Gymnastics Kicks Off Season Tonight

Posted: Friday, January 9, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire gymnastics team will see its first action of the season tonight when it competes in a triangular in Colorado Springs, Colo. against the U.S. Air Force Academy and UW-La Crosse.

This season the Blugolds return 12 letterwinners, including three three-time, four two-time and five one-time letterwinners. In addition, Eau Claire welcomes six newcomers to the squad.

Anna Sutherland *(Sr.-Arden Hills, Minn./Roseville)*, who finished tied for 20th at nationals last season on the vault, will lead this year's team as a captain. Leah Gilseth *(Sr.-Champlin, Minn./Champlin Park)*, who is a three-time letterwinner along with Sutherland, will serve as a team captain as well. **Theresa Lynch** *(Sr.-Vadnais Heights, Minn./White Bear)*, who was the 2006 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association *champion in the floor exercise, is also back this season.*

Last season the Blugolds sent six to the national championship. Of that group, four are returning. The Blugolds saw improvement over the season before when they only sent four individuals to nationals. Eau Claire also saw improvement from the 2007 season at the WIAC Championship/NCGA Regional. In 2007 the Blugolds took fifth place out of eight teams, while they finished fourth last season.

Eau Claire will compete in nine meets this season before post-season competition begins. After their trip to Colorado, the Blugolds will hold their annual UW-Eau Claire Invite the following weekend. Eau Claire will then face off against Oshkosh and will follow one more invite before competing in dual meets the remainder of the season. The Blugolds will compete against UW-Oshkosh and Gustavus Adolphus at home in February.

2009 Roster

- KM -