Wirtz Finishes 166th At NCAA Championship

Posted: Saturday, November 22, 2008

HANOVER, Ind. - UW-Eau Claire men's cross country runner **Chris Wirtz** (*Jr. -Weston, Wis./DC Everest*) finished the season today, taking 166th place out of 278 runners at the NCAA Division III Championship held at L.S. Ayres Complex.

Wirtz finished the 8,000-meter course with a time of 25:59.24. Wirtz was selected to run at the national championship after taking 19th place at the NCAA Regionals in Rock Island, III. last weekend. Fifty-six individuals, the first seven athletes from each region who are not a part of a qualifying team, were selected to participate in the championship. Today was the first time since 2001 the Blugold men were represented at the NCAA Championship.

The top finisher, Peter Kosgei from Hamilton, won in a time of 24:22.03. Kosgei also ran as an individual at the meet. Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) opponent Willy Kaul from UW-Oshkosh finished 10 seconds later to take second place overall.

Cortland State won team honors, coming in with 80 points. Cortland's national title was the first in program history, though the women's team has won the national championship seven times between 1989 and 1997. North Central (III.) took second with 115 points, while Williams took third with 129.

Around the WIAC, Stevens Point took fourth today, La Crosse finished sixth and Oshkosh was ninth.

Complete Resluts

- KM -