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OWLS LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK FROM TOUGH SEASON FIRST YEAR OF PLAY IN NORTH SHORE CONFERENCE

The 2017-2018 Slinger Owls look to rebound from a tough season that saw it record an overall record of 8 – 16, including a 4 – 10 record (tied for 6th place) in the final year of Wisconsin Little Ten Conference play. The Owls move over to a reconfigured North Shore Conference starting this season. Joining the Owls from the WLT will be Hartford, West Bend East, and West Bend West. Those four teams will be joining Cedarburg, Grafton, Port Washington, Nicolet, Whitefish Bay, and Homestead to make up the North Shore Conference (NSC). Former NSC teams Germantown and Milwaukee Lutheran have left for other conferences. Hartford will be the largest school in the conference while Grafton will be the smallest. Slinger will be the 6th largest school.

Last season was just the second season over the last twenty-four (24) seasons in which the Owls did not record at least 10 wins in the season. They finished just 7-14 back in the 2008-2009 season.

The Owls finished last season strong winning three of their last four games, with the only loss occurring in a WIAA Regional game to undefeated and top-ranked Beaver Dam. The Golden Beavers were subsequently upset by eventual WIAA Division 2 state runner-up, and now fellow North Shore

Conference foe, Cedarburg, in a Sectional Semifinal game at Hartford.

The Owls open up the 2017 – 2018 campaign on Saturday afternoon November 25th at 2:30 pm with a nonconference game at home against Kewaskum. Last year, the Owls played one of their best games of the year in defeating the Indians at Kewaskum by the score of 74-38. The Owls then open North Shore Conference play on Tuesday, November 28th, at Whitefish Bay. That is followed by the first NSC home game hosting Nicolet on that Friday, December 1st.

With a ten team North Shore Conference, the Owls will now only have four non-conference games each season. In addition to Kewaskum, the Owls will also host Plymouth and Waukesha North in non-conference games, while traveling to West Allis Hale over the Christmas break.

The conference slate is highlighted by a “rivalry night” game at Hartford on Friday night, February 2nd, when both the Slinger Lady Owls girls Varsity team and the Slinger Owls boys Varsity team will play at Hartford the same night with the girls game tipping off at 5:45 pm and the boys game following the girls game that night at approximately 7:30 pm.

Slinger Owls 2017 – 2018 Basketball Schedule

Nov 25 **Kewaskum (nc)**
Nov 28 at Whitefish Bay
Dec 1 **Nicolet**
Dec 5 **Plymouth (nc)**
Dec 8 at Cedarburg
Dec 12 **Hartford**
Dec 14 at West Bend East
Dec 16 **Waukesha North (nc)**
Dec 19 at Port Washington
Dec 28 at West Allis Hale (nc)
Jan 5 **West Bend West**

Jan 9 at Grafton
Jan 12 **Homestead**
Jan 19 **Whitefish Bay**
Jan 26 at Nicolet
Jan 30 **Cedarburg**
Feb 2 at Hartford
Feb 6 **West Bend East**
Feb 9 **Port Washington**
Feb 14 at West Bend West
Feb 16 **Grafton**
Feb 22 at Homestead

Slinger Owls 2016 – 2017 Basketball Results

Nov 26	Nicolet (nc)	L 45-53	Jan 20	at Wisconsin Lutheran	L 49-52
Nov 29	at Kewaskum (nc)	W 74-38	Jan 24	Muskego (nc)	L 42-70
Dec 2	at Plymouth (nc)	L 34-44	Jan 26	at West Bend West	L 42-45
Dec 6	at Sussex Hamilton (nc)	L 29-45	Jan 28	Kewaunee (nc)	W 69-48
Dec 9	West Bend West	L 41-63	Jan 31	West Bend East	L 48-51
Dec 15	at West Bend East	W 49-28	Feb 3	at Beaver Dam	L 52-69
Dec 20	Beaver Dam	L 52-57	Feb 10	at Watertown	L 35-50
Dec 23	West Allis Hale (nc)	W 59-47	Feb 14	Oconomowoc	L 49-53
Dec 28	at Seymour (nc)	L 42-47	Feb 17	at Hartford	W 65-59
Jan 3	Watertown	L 31-51	Feb 23	Wisconsin Lutheran	W 66-58
Jan 6	at Oconomowoc	L 34-51	Feb 28	at West Bend East (WIAA)	W 48-47
Jan 13	Hartford	W 45-43	Mar 3	at Beaver Dam (WIAA)	L 45-66

Coach's Corner

By Head Coach Alan Schieve

Once again, with great excitement and anticipation, I can't wait for the 2017-18 season to get started. I love watching Slinger High School athletics but for me there is nothing like the start of the high school basketball season. A new group of guys to work with and watching them develop into a team that will compete for a conference championship. It doesn't get any better than that!

It is always a little sad because we had to say good-bye to 4 guys I loved having on our team last year. Jacob Olson, Josh Wetherall, Thomas Noltner, and Nick Rasimus have graduated and moved on the next step in their lives. They were outstanding leaders and they were outstanding teammates. Their contributions to last year's team will be greatly missed.

While we will miss those guys there is a lot to be excited about in regards to this season. First and foremost is the fact we return 4 of our 5 guys who were starting at the end of the year when we won 3 of our last 4 games. It starts with 2 guys who have had a great amount of varsity basketball experience. First is Derek Sabin, a 4-year varsity player who was our leading scorer and rebounder last year. He is also the first Division I basketball recruit we have had at Slinger in the 39 years that I have been associated with the program heading to Belmont University in Nashville, TN. The other guy is 3-year varsity player Tyler Evans who does a lot of different things on the court and will be expected to increase his production even more this year. The 2 other guys in that group are Matt Wetherall, who really worked hard on his game this summer and Dan Breuer, who started last year on the JV team and moved up to the varsity and a starting role later in the season. We also have a number of guys like Aaron Strucel, Jack Carins, and Griffen Lietzau who got minutes last year. Add to that group guys off last year's JV team and we think we have the makings of a very successful season. Some guys put time in on their game over the summer and we were really happy with our overall play in the summer league we played in.

Another exciting facet of the 2017-18 season is Slinger moving to another conference. Hartford, WB East, and WB West along with Slinger will combine with Cedarburg, Port Washington, Grafton, Nicolet, Whitefish Bay, and Homestead to create a new North Shore Conference. I am not sure how it will play out for us. There are some really good teams in the new conference but we left some really good teams in the Little Ten. The good news is that we have been able to continue our rivalries with Hartford and the West Bend schools. We have really enjoyed those rivalries and those games have created a great atmosphere in the gym when we play.

We started practice on November 13 and open our season at home with a non-conference game against Kewaskum on November 25. It is hard to predict how the season will end up. The things I can predict are our guys are committed to success and we will play hard to get there. Like always, thanks for all of your continued support and make sure you get to the gym to watch us play. It will be fun.

Go Owls!