

Swimming & Diving Prepares For WIAC Championships

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's swimming and diving teams prepare for this week's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championships, hosted by UW-Oshkosh this Thursday through Saturday.

The action gets underway each day with the preliminaries starting at 10 a.m. and finals starting at 5:30 p.m.

Both the men's and women's teams have gone 3-2 in WIAC dual meets this season, winning one more than last year's team. Eau Claire has beaten UW-Oshkosh, UW-River Falls and UW-Whitewater. This season the Blugolds fell to UW-Stevens Point and UW-La Crosse, the teams that finished first and second, respectively, at last year's WIAC Championships.

Last year at the championships, the Blugold men placed third for the seventh consecutive year while the women also placed third for the fifth straight season. The women scored 460.5 points while the men recorded 507, but look to make improvements on those scores this season.

The men's team will return experience to the championships. Senior **Brian Jordan** (*Madison, Wis./West*), who swam in five events last season and had finishes of third, two fourth place finishes, sixth and 10th. This year he will look to be a high finisher in the 100 and 200-yard butterfly events. Junior **Pat Finley** (*Waunakee, Wis.*) will also look to place high in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle. Last year he swam in six events and had finishes of third, two fourth place, fifth, seventh and ninth. Newcomer **Jon Poppele** (*Fr.-Maple Grove, Minn./Wayzata*) had a good year for the Blugolds this season and will look to be a contributor, swimming in the 200 backstroke and 400-yard individual medley. Junior diver **Bryan Dykstra** (*Jr.-Racine, Wis./Horlick*), who took first in the one-meter dive and second in the three-meter dive at the WIAC Championships last season, will look to win both boards this year and have a shot at making nationals.

On the women's side, first year swimmers will look to make an impact. Freshman **Alyssa Trainor** (*Winona, Minn./Cotter*) should finish well in the 200-yard backstroke while **Siera Schenck** (*Fr.-Sun Prairie, Wis.*) should make the finals in the 400-yard individual medley and 200-yard butterfly. Freshman **Angie Bakula** (*Appleton, Wis./West*), who has swam well all this season for the Blugolds, should be in the mix in the 200, 500, and 1,650-yard freestyles. Senior **Amanda Kroger** (*Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View*), who swam individually in a few events last year but did not break the top 10, will look to also be a factor in the 200, 500, and 1,650-yard freestyles. Diver **Sarah Myers** (*Sr.-Eau Claire, Wis./North*) will also look to improve from last season to be a factor in the one and three-meter dives.

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