

# Women's Track Finishes Third At Championships

Posted: Saturday, March 4, 2006

STEVENS POINT - The UW-Eau Claire women's track team came into the final day of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Indoor Track and Field Championships at second place but by the end of the day the team had dropped to third out of nine teams.

UW-Oshkosh won with 179.50 points and UW-La Crosse took second at 166.50. Eau Claire had 113 points in the championships. UW-Platteville followed Eau Claire at 77.50 and UW-River Falls rounded out the top five with a 64 score. Oshkosh is ranked first in the nation while Eau Claire is ranked third. La Crosse is 12th. It is Oshkosh's first title since 1999 and it also breaks up La Crosse's six year reign at the championships.

Just as in yesterday's action, the Blugolds placed many people in the top ten and there were even a couple Eau Claire champions.

**Stephanie Barnes** (*Jr.-Sauk City/Sauk Prairie*) successfully defended her WIAC Championship pole vault crown with a record-setting display of 3.86 meters (12'8"). The 3.86-meter mark is now the new WIAC record. The previous record was 3.83 meters (12'6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>") set in 2002. Her effort also earned an NCAA automatic qualification.

Today's other Blugold champ was **Liz Faller** (*Jr.-Marinette*). She took the top spot in the 55-meter hurdles in 8.36, which is a provisional qualifying time. Faller had taken fourth last year in the race on an 8.60 run.

**Erin Kokta** (*Sr.-Brookfield/East*) continued her success from yesterday and finished second in the triple jump with a leap of 11.41 meters (37'5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"), which is a provisional qualification. She also took fifth in the 55-meter dash with a 7.49 time.

**Liz Kooistra** (*Fr.-Lakeville, MN*) and Shalene Huth (*Jr.-Appleton/West*) took eighth and ninth in the 200-meter dash with times of 26.71 and 27.84. Kooistra then went on to finish with a tie for third in the 400-meter dash on a provisional qualifying time of 58.46. Huth went on to finish seventh in the pentathlon with a 2761 score.

**Cassie Haak** (*Jr.-Shoreview, MN/Mounds View*) and **Christina Locke** (*Jr.-Racine/Horlick*) also finished back to back in the 1-mile run. Haak placed sixth in 5:14.54 and Locke took seventh in 5:16.84. Locke also took seventh in the 800-meter run at 2:20.98. However, **Sarah Stirdivant** (*Fr.-Doylestown, PA/Central Bucks W.*) finished two spots ahead of her in that race on a 2:18.22 display.

In the 3000-meter run, **Molly Warner** (*So.-Mosinee*) took third in 10:13.26. **Jane-Marie Ovanin** (*Sr.-Amherst*) finished fifth in 10:24.28 while Haak took ninth in 10:37.90.

**Alecia Ellingstad** (*Fr.-Eau Claire/Elk Mound*) tied for sixth in the pole vault at 3.26 meters (10'8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>").

The 4x200 meter relay team managed third at 1:45.69 and the 4x400 meter relay team found itself in second on a provisional qualifying 3:59.05.

The team had a very successful indoor season, with Oshkosh and La Crosse being the first teams to beat the Blugolds all season.

Several Blugolds will now look forward to the NCAA Indoor Championships in Northfield, MN March 10th and 11th. After that the outdoor season starts up April 8th at River Falls.

WIAC Championship Final Results

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