

SPORTS

UWS Athletic Department Announces Three New Offerings For Sports On Campus

Daniel Young
dyoung14@uwsuper.edu

New energy. New teams. A new chapter for UW-Superior sports begins. UW-Superior and Yellowjacket Athletics have announced the new addition of three sports; one varsity sport and two club sports.

UWS is adding one varsity NCAA sport,



women's lacrosse, which will start during the 2026-27 academic year and will begin competition in spring 2027. In addition, UW-Superior will also be adding two club sports; men's ice hockey and men's soccer.

The additions bring the total varsity sports at UW-Superior to 20 (9 men's, 11 women's).

The club men's hockey and soccer teams will be the first club sports brought under the umbrella of Yellowjacket Athletics.

Both club sport teams will start to compete in the 2025-2026 academic year. These new additions to campus athletics are vital

in giving more opportunities to students who want to play sports. These new additions are a response to student interest and the growing popularity of these sports in the Twin Ports area.

"We are thrilled to expand our offerings to provide more, and new, opportunities for student-athletes. Expanding these programs appeals to the interest we receive from prospective students and the growing participation of these sports within our region," UW-Superior director of athletics Nick Bursik said in a statement from the announcement of the new teams.

The Men's club hockey team will be competing in the American College Hockey Asso-

ciation. The men's club soccer will compete against other regional club teams. Both club sport teams will have head coaches and the full support from the Yellowjacket Athletic Department.

Searches for head coaches for these new programs are beginning now. With it being the 20th varsity sport, Women's lacrosse, and having continued and proven growth in D-III athletics, this new sport will be a great addition to campus. A national search for a head coach will begin this spring. With the team competing regionally while it looks into joining a conference.



Students who are interested in joining any of the three new teams are encouraged to fill out a prospectus. This prospectus can be found under the initial announcement of the new teams at uws-yellowjackets.com.

Student Profile | MyKenzie Leccia

Evan Ludwig
eludwig@uwsuper.edu

Both of the UW-Superior women's basketball and softball teams have seen a lot of success in recent years.

The women's basketball team just captured their second consecutive UMAC regular season championship as well as their first appearance in the NCAA tournament since 2018. The softball team has appeared in the NCAA tournament in back to back seasons under head coach Melissa Fracker.

A key piece to both

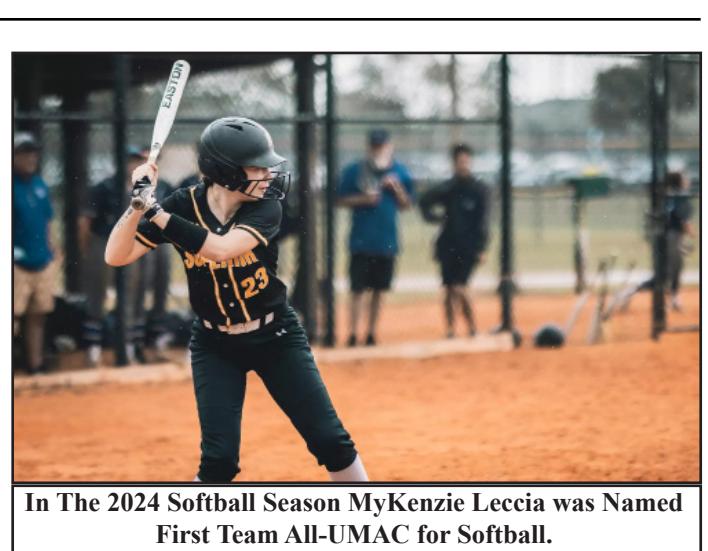
the basketball and softball teams is MyKenzie Leccia, a junior from Somerset, Wis. Leccia began being recruited to UWS for softball before also being asked to join the basketball team. "I initially started being recruited for softball with Coach Fracker and then the previous head coach for basketball was like yeah we've seen you play you can join our team so it was kind of like go for one sport, say I wanted to play another and it kind of just worked out

that way," said Leccia.

On the basketball court Leccia has been a standout on the defensive end winning defensive player of the year for the UMAC this past season. She also set a career high in points in a Yellowjacket uniform this past season scoring 24 points in the first round of the UMAC postseason tournament against Martin Luther.

Although the Yellowjackets would lose in the first round of the NCAA tournament this season there was no break for Leccia as the softball team was playing in Florida for their annual trip down south for spring break.

Leccia appeared in a game for the softball team just two days after the basketball season ended. "Figuring out the flight was going to be a little bit difficult because

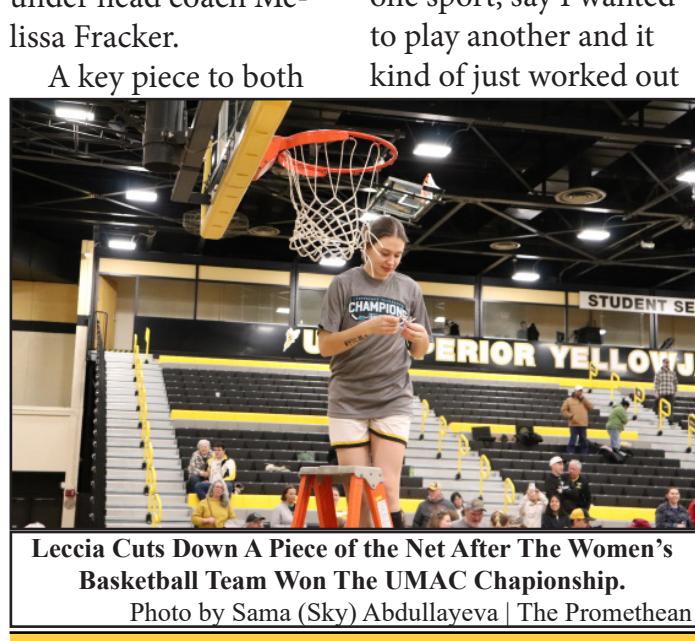


In The 2024 Softball Season MyKenzie Leccia was Named First Team All-UMAC for Softball.

Photo by Holden Law | UWS Athletics

I wasn't flying down with the softball team. So right after basketball I ended up going home so I could make it to the Twin Cities to be on the flight by 5:30 a.m. to get ready for softball so that was just a whole chaotic weekend," said Leccia.

Leccia added that she was hoping they would play a little bit more basketball but was excited to start her softball season. On the softball side Leccia has appeared on the All-UMAC first team as well as the All-UMAC defensive team in the 2024



Leccia Cuts Down A Piece of the Net After The Women's Basketball Team Won The UMAC Championship.

Photo by Sama (Sky) Abdullayeva | The Promethean

Up Next in Sports

Baseball

at North Central (DH)
April 12 (Sat)/ 1 p.m.
Maple Grove, Minn

at North Central
April 13 (Sun)/ 12 p.m.
Maple Grove, Minn

at Macalester
April 14 (Mon)/ 2 p.m.
St. Paul, Minn

at Minnesota Morris
April 18 (Fri)/ 3 p.m.
Glenwood, Minn

at Minnesota Morris
(DH) April 19 (Sat)/ 1 p.m.
Glenwood, Minn

Softball

vs North Central
April 11 (Fri)/ 3:30 p.m.
Superior, Wis

vs North Central (DH)
April 12 (Sat)/ 12 p.m.
Superior, Wis

vs Minnesota Morris
April 17 (Thu)/ 3:30 p.m.
Superior, Wis

vs Minnesota Morris
(DH) April 18 (Fri)/ 11 a.m.
Superior, Wis

at UW-Eau Claire (DH)
April 23 (Wed)/ 5 p.m.
Eau Claire, Wis

Track and Field

St. Mary's Invite
April 12 (Sat)/ TBA
Winona, Minn

Phil Esten Challenge
April 17 & 18/ La Crosse,
Wis

MSU-Mankato Invitational
April 18 (Sat)/ 2 p.m.
Mankato, Minn

Rider/Bolstorff Invite
April 24 (Thu)/ TBA
St. Paul, Minn

Bulldog Open
April 26 (Sat)/ 12 p.m.
Duluth, Minn

Men's Tennis

at Crown
April 12 (Sat)/ 10 a.m.
St. Bonifacius, Minn

at Martin Luther
April 12 (Sat)/ 3:30 p.m.
New Ulm, Minn

vs Northwestern
April 18 (Fri)/ 11 a.m.
Superior, Wis

vs Bethany Lutheran
April 25 (Fri)/ 1 p.m.
Superior, Wis

at UW-Eau Claire
April 26 (Sat)/ TBA
Eau Claire, Wis

Women's Tennis

at Crown
April 12 (Sat)/ 10 a.m.
St. Bonifacius, Minn

at Martin Luther
April 12 (Sat)/ 3:30 p.m.
New Ulm, Minn

at Minnesota Morris
April 13 (Sun)/ 1:30 p.m.
Morris, Minn

vs Northwestern
April 18 (Fri)/ 11 a.m.
Superior, Wis

vs Bethany Lutheran
April 25 (Fri)/ 1 p.m.
Superior, Wis