Jason Howarth

 The number six ranked University of Wisconsin Whitewater Warhawks defeated the University of La Crosse Eagles 30-12 in a Friday night inter-conference game. The game was held in Whitewater at Perkins Stadium and was the school’s student appreciation game.

 The Warhawks rushing attack allowed them to control the ball, rushing for 294 yards and total time of possession at just under 33 and a half minutes. The defense of the Warhawks also played strong logging four sacks and three interceptions.

 \*The Warhawks decisive win comes off a heart-breaking 10-7 loss a week prior to fellow conference rival UW-Oshkosh, which snapped Whitewater’s 36 game-winning streak. Whitewater needed to win this game to have a chance at winning a seventh national title and their third straight.

 5127 fans from both schools came to watch the two teams play on a chilly night with high winds. The winds did contribute somewhat the score as each team missed an extra point attempt and the Warhawks missed one field goal.

 Bryce Olson, the lead play-by-play announcer for Whitewater’s student radio station 91.7 The Edge, said he was nervous at certain points but didn’t doubt the Warhawks would win. Olson has been calling Warhawk football games for three years and had a lot to say regarding the Warhawks performance. Olson said the Warhawks biggest strength was their ability to adapt to injuries and use their freshman players, “a big performance from running back Tyler Glass”, in particular. However, Olson made note of a big weakness was the special teams who made mistakes that almost allowed La Crosse to comeback. Still Olson remained optimistic about the Warhawks’ future “I felt down after the loss last week, but I still think we’re going to make the playoffs, we just won’t be hosting”.

 Even in the cold, the came out to support the team in droves and provided an electric atmosphere. Ericha Schaeffer, a UW-Whitewater student in attendance said it always fun at Perkins Stadium, “hanging with friends and cheering with the rest of the crowd is awesome, everyone’s into the game”. Annie Siesennop, another UW-Whitewater echoed that sentiment and added that the football games are great social environment that make her “proud to be a warhawk”.

 The Warhawks had an effect night on both sides of the ball, but took their passing game in particular to the next level. Junior quarterback Chris Nelson went 19 for 27 with 246 yards and a touchdown passing, including a spectacular 55 yard pass non-touchdown pass to receiver Marcus Hudson.

The defensive effort was led by Senior Shawn Shillcox, who had seven total tackles and one interception. The other important contributor was fellow defensive back Junior Vince Mason, who had the other two of the team’s three interceptions.

Whitewater’s next game is Friday October 24, when the Warhawks square off against the UW-Stevens Point Pointers on the road. The Warhawks next game at Perkins Stadium will take place on Halloween night against UW-Eau Claire Blugolds, which will also been the Warhawks homecoming week game.