Men's Hockey Hands Out Team Awards

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - UW-Eau Claire men's hockey head coach Matt Loen announced the team award winners for the 2008-09 season recently at the team's end-of-year banquet.

The Jeff Jaraczewski Award, given to the team's Most Valuable Player, was presented to forward **Jesse Vesel** *(Sr.-Hibbing, Minn.)*. Vesel was second on the team this season with 22 points, leading the team with 15 assists and tying for third with seven goals. Vesel scored two power-play goals and two unassisted goals while coming up with one game-winner. He was also an All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honorable mention selection for his contributions this season. It was the second time in his career he was selected.

The Richard G. O'Brien Award, presented to honor work ethic both on and off the ice, was given to forward **Andrew Johnson** *(Sr.-Andover, Minn./Anoka)* for the third consecutive season. Johnson recorded 12 points this season coming from four goals, three on power-plays, and eight assists. He was also one of five Blugolds to be named to this year's Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) All-Academic Team.

For the second year in a row, the Most Dedicated Player Award was presented to defenseman **Nicholas Kuqali** *(Jr.-Pittsburgh, Pa./Mount Lebanon)*. For the season Kuqali picked up five points from a goal and four assists and helped the Blugolds out-shoot opponents 964-661 during the course of the season. He joined Johnson on the NCHA All-Academic Team.

Forward **Tyler Romasco** *(Fr.-Perry, Ohio)* was given the Wallace G. Akervik Memorial Award, which is presented annually to the freshman of the year. Romasco joined the Blugolds at the start of the second semester and saw action in seven games. He scored one goal and picked up three assists.

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