

SPORTS

UWS basketball gearing up for seasons

New women’s coach

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior women’s basketball team, ranked second in this year’s Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) coaches preseason poll, and opens its regular season on Friday, Nov. 7 at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minn. and plays its first home game Saturday, Nov. 22, against the MSOE (Milwaukee School of Engineering) Raiders.

The team will be led by new head coach Eveline Parsons, who said she is eager to compete with a group that “rises to every challenge” and is already building strong bonds.

“It has been exciting to see the connections that our players are making with each other, and I am looking forward to growing my relationships with each of them as people,” Parsons said.

She emphasized the importance of

team culture, naming accountability, trust, and togetherness as core values. “At the end of the day, we cannot have success alone, so it is our responsibility to lift those around us up,” she said. “We’re working every day to put the team first and create a level of care that sets us apart.”

Senior Charlotte Ferstl, who plays forward position, said she is excited to play with a mostly new group after “the biggest turnover we have had in a while.” She said the team is “looking forward to proving people wrong” after being picked second in the UMAC coaches poll. Ferstl added that the squad leans on two slogans: “Finish today before tomorrow,” a reminder to live in the moment and push through tough practices or losses, and “I am because we are,” which captures the team’s family-like bond. “Not a single one of us would be where we are without each other...our best friends are our team-

mates, and we would not want it any other way,” Ferstl said.

Senior MyKenzie Leccia, whose position is guard, said she is looking forward to her final season and a strong non-conference schedule that should prepare the Yellowjackets for conference play. “We are going to play at a faster pace than what people expect after losing key players from last year,” Leccia said. She has complete trust and respect for the new coaching staff as they hold the team to a high standard. “They teach, while also making sure we are getting better every day,” she said.

Fans are encouraged to attend games. “Come out and support your UWS women’s basketball team this year!” Leccia said.

Ferstl added, “Thank you for all of your support!”



Women’s Basketball Practice on Nov. 1, at MWC’s Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium.
Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean

New season, new players for the fourth rank men



Men’s Basketball Practice on Oct. 31 at MWC’s Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium.
Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean

The University of Wisconsin-Superior men’s basketball team ranked fourth in this year’s Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) coaches preseason poll and opens its regular season with the NBC Tip-Off Classic at home on Saturday, Nov. 8 and Sunday, Nov. 9.

With a fresh group of 11 newcomers and 10 returners, coach Gregory Polkowski expects continual growth throughout the season and credits the teams progress to its “motor.”

“It’s our togetherness and connection, which we’ve always had...I use the word ‘motor,’ that we come with every day...it’s the details, it’s the intangibles that we really put our hands around and embrace every day,” Polkowski said. The players’ comments back that up.

Junior Rocco Paulson, who plays center position, said he is ready to “step into a bigger and more solid role this year” after the graduation

of core players, and he welcomed the opportunity to prove the roster’s depth.

“We are definitely going to surprise people this year,” Paulson said, adding that the team’s chemistry is at “an all-time high.”

He points to the time spent together both on and off the court, and said those interactions are all “positive and backed with love.”

Junior Andrew Beers, who plays forward position, emphasized how shared goals keep the group aligned. “We set high standards for ourselves this season, and we talked about using adversity to benefit us in the long run,” he said, noting that the team “has been very connected from day one.”

Senior Evan Bennett, who plays a guard position, said the season is a chance to solidify as a team and elevate its play. “We’ve got a great mix of talent and energy...the process of coming together, having fun

and winning games along the way is what makes it so exciting,” he said.

Like his teammates, Bennett stressed friendship, strong communication, and shared goals as the team’s foundation. “We’re lucky to do this every day with our best friends...we’re a cohesive unit built on trust and unselfish play, where everyone’s individual talent feeds into the bigger picture.”

Players praised the coaching staff’s approachability and support, saying their passion and care for players on and off the court have made the experience enjoyable. Fans can see it for themselves at games and tournaments this season.

“The fans make a huge difference for our team, and we like to feed off their energy,” Beers said.

“Catch as many games as you can and make sure to take a peek down at my socks. They are sure to impress!” Paulson added.

From on the Court to Behind the Camera

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While University of Wisconsin-Superior’s soccer team goalkeeper Baylee Nygard spends a fair amount of time on the field practicing, you can also find her on the court behind the camera.

She’s constantly on the go between classes during the day and practice following right after. Nygard has other hobbies including videography and live streaming.

One of the ways to participate in this hobby is employment

through UWS’ Yellowjacket Athletic’s programs for sports and programs like Yellowjacket TV where Nygard’s livestreams are played. While streaming games like basketball and being a student athlete at a small campus like UWS, she’s bound to find someone she knows between friends from classes or roommates.

“It’s nice to see some familiar faces during sporting events,” said Baylee Nygard.

Working with the Yellowjacket Athletics, Nygard has had many opportunities in the

field of sports videography and photography. After finishing her studies at UWS, Nygard intends to go into the field of sports videography.

While being a student athlete and trying to cover the games, Nygard still finds time in her busy schedule to participate in other hobbies like reading dystopian books similar to The Hunger Games.

If a student wants to get involved with Yellowjacket TV, you can reach out to Holden Law, the creative manager at UWS at hlaw@uwsuper.edu.



Headshot of Baylee Nygard Taken on Oct. 31.
Photo by Hannah Hutton | Promethean

Up Next in Sports

Women’s Basketball	Men’s Basketball		Women’s Hockey	Men’s Hockey
at Carleton Nov. 8 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Northfield, Minn.	vs Marion (NBC Tip-Off Classic) Nov. 8 (Sat) 5:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.		at Beloit Nov. 21 (Fri) 6:00 p.m. Janesville, Wis.	at St. Olaf Nov. 8 (Sat) 7:00 p.m. Platteville, Wis.
at St. Scholastica Nov. 12 (Wed) 7:00 p.m. Duluth, Minn.	Consolation/Championship (NBC Tip-Off Classic) Nov. 9 (Sun) 4:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.		at UW-Stevens Point Nov. 22 (Sat) 2:00 p.m. Stevens Point, Wis.	vs St. Scholastica Nov. 14 (Fri) 7:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.
at Hamline Nov. 15 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. St. Paul, Minn.	at Carroll Gabe Miller Classic Nov. 14 (Fri) 5:00 p.m. Platteville, Wis.		vs St. Scholastica Nov. 25 (Tues) 7:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.	at Bethel Nov. 15 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.
vs MSOE Nov. 22 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.	at Coe Gabe Miller Classic Nov. 15 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. Platteville, Wis.		at St. Norbert Nov. 29 (Sat) 7:00 p.m. De Pere, Wis.	at UW-Eau Claire Nov. 21 (Fri) 7:00 p.m. Eau Claire, Wis.
at Macalester Nov. 25 (Tues) 7:00 p.m. St. Paul, Minn.			vs UW-Eau Claire Dec. 6 (Sat) 2:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.	vs UW-Stevens Point Nov. 22 (Sat) 7:00 p.m. Superior, Wis.