

UW-River Falls Women's Hockey Notes

The Falcons are in the NCAA Championship Tournament for the fourth straight season and fifth time in school history. UWRF also played in the tournament in 2003. The Falcons are 2-6 in NCAA playoff games and have finished fourth twice – in 2003 and 2009. UWRF is 2-2 in first round games; 0-2 in semifinal games and 0-2 in third place games.



The Falcons have played four of the seven other teams in this year's tournament. UWRF is 4-14-3 against Gustavus Adolphus; 1-2 against Con.-Moorhead; 0-3 against Amherst and 0-3 against Middlebury. The Falcons have never played Rochester Institute; Plattsburgh State or Norwich. UWRF and Gustavus Adolphus have met in each of the past three seasons in an opening round game. In 2009 the Falcons won at Gustavus, 2-1. In 2010 Gustavus took a 2-0 win in its rink, and last year the Gusties beat the Falcons, 4-1, at Hunt Arena in River Falls.

This season UWRF and GAC played to a 1-1 overtime tie on Dec. 6 in St. Peter, Minn. Kait Mason gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead with a goal at 17:46 of the second period. At 4:23 of the third, Melissa Doyle scored to tie the game. UWRF goalie, Ashley Kuechle, stopped 35 shots and GAC's Danielle Justice made 22 saves.

The Falcons earned their spot in the NCAA Tourney by winning the 2012 NCHA O'Brien Cup playoff Championship last weekend at Hunt Arena. The Falcons topped Lake Forest, 4-0, in the semifinals, and then beat Adrian, 4-2, in the finals. This year's championship game was a rematch of the 2011 final when Adrian beat the Falcons, 4-3 in overtime, at Hunt Arena. The Falcons also won this year's NCHA regular season title with a 17-2-1 record. The regular season title was the team's four and second straight. The playoff title was the team's fifth.

Falcon Coach **Joe Cranston** is the only coach in the sport's 13-year history. He has a 216-106-32 career record. He won his 200th game on Nov. 19 with a 7-2 win at UW-Stevens Point. He has led UWRF to five 20-win seasons, including four in a row. Last year's team finished with a school record 24 wins (24-2-4). He has been named the NCHA Coach of the Year four times (2003, 2007, 2009, 2011) and has coached the team to 12 straight winning seasons. He has coached 58 players to All-NCHA honors and 47 have earned NCHA All-Academic honors. UWRF has finished no lower than third in the final NCHA standings under his guidance. Cranston's brother, Matt, is the head coach of the Falcon women's golf team.



Senior goalie **Melissa Deardorff** has been on a hot streak lately. She played 414:38 without allowing a goal from Feb. 3-March 3. That's almost seven games without allowing a goal. She has registered a school-record six shutouts this year and has a career-record 13 in her four-year career. Deardorff has a 16-3 record with a 1.52 goals against average and a .932 saves percentage this season. She earned honorable mention to



the 2012 All-NCHA team.

Sophomore forward **Katie Batters** is the team's leading scorer with a team-high 18 goals and 31 points. The 31 points ties her for third most in a season at UWRF (40 is tops). Her 18 goals are also third most in a season (20 is tops). She has scored one power-play and one short-handed goal and has two game winners. She was named to the first All-NCHA team in 2012. She has had eight multiple point games, including four points (1-3-4) in a game against Finlandia on Feb. 11. She leads UWRF with 88 shots on goal.



Freshman forward **Alice Cranston** has had a great rookie season. The niece of Coach Joe Cranston, she has 16 goals and 28 points, second on the team. She has scored three power-play goals and has tied the school record with three short-handed goals. She also has three game-winners. She has had five multiple point games including two four-point efforts; vs. Concordia on Feb. 3 (1-3-4) and vs. Finlandia on Feb. 10 (3-1-4).



Senior forward **Katie Flanagan** is third in scoring with 14 goals and 27 points. She leads the Falcons with five power-play goals. She also has one short-handed goal and one game winner. She has had seven multiple point games. Flanagan's best game was against Concordia on Feb. 3 when she went 2-2-4.



Sophomore forward **Kait Mason** has had an exceptional second half of the season for the Falcons. Least year's leading scorer (20-20-40) and first team All-American, had six points (3-3-6) in the team's 12 games. Since then she has scored 12 goals and had eight assists for 20 points in the last 16 contests. She went 3-1-4 in a game against Concordia on Feb. 4. Mason has scored three power-play, one short-handed and three game-winning goals. She is fourth in scoring on the team (15-11-26). She has had five multiple point games.



Senior forward **Emma Nordness** (left) and sophomore forward **Brook Story** (right) lead the team with 17 assists each. Both have scored eight goals and have 25 points. Nordness, one of the team's captains, has scored three game-winning goals and Story has two. Nordness has five multiple point games and her best effort was on Feb. 4 against Concordia when she scored a goal and had three assists. Story has had seven multiple point games and her best effort was a 1-3-4 game against Finlandia on Feb. 11.



The Falcons average 4.23 goals a game and allow just 1.64. UWRF has not been shutout this year and the team has recorded seven shutouts. The Falcons have scored one goal in four games this year. UWRF has won four straight games and 10 of its last 11. UWRF is 3-2 in one-goal games. The Falcons are 22-0 when scoring three or more goals in a game. They are 23-1 when scoring two or more goals in a contest.

UWRF is 7-1-2 in road games this year. The Falcons are 16-3 in home games. The team's only road loss was at Lake Forest on Jan. 14, 4-2. Besides the 1-1 tie with Gustavus on Dec. 6, the other road tie was on Jan. 21 at Eau Claire, 2-2. The Falcons are 1-2-2 in overtime games this year and are 0-0-2 in road overtime games.

In the team's first appearance in the tourney in 2003, now assistant coach, **Mandy Stokes**, scored one goal and three assists for four points in the team's three games. She is tied with Manhattanville's Kristin Sahlem for most points in the 2003 tourney. Stokes, who has been an assistant coach with the Falcons for seven seasons, was named the team's Hardest Worker in each of her four playing seasons at UWRF. The award is now named in her honor. This is Stokes' final year as an assistant coach at UWRF.



Falcon Facts

Location: River Falls, WI

Enrollment: 6,819

Address: 410 S. Third St., Hagestad Hall, UW-River Falls, River Falls, WI 54022

Athletic Web Site: www.uwrfsports.com

University Web Site: www.uwrf.edu

School Colors: Red and White

Nickname: Falcons

Chancellor: Dean Van Galen

Athletic Director: Roger Ternes

Assistant Athletic Director: Crystal Lanning

Business Manager: Betty Bibeau

Program Assistant: Dori Holter

Sports Information Director: Jim Thies

Head Athletic Trainer: Gary Eloranta

Assistant Athletic Trainer: Crystal Lanning

Equipment Manager: Jeff Rogers

Faculty Athletics Rep: Brian Schultz (men), Kathleen Olsen (women)

NCHA Regular Season Championships: 2003, 2009, 2011, 2012

NCHA O'Brien Cup Championships: 2001, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012

NCAA Appearances: 2003, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Home Court: Karges Center (1,500)

Head Coach: Joe Cranston

Assistant Coaches: Mandy Stokes, Jim Walsh, Jenna Johnson-Saewert, Cassi Campbell

www.uwrfsports.com