Cross Country To Host Blugold Open Friday

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's cross country teams will host their annual Blugold Open this Friday at Whitetail Golf Course in Colfax.

The Blugold women will kick off the action with their 6K race at 4 p.m. and the men will follow with their 8K competition at 5 p.m.

A total of 19 men's and 19 women's teams will compete at the Blugold Open on Friday.

On the women's side, last year's winner, NCAA Division I University of Minnesota will be back in the race to try to defend its crown. NCAA Division II University of Minnesota-Duluth, which took second at the meet last year, will also be back. UW-Eau Claire, ranked 11th in the country, is the top returning Division III school. The Blugolds took third last year. In addition to the Blugolds, Luther College (Iowa) and Bethel University (Minn.) will be the other nationally ranked Division III teams in attendance. Seven women's teams scheduled to be at the meet are regionally ranked.

For the men, the top four teams from last year's meet will be back. The University of St. Thomas will look to defend last year's crown. Also back from last year are St. Olaf (second in 2008), UW-Eau Claire (third in 2008) and St. John's University (fourth in 2008). Three nationally ranked teams will compete this year, led by UW-Platteville which is currently ranked eighth. In all, seven men's teams competing at the open are regionally ranked.