

Swimmers & Divers Prepare For WIAC Championship

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's swimming and diving teams are currently preparing for the 2009 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship, scheduled for this Thursday through Saturday at the Schroeder Center in Brown Deer.

Each season since 2003 the Blugold men and women finished third at the WIAC Championship. Last year, however, both teams increased their total amount of points earned over the previous season and look to improve even more this year.

Leading the men's diving team at conference will be **Bryan Dykstra** (*Sr.-Racine, Wis./Horlick*). Dykstra is the two-time defending conference champion in the one-meter dive. Last season in the three-meter dive he finished third. Joining him on the boards will be **Ken Ritt** (*Jr.-Racine, Wis./Horlick*), **Sam Wojta** (*Jr.-St. Paul, Minn./Central*) and **AJ Algiers** (*Jr.-Coon Rapids, Minn.*).

The men's swimming team will have 15 swimmers attending the event, seven of whom have previous experience at the conference championship. Of the men's swimmers returning, **Patrick Finley** (*Sr.-Waunakee, Wis.*) had the best run a season ago at the meet. He participated in six different events. His best individual finish came in the 200-yard freestyle, taking third place with a time of 1:45.70, while he was a part of four relay teams that took third place.

Other swimmers who should compete well this weekend include **Tom Dahl** (*So.-Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins*), **Peter Schultz** (*Sr.-Oakdale, Minn./North*), **Ben Macalalad** (*So.-Wausau, Wis./East*) and **Chris Paradeise** (*So.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview*), who finished second in the 1,650-yard freestyle last year.

No women's divers will compete at the championship this season but 18 swimmers will be in attendance. Eight of the women have previous conference championship meet experience, all of whom had finishes of 10th place or better in at least one event. **Megan Finley** (*So.-Waunakee, Wis.*) and **Angie Bakula** (*So.-Appleton, Wis./West*) both did very well at the championships last year, with Finley picking up six and Bakula picking up four top 10 finishes last season at the conference meet.

Freshman **Nicole Dorvinen** (*Green Bay, Wis./Bay Port*) has also had an exceptional first season with the Blugolds and should compete well at the championship. She is currently the top seed in the 200-yard butterfly and the 1,650-yard freestyle.

Events are scheduled to begin each day at 10 a.m.

WIAC Championship Website

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