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Slinger

HOOPS

Ltd.

Established 1996

www.slingerhoops.com



Volume 13, Issue 3

Summer - 2009

OWLS ROUTED IN DIVISION 1 REGIONAL TO END SEASON

The 2008 – 2009 season for the Slinger Owls ended on a sour note as they were eliminated in a first round WIAA Division 1 Regional game against the Fond du Lac Cardinals. Fond du Lac had finished in the middle of the pack of the Fox Valley Association Conference, and had ended the regular season with a 10 – 10 overall record.

The Owls played well early and led early in the second quarter. However, the Owls missed several other scoring opportunities including a few missed free throws.

Slinger trailed the host Cardinals 15 – 12 midway through the second quarter. Over the next six minutes, the game got out of hand on the Owls. Fond du Lac closed out the first half on a 13 – 1 run to open up a 28 – 13 halftime lead. The run continued in the two minutes of the second half as Fondy erupted for the first 12 points of the third quarter to extend the overall run to 25 – 1 to open up a 40 – 13 lead. The closest the Owls got after that run was a 19-point deficit.

The difference in physical play between a large Division 1 school that plays all other Division 1 schools during the season, compared to a small Division 1 school, like Slinger, that plays some of

its games against Division 2 schools, was very evident. The tenacity of the Fond du Lac defense made it difficult for the Owls to get good shots throughout most of the game.

Junior Matt Vraney led the Owls in scoring with nine points, while Senior Kegan Schieve and Junior Jordan Teschendorf added six points each.

Fond du Lac was eliminated in the Regional Championship game by Oshkosh West. The #1 seed in the sectional, Oshkosh North, won the Sectional Championship and advanced to the WIAA State Tournament in Madison. At Madison, Oshkosh North upset #2 ranked Milwaukee Washington in the first round, before being eliminated by Racine Horlick in the semifinal. Madison Memorial won the Division 1 State Championship in convincing fashion over Horlick.

In the Division 2 WIAA State Tournament, fellow Wisconsin Little Ten (WLT) Conference member and conference champion Wisconsin Lutheran closed out a brilliant season capturing the State Championship with a victory over Monroe in the Division 2 title game. It was the first time in 13 years that a WLT conference team had advanced to the WIAA State Tournament in any division.

Slinger Owls 2008 - 2009 Schedule and Results

Nov 29	Campbellsport (nc)	W 79 - 66	Jan 23	West Bend East	W 50 - 42
Dec 4	Lomira (nc)	W 51 - 43	Jan 27	at Watertown	L 61 - 64
Dec 8	at Pewaukee (nc)	L 30 - 63	Jan 30	Hartford	L 37 - 60
Dec 12	at Hartford	L 42 - 60	Feb 3	Beaver Dam	L 42 - 45
Dec 16	Watertown	W 52 - 47	Feb 5	at West Bend West	W 48 - 40
Dec 23	Wisconsin Lutheran	L 29 - 54	Feb 10	at Wisconsin Lutheran	L 51 - 63
Dec 30	Sheboygan Falls (nc)	L 57 - 67	Feb 13	Oconomowoc	L 43 - 54
Jan 3	at Grafton (nc)	W 47 - 24	Feb 20	at Beaver Dam	L 58 - 60
Jan 6	West Bend West	W 38 - 37	Feb 27	at West Bend East	L 51 - 53
Jan 8	at Oconomowoc	L 42 - 48	Mar 3	at Fond du Lac (WIAA)	L 29 - 64
Jan 13	at Port Washington (nc)	L 32 - 51		Overall Record 7 - 14; Conference 4 - 10	

Conference Games in **Bold**

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Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing – August 1st at Scenic View

The 13th annual Slinger **HOOPS** Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, August 1st. The golf portion of the event will return to Scenic View Country Club, located just off of Highway 164, after being held the last several years at Washington County Golf Course. The evening cookout will again be held at the Tim Wiedmeyer residence in the Whispering Pines subdivision on the far north side of Slinger, just west of Highway 175. Details regarding the cost and times will be sent in a separate flyer. We hope to see you there!

UPDATE ON SLINGER **HOOPS** YOUTH TEAMS

The Slinger **HOOPS** youth basketball teams completed a very successful season. Slinger organizes teams from the 4th grade through the 8th grade levels. These teams play in competitive weekend tournaments throughout southeast Wisconsin. The 4th grade level, in their first year of competitive play, participated in three tournaments. The other grade levels play in anywhere from five to eight weekend tournaments.

All of the other grade levels won at least one tournament this past season. The spotlight for the season belongs to the 6th grade group, coached by Dave Schwarz. This group finished the season with a 20 – 1 overall record and five tournament championships (Slinger, Pewaukee, Lomira, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, and Franklin). Their lone loss came to Germantown in the Germantown tournament.

A big thank you goes out to all of the individuals who volunteer their time to coach our various youth teams. Each team has anywhere from two to four individuals involved. With the success of all of our youth teams this past season, we all look forward to a bright future for the Slinger basketball program!

Coach's Corner *by Alan Schieve*

Here we are pushing into the summer and getting our summer basketball organized without taking a moment to recognize the accomplishments of the 2008-09 team. I have to admit that we were not really sure what to expect of this year's team.

We had very little playing experience coming back, which meant we had very little scoring or rebounding coming back. And on top of that we had the smallest team that I have ever seen in my 30 years here at Slinger High School. Many would say that this year would be a struggle and that we would have a difficult time having any success in the Little Ten.

The truth of the matter is this is one of the more successful and enjoyable years that I have had in coaching. The reality is that in competitive athletics we always measure success according to the number of wins and losses a team finishes the season with. With those tools of assessment one would say that 7-14 overall and 4-10 conference records would not qualify as a successful season.

Our feeling is that given our personnel our team accomplished more than many expected. We won three games that we probably should not have won and, while we lost some games that we felt we should have won, we were competitive in all but four of our games. If you had an opportunity to see us play you know that we played some very good basketball throughout the course of the season. We feel that we were four baskets away from being 11-10 on the season.

But probably the best part of the year was being able to work with kids that we had. It was one of the most

positive groups that we have had the opportunity to coach. They were realistic in their abilities and understood their limitations yet never let those things get in the way of their attitudes or their effort level.

The main reason for our successes this year has to be the leadership and attitudes of our seniors, Travis Riesop, Jay Allen, Mike Wojtanowski, Dustin Hau, and Kegan Schieve. Collectively they were outstanding. While we have been fortunate over the years to have outstanding seniors and a pleasure to work with, this group is a little more special to me because I have been coaching them from the time they were in the 3rd grade and because my son was playing for them. Many people think that coaching your son would be a difficult thing at the high school level. For me it has been one of the great pleasures in my coaching career. Kegan, like his father, has always bled Slinger red and the basketball team has always been the most important thing in his life. Not to mention he had a pretty good year on the court.

So, it is with great sadness that we have to say good-bye and good luck to Travis, Mike, Jay, Dustin, and Kegan. Their leadership and attitudes will be missed but hopefully our returning players have learned from them like they did from the group ahead of them what it takes to be a successful team.

Once again, I would like to thank all of the parents and players as well as **HOOPS** members for your support over that past season and hopefully you will continue to give us that support as we begin to prepare for the 2009-10 season. Have a great off-season.

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