

Women's Track & Field Finishes Third At Indoor Nationals

Posted: Saturday, March 10, 2007

TERRE HAUTE, IN - Although no national champions were crowned, members of the UW-Eau Claire women's track and field team finished well in the events they competed in to garner a school-best third place finish out of 56 teams today at the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships hosted by the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (IN).

The Blugolds finished with a total of 32 points, which was 10 points behind national champion Williams College (MA). City College of New York finished second with 35 points. Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) rival UW-La Crosse finished fourth with 31 points and fellow WIAC foe UW-Platteville ended up fifth with 30 points. Last season, Eau Claire finished 13th at the indoor championships with 15 points.

The best Blugolds finish of the day was **Liz Kooistra** (So.-Lakeville, MN) in the 400-meter dash. Kooistra placed second after she posted a school-record time of 56.06 seconds. She broke her own record of 56.65 seconds that she had the WIAC Indoor Championships this year. Rachel Anderson of Illinois Wesleyan was the winner with a time of 55.46 seconds.

Liz Faller (Sr.-Marinette, WI) finished third in the 55-meter hurdles after she broke another school-record with a time of 8.24 seconds. The previous record was held by Jen Stafslie at 8.28 seconds, which she broke in 2004. The 4x400-meter relay team of **Laura Broner** (So.-Madison, WI/Memorial), **Shalene Huth** (Sr.-Appleton, WI/West), Faller, and Kooistra broke its own school record today as it finished seventh with a time of 3:53.95 seconds. It broke its previous record of 3:55.28 at the WIAC Indoors earlier this season.

Beth Lutz (So.-Eau Claire, WI/Memorial) competed in the 5,000-meter run and placed 11th with a time of 17:39.72 seconds. **Chelsea Becker** (Sr.-Rice Lake, WI) was the only Blugold member to compete in a field event today as she placed eighth in the triple jump after jumping a distance of 36-1.5.

For their efforts this weekend the following Blugolds received All-American honors: Chelsea Becker in the pole vault and triple jump, **Steph Barnes** (Sr.-Sauk City, WI/Sauk Prairie) in the pole vault, Liz Faller in the 55-meter hurdles, Liz Kooistra in the 400-meter dash, **Jessica Owens** (So.-Elm Grove, WI/Brookfield East) in the high jump and the 4x400-meter relay team of Laura Broner, Shalene Huth, Liz Faller, and Liz Kooistra. This is the most indoor All-Americans Eau Claire has had since 1981.

With the indoor season coming to an end, the Blugolds will now turn their attention to the outdoor season. The outdoor season begins Saturday, March 31st with the Viking Olympics hosted by Augustana College (IL).

NCAA Indoor Championships Day Two Results

NCAA Indoor Championships Final Team Results

- JR -