Men's Swimming & Diving Takes Fourth at WIAC Championship

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
Posted: Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 11:58 PM

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's swimming and diving team took fourth place out of six teams at the 2010 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championship after three days of competition at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

The Blugolds, who were in third place each of the first two days, were edged out of the spot by UW-Whitewater. The Blugolds finished with 496 points while the Warhawks had 500. The Blugolds improved slightly over last year when they took fourth with 483.5.

UW-Stevens Point won its 11th consecutive WIAC title after finishing with 956 points. UW-La Crosse had 786 for second while UW-Oshkosh was fifth with 300 and UW-River Falls was last with 155.

Jonathan Poppele *(So.-Maple Grove, Minn./Wayzata)* took second place in the 200-yard backstroke. He finished with a school-record time of 1:52.56, breaking his own school record that he set two years ago (1:56.14).

Also finishing second was **Ben Macalalad** *(Jr.-Wausau, Wis./East)* in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 16:39.74. **Nick Mehring** *(Jr.-Eagan, Minn./Eastview)* took third in the same event two seconds later.

Eau Claire also had two fourth-place finishes as **Corey Groshens** *(Fr.-St. Louis Park, Minn./Hopkins)* finished the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:08.55 while **Brett Olsen** *(Sr.-New Berlin, Wis./West Allis Hale)*, **Alex Plaetzer** *(So.-Rochester, Minn./John Marshall)*, Mehring and Groshens finished with a time of 3:11.92 in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The Blugolds will now wait to find out who will be selected to this year's NCAA Division III Championship, which will be contested March 17-20 back at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.