

**1999–2000 athletic seasons a roller coaster ride**

Faced with their share of ups-and-downs, the UW-Stout athletic schedule is anything but dull and the 1999-2000 winter and spring seasons were no exceptions.

**Women's Basketball**

Hang onto your seats. The 1999–2000 women's basketball season was a roller coaster ride. The Blue Devils finished the season at 15-10 and finished in fourth place in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC).

“We hit some really big highs where we were playing well and then some lows where we just didn’t play well,” said 10th year coach Mark Thomas.

The Blue Devils played some nationally ranked teams down to the wire, but also lost some games that Thomas didn’t think his team would.

“We had some games that we absolutely dominated,” Thomas said, “and we had some where we were dominated.”

Perhaps the lowest point of the year came in the final game of the season when the Blue Devils bowed out of the season with a loss. But the national ranking game — a 61-59 last second loss to undefeated and No. 2 nationally ranked UW-Eau Claire — gives Stout quite a bit to build on.

The Blue Devils got all-conference performances from Andrea Bresette (Sr., Ashland), Stacie Anderson (Jr., Clayton) and Heather Peterson (Sr., Afton).

**Men's Basketball**

A look at the 1999–2000 UW-Stout men's basketball season, and one has to ask the question “What happened to the middle of the season?”

Using momentum they encountered from the 1998-99 WIAC basketball tournament (advancing to the championship game, only to lose to eventual NCAA Division III champion UW-Platteville), the Blue Devils had high hopes heading into the season. Following a 5-0 start, something happened and the Blue Devils dropped heading into the season. Following a 5-0 start, something happened and the Blue Devils dropped nine of their next 10 games, including their first seven conference games.

Stout finished the season 5-5, knocking off two-time national champion, UW-Platteville, 69-67, in the final home game of the season. Stout advanced to WIAC tournament play and looked to repeat their “Cinderella” performance of the year before.

The Blue Devils drew UW-Eau Claire — just like the previous year — at Zorn Arena, and played the Blugolds, who would go on to finish as WIAC play. Played the Blugolds, who would go on to finish as WIAC, the first Blue Devil named first team all-WIAC, the first Blue Devil named first team all-WIAC.

The season was the final for seniors Cara Fenhous (Superior) and Rebecca Zimmermann (Fall Creek).

Fenhous was a third team all-region catcher, despite breaking two bones in her hand. Fenhous, a first team all-WIAC choice, hit .346, going 46-for-131 with 25 runs scored, 14 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 28 runs batted in and 28 stolen bases. From the catchers' crouch, Fenhous grounded down 20 runners attempting to steal.

Zimmermann was the pitching工作horse of the team — and the league. She pitched a league-high 196.1 innings and posted an earned run average of 3.64. She was named WIAC player of the year and a first team all-conference choice. She was also named WIAC pitcher of the year.

**Softball**

Faced with their share of ups-and-downs, the Blue Devil gymnastics team showed a vast improvement over the previous season, as did the infield play. Errors were down and play was more aggressive.

And on the base paths, the Blue Devils sizzled — sizzled to the tune of a new school record as Stout stole 153 bases. Among conference teams, there was no competition in stolen bases and the Blue Devils ranked sixth in the country.

The aggressiveness also showed up in the scoring column, where Stout finished second in runs scored, runs batted in and hits.

Shortstop Angie Pinnow (Jr., Brice) had a lot to say about all of the offensive categories. Pinnow led the league in stolen bases (33-for-38) — stole more bases than two teams did in home runs (a school record nine), total bases (93) and runs scored (49). A first team all-conference player, Pinnow also improved her defensive game, Stainer said, nearly cutting her error rate in half from the previous season.

The season was the final for seniors Cara Fenhous (Superior) and Rebecca Zimmermann (Fall Creek).

Fenhous was a third team all-region catcher, despite breaking two bones in her hand. Fenhous, a first team all-WIAC choice, hit .346, going 46-for-131 with 25 runs scored, 14 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 28 runs batted in and 28 stolen bases. From the catchers' crouch, Fenhous grounded down 20 runners attempting to steal.

Zimmermann was the pitching workhorse of the team — and the league. She pitched a league-high 196.1 innings and posted an earned run average of 3.64. She was named WIAC player of the year and a first team all-conference choice. She was also named WIAC pitcher of the year.

**Gymnastics**

The dual season record may not show it, but the Blue Devil gymnastics team showed a vast improvement over the previous season, as did the infield play. Errors were down and play was more aggressive.

And on the base paths, the Blue Devils sizzled — sizzled to the tune of a new school record as Stout stole 153 bases. Among conference teams, there was no competition in stolen bases and the Blue Devils ranked sixth in the country.

The aggressiveness also showed up in the scoring column, where Stout finished second in runs scored, runs batted in and hits.

Shortstop Angie Pinnow (Jr., Brice) had a lot to say about all of the offensive categories. Pinnow led the league in stolen bases (33-for-38) — stole more bases than two teams did in home runs (a school record nine), total bases (93) and runs scored (49). A first team all-conference player, Pinnow also improved her defensive game, Stainer said, nearly cutting her error rate in half from the previous season.

The season was the final for seniors Cara Fenhous (Superior) and Rebecca Zimmermann (Fall Creek).

Fenhous was a third team all-region catcher, despite breaking two bones in her hand. Fenhous, a first team all-WIAC choice, hit .346, going 46-for-131 with 25 runs scored, 14 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 28 runs batted in and 28 stolen bases. From the catchers' crouch, Fenhous grounded down 20 runners attempting to steal.

Zimmermann was the pitching workhorse of the team — and the league. She pitched a league-high 196.1 innings and posted an earned run average of 3.64. She was named WIAC player of the year and a first team all-conference choice. She was also named WIAC pitcher of the year.

**Baseball**

The 2000 season marked the end of an era when coach Terry Petrie hung up the cleats after 30 years at the helm. Since 1971, Petrie posted a 537-401 overall record. One of Petrie’s former players, Matt Scharf, will take over as the Blue Devil coach. Vavra played for the Blue Devils in the early 1980s and was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers. After his playing career, Vavra co-owned the Fenger system for 13 years.

On the field, Brad O’Connell (Jr., Ell Mound) was the biggest story, rewriting parts of the Blue Devil record book as Stout posted a 19-17 season. With Todd Petrie, who coached for 10 seasons, and Joe Harlan, who coached four seasons at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash., will assume the role.

**Softball**

Throws out the overall record of the fastpitch softball team for this season. It doesn’t accurately reflect the level of play the team achieved.

Stout posted a 17-28 overall record — almost twice as many wins as last season. But the young team (only three seniors and two juniors were on the roster) Blue Devils had 14 one-run games throughout the season and went 4-10 in the north. Stout also has seven extra innings games, but could only pull out one in overtime.

“Our record doesn’t accurately reflect the talent we had,” second year coach Chris Stainer said. “We made lots of improvements both offensively and defensively. We almost doubled our wins totals, and that was a nice thing. We made some strides.”

Stainer believes her outfield improved tremendously from the previous season, as did the infield field. Errors were down and play was more aggressive.

And on the base paths, the Blue Devils sizzled — sizzled to the tune of a new school record as Stout stole 153 bases. Among conference teams, there was no competition in stolen bases and the Blue Devils ranked sixth in the country.

The aggressiveness also showed up in the scoring column, where Stout finished second in runs scored, runs batted in and hits.

Shortstop Angie Pinnow (Jr., Brice) had a lot to say about all of the offensive categories. Pinnow led the league in stolen bases (33-for-38) — stole more bases than two teams did in home runs (a school record nine), total bases (93) and runs scored (49). A first team all-conference player, Pinnow also improved her defensive game, Stainer said, nearly cutting her error rate in half from the previous season.

The season was the final for seniors Cara Fenhous (Superior) and Rebecca Zimmermann (Fall Creek).

Fenhous was a third team all-region catcher, despite breaking two bones in her hand. Fenhous, a first team all-WIAC choice, hit .346, going 46-for-131 with 25 runs scored, 14 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 28 runs batted in and 28 stolen bases. From the catchers' crouch, Fenhous grounded down 20 runners attempting to steal.

Zimmermann was the pitching workhorse of the team — and the league. She pitched a league-high 196.1 innings and posted an earned run average of 3.64. She was named WIAC player of the year and a first team all-conference choice. She was also named WIAC pitcher of the year.

**Baseball**

The 2000 season marked the end of an era when coach Terry Petrie hung up the cleats after 30 years at the helm. Since 1971, Petrie posted a 537-401 overall record. One of Petrie’s former players, Matt Scharf, will take over as the Blue Devil coach. Vavra played for the Blue Devils in the early 1980s and was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers. After his playing career, Vavra co-owned the Fenger system for 13 years.

On the field, Brad O’Connell (Jr., Ell Mound) was the biggest story, rewriting parts of the Blue Devil record book as Stout posted a 19-17 season. With Todd Petrie, who coached for 10 seasons, and Joe Harlan, who coached four seasons at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash., will assume the role.