

WVC VIBE



"The official newsletter of the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference"

REGULAR SEASON WRAPS-UP

The women of **UW-Eau Claire "A"** have established themselves as the team to beat entering the WVC State Championships (March 29 & 30). The Blugolds won four matches without dropping a set to claim the top spot at the 4th and final women's playdate hosted by UW-La Crosse on March 9th. They have won 3 of the 4 playdates held this season including the last 3 in a row and now have their sights set on a WVC State Championship.

The Midwest 10 conference championships were held on March 2nd at Northern Illinois University and the WVC was well represented. **UW-Oshkosh** claimed the championship sweeping through bracket play without dropping a set. **Marquette** fell in the quarterfinals to eventual finalist Notre Dame and **Lakeland College** lost to UW-Oshkosh in the semi-finals. Several WVC players were awarded All-Conference honors; 1st Team All-Conference honors went to **Bill Meidenbauer** (Outside Hitter, UW-Oshkosh), **Dan Ruys** (Middle Blocker, UW-Oshkosh), **Alex Redlich** (Outside Hitter, Lakeland College), **Nick Manning** (Outside Hitter, Marquette University). 2nd Team All-Conference honors went to **Travis Hudson** (Setter, UW-Oshkosh), **Nick Mueller** (Outside Hitter, UW-Oshkosh), and **Brett Kaczmarek** (Outside Hitter, Lakeland College). **Rob Fishman** (Libero, Marquette University) was awarded Defensive Player of the Year.

The WVC trifecta of **Lakeland College**, **Marquette University**, and **UW-Oshkosh** just completed the MIVA Championships this past weekend on the campus of Michigan State University. Marquette bowed out in its opening match of the gold bracket with a tough 3 set loss to Grand Valley. Lakeland rode the strong play of their outside hitters to victories over Notre Dame and Illinois State before losing to Illinois in the semi-finals. Illinois would go on to beat UW-Oshkosh in 3 sets in the finals. UW-O sat around for much of the day, earning a first round bye in bracket play before dismantling UW-Milwaukee and Purdue to reach the finals which did not begin until 4:30pm.

The Men's JV standings are crowded at the top despite an imbalanced schedule to due to some forfeits and poor weather preventing teams from traveling. **UW-Oshkosh II** leads the pack with a record of 7-0 and only one set loss. **Marquette University II**, **Moody Bible Institute**, and **UW-Oshkosh III** all only have match loss and figure to be the biggest threat to make some noise at the WVC State Championships.

2013 WVC STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will host the WVC's year-end event on Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th. The event was deadlocked into the Easter Holiday weekend because of pre-determined dates by the MIVA tournament and the NCVF National Tournament. The tournament will kick off with pool play on Friday at 4:30pm. There will be a short break on Friday evening for the awards ceremony around 7pm where All-Conference awards, statistical leaders, scholar athletes, service awards, and the Leif Storvik Sportsmanship awards will be distributed. There will not be any new members to the WVC Hall of Fame in 2013, but expect a large contingent to be enshrined in 2014. Pool play will resume following the awards ceremony and wrap up Saturday morning. Bracket play will begin on Saturday at 10:45am. The Women's Championship match is scheduled for 3:00pm, Men's JV at 4:00pm, and Men's Varsity final at 5:00pm. The complete schedule of matches will be posted to www.wvcweb.org later this week.

Look for the **UW-Eau Claire "A"** women to enter the State Championships full of confidence. Winners of 3 of the 4 playdates this year they enter with momentum on their side and plenty of firepower on the pins in the form of outside hitters **Leah Klink** and **Karen Sueppel**. Expect to see UW-LaCrosse emerge on the other side of the bracket. The Eagles are led by their own dynamic outside hitter, **Holly Vogelsang**. **UW-Stevens Point** or **UW-Oshkosh** could challenge for the crown if they get hot at the right time.

UW-Whitewater has emerged as a potential threat to UW-Oshkosh's reign on the WVC State Championships. The Warhawks are led by **Daniel Wittke** and **Deion Burks**, but have benefited greatly from the development of **Daniel Warner** and **Joseph Doperalski**. Despite not playing a national schedule with a lot of travel, UW-W was the only team other UW-O to record double digit match wins in the conference this season. **UW-Oshkosh** of course will not go down without a fight. The Titans have found a way to once again reload instead of rebuild getting key contributions from freshman setter **Travis Hudson** and sophomore middle block **Jake Ahnert**. Finishing the WVC season at a perfect 14-0, UW-O has a WVC record of 48-1 over the last five years and will try for their third consecutive WVC State Championship and 10th overall (more than any other team). Don't count out **Lakeland College**; the Muskies would love to leave the WVC at the top. **Marquette University** will rely on defense with the net presence of **Tom Niswonger** and backcourt play of **Rob Fishman** and always seem to gain momentum at the end of the year. **UW-LaCrosse** with its connection of **Riley Stone** to **John Jablonowski** is also capable of making a run to the finals.

It could be an all UW-Oshkosh final in the Men's JV division. Both **UW-O II** & **UW-O III** will have to get through pool play first and then knock out strong contenders in **Marquette University II** and **Moody Bible Institute**. **Steve Brunelli** has made it a habit of stepping up big for UW-O II when they need it most and is a big reason why they won the regular season title, again. **UW-O III** has defeated Winona State, #5 in current D2 poll, and traveled to tournaments in Iowa and Illinois.

Please invite friends, family, and alumni to come up to Oshkosh and help us celebrate another banner year for the WVC!

**GOOD LUCK TO THE FOLLOWING WVC TEAMS HEADED TO DALLAS, TX
APRIL 4-6 FOR THE 2013 NCVF NATIONAL TOURNAMNET:**

Men's Teams – Lakeland, Marquette, Marquette II, UW-LaCrosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Oshkosh II, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Whitewater

Women's Teams – UW-Eau Claire, UW-LaCrosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Whitewater

Tournament Results can be followed at:

<http://www.ncfvolleyball.org/Pages/nationals.aspx>

<http://www.oshkoshvolleyball.com/pages/vbhome.html>

