

SPORTS

UWS Women's Basketball Claims UMAC Title and NCAA Tournament Bid

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The UW-Superior Women's Basketball team had one thing on their mind this season: redemption. After falling short last season in the UMAC title game to Minnesota Morris the team returned reigning UMAC Player of the Year Elise Besonen and other contributors from last season.

However this season their path to a conference title wasn't as easy. After only suffering one conference loss last season, the Yellowjackets lost three times within the UMAC. Their hopes of claiming a regular season conference title came down to playing the team that ended their season last year that being Minnesota Morris.

The game was a back and forth competition which saw the Yellowjackets trailing the Cougars at halftime by 4. The Yellowjackets would fight back into the game in the third quarter outscoring the Cougars 18-9.

The Cougars would claw back into the game and have it tied at 63 with 15 seconds left. Katie Dob-



Elsa Olson Sizes Up Northwestern Defender.

Photo by Sama (Sky) Abdullayeva | The Promethean

son would come through for the Yellowjackets as she would claim an offensive rebound and be fouled sending her to the line where she would sink both free throws to give UWS a 65-63 lead and victory over the Cougars knocking them out of the UMAC playoffs.

The Yellowjackets would claim their second straight conference crown sharing it with Northwestern but claiming the number one seed in the UMAC tournament. The teams they could see in the tournament though were the ones that handed them all their losses in conference play.

They opened up the tournament against the four seed Martin Luther who handed UWS their

first loss in conference play back in January. The Yellowjackets looked strong in the first quarter as they took a 24-12 lead into the second. Martin Luther wouldn't go down without a fight as they clawed back into the game only trailing by three at the half.

The second half saw UWS build a strong lead again but Martin Luther came back into it yet again. The Yellowjackets and Knights would fight to an overtime period which saw UWS take the game 80-75. MyKenzie Leccia would set a career high in points with 24 leading the Yellowjackets to the UMAC title game against co-conference champion Northwestern.

Against Northwestern the Yellowjackets would

struggle to find the bottom of the net trailing Northwestern for much of the first half of play going into halftime down 20-26. The cold shooting found the Eagles in the second half as UWS was able to make their way back into the game only trailing by one at the end of the third quarter.

The Eagles were again able to build the lead back to six, but from there it was the Elise Besonen show as she went on a seven nothing run by herself to take the lead. The Eagles would take the lead back a possession later but Katie Dobson would yet again come through in the clutch with a huge three pointer to seize the lead for UWS. The Yellowjackets took home the

victory 53-47 over Northwestern and their fourth UMAC tournament title and first since the 2017-18 season. The Yellowjackets also receive the UMAC's automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

Elise Besonen would claim the tournament's MVP as she led the team in scoring with 28 points in the championship game. For head coach Emily Carpenter she has now won a UMAC title as both a player and coach for UWS. The Yellowjackets will play Whitman College in the first round of the NCAA tournament which is hosted by UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wis. on March 7 at 4:45 p.m.



UWS Celebrates Their Fourth UMAC Tournament Title

Photo by Sama (Sky) Abdullayeva | The Promethean

UWS Men's Hockey Falls Short In WIAC Tournament

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The UW-Superior men's hockey team exceeded all expectations this season. The team was projected to finish fifth in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference this season.

After a 15 game unbeaten streak the Yellowjackets would claim the regular season conference title after a

shootout victory over UW-Stevens Point. The Yellowjackets would also receive a bye in the first round of the WIAC postseason tournament.

The Yellowjackets would welcome UW-River Falls to Wessman Arena. In three regular season games the Jackets claimed victory twice and a tie in the other ultimately losing in a

shootout to the Falcons.

In game one of the series the Yellowjackets would dominate taking the game 4-1. The Yellowjackets goals came from the sticks of Reed Stark and the other three coming from Collin Pederson.

In game two of the series the Yellowjackets would need either a win or a tie to advance to the championship game of the WIAC but the Falcons had other plans.

The Falcons would score a goal in the first period just sneaking over the shoulder of goaltender Jack Boschert. They would tack on a goal in the second period to take a 2-0 lead over the Yellowjackets. UWS would add a goal late in the

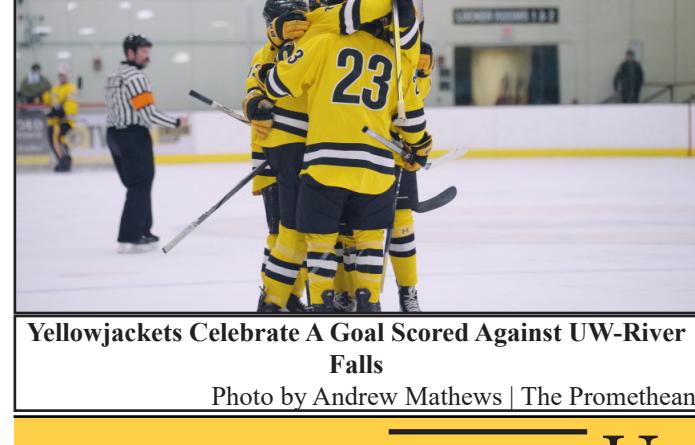
game from Sam Brennan but were unable to score another, setting up a mini-game to determine the winner of the series.

In the first period of the mini-game the Falcons were able to score a power play goal two minutes into the period.

The Yellowjackets kept getting denied the tie to the game until Reed Stark would score with three minutes left in the

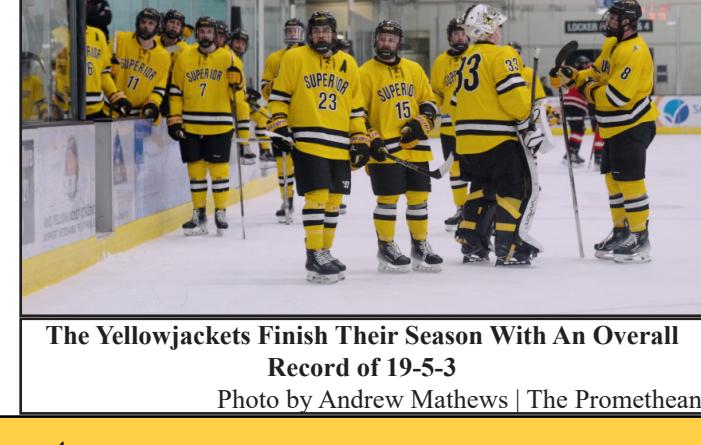
period to tie the game. The Falcons however would break the hearts of the Yellowjackets as Cole Teleki would send a goal past Jan Skorpik with just one minute remaining in the period.

The Yellowjackets magical season would come to an end in crushing fashion losing to UW-River Falls twice both by scores of 2-1.



Yellowjackets Celebrate A Goal Scored Against UW-River Falls

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean



The Yellowjackets Finish Their Season With An Overall Record of 19-5-3

Photo by Andrew Mathews | The Promethean

Up Next in Sports

Baseball

RussMat Central Florida Invitational March 9 - March 15/Winter Haven, Fla.

vs Northland College March 21 (Fri)/ 3. p.m. Superior, Wis.

vs Northland College (DH) March 22 (Sat)/ 1 p.m. Superior, Wis.

at Saint Mary's (DH) March 22 (Tue)/ 1 p.m. Winona, Minn.

vs Martin Luther March 28 (Fri)/ 3 p.m. Superior, Wis.

Softball

Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic March 8 - March 13/ Fort Myers and Naples, Fla.

at Martin Luther March 28 (Fri)/ 4 p.m. New Ulm, Minn.

at Martin Luther (DH) March 29 (Sat)/ 1 p.m. New Ulm, Minn.

at UW-Eau Claire (DH) April 2 (Wed)/ 3 p.m. Eau Claire, Wis.

at Crown April 4 (Fri)/ 4 p.m. St. Bonifacius, Minn.



Men's Tennis

vs Bellhaven (Miss.) March 10 (Mon)/ 4 p.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs St. Thomas (Tex.) March 11 (Tue)/ 1 p.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs West Florida March 12 (Wed)/ 12 p.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs Illinois Wesleyan March 13 (Thu)/ 9 a.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs Gustavus Adolphus March 22 (Sat)/ 4:30 p.m. Saint Peter, Minn.

Women's Tennis

vs Illinois Wesleyan March 10 (Mon)/ 7 a.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs Earlham March 11 (Tue)/ 7 a.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs Bellhaven (Miss.) March 12 (Wed)/ 7 a.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs St. Thomas (Tex.) March 13 (Thu)/ 7 a.m. Gulf Shores, Ala

vs Gustavus Adolphus March 22 (Sat)/ 1:30 p.m. Saint Peter, Minn.