

Cross Country To Host Pre-National Meet Friday

Posted: Wednesday, September 29, 2004

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's cross country teams will play host to 24 others schools this Friday when they host the NCAA Division III Pre-National Meet at the Whitetail Golf Course in Colfax.

Eau Claire is hosting the 2004 NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships, which will also be at the Whitetail Golf Course. That event is set for November 20.

There will be two races for each gender at the Pre-National Meet, beginning with the men's varsity run at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The varsity teams will be comprised of each team's top 12 runners while the JV teams will be all remaining runners. The men's JV meet is set to begin at 3:50 p.m.

The Eau Claire men's team has seen action in two events this fall, the Midwest Collegiate Championship hosted by UW-Parkside and the Roy Griak Invitational in St. Paul, Minn. The Blugolds took 10th place out of 29 teams at the Midwest Collegiate and 16th place out of 40 teams at the Roy Griak. **Paul Zdroik** (*Fr.-Stevens Point/SPASH*) has led the Blugolds at each event, finishing 26th individually at the Roy Griak and 33rd at the Midwest Collegiate. His best time came at the Midwest Collegiate when he finished the course in 26:14. **Ben Schmiede** (*Sr.-Madison/Lakeside Lutheran*) and **Ethan Kreul** (*Jr.-Poynette*) finished second and third at each event respectively.

Along with the Blugold men will be 22 other schools competing at the Pre-National Meet. From the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference will be the Blugolds, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh B, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, and UW-Superior. La Crosse captured fourth place at last year's NCAA Division III Championships. The highest finishing team at last season's national meet that will be competing in the Pre-National Meet on Friday is North Central College (IL), who took third place at last year's national meet.

The women's events will kick off at 4:45 p.m. on Friday when the women varsity teams will compete. The women's JV will run at 5:30 p.m.

The Blugold women have competed in two meets where team scores were kept, including a first place finish at last weekend's SMU Invite II held in Arcadia. Eau Claire also posted a third place finish at the St. Olaf Invite on September 18. Newcomer **Molly Warner** (*Fr.-Mosinee*) has had a very impressive season thus far, winning the individual title last weekend with a time of 23:51. Warner also took third place individually at the St. Olaf Invite. **Jane Ovanin** (*Jr.-Amherst*) had a solid showing last weekend when she finished second on the Blugold team and sixth overall in Arcadia. The junior Blugold finished with a time of 24:51. At the same event, **Korah Petrasko** (*So.-Appleton/East*) took third on the team and ninth place individually with a time of 25:01 while **Heidi Hancock** (*Sr.-Greendale*) finished 10th overall in 25:17.

Joining the Blugolds in competition will be 21 other schools, including conference opponents La Crosse, Oshkosh B, River Falls, Superior, and UW-Stevens Point. The Pointers claimed last season's WIAC Championship and went on to finish in third place at the national meet. La Crosse finished in seventh place last season at nationals.

The action begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday at the Whitetail Golf Course in Colfax.

Official Pre-National Meet Web Site

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