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Slinger

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OWLS WILL NEED TO OVERCOME INEXPERIENCE

After losing in the sectional semifinal playoff game to eventual Division 2 State Champion New Berlin Eisenhower with an experienced group of seniors this past March, the 2008 – 2009 Slinger Owls basketball team returns very few players who saw any significant action last season.

The Owls will have to replace virtually 100% of their scoring and rebounding totals from a year ago. Guard Jay Allen saw the most action of any returning player. The key to the season will be the development of all the returning senior players as well as the junior class who is coming off of a 9 – 11 season at the junior varsity level. The Owls will be one of the shortest teams in the conference with no player taller than 6'2" on the team, so rebounding will have to be a point of emphasis.

Slinger opens its 2008 – 2009 season with three straight nonconference games. On Saturday, November 29th at 7:30 pm, the Owls open up the season at home against Campbellsport. The following Thursday, December 4th, the Owls host Lomira in another nonconference tilt, before traveling to play at Pewaukee on Monday, December 8th.

Slinger opens up Wisconsin Little Ten Conference play at Hartford on Friday, December 12th. The Orioles are expected to challenge three-time defending conference champion Wisconsin Lutheran for the WLT conference title this season. Oconomowoc is also a consensus pick to finish in the top half of the conference.

The Owls then host three consecutive WLT conference opponents before Christmas with games against Watertown on Tuesday, December 16th, against West Bend West on Friday, December 19th, and then against Wisconsin Lutheran on Tuesday, December 23rd. The Owls close out the calendar year hosting Sheboygan Falls in a nonconference game on Tuesday, December 30th.

The Owls begin January with three consecutive road games including their final two nonconference games on the schedule against Grafton and Port Washington. A WLT game at Oconomowoc is sandwiched between those two nonconference games. A complete schedule is provided on the back of this newsletter. Please note that Slinger **HOOPS** Night is scheduled for Friday night, January 16th, when the Owls host Beaver Dam.

In WIAA tournament play this year, Slinger will play as a Division 1 team for the second time in three years. The Owls will be part of the Oshkosh Sectional including fellow Wisconsin Little Ten Conference teams Beaver Dam, West Bend East, and West Bend West. The sectional includes several schools from the Fox Valley Association conference such as Fond du Lac and the Oshkosh teams. A complete tournament bracket can be found on the WIAA website as www.wiaawi.org.

Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing and Cookout

On Saturday, August 4th, the 12th Annual Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing and Cookout was held. Thirty-six golfers played at the Washington County Golf Course. Hank Karius had the low round of the day with a 77. 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! The camaraderie lasted well into the evening! Thank you to all who joined us. We look forward to seeing more of you next August.

SLINGER HOOPS NIGHT GAME AND PARTY – FRIDAY JANUARY 16TH – PARTY AFTER THE GAME AT KETTLE MORAINES BOWL. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!!

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Slinger Owls 2008 - 2009 Schedule

Nov 29	Campbellsport (nc)	Jan 16	Beaver Dam (HOOPS Night)
Dec 4	Lomira (nc)	Jan 23	West Bend East
Dec 8	at Pewaukee (nc)	Jan 27	at Watertown
Dec 12	at Hartford	Jan 30	Hartford
Dec 16	Watertown	Feb 5	at West Bend West
Dec 19	West Bend West	Feb 10	at Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec 23	Wisconsin Lutheran	Feb 13	Oconomowoc
Dec 30	Sheboygan Falls (nc)	Feb 20	at Beaver Dam
Jan 3	at Grafton (nc)	Feb 27	at West Bend East
Jan 8	at Oconomowoc	Mar 3 - 7	WIAA Regionals
Jan 13	at Port Washington (nc)	Mar 13-14	WIAA Sectionals

Conference Games in **Bold**

Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

I believe that "Pride" is a very important word when it comes to high school athletics and high school athletes. What drives a high school team and a high school athlete to dedicate the amount of time and effort it takes to be involved in high school athletics? Obviously, it centers on an athlete's desire to compete and the enjoyment of playing a particular sport. But here at Slinger High School we hope part of the motivation to be involved with high school athletics stems from the pride that our athletes have representing Slinger High School and the community of Slinger.

As a coach I have always felt blessed to be able to coach at a school and in a community that has such pride in its high school athletic teams. The 2008-2009 version of the men's basketball team will be another example of athletes who will compete with the pride that has been developed over the years. It will be a very inexperienced team with about 95% of our points from last year having graduated. We have always put a great amount of responsibility on seniors to be leaders of our program both on the court and off. This year's seniors will be no exception, and in fact, that responsibility may be more important this year than any other. But we are confident they will do an outstanding job. They are very inexperienced having played behind last year's group of 10 seniors, but Jay Allen, Kegan Schieve, Travis Riesop, Mike Wojtanowski, and Dustin Hau make up our seniors who we will depend on to lead us throughout the year.

This may be the smallest team we have had in all the years that I have been coaching. I don't believe we will have a player over 6'2 on the roster. We prefer to look at that from the standpoint of the advantages that it gives us. While it will be a little more difficult to rebound, and our post defense will constantly be a challenge, I think that it creates some strength

for us to play from. First of all, we will be a nightmare for teams from a match up standpoint. Teams with great size will have a difficult time chasing our little guys around. It also allows us to be able to play different styles depending on the game situations. We will be able to play fast, get up and down the floor at times and, if need be, we will be able to slow the tempo and let our offense help us both defensively and on the boards. As the saying goes, "they can't score if they don't have the ball". We will need members of our junior class to step up and be contributors unlike last year when we were deep with very talented seniors. Our desire to play fast means we will try to play a lot of people and will need to use the bench to keep players rested.

It will be an interesting conference this year. Many teams like us lost a lot of good players through graduation. One team that never seems to miss a beat despite losing players is WISCO. And once again, they will be the overwhelming favorite to win the conference as well as one of the favorites to advance to the Division 2 State Tournament. Hartford and Oconomowoc return good players and should have something to say about the conference championship. The rest of the teams are all in the same situation and anyone could come out of that group.

This time of year is always fun. It is great to speculate how things will go. But to determine the end result is why we play the games. That is why this year, like every year, I am excited to get started. We will play hard, we will play smart, but most importantly we will play with "Pride". It is a great school and a great community and we are excited about representing Slinger during the 2008-09 basketball season. Once again, thanks to **HOOPS** and all of the members for their continued support. Hopefully you will be able to come out and get a look at the 2008-09 Slinger Owls.

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