

# SPORTS

## UWS Men's Basketball Heads South to Texas

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior men's basketball team recently made a long trip down to Houston, Texas for some non-conference competition.

Leading up to this trip, the Yellowjackets were 3-2, coming off an overtime thriller against Macalester College, winning that contest 78-76.

In an interview prior to the season UWS senior guard J'Vaun Walker who is from Texas was excited about the opportunity to play in his home state.

"The biggest thing I'm looking forward to this year is the opportunity to play in Houston. Being from the area, I'm excited to go back

home and play there in front of a lot of my family and friends I know will be there," said Walker.

The Yellowjackets played Trinity University on Nov. 23, and University of St. Thomas (Tex.) on Nov. 24. These games presented challenges for the Yellowjackets as they have never faced off against either team before, making it difficult to know what to expect.

In game one of the weekend, the Yellowjackets went into halftime leading the Trinity Tigers 43-35 who at the time were ranked 11th in d3hoops.com top 25 poll. The rest didn't go the way the 'Jackets would hope. The Tigers went on to outscore them 49-33, winning the game in



J'Vaun Walker Fights Through a Double Team Against CSS at Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium.

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

the end 84-76.

Game two of the trip did not go in favor of the Yellowjackets. They trailed the St. Thomas Celts 37-23 going into halftime and were outscored in the second half, 37-30, ultimately falling 74-53.

Walker led the team in scoring in both games in Texas. In the game against Trinity, he tallied 20 points. Against the Celts, he scored 13 points.

The only thing that was certain was how special the games were for Walker who would get to play these games in his home state of Texas. In an interview with Jon Garver for UWS Athletics, Walker said how

special the trip was for him.

"Just being back home seeing a lot of my family in the stands instead of just my Mom and Dad this time, that was cool to see and obviously the warm weather," said Walker.

In his fifth year at UWS, Walker makes a huge impact as he currently leads the team in minutes and points per game.

The next chance to catch the Yellowjackets at home is slated for January 8 against North Central, tipping off conference play. Game time is slated to start at 5:30 p.m. at Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium.



J'Vaun Walker during team introduction at Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium.

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

## UWS Men's Hockey Draws Even In Superior Showdown

Isaiah Wiita [iwiita@uwsuper.edu](mailto:iwiita@uwsuper.edu)

The UW-Superior men's hockey team hosted the annual Superior Showdown tournament at Wessman Arena on Nov. 29 and 30.

Four teams, including UWS, St. Scholastica, the University of Dubuque, and Lawrence, participated in the tournament.

The first game of the weekend was between CSS and Dubuque which would end with the Saints on top 5-3.

The Yellowjackets faced Lawrence in their first game of the tournament, and the Jackets came out on top 3-0. Senior forward Reed Stark scored two goals in the contest.

UW-Superior advanced to the championship game where they faced CSS in another bridge battle.

The two teams are already familiar with each other having played twice first in a scrimmage and back on Nov. 15 which the Yellowjackets took in the final minutes off of a goal from Justin Dauphinais to

make the final score 2-1.

Before the final of the Superior Showdown the consolation game between Dubuque and Lawrence. This game came to a deadlock after an overtime period before Lawrence would take in a shootout.

In the championship match, the Yellowjackets started hot, leading the Saints 2-0 late in the second period. The Jackets scored from Justin Dauphinais and Chris Ishmael. CSS would go onto score three unanswered goals in the second and third periods to steal the championship game from the Yellowjackets 3-2. year, after the Superior Showdown tournament.

The Yellowjackets would fall to 4-3-1 on the year, after the Superior Showdown tournament. The Jackets will face four conference opponents in the upcoming weeks before entering the 59th Annual Codfish Bowl Tournament in Boston on Jan. 3 and 4.

## UWS Men's Soccer Makes History: Reaches Sweet 16 For First Time

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The UW-Superior men's soccer team had a historic season in their 2024 campaign. Earning their eighth consecutive Upper Midwest Athletic Conference championship and a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament.

However the Yellowjackets achieved something for the first time in program history. After taking down North Park 1-0 and the defending national champion St. Olaf in penalty kicks, the Jackets found themselves in their first Sweet Sixteen appearance, where they faced Amherst.

In the Sweet Sixteen match up, the Yellowjackets went back and forth with Amherst for the first 30 minutes before Amherst would score. Shortly into the second half Amherst would tack on another goal doubling their lead.

The Yellowjackets wouldn't go away quietly however adding to the scoring after Josh Bellamy netted a penalty kick to get the Yellowjackets within one. Later in the second half the Yellowjackets would add another off of an Aaron Shartin-Folkert goal sending

the game to a pivotal overtime.

The Yellowjackets would not be able to strike in the overtime period as with just over a minute left in the second overtime Amherst would sink the game winning goal sending them home from the tournament.

For the Yellowjackets the team finishes their season at an overall record of 18-4-3 and seconds away from a potential trip to the Elite Eight.



UWS Takes The Ice In The Superior Showdown Final Against CSS at Wessman Arena

Photo by Andrew Mathews | Promethean