Volleyball Headed To NCAA Regional Championship

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire volleyball team will take place in the 2007 NCAA Division III Championship after receiving an at-large bid, and will open with a match against St. Thomas on Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

St. Thomas will play host to the eight-team regional Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The eight teams selected to the regional tournament are St. Thomas, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Whitewater, Central (Iowa), St. Benedict, Concordia-Moorhead, Bethel and Carleton. This is the 10th time the Blugolds will be making an appearance in the NCAA playoffs. All of the teams in the regional at St. Thomas are either ranked nationally or received votes in the latest CSTV/AVCA Coaches' poll.

The Blugolds will face St. Thomas in the first round at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. Eau Claire is 1-1 against the Tommies this year, dropping its first meeting on September 8 and winning an exciting five-game match later in the year when the Tommies were ranked 10th in the nation in the CSTV/AVCA Coaches' poll.

While Whitewater is the only other Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) team in this regional, three other WIAC teams were also selected to the post-season tournament. The other conference schools receiving at-large bids were UW-Platteville, UW-Oshkosh and UW-La Crosse. They will all participate in the regional hosted by Carthage College.

The St. Thomas regional will kick off a 1 p.m. Thursday, when Whitewater takes on Concordia. Bethel will then face St. Benedict at 3:30 p.m. followed by a Carleton vs. Central match at 6 p.m. The Blugolds will wrap up day one with their match against St. Thomas at 8:30 p.m.

The winners will meet Friday at 4:30 and 7 p.m., with the championship on Saturday at 7 p.m.

NCAA Division III Championship Bracket

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