

# Wrestling To Host 2006 Conference Championships Sunday

*Posted: Thursday, February 16, 2006*

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire wrestling team will host the 51st annual Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Wrestling Championships this Sunday at the McPhee Physical Education Center with the action beginning at 10 a.m.

Fifth-ranked UW-La Crosse is the eight-time defending champion of the tournament. Since the 1992 season, either the Eagles or 18th-ranked UW-Stevens Point have won the conference tournament.

The Blugolds will hope to improve over last year's sixth place finish. The Blugolds had a regular season dual meet record of 3-13 and had a WIAC dual meet record of 2-4 this season, good for fifth-place in the conference. The Blugolds best finish in conference tournament has been third on two occasions, in 2001 and 2003.

Senior **Derek Sikora** (*Sr.-Neillsville, WI*), at 165 pounds, will look for his second conference championship. Sikora, who is ranked first in his weight class in Division III, won his first conference championship back in 2004. He was the runner-up in last year's tournament and also in 2003. This year Sikora has compiled a 25-2 record and has finished first in three different tournaments.

**Joey Miller** (*So.-Lake Tomahawk, WI/Lakeland Union*), at 184 pounds, will look for his first conference championship this Sunday. Miller has the second-most wins on the team with 21 and is tied with Sikora for most pins on the year with seven.

**Lance Valiquette** (*Jr.-Auburn, WA*), at 174 pounds, finished fourth last year in the conference tournament. Valiquette is third on the team in wins with 19 this season. He is fourth on the team with five pins.

UW-La Crosse finished first in the WIAC in the regular season with a 6-0 dual meet record. UW-Stevens Point was second with a 5-1 record, followed by UW-Platteville at 4-2, UW-Whitewater 3-3, the Blugolds at 2-4, UW-Oshkosh at 1-5, and Lawrence at 0-6.

The 2006 WIAC Conference Championships will get underway at 10 a.m. Sunday morning in the McPhee Physical Education Center.

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