

# Men's Cross Country Ready For WIAC Championships

*Posted: Thursday, October 28, 2004*

The UW-Eau Claire men's cross country team will put months of training and meets to the test this Saturday, when the Blugolds head to River Falls for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

The men's championship race is set to begin at 11:00 a.m. The men's 2004 regular season was highlighted by a sixth place finish out of 23 teams at the NCAA Pre-Nationals, which the Blugolds hosted. **Paul Zdroik** (*Fr.-Stevens Point/SPASH*) has been Eau Claire's top runner this season, finishing in first place on the Blugold roster in the first four events of the season. His season best time of 26:10.5 was good for 14th overall at the Pre-Nationals.

**Ben Schmiege** (*Sr.-Madison/Lakeside Lutheran*) has taken second or third place in all five meets this season, with his top time also coming at the Pre-Nationals. He finished the course in 26:38.7, good for second on the team and 35th overall. **Ethan Kreul** (*Jr.-Poynette*) has battled Schmiege as one of the top Blugold runners and has also finished in the top three in all five events. He finished 21st overall and second on the team with a season-best time of 26:38.7.

UW-Oshkosh looks to make a run at another WIAC Championship this Saturday, after winning the 2003 event with a team score of 29. The Titans return two of their top four runners at the meet last year, in John LeRoy and Nick Boehlke, who took fourth and fifth respectively at last years conference championship. UW-Stevens Point will look to upend the Titans after taking second place last season. The Pointers return Mark LaLonde and Adam Bucholz, who finished eighth and ninth last season.

The meet will take place this Saturday, with the men running at 11:00 a.m. and the women beginning at noon.

WIAC Championships Web site