Women's Golf Captures WIAC Title

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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ARKDALE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's golf team won the 2009 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title while **Katie Maurer** *(So.-Forest Lake, Minn./Convent of the Visitation)* secured the individual crown at Northern Bay Golf Resort & Marina today.

The Blugolds won the three-day, 54-hole event with 963 strokes. It is Eau Claire's sixth conference title and the first since 2006. The six championships is a league-best as UW-Stevens Point, which won in 2007 and 2008, and UW-Oshkosh each have had a total of three, and UW-Whitewater has won two in the tournament's 14-year history.

UW-Whitewater finished this year in second place with 1005 strokes while UW-Stevens Point took third with 1039. The Blugolds' margin of victory matched the largest at the tournament, achieved by UW-Whitewater over the Blugolds in the inaugural event in 1996.

Maurer earned her second straight individual crown with a three-day total of 227. She is the second player in conference history to win back-to-back first-place medals, joining former Blugold Maggie Loney who accomplished the feat in 2004 and 2005.

A Blugold has now won individual medalist honors seven straight seasons (Susan Karlman - 2003, Maggie Loney - 2004 & 2005, Torie Ives - 2006, Meghan Sobotta - 2007, Katie Maurer - 2008 & 2009).

Stevens Point's Jessica Urban finished second with 233 strokes while **Catherine Wagner** *(Fr.-Austin, Minn.)* and **Sara Mattes** *(So.-La Crosse, Wis./Central)*, who golfed as an individual, tied for third with 241 strokes.

Also golfing for Eau Claire were **Emily Swift** *(So.-Onalaska, Wis.)*, who tied for sixth with 249, **Torie Ives** *(Sr.-Osseo, Wis./Osseo-Fairchild)*, who tied for 10th with 251 and **Jamie Hauser** *(So.-Hartland, Wis./Arrowhead)*, who took 13th with 256.

Katie Swift *(Jr.-Onalaska, Wis.)*, who earned All-Sportsmanship Team honors at the tournament, golfed as an individual and finished tied for 10th with 251 strokes. **Katie Ecker** *(Fr.-Hudson, Wis.)* and **Maggie Lattery** *(So.-Lake Nebagamon, Wis./Northwestern)* also golfed as individuals and finished 18th and tied for 21st, respectively.

The Blugolds are now automatically qualified for the 2010 NCAA Division III Championship, which will be contested May 11-14 at Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, hosted by Oglethorpe University and the Central Florida Sports Commission.