

Wrestling Finishes Fifth At WIAC Championships

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APPLETON, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire wrestling team took fifth place out of seven teams at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championships held at Appleton West High School today.

La Crosse claimed this year's crown, winning its 11th straight WIAC title, with a score of 147.5. Stevens Point took second with a score of 131.5, while Whitewater scored 111.5 points for a third place finish. Platteville scored 86 points for a fourth place finish, and the Blugolds scored 82.5 for their fifth place finish. Lawrence took sixth with a score of 43.5, while Oshkosh finished in last place, scoring 42.5 points.

Four Blugolds took third place finishes today. Eau Claire also had three fifth place finishers and two sixth place finishers.

Josh Holforty (*Jr.-Bloomington, Minn./Kennedy*), who is ranked sixth nationally and was seeded third today at 197 pounds, wrestled in the championship match, but lost to Stevens Point's Craig Bollig by a 5-3 decision. Holforty then followed with a second place match with Whitewater's Mike Schmidt, but dropped a 6-3 decision to take third place overall. Holforty also tabulated a pin against Oshkosh's Eric Kuchan in 2:15 in his first match of the day and followed that with a 4-2 decision over La Crosse's Timothy Winker to advance to the championship. Holforty is now 28-8 on the season. While Bollig became the WIAC's automatic qualifier for the NCAA Division III Championships, Holforty still has a shot to make the national tournament.

Joey Miller (*Sr.-Lake Tomahawk/Lakeland Union*), who has not wrestled since the Blugold Invitational on February 2 due to an injury, found his way to a third place finish at 174 pounds, starting the day as a No. 3 seed. Joey Miller wrestled well today, scoring a pin and a major decision on his way to the third place match. He then pinned Platteville's Cory Zuberbier in 1:51 in the third place match before taking on Stevens Point's Eric Bath, who lost the championship match. Bath won by rule in the second place match over Joey Miller. Joey Miller ended the season with a 22-10 record.

Nick Hoefft (*Sr.-Merrill, Wis.*) also received a No. 3 seed at heavyweight coming into the championships and took a third place finish. Hoefft won his first match of the day over Oshkosh's Mike Kratz by a 4-2 decision but followed that 3-2 loss to Stevens Point's Chad Gregory, who advanced to the championship match. Hoefft then faced Lawrence's Jeremy Reider and took a 4-3 victory in two overtimes to advance to the third place match. In the third place match, Hoefft defeated Whitewater's Sean Evans by a 3-1 decision before facing Gregory, who lost in the championship match, for second place. Gregory defeated Hoefft by rule in the second place match, bringing Hoefft's season record to 21-13.

Wrestling at 133 pounds, **Andy Miller** (*Jr.-Appleton, Wis./North*) also placed third today. Andy Miller received a first round bye, seeded No. 3, before facing Stevens Point's Jered Kern. Kern won the match with an 11-6 decision to advance to the championship match. Andy Miller would then face Spencer Peterson of Platteville and pinned him in two minutes to advance to the third place match. Andy Miller then defeated Whitewater's Kyle Wacholder by a 14-1 major decision before facing Kern in the second place match after Kern lost in the championship. Kern won by rule to send Andy Miller to a third place finish overall. Andy Miller ends the season with a 17-12 overall record.

Finishing in fifth place today were **Brandon Page** (*Jr.-Holmen, Wis.*) at 125 pounds, **Andy Johnston** (*So.-St. Cloud, Minn./St. Cloud Tech HS*) at 149 pounds and **Seth Hendricks** (*So.-Beloit, Wis./Turner*) at 165 pounds. **Jon Ames** (*So.-Genoa, Wis./Viroqua*) and **Ted Sikowski** (*Sr.-Appleton, Wis./West*) picked up sixth place finishes for the Blugolds at 157 and 184 pounds, respectively.

Individual champions in each weight class automatically qualify for the NCAA Division III Championships to be held March 7-8 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Wi