

UW-Platteville February Highlights



Pioneers 77, UW-La Crosse 63 (Feb. 4)

Fourth-ranked UW-Platteville jumped out to a quick 12-2 lead. They led 41-20 at the half and by as many as 29 at 69-40. The final margin was as close the Eagles came since the score was 30-16. Long-range shooters Mike Shaw and Curt Hanson each scored 19 points for the Pioneers. Jeff Skemp scored 17 points, despite sitting the final 15 minutes in the lopsided affair. Charlie Lohoff dealt out four assists and made five steals to go along with his seven points.

UW-Whitewater 75 , Pioneers 62 (Feb. 11)

Fifth-ranked UW-Whitewater outscored fourth-ranked UW-Platteville 16-6 down the stretch to beat the visiting Pioneers 75-62 in front of 1,926 fans in Kachel Gym. The Pioneers trailed just 59-56 after Curt Hanson's two free throws with 2:59 remaining, Hanson's 24 led all scorers, while Charlie Lohoff added 14 points, and Mike Shaw scored 10.

Pioneers 69, UW-Superior 53 (Feb. 14)

UW-Platteville won its 20th game for the first time since Bo Ryan patrolled the sidelines in 1998-99, and the current Pioneer Coach achieved a milestone, too. Paul Combs won his 100th game as the Pioneer Coach, as UW-Platteville defeated UW-Superior 69-53 on the court named after Ryan, now the Wisconsin Badger coach. Jeff Skemp scored 26 points, moving into ninth place on the career scoring list. He, Charlie Lohoff, Bo Richter and Kyle Tetschlag were saluted prior to the game on Senior Day. The foursome have played in a combined 402 Pioneer games.

UW-Eau Claire 65, Pioneers 60 (Feb. 18)

UW-Eau Claire scored the final eight points of the game and beat fourth-ranked UW-Platteville 65-60 in UWEC's Zorn Arena. Jeff Skemp scored a layup with 3:41 to play and added one of two free throws 32 seconds later for a 60-57 Pioneer lead. The Blugolds' Dan Beyer made two free throws with 2:45 to play, then gave UWEC the lead for good with a tip-in at 1:44.

Pioneers 55, UW-Stevens Point 52 (Feb. 21)

Fourth-ranked UW-Platteville beat fifth-ranked UW-Stevens

Point 55-52 and in the process locked up the second seed and a first-round bye in the upcoming Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoffs. Saturday's matchup had the feeling of championship playoffs, as the teams battled back and forth on Bennett Court in front of 2,109 Quandt Fieldhouse fans. Jeff Skemp scored 20 points, and Curt Hanson made two free throws and a steal in the final seconds to lead the Pioneer win.

Skemp is Jostens Trophy finalist (Feb. 24)

UW-Platteville's Jeff Skemp is one of 10 finalists for the prestigious Jostens Trophy, announced today by members of the Rotary Club of Salem, Va. The Jostens Trophy is a national award that takes into account three vital parts: basketball ability, academic prowess and community service. Already having earned his bachelor's degree in business administration, Skemp is working on his master's in project management.

Pioneers 77, UW-Whitewater 75 (OT) (Feb. 26)

The fifth-ranked Pioneers beat the seventh-ranked Warhawks 77-74 in a thrilling WIAC semifinal before a raucous Bo Ryan Court crowd. The Pioneers held off the Warhawks by making all 12 of their free throws in overtime. Mike Shaw made all eight of his attempts in the extra session, including two with 10.1 seconds remaining for a 77-72 lead. A heroic Charlie Lohoff scored 19 points in 38 minutes and then was carted off on a stretcher after suffering cramps. Jeff Skemp and Eric Wall scored 12, and Mike Shaw 11.

UW-Stevens Point 45, Pioneers 42 (Feb. 28)

Given the competitiveness of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's heavyweights, it was only natural the postseason tournament championship came down to the last seconds. Sixth-ranked UW-Stevens Point held off fifth-ranked UW-Platteville 45-42 in a tense battle witnessed by 2,100 fans—including a huge Platteville contingent—at Quandt Fieldhouse. The conference's automatic bid wasn't decided until Curt Hanson's three-point attempt just missed at the buzzer, although the 22-5 Pioneers earned an at-large berth into their 10th NCAA tournament.