

# Athletics

## Winter Sports Recap

### Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team posted a 13-15 overall record this season. The Rangers earned a No. 6 seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) tournament, the highest GLVC tournament seed in school history. The Rangers also played well against NCAA Division I tournament participant UW-Milwaukee. The Rangers gave the Horizon League champions all they could handle early on until the Panthers' bench strength proved too much for UW-Parkside to handle. Senior Quincey Moman ended a stellar playing career with 1,420 points, sixth on the UW-Parkside all-time scoring list. Moman hopes to play professionally in Europe.

### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team battled through adversity with the tragic death of Christine Rathke, who scored 20 points in her final game. Rathke was killed in an automobile accident as she was driving home from the UW-Parkside Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The Rangers, under the direction of first-year head coach Jenny Knight, had a grueling schedule including four tournaments away from home. The team ended with an 11-17 record, qualifying for GLVC tournament as a No. 7 seed, one spot better than the previous year. The highlight of the season had to be the Rangers' upset of nationally ranked Northern Kentucky in overtime in front of a wild crowd at the DeSimone Gymnasium. NKU eventually made it to the NCAA Division II finals. Sammy Kromm, a sophomore, finished as the league's leading scorer (19.8 points per game). Kromm became the first Ranger to earn first-team all-GLVC honors in women's basketball.

### Wrestling

The Rangers finished 12th nationally, wrestling as an NCAA Division II independent. The team produced three All-Americans in freshman Brad Becker, junior Brad Russell and junior Dan Dempsey. Dempsey eclipsed the 30-win mark with a record of 32-10. Becker was 29-12 and Russell checked in at 25-4.

## What a difference a year makes.

### Baseball

Last year the UW-Parkside baseball team spent most of the season looking up at the rest of the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). The Rangers finished last in the league and managed just 13 victories overall. But in fairness to first-year head coach Tracy Archuleta, he didn't have a lot of time to rebuild a team that lost key players to graduation and others who chose to follow former head coach Sal Bando Jr. to NCAA Division I baseball in North Carolina.

During the off-season, Archuleta brought in 17 new players, many of whom were junior-college transfers. And the young Rangers who b a t t l e d through the 2002 campaign were improved because of the experience.

The Rangers qualified for the No. 4 seed in the 2003 GLVC tournament, went into the tourney with 24 victories overall, and had the league's number-two hitter in senior Erik Kraemer. During the season, the Rangers were ranked as high as sixth in their region.

Kraemer was one of the players who benefited from last year. He finished the 2003 regular season with a .368 batting average and was seventh

nationally in the NCAA Division II with 18 doubles. Kraemer started every game for UW-Parkside and led the team in almost every offensive category including at-bats, hits, runs, doubles, triples, home runs, runs batted in, and on-base percentage. With credentials like that, it's no wonder professional scouts were a regular site at UW-Parkside games.

### Softball

Laura Fillipp knew the Rangers were close to something special during her first year as head coach last season. Even though the team managed just a 6-8 record in GLVC play, three of those losses came to eventual GLVC champion SIU-Edwardsville – and each loss was by just one run.

Fast forward to 2003. The Rangers compiled 29 victories overall, qualified for the No. 7 seed in the GLVC tournament, and made it to the championship game before losing 5-4 in eight innings to ... you guessed it ... SIU-Edwardsville.

Sophomores Kim Dean and Michele Pickering earned second-team, all-GLVC honors. Pickering is a two-sport star leading the UW-Parkside women's basketball team this season in assists with 150 and placing second on the team in steals with 49.

By the way, Sunday, April 4, 2004 – yes, 2004 – SIU-Edwardsville is scheduled to face the Rangers at the Case Softball Complex. No doubt Fillipp and her troops already have that date marked on their calendars.

