

Women's Track & Field To Compete At NCAA Indoor Championships

Posted: Wednesday, March 7, 2007

EAU CLAIRE - A total of eight UW-Eau Claire women's track and field members will compete this weekend at the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships held at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terra Haute, IN.

Last year's champion **Steph Barnes** (*Sr.-Sauk City, WI/Sauk Prairie*) and **Chelsea Becker** (*Sr.-Rice Lake, WI*) will both compete in the pole vault event. Barnes won last year clearing a height of 12-7.5. Megan Rossi is the only competitor in the field to clear that height this year as she has cleared 12-9.5. Barnes has cleared 12-5.5 and Becker has cleared 12-3.5 this year.

Along with competing in the pole vault, Chelsea Becker also qualified for the triple jump event. Becker's longest jump this season has been 37-9.25 at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Indoor Championships.

Jessica Owens (*So.-Elm Grove, WI/Brookfield East*) will be competing in the high jump competition. Owens' cleared a height of 5-6 last weekend at the Pointer qualifier, which was good enough to make the championships. **Liz Faller** (*Sr.-Marinette, WI*) will be participating in the 55-meter hurdles event. Her fastest time this year was 8.31 seconds. **Liz Kooistra** (*So.-Lakeville, MN*) will compete in the 400-meter dash. Kooistra set a school record at the WIAC Indoor Championships with a time of 56.65 seconds. **Beth Lutz** (*So.-Eau Claire, WI/Memorial*) is competing in the 5,000-meter run. Her best time this year was last weekend at the Pointer Qualifier where she posted a time of 17:21.42 seconds.

Finally, the 4x400-meter relay team of **Laura Broner** (*So.-Madison, WI/Memorial*), **Shalene Huth** (*Sr.-Appleton, WI/West*), Faller, and Kooistra will be competing. This group set a school and a meet record at the WIAC Indoors with a time of 3:55.28 seconds.

A total of 400 student-athletes from 25 states will compete at the championships. The state of Wisconsin leads the way with 92 of the 400 competitors. The action begins with field events at noon and track events at 4 p.m. on Friday. The two-day meet concludes on Saturday. The event will take place at the Rose-Hulman Sports and Recreation Center.

- JR -