

Men's Golf Kicks Off Spring Season

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EAU CLAIRE - The seventh-ranked UW-Eau Claire men's golf team looks to start the spring season on a good note when it heads to Storm Lake, IA for the BVU Spring Invitational this Friday and Saturday.

Each of Eau Claire's four spring meets is important, as participation in each is required for the team to go to nationals. Last year Eau Claire only competed in three and could not qualify for nationals.

The team finished no lower than fourth in the fall. The squad took first and third out of 15 at the home Frank Wrigglesworth Invitational and it also brought home the gold at the 18-team Twin Cities Classic. The team took second at the 11-team Ryerson Fall Classic and tied for fourth at the St. John's Invitational, which had 19 schools.

Rob Norris (Sr.-St. Paul, MN/Cretin-Derham Hall) had the top individual placement when he took first overall at the Twin Cities Classic. There were 105 competitors. Norris also tied for fourth at the home meet and averaged a 75.4 for the season.

Mike Greer (Sr.-Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear Lake) placed in the top 10 in every meet but one. He claimed second out of 80 golfers at the Frank Wrigglesworth Invitational, tied for third out of 102 at the St. John's Invite, and tied for fifth at the Ryerson Fall Classic. He averaged a team-best 74.6.

After Norris, **Mason Milner** (Jr.-Onalaska) and his 75.7 average were next-best for regular golfers. Milner claimed third and tied for eighth during the year. **Tyler Leis** (Sr.-Reedsburg) shot a 76.8 for the fall. **Derek Bauer** (Jr.-Inver Grove Heights, MN/Eagan) shot 76.9 and tied for fifth once.

Ryan Brockhaus (Sr.-Mayville) managed 77.2 and tied for fourth at an event. **Ben Ziemann** (Fr.-Eau Claire/Memorial) was right behind him with a 77.4 average. He tied for 10th on two different occasions.

Last year the Blugolds took fourth out of 20 teams at the BVU Invite. They scored a 622 while the winning Nebraska Wesleyan University (NE) team had a 610 tally.

Action will start around 12:30 p.m. on Friday with the meet wrapping up on Saturday. The Blugolds then have to compete Monday and Tuesday in St. Peter, MN.