

Hank Karius
President 644-7701

Gerry Lofy
Vice President 644-8952

Tim Wiedmeyer
Secretary 644-7618

Rick Vandermause
Treasurer 644-6761

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YOUNG OWLS EAGER TO MAKE THEIR MARK

The 2005 – 2006 Slinger Owls Boys Basketball team will be one of the youngest to ever take the floor for Slinger High School. Entering their final year of play in the Parkland Conference, which will disband after the school year, several sophomores are expected to see significant playing time for the Owls. Slinger will move to the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

The Owls return five seniors, but only two of those saw significant playing time last season. The Owl offense will rely upon returning second-team all-conference performer Jeremy Off to provide a dominant inside scoring threat. The 6'4" Off led the Parkland Conference in rebounding last season while also averaging 11.0 points per game. Guard Jack Stern started five games late last season, and will be expected to provide the Owls with a consistent outside shooting threat. The other seniors who are expected to contribute are Brandon Roethenhofer, Kris Guerndt, and Bruce Klink.

The Owls open the season at home on Saturday night, November 26th, against North Shore Conference member Grafton. Last year, the Owls defeated Grafton in a non-conference game played at the Bradley Center in February.

On Tuesday, November 29th, the Owls play their first road game traveling to play local rival

Kewaskum. On Friday, December 2nd, the Owls will open conference play traveling to Pewaukee. Last season, the Owls swept both games from Pewaukee for the first time since the 1996 – 97 season. Slinger and Pewaukee have been in the same conference for 70 of the last 71 seasons. After the season, the Owls and Pirates will part ways as the Pirates will enter the Woodland Conference.

The Parkland Conference home opener is on Friday, December 9th, against the Shorewood Greyhounds. The Owls swept the Greyhounds in both games last year including a bizarre record-setting 37 – 10 victory in a game where Shorewood stalled the entire game, even when trailing significantly. Slinger then travels to play the Watertown Luther Prep Phoenix on Friday, December 16th. The Owls swept the Phoenix last year.

The Owls close out the calendar year with three consecutive non-conference games over the holidays. Slinger travels to Campbellsport on Thursday, December 22nd, and then hosts Mayville on Friday, December 30th. Last season, the Owls split a pair of games at Mayville, winning during the regular season in a non-conference game over the holiday break, and losing a 43 – 42 heartbreaker in WIAA Regional play. Slinger closes out the holiday break with a non-conference game at New Berlin West.

SLINGER OWLS 2005 - 2006 SCHEDULE

Nov 26	Grafton (nc)	Jan 31	at Shorewood
Nov 29	at Kewaskum (nc)	Feb 3	W'town Luther Prep (HOOPS)
Dec 2	at Pewaukee	Feb 7	at St. Francis
Dec 9	Shorewood	Feb 10	Kettle Moraine Lutheran
Dec 16	at Watertown Luther Prep	Feb 17	Whitefish Bay Dominican
Dec 22	at Campbellsport (nc)	Feb 18	Germantown (nc) (Senior Night)
Dec 30	Mayville (nc)	Feb 24	at Brown Deer
Jan 3	at New Berlin West (nc)	Feb 28	WIAA Subregional
Jan 6	St. Francis (Parent's Night)	Mar 2 – 4	WIAA Regionals
Jan 13	at Kettle Moraine Lutheran	Mar 10 – 11	WIAA Sectionals
Jan 20	at Whitefish Bay Dominican	Mar 16 – 18	WIAA State Finals
Jan 24	Brown Deer		
Jan 27	Pewaukee		

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SlingerHoops@charter.net

NINTH ANNUAL SLINGER *HOOPS* GOLF OUTING

The 9th Annual Slinger *HOOPS* Golf Outing was held on Saturday, August 6th. The highly rated Washington County Golf Course again hosted the golf. The evening cookout and party was held at the recently finished Tim Wiedmeyer residence. Because of various conflicts, the number of golfers was down to 33 this year, while approximately 50 people joined us for the cookout. The food was once again fantastic. Special thanks go out to Jim and

Marie Wiedmeyer, Gary Wiedmeyer, Heidi Lofy, and Jeannette Schwartz for coordinating the cookout. We could not put on this event without their help.

Thanks to all of you who participated! Next year, we would like to increase the number of attendees. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers. We will let you know as soon as a date is set.

2005 – 2006 Slinger Owls Coaching Staff

The Slinger Owls boy's basketball coaching staff consists of a mix of full-time paid coaches and part-time volunteer coaches. Varsity Coach Alan Schieve (Janesville Craig '74) leads the Owls beginning his 19th season as boy's varsity coach. His overall varsity record is 201 – 191 (including a 144 – 79 mark over the past 10 years). Coach Schieve is assisted at the varsity level by Nate Grimm (Seymour '91). This will be Grimm's fourth year working with the varsity after spending four years as the Freshmen head coach for the Owls. Hank Karius (Slinger '85) returns for his 12th year as a part-time volunteer assistant coach with the Varsity. As a result of a broken ankle suffered this fall, Rick Held (Slinger '67) will take a one-year leave as JV Coach. Tony Dobson (Slinger '94) will head up the junior varsity team this year after leading the freshmen for the last three years. Tony will be assisted at the JV level by volunteer assistant Peter Fritz (Slinger '82). This will be the 19th consecutive year that Pete has assisted with the boy's basketball program. The freshmen will be led this year by Brad Naumann (Wisconsin Lutheran '96). This is Brad's second year with the program as he served as a volunteer assistant with the freshmen last year. Volunteer assistant Eric Karius (Slinger '94) returns for his fourth year assisting the freshmen, and will also help out at the Varsity level as time permits.

Coach's Corner

By Coach Alan Schieve

Challenge can be a tremendous motivator in the sports world. Having had a great deal of success over the last ten years, the expectation to continue that success on the court is a challenge the basketball staff has had to face almost every year. This year we add the challenge of being the most inexperienced group that we have had to work with in many years. Gone are nine seniors who made up the bulk of the playing time last year. Returning are five new seniors and a sophomore, only two of which saw extensive playing time. Combine that with the limited number of juniors we had on the JV team last year, and this season looks to be a greater challenge than we have faced in many years.

That said, it is with great anticipation and excitement that the coaching staff looks forward to this year. While we are lacking in experience we feel that there is more than enough talent to allow us to challenge as we enter our final year in the very competitive Parkland Conference. We are bolstered by the return of 2nd team All-Conference selection and conference rebounding leader Jeremy Off. The inside game looks solid, but we will need strong perimeter play to take advantage of Jeremy. We feel our perimeter play is in good hands with seniors Jack Stern, who was a starter at the end of last season, Chris Guerndt, Brandon Rothenhoefer, and sophomore Austin Kearns, who had a very productive off-season playing AAU ball. Add to that group our incoming juniors and possibly a few players from a talented sophomore group and the outlook for the season is very positive.

Our players were again active in the summer from a playing standpoint. For the second year in a row we were able to win the West Bend summer league. We also were very competitive in summer tournaments finishing the summer with an impressive showing at the Greenfield tourney losing in the championship game to perennial powerhouse Milwaukee Vincent after leading at halftime. We were a little disappointed in the time some of our players spent on their individual skills, but with summer baseball and summer jobs it is difficult to find time for everything. Hopefully that will not hurt us during the regular season.

There will be a great challenge to the coaching staff to develop our young and inexperienced players. We have a tremendous staff whose greatest strength is their ability to teach. We believe this team will develop throughout the year and play good basketball. One unfortunate development is that Coach Held is going to have to take the year off as he recovers from a baseball injury. His coaching talents will be missed especially at the JV level.

I am really looking forward to this year. I am sure that most teams do not expect us to challenge for the conference title. But I think the conference will be very balanced without a clear cut favorite. With strong commitment and dedication from our players, along with a lot of hard work, I think we can make this a season to remember.

Hopefully, you will take the opportunity to show your support of the boy's basketball program by continuing a membership or by becoming a member of *HOOPS*. Your support is greatly appreciated and it is a major factor in the success the basketball program has experienced over the years.

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