

Women's Tennis Aims To Reclaim Conference Crown

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's tennis will look to reclaim the conference title they lost for the first time in 10 years last year when they compete in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships this weekend at the Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison.

The conference champion is determined by combining dual meet results and conference tournament results. UW-La Crosse comes in as the top seed after going 6-0 in dual meets followed by UW-Whitewater at 5-1 and Eau Claire at 4-2.

In singles action, every Blugold is in the top portion of their respective bracket. **Katie Kuzma** (*Jr.-Buffalo, MN*) is the fourth seed at one singles and will open up against Megan Knobloch of UW-River Falls. **Sarah Riordan** (*Fr.-Appleton/North*) is the second seed at two singles and will open up against UW-Stevens Point's Angie Brown.

Kristie Carlson (*Fr.-Arden Hills, MN/Mounds View*) is the third seed at three singles and will open up against Marie Pingry of UW-Stout. **Lindsay Lee** (*Sr.-Eau Claire/Memorial*) is the top seed at four singles and will receive a bye in the opening round.

Molly Hunt (*So.-Owatonna*) will open against Jada Fenske of Stevens Point as the two seed in five singles. **Alli Taplin** (*So.-Dayton, MN/Champlin Park*) is the third seed at six singles and will open up against Stout's Elizabeth Hanson.

The two doubles team Hunt and Riordan and the three doubles team of Lee and Carlson are seeded second in their respective brackets. The tandem of Kuzma and **Laura Geissler** (*So.-Coon Rapids*) is seeded fifth at one doubles.

La Crosse and Whitewater come in very evenly matched. The Eagles defeated the Warhawks 5-4 earlier this year splitting in singles and taking two of three at doubles. Each team boasts four top-seeded players with La Crosse having the top-seeded player at one and six singles and two and three doubles. Whitewater has the top seed at two, three and five singles and the top-seeded one doubles team.

Mercedes Blanch of UW-Oshkosh and Autum Wilkowski of Whitewater are the only returning champions from a year ago. Blanch enters as the two-seed at singles following a 5-1 record in conference while Wilkowski is the top-seed at two singles after winning last year at three singles.

The tournament is set to begin Saturday at 1 p.m. with doubles action. Singles action will be held Sunday starting at 9 a.m.

Tournament Website

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