2010-11 Men's Basketball Recruits Announced

By: Keith Muchow, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
Posted: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 8:18 AM

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - Head men's basketball coach Terry Gibbons has announced the names of nine student-athletes who will continue their academic and athletic careers at UW-Eau Claire.

2010-11 Blugold Recruits

Name

Hometown

Matt Coenen

Appleton, WI/East/St. Norbert

Nick Craggs

Kimberly, WI/UW-Whitewater

Ivan Franklin

Stillwater, MN/UM-Duluth

Paul Franklin

Stillwater, MN

Matt Ober

Glencoe, MN/Glencoe-Silver Lake

James Pfitzinger

West St. Paul, MN/Holy Angels/St. Norbert

Kevin Rabbers

Grand Rapids, MN

Eric Schmechel

Hudson, WI

Kyle Winkelman

Farmington, MN

Matt Coenen

Profile:

Height: 5-8 *Weight:* 160 *Year:* Junior *Position:* Outside*Previous School:* St. Norbert College

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: First Team All-Fox Valley Association, First Team All-Fox Valley Association Defensive Team, First Team All-Area, Associated Press Honorable Mention All-State, Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Led conference in assists

Appleton East all-time assists leader

Junior Season Honors: First Team All-Fox Valley Association, First Team All-Area

Sophomore Season Honors: Honorable Mention All-Fox Valley Association

Freshman Season Honors: Varsity Letter Winner

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Matt is good with the basketball. He is smart, heady, works hard and is always looking to improve his game both on and off the court. Matt is a great addition to our team. He is a winner and has won in every program he has been and this is a new beginning for him."

Nick Craggs

Profile:

Height: 6-6 *Weight:* 205 *Year:* Sophomore *Position:* Outside*Previous School:* UW-Whitewater

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Gil Frank Award (Outstanding Athlete of Class), Papermaker Athlete Award (3 sports for 4 years), Honorable Mention All-Fox Valley Association Averaged 12.2 points (7th in conference), 4.2 rebounds, 1.3 steals per game shooting 45% from the field and 42% from the three-point line (10th in conference). Led team in scoring and rebounding

Junior Season Honors: Letterwinner Averaged 6.4 points, 3 rebounds and 1 blocked shot per game shooting 52% from the field and 77% (8th in conference) from the free throw line

Sophomore Season Honors: Varsity Letter Winner

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"I like Nick's size, length and ability to get to the glass. He has worked hard to improve his game. Nick has the

ability to do many different things. He comes from an excellent high school program."

Ivan Franklin

Profile:

Height: 6-7 *Weight:* 220 *Year:* Senior *Position:* Inside*Previous School:* UM-Duluth

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Team Captain, All-Suburban East Conference, Associated Press Honorable Mention All-State, Minnesota Mr. Basketball Nominee Ranks 11th on school's all-time scoring list

Junior Season Honors: All-Suburban East Conference

Sophomore Season Honors: Varsity Letter Winner

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Ivan is a strong, athletic player who can run and jump. He is an excellent defender for his size and weight. Ivan is a sound player who is excited to be in our program. He is a kid that is very versatile player who also brings great energy to our team."

Paul Franklin

Profile:

Height: 6-1 *Weight:* 165 *Year:* Freshman *Position:* Outside*Previous School:* Stillwater HS

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Team Captain, All-Suburban East Conference, Pioneer Press Honorable Mention All-State Ranks 3rd on school's all time assists and steals list

Ranks 10th on school's all-time leading scorers list

Junior Season Honors: Team MVP, All-Suburban East Conference

Sophomore Season Honors: Varsity Letter Winner

Freshman Season Honors: Varsity Letter Winner

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Paul is a hard worker who looks to set people up. He is a hard-nosed defender who has the ability to become a great team leader through hard work and dedication to the game. Paul is a winner and comes from a winning program."

Matt Ober

Profile:

Height: 6-8 *Weight:* 270 *Year:* Freshman *Position:* Inside*Previous School:* Glencoe-Silver Lake HS

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Letter Winner, Team Gentleman's Award, Salutatorian of the Team, Led team in rebounds, Two-time Player of the Game for KGLB and KDUZ radio

Junior Season Honors: Letter Winner

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Matt will sit out this year with an injury. Matt is enthusiastic and loves to play the game."

James Pfitzinger

Profile:

Height: 6-9 *Weight:* 255 *Year:* Junior *Position:* Inside*Previous School:* St. Norbert College

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Team Captain, Honorable Mention All-Missota Conference, McDonald's All-America Nominee Led conference in blocks

Junior Season Honors: Honorable Mention All-Missota Conference

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"James is strong and quick for a big kid. He works hard and has a great nose for the ball. James works hard to get the tough rebound. He has good hands and a strong body. James has great feel for the game and is a smart player."

Kevin Rabbers

Profile:

Height: 6-8 *Weight:* 225 *Year:* Freshman *Position:* Inside*Previous School:* Grand Rapids HS

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Class 3A State Tournament Runner-Up, Class 3A All-Tournament Team
Averaged 8.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 1 block per game

Field Goal Percentage 56%, Free Throw Percentage 69.7%

Junior Season Honors: Class 3A State Tournament Participant

Sophomore Season Honors: Class 3A State Tournament Participant

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Kevin has the chance to become an excellent post player. I like his work ethic and his ability to listen and lead. Kevin is a winner and played for a very good high school team."

Eric Schmechel

Profile:

Height: 6-8 *Weight:* 190 *Year:* Freshman *Position:* Inside *Previous School:* Hudson HS

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Letterwinner, Team Most Improved Award

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Eric wants to work hard and make our team better. He can run, jump, rebound and block shots. Eric is a great pick up for our program."

Kyle Winkelman

Profile:

Height: 6-1 *Weight:* 155 *Year:* Freshman *Position:* Outside*Previous School:* Farmington HS

High School Accomplishments:

Senior Season Honors: Team Captain, Team MVP, All-Missota Conference Averaged 16 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists per game

Scored 650 career points

Junior Season Honors: Starter on conference championship team Averaged 8 points, 4 assists and 2 rebounds per game

Coach Gibbons' Comments:

"Kyle is a quick guard who was an excellent scorer in high school. He has the ability to listen, learn and lead."