

Men's Cross Country Competes In Alumni Meet

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's cross country team began its season on Saturday competing at the UWEC Alumni Open Meet at Lowes Creek County Park in Eau Claire.

Assistant Coach Cory Hayden led the field with a time of 21:44 on the challenging 4-mile course.

Alumni Kevin Hall was second in 22:27 followed by Blugold senior **Brent Kann** (*Rice Lake, WI/Rice Lake*) in 22:28, and junior **Josh Wieland** (*Menomonie, WI/Menomonie*) in 22:32. Rounding out the top five scorers were **Thomas Breitbach** (*Jr.-Muskego, WI/Muskego*) 22:39, **Kevin Weber** (*Jr.-Mounds View, MN/Irondale*) 22:40, and **Max Renner** (*Jr.-Green Bay/East*) 22:47.

The men's team begins the 2009 season ranked 31st in the nation after finishing fourth in the WIAC and sixth in the Midwest Region in 2008. The men return five of the seven members from the regional team led by Track and Field All-American Chris Wirtz, who competed at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in 2008 and finished fourth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2009 Outdoor NCAA Track and Field Championships. Joining Wirtz from last years sixth place regional team are Breitbach, Kann, **Ben Pearson** (*Sr.-Clinton, WI/Clinton*), and Wieland.

The next competition for the Blugolds is the Luther All-American Invite on Saturday, September 12th in Decorah, Iowa.