

## Softball Announces Team Award Winners

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - UW-Eau Claire head softball coach Leslie Huntington recently announced the team award winners for the 2009 season.

**Katie Stalker** (*Jr.-Madison, Wis./La Follette*) was named the team's Most Outstanding Performer. Stalker led the Blugolds with a .427 batting average with a team-high 61 hits in 143 at-bats. She finished the year with a team-best 48 runs while picking up six RBIs. Stalker also stole 21 bases in 23 attempts while she picked up 78 putouts and 86 assists for a .901 fielding percentage.

The Big Stick award went to **Bekki Kidnie** (*Jr.-St. Paul, Minn./Johnson*). For the season she finished with 40 hits in 113 at-bats (.354 batting average) while she tied for a team-best four home runs. She had a team-high 33 RBIs while scoring 12 runs of her own.

**Aleisha Harper** (*Fr.-Mondovi, Wis./Eau Claire North*) was selected for the Golden Glove Award while also being named Co-Rookie of the Year. Harper recorded 75 putouts and picked up 54 assists while committing only four errors for a .970 fielding percentage. She was second on the team with a .414 batting average with 55 hits in 133 at-bats while securing 27 RBIs and scoring 37 runs. She also came away with nine stolen bases in 11 attempts on the season.

Pitcher **Ashley Meinen** (*Fr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell*) was also named Co-Rookie of the Year along with Co-Most Improved Player. She finished the year with an 8-6 record with 27 appearances and 10 starts. Meinen was second on the team with a 2.46 ERA and struck out 50 batters.

**Sara Baumgartner** (*So.-Arcadia, Wis.*) was also selected as the Co-Most Improved Player. Baumgartner started 41 games and finished with a .293 batting average with 34 hits in 116 at-bats. She added 19 RBIs and picked up 25 runs of her own. She also led the team with three triples and tied for third with two home runs. Last season she started 10 games.

The "Skeet" Award, formerly the Blugold Award, was presented to **Meghan O'Hearn** (*So.-Woodbury, Minn.*). The award is named after Mandy Freidel, who competed for the Blugolds from 2003 to 2006. Affectionately called "Skeet" by everyone in the program, Mandy truly embodied all that is Blugold Softball. Freidel started just 37 games in her career, including only five starts her senior year, but she played with a lot of heart and encouraged everyone around her. This season O'Hearn started just 15 games, competing in a total of 33, but made the most of her time on and off the field. She finished with a .326 batting average with 14 hits in 43 at-bats while picking up 18 runs.