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Slinger HOOPS

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OWLS LOOK TO REBUILD IN COMPETITIVE LITTLE TEN ALL STARTERS GRADUATED FROM 21 – 4 TEAM

The 2013 – 2014 Slinger Owls will have some big shoes to fill. Slinger tied the school record for wins in a single season with 21 victories during the 2012 – 2013 campaign before being eliminated in Sectional play.

The Owls finished in outright second place with a conference record of 12 – 2, which was the second consecutive season that Slinger finished in second place in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference, and the third second place finish for the Owls in the last six years. Wisconsin Lutheran captured its 8th straight outright conference title. Both of the Owls conference losses came at the hands of WISCO. WISCO completed their outstanding season with a run to the WIAA Division 2 title game where they were upended by Pulaski (Green Bay).

Slinger earned the #1 seed in its Division 2 Regional grouping and captured the Regional championship with two convincing home court victories. In the first round, Slinger handled Port Washington by a 51 – 36 score and then won the Regional championship game with a 42 – 34 win over conference rival West Bend East. It was just the sixth Regional championship in school history.

In Sectional play, Slinger was upended by Grafton in a game played at Sheboygan South. The Owls

struggled to score against the much larger front line of the Blackhawks. Slinger fell behind by ten points heading into halftime, and could get no closer than seven points the rest of the game as Grafton cruised to 58 – 41 win over the Owls.

The Owls will greatly miss the contributions of the seven seniors who graduated. Of the returning players, Senior Taylor Loiacano and Junior Josh Hau saw the most playing time. The team should have excellent depth and have many talented players returning who either could not break the veteran lineup from last season or who were members of a successful 14 – 8 JV squad.

The success of the 2012 – 2013 Owls led to several seniors receiving post-season recognition. Guard Nate Roethle earned 1st team All Conference honors while Guard Tanner Schieve and Forward Derek Merkes earned 2nd team All Conference honors. It was the second year in a row that Merkes earned second team honors. Senior Jakob Anderson earned Honorable Mention honors in the conference voting and was voted the team Most Valuable Player by his teammates and coaches. His 179 rebounds for the season were more than double his next closest teammate, and that total was the second most rebounds recorded in a single season by a Slinger player in the last 20 years.

Slinger Owls 2013 – 2014 Basketball Schedule

Nov 22	Cedarburg (nc)	Jan 11	at Nicolet (nc)
Nov 26	Waukesha North (nc)	Jan 14	New Berlin West (nc)
Dec 6	Oconomowoc	Jan 17	West Bend West
Dec 7	at Lake Geneva Badger (nc)	Jan 23	at Oconomowoc
Dec 12	Hartford	Jan 25	at Grafton (nc)
Dec 17	at West Bend East	Jan 28	at Hartford
Dec 20	Beaver Dam	Jan 30	West Bend East
Dec 27	Muskego at New Berlin West (nc)	Feb 6	at Beaver Dam
Dec 28	Franklin at New Berlin West (nc)	Feb 11	at Watertown
Jan 3	Watertown	Feb 14	Wisconsin Lutheran
Jan 10	at Wisconsin Lutheran	Feb 20	at West Bend West

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Slinger Owls 2012 – 2013 Basketball Results

Nov 16	at Pewaukee (nc)	L 67 - 69	Jan 15	at West Bend West	W 67 - 37
Nov 23	at Mayville (nc)	W 56 - 34	Jan 18	Oconomowoc	W 64 - 54
Nov 24	Grafton at Mayville (nc)	W 50 - 47	Jan 25	Hartford	W 48 - 35
Nov 30	at Waukesha North (nc)	W 62 - 39	Jan 26	Greendale (nc)	W 74 - 59
Dec 7	at Oconomowoc	W 54 - 52	Jan 29	at West Bend East	W 70 - 51
Dec 8	Cedar Grove-Belgium (nc)	W 67 - 33	Feb 1	Beaver Dam	W 61 - 55
Dec 11	at Hartford	W 57 - 56	Feb 8	Watertown	W 55 - 49
Dec 14	West Bend East	W 51 - 37	Feb 12	at Wisconsin Lutheran	L 49 - 61
Dec 27	Shawano at UWGB (nc)	W 50 - 37	Feb 14	West Bend West	W 61 - 51
Dec 28	Ashwaubenon at GB (nc)	W 49 - 46	Feb 22	Port Washington (H)	W 54 - 36
Jan 4	at Watertown	W 55 - 54	Feb 24	West Bend East (H)	W 42 - 34
Jan 7	at Beaver Dam	W 40 - 27	Feb 24	Grafton (at Sheb South)	L 41 - 58
Jan 11	Wisconsin Lutheran	L 35 - 45			

Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

Last year was another outstanding year for the Owls basketball program. A 21-4 record, including 12-2 in the Wisconsin Little Ten conference which was good for 2nd place behind state Division 2 runner up Wisconsin Lutheran. The post-season included the program's first Regional Championship since 2008. The team was led by seven outstanding seniors who had worked hard to achieve the success they had.

Gone are Tanner Schieve, Jake Anderson, Nate Roethle, Derek Merkes, Sean Fassbender, James Boden, and Steve McLean. They left an outstanding legacy that will be very difficult to match. But high school basketball is always about the future. And while we are grateful for what those players have done for our program, a new season is upon us and we are excited about a new team and what their legacy will be as we begin play this season.

We probably are as inexperienced as any team I can remember coaching. We graduated the vast majority of our points and rebounds as well as most of our playing time. But we always liked the play of our younger players during practice and we are really looking forward to what they will be able to do throughout the course of the season.

It will be a team built on teamwork and roles. Players will have to work hard in practice and play hard in games for us to make a run at a conference title. We believe that the cornerstone to this team will have to be defense. We will struggle at times

offensively, especially early in the season, as we find who will be able to make baskets on a consistent basis. Guard play will be especially important as we need to find out who our ballhandlers and floor leaders will be.

Taylor Loiacano, Thomas Lofy, Sam Osterburg, and Josh Hau will be the returning Varsity players that we will lean heavily on during the season because of the game time they saw last year. But guys like Trevor Blazei, Ben Lee, and Cal Meyers showed great promise in practice last year and we fully expect them to be major contributors this year. Add to those guys the players off last years 14 - 8 JV team, and we think we have the makings of a very competitive team. How good can we be? It will be on the players and the coaching staff to come together as a team and do the things that need to be done to be successful.

I have often said that after pure basketball talent the most important ingredient for a successful team is good team chemistry. I have seen very talented teams underachieve because of poor team chemistry. That is a major challenge for any team. We believe this team will do what they have to do to win games. It will be a team that will need contributions from many different players to succeed.

We are really excited to see how this team comes together. It will be a tough conference this year, but we believe we have what it takes to make a run at a championship. Please come see us play. We have the best home court advantage in the conference and as we have said, everyone has to do their part for us to succeed. Thanks for your continued support and we hope to see you in the gym!

Be sure to stay up to date with the Owls by checking out www.slingerhoops.com throughout the year. See updated game results and stats, and review game, season and career records for individuals and teams.