Cross Country To Hold Annual Blugold Open

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COLFAX, Wis. - This Friday the UW-Eau Claire men's and women's cross country teams will host their annual Blugold Open in Colfax at the Whitetail Golf Course.

The women's 6K race starts at 4 p.m. and will be followed by the men's 8K race at 5 p.m. The Blugold women enter the meet ranked second in the nation, while the men are 24th.

This year, there will be 19 men's teams taking part in the competition, along with 15 women's teams.

At the 2007 Blugold Open, the Blugold women took a ninth place finish out of 17. They were led by **Jenna Smith** *(Jr.-Robbinsdale, Minn./Mounds View)* and her 39th place overall finish with a time of 25:18. The next highest returning finisher for the Blugolds was **Kelly Palmer** *(Jr.- Chanhassen, Minn./Chaska)* who came in 55th place with a time of 26:07. The first place finisher from last year was Katie Theisen of St. Thomas with a time of 23:31. Theisen finished eigth the previous year.

Looking at the men's side, the Blugolds took a 14th place finish last year overall. The top runner returning from last year's roster is **Josh Wieland** *(So.- Menomonie, Wis.)* who finished last year's race in 90th place overall with a time of 29:03. The next returning runner was **Max Renner** *(Jr.-Green Bay, Wis./East)* who finished 92nd overall with a time of 29:05. The winner from last year was Eric Atkinson from Minnesota-Duluth who won with a time of 25:55. Atkinson has finished in the top three the past three years, winning the event the past two years.

For complete results following the event, log on to www.pttiming.com or the UW-Eau Claire Athletics website at https://www.uwec.edu/athletics.

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