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Slinger

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OWLS EXPECTED TO CHALLENGE IN LITTLE TEN

FOUR OF TOP SEVEN PLAYERS RETURN FROM 13 – 10 TEAM

The 2014 – 2015 Slinger Owls will look to challenge for another top three finish in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference this year. Once again, Wisconsin Lutheran is picked as the favorite to take the league crown in pre-season polls. WISCO has captured the last nine conference titles outright, and is coming off a Division 2 State Championship season. It was their second state title in the last six years. Beaver Dam and Slinger are picked behind WISCO.

The 2013 – 2014 Owls struggled down the stretch after an excellent start to the season. Slinger looks to reverse a season-ending five game losing streak (four of those games were road games) that ended with a 55 – 48 Regional loss at Plymouth. It was the second time in three years that Slinger was eliminated from tournament play by Plymouth. The Owls finished the year at 13 – 10 overall and 7 – 7 in the WLT conference (tied for third place). The Owls continue to be tough to beat at home. A home loss to WISCO on February 14th broke a 17 game home court winning streak which tied for the second longest streak in school history.

Slinger will return several key players, as well as adding some talented depth from a JV team that finished last season at 17 – 5 overall, with a 12 – 2 conference record. Senior Josh Hau returns after

being named the team MVP last season after leading the team in both scoring (13.4) and rebounding (6.8), and earning second team All-Conference honors. Seniors Jay Smith and Jason Erdmann also return after finishing second and third on the team in scoring. The backcourt will return Junior point guard Tyler Reinhardt, who started the second half of the season.

Slinger will open the season against Milton at the Fort Atkinson First Health Classic on Friday, November 28th with a 1:45 pm tip off. The Owls open at home against Nicolet the following day with a 4:00 pm start on that Saturday. Slinger picked up an impressive road win last year against Nicolet with a 60 – 39 victory in one of their best played games of the season.

The Owls will open conference play at home against West Bend West on Friday night, December 5th, with a 7:15 pm tip off. All conference games are scheduled to start at 7:15 this season. Check the school website for any nonconference Saturday games as they will tip off at either 4:00 or 5:00 pm.

In nonconference play, in addition to Milton and Nicolet, the Owls will play Sussex Hamilton, New Berlin West, and Plymouth on the road. They will host Burlington, Grafton, and Lake Geneva Badger.

Slinger Owls 2014 – 2015 Basketball Schedule

Nov 28	Milton at Fort Atkinson (nc)	Jan 15	at Watertown
Nov 29	Nicolet (nc)	Jan 23	Wisconsin Lutheran
Dec 5	West Bend West	Jan 24	Grafton (nc)
Dec 9	at Sussex Hamilton (nc)	Jan 29	at West Bend West
Dec 12	at Oconomowoc	Feb 3	Oconomowoc
Dec 19	at Hartford	Feb 6	Hartford
Dec 20	Burlington (nc)	Feb 7	Lake Geneva Badger (nc)
Dec 23	at New Berlin West (nc)	Feb 12	at West Bend East
Dec 30	at Plymouth (nc)	Feb 17	Beaver Dam
Jan 6	West Bend East	Feb 20	Watertown
Jan 9	at Beaver Dam	Feb 26	at Wisconsin Lutheran

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Slinger Owls 2013 – 2014 Basketball Season

Nov 22	Cedarburg (nc)	W 47-34	Jan 14	New Berlin West (nc)	W 56-30
Nov 26	Waukesha North (nc)	W 49-32	Jan 17	West Bend West	W 50-47
Dec 6	Oconomowoc	W 64-52	Jan 23	at Oconomowoc	L 39-50
Dec 7	at LG Badger (nc)	L 42-49	Jan 25	at Grafton (nc)	W 52-48
Dec 12	Hartford	W 45-34	Jan 28	at Hartford	L 40-60
Dec 17	at West Bend East	L 50-67	Jan 30	West Bend East	W 59-57
Dec 20	Beaver Dam	W 54-43	Feb 6	at Beaver Dam	W 42-28
Dec 27	Muskego at NB West (nc)	W 57-52	Feb 11	at Watertown	L 49-50
Dec 28	Franklin at NB West (nc)	L 51-53	Feb 14	Wisconsin Lutheran	L 40-62
Jan 3	Watertown	W 56-50	Feb 20	at West Bend West	L 41-50
Jan 10	at Wisconsin Lutheran	L 32-58	Feb 28	at Plymouth (WIAA)	L48-55
Jan 11	at Nicolet (nc)	W 60-39		Overall Record 13 – 10; Conference 7 – 7 (T3)	

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Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

First of all, let me take a moment here to congratulate the Slinger High School football team for its playoff success this season. It is something special for a high school to have its team make a deep run in the high school playoffs. People ask if it bothers me to see football go so long and so close to the start of basketball. I always answer that I think it is a great experience for the school and those players that play both sports. The pressure that they are playing with to win a state championship can only make them better in any other sports they may play – including basketball.

But, the fact of the matter is, it does put basketball on the back burner a little bit. Make no mistake we are really excited for the season to get started. We lost some good players through graduation. Players like Thomas Lofy, Sam Osterburg, Taylor Loiacono, Ben Lee and Trevor Blazei will be missed. They were solid players and, more importantly, they were great people. We wish them the best of luck as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

Why the excitement about this year's team? Well, we return 2 starters, 4 of our top 6 scorers from last year, including our top 3 scorers, and a 2nd team All-Conference choice in Josh Hau. We feel this is a year someone besides WISCO can win the Little Ten conference even though they have won it 9 years straight. We were close in both the 2011 – 2012 and 2012 – 2013 seasons, but could not break through, as both years we lost games to WISCO near the end of the season. We will have a little bit of a chip on our shoulders because we have been picked behind both WISCO and Beaver Dam. Hopefully that gives us even more motivation in our quest for a conference championship.

Seniors Josh Hau, Jay Smith, Jason Erdmann, Aaron Brewer, and Blake Bingen will be called upon to provide leadership. Leadership, along with team chemistry, are very underrated elements for success. Whether it is guys playing a lot of minutes or guys whose value to the team is in practice, how they guide the younger players as well as themselves can be a major factor contributing to the overall success of the team throughout the course of a season. That leadership will be even more instrumental this year because we will have a number of young players who will have to contribute for us to be good. That group is led by Tyler Reinhardt, who started the 2nd half of the season last year as our point guard and includes several players off of our unofficial "conference championship" JV squad.

When a high school has a successful football season, often the basketball team piggy-backs that success with a strong basketball season. After both of the Slinger football state runner-up and state championship seasons in the late 1990s, the basketball team also had success in the basketball tournament with trips to the Regional Championship games both years, and winning the Regional Championship in 1999 before being eliminated in the Sectional semifinal. We have many players who are contributing to the football team. We are expecting that success to carry over to the basketball team as we make a run for our first Wisconsin Little Ten basketball championship since joining the league in 2006.

As always, I want to thank all of you for your continued support. The basketball players know we have the best fans in the conference and your role in cheering on your players will be a big help throughout the season. Keep your eyes open for occasional email updates throughout the season. We look forward to seeing you at our games and cheering our guys on. GO OWLS.