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OWLS LOOK TO CHALLENGE IN LITTLE TEN SEVERAL KEY PLAYERS RETURN

The 2010 – 2011 Slinger Owls fielded one of the youngest teams that the Slinger varsity team has competed with in several years. Several juniors and three sophomores saw regular playing time as the team finished the season with an overall record of 12 – 12 while advancing to the WIAA Division 2 Regional Championship game where they were upended by conference rival Beaver Dam in a game played at Fond du Lac. The Owls finished 7 – 7 in Wisconsin Little Ten Conference play finishing in fifth place. Wisconsin Lutheran ran away with the conference title going undefeated and winning the league by four games over Watertown and Oconomowoc. It was the sixth consecutive outright conference championship for Wisco.

Slinger will be led by Senior guard Kirk Emmer, who was the only Owl to earn any conference recognition last season. Emmer led the Owls in scoring and assists, while finishing second in rebounds, while earning team MVP honors for the second straight season. He was named First Team All-Conference. In addition to Emmer returning for his third year on the Varsity, the Owls should display as much depth as any Slinger team in recent memory, including a group of juniors that tied Wisco at the top of the Wisconsin Little Ten Freshmen standings two years ago.

The Owls appear poised to return to the top three of the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference standings after a second consecutive fifth place finish last season. Wisconsin Lutheran is again the favorite in the WLT conference race, with Beaver Dam also being a consensus pick for a high conference finish.

In year end WIAA tournament play, the WIAA Tournament will again be a five division tournament with Slinger competing in the Division 2 bracket for high schools with enrollments between 600 - 1199. Similar to last year, Slinger will travel north this year for both Regional and Sectional play.

This year, the Regional Final game will be played at the location of the higher seeded team rather than on a neutral court. The Sectional semifinal game is scheduled at Sheboygan South, while the Sectional final Championship game is scheduled at Fond du Lac. The other teams that will play in our half of the Division 2 Sectional, of which Regional pairings are determined, include West Bend East, West Bend West, Beaver Dam, Kewaskum, Plymouth, Waupun, Cedarburg, Port Washington and Grafton. The full tournament brackets can be found on the WIAA Website at www.wiaawi.org

Slinger will again open its season participating in the “Old Scenic Moraine” Thanksgiving Tournament on Friday, November 25th, and Saturday, November 26th, with Grafton hosting the event. This year, the Owls will open the tournament against Kewaskum, and then play either Grafton or Mayville in the Saturday night game at Grafton.

Slinger will again make a trip to the Kress Center on the campus of UW - Green Bay to play in a holiday showcase during the Christmas break. Last year, Slinger split its two games at UW-GB losing to 2011 state tournament participant Seymour before bouncing back to beat Shawano. This year, the Owls will only play one game in the classic against Hortonville on Tuesday, December 27th. The other nonconference games this season are scheduled against Pewaukee, Waukesha North, and Monona Grove at home, and away games at Greendale, and New Berlin West. A return trip to Monona Grove is being scheduled for the 2012 – 2013 basketball season.

The Owls will open Wisconsin Little Ten Conference play at home against Hartford on Friday, December 2nd. A complete 2011 – 2012 schedule, as well as the results from last season, can be found on the back of this newsletter.

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Slinger Owls 2010 – 2011 Basketball Season

Nov 26	at Kewaskum (nc)	L 48-61	Jan 14	at Beaver Dam	L 62-73
Nov 30	at Pewaukee (nc)	L 44-61	Jan 18	New Berlin West (nc)	L 27-50
Dec 6	at Mayville(nc)	W 75-48	Jan 21	at Oconomowoc	L 29-46
Dec 10	at Hartford	L 52-60	Jan 28	Hartford	W 67-55
Dec 17	Watertown	W 56-53	Feb 1	at Watertown	L 42-50
Dec 18	Sheboygan Falls (nc)	W 49-45	Feb 4	at West Bend West	W 59-32
Dec 21	West Bend West	W 54-31	Feb 11	Beaver Dam	W 61-56
Dec 23	Greendale (nc)	W 55-35	Feb 15	Oconomowoc	L 40-44
Dec 29	at UWGB vs Seymour	L 30-58	Feb 23	at Wisconsin Lutheran	L 39-57
Dec 30	at UWGB vs Shawano	W 48-45	Feb 26	West Bend East	W 58-35
Jan 4	Wisconsin Lutheran	L 41-55	Mar 4	Kewaskum (WIAA)	W 51-36
Jan 7	at West Bend East	W 55-35	Mar 5	Beaver Dam at FDL	L 36-58

Slinger Owls 2011 – 2012 Basketball Schedule

Nov 25	Kewaskum at Grafton (nc)	Jan 20	Oconomowoc
Nov 26	TBD at Grafton (nc)	Jan 24	at New Berlin West (nc)
Nov 29	Pewaukee (nc)	Jan 27	at Hartford
Dec 2	Hartford	Jan 31	Watertown
Dec 8	at Watertown	Feb 3	West Bend West
Dec 13	Waukesha North (nc)	Feb 10	at Beaver Dam
Dec 15	at West Bend West	Feb 11	Monona Grove (nc)
Dec 22	at WISCO	Feb 14	at Oconomowoc
Dec 27	Hortonville at UWGB (nc)	Feb 17	WISCO
Jan 3	West Bend East	Feb 23	at West Bend East
Jan 6	at Greendale (nc)	Mar 2&3	WIAA Regionals
Jan 13	Beaver Dam	Mar 8&10	WIAA Sectionals

Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

This stuff never gets old. With the high school football playoffs in full swing, the beginning of high school basketball season is just around the corner. It is always an exciting time for our coaching staff. Trying to determine which players we can count on and how they fit into our system. Planning what new wrinkles to add to our system to take advantage of our talent, and the coaches meetings with all of our coaches from 4th grade on up really add to the excitement of another basketball season.

On paper this year looks to be one where we feel we will be highly competitive. We lost 3 players from last year, Kyle Behrens, Dan Wimmer, and Tommy Brown who had a big impact on our season and will be difficult to replace. But we return 5 of our top 8 players from last year. Leading the way is our leading scorer and 1st Team All-Conference selection point guard Kirk Emmer. Kirk is a three year starter who not only will be counted on in all facets of the game but will also be looked upon to give strong leadership both on and off the court. This year's team should have more balance than we have had in the past few years. We are hoping to have a little more size and inside presence which should make us more effective on offense getting points around the basket. Where it should help the most is defensively – with more favorable size match ups. Led by Kirk, the strength of the team will be our perimeter play. This team could be one of the best 3-point shooting teams we have ever had. We will have great depth with a good combination of returning seniors to go along with a strong junior class.

The Little Ten conference should be more balanced than in the past. WISCO will be the favorite but will not be as over-powering as in the past. They lost a lot through graduation, but always have talent coming through the ranks. Beaver Dam has three outstanding players returning from a team that made the sectionals last year and Oconomowoc and Watertown return many starters and quality players from last year. Where does that leave the Owls?

We think we can be serious contenders. Chemistry and understanding roles, we believe, are two important keys to winning teams. Players have to genuinely enjoy each other on and off the court. There has to be a mutual respect for each other and desire to achieve a mutual goal, in this case winning. Understanding roles is difficult because everyone wants to be the leading scorer. Unfortunately, there is only one basketball, and your best players have to have it most of the time. Others need to find and understand what they can do to give their team the best possibility to be successful. We feel very comfortable with the group of guys we have coming in that they will do whatever has to be done to battle for a conference championship.

It could to very a fun and exciting year around here. One thing I know for sure is that we have guys who like to play and are competitive - two important ingredients to be successful on the court. If you get a chance, come out and see us play this season. I don't think you will be disappointed. And hopefully when it is over that first boys basketball Little Ten championship will be a reality. Thanks for your continued support and GO OWLS!

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