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Slinger

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OWLS LOOK TO CHALLENGE FOR TITLE

Nonconference Schedule Highlighted by Trip to the UW Fieldhouse in December

After struggling down the stretch of the 2006 – 2007 season, the Owls return almost all of their key players from last season. Slinger finished the season with an 8 - 6 Wisconsin Little Ten Conference record, which left them in a tie for second place with Watertown and Oconomowoc behind Wisconsin Lutheran. Unfortunately for Slinger, and the rest of the Little Ten Conference, Wisconsin Lutheran (Wisco) also returns virtually their entire team. The conference was dominated by juniors and other underclassmen last season, but will be a very senior dominated conference this season. Wisco, who finished 12 – 2 in the conference last season (with one of their losses to the Owls in early January), will be the heavy favorite to repeat as champions.

Slinger opens its 2007 – 2008 season with three straight home games. On Saturday, November 24th, the Owls open up the season against long time rival Pewaukee. The following Tuesday, November 27th, the Owls host Grafton in another nonconference tilt, before opening up the WLT conference season with a home game against the Watertown Goslings on Friday, November 30th.

The first road game for the Owls will be a conference game at West Bend West on Thursday night, December 6th. Slinger split its two games with the Spartans last year, with each team winning on its home court.

Fans should check the schedule closely as several Wisconsin Little Ten Conference games are played on Thursday nights instead of Friday. As a result, some nonconference games are played on Mondays. The full regular season schedule is detailed in this newsletter. Furthermore, because of scheduling conflicts with the Kohl Center, the WIAA boys state tournament starts two weeks earlier this year. Thus, the twenty game regular season will have much less practice time than in normal seasons.

The following week of December, Slinger will host both Beaver Dam (on Tuesday) and Oconomowoc (on Friday) in conference games. The Cooney was the only team to sweep the Owls last season, while the Owls swept both games from Beaver Dam.

With the holiday approaching, the Owls close out the calendar year with only one conference game and three nonconference games. After traveling to Campbellsport on Monday, December 17th, for a nonconference game, Slinger will travel to Milwaukee to play Wisconsin Lutheran in a pivotal conference game on Thursday, December 20th.

The Owls close out the calendar year with a nonconference game at Sheboygan Falls on Saturday, December 22nd, and then travel to Madison to participate in the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Holiday Classic. On Thursday, December 27th, the Owls will play Madison Edgewood at the UW Fieldhouse. That game is a 6:00 pm tipoff. Advance tickets will be sold for the game with more details available as the date draws near.

In WIAA tournament play this year, Slinger returns to its customary spot in the Division 2 tournament and will participate in Regional play with Mayville, Kewaskum, Campbellsport, Sheboygan Falls, and Kettle Moraine Lutheran. Tournament placement is based upon the prior year enrollment of the schools. Last year, Slinger was the second smallest Division 1 school in the tournament, while this year it will be one of the largest Division 2 schools.

With the abbreviated schedule this season, and with so many Thursday night games, Slinger **HOOPS** Night will be a bit earlier than it has been in the past several years. Mark your calendars for Friday night, January 18th, when the Owls host West Bend West. The post game party will again be held at the Kettle Moraine Bowl on Highway 60.

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Slinger Owls 2007 - 2008 Schedule

Nov 24	Pewaukee (nc)	Jan 8	at Hartford
Nov 27	Grafton (nc)	Jan 12	at Watertown
Nov 30	Watertown	Jan 18	West Bend West (HOOPS Night)
Dec 6	at West Bend West	Jan 21	Port Washington (nc)
Dec 11	Beaver Dam	Jan 24	at Beaver Dam
Dec 14	Oconomowoc (Parents Night)	Jan 31	at Oconomowoc
Dec 17	at Campbellsport (nc)	Feb 5	Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec 20	at WI Lutheran	Feb 8	at West Bend East
Dec 22	at Sheboygan Falls (nc)	Feb 14	Hartford
Dec 27	at Madison Edgewood (WBCA)	Feb 19 – 23	WIAA Regionals
Jan 4	West Bend East	Feb 29 – Mar 1	WIAA Sectionals

Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing and Cookout

On Saturday, August 4th, the 11th Annual Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing and Cookout was held. Forty-four golfers played at the Washington County Golf Course. Mike Keener ('98) took scoring honors for the day with a 70. Approximately 55 people attended the cookout at the Tim Wiedmeyer residence in the Whispering Pines subdivision on the north side of Slinger. As usual, the food was outstanding! In spite of the evening rain showers, a good time was had by all as the Wiedmeyer residence easily accommodated everyone. It was good to see some older alumni who we had not seen for several years! We look forward to seeing more of you next year. The tentative date for 2008 is currently Saturday, August 2nd.

Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

I don't ever recall having a team with so many returning players coming back from the previous year. That will be the case as we prepare for the 2007-08 basketball season. We have about 95% of our scoring and almost 100% of our rebounding totals coming back from last year. We return all 5 starters and actually have 7 guys who started at one point or another last year. And last year's team finished 8-6 in our first year in the Little Ten Conference and 11-10 overall. There is nothing but promise for the upcoming year.

Now for the reality of this year's team. After a fast start last year, we faded in the second half of the season and lost 7 of our last 9 games. We were plagued by poor shooting, poor defense and some chemistry issues. So, where does that leave us for the upcoming season? The first thing that has to be taken care of is the defense.

There has to be a desire, dedication, and commitment to stopping people. We did some off-season work on this and we saw some improvement in our players so I think we will be okay defensively.

Poor shooting is usually caused by poor shot selection. We must execute better on offense and have a better understanding of what is a good shot for each person on the team. We are a team that plays well when we are running

up and down the court. Sometimes all that running creates bad shots. Our guys will have to stay disciplined and shoot good shots.

I have found that as important as defending and scoring are in basketball, chemistry is also a huge ingredient to a successful basketball team. Everyone putting their efforts into doing what is necessary to win games and not being concerned about how it is getting done means a lot to being a good basketball team.

And it seems all of those things work together to be a good team. When shots go in the defense seems to be better. And when both of those are good, team chemistry is not a problem. As the old saying goes "there are no problems when teams are winning".

We are looking forward to a great year. We are very confident that all the pieces will fall into place. We will play hard, smart, intense basketball and maybe this will be a season to remember. Come out and see us play. It is a very balanced league in the Little Ten this year and your Owls plan to be a factor in it. See you at a game.