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Slinger

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SLINGER MOVES TO LITTLE TEN CONFERENCE

As the Slinger Owls prepare themselves for the 2006 – 2007 basketball season, they will be participating in a new conference for the first time since the school was moved from the Scenic Moraine Conference to the Parkland Conference back in 1980. Slinger will be the eighth member in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference. The other members of the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference are Hartford, West Bend East, West Bend West, Beaver Dam, Oconomowoc, Watertown, and Wisconsin Lutheran (which is located on 84th Street in Milwaukee just north of State Fair Park).

The Parkland Conference was completely disbanded at the end of the last school year, with the eight schools from that conference being split up into five different existing conferences. Brown Deer, Pewaukee, St. Francis, and Shorewood joined the Woodland Conference. Kettle Moraine Lutheran joined the East Rivers Flyway Conference. Whitefish Bay Dominican joined the Midwest Classic Conference, and Watertown Luther Prep joined the Capital Conference.

Slinger goes from being the largest school in the Parkland Conference to being the second smallest school in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference. Slinger's high school enrollment (grade 9 – 12) is approximately 950 students with only private school Wisconsin Lutheran being smaller (approximately 900 students). Hartford is at approximately 1800 students, Oconomowoc and Watertown have approximately 1500 students, West Bend East and West Bend West are just under 1300 students, and Beaver Dam is at approximately 1200 students.

The only school from the Little Ten that the Owls have played in boys basketball in the past twenty years is West Bend East. Slinger won three of five games against the Suns from 2000 through 2004.

As can be seen from the geography of the teams in the conference, the Owls look forward to the great regional rivalries that should develop with Hartford and the West Bend schools in the upcoming years.

Slinger will open the season traveling to play its long-time rival Pewaukee on Saturday afternoon, November 25th, with a 1:30 tip-off scheduled for the Junior Varsity game and the Varsity game following. The Owls and Pirates expect to continue their rivalry in coming seasons playing one non-conference game every year. The teams split their two conference games last season.

The following Tuesday (November 28th), Slinger will travel to Grafton for a non-conference game. The Owls have defeated Grafton three times in the past two seasons including a 2005 WIAA tournament game. Slinger then makes its Wisconsin Little Ten (WLT) Conference debut traveling to Watertown on Tuesday night, December 5th. The Owls finally play their first home game on Friday night, December 8th, hosting West Bend West.

The following Thursday, Slinger travels to play Beaver Dam. One of the additional benefits from the change of conferences is that the boys and girls often play conference games on different nights (with some Thursday night games on the schedule for both). Thus, it will allow parents and Slinger basketball fans to see both teams play more often.

On Saturday night, December 16th, Slinger will host the Campbellsport Cougars in a nonconference rematch. Last year, the Owls dropped a close game at Campbellsport. Slinger then returns to Wisconsin Little Ten play with a game at Oconomowoc on Tuesday night, December 19th, in the final WLT conference game before the Christmas break.

With fourteen conference games, the Owls play six non-conference games. In addition to Pewaukee, Grafton, and Campbellsport, Slinger will also play nonconference games at Germantown (Dec 28th), hosting Kewaskum (Jan 9th), and a game against Milwaukee Washington (Jan 15th) at the US Cellular Arena. The Owls lost at home to Germantown last year, while winning at Kewaskum. Additional details on the Milwaukee Washington game are provided in a separate article in this newsletter.

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SLINGER OWLS 2006 - 2007 SCHEDULE

Nov 25	at Pewaukee (nc)	Jan 15	Milw Washington (nc) at US Cell
Nov 29	at Grafton (nc)	Jan 19	Hartford (Parents Night)
Dec 5	at Watertown	Jan 26	Watertown
Dec 8	West Bend West	Jan 30	at West Bend West
Dec 14	at Beaver Dam	Feb 2	Beaver Dam
Dec 16	Campbellsport (nc)	Feb 9	Oconomowoc (HOOPS Night)
Dec 19	at Oconomowoc	Feb 13	at Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec 28	at Germantown (nc)	Feb 16	West Bend East (Senior Night)
Jan 5	Wisconsin Lutheran	Feb 23	at Hartford
Jan 9	Kewaskum (nc)	Feb 27	WIAA Regionals Start
Jan 11	at West Bend East		Conference Games Listed in Bold Print

Slinger **HOOPS** 10th Annual Golf Outing

The 10th Annual Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing and Cookout was held on Saturday, August 5th at the Washington County Golf Course with the cookout held at the Tim Wiedmeyer residence in the Whispering Pines subdivision in Slinger. Thirty-six golfers joined us for golf, while almost 60 people

joined us for the cookout that evening. The weather was spectacular and the views from the Wiedmeyer residence impressive. It was good to see several alumni. We hope to see more people next year. Thanks to all of you who joined us especially those who organized their own foursomes!

OWLS TO PLAY MILWAUKEE WASHINGTON

NONCONFERENCE GAME PART OF MARTIN LUTHER KING HOOPS FEST

The 2006 – 2007 Slinger basketball schedule is highlighted by a nonconference game against Milwaukee Washington on Monday afternoon, January 15th. The game will be played at the US Cellular Arena, and is one of several games that are part of the Martin Luther King Hoops Fest annual event. All of the teams participating in the event attend a banquet the night before the games. For participating in the event, the teams receive free tickets to a Bucks game, and the schools receive scholarship stipends.

The participating schools are asked to sell 200 admission tickets to the high school games. The Owls game against Milwaukee Washington will tip-off at approximately 4:00 pm on January 15th. The cost of an admission ticket, which gets you into all of the games for the day, is \$5 in advance. Please contact any player or coach that is part of the Slinger boy's basketball program for ticket information. Tickets will cost \$7 at the door. This will be the first game that Slinger will play against a Milwaukee City Conference school since being beaten by Milwaukee King in a WIAA Class B Regional Championship game back in 1982.

Coach's Corner

By Coach Alan Schieve

It is time to start the new era of competition at Slinger High School. We enter play in the Little Ten. While our fall sports have certainly held their own moving to the new league with schools that are much larger than we are, it is with excitement that we begin to prepare for the basketball season. And not only are we preparing for the Little Ten, but it will also be the first time since basketball has gone to more than one division that Slinger will be competing in Division 1 for tournament play.

We feel very fortunate to be heading toward this new challenge with what we feel is a group that has the potential to compete for a championship. Potential is a scary word, and often times creates underachieving rather than meeting that potential. That will be one of the keys to our season. Our players must compete at the level they are capable of competing at to reach their potential. There will need to be a high level of effort, drive, and competitiveness.

We will be young. We only have three returning seniors in Eric Fassbender, Nolan Jensen, and Nathan Retzlaff, and they did not see a lot of game action as juniors. Varsity athletics in high school often are senior dominated. We do have a group of talented juniors. Five of them were on the varsity as sophomores and saw considerable playing time. That group is lead by 2nd Team All-Conference point guard Austin Kearns. Devin Mayer, Gus Gehring, and Rick Hanke all started at one point last year and Eric Nehm saw time off the bench.

This group will be pushed for starting roles and playing time by five or six juniors coming off last year's JV team that finished with a very good 15-5 record.

There will be many keys for us to have a successful season. We have to find more than one consistent scorer. One of the strengths of our program has been on the defensive end of the floor. This group will need to develop a defensive attitude. Part of that attitude will include rebounding. We always try to push the ball and that starts with rebounding and turnovers.

Probably the biggest key we will have this season will be our team chemistry. Over the years we have discovered that how well a team relates and reacts to each other can have a huge affect on the course of a season. That challenge will be great for us this year. Leadership plays a big role. It may be that we will have to depend on our younger players to provide that leadership.

This is a tough year to predict how the season will unwind. We are very excited about the players we have. They are talented and have the ability to make plays that can lead to a successful season. But there are also question marks. How well we answer those questions will have a lot to say about how the season will go. The one thing I know for sure is that there will be a lot of good basketball played by, as Tim Wiedmeyer, the Voice of the Owls, would say, "your Slinger Owls". Hopefully you will be able to get out and see us play as we begin competition in the Little Ten.

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