

Softball Earns Many WIAC Accolades

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MADISON - The UW-Eau Claire softball team had six players receive All-WIAC honors, shortstop **Casey Leisgang** (So. -Seymour, WI) was named Co-Position Player of the Year, **Mallory McKinney** (Jr. -Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park) was named Co-Pitcher of the Year, and **Leslie Huntington** was named Coach of the Year it was announced recently by WIAC Sports Information Director Matt Stanek.

Four Blugolds were named to the All-WIAC first team. Mallory McKinney was named to the All-WIAC first team for the third consecutive year. She was also named Co-Pitcher of the Year for the second time in her career, as she received the honor two years ago.

McKinney (23-1) has bested the school single season strikeout record of 134 with 153 and she has topped the career strikeout record of 343 with 378. She has an ERA of 0.52 and has thrown a school- record 12 shutouts this year. Earlier this season, McKinney went 61 consecutive innings without giving up a run.

Shortstop Casey Leisgang also received first team honors for the second year in a row. Leisgang owns the single-season home run record for the Blugolds as she hit her 11th in the championship game of the WIAC tournament. The 11 home runs was also top in the conference. She has five leadoff home runs this season and she led the WIAC in runs scored with 42.

The two other Blugolds receiving first team honors were first baseman **Jill Janke** (So.-Black River Falls, WI) and right fielder **Rachel Paulus** (Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids, WI/Lincoln). Janke was named to the first team for the second straight year, while Paulus earns her first All-WIAC accolade. Janke is hitting .387 this season with 43 hits and four home runs. She has committed just one error and has a .997 fielding percentage at first base. Paulus led the conference in stolen bases this season with 16. She is second on the team in hitting with a .405 average. She is also tied for the most hits on the team with 51.

Leftfielder **Amber Haack** (Jr.-Madison, WI/LaFollette) and third baseman **Mandy Tschernach** (Jr.-Rice Lake, WI) received honorable mention honors. This season Haack is tied for second on the team in home runs with seven and is fourth on the team in RBIs with 24. Tschernach has a .906 fielding percentage at the hot corner for the Blugolds this year. Tschernach is also fourth on the team in batting with a .351 average.

Head Coach Leslie Huntington was named Coach of the Year for the third year in a row. She has led the Blugolds to three straight regular season titles. No other team in WIAC history has accomplished that feat. She has also led the Blugolds back to the NCAA Division III tournament. Earlier this season, the Blugolds set a school record for consecutive wins with 18 and have currently won 28 of their last 29 games.

2006 All-WIAC Team