

Swimmers And Divers Receive Team Awards

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - At its annual banquet held yesterday, the UW-Eau Claire men's and women's swimming and diving teams announced the award winners for the 2008-09 season.

Blugold swimmers **Angie Bakula** (*So.-Appleton, Wis./West*) and **Patrick Finley** (*Sr.-Waunakee, Wis.*) earned swimming MVP honors. Bakula anchored the women's team with two All-American finishes at the NCAA Division III Championships, taking 12th in the 1,650-yard freestyle and 14th place in the 500-yard freestyle while setting school records in both events. Finley competed in a number of events at the conference championship and recorded his best finish in two different relay events as his teams took fourth in both.

Men's diver **Bryan Dykstra** (*Sr.-Racine, Wis./Horlick*) was named the team's diving MVP. He also earned All-American honors twice at the NCAA Championships as he finished eighth in the one-meter dive and 12th in the three-meter dive.

Men's swimmer **Peter Schultz** (*Sr.-Oakdale, Minn./North*) earned the team's most inspirational and most improved awards. Schultz's best finish at the conference meet this season came when he took third in the 200-yard individual medley.

Megan Finley (*So.-Waunakee, Wis.*) was selected as the women's most improved swimmer. Finley's best finish at this year's WIAC Championships came in the 50-yard freestyle where she took second. **Casey Preissel** (*Fr.-Wisconsin Dells, Wis.*) was the women's most inspirational swimmer. Preissel earned her best finishes at the conference meet as she was a part of two relay teams which took third place.

Newcomers **Jacob Gramling** (*Fr.-Brookfield, Wis./East*) and **Kirsten Lickel** (*Fr.-Madison, Wis./East*) were honored as rookies of the year. In addition to Bakula, Lickel was the only other women's swimmer at the national meet, where she participated in three events. Gramling competed at the conference championship with his best finishes coming in the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard breaststroke where he took eighth.

The coaches honor award went to **Clark Draxler** (*Sr.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial*) and **Sam Wojta** (*Jr.-St. Paul, Minn./Central*) while **Maddy Smith** (*So.-Hales Corners, Wis./Whitnall*) earned the Blugold Award.

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