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*Slinger*

**HOOPS**

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*Established 1996*

[www.slingerhoops.com](http://www.slingerhoops.com)



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## OWLS LOOK TO BUILD ON IMPRESSIVE TOURNEY RUN TEAM RETURNS SEVERAL KEY PIECES

After falling just one win short of a trip to the WIAA State Tournament last season, the 2015 – 2016 Owls look to this season with high expectations. Slinger will return six of their nine top players, including both starting guards from last year (Tyler Reinhardt and Jesse Bellefeuille), part-time starters 6'5" Chris Evans and swingman Max Merkes, and key reserve 6'7" Derek Sabin. While it will be a difficult task for the Owls to replace their two leading scorers from last year (Josh Hau and Jay Smith) and their top three rebounders (Hau, Smith, and Jason Erdmann), the team expects to be more balanced and will rely upon its depth and experience to make up for those losses.

The Wisconsin Little Ten conference will again be tough with better depth as many of the other conference teams from last year return key players as well. Wisconsin Lutheran should again be the favorite. WISCO has won the last ten WLT conference titles outright. However, over the last couple years, it appears that the gap between WISCO and the rest of the conference has narrowed. Oconomowoc and Beaver Dam return several key players from their teams after finishing one game behind WISCO last season. Slinger (who lost the last game of the regular season to WISCO to finish two games behind in the WLT race), Hartford,

and West Bend West, also return a lot of experience after finishing 4th through 6th last year.

The Owls open up the 2015 – 2016 campaign on Saturday afternoon, November 28<sup>th</sup>, with a nonconference game at Nicolet. Last year, the Owls pounded Nicolet in Slinger by the score of 72 – 44. The following Tuesday, the Owls will debut at home when Kewaskum visits for a nonconference game. The Owls then open the conference season on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at West Bend West. The first conference home game is that same Friday (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>) when Oconomowoc travels to Slinger for a key WLT game.

Slinger will return to the Sundrop Classic in Green Bay this year playing two neutral site games over the Christmas break. On Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, Slinger will play Freedom, a Division 3 school. The following day, the Owls will play Division 1 Neenah, one of the largest schools in the state. Other nonconference games this year include home games against Plymouth, Sussex Hamilton, and New Berlin West, and a road game at Burlington. The Owls played all four of those teams last year beating New Berlin West and losing to the other three teams, including a tough overtime loss at home to Burlington.

## Slinger **HOOPS** Ltd - 20 Years and Going Strong!

Slinger **HOOPS** Ltd was started in the fall of 1996 with one mission - TO SUPPORT, PROMOTE AND IMPROVE THE SLINGER BOYS BASKETBALL PROGRAM. We couldn't have imagined then what it would turn into, and we're very pleased with what we've been able to accomplish. Since our founding, and with your support, we've been able to support the program with over \$110,000 in donations, including the following:

- \$79,000 for team entry fees for players in 3rd grade through high school.
- \$9,000 for youth program uniforms.
- \$4,700 for a "Shooting Gun" to promote shooting practice.
- Creation and maintenance of a website with stats and rosters going back over 35 years.
- Annual and other support of the Brad Wiedmeyer Memorial **HOOPS** Award, the Slinger Athletic Scholarship Fund and the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches' Association All Star Game.

We have made a difference! And it was all done because of your support. As we begin our 20th year - thank you again - and GO OWLS!

Hank, Gerry and Tim

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## Slinger Owls 2015 – 2016 Basketball Schedule

Nov 28	at Nicolet (nc)	Jan 12	New Berlin West (nc)
Dec 1	Kewaskum (nc)	Jan 14	<b>Watertown</b>
Dec 8	<b>at West Bend West</b>	Jan 22	<b>at Wisconsin Lutheran</b>
Dec 11	<b>Oconomowoc</b>	Jan 23	at Burlington (nc)
Dec 18	<b>Hartford</b>	Jan 28	<b>West Bend West</b>
Dec 19	Plymouth (nc)	Feb 2	<b>at Oconomowoc</b>
Dec 22	<b>at West Bend East</b>	Feb 5	<b>at Hartford</b>
Dec 28	Freedom at Green Bay (nc)	Feb 11	<b>West Bend East</b>
Dec 29	Neenah at Green Bay (nc)	Feb 16	<b>at Beaver Dam</b>
Jan 5	Sussex Hamilton (nc)	Feb 19	<b>at Watertown</b>
Jan 8	<b>Beaver Dam</b>	Feb 25	<b>Wisconsin Lutheran</b>

## Slinger Owls 2014 – 2015 Basketball Results

Nov 28	Milton at Fort Atk (nc)	W 60-44	Jan 24	Grafton (nc)	W 55-39
Nov 29	Nicolet (nc)	W 72-44	Jan 29	<b>at West Bend West</b>	W 45-44
Dec 5	<b>West Bend West</b>	W 71-68	Feb 3	<b>Oconomowoc</b>	W 53-48
Dec 9	at Sussex Hamilton (nc)	L 44-55	Feb 6	<b>Hartford</b>	L 40-47
Dec 12	<b>at Oconomowoc</b>	W 49-48	Feb 7	L Geneva Badger (nc)	W 63-58
Dec 19	<b>at Hartford</b>	W 65-52	Feb 12	<b>at West Bend East</b>	W 72-48
Dec 20	Burlington (nc)	L 61-62	Feb 17	<b>Beaver Dam</b>	L 44-60
Dec 23	at New Berlin West (nc)	W 64-53	Feb 20	<b>Watertown</b>	W 51-37
Dec 30	at Plymouth (nc)	L 42-65	Feb 26	<b>at Wisconsin Lutheran</b>	L 53-78
Jan 6	<b>West Bend East</b>	W 62-46	Mar 6	Menasha (WIAA)	W 60-45
Jan 9	<b>at Beaver Dam</b>	L 63-65	Mar 7	at Port Washing (WIAA)	W 62-48
Jan 15	<b>at Watertown</b>	W 49-33	Mar 12	Beaver Dam (WIAA)	W 61-48
Jan 23	<b>Wisconsin Lutheran</b>	L 42-67	Mar 14	West De Pere (WIAA)	L 54-69

Check out our updated Schedule/Results page at [www.SlingerHoops.com](http://www.SlingerHoops.com) including instructions to download schedule to your mobile phone - with automatic updates with schedule changes!

### *Coach's Corner*

*By Head Coach Alan Schieve*

As I sit here writing about our upcoming season, it gives me a chance to reflect on the success of last year's team. Now, I know every year is a new year with new circumstances, but it is hard not to think about our late season run and the personal gratification of getting to coach in a sectional final for the first time in my coaching career. It also affords one to think about how last year's success will play a role in this year's team. We have some big player losses from last year to overcome. Josh Hau and Jay Smith were guys that really allowed us to do a lot of things on offense because they were very talented offensive players. Jason Erdmann did a great job of shoring up our defense and getting people open on offense. And I don't think you will find 2 better teammates and practice players than Aaron Brewer and Blake Bingen.

But given those losses from last year, we are still really excited about the 2015-16 Slinger Owls. One of the great things about being a high school basketball coach is working with different groups of kids and watching them come together as a team each season. This year's team has the potential to be really good. I always hesitate to use that word "potential" because if players use it as their crutch they won't develop as they should. We have 10 guys coming back who can play. Eight of them played on our championship JV team when they were sophomores. One has been on the varsity since his sophomore year and the other had a successful freshman year as a part of last year's varsity.

I believe good basketball teams start with good guards. Tyler Reinhardt gives us 2 years experience as our starting point guard and Jesse Bellefeuille returns as the other starting guard and really has the ability to stretch defenses with his 3 point shooting. Their leadership will be very important. Senior Chris Evans gives us experience in the post and does a great job banging inside. Tyler Ritger, Max Merkes, Kurtis Fritz, and Jacob Rothenhoefer have some experience off the bench from last year. And after a year of being primarily practice players, Collin Schmelebeck and Mitch Behm are anxious to get their opportunity. Freshman Derek Sabin rounds out our group of returning players. After having some early season growing pains, he finished the year very strong and we are really excited to see his continued improvement. Add to this group our guys off last season's JV team and we should have very good depth and multiple weapons.

Like all teams, there will be some questions that need to be answered as the season begins. It will be a team that will have to establish roles - just like all teams. We need to find consistent scorers, guys you can get 8-10 points from every night. And we need to establish ourselves defensively. You can't think your going to win by outscoring people every night. You have to stop people and you have to want to stop people. The league will be tough. I believe there are 6 teams that could win it all and the conference champs could have 3-4 losses. You better bring your A-game every night or it could be a long season.

Just writing about this year's team has me juiced up about the coming season. Practice starts November 16 and our first game is November 28 on the road at Nicolet with the home opener scheduled for Tuesday, December 1 vs. Kewaskum. We have some of the best fans in the state, so hopefully you will get out to see your Slinger Owls basketball team play many times this year. Like always, thanks for your continued support and GO OWLS.