

The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUS

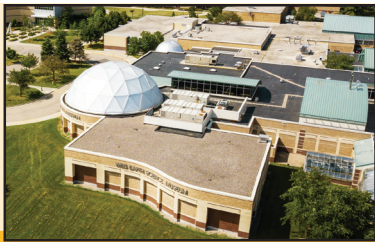
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@theadvancetitan
atitan@uwosh.edu



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Joey Bragg packs Reeve



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

(Left:) UWO forward Paige Seckar goes in for a steal against UW-La Crosse in Oshkosh's 61-35 victory Feb. 18. (Right:) Sammi Beyer drives to the basket on an Eagles defender.

UWO earns WIAC title 3-peat Oshkosh becomes first team in over 40 years to win three straight

By Nolan Andler
andlern63@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh women's basketball team clinched its third straight overall WIAC regular season last week by beating No. 25 UW-La Crosse 61-35 on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Kolf Sports Center.

Senior forward Bridget Froehlke said winning the WIAC overall title for a third straight year is a testament to the team's hunger to win.

"Everyone who comes to play at Oshkosh wants to be a winner and every year we try to build upon what past players have accomplished," Froehlke said. "The WIAC is an extremely competitive conference, so doing this three years in a row is something we are all very proud of."

Guard Sammi Beyer led the way for the Titans in the win going 6-for-14 on the night for 16 points with a 2-for-6 performance from the three-point line.

Despite committing eight turnovers on the night which contributed to an early 6-0 deficit for UWO, the Titans defense was what won them the game. UWO shot 42.6% on the night with a 38.9% from

three point range while holding UWL to a 26.4% night from the field. A 10-2 second quarter from the Titans allowed them to pull away from a 16-10 lead entering the quarter into a 26-12 halftime lead. From there it was all Titans as they cruised to the win to clinch the overall WIAC regular season title for the third consecutive season.

Being able to overcome the start in the game against UWL was another example of the trust that the team has in each other and the faith that they can handle whatever is thrown at them.

"The La Crosse game was a big game for us, but our mindset was the same it has been all year," forward Paige Seckar said. "We always stress the importance of making it difficult for the other team right out of the gate by playing great defense and taking great shots, but if and when that doesn't happen, we trust that we will be able to get the game back in our control. The La Crosse game was a perfect example of that. We went down 6-0 early, but we kept the trust in each other, and got the job done at the end of the night."

UWO went into this season with expectations of being the preseason WIAC champion and the nationally ranked preseason No. 3 team. Despite that, the team has been able to continue to keep up where they left off last season by just staying focused.

"I think this year's team has done a really good job of staying in the present," Froehlke said. "We're definitely motivated by the goals we are capable of reaching, but each day focus on the little things like discipline, toughness, and competing."

With winning their third overall WIAC championship, the Titans will once again be the No. 1 seed for the 2026 WIAC Tournament. UWO fell in the tournament championship game the last two seasons (77-65 to UW-Stout in 2024 and 65-62 to UW-Whitewater in 2025) and will hope that this year the third time is the charm.

Seckar said she believes that if the team can stick to what they do best even if they can't do it all 40 minutes that they will be in a good position

"Our main goal going into this year's WIAC tournament is do-



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

UWO's bench celebrates after Oshkosh converts a basket Feb. 18.

ing all of the little things we talk about on a daily basis, and to trust that we have prepared enough and worked on our stuff long enough to put us in a position to play great," Seckar said. "We know that it's not going to be perfect, but we know we can stack enough good possessions and stick to what we do best long enough to be able to come out on top in any game we find ourselves in."

The Titans will open this year's tournament in the semifinal round

on Wednesday, Feb. 25 as they will host No. 4 seed UW-River Falls. The Titans swept the Falcons in the two matchups the teams had in the regular season (65-33 at UWRF on Jan. 17, and 69-47 at UWO on Feb. 7).

UWO's opener in the WIAC tournament will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday from Kolf Sports Center. You will need to buy a pass from the WIAC Network to watch or you can listen to the game on 90.3 WRST FM.

The **Advance-Titan**

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu
Website: advancetitan.com
Facebook: @theadvancetitan
Instagram: @theadvancetitan

Editor-in-Chief
Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor
Vladyslav Plyaka
plyakavl38@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager
Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

News Editor
Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor
Open

Arts & Culture Editor
Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor
Suzanne Dawood
dawoodsu14@uwosh.edu

Sports Editors
Nolan Andler
andlern63@uwosh.edu

Dylan Przybylski
przybylsdy63@uwosh.edu

Assistant Sports Editors
Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

Matthew Hoyman
hoymanma40@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor
Jessica Duch
duchje18@uwosh.edu

Social Media Manager
Reagan Nelson
nelsonra47@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Chief
Christian Cortez
cortezch82@uwosh.edu

Reporters
Justice Cyr, Joey Egan, Lela Meinke, Brayden Junkers, Alex Marzu, Elijah Plonsky

Faculty Adviser
Ben Birkinbine
birkinbineb@uwosh.edu

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Advance-Titan
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Courtesy of UWO Flickr

The former UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus was not acquired by Faith Technologies Incorporated after concluding their assessment.

FTI to not acquire Fox Cities campus

By Vladyslav Plyaka
plyakavl38@uwosh.edu

Faith Technologies Incorporated (FTI) announced that it will not acquire the former UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha from Winnebago County after concluding the due diligence process.

“After careful review, FTI has determined that the best path forward is not acquiring the campus buildings and continuing to look for opportunities that better align with long-term needs,” the company said in its press release on Feb. 17.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the \$1 purchase of Outagamie County’s share of the Menasha campus in April 2025, ahead of the campus’s closure on June 30

that year. FTI began to explore Fox Cities campus after signing a letter of intent with Winnebago County at the end of 2025 to evaluate whether the place could become a national hub for the company’s workforce development and advanced technology training.

FTI’s Executive Vice President Charlie Fredrickson said the campus did not fit the company’s plans after completing the assessment process.

“Although the campus wasn’t the ideal match for our growth plans, as an organization with teams across the country we are focused on finding a location that will best serve our team members today and for years to come, both locally and nationally,” he said. “We are excited to explore supporting technical ed-

ucation and workforce development through new partnerships and initiatives.”

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz said the county understood that FTI’s exploration of the Fox Cities campus was an exploratory process and their interest was not a guarantee of a sale.

“This was always an exploratory process and we understood there were no commitments that FTI would take on the campus,” he said. “We appreciated their thorough due diligence and the thoughtful conversations throughout the process.”

Hintz said FTI’s feedback provided the county an understanding on existing challenges and opportunities with the campus.

“FTI’s feedback and assessment give us a good under-

standing of the challenges and opportunities that exist as we work to redevelop and repurpose the Winnebago Fox campus,” he said. “We will work to get the Communication Arts Center and field house open to the public in the short term as well embark on a visioning and market assessment to help determine a future for that campus that adds to our tax base, preserves our community assets, and contributes to workforce development and quality of life in our community.”

According to FTI, the company is exploring collaborative opportunities at the Fox Cities campus including leasing space and working with organizations focused on innovation and technical training.

Palmeri, Assembly vote to fund PFAS cleanup

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously passed a pair of bills Feb. 20 that pave the way for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to begin using over \$130 million that was initially set aside in the 2023-25 state budget for the cleanup of PFAS chemicals.

“Today was a win for Wisconsinites across the state,” 54th Assembly District Rep. Lori Palmeri (D-Oshkosh) said. “The \$132 million dollars that has sat untouched for over 900 days will hopefully be released by the end of this session. The Senate will still need to take up these bills, but today we passed meaningful legislation for families and those impacted most by these forever chemicals.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PFAS, known scientifically as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are long-lasting synthetic chemicals that have harmful health effects because they do not break down easily.

PFAS resist water, grease and stains and are found in non-stick



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

The Wisconsin State Assembly passed a pair of bills to use \$130 million for the cleanup of PFAS chemicals.

cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging, cosmetics and firefighting foam. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to cancer, liver damage, thyroid disease, reduced immunity and developmental issues.

Palmeri said that PFAS impacts everyone, and the chemical doesn’t discriminate.

“We often speak to the concerns for children and pregnant women, but men are impacted by this issue as well,” Palmeri said. “PFAS is linked to lower sperm count, reduced motility, low testosterone and testicular cancer.”

Palmeri said that over 120 Wisconsin communities have

confirmed PFAS toxicity in their water.

“PFAS has been widely used since the 1950’s, and is toxic at infinitesimally low levels,” Palmeri said. “Think a drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. No other chemical is measured in such small units.”

Turn to **DNR** / Page 3

DNR: Assembly Bill 131 allocates \$132.3 million

From Page 2

Assembly Bill 130 exempts five categories of people from liability of possessing or discharging PFAS into the environment. This includes holding a license or permit to discharge PFAS, using them in training for emergencies (for groups like fire departments), using them at waste disposal facilities and exempts people from liability if the chemical was used in the past on a property that they are owning, leasing or managing.

Assembly Bill 131 establishes grant programs for municipalities around the state to test and clean up PFAS contamination that is deemed a threat to public health. The bill allocates \$132.3 million from a segregated PFAS fund to implement new programs to fight environmental contamination, including \$79.5 million for a community grant.

Part of the legislation requires the DNR and Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents to enter a memorandum of understanding to study and analyze the cost and effectiveness of different methods of treating PFAS.

State Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Gillett) said that the bills, which both passed 93-0, that he co-authored with Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) was a landmark bill that helps communities combat PFAS contamination across Wisconsin.

“Today’s vote in the Assembly is the result of compromise and negotiations between the Legislature, the Governor and impacted communities from across Wisconsin,” Wimberger said. “With this vote we’re one step closer to getting victims of PFAS the protections they deserve and communities suffering from PFAS the help they need to clean up this mess.”

Palmeri said that she wanted to thank Mursau, Wimberger, the DNR and Gov. Tony Evers for their work with the legislation.

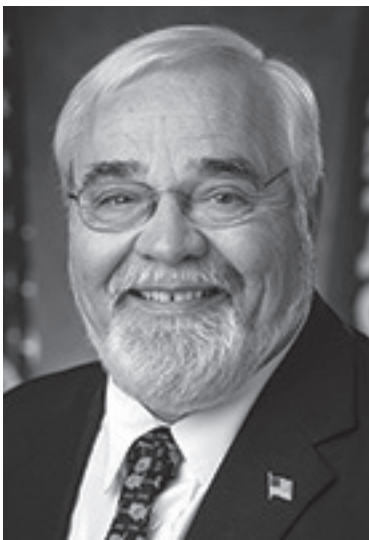
“Compromise means actually sitting down to have hard conversations and meet in the middle,” Palmeri said. “In a week that has felt like political showmanship, this deal is a product of the work that can, and should be done in this building.”



Lori Palmeri



Eric Wimberger



Jeff Mursau

Evers vetoed a Republican-led bill in the last assembly session over concerns that it wouldn’t hold polluters accountable, and the \$125 million that was initially set aside for PFAS in the 2023-25 state budget grew by over \$7 million due to accumulated interest because it was unused.

Palmeri said that PFAS contamination was one of the issues that drove her to run for state office.

“I am proud to have been a small part in beginning to address this issue and get funding out to our communities,” Palmeri said. “While the fight isn’t over, I am proud of what we accomplished here today, and I am hopeful this legislation will make it to Evers’ desk before the end of this legislative session.”



Courtesy of UWO

UWO computer science students Damian Johnson, Dominick Hagedorn, Ethan Tramell and Ander Bailey present mobile apps they developed in their Computer Science 344 class in the fall 2025 semester.

UWO computer science students create apps

By Alex Marzu
marzual86@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh Computer Science students took their application design from an idea to an actual application offered on both the Apple and Google app stores in their Computer Science 344 class during the fall 2025 semester.

First, you need to have an idea for an app. Creativity can make this stage hard to get through without struggles, but UWO Professor Michael Rogers provided curated app ideas he’s created based on feedback from UWO students and staff. Those students and staff also stepped in as the so-called clientele that groups had to meet with throughout development, which Rogers remained relatively hands off with.

“We worked equally close to all projects,” UWO student Damian Johnson said. “His aid consisted of demoing our projects every so often and him providing his personal feedback of things we could add, but ultimately left it up to us to meet with the client and make it the way they wanted.”

After you finish the development stage, it’s time to attempt to get your app published. And that can get complicated.

Johnson said he paid \$99 to enroll in the Apple Developer Program for a group who created the Speak French app as well as a \$25 fee for publishing and testing the app on the Google Play Store.

He acknowledged that Google on the surface seems like the better deal but it is more difficult for an app to survive testing.

“Finding a group of testers willing to test the app thoroughly is harder than it sounds,” Rogers said. “Google will reject the app if it appears that the testers are simply going through the motions.”

Meanwhile, Apple tested the group’s app in roughly two days. Apple supplied their own company testers instead of independents, which makes paying the annual \$99 fee worth it in the eyes of Rogers.

Johnson’s group got their app published on both sites, and while the app was a success, he offered advice to students who aim to take the class in the future.

“Meet with your client often and really get into the design,” Johnson said. “As far as choosing a project, pick something you see

benefit in. If you really like your project, it will be much easier to test and find what you want the app to be able to do.”

Despite numerous successful launches his fall 2025 class pulled off, Rogers still has plenty of untapped ideas for future projects.

“We had many more ideas than teams, so there’s a backlog of possibilities, and a few new ones have cropped up since I last made an appeal for suggestions,” Rogers said.

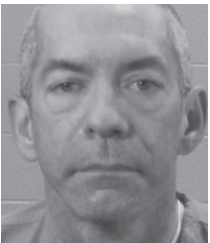
Johnson’s Learn French app is one of four developed applications going through the vigorous process of getting onto app stores. The other three are PlanIt, an app designed to publicize student organization events across UWO’s campus, Care Tracker and the Oshkosh Museum App.

OPD arrests man

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh Police Department arrested 53-year-old Shawn Black Feb. 11 for three counts of possession of child pornography after an investigation led by detectives and Vice and Narcotics Unit.

Law enforcement executed a warrant at Black’s residence on the 1100 block of Moreland St. after a cyber-tip through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The investigation into the cyber-tip reported media depicting child sexual abuse, commonly referred to as child pornography.



Shawn Black

At the residence, OPD reviewed content on a laptop and located three separate videos of child porn. Law enforcement reported that Black acknowledged there would probably be more than 1,000 images and videos of child porn on the laptop.

According to OPD, detectives will be seeking the assistance of the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation – Digital Evidence Unit to examine the laptop further for evidence of porn.

Black was transported to the Winnebago County Jail. If anyone has information regarding this incident, they are encouraged to contact OPD at 920-236-5700 or the Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477.



UWO teammates and brothers Riley (33), Jonah (12) and Logan Rindfleisch (bottom) celebrate media day prior to the 2025-26 season.

Rindfleisch brothers building legacy

By Christian Cortez
cortezch82@uwosh.edu

When we think about brothers playing a sport, we think of the rivalry of playing against each other, like the Ball or the Watt brothers. It’s rare to have brothers play on the same team, let alone have three brothers play on the same team. UW-Oshkosh has a rare trio of brothers, Jonah, Riley and Logan Rindfleisch.

Jonah Rindfleisch, a senior, has been on the team for four years and has started in 87 games in his career at UWO. Riley Rindfleisch, a junior, has been on the team for three years and has played in 15 games, and Logan Rindfleisch, a sophomore, has been on the team for two years and has played in 38 games.

Their basketball careers began at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, a dominant program ranked No. 1 in Wisconsin and recently produced an NBA talent in Kon Knueppel.

Jonah Rindfleisch said that the instruction from coaches Ryan Walz and Cornelius Whiteside prepared him for collegiate basketball.

“The way they prepared us in high school and coached us and taught us the things they did and the way they did it, it felt pretty seamless to go from high school to college,” Jonah Rindfleisch said.

The three brothers were all recruited by UWO head coach Matt Lewis.

“I committed here, and then coach Lewis was big into recruiting those two, Riley and Logan,” Jonah Rindfleisch said.

Then, after Jonah Rindfleisch committed,

Riley Rindfleisch and Logan Rindfleisch saw Lewis’s authenticity and decided to come here as well.

“Me and Logan saw coach Lewis come to Jonah’s games, and just how, you know, open he was and how genuine he was of a guy and a coach,” Riley Rindfleisch said. “He always showed that he cared when he was recruiting Jonah, he cared for Jonah and he cared for our parents and us as (siblings). So that family aspect definitely helped lead us here.”

To Jonah Rindfleisch, it was an exciting experience to be a mentor to his younger brothers on the team.

“Having them kind of follow in the footsteps, and then me being not only a leader of kind of like the team, but older brother of these guys too,” Jonah Rindfleisch said. “It’s been awesome.”

Being able to play with their older brother was also a special time for Riley Rindfleisch and Logan Rindfleisch. Riley Rindfleisch said it was great to play basketball outside of playing pick-up games in their driveway.

“We weren’t able to play with Jonah in high school at all,” Riley Rindfleisch said. “So it’s really nice to have, like a formal way and just someone we can look up to.”

Riley Rindfleisch said he was coached by Jonah Rindfleisch while he was injured and that having shared experiences gave him insight on the court, and how it was a great experience getting coached by his older brother.

“I remember my freshman year when Jonah was out for the season with his injury,” Riley Rindfleisch said. “Jonah was on the bench and

in practices, like giving me tips on things that he actually went through on the court.”

Logan Rindfleisch said that being able to lean on each other is the best thing about being teammates with his older brothers.

“We’re all experiencing basically the same thing,” Logan Rindfleisch said. “So we can, understand, for one of us is having a struggle, we can understand what they’re going through.”

Jonah Rindfleisch, who has been on the team for four years, said he has seen the team’s ups and downs.

This season has been the best overall record for the Titans at 18-7 since Jonah Rindfleisch was a freshman when the Titans went 24-7 and made it to the quarterfinals in the NCAA Division III tournament.

“I think we’ve just faced a lot of adversity with just a lot of our main, a lot of our main guys getting injured throughout the season, and with that, it’s tough for everyone to find their role as hurt,” Jonah Rindfleisch said.

Riley Rindfleisch said that he keeps going into each year thinking the team bond keeps growing, and being connected through other organizations on campus has made them stronger as friends and teammates. UWO men’s basketball is more than just a team to these brothers; it is an extension of their family.

“Every year I think to myself, like, this is the most connected group of guys we’ve had,” Riley Rindfleisch said. “And especially this year, I’m thinking the same thing about our connection going way beyond off the court.”

UWO swims at WIAC meet

By Dylan Przybylski
przybylsdy63@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh women’s swim and dive team placed third with a score of 467 and the men’s team placed fifth with a score of 288 at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships this past weekend.

For the women’s team, Sienna Della-Peruta broke a nearly 30-year old UWO record in the 200-yard backstroke, taking second place with a time of 2:05.6.

Bella Cichon and McKenna Keepers finished in the top eight in the 200-yard breaststroke. Cichon took third with a time of 2:26.68 and Keepers took eighth with a time of 2:32.23.

Rowan Sinclair placed third for the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:10.4.

Callee Debruin and Brianna Wesenberg had top eight finishes in the 1,650-yard freestyle. Debruin placed fourth and Wesenberg placed eighth.

Kori Burnett took eighth in the 100-yard freestyle, finishing with a time of 55.1.

Maya Indiraraj took fourth place in the women’s 3-meter dive with a score of 382.35 points.

For the men’s team, CJ Willert broke the 200-yard backstroke school record with a time of 1:58.16. Willert placed 15th overall in the event.

Charlie Mason placed eighth in the 200-yard butterfly, finishing with a time of 2:00.7.

At the conclusion of the event, head coach Christopher Culp was named WIAC Coach of the Year, the fourth time in his career.

Softball looks to repeat as WIAC tournament champs

By Justice Cyr
cyrju94@uwosh.edu

UW-Oshkosh softball rolls into the season, making the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Top 25 at No.17. But this year’s edition of the Titans is going to be missing some key contributors and pieces from years past.

After finishing the 2025 season 34-6, the Titans went into the postseason with heavy expectations including a WIAC Tournament championship, which they succeeded in winning. They were granted the host of an NCAA Regional, in which they also made the championship contest, but dropped the game that would put them through to the next round, after fighting back through the losers bracket.

What they will not be missing is head coach Scott Beyer, who holds a 341-128 record in his tenure at Oshkosh. He has been able to lead this Titans squad to two Division III World Series appearances, and has coached 20 Titans to 34 total all-region honors and has never had a losing season, but this year could be one of his more challenging yet, after graduating his largest senior class last year.

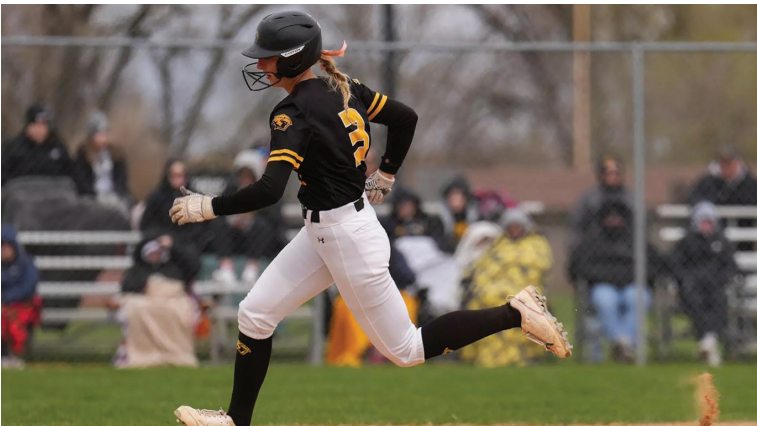
Last year’s senior class included eight graduating players, including standouts like Abby Garceau, Sydney Nemetz, Sydney and Morgan Rau and 2023’s Rawlings Gold Glove winner Sophie Wery. These players and more combined for over half of the Titans offensive production in major stats such as at-bats, runs and total bases. So how can they possibly replace that much

production?

“This year’s team might be more speed driven and maybe less power and doubles, but maybe we can make more contact and run to try to make up the runs that we lost as starters last year, and there’s just different ways to do it, and we’re trying to figure out what the right recipe is right now,” Beyer said. “We get a shot of youth into the program a little bit. It’s refreshing.”

The Titans could be exploring more platoon based lineups, based on the losses at the premier positions like catcher, center field and shortstop.

“Platoon is definitely something that we’re going to do,” Beyer said. “We’re going to move a lot of people around in different positions, especially early on in the season here. Our expectations



Oshkosh’s Haylie Wittman rounds the bases in a game this year at UW-Oshkosh Softball Park.

are really high, our defensive performance the last few years with the former players has been just amazing, we’ve been top 10 in defensive percentage, fielding percentage for the last few years and

they were freshman and sophomores once, so they had to learn the way things go. They set a very high standard, so I’m holding them, our current team to those standards.”

Basketball ends season losing three straight

By Matthew Hoyman
hoymanmatt88@uwosh.edu

The UW-Oshkosh men's basketball team dropped three tough games to close the season, falling to UW-La Crosse and UW-Stevens Point at the end of the regular season, and dropping its WIAC Tournament game 79-72 to UW-Platteville.

The Titans (17-8, 8-5 WIAC) struggled in an 82-63 loss to the No. 21 Eagles (18-6, 8-5 WIAC) on Feb. 18 at Mitchell Hall Gymnasium, marking their third-lowest scoring output of the season.

Oshkosh never led in the contest, falling behind 12-2 after a layup by Sam Grieger and 19-9 following a J.J. Paider basket. The Titans cut the deficit to 19-17 with 7:24 remaining in the first half on a layup by Michael Metcalf-Grassman, but La Crosse responded and took a 39-27 lead into halftime.

The Titans endured a difficult shooting night, finishing 21-for-67 (31.3%) from the field and 9-for-41 (22%) from three-point range. In contrast, the Eagles shot 29-for-65 (44.6%). La Crosse dominated inside, holding a 44-21 advantage in points in the paint, along with edges in second-chance points (14-7) and points off turnovers (13-6).

Metcalf-Grassman led Oshkosh with 19 points on 5-of-13 shooting and an 8-of-9 performance at the free-throw line, adding four rebounds and a block. Despite the setback, he said he emphasized the importance of learning from losses and quickly shifting focus.

"I think watching the game back to understand what went wrong is very important," Metcalf-Grassman said. "Once we have that figured out, I think it is important to put the game or games behind you and move on. In conference and postseason play, there are many quick turn-

arounds, so we need to turn all our focus to our next opponent and the next game."

Logan Rindfleisch contributed 13 points on 4-of-7 shooting (3-of-5 from three) with four rebounds. Nate Nazos added seven points, three rebounds, two assists, two blocks and a steal. Jonah Rindfleisch posted six points and six rebounds, while Carter Thomas had six points, four rebounds and three steals. Oskar Kangas chipped in three points, four rebounds and two assists, and Aiden Hawkinson recorded two steals and two assists.

La Crosse placed four players in double figures, led by Grieger with 26 points and eight rebounds. Jack Crowley and Carter Wollan each scored 14 points, while Paider added 12.

Oshkosh then fell 71-67 to No. 19 Stevens Point (19-6, 9-5 WIAC) in its regular-season finale. The Titans and Pointers were tied 20-20 after Thomas scored eight straight points, capped by a three-pointer with under eight minutes remaining in the first half. Metcalf-Grassman later converted a field goal and an and-one opportunity to give Oshkosh a 37-36 lead. However, Stevens Point answered with a fast-break layup by Josiah Butler as time expired to take a 38-37 halftime advantage.

In the second half, the Pointers outscored the Titans 33-30 in a tightly contested battle. With under two minutes remaining, Metcalf-Grassman scored five straight points, including a jumper with 40 seconds left, to give Oshkosh a 67-66 lead. Butler quickly responded with a three-pointer to put Stevens Point back in front, 69-67. After a defensive stop, Butler sealed the win at the free-throw line.

Oshkosh shot 21-for-60 (35%) from the field and 8-for-29 (27.6%) from three-



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UW O Athletics

Michael Metcalf-Grassman drives to the hoop against a defender in a game against UW-Stevens Point on Feb. 21.

point range. The Titans held advantages in rebounds (35-31), second-chance points (11-3) and steals (7-2), but were outscored 44-24 in the paint, 21-6 in bench points and 15-7 in points off turnovers.

Thomas finished with 22 points, knocking down four three-pointers and going a perfect 8-for-8 from the line. Metcalf-Grassman also scored 22 points on 8-of-17 shooting and added three steals. Joey LaChapell totaled 11 points and six assists, while Kangas had three points and four rebounds. Nazos grabbed a team-high five rebounds, and Jonah and Logan Rindfleisch combined for six points and six boards.

Metcalf-Grassman said he believes the team's depth remains

a major strength entering tournament play.

"I think it makes it really hard to scout and prepare for us," he said. "When there are so many guys on our team that can score and do a lot offensively, it also takes the pressure off certain guys and allows us to play freely. If one guy has a bad game, it is not the end of the world because we know we have other guys that will step up."

Looking back on the regular season, Metcalf-Grassman said the team had a lot of big moments.

"I think my favorite memory from the season would be either beating La Crosse in overtime earlier in the year, or more recently, when we beat Stout at their place and I made the

game-winning shot," he said.

As the No. 5 seed in the WIAC Tournament, Oshkosh traveled to face No. 4 seed UW-Platteville at 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at Bo Ryan Court at Williams Fieldhouse.

The Titans quickly exited the tournament with a 79-72 loss.

"If we play our style of basketball and are the more physical team, I think we will really like the outcome of our (future) games," Metcalf-Grassman said. "We just have to play our way like we know how to."

The WIAC Tournament championship game, which determines the conference's automatic berth into the NCAA Division III Tournament, will be played Saturday at the highest remaining seed.

Softball: UWO aims to return to NCAA Tournament

From Page 4

Beyer, in his 13th season, holds the second highest winning percentage amongst WIAC softball coaches all time, a conference with five national championships to its name. But what is his biggest challenge that maybe he hasn't faced in his career?

"I think one big hurdle is gonna be teaching kids how to take a punch from our conference opponents," Beyer said. "We probably have one of the tougher schedules we've ever had non-conference, and so we're gonna get tested right out of the gate ... when we get hit in the mouth, what is our reaction and how are we going to get up off the ground and swing back?"

Last year's team rolled through the season, before running into Stevens Point, who handed the Titans half of their eight losses last year, including ending the Titans' season.

"Our kids are going to get up for that a little bit more, just based on what happened last year," Beyer said. "I would say everybody's a rival for us, because we've been really good so we always get everybody's best shot."

The Titans were voted to finish first in the WIAC's annual preseason poll, determined by coaches and Sports Information Directors of the WIAC's schools. No team dating back to 2021 that has been voted No. 1 in the preseason has come away with a regular season championship. Beyer was asked if it was more of a goal, or expectation.

"I'd see it more as a goal because I feel like that poll and being ranked preseason No. 17 all those things, that's all last year's team accomplishments coming through," Beyer said. "Especially this year where we have so much rollover with our roster, so we've talked about

how it doesn't matter – like if anything, it should motivate them more because everybody else thinks you're gonna be really good, so we're gonna always get their best shot," Beyer said.

The Titans have many weapons returning however like the aforementioned sophomore Sarah Hammerton who held down a corner outfield position with a .886 OPS, driving in 24 runs.

Olivia Ullmann was another freshman standout from last year who started 38 games, stealing 10 bases in 10 attempts.

Pitching should be no problem with reigning WIAC pitcher of the year, Brianna Bougie, who put up a 0.72 ERA in 96.2 innings, and even All-WIAC honorable mention Grace Nardi with a 1.07 ERA in 85.1 innings.

Don't be shocked if there is a lot of production from the five player freshman class, in-



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UW O Athletics

UWO pitcher Grace Nardi gets ready to throw a pitch in a game in the 2025 season.

cluding left-handed pitcher Kiran Sanford.

Oshkosh gets its season started this Feb. 28 for the

UWO Invitational at the Rec-Plex, they will play St. Scholastica at 10 a.m., then Loras College (Iowa) at noon.



Wednesday, Feb. 18
Women’s Basketball
UWO - 61
UWL - 35
Men’s Basketball
UWL - 82
UWO - 63

Thursday, Feb. 19
Women’s Gymnastics
UWO - 193.775
UWEC - 192.900

Friday, Feb. 20
Women’s Basketball
UWO - 62
Carroll University - 59
Women’s Wrestling
12th of 15 teams, 15.5
Track and Field
Non-Scoring

Saturday, Feb. 21
Women’s Swim and Dive
3rd of 5 teams, 467
Men’s Swim and Dive
5th of 5 teams, 288
Track and Field
Non-Scoring
Women’s Basketball
UWO - 57
UWSP - 41
Men’s Basketball
UWSP - 71
UWO - 67

Tuesday, Feb. 24
Men’s Basketball
UWP - 79
UWO - 72

Wednesday, Feb. 25
Women’s Basketball
UWO vs. UWRF - Past Publication
Women’s Flag Football
UWO vs. Aurora - Past Publication

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 27
Women’s Gymnastics
vs. UW-Stout at 6 p.m.
Women’s Basketball
vs. UWW or UWL at 7 p.m.
Men’s Wrestling
NCAA Region VII Championship
Track and Field
WIAC Indoor Championship

Saturday, Feb. 28
Track and Field
WIAC Indoor Championship
Men’s Wrestling
NCAA Region VII Championship
Softball
vs. College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) at 10 a.m.
vs. Loras College (Iowa) at noon
Women’s Tennis
at Carroll University at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1
Softball
vs. UW-Superior at 10 a.m.
vs. Wisconsin Lutheran College at noon

A-Trivia

How many games is the UWO flag football team set to play in 2026?

Answer: 11 games.

Sports

Track and field shines in home meet

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

It was another long weekend for UW-Oshkosh track and field, as while the Titans hosted the 2026 Titan Challenge meet at the Kolf Sports Center, and the team also sent representatives to both the University of Iowa Open, and the UW-La Crosse Caged Eagle Open.

In La Crosse, both distance medley relay teams notched second place results. The men’s team of junior Lucas Nicholson, freshman Sean Malay, and seniors Dwight Hosni and Cameron Cullen made the podium with a time of 10:06.69. The women’s team finished with a time of 11:48.91, and was represented by freshman Lehna Mitchell, junior Maddy Lavoι, sophomore Emma Boegh and senior Amelia Lehman.

At the Iowa Open, junior Dylan Doss took home two crowns in the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes, sprinting 6.65 and 21.26 seconds respectively. Junior Nolan Milas and sophomore Tyran Bender also made the podium in the 200-meter dash. Milas placed second with a time of 21.41, while Bender finished with 21.91, securing third. In field events, senior Joshua Rivers took the top spot for the Titans, winning the Long Jump with a distance of 7.63 meters.

Back in Oshkosh, another school record was reset, as senior Gavin Fritsch broke the record for indoor weight throw, taking the meet title with the distance of 20.84 meters. Junior Bryce Hale and junior Isaiah Baez-Isom also rounded out the podium in the event. Hale placed second with a throw of 18.9 meters, while Baez-Isom threw 18.49 to receive third place. Baez-Isom also competed in the shot put, finishing in second place with a throw of 16.75 meters. The top two finishes in both high



Courtesy of Terri Cole / UW-Oshkosh Athletics
Senior Haley Kanitz competes in pole vault during the 2026 Titan Challenge meet at Kolf Sports Center.

jump and long jump also went in favor of the black and gold. Sophomore Christian Thompson won the high jump with 2.01 meters, with freshman Jo Hibbler placed second with 1.96 meters. Sophomore Max Milbrath finished the long jump on top of the leaderboard with a jump of 6.84 meters, after finishing in second place in triple jump with 12.99 meters. Matthew Ewens notched second place in long jump, after the senior finished with 6.81 meters. Colin Kao once again took first in pole vault, with the graduate student completing the event with a height of 5.1 meters.

On the track, Hosni placed second in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.79, while sophomore Eddie Jones also finished in second in the 60-meter dash, completing the sprint by a time of 6.87 seconds. Hosni also was a member of the 4x400-meter relay, alongside freshman Luke Beeksma, Ryan Flood, and graduate student Xavier Lasee, which finished in third place for UWO with 3:30.04 on the clock. Other

top three placements include freshman Peyton Hale with third in the 200-meter run (22.37 seconds), junior Alex Peterson finishing in second in the mile run (4:19.06), and sophomore Aaron Nehls placing second in the 300-meter run (8:46.6).

The Titans swept the podium in women’s weight throw as sophomore Carly Huelskamp won the event with a mark of 16.18 meters. Sophomore Kaelyn Biello and junior Abi Masloroff weren’t far behind, with Biello placing second with 16.14 meters, and Masloroff rounding off the podium with 16.05. It wasn’t the only field event won by the Titan women, as junior Brooklyn Manz took home the crown in the shot put, placing a mark of 13.05 meters on the leaderboards. In other field events, two pole vaulters saw themselves on the podium for the black and gold. Senior Haley Kanitz placed second with a height of 3.55 meters, with Emerson Clark following behind in third, as the junior soared to a height of 3.4 meters.

In the running events, Addie Baker received top three place-

ments in two of her events. The sophomore won the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.07 seconds, while placing second in the 400-meter run with 58.46. Lavoι won the 400-meter run with a time of 57.49. Freshman Megan Hoffman finished off the podium for the black and gold, running for a time of 58.85, landing her in third place. Hoffman was also a part of the 4x400-meter relay, alongside sophomores Anabel Mitchell and Adriana Garcia, as well as freshman Athena Soto, who finished in third place for UWO with 4:11.5 on the clock. Other top three placements include senior Gwen Feitl with second in the mile (5:15.2), junior Allison Van Der Wegen finishing in third in the 3000-meter run (10:34.81), and freshman Maya Van Schyndel placing third in the 60-meter hurdles (9.15 seconds).

UWO is back in action on Feb. 27-28 for the WIAC Indoor Championships, which are hosted by UW-Platteville. The men look to win their seventh title, while the women eye their 14th in program history.

Gymnastics eclipses Eau Claire in road win

By Katie Lechton
lechtonka22@uwosh.edu

In the final road duel of the season, the No. 1 UW-Oshkosh gymnastics squad defeated No. 8 UW-Eau Claire 193.775-192.9 on the road Feb. 19 at the McPhee Physical Education Center.

On UWO’s opening rotation on uneven bars, a trio of Titan gymnasts started the competition with a bang, making podium appearances in the event. Sophomore Hadley Bretschneider tied for first place with the Blugolds’ Kinley Rose, having scored 9.775 on their performances for their respective teams. Freshman Hayden Hughes and senior Lydia Hayden tied for third with a 9.725 score for UWO. Reanna McGibboney also had a high-scoring performance for the black and gold, as the senior ended in a fifth place tie with 9.675. The Titans led UWEC after one rotation 48.5-47.675.

Oshkosh continued the momentum in the vault lineup, with four Titans leading the charge across both programs. McGibboney won the event for UWO, placing a result of 9.8 onto the scorecard. Senior Amaya McConkey finished in second place with a 9.75 on the

event. Both Hughes and freshman Kris Phillips were on her heels, tying for third place with a score of 9.725 on the leaderboards. As competition crossed over the halfway marker in the evening, UWO built a commanding 97.15-95.875 lead over the host Blugolds.

McGibboney continued to lead the Titans in the floor rotation, scoring 9.7 and finishing in a tie for third place alongside Eau Claire’s Kamryn Andrade. Other notable scores for the black and gold included a fifth place, 9.625 finish by senior Aleah Radojevich and sophomore Jurnee Warkentien’s 9.55 result, placing her in eighth. Even with the lower-performing outcomes, Oshkosh held the lead entering the final rotation with a score of 145.025-144.425.

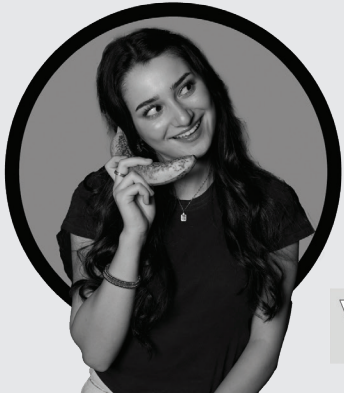
The Titans shined in the final rotation with their highest scores of the evening leading them to victory. Sophomore Kristina Jakubiak held onto first place on the balance beam leaderboard with a 9.875 finish. Freshman Ome Ellis and UWEC’s Hareet Gehlon tied for second with 9.825 performances for their respective teams. Hayden rounded out the top three highest scorers for Oshkosh, adding a 9.775 onto the scorecard.



Katie Lechton / Advance-Titan
Reanna McGibboney performs her floor routine during UWO’s home duel against Hamline University (Minnesota) on Jan. 15th.

With the win secured, UWO now hold a 5-1 duel record heading into their final home competition of the year. The Titans will head

back to the Kolf Sports Center on Feb. 27 to face No. 14 UW-Stout in the regular season finale. First rotation is set to start at 6 p.m.



S*X

IN-THE-920

Your College Sex Guru.

The Ex-file

By Suzanne Dawood
dawoodsu14@uwosh.edu

Welcome to Sex In-The-920! I'm the Carrie Bradshaw of UW-Oshkosh, or your college sex guru. When you get out of a relationship, and into a new one, the thoughts of your ex can always linger. Comparison is inevitable, and curiosity behind your partner's past relationship can take over your mind. I couldn't help but wonder, when your partner loves someone, and that relationship dies, where does all that love go?

It's hard to say whether it does just go away, or it goes to the next person, but the ex file can eat up a relationship if it's not talked about. As I mentioned before, curiosity can eat you alive, and the ghost of their previous relationship can always be behind you. I believe it is important to talk to your partner about their ex relationships, even if the conversation can be hard.

Let's say your partner had always gotten into arguments with their ex. That's not a red flag, that's a conversation that can lead to answers. You need to think: "Why did they argue?" "Who was the cause of the problem?" And "how did you resolve the issue?" Like I said, the ex-file can be awkward, but if you really want

to get to know someone, communicating on how their past relationship didn't work out can be beneficial.

With this in mind, you don't want the ex conversation to be the center of all you talk about. But, it's okay if certain questions come up later when you have the conversation. Understanding what your partner didn't like and also liked from their past relationship can help you understand them more as an individual. A lot of people also change after relationships, so it's important that you don't create biases based on what you heard, and how they might have treated someone in the past. If they are mature enough, they'll admit their mistakes, and communicate them with you.

And just like that, my question was answered. The love from their ex doesn't go to you, because they learned how to create a new type of love. A love that only works between you and them. Remember, it's okay to ask questions, and have these conversations. Emotional intelligence can be hard to find. But if your partner isn't comfortable yet when talking about something, it may not be because they're hiding it, but rather that they're not ready. Patience, and understanding will help move a relationship along, and store the ex-file away.

What'cha think?

How was the first month of the spring semester?



Boston Gies, Senior

“Busy, but not as bad as last semester. My workload was awful. I felt like a squirrel with too many nuts in his mouth to swallow. This first month went by very quick. It feels like we started spring semester yesterday.”



Zachary Dietsch, Junior

“My first month of classes has been complicated. Almost all of my classes only had been online, so I've been struggling with feeling connected with my peers. It's also harder to lock in and get my work done when it's all based on my own time management skills. I'm also enjoying this semester a lot though because I'm really getting into major specific classes and I'm starting to repeat professors in the communications department, which is getting to be a lot of fun to get to know them and learn from them.”



Michael Kerkhof, Freshman

“I'm taking classes that are more discussion and project-based, so it feels like I should be doing more work than I am currently. I am used to having more of a structured outline when it comes to assignments and tests, so it is a little bit of an adjustment for me.”

My challenges with autism in college

By Nolan Andler
andlern063@uwosh.edu

Life is challenging, regardless of what is going on. But as a person that is on the spectrum, I want to tell you that it is amplified. Even if it might not look like it on the outside.

As hard as it is living with autism, it is doable to live life with it.

I am writing this piece so people know what it is like to be a college student that is also an editor on this paper while dealing with a mental disorder.

While I do want to say, not everything I specifically go through others do too. I just want to show people what I go through and maybe bring light to others going through the identical situations.

1. Cleanliness is a challenge (mentally and physically)

I can do things like take showers and wear clean clothes, that is no problem. But I will be honest, it is the small things like brushing my teeth and wearing deodorant that gives me trouble. There are already so many things I have to worry about and plan for so the simple things like brushing my teeth regularly or wearing deodorant is hard. Don't worry, this doesn't mean I don't do these

2. Organization is a struggle

Organization is another thing that I struggle with. Whether it is keeping up with things like organizing or keeping track of my tasks.

It is hard to do things because when given a task my brain freezes.

I can do something right away if I'm really feeling it, but for a homework assignment that is as easy as simply writing a sentence for free points.

It might take me a while to get it done, because in my brain even something that easy feels monumental.

Or even writing this piece, I'm just getting it done the night before it's due. I will try to get everything done when I have to, but sometimes I might dance really close to the deadline because of that reason.

3. You might feel like your failing all the time when you aren't

If you had a tough past like me, it might make every small error you make in the present feel like a fatal error that will cost you your future when really that is not the case.

things at all, it just is a little more hard doing it regularly.

Last semester I experienced that, the whole year it felt like I was treading along the line of being in academic trouble or just barely being able to stay in good standing when really I finished Fall 2025 with a 3.25 GPA.

A part of that is because of my one semester at UW-River Falls when I left that campus because everything that could've gone wrong did.

Another thing I have sort of struggled with is sometimes I feel like I am struggling being a sports editor, because it feels like I can only handle one to two stories at a time when some of my writers are taking three.

While that feels lazy, I get reminded with what I do and how I do it that I am the example of why they are taking two stories.

4. I have to balance my needs with being with others

Being on my own as an autistic person has also brought me the challenge of learning how to deal with a short social battery by myself.

If you have seen me at a sports game or a social event on or off campus. Or even my mates at the Advance-Titan.

You might see that I leave the area a couple times, I'm not trying

to purposely avoid anyone. I just need space for personal respite so I can go back to functioning properly and enjoy where and whatever I'm at.

It might also be why I don't go to a few events here and there, because I need time to simply just reset and recharge.

When I don't get the ability to be able to take a break, that is when I go into what is called shut-down.

Where my whole body just starts feeling restless and I feel very anxious and need to get a lot of energy out.

5. Masking

Something I have struggled with is feeling like I am showing my true self. For those that know me, it might look like I am a person that literally only likes and watches sports. While it is true that I am a huge sports fan and it's why I'm going here for journalism.

You might not know that I am a rabid fan of video games like Sonic the Hedgehog, Super Mario Bros and Five Nights At Freddys.

I also love movies like Marvel super hero movies. I don't express these things on a daily basis because of fear that I might get embarrassed.

This is an example of me mask-



Nolan Andler

ing, which is where I do things that I don't necessarily want to do to fit in. This happens because personally, it sometimes is hard to say no.

While these things make life challenging, I do feel like my autism can be a strength. Knowing that other people are going through identical struggles helps me be empathetic especially when I might not realize it.

I also feel like my autism helps me think in a more unique way in certain situations.

My main message with this is believe me, I know what it feels like when you feel like you're alone.

But trust me you are not alone, there are people out there who do care about you.



Courtesy of Sherry Luterbach

A tablescape from 2024’s exhibition, featuring a set of butterfly wings in full bloom.



Courtesy of Meghan Lee Harris

Another tablescape from 2024’s exhibition.

‘Rooms of Blooms’ back at Paine

By **Natália Koritková**
koritkovna91@uwosh.edu

In the first week of March, the Paine Arts Center mansion in Oshkosh is annually filled with flower arrangements, bringing the freshness of blooming flowers right before the spring equinox.

The Paine Art Center and Gardens has been creating an immersive experience of spring inside the historic Paine mansion and conservatory for over 20 years now.

Starting March 5-8 and continuing March 12-15, visitors who have made reservations can come to the Paine Art Center and Gardens at 1410 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh to experience the Rooms of Blooms event. Florals are replaced between the two dates and fresh installations are recreated, to create the beautiful blossoming effect people are looking forward to.

The main floral show is located

in the Paine mansion.

“The mansion itself is designed to reflect different periods of time ... each room reflects a different century and design elements,” Marketing Manager Noell Dickmann said.

The first floor of the building holds the flower showcase and the second floor aims for a more lived-in, everyday life installations.

Coming in this year, a complementary “Dancing with Life: Mexican Masks” exhibition will be taking place in the main gallery. Floral designers will be presenting their floral arrangements, inspired by the masks.

“I think it’ll be really cool to see what people come up with for the masks, because they’re so vibrant and 3D,” Dickmann said.

The mansion’s Great Hall, located on the first floor, holds six tablescapes with decorative floral elements and dinnerware. “Tablescapes are a huge hit ... we

call them show stoppers ... the heights, the colors, the lighting in there is always really beautiful,” Dickmann said.

Visitors can walk among these designs and help support the artists by voting for a People’s Choice Award.

Rooms of Blooms is featuring a different sort of entertainment called Shop Hop, where participants can unlock a special keepsake by visiting three or more locations of the participating florists’ businesses. By doing so, there’s a chance to take home a bronze-level membership to the Paine.

Continuing with the theme to support these engaged artists, guests can shop at a floral-inspired Vendor Marketplace, held in the Carriage House. Hand-crafted goods, original artwork and much more in the spirit of the blooming season, making it the perfect opportunity to go home with a reminder of what to look forward to.

“Kind of like a little farmers market approach,” Dickmann said.

To complete the feeling of walking through park gardens in the mild days of spring, the conservatory provides a moment to catch your breath and refresh your senses.

“You get your tea, you get your little tea cakes and you can just sit among the blooms,” Dickmann said.

The Paine’s curator of horticulture hosts “Tea Time,” offered in the mornings and afternoon, with a selection of teas with assorted treats. After hours, throughout Friday and Saturday, guests can indulge in a variety of vines and mini charcuterie boards at “Sip and Savor.” Tea Time, Sip and Savor and Vendor Marketplace have separate schedules, coordinated around the main floral exhibit.

Some florists have been with the Paine Art Center and Gar-

dens since they started Rooms of Blooms, while others get approached by event organizers, coming from Oshkosh, Appleton, Green Bay and surrounding areas. Artists combine both florals and creative elements to showcase their abilities. Showcasing the range of their skills in themed tablescapes, tea party setups, flower arrangements and more, helps them get the recognition they deserve.

The Rooms of Blooms event is a curated presentation of spring, featuring all the best warm days provide, capturing everyone with blossoming fragrances and leaving out the insects.

“Getting to see the artistry, the beauty, the smells ... a splash of Spring-like life in the middle of winter ... people love that part,” Dickmann said.

The experience is unforgettable and cannot be seen anywhere else, unless you wait for springtime.

Joey Bragg talks stand-up, Midwest

By **Dylan Przybylski**
przybylsdy63@uwosh.edu

More than 500 people were in attendance at Reeve Memorial Union’s Ballroom to watch comedian Joey Bragg Feb. 23 for Reeve Union Board’s Winter Carnival.

Bragg starred in the Disney Channel show “Liv and Maddie” that aired for four seasons from 2013-17.

Bragg said that his target audience is college students.

“Well, I, first of all, have such an easier time selling to audienc-

es that know who I am,” he said. “And colleges are where all my demographic is right now.”

Bragg said that it is easy to relate to Gen Z because of the social media aspect of connecting with his audience.

“I’m chronically online,” he said. “I’m on TikTok constantly, so we finally have something to talk about with my audience, which is great.”

Liv and Maddie took place in Stevens Point, for the duration of the show and Bragg said that he would love to perform at the UW-Stevens Point.

“I have still never been to Stevens Point and it’s pretty close to here,” he said. “I should go there.”

Bragg said how he has met people from the Stevens Point area that want his opinion from the area.

“I’m like, ‘we filmed that in Los Angeles,’” he said. “It was pretend, so all that snow was fake.”

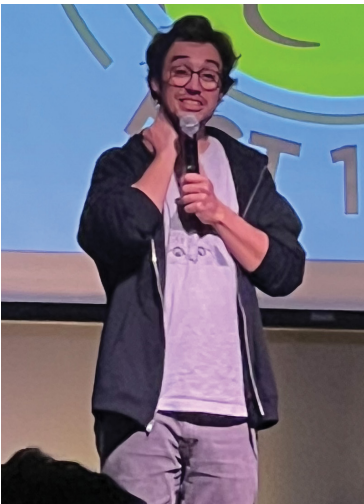
Bragg said how the weather has been too cold in the Midwest.

“Dude, I’m wearing long johns and wool socks right now, and I’m freezing my butt off,” he

said. “Also, I keep doing that thing where I walk into a place and take my jacket off and then walk out of the place, putting my jacket back on...just that shift back and forth from warm to cold. I’m sweating under my armpits like nobody’s business, so I’ve got more days to get used to it.”

Bragg said he wants to hit more of the universities in the state.

“I really want to hit Wisconsin, Stevens Point and Milwaukee,” he said. “Yeah, I would love to do those soon. I’m having a blast, I love the Midwest.”



Gen Haartman / Advance-Titan