Women's Cross Country Takes First at Blugold Open

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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COLFAX, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's cross country team took first place out of 19 teams at the 2009 Blugold Open at Whitetail Golf Course today.

Eau Claire, ranked 11th nationally, finished with just 29 points on the 6K course. NCAA Division II opponents University of Minnesota-Duluth took second with 60 and Winona State (Minn.) finished third with 112. NCAA Division I University of Minnesota's JV runners, who won the meet last year, took fourth with 125. Last year Eau Claire finished third behind Minnesota and Minnesota-Duluth.

Morgan Place of Minnesota-Duluth finished the race first with an impressive time of 21:33.90. The next finisher crossed the line more than 30 seconds later. A total of 332 runners competed in this year's race.

The Blugolds' top six runners all came in the top 13 at the race. **Beth Easker** *(Jr.-Wittenberg, Wis./Wittenberg-Birnamwood)* led the team with a fifth place finish in a time of 22:30.27 and **Hannah Humbach** *(Sr.-Madison, Wis./Abundant Life)* recorded a sixth place finish with a time of 22:31.98.

The Blugolds' next four finishes came one right after the other.

Alyssa Sybilrud *(So.-Savage, Minn./Burnsville)* came in 10th with a time of 22:50.85 while **Margaret Ho** *(Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids, Wis./Lincoln)* took 11th in 22:51.82. **Elly Prunty** *(Jr.-Antigo, Wis.)* was 12th with a time of 22:52.59 and **Kacey Rindy** *(So.-Fennimore, Wis.)* finished with a time of 22:52.85 in 13th place.

The Blugolds will now take next weekend off and will next compete Oct. 17 in UW-La Crosse's Tori NeubauerInvite. Runners will kick off the race at noon.