

Five Earn Recognition On All-WIAC Soccer Team

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MADISON, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire soccer team was well represented on this year's All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams, with five players earning first team honors, **Liz Kooistra** (Sr. -Lakeville, Minn.) being named Player of the Year and **Allie Rivard** (Sr. -Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata) earning Judy Kruckman Scholar-Athlete and All-Sportsmanship recognition, conference sports information director Matt Stanek announced today.

Kooistra has been big part of the Blugolds' success over the last four seasons. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 the Blugolds captured the WIAC Championship and Tournament Championship and made it to the NCAA Tournament. This season marks the fourth straight time Eau Claire will compete in NCAA postseason play. Kooistra has received numerous honors during her career, including NSCAA/addidas All-Central Region and D3kicks.com All-Central Region recognition, as well as CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District honors. This season marks the fourth time Kooistra has received All-WIAC honors. She is second on the team this year with 32 points, coming on 11 goals and 10 assists.

Rivard also received first team honors, in addition to being named the conference's Scholar-Athlete and being recognized on the All-Sportsmanship team. Rivard, who maintains a 3.63 grade point average, is majoring in biology with a minor in sociology. She was named to the 2008 CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Five College Division Women's Soccer Second Team. In 2007, Rivard claimed Scholar All-America Team honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. She is a three-time All-WIAC first team selection and holds the WIAC single-season record with a 0.19 goals-against-average in 2006. This year she has a 17-2-3 record, including eight shutouts, and has a goals-against-average of .70.

Others appearing on this year's All-WIAC first team are **Amy Smith** (Sr.-Bloomington, Minn./Thomas Jefferson), **Allison Muer** (Sr.-Minneapolis, Minn./South) and **Allison Smith** (Sr.-Bloomington, Minn./Thomas Jefferson).

Amy Smith, a three-time first team All-WIAC selection, is the Blugolds' all-time leading point and goal scorer. She has 49 career goals and 125 points, breaking both records held by Emily Mabbitt since 1997. She also leads the team with 21 goals this season, which is also a program record for most goals in a season, while she has 48 points which is also a season-high for the Blugolds. Kari Blasczyk held both of those season records since 2000.

This is the second year in a row Muer earned All-Conference honors. Last year she was named the team's co-playmaker of the year and this season she has two goals and six assists for 10 points. She and Allison Smith, a four-time member of the All-WIAC team, have been part of a defense that has allowed opponents only 574 shots and 51 goals over the last four years while the Blugolds have accumulated 244 goals and 1,654 shots.

Complete All-WIAC List

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