Women's Cross Country Team Heads To NCAA National Meet

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. ?The UW-Eau Claire women's cross country team is preparing for the NCAA National Cross Country Meet, hosted by St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. on November 17.

The Blugolds are currently ranked ninth in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Poll. Amherst is at the top of the poll with 280 votes. Calvin is second with 272, and Washington (Mo.), who was in the Blugolds' Regional, is ranked third. UW-Platteville is right behind the Blugolds in 10th place. UW-La Crosse is 18th, UW-Oshkosh is 25th, and UW-Stevens Point is 35th.

The Blugold women are also ranked second in the Midwest Region. Washington (Mo.) is first and UW-Platteville is third. Seven WIAC schools are ranked in the top 10 for the Midwest Region.

There are 18 automatic qualifiers for the National Meet from nine regions. Sixteen other teams from Division III get at-large bids. UW-La Crosse and UW-Platteville received at-large bids for the meet.

The Blugolds placed second at the Midwest Regional Meet, which automatically qualified them for the National Meet. This is the third straight year and sixth time in 15 years that the Blugold women's cross country team qualified for the NCAA National Meet. The Blugolds last year placed 12th at the National Meet with **Molly Warner** *(Sr.-Mosinee, WI)* placing 43rd. **Beth Lutz** *(Jr.-Eau Claire, WI/Memorial)* placed 46th and her sister, **Ellie Lutz** *(Jr.-Eau Claire, WI/Memorial)*, placed 112th. **Amber Hertz** *(Sr.-Baraboo, WI)* placed 218th.

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