

Athletics



Reigel Takes the Reins

Luke Reigel, who has been the assistant men's basketball coach at UW-Parkside for the past three seasons, takes over this season as head coach. Former head coach Jeff Rutter accepted a position as assistant coach at Division I Northern Iowa after seven seasons at UW-Parkside.

Reigel, a native of Twin Lakes, Wis., was an assistant coach and player at Division III UW-Platteville and was part of two NCAA national championships under current University of Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan. Reigel, 30, played high school basketball for his father, Tom, at Wilmot (Wis.) High School.

Men's Basketball Preview

The UW-Parkside men's basketball team begins a new era with Luke Reigel at the helm. The first-year head coach knows what type of team he wants. "We'll probably never be the team that jumps the highest or runs the fastest," Reigel said, "but those things are overrated when it comes to winning. If you have players who can make plays in the last five minutes of close games, you will be successful."

The Rangers return nine players from last year's team, which earned the sixth seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) tournament. Statistically, senior Glen Barlow, who started 28 games last season, is the top returning player. The 6-foot, 8-inch native of Australia averaged 11.7 points and 5.8 rebounds per contest

and was especially strong in the second half of the season.

The only other returning player to start every game was Dean Pogodzinski, a senior guard, who has played consistently since his freshman year.

Also expected to return to the starting lineup is sophomore Brian Jordan, who played point guard midway through the 2002-03 campaign. Gareth Malkowski started 16 games last year as a freshman guard. His forte is the three-point shot and in his rookie season he found his way into the Rangers' record book. The Oak Creek native ranks No. 4 all-time in made three-pointers and had seven in one game.

Perhaps the team's best defender, sophomore Jerome King, earned a mid-season start, but then an ankle injury abruptly ended his season. The Racine Case High School product scored 12 points, had five rebounds and dished out four assists in his lone start.

Once again the likes of national powers Kentucky Wesleyan, Southern Indiana (with four Division I transfers), Lewis and Northern Kentucky are among the elite in the GLVC and the nation. SIU-Edwardsville is a team from the bottom portion of the standings that has reloaded and should be improved.

Women's Basketball Preview

The Ranger women's basketball team overcame challenges on and off the court in posting an 11-17 record last year. Once the team became familiar with interim head coach Jenny Knight, tragedy struck. Sophomore Christine Rathke was killed in an automobile accident toward the end of the season. Rathke scored 20 points in her final game against Quincy Feb. 15, 2003.

The outlook for the 2003-04 season is encouraging. Knight is now the permanent head coach and she has four returning starters led by 5-foot, 10-inch Sammy Kromm. The junior center led the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) in scoring last season with a 19.8 points-per-game average and averaged 7.1 rebounds per game. She became the first UW-Parkside women's basketball player to earn GLVC first-team all-conference honors.

Jen Braier was among the league leaders in rebounding. The 5-10 junior forward was second in the GLVC in rebounding with a 9.5 average. In addition to her rebounding skills, Braier was second on the team in both three-pointers attempted and made. Carrie Weir, a 5-9 junior, is another returning player. Like Kromm and Braier, Weir played in all 28 games last season.

The lone senior to return to the club is point-guard Michele Pickering. She battled through injury last season and paced the team with 150 assists and grabbed 49 steals.

"Pic runs the show," said Knight. "From her sophomore to junior season, she improved tremendously. She's healthy again and I see her continuing to be a great point guard and leading this team with her desire to win."

The Rangers' GLVC schedule will be challenging. Across the board, the league appears to be stronger than a year ago. Quincy, which earned an NCAA bid last season, has all of its players back and has added star transfer Jessica Stuckman from Southern Indiana. Northern Kentucky made it all the way to the national championship game last season. Southern Indiana has loaded up with key transfers and Indianapolis and Bellarmine are primed for a run at the title.

"I think we can be very competitive in this league," said Knight. "With our returning players and the addition of the eight newcomers, I think we can have great success."

Athletic Hall of Fame

The Health, Physical Education and Athletics Department inducted 10 new members into the UW-Parkside Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony earlier this year.

Tricia Breu Forbes, *Women's Cross Country and Track* • Dona Driscoll, *Women's Cross Country and Track* • Gene Gasiorkiewicz, *Honorary, Faculty Athletic Representative* • Jens Hansen, *Men's Soccer* • Nancy Hoch Paulson, *Volleyball* • Nancy Marter Gruner, *Women's Cross Country and Track* • Andy Schmidtman, *Men's Basketball* • Steve Skarda, *Wrestling* • John Tank, *Fencing* • John Van Den Brandt, *Men's Track*