



UW-La Crosse Sports Information

Press Release

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THE GAME: The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse travels to East Texas Baptist University Saturday, September 5 in the season-opener for both teams. Kickoff is scheduled for 11 a.m. at Ornelas Stadium in Marshall, Texas.

ON THE AIR: All of UW-L's football games can be heard on WKTY Radio (580 AM). **Mike Kearns** will call the play-by-play.

ON THE INTERNET: All of UW-L's football games can be heard live as broadcast on WKTY over the internet. To access, a link to the broadcast is provided on the UW-L Athletics home page and on the UW-L Football home page.

ON THE PHONE: All of the Eagles games this season are also available over the phone. Fans can call (800) 846-4700 and enter code 8616 to catch all the action with the WKTY broadcast. This is a free service provided by the UW-L Athletic Department.

THE SERIES VS. THE TIGERS: This will be the first-ever meeting between UW-L and East Texas Baptist University.

OPENING GAME HISTORY: UW-L has compiled a 56-29-11 record in season openers for a .641 winning percentage. The Eagles have won six of their last eight season-openers, but lost 24-23 to Hardin-Simmons University (Texas) last year.

LAST SEASON: UW-L finished 3-7 overall and 3-4 in the WIAC. It marked the Eagles first losing season since 2001 (4-6). UW-L has recorded winning marks in 36 of the last 39 seasons overall.

HOME STADIUM: UW-L returns to campus to host six home games in 2009 at the newly constructed Roger Harring Stadium at Veterans Memorial Stadium Complex. The Eagles played four home games at Winona (Minn.) State University in 2008.

The Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex has seating for 6,250 and includes a synthetic turf football field, a 10-lane track, new locker room space, press box, concessions and restrooms. The Veterans Hall of Honor is also prominently featured as part of the new stadium.

THE HISTORY: UW-L is in its 96th season of football. The Eagles have compiled a 554-246-46 record against four-year institutions over the years (.682), which ranks as the second winningest program in Division III history percentage-wise, behind only St. John's University (.707). The Eagles' 554 wins ranks 12th on the all-time victories list for Division III.

THE COACH: Larry Terry (UW-La Crosse, 1977) is in his 10th season as head coach at UW-L. He is 57-36 (.613) overall and 42-21 (.667) in the WIAC at the helm of the Eagles. Terry is 82-65-1 (.557) in 16 years as a collegiate head coach. He led UW-L to three straight WIAC Championships and been named the conference coach of the year in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Since Terry joined the Eagles' staff as offensive coordinator in 1988, UW-L has compiled a 173-61 (.739) record, won 10 WIAC titles, and made four national championship game appearances, winning two.

He earned his bachelor's degree from UW-L in 1977, a master's degree from Bowling Green State University in 1978 and added his

doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico in 1990.

COACHING STAFF: Four members of the Eagles' coaching staff, including head coach **Larry Terry**, played football for UW-L. **Tim Ebner** (running backs), **Larry Noll** (defensive backs) and **T.J. Mickschl** (defensive linemen) were members of the squad in their undergraduate careers.

WIAC PREDICTIONS: The Eagles were picked to finish fourth in the 2009 WIAC Preseason Poll selected by the sports information directors. UW-Whitewater, which fell to Mt. Union College (Ohio) in the NCAA Division III Championship game last season, is picked to win the league title in 2009. UW-Stevens Point is expected to place second and UW-Eau Claire third. Following UW-L being chosen fourth, UW-Stout is picked fifth followed by UW-Oshkosh, UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville.

NON-CONFERENCE PLAY: After going 9-2 in non-conference play from 2003 to 2007, UW-L went 0-3 last season. The Eagles fell to Hardin-Simmons University, Texas (24-23), the University of North Dakota (45-7) and Azusa Pacific University, Calif. (13-10) a year ago.

UW-L OFFENSIVE PREVIEW: The Eagles return seven offensive starters in 2009. UW-L averaged 295.8 yards (133.7 rushing; 162.1 passing) last season while scoring 20.3 points per game. The team has switched to a spread offense in 2009. Key returnees include four starters along the line. Senior center **Andrew Gebel** and senior right tackle **Tyler Smith** along with junior left guard **Kyle Schulz** and sophomore **Erik Rasmussen** all started in 2008. Senior **Cooper Wage** is slated to start at right guard.

Senior tailback **Reid Oldenburg** returns after finishing second on the team in rushing attempts (65), yards (382) and touchdowns (6). He also returned 20 kickoffs for 525 yards (26.2 average). Junior fullback **Jason Church** is scheduled to join Oldenburg in the backfield.

Junior **Nick Anker** started six games at quarterback last season, finishing 83-of-176 passing for 1,123 yards with seven touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Anker will have four of the top-five receivers back in 2009, including junior **Travis Bordeau** who led UW-L with 34 catches for 491 yards. Bordeau along with junior **Kyle Steffen** (23 receptions for 260 yards) and senior **Tyler Keeney** (20 for 297) each caught two touchdown passes last season. Senior **Dan Sellers** also returns after catching 12 passes for 116 yards and one touchdown in 2008.

Junior **Ben Sturmoski** starts at tight end after catching two passes last season.

UW-L DEFENSIVE PREVIEW: The Eagles' defense returns eight starters in 2009. UW-L allowed 338.6 yards (146.6 rushing; 192.0 passing) per game last season and 22.7 points.

Seniors **Dale Skrzypchak** (tackle) and **Derek Jones** (end) return in the Eagles' 4-3 defense. Skrzypchak played in all 10 games last year and recorded 16 tackles while Jones saw action in nine contests with 20 tackles. Jones also had 4.5 tackles for loss. Sophomore **Ryan Immel** (end) and **Nicholas Matthews** (tackle) are scheduled to start along the line.

Seniors **Blake Roemer**, **Aaron Johnson** and **Jon Boyle** will start at linebacker for UW-L in 2009. Roemer tied for second on the team with four quarterback sacks last season while Johnson was second in overall

tackles with 76. Johnson tied for second on the team in tackle for loss (7.0) and sacks (4.0). Boyle recorded 17 tackles, including one for loss.

The secondary returns a wealth of experience, including senior **Matt Winney** and junior **Derek Dreher** at cornerback. Both played in all 10 games last season with Winney finishing with 41 tackles and Dreher 36. Dreher led the squad with four interceptions and six pass break-ups while Winney was second in both categories with three interceptions and five pass break-ups. Junior **Billy Niggeman** saw action in all 10 contests in 2008, finishing fourth on the team in tackles (50). He also had two interceptions.

Junior **Dustin Drath** returns at the strong safety position while junior **Philip Minja** is back at free safety. Drath was third on the team in tackles (69) last season and recorded four pass break-ups and an interception. Minja missed five games with injury a year ago. Sophomore **Matt McGilliard** saw action in the defensive backfield and finished with 29 tackles, including 16 unassisted.

UW-L SPECIAL TEAMS: Junior **Dylan Rude** returns as the place-kicker in 2009 after not playing last season. He was 16-of-20 on extra-point attempts and one-of-six in field goals in 2007.

In 2006, Rude converted all 24 of his extra-point attempts and finished three-of-four in field goals.

Freshman **Christian Hallingstad** is listed as the Eagles' punter this season.

Senior **Reid Oldenburg** and sophomore **Brock Larson** will return punts this season while Oldenburg and senior **Dan Sellers**, sophomore **Lee Lauters** and freshman **Tyler O'Kane** could all handle the kickoff returns. Oldenburg averaged 26.2 yards per kickoff return in 2008 with 20 returns for 525 yards. Lauters also returned three kicks for 89 yards (29.7 average) a year ago.

Senior **Jonathan Flancher** is the Eagles' long snapper and freshman **Lee Brekke** is the holder on extra-point and field goal attempts.

EAST TEXAS BAPTIST: The Tigers were picked to finish fourth in the American Southwest Conference in the preseason poll of coaches, media and sports information directors. Four-time defending champion Mary Hardin-Baylor was picked to win the league. Hardin-Simmons was picked second and Mississippi College third.

After East Texas Baptist was picked to finish fourth, Louisiana College was fifth followed by Texas Lutheran, Sul Ross State, Howard Payne and McMurry.

ETBU senior defensive end **Austin Sturrock** was also voted the ASC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year after posting 48 tackles, 5 1/2 sacks, nine tackles for loss and two forced fumbles as a junior.

The Tigers have recorded back-to-back 5-5 seasons. Nine starters are back on defense, including Sturrock. Two-year starter **Evan Beaton** missed the spring with injury but is back at defensive tackle. Beaton was second-team All-ASC last season. **Brad Wallace** started every game at defensive end last season but has been moved back inside alongside Beaton at the nose tackle spot.

The Tigers' returning leading tackler is junior linebacker **Michael Uvalle**, who had 53 stops as a sophomore in 2008. Senior **Brandon Joslin** and sophomore **Jon Chitty** played significant time last season.

Two veteran starters in junior **Victor Flores** and senior **Gerald Hunter** return in the secondary.

Eight starters are back on offense for ETBU, including junior all-conference running backs **Corey George** and **Jair Stover**. George is a two-time All-ASC back who earned first-team honors last season after rushing for 674 yards and nine touchdowns. Stover was named second-team All-ASC last season, rushing for a team-high 860 yards on 173 carries with four touchdowns.

Sophomores **Sed Harris** and **Tristen Cooksey** along with freshman **Seth Hubbard** are battling for the playing time at quarterback.

Sophomore **Tony Cavness** had 32 receptions in 2007. Junior **Trent Ledkins** returns as a starter at wide receiver. Junior **Craig Blankenship** is back to start at tight end.

The offensive line returns three senior starters in center **Jonathan**

Council, left guard **Stephen Nicasio** and left tackle **Michael Colvin**.

Junior kicker **Kyle Pope** remains one of the top specialists in the ASC. He will handle the kicking duties for the Tigers and may punt as well. Senior **Shea Harborth** is a versatile kicker.

Blankenship should handle deep-snapping duties, while Tony and sophomore **Trevor Cavness** are expected to share the bulk of both kick and punt return duties.

WHEN AT HALF: UW-L was 3-2 last season when leading at the half and 0-5 when trailing.

ROAD RECORD: UW-L finished 1-5 on the road last season after finishing 2-2 in 2007. The Eagles are 25-25 (.500) on the road under head coach **Larry Terry**.

SCORING FIRST: UW-L is 30-7 (.811) since 2003 when scoring first and 42-13 overall (.792) under head coach **Larry Terry**. The Eagles are 9-16 (.360) since 2003 and 15-23 (.395) overall under Terry when the opponent scores first.

POINTS SCORED: UW-L is 56-17 (.767) under head coach **Larry Terry** when scoring at least 20 points in a game, including 3-2 last year. The Eagles have scored 49 points the last two seasons against UW-River Falls, winning 49-34 November 3, 2007 and 49-19 November 8, 2008. The 49 points against the Falcons in 2007 were the most for UW-L since a 52-13 victory over Concordia University (Wis.) in the first round of the NCAA Division III Playoffs in 2003.

POINTS PER GAME: UW-L averaged 20.3 points per game last season. With their 31-0 loss at UW-Whitewater October 4, the Eagles were shutout for the first time since a 41-0 loss to the University of Northern Iowa during the 1983 season. The Eagles hadn't been shutout in 283 games.

The Eagles averaged 32.2 points per game in 2007 and 28.3 points per game in 2006.

UW-L scored a season-high 49 points last year in its victory (49-19) over UW-River Falls November 8. The team has scored at least 25 points in 48 of their last 79 games dating back to the 2001 season.

SPREADING THE WEALTH: Eleven different players caught a pass last season for UW-L and four of the top-five return in 2009, including junior **Travis Bordeau** who finished with a team-high 34 catches for 491 yards. Bordeau, junior **Kyle Steffen** and senior **Tyler Keeney** each had two touchdown catches. Steffen had 23 catches for 260 yards while Keeney had 20 receptions for 297 yards.

ANKER: Junior quarterback **Nick Anker** returns this season after starting six games in 2008. He had his first career start October 11 versus UW-Eau Claire, finishing 11-of-33 for 192 yards with three touchdowns and one interception. Anker went 18-of-21 for 242 yards in UW-L's 37-6 victory over UW-Platteville October 18. He also rushed for two touchdowns against the Pioneers.

Anker Game-by-Game in 2008:

Opponent	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	INT
at North Dakota	6	2	24	0	1
at UW-Whitewater	4	2	6	0	0
UW-Eau Claire	33	11	192	3	1
UW-Platteville	21	18	242	0	0
at UW-Oshkosh	26	12	219	2	1
at UW-Stout	32	14	163	0	2
UW-River Falls	13	10	150	1	1
<u>at UW-Stevens Pt.</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	176	83	1,123	7	8

RUSHING YARDS: UW-L averaged 133.7 yards per game rushing in 2008. The Eagles had a season-high 388 yards rushing in a 49-19 victory over UW-River Falls November 8. UW-L also had a season-high five rushing touchdowns. The team had a season-low minus seven yards in a 21-7 loss at UW-Stevens Point November 15. The Pointers had six sacks in the game.

UW-L averaged 3.9 yards per attempt last season after averaging 5.6 in 2007. The Eagles averaged 182.1 rushing yards per game in 2007.

100-YARD GAME: The Eagles are 21-8 (.724) since 2003 when a player rushes for at least 100 yards in a game.

OLDENBURG: Senior tailback **Reid Oldenburg** is UW-L's top returning rusher in 2009 after finishing with 65 carries for 382 yards and six touchdowns in a year ago. Oldenburg, who also returned 20 kickoffs for 525 yards in 2008, had a career-high 107 rushing yards and two touchdowns versus UW-River Falls November 8.

He finished with 85 yards rushing and two touchdowns at UW-Stout November 1 and added touchdowns runs against UW-Platteville October 18 and at UW-Oshkosh October 25.

TOTAL OFFENSE: UW-L averaged 295.8 yards of offense last season. The Eagles finished with a season-high 538 yards in their 49-19 victory over UW-River Falls November 8, totaling 388 yards rushing (season-high) and 150 passing. The 295.8 yards per game is the lowest for a UW-L team since finishing with 284.8 in 1983.

UW-L had a season-low 120 yards (minus seven rushing; 127 passing) in a 21-7 loss at UW-Stevens Point November 15.

The Eagles averaged 435.9 yards of offense in 2007, including 182.1 rushing and 253.8 passing. UW-L had at least 400 yards of offense in six of nine contests.

UW-L set a single-season school record with 5,282 total yards of offense in 2003.

Total Offense Game-by-Game in 2008:

Opponent	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Hardin-Simmons	194	109	303
at North Dakota	61	138	199
at Azusa Pacific	101	148	249
at UW-Whitewater	83	119	202
UW-Eau Claire	70	192	262
UW-Platteville	184	242	426
at UW-Oshkosh	161	233	394
at UW-Stout	102	163	265
UW-River Falls	388	150	538
at UW-Stevens Point	-7	127	120

DID YOU KNOW?: UW-L is 49-15 (.766) overall under head coach **Larry Terry** when the team has more rushing attempts than passing attempts, but were 2-3 last season.

POINTS BY PERIOD: The Eagles were outscored in three of four quarters last season, including 52-33 in the first; 71-67 in the second and 53-52 in the third. UW-L and its opponents each tallied 51 points in the fourth period.

TURNOVER MARGIN: UW-L finished minus four in turnover margin in 2008. The Eagles recovered five fumbles and recorded 12 interceptions. UW-L lost 10 fumbles and threw 11 interceptions.

The team finished +3 in turnover margin in 2007 and have forced a turnover in 61 of the last 71 contests.

OVERTIME HISTORY: With its 27-20 overtime victory over Azusa Pacific September 15, 2007, UW-L is 5-5 all-time in overtime games. The Eagles last overtime contest was a 27-20 double overtime loss at UW-Eau Claire in 2005. UW-L played two overtime games in 2002,

defeating UW-Platteville 35-28 at home while falling 23-20 at UW-Whitewater.

INTERCEPTIONS: UW-L recorded nine interceptions in its last five games of the 2008 campaign, including three in a 49-19 victory over UW-River Falls November 8.

Junior **Derek Dreher** had a team-high four interceptions last season while senior **Matt Winney** had three. Junior **Billy Niggeman** recorded two interceptions while seniors **Jonathan Flancher** and **Eric Odden** along with junior **Dustin Drath** each had one. Flancher returned his interception seven yards for a touchdown against UW-River Falls.

UW-L had two interceptions against UW-Platteville October 18 and at UW-Oshkosh October 25.

MORE INTERCEPTIONS: UW-L has recorded one interception in 49 in its last 67 games overall. The Eagles are 48-22 (.686) under **Larry Terry** when intercepting a pass. The school record of 29 interceptions was set in 1980 and 1982.

SECONDARY: Junior strong safety **Dustin Drath** was second on the team with 69 tackles last season, including 31 solo. He had a team-high nine tackles in UW-L's 35-21 loss to UW-Eau Claire October 11. Drath also had a fumble recovery against the Blugolds. He finished with a team-high 12 tackles in the Eagles' 26-14 loss at UW-Stout November 1. Drath tied for the team lead with eight tackles in a 35-7 win at UW-Oshkosh October 25 and also recorded an interception and two pass break-ups. He finished tied for third on the team with four pass break-ups.

Sophomore free safety **Billy Niggeman** was fourth in tackles with 50, including a season-high 10 at UW-Stevens Point November 15. He was also third on the team with two interceptions. Senior cornerback **Matt Winney** recorded 41 tackles, three interceptions and five pass break-ups in 2008. He ranked fifth on the team in tackles and second in interceptions and pass break-ups.

Senior cornerback **Derek Dreher** had a team-high four interceptions and six pass break-ups. He was seventh in tackles with 36.

JOHNSON: Senior linebacker **Aaron Johnson** returns after finishing second on the team in tackles in 2008 with 76, including 34 solo. He was tied for second in tackles for loss (7.0) and quarterback sacks (4.0) last season.

Johnson had a season-high 11 tackles at UW-Stout November 1 and UW-Stevens Point November 15. He finished with 10 tackles at Azusa Pacific University September 20. Johnson also had one forced and one recovered fumble in 2008.

SACKS: UW-L finished with a season-high seven sacks in its 37-6 win over UW-Platteville October 18, 2008. The seven sacks were the most for the Eagles since totaling six against UW-Stevens Point October 21, 2000. Senior linebacker **Blake Roemer** had three sacks against UW-Platteville.

The Eagles had 16 sacks in 2008 after recording 17 in 2007. Linebacker **Drew Kiefer** has a team-high 4.5 sacks last season while senior linebacker **Aaron Johnson** and **Roemer** were tied for second with 4.0.

THIRD-DOWN: The Eagles were 49-of-135 (36.3%) on third-down last year. UW-L finished seven-of-11 (63.6%) in its 49-19 victory over UW-River Falls November 8. The 63.6% conversion rate was a season-high. The Eagles were 10-of-18 (55.6%) in their 35-7 win at UW-Oshkosh October 25, setting season-highs in conversions and attempts. The team also had 18 attempts (five conversions) at UW-Stevens Point November 15.

UW-L was 47-of-131 (35.9%) on third-down in 2007.

OPPONENTS: Opponents finished 66-of-154 (42.9%) on third-down last season. Opponents were 50-of-132 (37.9%) on third-down in 2007.

FOURTH-DOWN: UW-L was four-of-17 (23.5%) on fourth-down attempts last year after going 15-of-26 (57.7%) in 2007.

Opponents were 11-of-18 (61.1%) on fourth-down last year.

RED-ZONE: UW-L finished 20-of-31 (64.5%) in red-zone chances last year. The Eagles had 17 touchdowns and three field goals. The team was 14-of-18 in the red-zone in its last five games (12 touchdowns, two field goals).

UW-L finished 33-of-47 (70.2%) in red-zone opportunities in 2007. The Eagles had 30 touchdowns (17 rushing; 13 passing) in the red-zone and were three-of-eight on field goal attempts.

OPPONENTS' RED-ZONE: Opponents were 28-of-34 (82.4%) in red-zone chances last year. They scored 22 touchdowns and six field goals. Opponents finished nine-of-13 in the red-zone in the last three games.

Opponents were 32-of-40 (80.0%) in red-zone chances versus UW-L in 2007. They finished with 24 touchdowns (16 rushing; eight passing) and were eight-of-11 in field goal attempts.

DEFENSE: UW-L allowed 338.6 yards of offense last season, including a season-high 500 (287 rushing, 213 passing) at the University of North Dakota September 13. UW-Stout recorded an opponent season-high 303 rushing yards against UW-L November 1 while UW-Eau Claire had a season-high 307 passing yards October 11.

Opponents averaged 146.6 rushing and 192.0 passing yards per game last year. The Eagles allowed 361.3 yards of offense per game in 2007, including 159.3 rushing and 202.0 passing.

After allowing 25.6 points in 2007, opponents averaged 22.7 in 2008.

PENALTIES: UW-L finished with 53 penalties for 474 yards last season, an average of 47.4 yards per game. The Eagles finished with 60 penalties for 532 yards (59.1 yards per game) in 2007.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Eagles were 22-of-24 in their extra-point attempts in 2008. Junior **Dylan Rude** returns as the placekicker in 2009 after not playing last season. He was 16-of-20 on extra-point attempts and one-of-six in field goals in 2007.

In 2006, Rude converted all 24 of his extra-point attempts and finished three-of-four in field goals.

PUNTING: Freshman **Christian Hallingstad** is listed as the Eagles' punter this season. **Brett Nagan** averaged 35.7 yards on 47 punts last season. He has 13 punts inside the 20-yard line and a long of 56 yards.

RETURNS: Senior **Reid Oldenburg** led UW-L with 20 kickoff returns for 525 yards (26.2 average) last season with a long of 59 yards. **Jordan Armentrout** had 21 kickoff returns for 347 yards (16.5 average) with a long of 35. Sophomore **Lee Lauters** had three kickoff returns for 89 yards (29.7 average).

Eric Donoval had 20 punt returns for 240 yards in 2008. He returned a punt 84-yards for a touchdown in UW-L's 37-6 victory over UW-Platteville October 18.

SCHOOL RECORDS: UW-L finished with 1,018 kickoff return yards in 2008, second-most in single-season school history. The Eagles averaged 21.7 yards per return.

UW-L had a school record 1,040 kickoff return yards in 2007. The Eagles also set a single-game school record with 251 kickoff return yards at UW-River Falls November 3, 2007. UW-L averaged 26.0 yards on 40 kickoff returns in 2007.

TIME OF POSSESSION: Opponents held a 32:09 to 27:51 time of possession advantage last year.

THIS WEEK IN THE WIAC: Here is the conference schedule for the first week of the 2009 season:

Saturday, September 5

UW-La Crosse at East Texas Baptist, 11 a.m.

UW-Oshkosh at Ripon (Wis.), 1 p.m.

Buena Vista (Iowa) at UW-Platteville, 1 p.m.

St. John's (Minn.) at UW-River Falls, 1 p.m.

Simpson (Iowa) at UW-Stout, 1 p.m.

UW-Whitewater at Dickinson State (N.D.), 1 p.m. (CT)

Bethel (Tenn.) at UW-Eau Claire, 7 p.m.

2008 FINAL WIAC STANDINGS:

Team	Overall				WIAC			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
UW-Whitewater	13	2	518	202	6	1	228	81
UW-Stevens Point	9	2	244	184	6	1	145	121
UW-Eau Claire	6	4	208	153	4	3	159	101
UW-Stout	5	5	207	180	3	4	133	126
UW-La Crosse	3	7	203	227	3	4	163	145
UW-Oshkosh	4	5	96	223	2	5	65	194
UW-Platteville	4	6	146	215	2	5	95	158
UW-River Falls	3	7	202	282	2	5	137	199

NEXT UP: UW-L hosts Azusa Pacific University (Calif.) Saturday, September 12 in its home opener. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Roger Harring Stadium at Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex.