SPORTS

Peterson rewrites UWS record books

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Freshman Kyle Peterson has wasted no time making history for the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UW-Superior) men's track and field team.

In his collegiate debut, Peterson broke the program record in the 60-meter hurdles twice at the College of St. Scholastica Early Bird meet on Dec. 14, 2025. He ran an 8.46 in the preliminary round, then followed with an 8.39 later that day, surpassing the previous record of 8.56 seconds.

Peterson continued to lower his mark at the Warren Bowlus Invite on Jan. 31, 2026, clocking an 8.36. His excitement was unmistakable. "I was super hyped…people on the other side of the track could probably hear me," Peterson said.

Peterson, who competes in both hurdling and sprints, is currently ranked No. 46 overall in NCAA Division III and was named Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) men's indoor track and field Athlete of the Week on Feb. 3.

The rising star from Brainerd, Minn. began running track in sixth grade after spending his early years racing classmates for fun. He was officially introduced to the sport at his older sister's meet. "When I saw that there was a sport just purely about running and racing, I was hooked," he said. After trying several events, Peterson found his niche in hurdling, which eventually led him to UW-Superior.

Peterson hopes to become a seventh- or eighth-grade math teacher. He explored other Division II and Division III programs, but the small campus environment and strong education program helped steer him toward UW-Superior. His conversations with head coach Glen Drexler solidified the decision. "He was very personable compared to other coaches that I talked to," Peterson said.

Peterson said the team culture has been one of the best transitions from high school to college. "Every single person knows each other, every single person can talk to each other," he said.

He credited Drexler with improving his sprint work and hurdle coach Dale Flankey with refining his technique. "He's been helping me fix the small stuff that I've been struggling with for a pretty long time," he said.

Drexler said Peterson's early success has not come as a surprise. "We recruited him because we knew he was talented, so we knew he was going to be strong for us," Drexler said. He added that continued strength development and technical refinement will be key to Peterson's growth. "Those are the things that will help bring him further along," he said, noting that Peterson is already "borderline national caliber."

Looking ahead, Peterson hopes to continue lowering his personal records, win the UMAC title in the 60-meter hurdles and qualify for nationals next year. As the outdoor season approaches, he also aims to break the school record in the 110-meter hurdles and claim the conference title in that event. He said the longer race plays to his strengths. "I don't slow down," Peterson said.

Kyle Peterson jumping a hurdle at practice at Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse on Feb. 4.
Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean

Yellowjacket tennis teams ranked first, seniors reflect

Women's tennis practice in Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse on Feb. 3.
Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean

Junior tennis player Kate Jonas practicing her serve at Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse on Feb. 3.
Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean

Women excited and grateful as final season begins

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The coaches' pre-season poll was released by the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) on Jan. 14, and the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS) women's tennis team led the Northern Division of the UMAC with 25 points. They received five first-place votes from their conference competitors.

Top returners include the sophomore duo Anouk Bluemm and Elif Oezen. Bluemm had eight wins in singles and five more in doubles action, while Oezen had sixteen wins in singles and nine wins in doubles play. The third top returner is Andreina Tejada; she logged a singles record of 7-5 while adding three doubles wins last season.

Tejada is one of three seniors looking forward to their last season with the Yellowjackets. Tejada wrote: "Being part of the tennis team for these four years was an incredible experience. I learned not only how to play tennis as part of a team, but also how to grow both athletically and academically. It was a great opportunity to showcase my skills and passion for the sport, and I am truly grateful for it."

Hailey Bault, another senior, wrote about how she had a great experience with the UWS tennis team. While this is her last season, she's excited about her future and what comes next. "Tennis is a lifelong sport, so I don't see this as the end. If that makes sense," Bault wrote. "However, I will miss being with my teammates and playing towards a greater objective."

Being her last season, Bault plans to give it her all. "I'm going to make the most of this season and give it all I've got but my main priority is to take nothing for granted and to just have fun and enjoy it before it's over," she wrote.

Men planning future legacy entering final season

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The coaches' preseason poll was released by the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) on Jan. 14, and the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS) men's tennis team led the Northern Division with 16 points and four first-place votes from their conference competitors.

Returning top rankers are senior Igor Guetten Chaves, a Two-time UMAC Player of the Year and Two-time First-team All-Conference award winner. As well as the junior team of Yash Chhabra and Sharan Kanugovi. Chhabra had seven single victories and four double wins, while his partner Kanugovi had nine singles victories and five doubles wins.

According to the UWS Athletics website, the Yellowjackets commence the spring portion of their season Friday, Feb. 13 where they take on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Lawerence.

Seniors Mateo Abarca Pino, Blake Haugen, and Vitor Sakakibara wrote comments about their last tennis season.

Abraca expressed how he wants to dedicate this year to reflecting on where he's come from and recognizing all that he's achieved. "So, I can truly be proud of what I've accomplished both on and off the court," he wrote.

Haugen wrote: "I am excited for my senior season of tennis at UW-Superior! I want to bring the highest level of tennis that I can to every practice. Even if it's not to play in the lineup, I can help the younger guys improve."

Haugen has been coaching tennis to children in the area to make sure the future Yellowjackets know the fundamentals. As well as representing the men's tennis team in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

"To summarize my time on the team in just a few sentences doesn't do it justice. I've made some great memories and some great friends as well, and even though I will leave Superior, those memories will stay with me," Haugen wrote.

Sakakibara wrote: "It's a weird feeling to know that this is my last season at UWS. It feels like these last few years went by too fast, but I'm glad to play tennis while attending college." He also wrote that he and the other seniors are determined to finish their career winning the UMAC.

Yellowjackets head coach CeeJay Schaffner talking to his team during practice in Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse on Feb. 9.
Photo by Emily Tews | Promethean

Senior Yellowjacket tennis player Igor Guetten Chaves practicing hitting in Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse on Feb. 9.
Photo by Emily Tews | Promethean