minn. Dec. 9
VS Minnesota Morris Dec. 9	VS Minn. Morris Dec. 9	Superior Showdown Superior, Wis.	VS St. Olaf Dec. 9	Twin Ports Open Superior, Wis. Jan. 20
VS UW-Eau Claire Dec. 13	VS UW-Eau Claire Dec. 13	VS Dubuque-Dec. 29 VS TBA-Dec. 30	@ St. Scholastica Dec. 12	Warren Bowlus Invite Menomonie, Wis. Jan. 26 & 27
Nicolet National Bank Holiday Tournament De Pere, Wis.	Superior Shootout Holiday Classic Superior, Wis.	VS Gustavus Adolphus Jan. 12	@ Concordia College Dec. 15	Lake Superior Challenge Duluth, Minn. (CSS) Feb. 3
Univ. of Dubuque-Dec. 29 TBA-Dec. 30	VS Marian-Dec. 29 VS St. Norbert-Dec. 30	VS Hamline Jan. 13	@Concordia College Dec. 16	Maday Classic Superior, Wis. Feb. 10
VS Northland College Jan. 6	VS St. Norbert-Dec. 30	VS UW-Eau Claire Jan. 19	VS Marian Jan. 5	
@ Marian Jan. 9	VS Northland Jan. 6	VS UW-Eau Claire Jan. 20	@ Augsburg Jan. 9	
@ Northwestern Jan. 12	@ Northwestern Jan. 12	@ UW-River Falls Jan. 26	VS UW-Eau Claire Jan. 11	
@ North Central Jan. 13	@ North Central Jan. 13	@ UW-River Falls Jan. 27		