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Vice President 644-8952

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Secretary 644-7618

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Treasurer 644-6761

*Slinger*

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## **OWLS LOOK TO REBOUND IN LITTLE TEN WIAA TOURNAMENT EXPANDED TO FIVE DIVISIONS**

The 2009 – 2010 Slinger Owls played some excellent basketball during the second half of the season en route to an overall record of 11 – 12, including a 6 – 8 record in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference. The season ended on a bitter note with a disappointing home loss to Stevens Point in the first game of the WIAA Division 1 tournament.

The Owls will return four players who saw significant playing time last year including juniors Kirk Emmer and Dan Sabin, and seniors Kyle Behrens and Danny Wimmer. Emmer was the team MVP last season while leading the team in scoring and assists, and finishing second in rebounding, while Sabin led the team in rebounds. The Owls will be looking to several other returning seniors to compete for playing time along with players from the JV team that finished 14 – 8 last season. The future of Slinger basketball looks bright, as the Freshmen team finished the 2009 – 2010 season with an overall record of 16 – 4, which included a share of the Freshmen conference title with Wisconsin Lutheran. It was first time in at least seven years that the WISCO freshmen did not win the outright title.

The Owls appear poised to return to the top half of the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference standings after a fifth place finish last season and a seventh place finish in 2008 – 2009. Wisconsin Lutheran is again the favorite in the WLT conference race.

In year end WIAA tournament play, the WIAA voted to change the boys and girls basketball tournament to a five division tournament instead of a four division tournament for this season and future seasons. Teams are sorted into the divisions based entirely on school size. In the past, the largest 116 teams in the state were placed in Division 1 and the next 116 teams were placed in Division 2, etc. Last year, Slinger was the 116<sup>th</sup> largest school in the state and thus the smallest Division 1 participant. Now Division 1 will include high schools with an

enrollment of 1200 students or higher. Slinger will be a Division 2 team for the 2010 – 2011 season and likely as long as the tournament keeps this format as the Division 2 bracket includes high schools with enrollments from 600 – 1199 students.

With the revised brackets, Slinger will travel north this year for both Regional and Sectional play. The Regional Final game is scheduled in Fond du Lac. If Slinger advances to the Sectionals, the games will be played in Green Bay at the Brown County Arena. Other area teams that will play in this Division 2 Sectional include West Bend East, West Bend West, Beaver Dam, Kewaskum, Cedarburg, and Grafton. The full tournament brackets can be found on the WIAA Website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

Slinger will again open its season participating in the “Old Scenic Moraine” Thanksgiving Tournament on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at Kewaskum. Last year, Slinger hosted this tournament and won the championship by beating Grafton and Mayville. This year, the Owls will open with Kewaskum, and then play either Grafton or Mayville in the Saturday night game at Kewaskum.

Another highlight on the schedule this year includes a trip to a Green Bay holiday showcase during the Christmas break. Slinger will play two games at the Kress Center on the campus of UW – Green Bay. On Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, Slinger will play Shawano. On Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, Slinger will play Wisconsin basketball power Seymour. The other nonconference games are scheduled against Pewaukee, Sheboygan Falls, Greendale, and New Berlin West.

The Owls will open Wisconsin Little Ten Conference play at Hartford on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Their first home conference game, and first home game of the season, is the following Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, when Slinger hosts Watertown.

**Slinger HOOPS Ltd., P.O. Box 251, Slinger, WI 53086**

[SlingerHoops@charter.net](mailto:SlingerHoops@charter.net)

## Slinger Owls 2010 – 2011 Basketball Schedule

Nov 26	at Kewaskum (nc)	Jan 14	at Beaver Dam
Nov 27	at KHS vs Mayville/Grafton (nc)	Jan 18	New Berlin West (nc)
Nov 30	at Pewaukee (nc)	Jan 21	at Oconomowoc
Dec 10	at Hartford	Jan 28	Hartford
Dec 17	Watertown	Feb 1	at Watertown
Dec 18	Sheboygan Falls (nc)	Feb 4	at West Bend West
Dec 21	West Bend West	Feb 11	Beaver Dam
Dec 23	Greendale (nc)	Feb 15	Oconomowoc
Dec 29	at Green Bay vs Shawano (nc)	Feb 23	at Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec 30	at Green Bay vs Seymour (nc)	Feb 26	West Bend East
Jan 4	Wisconsin Lutheran	Mar 4 - 5	WIAA Regionals
Jan 7	at West Bend East	Mar 11-12	WIAA Sectionals

## Slinger Owls 2009 – 2010 Basketball Season

Nov 27	Grafton (nc)	W 46-34	Jan 22	Oconomowoc	W 53-52
Nov 28	Mayville (nc)	W 52-37	Jan 26	at Hartford	W 64-61
Dec 1	at Lomira (nc)	W 47-40	Jan 29	Watertown	L 52-53
Dec 4	at Watertown	L 27-48	Feb 2	at Greendale (nc)	W 52-38
Dec 8	at Wisco	L 37-61	Feb 4	West Bend West	W 55-52
Dec 11	at Campbellsport (nc)	W 44-37	Feb 12	at Oconomowoc	L 45-53
Dec 15	at West Bend West	W 52-42	Feb 15	at Beaver Dam	W 67-54
Dec 19	at Sheboygan Falls (nc)	L 45-47	Feb 18	Wisconsin Lutheran	L 45-55
Dec 30	Pewaukee (nc)	L 45-60	Feb 23	at West Bend East	W 71-64 OT
Jan 5	West Bend East	L 56-58	Feb 26	Hartford	L 51-56
Jan 15	Beaver Dam	L 36-56	Mar 2	Stevens Point (WIAA)	L 44-59
Jan 19	New Berlin West (nc)	L 35-46	<b>Overall Record 11 – 12; WLT Conference 6 - 8</b>		

### Coach's Corner

*By Head Coach Alan Schieve*

I often say the best thing about the winter is that it is basketball season. And so as the weather grows colder, it is with great anticipation we begin to prepare for the 2010-2011 basketball season. While we lost some very good players from last year's 11-11 regular season record, we are very encouraged with our returning players as well as the underclassmen that will join the varsity.

There have been some big changes that have occurred with our program over the last 6 months or so. For the first time in 10 years we are preparing for some major coaching changes. The biggest is the retirement of Rick Held as our JV coach. Coach Held has done a tremendous job in our program over his years here. He joined the Slinger staff in 1993, and was instrumental in the success that our program has had over the last 15 years. He has been responsible for developing our younger players and getting them ready to play at the varsity level. Beyond his knowledge of the game of basketball was the way Coach Held dealt with our players. He was not only a coach but he was a teacher and a role model for our players. Coach Held's impact on our program will be greatly missed.

One of the strengths of our program has been the overall ability of our coaching staff. While we will miss Coach Held I believe our staff will be up to the challenge of replacing his abilities. Coach Grimm has decided to go to the JV level and replace Coach Held as the head coach at that level. We are fortunate to have a quality coach to step in there. Coach Dobson is going to move from the freshmen level to become the varsity assistant. His ability to relate to the players in our program will make that a smooth transition.

The final coaching move was to hire Mark Weske as our new freshmen coach. Coach Weske is a former player in our program who has decided that he would now like to get into the coaching end of the game. He started on one of our Regional Championship teams and brings a real understanding of how to play the game, as well as a toughness that players need to learn how to play with. We are fortunate to be able to find someone who has an understanding of our program to fill that position.

It is an exciting time of the year. I know our players are gearing up. We expect to be very competitive in the Little Ten. I really like the possible make up of our team. We should be adding some size but will need to find the three point shooting we lost through the graduation of our seniors. Hopefully, you will be able to come out and enjoy the 2010-2011 version of the Slinger Owls. It will be a great place to stay warm on those cold winter nights.

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