



## Waunakee Rotary Club

Dec. 18, 2008  
Vol. 42 No. 21

Though overshadowed by the University of Wisconsin's athletic program, Madison Area Technical College has some competitive athletic teams.

Jason Verhelst, sports information director from MATC's athletic department, told the Waunakee Rotary Club a little about the technical college's sports program at the Dec. 11 meeting.

That athletic department started in 1965 with men's basketball and golf. It has had 12 different sports teams throughout the years, though some have gone by the wayside due to a lack of like teams to compete against at other technical colleges.

Compared to other states, Wisconsin has fewer technical colleges and thus fewer schools in athletic competition. MATC is about to make the switch from the Wisconsin Technical College Conference to the Northern Illinois Conference, Jason said.

The school also competes at the national level in the National Junior College Athletic Association, he said, and statewide in the Wisconsin Junior College Association. Its baseball program competes at the Division 2 level, where scholarships are offered, while other sports are in Division 3.

MATC offers a variety of athletic venues, including summer leagues, Tri-County basketball, camps and clinics. Jason said it's one of the best facilities in the country. The baseball field has the seats from the old Milwaukee County Stadium. And the gym hosts many events, such as the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association meetings.

Jason said the department has developed into one of the finest junior college programs and has had 15

top 10 national teams competing in the last 10 years, along with 45 All-American athletes.

The baseball team is the program's "bread and butter," Jason said, and has had back-to-back national titles. This year, 11 of the program's student athletes will go on to a four-year school.

Last year, all of the teams swept conference and state titles. And the volleyball team is ranked third in the nation.

"We've had a ton of success, and it's kind of been under the radar," Jason said.

Jason said the team has tried to increase its visibility. Its new mascot, Wolfie, is renowned for his dance moves, and is portrayed by Elliot Wray, Madison Police Chief Noble Wray's son.

"Some people come [to games] just to watch the mascot," Jason said.

Among the athletic opportunities MATC offers are the upcoming holiday basketball camp Dec. 20-21 and the Turkey Trot run at Warner Park which drew 650 runners this year – among them Waunakee Rotarian Tom Reis, a former MATC cross country runner.

The Heart to Heart program also allows MATC athletes to visit with children at the Children's Hospital in Madison.

"Our athletes are out there in the community," Jason said.

Other items:

- Sunday at 5 p.m., Betsy Flanagan will lead a caroling party from First Presbyterian Church.

- The club will go to Waunakee Manor for caroling Dec. 18 after the speaker's presentation, so tune up those vocal chords.

- Peggy Acker-Farber said Santa at the Village Center was a hit with

### OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT  
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY  
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • BILL ERICKSON

### Calendar of Events:

•Jan. 8, Rotary Club Holiday dinner

about 300 children attending. Harriet Statz played piano, and Ed Neibuhr helped, as well. The club thanked everyone who brought cookies for the event.

Guests: Wendy Fahlgren and Brent Fahlgren, guest of Jim Leonard; Mike Ableidinger, guest of Tom Reis; Marie Zorn, guest of the club.

Visiting Rotarians: Art Drake, Normal, Ill.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: Jan. 2, Jim and Linda Schmitz; Jan. 2, Ellen and Vincent Schaaf.

Prayers: Dec. 18, Leonard Allen; Jan. 8, Pat Durden.

Programs: Dec. 18, Bob Klinger, Wisconsin Emergency Management; Dec. 25, Christmas Day, no meeting; Jan. 1, New Year's Day, no meeting.

Greeters: Dec. 18, Jim Schmitz and Steve Schlaver; Jan. 8, Gene Smith and Lynne Spielman.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.