

Pointer mascot snuffs out national competition

By Jason Renkens

CONTRIBUTOR

UW-Stevens Point's mascot, Stevie Pointer, took first place in the collegiate mascot division of the 1997 Americup Cheer and Dance Championship. The annual two day competition was held in Minneapolis the weekend of March 1.

Stevie was invited to the competition because of an automatic bid granted to the UW-SP dance team for placing first in the competition last year. The cheer and dance teams placed second in this year's competition.

The Pointer mascot, portrayed by Greg Lietz, a sophomore health promotion and wellness major is one of two people acting as Stevie at football, basketball, and wrestling competitions as well as special events.

Lietz claims that the job of portraying Stevie

Pointer and his female counterpart, Stephanie Pointer, have taken on new dimensions since the unveiling of their new costumes at the 1996 Homecoming celebration.

"There is really a lot more to being a mascot than most people think," said Lietz. "There is almost a

kind of ten commandments written just for mascots."

Lietz, who is lending his talents to the role of Stevie Pointer for the second year, attended the Universal Cheerleading Association Camp this



Stevie Pointer hits the practice field to get down his skit routine. (Photo by Carrie Reuter)

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past summer to learn more about being a mascot. He placed sixth out of 35 mascots, including many from the Big Ten.

Earlier this school year, Lietz brought a four minute skit to UW-SP's own cheer and dance competition and took second place.

"Bucky Badger gave me some suggestions on my routine," said Lietz. "I worked on the things that he talked to me about and I ended up taking first place at AmeriCup."

There will be tryouts later this spring for all the UW-SP mascots.