

# UW-Stout Athletic Department

## 2018-19 Annual Report Information

### Athletic Department Mission Statement

The Athletic Program at UW-Stout is committed to excellence. Intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of an educational program. As such, it must be sustained by basic principles of ethical behavior that are intended to:

- Enhance the goals and missions of University of Wisconsin-Stout and Student Life Services.
- Strive to enroll and retain student-athletes with the potential to succeed academically.
- Provide for student growth and development within a positive learning environment versus a win-at-all-cost philosophy.
- Provide broad-based participation opportunities through individual and team sport offerings within the parameters of gender equity and limits of facilities and resources.
- Promote excellence by providing leadership to student-athletes, the student body, the faculty, the alumni and the community.
- Provide an opportunity for interaction between the University and local communities, and the alumni.
- Promote equitable treatment of all participants and staff.
- Provide clearly defined expectations for coaches, staff, and participants by outlining University policy, intercollegiate program goals, practices and evaluation procedures.
- Abide by the WIAC Constitution and By-Laws
- Adhere to the NCAA Division III philosophy

### A Quick Breakdown of Athletics \* *Over 475 student-athletes in 18 different sports!*

#### WIAC

78 All-Conference selections (23 first team selections)

25 WIAC Athlete of the Week selections

18 All-Sportsmanship Team selections

8 WIAC Individual Conference Titles

4 WIAC Scholar-Athlete (football, hockey, indoor track, women's basketball)

1 Academic All-America

3 Academic All-District

#### NCAA

17 Individuals qualified to National competition in 19 different events, plus two teams – MCC and Gymnastics

12 All-American selections (9 individuals)

32 All-Region (29 individuals)

1 Individual National Champion (Shadae Boone, gymnastics vault)

# 2018-19 Athletic Department Initiatives

**Our number one goal each and every year is to improve the student-athlete experience. Everything we do works towards this goal.**

**1. Implement staffing plan to increase the recruitment of the numbers of quality student-athletes**

Staffing plan was put into place for 2018-19 and initial results show an increase in both overall roster sizes and incoming freshmen student-athletes. Our current incoming 2019 numbers show an increase of nearly 60 more new freshmen student-athletes than 2018 (25%).

**2. Increase time and commitment to donor development and events through #BLEEDBLUE Initiative**

The overall numbers of fund members continue to stay in the same place. Our overall time commitment to this area receded a bit, but we are looking to electronic giving as a way to generate more support and planning of events. Over \$90,000 raised in the Blue Devil Fund this past year.

**3. Develop and plan for construction of Soccer Multi-Purpose Facility and continue Rec. Complex Committee**  
Soccer Multi-Purpose facility will be a reality, State Building Commission held up the process so it is not under yet under construction. Rec Complex referendum was a success and project will move along to the state capital planning process. Positive year for the future facility, still a ways to go.

**• All past initiatives are ongoing and will continue to be used in our programming**

- Expand quality programming for student-athletes. (Step Up, Sexual Assault, Leadership)
- Develop and complete the remodeling of the Hall of Fame area
- Continue to increase recruitment, GPA, retention and graduation rates of quality student-athletes
- Update Coaches Education, professional development and rules, and increased funding for salaries
- Continue to expand participation in the Blue Devil Club and increase and raise more outside funding
- NCAA and WIAC rules education master plan
- Conduct an annual simple NCAA Title IX Athletics self-evaluation.
- Increase overall campus and community support of Blue Devil Athletics
- Annual in-house NCAA Title IX Athletics self-evaluation
- Sport specific program evaluation tools continue to be developed and used
- Increased student-athlete support of each other and other teams in Athletics
- Step Up intervention programming (2014-15 was year 5)
- improve marketing and game day promotions
- increase our overall attendance and game day involvement of fans
- Keep operational manual for our new coaching staff orientations up to date
- Capital fundraising and facility planning
- Blue Devil Fund and Foundation cooperative programming

## **2018-19 Year in review**

The UW-Stout gymnastics team made a splash on the national, regional and conference stage, finishing less than one point out of the national title and winning the combined WIAC/Midwest Region title for the first time in team history.

The gymnastics team dominated the conference championship - which was held in Menomonie - taking first place in all four individual events and capturing the all-around title, the first time a school has won all five titles since 1988.

The Blue Devils spent much of the season ranked in the top three nationally and carried the momentum to the NCGA Championship at UW-Oshkosh. Shadae Boone was the final performer of the day on the vault and won the event with a school record mark of 9.825. Stout captured a school-best seven All-America performances. Sierra Beaver and Mikala Bugge both earned two All-America titles and Boone, Brooke Terry and Britney Wolfe earned one.

The Blue Devils broke school team records throughout the season, winning the conference title with a score of 190.225 and topped that at the national meet with a 190.275. Coach Becky Beaulieu was selected as the WIAC Coach of the Year and the NCGA West Region Coach of the Year.

The Blue Devil gymnastics team was far from the only story of the school year.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams welcomed first-year coaches to their program.

The men's program, behind first-year coach Jim Lake, started off winning six games before Christmas before running into the buzz saw known as the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, a league that produced this year's national champion. And in the Blue Devils' first conference home game, Lake's charges gave eventual national champion UW-Oshkosh all they could handle, falling 77-75, in the final seconds. John Keefe scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> career point in a game at the University of Northwestern.

The Blue Devil women opened their season under first-year coach Hannah Iverson as that buzz saw team as Stout rolled out to a 10-0 start to the season, only the second time in school history. Behind all-region players Bailey Diersen and Kyncaide Diedrich, the Blue Devils returned to the conference tournament for the first time in four years. Diersen and Diedrich were among the leading scorers in the league and both earned distinction defensively, getting placed on the all-defensive team. Diersen and Diedrich both reached 1000 career points in the same game at UW-Superior. The Blue Devils finished the season at 18-9 overall, their best finish since the 2009-10 season.

The Blue Devil men's cross country team earned their second consecutive trip to the NCAA Division III Championship. Stout finished fifth at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship to earn a national at-large bid. The Blue Devils finished third at the WIAC Championship, with Aleksandr Ilyushev fifth and Mike Friedman ninth. On the women's side, Jessica Petruzates qualified individually to the national meet. The Blue Devils placed a best-ever sixth regionally and finished fourth at the conference meet with Petruzates leading the way with a fifth-place finish. Ilyushev, Joe Van Grinsven, Dan Ressler, Petruzates, Brittany Staab and Molly Perkins earned all-region honors.

The Blue Devils had first year coaches in several sports. After 18 years as the men's basketball coach, Eddie Andrist served as the men's golf coach for the season. Mandy Trautmann took over as the volleyball head coach after a year as an assistant volleyball coach and Bryce Supri joined the staff in his first year as the women's tennis coach.

The Blue Devil football team produced one of the most exciting wins in school history when they traveled to Gustavus Adolphus for the first in more than 30 years. Trailing 17-3 in the fourth quarter, Stout came back to send the game into overtime and freshman Scott Gustafson blocked the Gusties overtime extra-point attempt to give Stout a 24-23 win. Offensive lineman Caleb Adams, running back Keyshawn Carpenter, kicker Drew Pearson and punter Shawn Magee were first team all-conference picks. The Blue Devils had 14 total selected to the all-conference teams. Adams earned second team all-region honors.

The Blue Devil women's golf team earned runner-up conference tournament honors for the second consecutive year. Playing out of the No. 4 position, junior Trystin Kluess finished third and went on to earn all-conference honors, along with Madison McCambridge and Marie Allo. Howie Samb was named the UW-Stout director of golf and will oversee both the men's and women's golf programs.

Former Blue Devil head basketball coach Eddie Andrist closed out his coaching career by leading the men's golf team for the year. Andrew DeLong was named the Blue Devil men's coach beginning with the 2019-20 season.

Mandy Trautmann made an impression in her first year as the Blue Devil volleyball head coach. A year after serving as a Blue Devil assistant coach, Trautmann led the team to a 16-13 overall record and to their first home WIAC tournament game since 2004. Junior libero Steph Cannon earned all-region honors and put her name on top of the Stout record book in digs for single season and career. Cannon and middle hitter Kennedy Strain earned first team all-WIAC honors.

The Stout baseball team won as many games this season as they did over the previous two seasons and earned a trip to the WIAC Championship for the first time since 2014. Finishing 20-17, the Blue Devils had three players earn all-conference honors – first baseman Kasey Bass, outfielder Jordan Wilson and pitcher Casey Ryan. Bass and Wilson both earned all-region honors.

Sydney Kasper put the wraps on her outstanding four-year soccer career, earning All-WIAC first team honors for the third time. Kasper also earned third team Academic All-America honors.

Kyncaide Diedrich finished her Blue Devil athletic career in a softball uniform, earning first team all-conference and second team all-region honors. Junior outfielder Mary Iliopoulos started off the season on a national watch list and earned first team all-conference honors for the second consecutive year and was selected first team all-region.

The UW-Stout hockey program marked 50 years as an intercollegiate program with a gathering of hockey alumni in February. On the ice, senior defenseman Mathias Ahman repeated as a first team all-WIAC selection and was joined by four teammates who were selected as honorable mention.

The tennis team finished sixth at the WIAC Championship under first-year coach Bryce Supri.

Noah Zastrow became only the third UW-Stout pole vaulter to clear 17-feet and went on to finish second at both the WIAC Men's Outdoor Track & Field Championship and the NCAA Men's Outdoor Track & Field Championship. Zastrow also earned All-America honors at the NCAA indoor championship. Heather Beecher won the women's outdoor pole vault conference title and earned All-America honors at the indoor championship. Stephanie Pladies won the conference indoor high jump title and earned All-America honors at the NCAA indoor championship. Brittany Staab won the outdoor conference steeplechase title. Ten Blue Devils participated in the NCAA outdoor championship and eight individuals and one relay team qualified to the NCAA indoor championship. Beecher, Pladies, Zastrow, Staab, Kevin Ruechel, Morgan Denton, Josh Freyholtz and Tyler Odom earned outdoor all-region honors. Kaitlin Mallek, Pladies, Ruechel and Zastrow earned indoor all-region honors.

For the first time in school history, four Blue Devils were selected as WIAC Scholar-Athletes in the same season. Caleb Adams (football) and Mathias Ahman (hockey) received the Max Sparger Award and Bailey Diersen (women's basketball) and Kaitlin Mallek (women's indoor track and field) received the Judy Kruckmann award.

Six Blue Devil student-athletes attended the WIAC Leadership Institute in April in Madison at the American Family Insurance campus. The Blue Devils were among 48 student-athletes from the eight WIAC schools and learned techniques to inspire their teammates, how to deal with conflict management and other aspects of leadership.



Levy Hamer, Brooke Terry, Liz Oswald, Sarah Dickmann, Lucas Carroll and Jon Ciriacks attended the WIAC Student-Athlete Leadership Institute in April

## Community

Thousands of volunteer hours were completed in the campus and community in support of making UW-Stout, and Menomonie a better place. Many, many people benefit from our involvement, and it has a huge impact on our student-athletes and the youth of our community.



**MENOMONIE (June 5, 2019)** - [Jessica DuVal](#) and [Emily Makina](#) never would have imagined that their winter break was going to include putting together cooking stoves in the Central American country of Guatemala. DuVal, a member of the UW-Stout volleyball team, and Makina, a volleyball and track and field team member, spent part of their winter break, Jan. 2-19, traveling to several small communities in mostly rural Guatemala along with nine other UW-Stout students, Stout professor Dr. Ann Parsons, two Central American doctors and a team leader from the organization Vida Volunteers.



Head Football Coach Clayt Birmingham working the annual Culver's Night community event



**Jessica DuVal, center, received the WMG Humanitarian Award.** Pictured from left to right, Lucas Morgan, football nominee; Katelyn Schobert, softball nominee; Jon Storing, WMG financial advisor; Jessica DuVal, volleyball; Bryan LeVoy, WMG financial advisor; Sarah Dickmann, soccer nominee; Becky Fesenmaier, women's basketball nominee.

**MENOMONIE (May 1, 2019)** - UW-Stout's [Jessica DuVal](#) (Jr, Logan, Iowa/Harlan Community) is the recipient of the 2019 WMG Humanitarian Award, an award sponsored by the Waznik Moseler Group, that calls attention to and recognizes the student-athletes who put sports into proper perspective, who encompass teamwork, campus and community in their everyday lives and put others ahead of themselves.

The award was presented by WMG Waznik, Moseler Group financial advisors Bryan LaVoy and Jon Storing at the eighth annual UW-Stout Athletic Honors Night. DuVal, a member of the Blue Devil volleyball team, is an applied science major with a grade point average of 3.988, is a UW-Stout Scholar-Athlete, meaning she has a cumulative grade point average exceeding 3.50, and is involved in the UW-Stout Honors College.

On campus, she serves as a tutor, was a team member of BOLD Beginnings Project, worked as a volunteer coordinator for the Health Professions School Fair, volunteered in the Rehabilitation Counseling Center, volunteered with the Career Conference, is the president of the Stout Pre-Health Society, was the historian for the Student Council for Exceptional Children organization, is a leader with Cru Campus Ministry and a co-leader with Athletes in Action. During the 2019 winter break, DuVal traveled to Guatemala along with a volleyball teammate working with the volunteer group Vida. During their time in Guatemala, the duo was a part of a mission that was taking mobile clinics to unserved communities in remote locations.

"WMG is proud to recognize student-athletes who put sports into proper perspective, who encompass teamwork, who include campus and community into their everyday lives and who put others ahead of themselves," said LaVoy. "We acknowledge student-athletes with character, who care and believe in helping others and who work hard at making our world a better place."



**Retired Army captain offers sage advice to student-athletes**

**MENOMONIE (January 29, 2019)** - "Know your role" and "don't define yourself by the little setbacks" were two pieces of sage advice a decorated US Army captain offered to a gathering of UW-Stout student athletes Tuesday evening in the Great Hall of the Memorial Student Center. Jason Church, a Menomonie High School graduate and two-year football team captain at UW-La Crosse, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army and was deployed as a platoon leader to Afghanistan. Following completion of Army Ranger School, Army Airborne School and Stryker Leader Course, Church was in charge of approximately 40 soldiers that set out on daily missions in a hostile region of Afghanistan. On Aug. 23, 2012, Church's life changed forever when he was injured in an IED explosion that resulted in the loss of both legs below the knees. "It went dark for me," Church said. "When I came to and rolled over onto my back, I looked down and realized the legs I walked on for 23 years were no longer there." Church said the soldiers all knew their roles and their roles were to save him. The platoon cordoned off the area, providing a level of safety as the medic applied tourniquets to both legs to stop the bleeding.

In his message to more than 450 UW-Stout student-athletes, Church stressed the importance of teamwork, the power of a positive attitude and to take advantage of the opportunities presented with. With the support of his family and many veterans while at Walter Reed, Church took his first solo steps five months after the attack, started running within a year and began skating two years later (Church played hockey at Menomonie High School). "We may have lost arms and legs," Church said, referring to the many veterans he was together with at Walter Reed, "but we did not lose our hearts. No matter what happens to you, what matters is what happens in you."

Church also challenged the student-athletes to take advantages of the opportunities the United States provides, and especially how students can grab those opportunities while students. "You all have an opportunity," Church said. "Take advantage of that opportunity. That's how you can say thank you to me." Throughout the day Tuesday, Church met individually with a number of Blue Devil athletic teams and coaching staffs. Church's presentation was entitled "Standing up to Adversity and the Power of a Positive Attitude." Church was introduced Tuesday night by Tim Nelson, a former UW-Stout athlete who also served stints with the US Army in Afghanistan.



### **Blue Devil scholar-athletes honored for academic achievements**

**MENOMONIE (March 19, 2019)** - Thirty-seven UW-Stout senior scholar-athletes were honored Tuesday in an awards ceremony that also recognized 122 underclass scholar-athletes at the Memorial Student Center.

The UW-Stout Scholar Athlete Award is given to student-athletes with a cumulative 3.50 grade point average in the semester preceding their final season of eligibility. This is the eighth year of the UW-Stout Scholar-Athlete program, which was instituted by UW-Stout Athletic Faculty Representatives [Jo Hopp](#) and [Brian Finder](#) in 2012. The program has grown from 18 senior scholar-athletes and 76 underclassmen during the first year of the program to this year's 37 senior scholar-athletes and 122 underclassmen.

Participating in the ceremony were Chancellor Bob Meyer; Patrick Guilfoile, provost; Phillip Lyons, vice-chancellor of Administrative and Student Life Services; and [Duey Naatz](#), director of athletics.

At the end of the 2018 spring semester, 291 UW-Stout student-athletes had achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or more and the cumulative grade point average of 3.203 by Stout student-athletes exceeded the general student body for the eighth consecutive year, Naatz reported.

The student-athlete collective GPA has risen every year since 2009, when the GPA was a 2.90. A total of 162 student-athletes have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher, while 34 maintain a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Lyons mentioned that in the UW-Stout athletic department annual report the No. 1 goal of the department is to improve the student-athlete experience, and this ceremony is part of that experience. The Scholar Athlete Award program is supported by the offices of the Chancellor; Academic and Student Affairs; and Administrative and Student Life Services.



### **Twenty-two selected as Blue Devil Academic Top Scholars**

**MENOMONIE (June 21, 2019)** – Twenty-two UW-Stout student-athletes have been selected to the 2018-19 Blue Devil Academic Top Scholar list for compiling the highest grade point average during the 2018-19 academic school year in their respective sports.

Seven seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and three freshmen across the 18 sports comprise the 2018-19 Blue Devil Academic Scholar list, which is the fourth year the list has been compiled. The grade point average (GPA) is determined from the fall and spring semesters.

For the academic school year, 272 of 402 UW-Stout student-athletes compiled a GPA of 3.0 or better; 159 had a GPA of 3.5 or better; and 41 had a 4.0 for the school year. The combined student-athlete GPA (3.252) exceeded the general student body GPA (3.128) for the ninth consecutive school year.



Ei

### **Eighty-four seniors recognized at Senior Honors Night**

**MENOMONIE (April 30, 2019)** - Eighty-four UW-Stout senior student-athletes were among the many Blue Devils honored at the eighth annual Athletic Honors Night Tuesday, April 30, at the UW-Stout Memorial Student Center. Each of the 84 seniors who had finished their athletic careers was recognized at the banquet and individual awards were handed out.



### **Blue Devil Award winners**

**Bailey Diersen, Caleb Adams, Emily Bialka, Chelsea Gray, Brooke Terry, Shadae Boone, Seth Helland**

Football offensive lineman Caleb Adams was honored as the male athlete of the year and basketball player Bailey Diersen as the female athlete of the year. Gymnastics assistant coach [Seth Helland](#) received the assistant coach of the year award. Jessica DuVal received the WMG Humanitarian Award.

Adams was a team captain for the 2018 season and was named a first team preseason All-American, first team all conference for the second consecutive year and was the recipient of the WIAC Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete Award. Diersen was a first team all-conference selection, a member of the WIAC all-defensive team, was second in the WIAC in scoring, was a second team all-region selection and finished her career ranked fourth on Stout's all-time scoring list with 1,272 points. Diersen was also the WIAC Judy Kruckman Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. Helland is responsible for the vault and uneven bars. He has helped 11 gymnasts break their own personal records in these events, in addition to achieving new record team scores both the vault and uneven bars. Shadae Boone of the gymnastics team received the "Play of the Year" award after becoming the first NCAA Division III gymnast to stick a Yurchenko layout one-and-a-half vault. Boone went on to win the vault national title. The volleyball team was honored with the "Game Performance of the Year" and the gymnastics team was selected as the "Team of the Year" after winning the WIAC Championship title for the first time in school history.

The Award of Thanks was presented to UW-Stout Chancellor Bob Meyer. In presenting the award, Blue Devil athletic director [Duey Naatz](#) thanked Meyer for his commitment and support of Blue Devil athletics. Meyer announced his retirement earlier this school year. "I have enjoyed working side by side with you," Naatz said as Meyer accepted the award. "I have enjoyed sharing open communication and dialogue and sharing a love for the outdoors. I appreciate your trust and belief in the value of Blue Devil Athletics and our student-athletes to the overall mission of our great campus."

# 2019-20 Athletics/UREC Department Initiatives

**Our number one goal each and every year is to improve the student-athlete and student experience. Everything we do works towards this goal.**

**1. Prepare, plan for and run a Fall Parents Weekend event, FAM JAM**

- a. Erin and Duey, completed, Fall, 2019
- b. Communication and promotion of the event completed
- c. Plan for this to become an annual event

**2. Increase participant numbers in all areas of UREC, club sports & outdoor adventures**

- a. Mackenzie and Duey,
- b. **Goal 4: Increase student participation in applied research, increase student experiences that develop intercultural competence, and require an applied learning experience from all students.\***

Performance indicators include\*:

- Student Engagement (NSSE)
- c. Incomplete due to Covid-19.

**3. Athletics Administration team reorganization**

- a. Erin and Duey, completed Spring, 2020
- b. **Goal 2: Establish sustained financial viability of the institution by improving fiscal discipline, reallocating resources, increasing donations and other external revenue, and streamlining processes.\***

Performance indicators include\*:

- Sources of revenue and measure of financial viability

**4. Put together short & long-term capital plan for UREC, Athletics & Club Sports**

**5. Continue Rec Complex planning**