SPORTS

UW-Superior Men's and Women's Golf Host the Twin Ports Collegiate

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior's men's and women's golf played host to the Twin Ports Collegiate. This two-day tournament is hosted at Nemadji Golf Course in Superior, Wisconsin.

UWS had three teams in the men's tournament along with schools Wisconsin Lutheran College, University of St. Scholastica, Martin Luther College, and Northland College.

On the women's side, Wisconsin Lutheran did not have a team. Teams that featured on the women's side but not men's are Augsburg University, UW-River Falls, Luther College, and Bethany Lutheran College (BLC).

Right from teeing off, it was UWS men's golf taking advantage of the home course and winning the tournament. Senior golfer, Conner Willard, took first place over his teammate and junior golfer, Andrew Rude.

"The playoff with Andrew was a fun, lighthearted experience. Obviously, at this point, the team had already won the tournament. So, we were both trying to win that first-place finish for the individuals. We shared laughs and conversations during the playoff hole, but we both were trying to win," said Willard.

The women's team took advantage of the home course, and although they finished fifth place, they finished day two with major improvements.

Men's and women's golf coach, Paul Eberhardt, was happy with the result of the team.

"We improved on Day 2 which has been the case at all of our tournaments. We are better on Day 2 which shows some growth and also shows that our ladies are making strong adjustments after p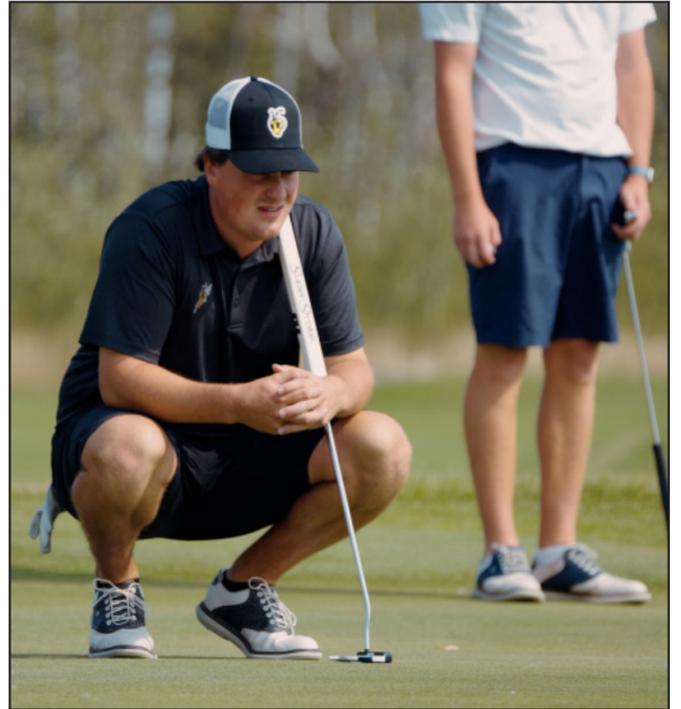laying the course on Day 1 and playing better and cleaner on Day 2. Our women's team has gotten better and more competitive and I expect that to continue," said Eberhardt.

The tournament occurred on the course, but Coach Eberhardt saw the tournament benefit the community as well.

"It brings revenue to the city with teams outside of the area staying in hotels and eating at area restaurants. It also allows players to play in front of more people they know who get an opportunity to come out and watch them play. It ultimately helps us save money within our budget as we so not have as many costs as we would for a road trip," said Eberhardt.

The UWS men's golf team will have their next match on Sep. 28 in Elk River, Minn., for the Twin Cities Classic.

For the women's team their next match is Sep. 28, in Hutchinson, Minn., for the BLC invite.

Conner Willard Yellowjacket men's golf eyeing up a putt at the Twin Ports Collegiate at Nemadji Golf Course.
Photo Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

Karin Hill Yellowjacket women's golf teeing off at the Twin Ports Collegiate in Nemadji Golf Course.
Photo Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

Olivia Weyenburg Yellowjacket women's golf finished with an 81 at the Twin Ports Collegiate.
Photo Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

UWS Esports Returns to Competitive Play with Two Valorant Teams

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Along with Fall Yellowjackets sports like soccer and volleyball, the UWS Esports club is back in action for the 2024-25 campaign.

Following the debut of the club in Spring of 2024 with a single Rocket League team, the club will welcome new faces in new places for the upcoming seasons, with the launch of the Wisconsin Esports Conference and the creation of two new Valorant teams.

After competing in the Wisconsin Rocket League last season, UWS esports will be competing in the WEC for the league's inaugural season.

The WEC is a new type of sporting organization in the state of Wisconsin, allowing for previously dissociated gaming titles to consolidate under a single name and league, including all three of UW-Superior's teams for 24-25.

The league will even be fielding in-person competitions later in the season, held at different locations at various universities around the state.
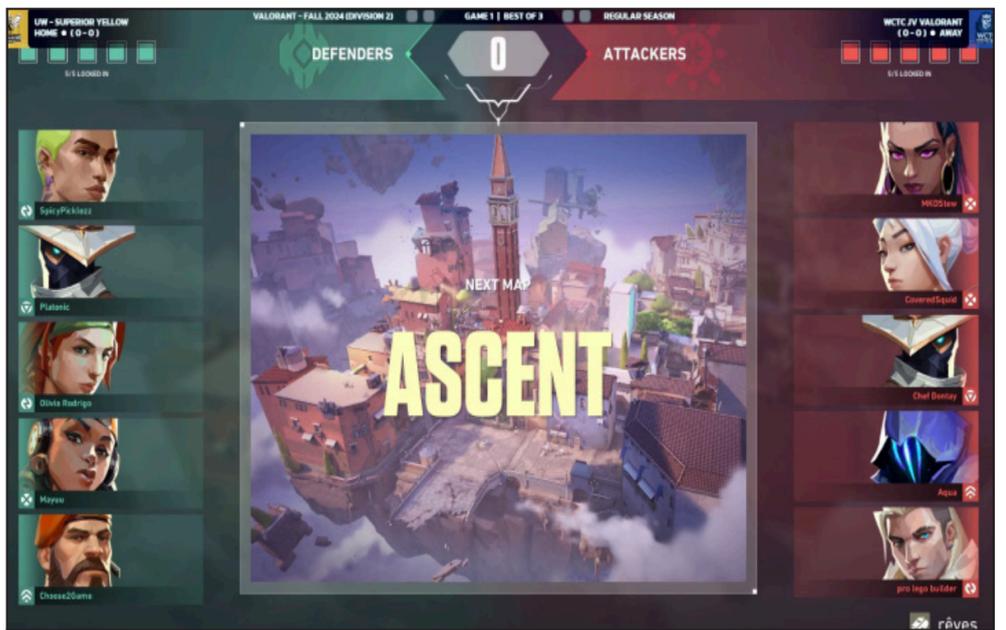
UWS' new faces come in the form of new teams and a new coach. The club is now fielding two teams in the game Valorant, the club's first step into first-person shooter games.

The two teams fielded by UWS this season are named UWS Valorant Black and UWS Valorant Yellow.

"It's awesome to see UWS ESports field two (Valorant) teams," said UWS Esports Club coach Brady Stocker, "Two is the max the league allows, and if they allow more next year, I think we will have enough interest in the future to do more!"

The new Valorant teams are joined by the club's inaugural team, its Rocket League squad, who are heading into their 2nd semester of competition.

The team opened their season with a win, which

UWS Valorant Yellow (Left) prepares for a match against Waukesha County Technical College JV (Right) on Monday, Sept. 23.
Photo courtesy of UWS Esports Club

Coach Stocker said is a wonderful start for the returning students.

"We're excited to be returning two of our three Rocket League students from last spring," said Stocker. "It's exciting to see a 1-0 start! I am hopeful for more growth in this title in the future of esports at UWS!"

The club will also have the support of a new coach, as the club parted ways with co-coach Will Taft over the off-season, welcoming in Nestor "Sxiny" Martinez in the former's place.

Per the Esports Club's page on the UW-Superior website, Coach Martinez is, "Excited to see the students succeed and bring home some trophies from all their hard work."

With the club entering its second semester and it's first full semester in its "Gaming Lab" in Swenson Hall, esports at UWS appears set to continue its exciting growth into 2025 and beyond.

"We have about 15 students competing across our 3 teams and that's awesome growth from last years' four students," said Stocker.

Those interested in joining the UWS Esports Club are encouraged to contact esports@uwsuper.edu for more information, and reach out to coaches Brady Stocker and Nestor Martinez for any additional information.

Esports lab in use during grand opening in Swenson Hall, March 28, 2024.
Photo Promethean File

Grand opening of Esports lab in Swenson Hall in March 2024.
Photo Promethean File