

# Women's Track & Field Set For WIAC Indoor Championships

Posted: Thursday, February 22, 2007

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's track and field team looks to excel at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Indoor Championships this Friday and Saturday, hosted by UW-Whitewater.

The Blugolds have won three events this season and took second at the Blugold Open. There were also two meets with no team scores. The Blugolds are ranked second in the nation behind UW-Oshkosh. UW-River Falls is 19th while UW-Stevens Point is 21st.

**Steph Barnes** (Sr.-Sauk City/Sauk Prairie) looks to win her third consecutive WIAC Indoor Championships pole vault title. It would only be the second three-peat in Eau Claire history, with Shelly Roth's 1993-95 run in the pentathlon being the other. Barnes currently holds the best mark in the conference with 3.80 meters (12' 5"). **Chelsea Becker** (Sr.-Rice Lake) is second in the WIAC with 3.71 meters (12' 2"). Becker is also third in the triple jump on 11.23 meters (36' 10").

The Blugolds have excelled in other field events, as well. In the high jump, Eau Claire has four of the top ten spots. **Jessica Owens** (So.-Elm Grove/Brookfield East) is tied for first (1.66m, 5' 5") and **Alicia Schuelke** (So.-Gilman) is fourth (1.59m, 5' 2") while **Megan Behl** (Fr.-Watertown/Lakeside Lutheran) and **Alecia Ellingstad** (So.-Eau Claire/Elk Mound) tie in the No. 8 spot with 1.51 meters (4' 11").

**Paula Crossfield** (Sr.-Madison/East) ranks sixth in the weight throw on 15.41 meters (50' 6") as **Tonya White** (Fr.-Byron, MN) has the eighth-best long jump with 5.18 meters (17').

The track side has been just as successful, with many top spots. **Liz Faller** (Sr.-Marinette) took the top spot in the 55-meter hurdles last year at the championships and this year she has the best time so far with an 8.31 mark. She is also ranked sixth in the 55-meter dash on a 7.54 time while **Shalene Huth** (Sr.-Appleton/West) sits second in that category on a 7.42 effort.

**Liz Kooistra** (So.-Lakeville, MN) clocked in at 25.85 for second the 200-meter dash, with Huth at seventh on 26.38. Kooistra also is third in the 400-meter dash off a 57.27 race. She tied for third in the 400-meter dash last year and advanced to nationals in the event.

For the distance events, **Beth Lutz** (So.-Eau Claire/Memorial) has a second-best 10:17.39 3000-meter run. **Christina Locke** (Sr.-Racine/Horlick) is fifth (10:32.00) and **Molly Warner** (Jr.-Mosinee) is sixth (10:32.77) in the same event. Locke has the seventh-fastest mile time at 5:13.85. Lutz, Warner, and Locke rank fourth through sixth (18:03.65, 18:13.89, 18:23.63) in the 5000-meter run.

Last year Eau Claire took third at the championships behind Oshkosh and UW-La Crosse. A total of four Blugolds advanced to nationals last year, including Kooistra, Faller, and Barnes.

The event begins Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Whitewater. The last event is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday night. Saturday's action starts at 9 a.m. with awards coming at 5 p.m. that night.

WIAC Indoor Championships Website- PH -