

Women's Tennis Set for WIAC Championship

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's tennis team will compete in the 2009 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championship at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison this weekend.

The 38th version of the league event, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, will decide six singles champions and three sets of doubles champions.

The initial day of competition at the conference championship will consist of the first two rounds of doubles matches followed by the first round of singles matches. The second day of the championship will feature the final two rounds of singles matches followed by the final round of doubles matches.

Last season the Blugolds took third at the championship behind Whitewater and La Crosse. Eau Claire last won a team title in 2002, ending a streak of 10 in a row. Since that time, La Crosse and Whitewater have won three apiece.

The Blugolds return two individuals who have won titles at the championship in the past. **Brenna McCormick** (Sr.-Greendale, Wis.) won at No. 6 singles and No. 2 doubles in 2006 while **Gina Dahl** (Sr.-Fort Atkinson, Wis.) won No. 2 singles in 2007 and No. 3 doubles in 2006.

Last year, McCormick and **Erin Welch** (Sr.-Tomah, Wis.) took second at No. 2 doubles while Welch was the highest singles' finisher for Eau Claire as she took second in the No. 4 spot.

The team title will be determined by using a combination of the regular season dual meet standings and the conference championship results. The finish in the regular season standings accounts for one-third of the criteria, while the WIAC championship accounts for the remaining two-thirds.

Point distribution following the dual meet rotation included: UW-Whitewater (6-0) (7 points), UW-La Crosse (5-1) (6 points), UW-Eau Claire (4-2) (5 points), UW-Stevens Point (3-3) (4 points), UW-River Falls (2-4) (3 points), UW-Oshkosh (1-5) (2 points) and UW-Stout (0-6) (1 point).

The top four teams (following the conclusion of the WIAC championship) will advance to a team tournament that will determine the conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division III Championship. The team tournament will be held at the site of the overall conference champion the weekend prior to the NCAA championship next spring.