

SPORTS

UWS Tennis Looks To Make Their Mark In UMAC

Carter Lansdale
clansdal@uwsuper.edu

The winter season is winding down, and the spring sports are at their breaking point. Men's and Women's Tennis at the University of Wisconsin-Superior has already started their season, but not outside quite yet.

They're currently playing indoors, and the Women's team is off to a hot start. They beat Macalester College 5-2 and Concordia University Wisconsin 6-1. Men's and Women's Tennis teams are led by head coach Ceejay Schaffner, and he's excited for both teams. "The women are

playing well right now, no doubt about that. It's been a fun start to the season beating two teams we have never beat before on the women's side," said Schaffner.

Junior Brooke Wilfong believes that their age is helping. "It also helps that we have an older team than we have had in the past," said Wilfong.

Moving over to the Men's team, they haven't had the same start. Their first match against Luther College ended in a 7-0 loss, and their second match against Macalester College ended in a close 4-3 loss. "The men are fine. We've played some

really tough teams so far, so I'm not worried about anything for them," said Schaffner. Sophomore Sharan Kanugovi is excited about what the team can show this year. "We have a couple of new freshmen on the tennis team that are getting better. We had a really good team last year, but I think this year we are more pumped up to play," said Kanugovi.

The Men's team is predicted to finish first in the North Division of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, but they have higher goals they are aiming for. "We are trying to beat Greenville and Principia in the conference matches," said Kanugovi. The UW-Superior Men's team is coming off a UMAC Championship loss to Greenville last year and is looking for revenge coming into conference play.

The Women's team is predicted to finish second in the North Division of the UMAC just behind Northwestern. UW-Superior appeared in the



Men's Tennis Looks To Take Down Conference Foes

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

UMAC Championship last year against Principia College; in that match, they lost 5-1.

Even with all these high-ranked predictions, Schaffner is trying to make each player's job as easy as possible: go out and have fun. "We live by the saying – no expectations. So, we treat every match the same – go out there, have fun, compete hard, and support each other on and off the court," said Schaffner.

Helping out with making things easy on the court is the leadership he's getting from both teams despite having no seniors. "While not

old, we aren't extremely young either. We're relying on our Juniors who have been around for a few years now. They know what is going on day by day and month by month and help give the younger players all the information they need to be successful," said Schaffner. "I have been trying to help the younger girls with anything they need. I feel like I have taken on somewhat of a leadership role on the team even though we don't have captains," said Wilfong.



Women's Tennis Hope To Capture Conference Crown

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

UWS Baseball Looks Toward Experience In Quest For UMAC Title

Daniel Young
dyoung14@uwsuper.edu

With winter rounding third base, it must mean baseball season is on deck. The Yellowjackets baseball team is looking to continue their success of back-to-back seasons of posting at least 20 wins.



The Yellowjackets season will get underway with the first pitch against Carleton College on Mar 1 as part of a four-game season opener in Iowa against Carleton College before heading down to Florida for their annual Spring Break tournament.

Junior pitcher Aiden Pfeifer said, "We only graduated three players this last year, so we return a lot of talent. After losing in the UMAC championship last year, we all know what it's going to take to make school history and win a UMAC conference and tournament."

After the Yellowjackets lost in a heartbreaking fashion last year in the UMAC tournament final to Crown College, the team is looking to grow from the experience they gained last season and is using it as fuel to claim the UMAC championship.

With just the start of the season looming upon us, Senior Infielder Jonny Rhodes said, "I believe that with the returnees from last year, along with the guys we brought in this year, we have the most talented baseball team the school has ever



UWS Opens Up Play March 1 vs Carleton College

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

seen. We've got a lot of great leaders and experience in this group, so the expectations for this year are high."

With two conference championship appearances in the past four seasons, the Yellowjackets hope to continue to build on the recent success and finish atop the UMAC.

The Yellowjackets are scheduled to face Northland College on March 21 for their home and UMAC opener.

UWS Softball Looks To Capture Another Bid In The NCAA Tournament

Daniel Young
dyoung14@uwsuper.edu

Hopefully, that was the last of the snow for our winter, so the bats can start swinging. With Yellowjackets softball just around the corner, they are looking to continue their dominance as they

begin their quest for their fourth conference title in five seasons and another shot in the NCAA Tournament after falling short in the tournament in the 2024 season.

The 2025 campaign

starts with a double-header on Feb. 21 against Macalester and Carleton. The Yellowjackets then head to Oshkosh for the UW-Oshkosh Invitational and then they make the week long trip south to Florida. After that trip the Yellowjackets open up conference play against Northland College. Their home opener is scheduled for April 11 against North Central.

With the focus not only on a conference title but also on a deeper run toward the NCAA tournament title. As the Jackets are preparing for their season to get underway, Senior Catcher and

Infielder Zoe Thomson said, "We also have a goal of winning the regular season and becoming the first number one seed since 2013 to win on their own field. I am hoping with all of the talent between returnees and the new additions to the team, we will be able to achieve these goals."

With eight seniors on the team and plenty of experience elsewhere on the roster, their goal of winning three straight conference tournaments is within reach. "I am also looking forward to getting one last shot to try and make history by winning the first regional



Larissa Snyder Celebrates on Second Base

Photo by Harrison Law | UWS Athletics

game in program history," Thomson said.

With what sounds like a season full of determination and aspiration toward individual and team goals, the Yellowjackets will begin their quest later this month.



UWS Players Norah Schmitz (Left) and Zoe Thomson (Right) Celebrate

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean