

2004-05 Women's Tennis Season Preview

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Coming off its first season without a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship in the last 11 years, the UW-Eau Claire women's tennis team and first year coach Craig Monson will look to recapture the conference title in 2004.

Last season the Blugolds finished 15-4 overall, including a perfect 6-0 record in WIAC dual meets, but fell by one point in the WIAC Championship meet to UW-La Crosse. The 2004 Blugolds will be one of the youngest teams in the WIAC, with four of the five singles players sporting under classmen status.

Filling the No. 1 singles spot will most likely be **Katie Kuzma** (*Jr.-Buffalo, MN*). Kuzma, the only upper classmen predicted to be a singles starter, had great success last season in the No. 2 spot. She finished the season 8-7 in the No. 2 spot and 14-10 overall while also posting a doubles record of 11-1 in the No. 1 doubles spot.

Newcomer **Sarah Riordan** (*Fr.-Appleton/North*) looks lined up to take the No. 2 singles spot in her first year as a Blugold. Joining Riordan as a first year Blugold to be in the singles rotation will be **Kristie Carlson** (*Fr.-Arden Hills, MN/Mounds View*), who will likely begin the season as the No. 4 single starter.

The No. 3 singles spot appears to belong to Alli Taplin (*So.-Dayton, MN/Champlin Park*). Taplin competed in the singles rotation just once in the 2003-04 season, topping Stevens Point's Angie Brown in straight sets 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 6 spot.

The fifth singles spot will likely be filled by **Laura Geissler** (*So.-Coon Rapids, MN*). Geissler went 2-2 last season in No. 6 singles and 3-5 overall.

The sixth and final spot in singles competition has not yet been determined but strong candidates for the position could be veteran **Lindsay Lee** (*Sr.-Eau Claire/Memorial*) or **Molly Hunt** (*So.-Owatonna, MN*). Lee played much of last season in the No. 6 spot before eventually being moved to No. 4, where she posted a record of 3-1. Hunt had a fine freshman season, finishing 7-6 in No. 5 singles.

Kuzma and Lee, along with veteran **Sarah Watson** (*Sr.-Green Bay/Notre Dame*) are the only three members on the team with upper class status. Head coach Craig Monson hopes they will be able to provide enough leadership to guide the Blugolds to their 11th conference title in the last 12 seasons.

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