

## Experience Looks To Carry Wrestling this Season

*Posted: Wednesday, November 15, 2006*

EAU CLAIRE - The 2006-07 UW-Eau Claire wrestling team will have plenty experience returning to make a run in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC).

The Blugolds return 16 wrestlers this season who competed in at least four matches last season. Leading the way is senior heavyweight **Justin Mc Auly** (*Sr.-Clintonville, WI*). Mc Auly, who wrestled at 197 last year, was named the team's Most Improved Wrestler last season. He won 16 matches in 2005-06, compared to just three the previous season. He was also named as an alternate by the conference to go to the NCAA Nationals after finishing second at the conference championships.

Junior captain **Josiah Miller** (*Jr.-Lake Tomahawk, WI/Lakeland Union*) will also look to repeat his success from last season. Miller at 174 pounds won 22 matches last year and was tied for the team lead with eight pins. Senior captain **Lance Valiquette** (*Sr.-Auburn, WA*) had 20 wins in 2005-06. Valiquette had five pins last season and had the second quickest pin at 43 seconds.

Junior **Nick Hoefft** (*Jr.-Merrill, WI*) drops down a couple of weight classes this season to wrestle at 184. Hoefft won 12 matches at heavyweight last year. Seniors **Carl Bamlet** (*Sr.-Hayfield, MN*) at heavyweight and **Dave Vanevenhoven** (*Sr.-Appleton, WI/Kaukauna*) will also look to contribute.

**Shane Brady** (*So.-Chetek, WI*) at 141 pounds is back after sitting out last season. Brady won 14 matches in the 2004-05 season. A healthy **Josh Holforty** (*So.-Bloomington, MN/Kennedy*) at 197 pounds should help the Blugolds as Holforty only wrestled in seven matches last season. Holforty won 23 matches two seasons ago and led the team with six pins.

**Jon Erickson** (*So.-Jim Falls, WI/Cornell*), **Dustin Follen** (*So.-Marshfield, WI*), **Andy Miller** (*So.-Appleton, WI/North*) got a lot of experience as freshmen last season and will look to improve in their sophomore campaign. Another sophomore that should see a lot of action is **David Hesper** (*So.-Tomah, WI*).

Newcomers include **John Berlin** (*Fr.-Shell Lake, WI*) at heavyweight, **Zac Carlson** (*Fr.-Ft. Atkinson, WI*) at 125 pounds, **Andy Johnston** (*Fr.-St. Cloud, MN/St. Cloud Tech*) at 141 pounds, **Andrew Oakes** (*Fr.-Beloit, WI*) at 197 pounds, and **Michael Walker** (*Fr.-Shorewood, WI*) at 157 pounds.

The Blugolds are already off to a great start after going 3-1 at the Lakeland Duals on Saturday.

- JR -