

# The Advance-Titan

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Ukrainians rally against war



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Titans set nine records at WIAC meet



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RTF wins 20 awards

## UWO's WIAC dynasty continues



Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team celebrates after cutting down the nets at the Kolf Sports Center following a 64-42 win over UW-Eau Claire Wednesday night.

## Titans beat Eau Claire to win back-to-back conference crowns

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team clinched its second straight regular season Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship over the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds 64-42 on Wednesday night.

The Titans' (22-3, 11-3 WIAC) win over the Blugolds (8-17, 3-11 WIAC) wasn't easy. UWO had to overcome a 31-29 deficit at the half, but cruised to a second half win behind a 19-point game from Kayce Vaile.

The win against the Blugolds was an example of the adversity that UWO had to overcome this season. The Titans saw the leading

scorer from the past year's team in Kennedy Osterman graduate, but they were also without the team's third leading scorer for 2023-24 in Bridget Froehlke due to injury. UWO also swept Whitewater for the first time the 2020-21 season in games where it took overtime and double overtime for the Titans to beat the Warhawks. Those games are most notable due to the fact that the Titans finished in the standings two games above second place UW-Stout.

Vaile said she credits the team's toughness on how they were able to repeat as conference champs.

"It really came down to who we are as a program at the core. We are who we are because of the standard we set," she said. "We

are able to come back and look at what we can learn from those challenges. Each tough game has taught us another lesson or area we can improve."

In her fifth season, Vaile not only is the leading scorer of this team but in the Feb. 15 matchup against UW-La Crosse, Vaile reached the 1,000 point club.

Vaile said that although this year has been amazing, there are more goals to reach this season.

"Being able to come back and repeat what we did last year was everything we set our minds to," she said. "We have more goals that we want to accomplish but winning the regular season championship was one step in getting there."

Despite it being her last season,

Vaile said she is going into the postseason with no different mindset than any other year.

"There isn't any more pressure than there has been in the past," she said. "We need to be present and live in the moment because thinking it might end shouldn't be on the mind."

The Titans will head into the WIAC tournament on Thursday after receiving a first round bye. Last season, UWO fell in the WIAC tournament championship game to UW-Stout 77-65.

UWO's Avery Poole said the team knows that they can't let revenge get in their heads this tournament.

"People do not realize how hard it is to win the WIAC," Poole said.

"Any team can win on any given night and that is what makes our conference so fun yet challenging."

The Titans will have home court advantage as the No. 1 seed for the tournament. They will open up their time in the WIAC tournament in the semifinal round Feb. 27 at the Kolf Sports Center. The Titans will face the lowest remaining seed out of the first round matchups between No. 5 UW-La Crosse and No. 4 UW-Stevens Point or No. 3 Whitewater and No. 6 UW-River Falls.

UWO's game on Thursday will tip off at 7 p.m. at Kolf Sports Center. You can check who Oshkosh's opponent is at uwoshkostitans.com.

## UWO sees improvement in retention numbers

By Josh Lehner  
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UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said that 93% of the university's fall undergraduate student population returned for the spring semester, a benchmark the school was aiming for to improve declining retention numbers.

"It's all about students' progress and success," Leavitt said in

his Feb. 3 email announcement. "Thanks to all the students and faculty and staff members who concentrated on a strong spring registration and ensuring as many Titans as possible return and are ready to thrive this semester."

The university's retention rates dropped largely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, UWO held a 67.8% retention rate for first-year, full-time students, meaning that nearly

one-third of students didn't return for their second year at the university. Prior to COVID-19 in 2019, this number sat at 71.7%, according to a UWO financial assessment document.

Fall 2023 saw the retention rate increase to 72.3% for first-year students.

The Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management & Marketing, Amber Evans, said that the recent improvement in

enrollment is a massive success for UWO.

"I've been doing enrollment management work for the last 25 years at different universities, and most of the time, we'd say that a 1% increase is a monumental feat," she said. "With our first-year students, we're over 3.3% more than we had last year at this time. Our overall is almost 2% more than we've had in the past."

Evans said that within the 93% number Leavitt mentioned, the biggest area of improvement was with first-year students, and students who are still freshmen but who have been attending the university for more than a year.

"That means that we're providing support to a group of students who are most at risk," she said. "To me, that's a massive accomplishment."

Turn to *Retention* / Page 2



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**Correction Policy**  
 The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.

**Advance-Titan**  
 The Advance-Titan is looking for writers, as well as photographers, web assistants, ad sales representatives and more. Open to all majors and students on the UW Oshkosh campus.

# Retention: Students return at a 93% rate

From Page 1

Evans said that the benefits at play are multifaceted. While her focus lies first and foremost on the students, she said it's also important to consider the long-term sustainability of UWO.

"More students also equals more tuition dollars, more segregated fees dollars, which means that there's more resources to invest across," she said. "It's only one semester, so you're looking at this as about \$500,000-ish in just tuition and fees, more than we would have had last year at this time. So it's two-fold."

The Vice Chancellor for Enrollment & Student Success, Erin Grisham, said achieving this benchmark was a huge accomplishment made possible through a large collaborative effort.

"Our team worked really closely across campus, collaborated with our academic affairs partners [and] with faculty to help set up a new student support team, so that every new freshman was assigned a staff member who was their success team lead and also a peer mentor," she said.

Students being assigned peer mentors is just one of the ways the university tries to improve the student experience, Director of the New Student and Retention Programs Alicia Stuedemann said.

From the beginning, students are introduced to UWO through the Titan Takeoff orientation. After that, new students can attend welcome week, which Stuedemann's team helps to run.

One of the events hosted during welcome week is called "dinner on the lawn," which Stuedemann said she and her team have been putting on for the last few years.

"Our first night that students are back on campus, students are eating outside on the lawn together with other students," she said. "There's a DJ that plays out of the top of the roof of Reeve."

For this semester's spring welcome week, Stuedemann said she and her team collaborated with other staff who helped run the Clash Collective Pop-up Thrift Shop, which gives away items to students in order to help them meet their basic needs.

"We are hoping to continue that event in the future, but something that I would really love to see is a permanent thrift store on campus," she said. "I think helping students meet their basic needs also helps with retention."

The thrift shop saw 619 students within two days and gave away 3,443 items.

As students progress in their freshman year, they're assigned a peer mentor from Stuedemann's

team, as well as a team lead in Navigate — an app and website for students, faculty and staff that provides various services aimed at helping students succeed.

Through Navigate and assigned peer mentors, Stuedemann said students can get the help they need to be successful, such as talking to them about their college experiences as well as the resources available on campus.

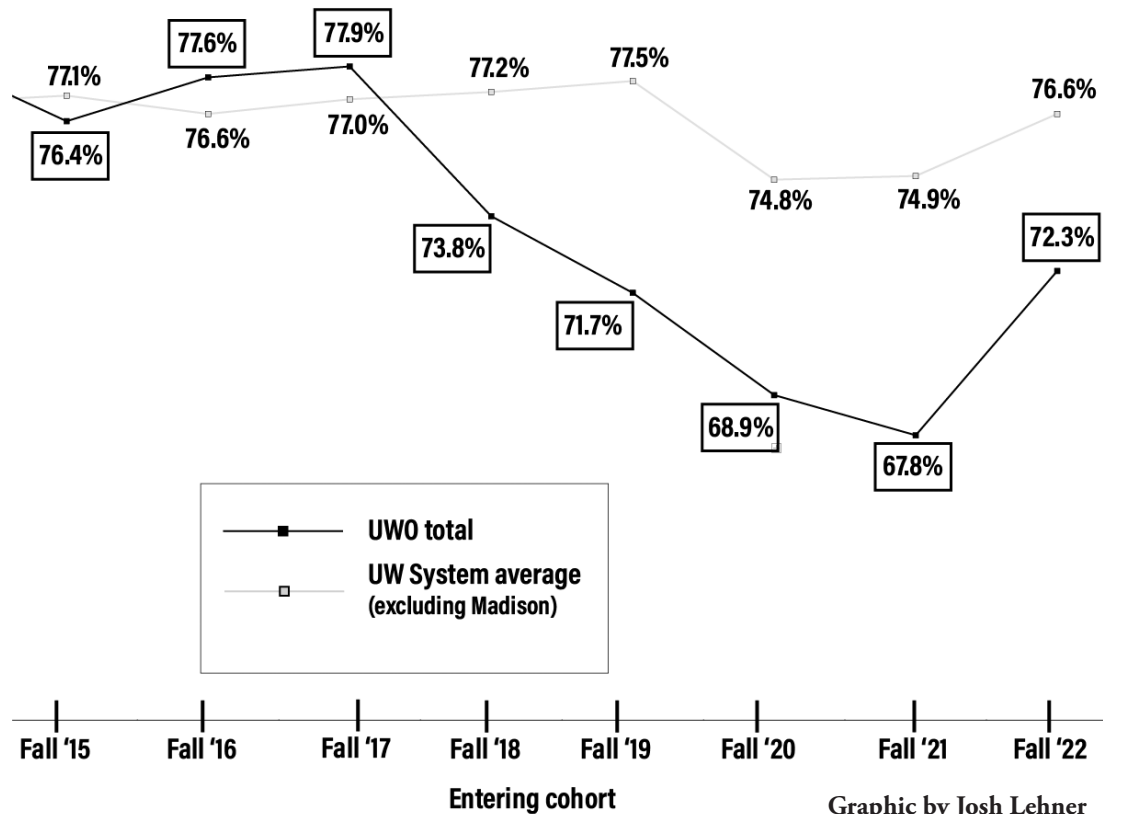
Stuedemann said in their sophomore year, students transition to a navigator, a professional staff member working in her office.

"They help students with appointments, including encouraging them to enroll in classes, having one-on-one appointments with them [and] talking to them about resources on campus," she said. "And then in their junior and senior year, we really hope that their faculty advisors will help with that wrap-around care. But our offices are always here for students if they come in and want to have a conversation."

Stuedemann said she believes that her peer mentors have helped students better connect to experience and life at UWO, both inside and outside the classroom.

"We have 10 peer mentors who work in our office, who help communicate with students about re-enrolling in classes and have those conversations about finding community and belonging on campus," she said. "That has been huge. I think that peer-to-peer connection for students really makes a difference."

1-Year retention for first-time full-time freshman



Graphic by Josh Lehner

There are many other people who work to improve the student experience at UWO too, such as Brent Blahnik, the director of admissions.

He said the admission office's main way of improving retention comes by helping prospective students and applicants, as well as admitted students, better understand what to expect when they decide to go to UWO.

"Part of the reason why students stop out or don't attend is if their expectations ... are not met by the experiences they have once in higher education," he said. "So our role as an admissions team is to really help students understand how UWO is beneficial to their future and achieving their aspirations and goals, and what that's going to look like."

A large part of this involves engaging with the broader community so that they better understand how a degree from the university can help them.

"We're doing not only a lot of messaging campaigns through email and text message and things like that, but we're doing a lot of high school visits where we're actually sending staff into those schools to meet with prospective students," Blahnik said. "We're doing express admission events where we'll sit down in a school with a high school senior, help them complete the application to UWO, answer their questions and they can leave those meetings with their admission documents in hand."

He said that a lot goes into improving the UWO experience so that it continues to be a school best-tai-

lored for students.

"[This means] continuing to expand on our personalization ... making students understand that they're valued as an individual and they can contribute to the UWO community as an individual," Blahnik said. "Higher education is not for everybody and that's okay, but we want to use our limited resources on those students we can partner with to provide the best, highest quality education in Wisconsin."

## Correction

The story "UWO restructuring to be completed by summer," which ran on Page 1 and Page 2 of the Feb. 20, 2025 issue of the Advance-Titan, needs correction. The story stated that Anne Stevens will become the dean of the College of Nursing, Health Professions & STEM. She will actually serve as dean of the College of Public Affairs and Education under the new academic structure. The article also mislabeled the names of the new colleges, which will be the College of Business, Arts, & Communication; the College of Public Affairs & Education and the College of Nursing, Health Professions & STEM.

## Joann Fabrics folds

By Isaac Fischer  
 pischeris70@uwosh.edu

Joann Fabrics announced Feb. 24 that the company is going out of business and all stores will be closing. This comes after previous announcements of 500 stores, including 16 in Wisconsin were closing.

After filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the second time within a year, Joann's remaining assets were put up for auction. Retail liquidator GA Group and Joann's term lenders won the bidding for

the struggling company on Saturday. A final sale hearing was set for Feb. 26.

"We are committed to working constructively with the winning bidder to ensure an orderly wind-down of operations that minimizes the impact on all our stakeholders," the company statement reads.

Going-out-of-business sales will begin imminently with the closures being finalized in May, pending regulatory approval. Gift cards will be accepted through the end of the month, while all sales are final and no returns will be accepted.

## Ed Gein The Stage Musical

Show times:

APR 4 7:00 PM	APR 5 7:00 PM	APR 6 2:00 PM
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Location:

Time Community Theater  
 445 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI

Experience the darkly comic and broadly accurate story of the man who inspired Alfred Hitchcock to create Psycho!

For more info: <https://www.timecommunitytheater.com/events>





Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan

A child holds a sign in support of Ukraine at a rally held hosted by Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., in Milwaukee Feb. 23 in the wake of the third year of the Russian invasion.

## ‘We are here in support of Ukraine’ Ukrainians rally in Milwaukee as Russia’s invasion enters third year

By Vladyslav Plyaka  
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Ukrainians and supporters of Ukraine gathered in Milwaukee, to show unwavering support for the country Feb. 23, as Russia’s full-scale invasion enters its third year this month. City, county and community leaders expressed their solidarity with Ukraine at the rally, with some commenting on President Donald Trump’s recent statements.

“It’s a time where we need to be locking arms and making sure that we are standing up for justice,” David Crowley, county executive of Milwaukee

County, said. “I stand in solidarity. We are here in support of Ukraine.”

Crowley said that the fight in Ukraine shows the entire world how much American democracy is at stake.

“There are folks in our country and outside that are looking to rewrite and revisit history,” Crowley said. “President [Volodymyr] Zelenskyy was elected in a free and fair election.”

Halyna Salapata, the president of the nonprofit group Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., said that Ukrainians are frustrated and disappointed with the misleading claims about

Zelenskyy’s illegitimacy.

“President Trump has an incredible opportunity before him to lead a path towards just and lasting peace,” Salapata said. “Any attempt to force Ukraine into signing an agreement without Ukraine’s active participation is doomed to fail.”

Salapata said that the war against Ukraine is not just an invasion but an act of genocide. “We find ourselves having to prove to the world that we Ukrainians have the right to exist,” Salapata said.

Darryl Morin, national president of Forward Latino, said that the U.S. has a choice to make whether to support a dic-

tator or to stand with a growing democracy in Ukraine.

“If you believe in freedom, I ask you to call the U.S. Capitol and talk to your senator,” Morin said. “Tell them or their staffer that the U.S. must continue to provide meaningful support to Ukraine.”

“Third Annual Rally for Ukraine” was organized by Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., which has raised about \$700,000 since its establishment in March 2022. Their main priority is to provide humanitarian aid and medical supplies directly to paramedics in Ukraine.

Salapata said the need for

tourniquets, chest seals and first aid kits is urgent, as they work with many battalions.

“It doesn’t matter how much we buy, it’s never enough,” Salapata said. “The need is huge.”

Salapata said that support for Ukraine is needed today more than three years ago when Russia invaded Ukraine for the second time.

“I do feel like if we had a light at the end of the tunnel, it somehow disappeared in the last few weeks,” Salapata said. “If today we betray Ukraine, tomorrow they come for you because the war will never stop in Ukraine.”

## DMV reports rise in online vehicle sale fraud

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) reported 1,259 instances of online vehicle sale scams last year, and the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) said Feb. 24 that vehicle scams are continuing to rise at an alarming rate.

DMV Dealer and Agent Section Chief Maura Schifalacqua, who works to track online vehicle sale scams, investigates consumer complaints and offers tips to customers, said that the fraud scheme usually starts online as a fake storefront.

“An individual [usually] creates a website or a social media profile claiming to be a Wisconsin dealership,” Schifalacqua said. “Stock images or photos of real vehicles and real Wisconsin dealerships are included to make the website seem legitimate. However, there is nothing legitimate about it. The advertised vehicles may be listed at below

market value causing interested consumers to take the bait.”

Schifalacqua, whose unit is responsible for consumer complaints, dealer inspections, unlicensed dealer investigations, and title and odometer fraud said that a lot of online vehicle sale scams follow a pattern of fake websites or social media pages, cars priced below market value and no in-person contact with the seller. The DMV reported that a lot of the scams begin with Facebook profiles alleging to be legitimate Wisconsin dealerships.

“In one case, the business never existed,” Schifalacqua said. “In many cases, the fraudster interacts with the consumer by phone or email. The buyer might receive a bill of sale and several photos of a vehicle and agree to purchase by wire transfer, believing the seller will ship the car to them. After the wire transfer is completed, the seller stops all contact, and the customer eventually realizes they’ve become a victim of fraud.”

Schifalacqua laid out a set of tips for customers to remain safe while buying a vehicle from an online dealer, including to research the dealership ahead of time including verifying phone number, address, email and other contact information. The DMV also said it wants to remind people to watch for numerous spelling or grammatical errors on the seller’s website or manipulated photos of a business or vehicle.

When buying a vehicle online, WisDOT recommends going to its active dealers list to verify licensed dealers at [wisconsin.gov/dealerlist](http://wisconsin.gov/dealerlist). The list includes motor vehicle dealers and motorcycle dealers who are properly licensed to sell. This list is updated daily and readily available to the public. Schifalacqua said the biggest advice is to walk away if something doesn’t feel right.

If someone believes they have fallen victim to online vehicle sale fraud, they can speak to WisDOT’s DMV Dealer and Agent Section by filing a deal-



Courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

er complaint at [wisconsin.gov/dealercomplaint](http://wisconsin.gov/dealercomplaint) or file a police report with local law enforcement.

According to WisDOT, the

DMV’s Dealer and Agent Section’s Field Investigation Unit returned approximately \$1.7 million to car buyers in 2024.





Jess Duch / Advance-Titan

UWO's Logan Rindfleisch goes up for a layup in the game against UW-Stout at Kolf Sports Center on Feb. 22. The Titans finished the 2024-25 season with a record of 13-13.

## Basketball falls in WIAC tournament to UWEC

By Ethan Corey  
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The UW Oshkosh men's basketball team took the final spot in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament with a 75-51 victory over UW-Stout, but the Titans fell in the first round of the tournament to UW-Eau Claire 66-56 on the road Feb. 24.

UWO (13-13) went 39.3% from the field and 25% from 3-point range. In a game dominated by Oshkosh's starters, 28 points came in the paint and 20 were scored off turnovers.

Joey LaChapell, the WIAC leader in 3-point percentage, scored 14 points on the night. After recording two points in the first half on a pair of free throws, he added 12 in the second including three more shots from the charity stripe. His streak of consecutive made free throws ended at 53 on Wednesday night after not missing a shot from the line

since Oshkosh's Jan. 8 contest at Eau Claire.

Carter Thomas went 5-of-13 from the field with a pair of threes and added a free throw for 13 points while Jonah Rindfleisch turned in an 11-point, 10-rebound double-double.

Oshkosh scored the first five points of the game as Rindfleisch hit a 3-pointer and Brandon Beck made a layup in the first two-and-a-half minutes of play. Eau Claire responded with 15 straight points, leading 15-5 with 9:55 remaining in the opening half. Seckar stole the ball on an inbound play and Logan Rindfleisch converted a layup at 9:03 for Oshkosh's first points since Beck's layup.

The teams each scored 20 points in the final 10 minutes of the opening period and the Bluegolds held a 32-25 edge headed into the locker rooms.

Thomas scored the first points of the second half with a layup and four points with a three at 17:13 to cut the deficit

to four points, however a 7-2 run for the Bluegolds increased their lead to 44-34 through the halfway point of the period.

Nate Nazos and Thomas combined for five points to cut the deficit to five points followed by three free throws with 7:36 remaining. Eau Claire held Oshkosh to a single basket at a time down the stretch, eventually leading by 12 points with 28 seconds to go before LaChapell hit a late three to cut the deficit to nine points. The Bluegolds converted a free throw at 15 seconds, securing the win and a trip to the WIAC Tournament Semifinal.

To qualify for the WIAC tournament, UWO had to get past the Blue Devils Saturday night at Kolf Sports Center.

Oshkosh dominated in all three phases of shooting, burying 10-of-13 3-pointers, 24-of-50 from the field and 17 of their 21 shots from the charity stripe. Oshkosh also out rebounded the Blue Devils

pulling down 32 boards to Stout's 29.

Thomas led the way for the Titans Saturday as he notched a season high in 3-pointers made as he sank five of his six attempts and shot 7-of-10 from the field. Thomas ended the night with 24 points, three rebounds, a career high four assists, and three steals (tied career high). LaChapell added 13 points, 8 coming from 3-point plays, on an efficient 3-of-5 from the field. LaChapell also pulled down three rebounds and dished out two assists.

The Blue Devils jumped out to an early lead, as they produced a 12-7 run through the first five minutes of play. The Titans then erupted for a 5-minute, 19-1 run led by Thomas who had 13 points in that time span. Stout then went on a 7-6 run to put the score a 32-20 with four minutes to go in the half. In the last four minutes, Stout ended the half with an 8-6 run. This was not enough

as Oshkosh was still firmly in the driver's seat and went into the half up 38-28.

Oshkosh came out of the locker room red hot, going on a 17-4 run in the first five-and-a-half minutes of the second half where Thomas scored eight points and LaChapell hit the first of his and-1 threes. The Titans kept up the pace with a 10-9 run to put the score at 65-41 with seven minutes to go in the contest. The Titans went on an 8-2 spurt to push their lead to 30 points over the Blue Devils. Oshkosh kept its foot on the gas and ended the contest with another 8-2 run to put away the Blue Devils 75-51.

The Titans made a reappearance in the WIAC Tournament after missing last season's edition of the event. They now hold a 26-17 all-time record and a 5-3 mark against the Bluegolds in the conference tournament.

## UWO's Schiro wins WIAC swimmer of the meet

By Isaac Pischer  
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The UW Oshkosh men's and women's swim and dive teams made the trip to Brown Deer to begin postseason competition at the Wisconsin International Athletic Conference Championships, which were hosted by UW-Eau Claire at the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center. Throughout the weekend, the Titans earned five top-three finishes while setting nine new records.

The Titans got one podium finish Feb. 19 to kick things off for UWO, with a third place finish by the 800-yard freestyle relay team consisting of Francesca Schiro, Cadence Showalter, Rowan Sinclair and Brianna Wesenberg, who finished in 7:43.98. This broke last year's record of 7:47.36. As the leadoff

swimmer, Schiro's 200-yard freestyle time of 1:51.77 was good for both a NCAA Division III 'B' cut and a new school record. She then cut that time Feb. 21, swimming to a first place, 1:51.54 in the individual event.

On the men's side for day one, two records were broken right out of the gate. CJ Willert, Damen Seremet, Ben Knoeck and Drew Davis swam in the 200-yard medley relay and finished in 1:35.14, breaking the previous mark by more than a second.

Law Lykins, Davis, Charlie Mason and Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez broke a 2021 record in the 800-yard freestyle relay by nearly two seconds with a 7:05.74 finish.

After delays due to technical problems at the facility, day two saw Schiro reset her own 200-yard individual medley relay record with

a second place finish of 2:06.18.

On Friday, UWO's oldest record, a 1:38.7 200-yard freestyle relay time which was set in 1998, was finally broken by Schiro, Kori Burnett, Grace Fergus and Showalter with a fifth-place finish at 1:38.35.

Sinclair set the Titans 400-yard individual medley record at 4:40.94 in the preliminary round and again with a third-place finish of 4:40.94 in the final round.

Friday also saw the Titans beat the oldest standing program record on the men's side, as Ramirez-Gutierrez, Willert, Davis and Seremet swam a 1:25.48 in the 200-yard freestyle relay, besting a 2019 time of 1:25.85.

On the final day of the tournament, Schiro captured first place in the 100-yard freestyle at 51.04 seconds, beating last year's 'A' cut time of 51.28 seconds. Her 50.94-second



Isaac Pischer / Advance-Titan

UWO's Sienna Della-Peruta competes against St. Norbert College at Albee Hall Nov 16.

preliminary time set another program record.

The Titans ended the championship with the men taking 282 points, placing fifth, while the women took fourth, with 406 points. UW-Eau Claire won the men's side of the event, while UW-La Crosse took

the women's crown.

Schiro was named the Kwik Trip Swimmer of the Meet for the women for the second consecutive year.

The NCAA Division III Championship will be held March 19-22 in Greensboro, North Carolina.





## Scoreboard

### Wednesday, Feb. 19

#### Women's Basketball

UWEC - 42

UWO - 64

#### Men's Basketball

UWO - 49

UWEC - 62

### Thursday, Feb. 20

#### Women's Gymnastics

UWO - 2/3, 191.5 points  
at UW-Stout Triangular

### Saturday, Feb. 22

#### Women's Swimming and Diving

UWO - 4/5, 406 points  
at WIAC Championship

#### Men's Swimming and Diving

UWO - 5/5, 282 points  
at WIAC Championship

#### Softball (Game 1)

Concordia - 0

UWO - 8

#### Softball (Game 2)

Concordia - 3

UWO - 10

#### Women's Basketball

UWO - 63

UWS - 72

#### Men's Basketball

UWS - 51

UWO - 75

### Sunday, Feb. 23

#### Women's Wrestling

UWO - 5/6, 28.5 points

NCWWC Region VI Championship  
at St. Charles, MO

### Monday, Feb. 24

#### Men's Basketball

UWO - 56

UWO - 66

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, Feb. 27

#### Women's Gymnastics

vs UW-Oshkosh Quadrangular  
at Oshkosh 6 p.m.

#### Women's Basketball

vs TBA

WIAC Semifinal

### Friday, Feb. 28

#### Men's Wrestling

at NCAA Division III Region VII  
Championship

at Minneapolis, MN 9 a.m.

#### Women's Track and Field

at WIAC Indoor Championship  
at Stevens Point 11 a.m.

#### Men's Track and Field

at WIAC Indoor Championship  
at Stevens Point at 11 a.m.

#### Baseball

at Webster University  
at Sauget, IL 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

### Saturday, Mar. 1

#### Softball

vs Wisconsin Lutheran at 10 am  
vs Loras College at 2 p.m.

#### Baseball

vs North Park at 1 p.m.  
at Sauget, IL

### Sunday, Mar. 2

#### Softball

vs UW-Superior at 10 a.m.  
vs Edgewood at 12 p.m.

#### Baseball

vs North Park at 11 a.m.  
at Sauget, IL



Photos courtesy of UWO Athletics

From left to right: head coach Jared Costa, Alivia Davey, Annesley Day, Mya Delleree, assistant coach Cody Welker.

## Three Titans advance to national championship

By Christian Cortez  
cortezch82@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women's wrestling team will send three wrestlers to compete for the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships (NCWWC) title after the Titans took fifth in the Region VI Championship in its inaugural season Feb. 23, in St. Charles, Missouri.

McKendree University (Illinois) led the regional with 188 points, followed by the host Lindenwood University (Missouri)

in second at 143 points. UW-Stevens Point took third with 113.5 points. Quincy University (Illinois) finished fourth with 105 points, UWO placed fifth with 28.5 points and Eureka College (Illinois) placed sixth with 22 points.

UWO's Annesley Day won her quarterfinal and semifinal rounds in the 124-lb bracket by decision. She beat Lindenwood's Hayley Gibson 10-9 and UW-Stevens Point's Amelia Adams 17-9. In the first-place match, Shelby Moore from McKendree defeat-

ed Day by a 10-0 technical fall.

Mya Delleree, who also competed in the 124-lb bracket, received a 10-0 technical fall over Margaret Gillmore from UW-Stevens Point in the quarterfinal after earning a first round bye. She then lost the semifinal round and consolation semifinal before again defeating Gillmore, this time by a 12-2 technical fall. Then in the fourth place match, she received another technical fall 10-0 to Adams.

Alivia Davey competed in the 207-lb bracket where she earned

a bye in the first round, and then lost by decision to Desiree Fuentes from Lindenwood in the quarterfinal. She then sat through two rounds of byes before winning against McKendree's Manusiu Muti by a 6-0 decision. She rematched Fuentes for the third place match and won by a 2-1 victory.

Davey, Day and Delleree will compete in the NCWWC Championship March 7 and 8 at the Xtream Arena in Coralville, Iowa.

## Gymnastics places second in UW-Stout triangular

By Zach Bellin  
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The No. 1 UW Oshkosh women's gymnastics took third at the UW-Stout triangular with No. 8 UW-Stout and No. 9 Winona State University (Minnesota) on Feb. 20 in Menominee.

The Titans fell to the Blue Devils by .750 with the final results being 191.9 for UWS, 191.15 for UWO and 189.9 for Winona State University.

UWO scored a 47.6 on the balance beam, a 48.15 on the vault, a 47.975 on the uneven bars and a 47.425 in the floor exercise.

Lydia Hayden secured the only first place finish of the day for the Titans in the balance beam with a score of 9.725. Blue Devil Effie Ferguson followed up Hayden with a 9.700. UWO won the balance beam event led by Hayden and two more top five finishes from Jay Ratkowski and Emma Steele.

In the vault, UWO's Reanna McGibboney placed second behind a 9.75, which fell short of Winona States' Kennedy O'Connor. Titans Amaya McConkay and Mia Passarella were the next best Titans, attributing scores of 9.675 and 9.625 to the team's collective score.

Blue Devil Emma Brittingham won the uneven bars event



Courtesy of Terri Cole / UWO Athletics

Lydia Hayden competes in balance beam event the earlier this season at the Kolf Sports Center.

with 9.825 points, and UWO's McConkay followed her on the leaderboard with 9.8 points. McGibboney was the next best with a score of 9.65, placing seventh. Sam Zeilinger followed on the leaderboard, tying with Stouts' Gillian Cummins. Both finished with 9.625 points.

UWO placed last in the floor exercise after only one top five finish. Ratkowski scored 9.675

points, which got her third place. UWO's Mia Lucero tied with Winona States' Gabby Kraft both acquiring 9.6 points.

For the final meet of the regular season, UWO will host a quadrangular at the Kolf Sports Center at 6 p.m. Feb. 27. Participating schools include No. 17 Greenville University (Illinois), No.4 UW-La Crosse and Winona State.

This will mark the end of the regular season for the Titans as they begin preparation for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championship/National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) West Regional Championship in La Crosse March 8, and the NCGA Championship in Saint Peter, Minnesota March 22.



# Titans dominate WBA

## UWO student media wins 20 awards at WBA Student Forum

By Jacob Link  
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UW Oshkosh's Radio/TV/Film department took home 20 awards for student media outlets at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) Student Forum Feb. 22 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

90.3 WRST-FM Operations Manager Brianna Hone said that the awards show how talented the students are in the RTF department.

"I did have this fear that we wouldn't do very well and it would reflect badly on me," Hone said. "But hearing our name so many times, it really still shows the fact that we're doing some cool stuff here, and I'm really proud. I feel like it makes my job in life easier, knowing that I can come up [to the studio] and not have to worry about if there's something getting done, because I know it is."

UWO senior and Titan TV Station Manager Jena Plutz won the WBA Student Leadership Award to cap off a ceremony that saw Titan TV claim eight awards and 90.3 WRST-FM receive 12.

90.3 WRST-FM's first place awards were handed out for the Boyd Huppert Excellence in Radio Writing Award, Best Newscast, Best General News Story, Best Sports Show and Best Sports Play-By-Play.

Titan TV took home the top spot in best promo for the Titan TV 50th Anniversary promo and won best PSA for a 30-second spot on The HUB in Reeve Memorial Union.

Plutz said that the success at the WBA Student Forum shows that all the students in the RTF department are passionate about what they do.

"The students spend a lot of time outside of, you know, the normal work hours of the day, working on their shows and their projects," Plutz said. "So, it's really awesome



Isabella Gould / Advance-Titan

RTF students smile after winning 20 awards for UW Oshkosh at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Student forum.

to see all that hard work pay off in eight different awards for Titan TV."

Plutz said the hours of work that students put into their productions is a representation of the hard-working Wisconsin attitude.

"Our program here at UW is pretty exceptional," Plutz said. "So many people across the country, professionals especially, know that we work hard and we do good work. Our faculty work hard to give us the most hands-on and engaging education as we can, and they're always here for questions and to help us through any struggles we have. It's really an honor to be under their wings throughout this experience."

Plutz said that she was shocked when she found out she had been selected for the Student Leadership Award.

"I was up visiting my parents,

actually, and Justine [Stokes] called me and let me know, and I almost started crying, because truly, it was very unexpected," Plutz said. "It is a huge honor that I am very proud of and it's kind of surreal that my hard work is paying off. But it's truly amazing, and I'm very, very happy about it."

Titan TV General Manager Justine Stokes said at the awards ceremony that she was impressed by Plutz's ability to recruit and retain students.

"In this role, Jena has consistently exceeded her job responsibilities," Stokes said. "She manages staff and producers, oversees show selection, conducts staff training, and fills in whenever needed, whether in front of or behind the camera. Titan TV's production schedule is a marathon, not a sprint, and Jenavieve excels at managing her own stress while rec-

ognizing when a student or production needs help."

Plutz said that she found her place in Titan TV as a sophomore after she pitched her sketch comedy show "Duck Duck Live."

"As a freshman and sophomore starting to get involved with Titan TV, it's kind of scary," Plutz said. "There's a lot going on and a lot of moving pieces. It's hard to understand it all. But when I pitched my show at the end of my sophomore year and then created it my junior year that fall, I learned so much and truly fell in love with live television, and I think I thrive in a more managerial position. I'm organized, and I have to do lots of scheduling and stuff like that. So this position seemed like a good fit for my career goals, and I really enjoy working with Titan TV."

Stokes said Plutz has a unique

ability to meet students where they are and help them find their place.

"Whether it is a freshman with no experience, or an upperclassman interested in producing their own show, she makes students feel welcome and provides them with the tools to succeed," Stokes said.

Plutz said she wants to go into live TV after she graduates from UWO this spring with a double major in RTF and Theater Arts, and a minor in Spanish.

"I think management would be the long-term goal, whether that be at a station managing a news station or something like that," Plutz said. "I could see myself producing, maybe even being talent or an anchor or something like that, but I think the management side of things is more my cup of tea, and I really like live television, so that's where I'm leaning."

# Rock, Paper, Scissor, Win!

## Titan wins 4-day stay at men's basketball halftime

By Cassidy Johnson  
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Rock, paper, scissors is a classic childhood game we all know and love. Men's basketball head coach Matt Lewis has decided to bring it back with a prize much better than bragging rights.

This past weekend on Saturday, Feb. 22, UWO student and Bolt Pep Band member Ava Hagen won a free vacation after winning Lewis' rock paper scissors tournament.

The rock paper scissors championship took place during the halftime of a UWO v. UW-Stout basketball game, the last game of the season.

"I was honestly pretty out of it when everything was happening," Hagen said. "This was my third basketball half-time game that I won this semester, so I was pretty shocked."

During halftime at each of the Titans' final five regular season home games, Coach Lewis held a rock paper scissors tournament to give UWO students a chance to win a 4-day-stay including hotel fees and airfare, all courtesy of Lewis.

"It was a random idea that came up in January," Lewis said. "We were trying to think of a fun way to engage students on our campus, and thought a tournament that resulted in a vacation would be really fun to try."

At halftime, students lined up and played 1v1, going down the line and eliminating players until it dwindled down to two, and then down to the winner.

This was repeated at the last five games in the season, with winners from each of the five games being added to the bracket. This past Saturday, they played one last time until Hagen emerged

the ultimate winner.

Lewis said he and Hagen will meet soon to plan out the trip.

"Coach Lewis contacted me for the first time today," Hagen said. "We're scheduling a meeting for next week to talk about everything."

Hagen will get to choose between Nashville, Tenn., Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Denver, Colo., Las Vegas, Nev. or Portland, Ore.

Hagen said that she plans on bringing her sister, another bolt band member.

"We've been chatting about it all day, and we think we'll do Portland, Oregon," Hagen said. "They have lots of nature, museums, cool food things and more. I've always wanted to visit Oregon, so I'm very excited!"

Beyond excitement, Hagen also said she was grateful for the opportunity.

"I am very shocked and grate-



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Hagen faces a fellow student in the rock paper scissor championship.

ful to coach Lewis because this is such a sweet thing to do for someone he doesn't even know," Hagen said. "This is all pretty crazy."

Lewis says he doesn't know

the future of this idea, but that he plans to continue student engagement efforts.

"Our hope is to create fun experiences for the students when they are in Kolf," Lewis said.



# A-T predictions for the Oscars

By Jacob Link  
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The 97th Academy Awards Sunday will determine what films go down in history as the best of 2024 and will leave everyone that pays attention to awards season debating who should've won for years to come. There were 16 films that were nominated multiple times for awards led by "Emilia Perez" with 13 and "The Brutalist" and "Wicked" with 10 each, setting up what should be a tightly contested race in most categories. While nobody knows what will win until the envelopes are opened Sunday night, this is how I think the Oscars will play out this year:

## Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay): "Emilia Perez"

In the first major category of the Oscars, I think "Emilia Perez" is set up perfectly for winning Best Writing for an Adapted Screenplay. The film follows the powerful story of a Mexican cartel leader who enlists the help of a lawyer to transition into a woman and disappear from their family. There were multiple twists and turns throughout the movie, especially when you thought "where does this thing go from here" making this one of the best written movies of the year. The writing really moved you to feel for all the characters involved, like the wife of the cartel leader who thinks she lost her husband and the cartel boss who has never been able to come out as who they want to be. While I don't think this film was the best I have seen this year, I think it is important to highlight a film like this when there is so much hate for the LGBTQ+ community right now.

## Best Writing (Original Screenplay): "The Substance"

"The Substance" was unlike any movie I had ever seen in my life. I can't even describe the feeling inside of me when the main character becomes "Monstro Elisae," an ugly and disgusting-looking creature. I just remember repeating "Oh my God" as I saw the weird thing slither around the screen. But the brilliance in the writing of the film is that it makes you feel bad for the main character and the creature, because they just want to live their lives without being forced to change who they are on the outside due to the harsh reality of the TV industry. I think this movie highlights the fact, in a very extreme way, how hard it is for female stars to live up to the expectations of what it means to "be pretty" in the entertainment world. And a lot of times, people are forced to do whatever they can and want to their body in order to live up to beauty standards. While a lot of people in the U.S. haven't seen this movie yet, I think it will become a classic as the years go by.

## Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez in "A Complete Unknown"

This is one of the hardest awards to give out because almost all of the nominees played their parts perfectly. To me, it comes down to Zoe Saldana as Rita Mora Castro in "Emilia Perez," Ariana Grande as Glinda

in "Wicked" and Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez in "A Complete Unknown." As tempted as I am to give the award out to Grande because she literally played the Good Witch of the South to perfection, I think Barbaro is more deserving of the award for her performance in the Bob Dylan biopic. Barbaro was known predominantly as a dancer before being selected for the role of Baez, and she had to take guitar and singing lessons in order to prepare. Playing guitar is not something that comes very easily, especially the finger-picking style of Baez, which is why I think she deserves the award for all the hard work she put in. Also, almost all of the songs in "A Complete Unknown" were done live during the filming of the movie, without all those green screens and autotune crap, making her performance even more amazing. If you put a video of Barbaro and Baez side by side, you can't tell much of a difference because her mannerisms were on point, which is why I think she deserves the award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

## Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Edward Norton as Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"

While everyone else is picking Kieran Culkin to win the award for his performance as Benji Kaplan in "A Real Pain," I want to take a different approach in picking Norton. While I'm not sure how much I liked the story in "A Complete Unknown," all of the acting was amazing. Just like Barbaro above, Norton played his role to perfection as the traditionalist folk singer in Seeger. Again, watching videos and listening to records of Seeger and then watching Norton's performance on the screen showed me how much work he put into that role, and he sounded nearly identical to his real-life counterpart. What really drew me to Norton's performance was how he toed the line at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival between supporting Bob Dylan and trying to dissuade him from going electric. The highlight for me came when Norton (as Seeger) became so enraged at what he was hearing onstage from Dylan that he grabbed an axe and tried to destroy the soundboard to stop the concert, just like what people claim Seeger did in real life. Luckily for Dylan, the axe was taken out of Seeger's hands, but Norton's attention to detail is why I think he deserves the award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

## Best Actress in a Leading Role: Demi Moore as Elisabeth Sparkle in "The Substance"

Demi Moore single-handedly nearly scared me to death while playing Elisabeth Sparkle in "The Substance," which is why I think she deserves the award in a movie that left me with nightmares. Again, I think hard work pays off for Moore, who had to spend between 45 minutes to 7 hours a day applying prosthetics and makeup in order to play her aging character. Moore basically had to play five different roles, from the beautiful Elisabeth Sparkle to a more aged look after taking the substance (where she had the most disgusting-looking aged



Courtesy of Flickr

A table of Oscars are ready to be presented during the awards ceremony in 2010 in Los Angeles.

finger I have ever seen) to looking like an old hag, to becoming a hunchback (and looking about 120 years old) to finally becoming the "Monstro Elisae" (I can't even describe what that looked like without almost throwing up). Anyone who is able to play five different parts in a movie deserves to win an award in my mind, especially when it took her hours to transition to each role. Moore was also the perfect person to be cast as Sparkle because she has had to deal with being held to beauty standards and speaking out on misogyny in the film industry. Moore was everything that this movie set out to accomplish, and I think she is the most deserving of winning Best Actress in a Leading Role.

## Best Actor in a Leading Role: Timothée Chalamet as Bob Dylan in "A Complete Unknown"

Bar none, Timothée Chalamet deserves to win this award not only for his performance in "A Complete Unknown" but also for playing the main character in "Dune: Part 2." His versatility to go from being in a space opera to playing a folk singer just tells you all you need to know. Very rarely do you see two movies that feature the same actor in a leading role nominated for best picture. Similar to Norton and Barbaro above, Chalamet had to play all of his own instruments in the picture and sang 40 songs live during filming. His mannerisms looked exactly like Dylan's in real life, especially with his constant mumbling, giggling and smoking. I hate to say the same things over and over again, but if you listen to Dylan's recordings and listen to Chalamet sing, you can't really tell much of a difference, and he just plays the part so well that it made me feel like I was watching Dylan actually perform. As soon as I got done watching "A Complete Unknown" I knew that Chalamet had locked up the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role, and I think the 29-year-old will have a lot more Oscars in his future.

## Best Directing: Coralie Fargeat for "The Substance"

Like I've talked about a few times now, "The Substance" was really the only movie that felt dif-

ferent to me, and was able to be both entertaining, artsy and had a strong meaning behind it. Fargeat focuses on feminist and body image themes as a director, and I think she cooked up the only movie this year that drills its message into the viewer's brain. I don't think I can get the images of Elisabeth Sparkle and "Monstro Elisae" out of my head even if I tried. That really helped me to identify the themes of how the film industry forces women to keep a certain beauty standard if they want to succeed, something that I think deserves to be looked into and maybe this film can finally start the conversation on ending beauty standards in Hollywood. I can guarantee that Fargeat is the only director this year to spray 5,500 gallons of fake blood through a fire hose onto an audience while filming the climactic scene of the movie. She also spent countless hours developing the costumes of the "Monstro Elisae" and helped to design most of the prosthetics and practical effects. Fargeat directed a movie that pushed the boundaries of body imagery and practical effects, and I think she will be remembered as an influential director down the road. While the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences may not give her the recognition she deserves, I think she is the only choice to win Best Directing.

## Best Picture: "Wicked"

The biggest award of the night is also arguably the most tightly contested. While most critics seem to think that "Anora," "The Brutalist" or "Emilia Perez" should win Best Picture, I think the best choice should be "Wicked."

This movie was a really fun ride and was the only film nominated for Best Picture that I didn't have to check the time to see how much longer it was going to be on. The songs in "Wicked" were so darn catchy that I had to stop myself from singing in the parking lot of the Marcus Oshkosh Cinema. I also think that "Wicked" deserves to win because of the homage that it pays to "The Wizard of Oz," a movie that should have won Outstanding Picture back in 1939. The film picks up on the classic tale that is over 100 years old and really made me feel

like my grandma going to watch the original movie in the early 20th century. Even though "Wicked" is a big-budget Hollywood production that can be a bit over the top, the characters are just so timeless I don't know how someone wouldn't have fun during it.

I loved the fact that it followed the end of "The Wizard of Oz" nearly identically, and almost all of the same characters as the original movie, not to mention all the fun easter eggs that Oz has to offer. I think with everything going on in the world right now, "Wicked" is the perfect movie to take your mind off of life for almost three hours and just have fun. "The Wizard of Oz" left us with a whole new world that was left untapped, and "Wicked" really brought out the personality and detail in the land of Oz. The acting was also superb as well, with Cynthia Erivo making the audience root for the Wicked Witch of the West and Grande making the Good Witch of the South seem like those annoying sorority girls who walk around campus thinking that they own the place.

Some people will say that "Wicked" really didn't have the big underlying theme that the other movies did, but I think the movie was perfectly fine without heavily dealing with social issues while dropping in hints of racism in Oz. "Anora" was a film everyone praised for being about a sex worker (which I totally understand is groundbreaking and I'm not saying sex workers shouldn't have rights too), but if I wanted to spend my time watching a Brooklyn woman yell at people and have sex for more than two hours, I'd just go visit a hooker in New York and get the same experience. "Emilia Perez" was a movie that, while the story was good, was a bit disappointing because the music was bad for a musical and the story didn't flow at all. "The Brutalist" was a snooze-fest at almost four hours long, and while "The Substance" would be my second choice for Best Picture, I still feel like "Wicked" produced a magical movie because of all the money getting pumped into it. And I'm still a little scared of the "Monstro Elisae."



# A Girl's Guide to the Perfect Night in

By Cassidy Adams  
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In a fast-paced world, it's hard to find time to relax and slow down for the night. We're often trying to fill our schedules with action and busyness, but forget to take time to unwind by staying in and embracing the simplicity of a perfect night in.

Staying in can be the perfect solo retreat, and a low key way to spend time with friends. Following the "Girl's guide to a perfect night" is guaranteed to foster a night of relaxation, memories, and enjoyment.

## Get into your comfiest clothes

Whether you wear pajamas, sweatpants, sweatshirts, or shorts, the most important part of making this a cozy night in is getting comfortable. You'll want to dress in your most comfortable clothes to embrace the warm and cozy vibes, which will set the mood for the rest of the night.

## Grab lots of pillows and blankets

This is also a crucial part of making your night cozy and perfect. Wherever you are planning to stay throughout the night, you will need lots of pillows and blankets to make sure that you are the absolute comfiest you can get.

The more pillows and blankets, the more comfy and cozy you will be.

## Make a delicious meal

Making a meal will help you to start your night on a good note with a full stomach. You can also get quite creative here. For example, you can grab some pizza dough and make a fun-shaped pizza. You can also make tiny personal pizzas with lots of new toppings. Pasta is also a yummy and easy meal. My favorite meal on a night in is spicy vodka pasta.

## Cocktails or mocktails

Has there been a new drink you've been waiting for an opportunity to try out? A night in is the perfect opportunity to try out a fun cocktail, mocktail, or even a new wine. Something to sip on will help you relax and enhance the fun vibes throughout the night.

## Pick an activity

The activity is the main event of the night and the most exciting. Now that you're in your comfy clothes with a meal and drink, you'll want to get creative. There are many options to choose from, especially if you stroll the aisles of Walmart. However, some suggestions are painting canvases, making clay figures, making friendship bracelets, painting



Cassidy Adams / Advance-Titan

Staying in can be the perfect solo retreat, and a low key way to spend time with friends.

drinking glasses or even making slime. These will keep you entertained for quite a while before it's time to relax for the last part of the perfect night in.

## Watching comfort movies

Lastly, to top off the perfect night in, you'll want to watch a variety of your comfort movies or even a new movie that you've been

dying to watch. Some of my go-to films on a night in are rom-coms such as Set it Up, How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days, Anyone But You or Clueless. You can also dive into the classic romance movies such as The Notebook or Pretty Woman. As long as you have a movie playing on your TV that you know you will enjoy, your perfect night in will be stellar.

The perfect girl's night doesn't have to revolve around gossip or alcohol. You can create memories and enjoy yourself simply from the comfort of your own home with loved ones. Following this guide to a perfect night in will help you relax and recharge in preparation for your upcoming week.



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