Women's Cross Country Announces Team Award Winners

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EAU CLAIRE - First year UW-Eau Claire women's cross country head coach Brian Falk recently announced the team award winners for the 2006 season.

The Most Valuable Runner Award went to **Molly Warner** *(Jr.-Mosinee)*. Warner earned first team All-WIAC and All-Midwest Region honors this past season as the Blugolds advanced to their second consecutive NCAA Cross Country Championships. At the championships Warner finished 43rd to lead all Blugold runners at the event.

The Most Promising Newcomer Award went to **Hannah Humbach** *(Fr.-Madison/Abundant Life Christian)*. Humbach finished no lower than eighth on the team in every event she competed in including a 24th place overall finish at the Midwest Collegiate Championships were she ran a 19:56.

The Most Improved Athlete went to **Beth Lutz** *(So.-Eau Claire/Memorial)*. Lutz went from finishing 16th and 18th among team runners in the opening two meets of the season to placing second among team runners at the NCAA Midwest Regional and National Championship meets.

The Blugold Pride Award went to **Bridget Bocher** *(Jr.-Watertown)*. The Blugold award is presented to "an all-around committed scholar-athlete and teammate."

The Blugolds finished the season with an overall record of 137-28, finished second at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championships and advanced to their second consecutive NCAA Championship meet. The Blugolds posted their best finish at the WIAC Championships since the 1997 season. At the NCAA Championships the Blugolds finished higher than any other WIAC school placing 12th, the best finish of any Blugold team since finishing second in 1997.