

SPORTS

UWS opens Dan Conway Track with historic meet

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UW-Superior made history on April 25, hosting its first-ever outdoor track and field meet at Superior Choice Credit Union Stadium.

The Dan Conway Classic is named in honor of UWS Hall of Famer Dan Conway, with the stadium's track dedicated to his name in Aug. 2025. Conway was a longtime coach and mentor who spent decades shaping the program and inspiring generations of student-athletes.

The meet welcomed teams from Minnesota-Duluth, St. Scholastica and Bemidji State, along with unattached competitors. Under head coach Glen Drexler, the Yellowjackets delivered a strong showing, capturing multiple first-place finishes.

Both the men's and women's 4x100m

relay teams took the top spot, with the women finishing in 51.12 and the men in 43.41. Freshman Kyle Peterson continued his record-breaking season, winning the 110-meter hurdles in 14.62—marking the second time he has broken the outdoor school record and the sixth record of his freshman year.

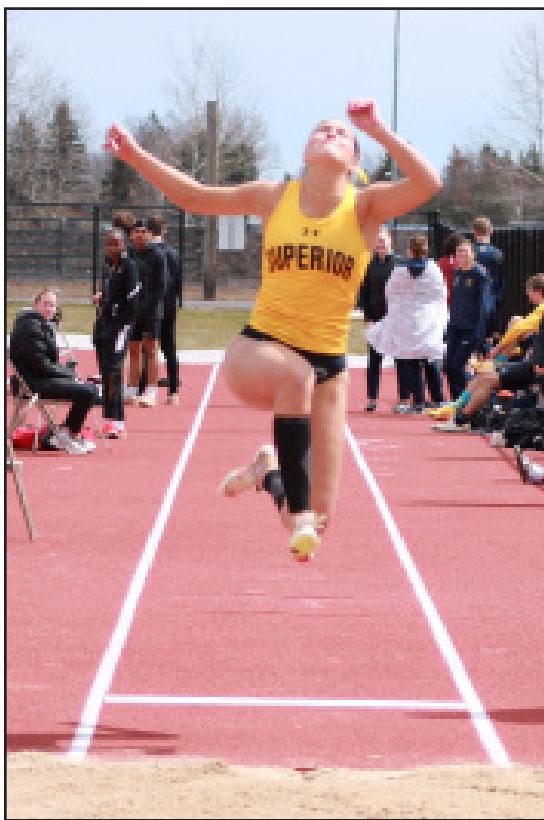
Additional wins came from Edward Hakanson in the men's 100-meter dash (11.32), Kayela Putnam (3.05m) and Rene Sems (4.20m) in the pole vault, and Maddie Reott (5.23m) in the long jump. The women's 4x400m relay also secured a first-place finish, clocking a 4:26.03.

This historic meet marked a new era for Yellowjacket track and field, with UWS set to host the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships on May 1 and 2.



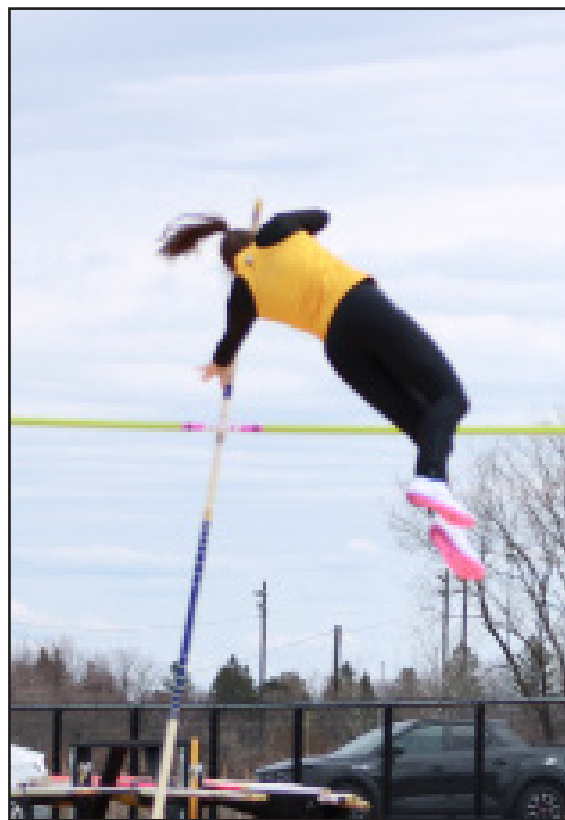
Carlos Beckstrand high jumping during the Dan Conway Classic held at the Superior Choice Credit Union Stadium on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean



Aylie Dahl doing long jumps at the Dan Conway Classic outdoor track and field meet on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean



Keira Hesseldahl pole vaulting at Superior Choice Credit Union Stadium during the Dan Conway Classic on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean



Kyle Peterson setting the school record for the outdoor 110-meter hurdles on the Dan Conway Track for the first ever meet on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean

Bennett continues to thrive

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Sophomore player Peyton Bennett has quickly become a driving force for Yellowjacket softball. After earning Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year honors in 2025, she has continued to make her mark this season.

Bennett hails from Harrisburg, South Dakota, where she began playing softball in second grade.



Peyton Bennett up to bat at the NBC Sports Complex in double-header against Crown on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean

She started in a recreational league before joining the Renegades, one of the top club programs in the state. It was there that she realized she wanted to compete at the collegiate level. Head Coach Melissa Fracker discovered Bennett's talent at a tournament and later recruited her to UWS.

Following her standout freshman season, in which she posted a .421 batting average and a .857 in the field, Bennett entered this year focused on enjoying the game rather than trying to exceed expectations. "It's going to be hard to outdo myself, but I just kind of realized, now it's time to have fun," Bennett said. "Last year, I came into it with really no expectations, and then I ended up doing great because I didn't put too much pressure on myself."

Her growth has been especially noticeable on defense. Bennett said she felt nervous in the field as a freshman but has since gained confidence. "Last year I was very nervous on the field. I was like, 'oh no, they might hit the ball to me.' This year, I'm like, 'hit the ball to me,'" she said. That improvement is evident as she finished the regular season with a .977 fielding percentage.

Fracker pointed to Bennett's attitude and passion as defining traits. "That type of competitiveness is not something that can be taught, and that as well as her passion for the game is clear to anyone that has a chance to watch her play," she said.

Apart from statistics, Bennett has developed into a leader. "She has grown even more as a leader this year, finally feeling comfortable as a sophomore to set the pace of practice, picking up teammates when necessary, and all around being the player people look to on and off the field," Fracker said.

Off the field, Bennett has found a better balance as a student-athlete. She is involved in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is majoring in legal studies, where she has also been exploring opportunities with the university's pre-law society. She said those experiences have helped her build stronger connections on campus. "Last year I felt like softball was kind of all I had," Bennett said. "This year has been a lot more fun. I have a lot more friends."



Peyton Bennett talking to teammates in the outfield during game against Crown on April 25.

Photo by Abby Hoffman | Promethean

Bennett said her parents motivate her to persevere. "I feel happy when I'm successful because they're happy," she said. "So, I'm making them proud." As she continues to establish herself within the UWS community, her impact is expected to continue growing. "Peyton is poised for a wonderful career at UWS and will do spectacular things when she graduates," Fracker said.

Pure Blitz: Women victorious in flag football

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Intramural flag football at UW-Superior welcomed its first all-women's team, Blitz. The roster consisted of players from the women's basketball team, giving them an opportunity to bond in the offseason.

Blitz earned its first win on April 28, defeating its opponent 30-27 in a tight game. The energy was high throughout, with sophomore Sydney Crawford saying, "we had to hit some cellies on them," capturing the team's excitement.

Moments like this show how campus recreation brings people together through competition and creates lasting memories.



Hope Carlson receiving a throw in flag football on April 30.

Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean



Blitz team captain Colleen Claude in action during flag football game at the SCCU stadium on April 30.

Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean