

Volleyball Announces Team Award Winners

Posted: Wednesday, December 13, 2006

EAU CLAIRE - UW-Eau Claire volleyball coach Lisa Herb announced its team award winners for the 2006 season recently at their team banquet.

Setter **Carly Freiborg** (*Sr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West*) was named the team's Most Valuable Player and Hustle Award winner. This past season Freiborg was named a second team American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American and first team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) selection. Freiborg, a four-year setter, broke the school assist record as she finished her career with 5,021. She also ranks third in service aces with 243, eighth in digs with 1,132 and 10th in total blocks with 278.

Middle hitter **Jess Groh** (*Sr.-Eau Claire/North*) received the team Best Offense Award. Groh earned third team AVCA All-American honors in addition to first team All-WIAC recognition. Groh led the team in kills this year with 432 as she hit .334 for the season. Her .301 career hitting average is eighth best in school history. She also set the school career records for blocking assists (423) and total blocks (508) and finished fifth in solo blocks with 85.

Libero **Shanna Berger** (*Sr.-Baldwin/Baldwin-Woodville*) was presented with the team's Best Defense Award. Berger was a second team Academic All-American in addition to earning honorable mention All-WIAC honors. Berger finished second only to Marnie Blau in career digs with 1,983. A three-time WIAC All-Defensive honoree, Berger also finished 12th in career service aces with 129.

Middle hitter **Nikki Peterson** (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN/North*) received the team's Most Improved Award. Peterson played in 117 games this season averaging 1.79 kills (210 total) and 0.69 blocks (81 total) per game after appearing in just 26 games in 2005.

Outside hitter **Lindsey Smith** (*Fr.-Maple Lake, MN*) was named the team's Rookie of the Year. Middle/right hitter **Jenna Weber** (*So.-Antigo*) received the team's Most Inspirational Award.

Team captains for the 2007 season will be Weber and defensive specialist **Heather Harnell** (*Jr.-Minntonka, MN*).

The senior class of 2006 produced a 103-30 record over the past four seasons including back-to-back records of 30-5 in 2005 and 30-4 in 2006. This year, the Blugolds shared the conference regular season title with UW-Oshkosh to mark only the second conference championship in school history. The other occurred nearly two decades ago in 1987 when the team finished with a 52-3 season record.

The past two years, the Blugolds advanced to the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA tournament, both times losing to conference rival UW-Whitewater. The Warhawks went on to capture the NCAA national championship in 2005 after edging the Blugolds, 3-2, in the sectional final.