

UW-Eau Claire Set To Host NCAA Soccer Regional

Posted: Thursday, November 13, 2008

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - UW-Eau Claire is ready to host a four-team NCAA Division III Regional Soccer Championship this Friday and Saturday at the Bollinger Fields.

Wheaton College (Ill.) will face Carroll University (Wis.) at 11 a.m. and UW-Eau Claire will take on Carthage College (Wis.) at 1:30 p.m. The winners of each game will play each other Saturday at 1 p.m. and the winner will move on the Division III sectionals. In the latest National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas Division III top 25 poll, Eau Claire is ranked 15th while Wheaton is 22nd. Carthage and Carroll are both unranked.

Wheaton heads into Friday's match against Carroll with an 18-3-1 record on the season, and three of the last four NCAA Division III Championships in women's soccer. Wheaton earned the CCIW's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament by winning the CCIW Women's Soccer Tournament with a 1-0 victory at top-seeded Illinois Wesleyan last Saturday. This year's trip to the postseason is Wheaton's 12th consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division III Tournament. Wheaton is 28-7-2 (.757) all-time in the postseason, with four Final Four appearances and National Championships in 2004, 2006 and 2007. Taryne Lee leads the Thunder this season with 27 goals and nine assists for 63 points.

UW-Eau Claire comes into the weekend with an overall record of 17-2-3. This is the fourth consecutive appearance for the Blugolds in NCAA postseason play. Eau Claire received an at-large bid to the tournament this season after taking second place in the WIAC and at the WIAC tournament. In the Blugolds' previous three NCAA appearances they have never made it past the first round of sectionals. In 2005, Eau Claire won a first round game but lost to Wheaton in the second round game at regionals, and in 2007 the Blugolds lost a first round regional game to Wartburg. In 2006 Eau Claire once again lost to Wheaton, that time in a sectional contest. Eau Claire is 3-3 all-time in postseason play. Amy Smith leads the Blugolds this season with 21 goals and six assists for 48 points.

Carroll University is 13-5-2 on the year and received the Midwest Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Friday's contest will be the first-ever meeting between Wheaton and Carroll in women's soccer. This weekend will be Carroll's third appearance to the NCAA Tournament in program history. Last season Carroll lost a game against St. Scholastica in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Leading this year's squad is Cody Callender. She has 20 goals and has picked up four assists, accumulating 44 points.

Carthage enters the NCAA tournament with a 17-3-0 record. The Lady Reds were one of 19 teams to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament after losing a conference semifinal contest against Illinois Wesleyan in the CCIW championship game. The Lady Reds are making their second-straight NCAA appearance. Carthage lost to Wartburg College, 2-1 in overtime, in the second round last year after defeating Concordia College (Moorhead), 2-1, in a first-round game, also at UW-Eau Claire. With 34 points coming on 16 goals and two assists, Jackie Peterson leads the Lady Reds this season.

Regional Web site

- KM -