2004 UW-Eau Claire Volleyball Season Preview

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EAU CLAIRE - The 2004 UW-Eau Claire volleyball team returns 10 letterwinners from a team that finished 23-10 in 2003 recording 20-plus wins for the fifth consecutive season. The Blugolds finished fifth in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) last season.

In 2003 the Blugolds finished second in the WIAC in hitting percentage (.256), kills (14.92 per game), service aces (2.67 per game) and fourth in blocks (2.51 per game).

Heading the charge in 2004 is American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Midwest Region honorable mention middle hitter Becca Carstensen

(Sr.-Eau Claire/Memorial)

. A first team All-WIAC selection last season, Carstensen was third in service aces (0.57 per game) and fourth in hitting percentage (.329) and blocks (1.18 per game). Carstensen was selected to two All-Tournament teams in 2003. For her career Carstensen ranks in the Blugold record book in blocking assists (234), seventh in total blocks (282) and eighth in attacking percentage (.286).

Outside hitter Molly Menard

(Jr.-Eau Claire/Memorial)

returns to the Blugold front row after earning honorable mention All-WIAC recognition in 2003. Menard recorded a career-best 20 kills against St. Olaf (MN) and 19 digs against UW-Oshkosh last season. Right-side hitter Jenny Wolter

(Jr.-Osceola)

compiled 170 kills and 79 total blocks in 116 games in 2003.

Setter Carly Freiborg

(So.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West)

shared setting responsibilities in 2003 and ranked 10th in the WIAC in assists per game (6.31). Libero Shanna Berger

(So.-Baldwin/Baldwin-Woodville)

returns to the Blugolds after taking a year off in 2003. As a freshman in 2002, Berger was second on the team with 389 digs.