

The Scorecard

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT SPORTS SECTION OF THE ADVANCE-TITAN

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atitan@uwosh.edu



Swim begins season

By Angela Satterlee
sattea08@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh swim and dive team kicked off its 2023-24 season Sept. 18. Under the leadership of head coach Christopher Culp, assistant swim coach Charles Sommer and dive coach Amy McQuillan, this year's team is stronger in numbers in both the men's and women's teams.

Women's swim and dive team increased from 10 to 21 members and the men's swim and dive team increased from 11 to 20 members.

Last year was Sommer's first full year as assistant coach and he set out on a mission to increase the number of members on each team to at least 20 to increase the team's chances at placing higher in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championships.

Last year, the men's and women's swim and dive teams, placed fifth overall in the WIAC Championships. Diver Abbi Priestley placed first overall in the one-meter and second in the three-meter. Swimmer Francesca Schiro broke four school records, including both the 100 and 200 freestyle events twice. CJ Willert broke the 200 backstroke record, Cadence Showalter broke the records for the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 butterfly.

The swim coaches made a pact that if the teams as a whole broke five school records they would shave their heads, so the teams made that happen.

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Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO's Sami Perlberg spikes the ball over the net in a match against the University of Texas at Dallas earlier this season.

Volleyball remains unbeaten

By Nolan Andler
andlerno63@uwosh.edu

The undefeated UW Oshkosh volleyball team took part in the UW-Whitewater Invitational Sept. 15-16, improving to 13-0 after defeating Transylvania University (Kentucky), the University of Northwestern (Minnesota) and a sweep over the College of Saint Benedict (Minnesota).

With nine digs against the Pioneers on Sept. 15, Amelia Hust became the newest member of UWO's 1,000 digs club. As of Sept. 16 Hust currently sits at 1,020 career digs.

UWO, ranked No. 3 in this week's American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll swept No. 16 Transylvania with set scores of 27-25, 25-23 and 25-16 to earn its 11th straight win and its second sweep over a

ranked opponent to start the season.

Freshman Sami Perlberg continued her great start to her career, leading the team with 14 kills on 32 attacks. Izzy Coon and Kalli Mau both recorded double digit assists each, with Coon recording 23 and Mau recording 15. Hust recorded nine aces and Coon led the team with three.

In the first set, the Titans fell behind 19-15 but were able to control the damage and go on 5-1 run to tie the set at 20-20. Perlberg and Riley Dahlquist each recorded two kills in the run to tie it. After the first set, it was tied 20-20. The set remained close until UWO took advantage of two errors by the Pioneers and won the first set 27-25.

It was tied 3-3 early in the second set, but the Titans used a 9-4 run to pull away to a 12-7 lead.

Transylvania was able to close the gap to 21-20 late. UWO was able to open the gap back up to a 23-20 lead thanks to two more kills from Perlberg and that cushion allowed the Titans to close out the set 25-23.

The third set was again close to start but ended up being all Oshkosh. The teams traded points at first, eventually tying up at 9-9. After that, the Titans pulled away thanks to another 9-4 run. This time, UWO did not allow Transylvania to make it close, as the Titans closed out the match with a 25-16 set win. Robyn Kirsch hit the game winning kill.

The Titans had a tight battle against the No. 6 Eagles in their second straight game against a ranked opponent. UWO won the match 3-2, putting up set scores of 25-23, 21-25, 25-27, 25-22 and 15-8.

In the comeback win over Northwestern, UWO came back from a 2-1 set deficit to send it to the fifth set. In the final set, the Titans opened with a 10-2 run on the way to a big 3-2 win. It was an evenly matched game with the Titans holding a 64-62 advantage in total kills, along with 61-54 advantage in assists, 9-4 in aces and 82-77 in digs.

Riley Kindt led the team with 14 kills and a .281 kill percentage on 32 attempts. Perlberg also had a big part in the win with 12 kills. Coon set a career high with 32 assists and Abby Fregien notched 18 digs.

In the second game of the day, against Saint Benedict, the Titans had an easier time, sweeping the Bennies 3-0 with set scores of 25-12, 25-19 and 25-23.

Turn to **Volleyball** / Page 2

Titans rebound with win over ETBU

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Quarterback Kobe Berghammer threw for five passing touchdowns to lead the nationally-ranked UW Oshkosh football team past East Texas Baptist University 60-7 in Marshall, Texas, Sept. 16.

The Titans, ranked No. 22 in the nation by d3football.com, improved to 2-1 after holding the Tigers (1-2) scoreless for the final three quarters and limiting ETBU

to just 135 yards of total offense.

Berghammer finished the game 21-32 with 221 passing yards, 40 rushing yards and no interceptions. UWO running back Kaio Harn was the team's leading rusher, gaining 70 yards on the ground and rushing for his first career touchdown. Harn also caught a 9-yard touchdown pass later in the contest for his first career receiving touchdown for the Titans.

Wideout Jon Mathieu also scored his first career touchdown

for the Titans, finishing the contest with three receptions for 72 yards and a touchdown reception.

Mathieu said it was an amazing moment to score his first touchdown as a Titan.

"In the moment it felt pretty surreal and I'd say it was a pretty awesome feeling," Mathieu said. "Just seeing all that work pay off in one play, it was a realization for me and it was a really awesome moment."

Turn to **Football** / Page 3



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO running back Doug Burson runs past a defender Sept. 2.

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Tennis falls to UWL

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Soccer ties Carthage

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Golf places 12th

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Titans travel Europe

The Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048
Email: atitan@uwosh.edu
Website: www.advancetitan.com
Facebook: @theadvancetitan
Twitter: @atitan
Instagram: @theadvancetitan

Editor-in-Chief
Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor
Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager
Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

Sports Editors
Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Nolan Swenson
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor Willem Flaughter
flaugw05@uwosh.edu

Web Editor
Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Chief
Kyiah Nelson
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Graphic Designers
Michael Buckner
cobbb32@uwosh.edu

Reporters
Brandon Cobb, Alexis Schaefer, Frankie Kerkof, Nolan Aandler, Tony Beyer, Owen Larsen, Emily Buffington

Copy Editors
Angela Satterlee, Alvaro Rivera, Ella Rider

Photographers
Morgan Feltz, Jaylen Hill, Megan McDowell

Satire Editors
Douglas Newhouse
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu
Max Rinn
rinnm57@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser Barb Benish
benish@uwosh.edu

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Volleyball: UWO a perfect 14-0 so far

From Page 1

Kindt again led the team with 14 kills and a .520 kill percentage on 25 attempts. Maddy Pearson had herself a great game, recording seven kills along with Mau who registered 22 assists. Fregien paced both teams with 12 digs. UWO led in nearly every stat over the Bennies with a 42-33 advantage in kills along with a 40-32 advantage in aces, 6-2 advantage in aces and a 47-46 advantage in digs.

Coon and Kindt were named to the All-Tournament Team for their performances across the three games over the last two days. Jenna Weinfurt and Kirsten Anderson represented UW-Whitewater, Suzanne Klosterman represented Transylvania University, Mackenzie Knofczynski represented Saint Benedict, Jasmine Sells represented Washington University and Abby Glazner represented Northwestern.

Oshkosh opened the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) season with a sweep over UW-Whitewater on Sept. 20.

The win was not only UWO's first against the Warhawks since Sept. 23, 2015, but also the Titans' first sweep over UWW since Nov. 5, 1994.

UWO, staying at No. 3 in this week's American Coaches Volleyball Association poll swept the No. 7 ranked Warhawks with



Courtesy of UWO Athletics
The Titan volleyball team celebrates after a point against MSOE Sept. 9 at the Kolf Sports Center.

set scores of 25-22, 25-23 and 25-17 to earn its 14th straight win and its third sweep over a ranked opponent this season. Previously, the Titans swept then-ranked No. 2 Trinity University on Sept. 2 and the second being against then-ranked No. 16 Transylvania University on Sept. 15.

Kindt and Hannah Moe led the team in kills with both recording 10 on 19 total attempts, respectively. Coon and Mau both respectively recorded double digit assists, with Coon recording 22 and Mau recording 17. Coon and Dahlquist both recorded 2 aces.

The first set was all about runs, with the Titans jumped out to an early 10-3 lead thanks to four kills from Perlberg. But the Warhawks were able to tie it up at 11-11 with an 8-1 run of their own. After that it was back and forth, until UWO opened the lead back up late in the set and won set one 25-22.

In set two, the Titans jumped out to a 5-2 lead to start the set. And held the lead for most of the way until UWW took its first lead of the set at 22-21. UWO didn't let the Warhawks get away, tying the set back up at 22-22 and going on a 4-1 run to win the second set 25-23. Kindt

led the team in the run with two kills and the set-winning ace.

In the third set, UWO again jumped out to an early lead but this time they did not relinquish the lead. The Titans put together a 10-6 lead to start the set and cruised to a 25-16 set win. Kirsch hit the game winning kill.

The Titans go back on the road Sept. 22 for the two-day UW-Stevens Point Invitational. They will face Ripon College and Aurora University (Illinois) at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., respectively. Then UWO will face North Central College (Illinois) at 11 a.m. on Sept 23.

Titans tennis team falls to La Crosse

By Emily Buffington
buffie63@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women's tennis team fell 9-0 to UW-La Crosse Sept. 16 in the Titans' opening match in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Conference (WIAC) season. The match, previously scheduled to take place at Green Island Tennis Park, was moved to UWL's Fieldhouse due to weather conditions.

UW-La Crosse (3-1, 1-1 WIAC) swept six singles matches and all three of the doubles contests against UWO (2-2, 0-2 WIAC).

In the No.1 doubles match, Eagles Shelby Roth and Hannah Cady outscored Olivia Pethan and Alysa Pattee 8-2. In doubles No. 2, Titans Ella Nguyen and Courtney Carpenter fell to Tasha Bailey and Lauren Lindow

8-2. Titans Jameson Gregory and Kayla Gibbs fought to the end but were outscored by Maia Samuelson and Isabelle Brinkman 8-6 in doubles No. 3.

In singles match No.1, Bailey defeated Pethan (6-0, 6-2), Lindow swept Pattee in No. 2 singles with scores of 6-0, 6-0. In No. 3 singles, Nguyen fell to Roth with scores of 6-4, 6-1, Gregory battled hard but lost the No. 4 singles match (7-5, 6-4), Jenna Noble was defeated in the No. 5 matchup against Kate Townsend (6-1, 6-0), and Gibbs claimed the first of three sets in No. 6 singles with a score of 6-2 but dropped the following sets 6-0, and 10-7, eventually losing to Emma Heintert.

Titans return home against St. Norbert College Sept. 23. UWO is 26-8 against the Green Knights since their first meeting in 1985.



Courtesy of Jim Lund
The Titans fell to UW-La Crosse on the road 9-0 Sept. 16.

Swim: Oshkosh dives into fresh season

From Page 1

"The recruits will do an overnight and the team will come up to me and tell me 'oh, they are really great' or 'I don't think this is the right type of person for us,' he said.

Both coaches are looking forward to the fast-approaching new season with a brand new team.

"Nothing beats just being on the pool deck and actually coaching," Sommer said. "That is one of the most rewarding parts of the job. I truly look forward to our first practice."

McQuillan said that she's looking forward to the upcoming season.

"I look forward to picking

up where we left off as a diving group last year and watching the team progress its skills throughout this season."

The swim and dive team hosts the Alumni Meet every year where former UWO swimmers and divers come to Albee Pool to compete in an unofficial meet. This year it is on Oct. 7. The first official swim and dive meet is Oct. 14, at UW-Eau Claire.

Swim Schedule

Oct. 14 -- at UW-Eau Claire
Oct. 21 -- at Wisconsin Showcase Invite
Oct. 28 -- VS. Carroll Univ.
Nov. 4. -- VS. Whitewater
Nov. 11 at Laurence Univ.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics
UWO sophomore Abbi Priestley dives into Albee Pool last season.

Sports



Scoreboard

Friday, Sept. 15

Volleyball
UWO - 3
Transylvania University - 0

Saturday, Sept. 16

Volleyball
Game 1:
UWO - 3
University of Northwestern (Minn.) - 2
Game 2:
UWO - 3
College of Saint Benedict (Minn.) - 0
Football
UWO - 60
East Texas Baptist University - 7
Soccer
UWO - 1
Carthage College - 1
Tennis
UWO - 0
UW-La Crosse - 9

Sunday, Sept. 17

Women's Golf
UWO - 12/16, 338-344 — 682

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Volleyball
UWO - 3
UW-Whitewater - 0
Soccer
UWO - 0
University of Chicago - 5

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 22

Volleyball
vs. Ripon College at 3 p.m. & Aurora University (Ill.) at 5 p.m. at UW-Stevens Point Invitational
Soccer
at Kalamazoo College (Mich.) at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Volleyball
vs. North Central College (Ill.) at 11 a.m. at UW-Stevens Point Invitational
Tennis
vs. St. Norbert College at 11 a.m.
Soccer
at Albion College (Mich.) at 4 p.m.
Women's Golf
at UW-La Crosse Fall Invitational at 1 p.m.
Cross-Country
at UW-Platteville Gender Equity Invitational at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 24

Women's Golf
at UW-La Crosse (Iowa) Fall Invitational at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Volleyball
vs. UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m.

A-Trivia

What UWO QB holds the record for most touchdown passes in a career?

Answer: Brett Kasper threw for 89 passing touchdowns from 2014-17.



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

Oshkosh's Tijs Santiago intercepts the ball on just the sixth play of the game against ETBU Sept. 16. Santiago recorded three tackles.

Football: UWO routs Tigers 60-7

From Page 1

"In the moment it felt pretty surreal and I'd say it was a pretty awesome feeling," Mathieu said. "Just seeing all that work pay off in one play, it was a realization for me and it was a really awesome moment."

Clayton Schwalbe and Avery Kurth also finished the game with receiving touchdowns for Oshkosh.

UWO's offense accumulated 476 yards of total offense including 269 total passing yards and 207 total rushing yards. The Titans controlled the ball with authority, gaining 26 first downs, leading the time of possession by almost 10 minutes and finishing the game 10-17 on third down.

The entire starting offensive line, which did not allow a sack during the game, was named to d3football.com's Team of the Week Sept. 19 for UWO's offensive performance against ETBU.

Defensively, the Titans had a combined 75 total tackles, eight sacks, 12 tackles for loss and two interceptions. UWO held ETBU to just 12 first downs, 34 rushing yards and 101 passing yards. Sophomore linebacker Kyle Dietzen had a team-high 11 tackles to go along with three tackles for loss and a sack. Tijs Santiago and Justin Tenpas each had an interception and combined for three tackles and a sack.

Mathieu said the biggest differ-

ence between the win over ETBU and last week's loss to Wheaton College (Illinois) is that the Titans were much more physical than in previous weeks.

"We kind of focused on that during meetings during the week," he said. "We really talked about how getting prepared for this week is being the most physical team on the field and that's something we try to do every single week. I think this week we really saw that on the film afterwards, you could see the other team getting up and not wanting to line back up against us."

Tigers quarterback Cornelius Banks finished the game 10-22 for 101 passing yards, a passing touchdown and two interceptions. Banks finished the contest with eight rushing attempts for -14 yards.

Jaden Thomas was ETBU's leading rusher, running for 23 yards on the ground on eight attempts. Tray-jen Llanas-Wilcox led all Tigers receivers with two catches for 54 yards and a touchdown.

Santiago picked off Banks on ETBU's opening drive, giving the Titans the ball at the Tigers' 12-yard line. It took UWO just three plays to find the back of the endzone after Berghammer found an open Harn for a 9-yard passing touchdown. Schwalbe ran for a two-point conversion on a trick play during the extra point attempt to put Oshkosh up 8-0 early in the first quarter.

Mathieu said he thought the team started a little slow at the beginning of the game but was able to become dominant by the second half.

"I thought starting out, we might've been a little bit slow just because it might've been a long bus ride but when we kind of got in our groove, it was over for them," he said. "We were firing on all cylinders and all sides of the ball. Our defense getting picks, our offensive line going crazy with their blocking and our offense really being able to get the ball everywhere."

After a Tigers three-and-out, UWO drove down the field in eight plays and added another touchdown to the board when Berghammer found a wide-open Mathieu for a 55-yard touchdown. The Titans elected to kick the extra point, increasing UWO's advantage to 15 points.

On their next drive, the Tigers responded with a score after Banks completed a deep pass to Llanas-Wilcox, who ran the rest of the way for a 34-yard touchdown and cut the lead to 15-7 late in the first quarter.

Neither team found the endzone again until late in the second quarter when Titans put together a 51-yard drive ending in a 2-yard passing touchdown from Berghammer to Schwalbe. Just before halftime, UWO drove down the field in 57 seconds and kicker Nolan Mobley

nailed a 30-yard field goal with eight seconds to go in the half to put the Titans on top 25-7 going into the locker room.

The Titans scored on their first possession after halftime off a 20-yard rushing touchdown from Harn, capping off a six-play, 81-yard drive.

Tenpas picked off Banks on ETBU's next possession, setting up another UWO touchdown when Berghammer found Steger for a 6-yard passing touchdown.

After sacking the Tigers on fourth down, the Titans increased their lead to 46-7 after Berghammer completed a short pass to Avery Kurth, who ran into the endzone for a 7-yard touchdown.

UWO added two more rushing touchdowns, one from Steger late in the third quarter and another from backup quarterback Quentin Keene in the fourth quarter, to help the Titans cruise to a 60-7 victory.

The Titans will have a bye week before facing UW-Whitewater (ranked No. 4 in the nation by d3football.com) for Hall of Fame Day Sept. 30 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium starting at 1:05 p.m.

"We talk about the bye week not being an off week," Mathieu said. "We are using this bye week to become the best versions of ourselves. We're focusing on self-improvement so we can be the best team we possibly can be moving forward."

Titans athletic events to be cash only

From Submitted News

All UW Oshkosh home athletic events will be cash only until further notice, the UWO Athletic Department announced Sept. 19.

"We are continuing to work through available ticketing systems to ensure the most efficient and secure way for our fanbase to acquire tickets online," Athletic Director Darryl Sims said. "This aids in ex-

pediting fans' process of gaining access to the venues."

Ticket prices for UWO football games will be \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (65 and older) and \$6 for students (K-12 and non-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference institutions). Students that attend WIAC schools get in free with a valid student ID.

Ticket prices for basketball games will be \$9 for adults, \$7 for

senior citizens (65 and older) and \$5 for students (K-12 and non-WIAC institutions). Students that attend WIAC schools get in free with a valid student ID.

Ticket prices for volleyball, women's soccer, gymnastics, wrestling, swimming & diving, track & field, softball, and baseball events will be \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens (65 and older) and \$3 for students (K-12 and non-WIAC institutions).

Students that attend WIAC schools get in free with a valid student ID.

The concession stands at all sites will be able to accept cards as payment, however there are no ATMs on site. Parking will be free for all events besides football. Tickets will be sold when the ticket window opens. The window opens two hours before football and one hour before all other events.

Sports

UWO soccer draws with Carthage

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women’s soccer team traveled to Art Keller Field in Kenosha on Sept. 16 to face off against Carthage College in a match ending in a 1-1 draw.

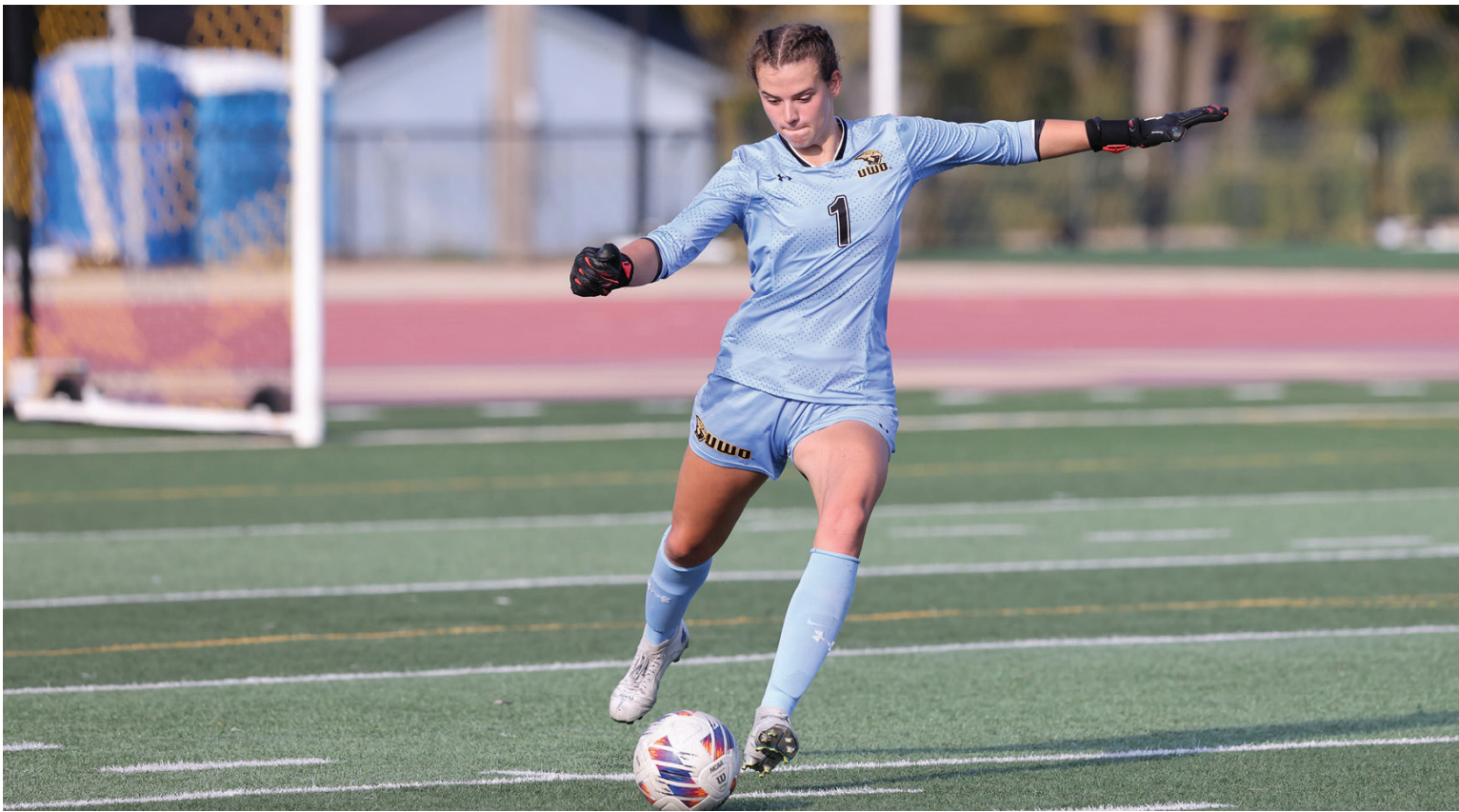
The match started off hot with Carthage forward Amelia Price getting a shot on goal five seconds into the match. The shot was ultimately saved by Oshkosh goalkeeper Emma Sauriol.

The shot by the Firebirds (2-2-2) at the five second mark would be one of two shots for Carthage in the entire first half and their only shot on goal.

However, the Titans (1-3-2) kept applying pressure in the first half by taking six shots with two of them being on goal. UWO’s best scoring chance of the first half came when a 39th minute shot by Gabriella Mattio went off the top of the woodwork.

Carthage returned the favor in the second half by getting two shots on goal in the first 10 minutes of the period, both of which were saved by Sauriol. Finally, on Price’s third shot on goal of the game she found the net and gave Carthage a 1-0 lead in the 59th minute. This would be the last Firebirds shot attempt of the game.

The Titans responded with urgency, tallying two shot attempts and being caught offside twice all within the next 10 minutes.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Oshkosh goalkeeper Emma Sauriol kicks the ball during a match against the University of Chicago Sept. 20 at Titan Stadium.

On UWO’s third shot attempt of the half Molly Jackson found the back of the net on the assists from both Alayna Clark and Mackenzie Stein, equalizing the match at 1-1 in the 73rd minute.

The match would end with UWO tallying three more shots but to no avail, moving the team’s record to 1-3-2.

The Titans outshot Carthage 11-5 during the match however the difference in shots on goal was much slimmer with Oshkosh

having only a 5-4 advantage. UWO also found themselves at a disadvantage with fouls as they were called for a foul 14 times to Carthage’s seven.

UWO fell to the University of Chicago (Illinois) at J. J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium by a score of 5-0 Sept. 20.

The Titans would end up with three shots on goal in the game. Clark had two while Mattio had the other. On defense for the Titans, Sauriol would end the game

with a season-high 10 saves.

Going into halftime, the Titans trailed by a goal after Kaitlyn Gomez scored the Maroons’ first half goal in the 32nd minute. During the second half, UChicago scored four more goals. Hannah Rittenhouse knocked one in during the 47th minute, Mary Stuart Kerrigan scored in the 57th minute, Bella Mahoney reached the scoresheet in the 75th minute and Valerie Champagne scored in the 89th minute,

sealing the game away for the Maroons.

UWO soccer will have a loaded schedule this coming week with three games on the docket. The team will head on a Michigan road trip where they will face Kalamazoo College (Michigan) on Sept. 22 and Albion College (Michigan) on Sept. 23, with both matches kicking off at 4 p.m. in their respective stadiums.

Golf places 12th in Division III Classic

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women’s golf team traveled to Hastings, Minnesota, on Sept. 16 and Sept. 17 where they placed 12th of 16 teams in the Division III Classic, shooting 682 strokes during the two-round event.

After shooting 715 strokes last weekend in the UW-Eau Claire Georgianni Bugold Invitational, UWO improved their final total by 33 strokes.

The Titans returned all five players who competed last weekend in Eau Claire and added sophomore Kylie Herrin for this weekend’s competition.

Junior Sydney Bornhorst continued to build off her improvements from last week and once again set her single-round best at UWO with a score of 86 on the first day of the tournament. Bornhorst followed with a 95

on the second day, giving her a score of 181 for the entire weekend.

Sophomore Taryn Endres tied her UWO career-best single round score on the first day of the event, shooting an 80. The last time Endres shot an 80 for UWO was also at the Emerald Greens Golf Course in Hastings one year ago at the 2022 Division III Classic.

“All of the work on all aspects of the game throughout the summer and practices just seemed to click into place on Saturday (Sept. 16) for a really good round of golf,” Endres said.

Endres finished her weekend shooting an 89, leaving her with a score of 169 for the entire invite. Her overall score was tied for 47th out of 104 golfers and tied for the best score for UWO.

Tying Endres for the best UWO score of the weekend was Herrin, who made her season de-

but. Herrin crushed her previous UWO career-best single round score of 92 with a score of 86 on the first day of the tournament and an 83 on the next day.

Other notable performances this weekend include junior Josie Hofer who shot a 172 and senior Alyssa Dreher who shot a 170 for the weekend. These scores placed the two in 54th and 59th place overall, respectively, on the weekend.

“We are headed in the right direction,” Endres said. “I think we have to keep putting in the work and eventually we will find our rhythm.”

Head coach Tyler Cassmeyer was not able to attend this weekend’s invite as he was married on Sept. 16.

The Titans will resume action next weekend on Sept. 23 and 24 in the UW-La Crosse Fall Invitational at The Golf Club at Cedar Creek in Onalaska.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO’s Taryn Endres chips the ball at the Division III Classic.

UWO to try to break record

The UW Oshkosh volleyball team will host Community Night on Sept. 26 at Kolf Sports Center when they host Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) rival UW-Stevens Point.

The Titans will invite local school and club volleyball families, UW Oshkosh Athletic Department sponsors, and the local community to their match against the Pointers

in an effort to create a deeper connection with the community and attempt to break the NCAA Division III volleyball regular season attendance record that was set when Hope College (Michigan) defeated Calvin University (Michigan) at home on Oct. 18, 2013.

“More girls now play volleyball than any other female team sport in the country,” Head volleyball coach

Jon Ellmann said on Sept. 20. “It’s an honor to host an event that brings our community together to celebrate Titan student-athletes.”

Fans will gain free attendance courtesy of the UW-Oshkosh volleyball program. Mini volleyballs will also be distributed during the match.

UWO Hall of Fame

Tickets to the UW Oshkosh Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on Oct. 1 are still available for purchase.

The banquet will be held at the Culver Family Welcome Center. The event includes a social at 9:15 a.m., breakfast at 10 a.m. and an induction ceremony at 10:45 a.m.

Tickets to the banquet are \$25 each (aged 5 and older). Tickets will

be sold until 3 p.m. Sept. 25 and will not be available for purchase after the deadline or at the event. Purchased tickets will be available for pick up at the banquet.

The 2023 induction class features Holly Cappelle, Ann Marie Caruso, David Christman, Natalie DeMichei, Mike Gasper, Chris Hansman, Derek Kasten, Nate Wara, Kerrie Washburn and Jen Young.

Sports



The UWO men’s basketball team poses with Czech basketball team Sokol Prazsky after an exhibition game between the two teams over the summer in Prague. Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO basketball tours Europe

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

For some students, summer is a time to travel and gain new experiences before heading back to the grueling grind of college life. This was true for the UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team this summer, but the reigning Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champs continued the grind of the offseason by playing three games in three separate countries.

“We have been very fortunate to participate in two recent foreign trips at UWO – 2016 to Italy and 2019 to Spain,” UWO head men’s basketball coach Matt Lewis said when the trip to Europe was announced in June of last year. “Both of our previous two trips proved to be a formative experience for our team. It helped build bonds that would carry over to the locker room and court as well as years to come for our alumni.”

NCAA rules state that foreign trips grant teams 10 additional practice dates leading up to their departure, something that Lewis says is an invaluable opportunity to practice together during a time in the year where Division III programs are not typically able to have athletically related contact.

The team spent 11 days in Europe, participating in scrimmages against local teams in the Czech Republic, Germany and France while discovering the ever-evolving basketball culture across the pond.

The first stop of the trip, which began May 30, brought the Titans to Prague, Czech Republic, where UWO practiced with and took on local pro-basketball team Sokol Prazsky. The Czech squad plays in the 1. Liga, the second division of Czech basketball just below the top-tier National Basketball League.

Like most European countries, the Czech Republic has a system of basketball leagues that is very

similar to the structure of soccer leagues in most parts of the world. Teams can get relegated and promoted between different leagues depending on how they finish in the final standings. In the Czech Republic for example, teams can either play in the NBL or the 1. Liga depending on how they finished the previous season. The top two teams in the 1. Liga are promoted to the NBL whereas the bottom-two teams in the NBL are relegated to the 1. Liga.

Since its first season in 1995, Sokol Prazsky has played every season in the 1. Liga, but the team has sent many players and coaches to top European clubs and the Czech national team.

UWO played hard against Sokol Prazsky in the scrimmage, but the Czechs ended up being too much for the Titans to handle in the first game of their 11-day trip.

According to senior guard Will Mahoney, one of the biggest challenges UWO faced was the difference in international rules versus NCAA rules.

“We learned quickly that not all rules are the same as they are in the U.S.,” Mahoney said. “Only three people can be in on a defensive free throw rebound. Also if it’s a side-out inbounds pass, you can’t enter it in the back court.”

Lewis said International Basketball Federation (Fédération internationale de basketball in French, commonly known as FIBA) rules aren’t drastically different that the NCAA’s, but it was still a big adjustment for the team.

“There is a shorter shot clock in FIBA basketball and some smaller nuances that come into play,” Lewis said. “It is a very physical style of basketball in the lane and near the basket. Our team really enjoyed playing with the FIBA rules.”

Despite the challenges, Mahoney said playing a basketball game in a foreign country was a really cool experience.

“The atmosphere reminded

me so much of the World Cup,” he said. “Their fans were blowing horns, banging on drums and smashing the wooden bleachers to make noise. It was nothing short of loud. The style of play is very different as well. They played scrappy and chippy, but pushed the ball a lot in transition.”

“The best atmosphere was at our game in Prague,” Lewis said. “Many of the youth members of their club attended and brought a ton of energy to the environment.”

The second location in UWO’s European vacation was Berlin, Germany, where the team competed against Alba Berlin Under 19 (U19) team, a junior team of Alba Berlin that competes in the Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), the highest-tier of German basketball.

Alba Berlin was established in 1991 and also competes in the EuroLeague, a yearly tournament that features the best basketball teams in Europe (very similar to soccer’s UEFA Champions League). The club is most famous for being the first German basketball team to ever beat a defending NBA champion, after the Albatrosse took down the San Antonio Spurs in 2014. The most-well known players to have played for Alba Berlin are Wendell Alexis, who was drafted by the Golden State Warriors in 1986, and Henrik Rodl, who won an NCAA championship with North Carolina University in 1993.

The Titans defeated Alba Berlin’s U19 team in the second scrimmage of the trip, improving to 1-1 against their European foes.

Sophomore forward Jacob Townsend said the game in Berlin was a great confidence booster for the squad.

“We were still acclimating ourselves to the nuances and slightly different rules of European basketball, but things went smoothly, and we played comfortably,” Townsend said. “The game itself was as most basketball games are; a game of runs. We jumped out to

an early lead in the first quarter, but then slowly let Alba back into the game. Towards the end, we started getting out in transition and hitting shots confidently which stretched our lead back out.”

Townsend said Alba Berlin played a different style of basketball than UWO had seen before.

“Our opponents had a lot of length compared to what we are accustomed to playing, but we were able to play our own physical, gritty style successfully,” Townsend said. “Rolling the ball out against some guys that could potentially be professional players in the future was a special thing to think about, especially after talking to them following the game, [they were] all super friendly.”

Sophomore forward Connor Jenkins said it was unbelievable to see attractions around Berlin that he had only ever seen in textbooks.

“We had an unbelievable time exploring Berlin and seeing many memorials and historical artifacts,” Jenkins said. “The history behind Berlin was very in depth. It was interesting to see for ourselves everything we had learned in history class growing up. When the team visited Terezin Concentration Camp, you could truly feel the magnitude of where you were standing, and it was an experience we will all remember for a very long time. We will never forget this trip.”

The final stop of the European tour was in Paris, France, where UWO took on the Metropolitans Under 21 (U21) team, a junior team of Metropolitans 92 which competes in LNB Pro A, the highest tier of French pro basketball.

Metropolitans 92 is most well known for being the club where recent 2023 NBA Draft No. 1 pick Victor Wembanyama rose to prominence — literally. The 7’-4” center joined Metropolitans 92 in 2022 and took the French league by storm, leading the Mets to a

second-place finish in the league table. The Mets reached the Ligue Nationale de Basket (LNB) Pro A championship series, but were swept by Monaco three games to none.

Although the Mets missed out on bringing home a title to Paris, Wembanyama has become a global phenomenon after his two exhibition games in the United States against the NBA G League Ignite. Often referred to as one of the most hyped NBA prospects to ever come out of Europe, Wembanyama has greatly impacted the basketball culture in France.

In the final game of UWO’s tour of Europe, the Titans led every half en route to a comfortable victory.

“We got off to a pretty slow start against the Metropolitans, and fell into a large deficit early,” UWO freshman guard Reed Seckar said. “It felt as if nothing was going our way on offense. We were missing just about every shot we took, but after a timeout we began to fight back and carried a two-point lead into halftime. We pushed the lead to 10 pretty early in the second half and finished with a six-point win over a very solid team.”

After UWO’s performance in the three exhibition games, Lewis said the competition was great and thought the team played very well.

“All three teams were very similar to a tough WIAC opponent,” Lewis said. “Two of the three opponents were very long, and we had to adjust to their length. We were excited about how we competed and learned more about ourselves as a team for next season.”

For the Titans, the offseason grind never ends. Many of the players continued to work out or shoot around on campus as soon as the team returned to Oshkosh. UWO’s season kicks off Nov. 8 at home against the Illinois Institute of Technology. The Titans will hope to use the experiences abroad to push them to a third-consecutive WIAC championship.