

WVC VIBE



"The official newsletter of the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference"

2012 Season Preview

This season marks the 21st year for the WVC. This year the conference welcomes five new teams to the mix; Carroll University Men & Women, UW-Eau Claire's two women's teams, and the Moody Bible Institute Men's team. That brings this year's total number of teams to 29! There are 16 men's teams (7 Division 1 & 9 Division 2) and 13 women's teams all competing for the right to be tabbed the best team in the best club volleyball conference in the country. The WVC has a proud history with multiple national championships won by its member teams! Who will rise to the top in 2012?

Men's Division I

Lakeland College enters 2012 with a new coach on the sidelines after longtime coach Chad Schreiber resigned from his position with the college. Joe Julkowski, a former WVC MVP and standout leftside for the Muskies, will lead the team this season. Alec Redlich, Drew Schilz, and Dayton Erickson, who all participated on the Badger Region High Performance team, that won a Gold Medal at the USA Volleyball HP Championships last summer, headline a talented freshman class. The Muskies also return a couple of all-conference performers in libero Andy Cheever and middle blocker Beau Bradshaw... **Marquette University** looks to make some noise again in the conference this season after some early success this fall. The Golden Eagles made the semifinals of both the Iowa and Northern Illinois tournaments in November. Look for MU to rely on the stellar all-around play of Dave Doucette... **UW-La Crosse** won a NCVF DII National Championship in 2011! They will look to stay hot this season and figure to be near the top of the conference all year after making the finals of the WVC Kickoff tournament in early December. The Eagles add two talented freshmen from Franklin, WI, outside hitter John Joblonowski (1st team All State) and setter Riley Stone (HM All State); to a strong core of returning players... **UW-Oshkosh** will once again be the team to beat in the WVC. The 2011 NCVF DI National Champions return their entire starting lineup, and 10 of 12 team members, from last year's championship team including NCVF National Player of the year opposite Tyler Boddy and 1st team All-Americans outside hitter Bill Meidenbauer and middle blocker Dan Ruys. The Titans will also compete in the Midwest 10 conference of MIVA and travel to Las Vegas for a tournament in March. Coach Brian Schaefer will once again call the shots with the assistance of Jason Wheelock... **UW-Platteville** hopes to bounce back from a rough season a year ago. The Pioneers add 3 newcomers to go along with 7 returning players, led by sophomore Korey Schroeder.

They will travel to Iowa for the Hawkeye classic and compete in Division II at NCVF nationals in Kansas City... **UW-Stout** found success in 2011 making it all the way to the NCVF DI AAA championship match and eventual 2nd place finish. The Blue Devils will be young in 2012 with 11 of their 17 players entering their first or second year on the team... **UW-Whitewater** will have to replace several key contributors from last year's talented squad if they hope to compete for a conference championship. The Warhawks figure to rely heavily on senior outside hitter Dan Wittke.

Men's Division 2

Carroll University returns to the conference with a team for the first time since the late 90's... **Concordia University-Wisconsin** looks to be competitive this season as they had a nice showing at the WVC kickoff tournament where they advanced to the semi-finals... **Marquette II** figures to contend and has the advantage of a large pool of players to draw from... **Moody Bible Institute** (Chicago, IL) enters its inaugural season in the WVC and made an immediate impact by winning the kickoff tournament. MBI will be led by Andrew Schnepf, Saul Rapalo, and Erik Ness and will host a JV playdate this season... **Northland International University** has been a main stay at the top of the conference for 12 years now. Dave Herron's squad will have a steep learning curve early in the season as they lost 5 of 6 starters and 9 of 12 players overall from last year's team that made it to the WVC Championship match. Outside Hitter/Middle Blocker Andrew Summers will lead the Pioneers. Keep an eye on Freshman Miles Herron; if he's anything like his brothers before him, he will be fun to watch... **UW-Oshkosh II** enters the season with a lot of promise. They will be led by Will Brydon (2011 WVC State Championship MVP) and Steve Brunelli (D2 1st Team All-Conference). The Titans figure to be tough to beat once again with a number of talented freshmen arriving on campus this fall. Kurt Breier and Ryan Schultz will serve as co-coaches... **UW-Platteville II** looks to improve and enjoy the competitive experience of the WVC once again... **UW-Stout II** will see contributions from a large freshman class and hope the youth movement can propel them to several victories throughout the year... **UW-Whitewater II** made it to the finals of the WVC kickoff tournament before falling to Moody. With a squad made up entirely of players with previous playing experience the Warhawks will look to use that experience to their advantage and compete for a championship.

Women's Division

The women's division looks to be more competitive than ever with thirteen teams. **UW-Eau Claire** formed two teams to participate in their inaugural WVC season. The Blugolds plan to attend the Iowa State ranking tournament in early February and also plan to attend NCVF nationals in Kansas City. **UW-Oshkosh** and **UW-Whitewater** will also field two teams. **UW-Stevens Point** will hit the court with 7 newcomers joining 4 returners including Honorable Mention All-Conference player Grace Gelhaus... **Carroll University** enters their first season in the WVC. **UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and UW-Stout** round out the field. In what could be a wide open race for the WVC Women's Championship, look for UW-Oshkosh, UW-La Crosse, and UW-Whitewater to be near the top of the standings early on.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/25 Marquette @ Lakeland JV @ 6:30 pm, Varsity @ 8:30 pm
(Regular Season Opener)

1/28 Men's Division 1 Playdate @ UW-Oshkosh
9:00am Marquette vs. Platteville / Whitewater vs. Stout
10:30am Oshkosh vs. Stout / La Crosse vs. Marquette
12:00pm Lakeland vs. Platteville / Whitewater vs. La Crosse
1:30pm Oshkosh vs. Platteville / Stout vs. Marquette
3:00pm Lakeland vs. La Crosse
5:00PM Oshkosh vs. La Crosse

1/31 Platteville @ Lakeland JV @ 6 pm, Varsity @ 8 pm

2/3 Midwest 10 Play Day @ Marquette University
(Marquette, Lakeland, Oshkosh will be participating)

If you have information about your team, alumni, or other events that you'd like to share,
please send to Scott Spiess at spiessvb@hotmail.com. Thank You!
