Two Men's Hockey Players Earn First Team All-WIAC Honors

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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MADISON, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - Two UW-Eau Claire men's hockey players have been named First Team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selections while four others have been named to the honorable mention list and head coach Matt Loen was named WIAC Coach of the Year, the WIAC announced today.

Joe Bluhm *(Sr.-Red Wing, Minn.)* and **John Kearns** *(Jr.-Park Ridge, Ill./Maine South)* both received honors on the first team.

Bluhm led Eau Claire with 21 points this season, coming from nine goals and 12 assists. Bluhm also earned recognition a year ago as an honorable mention selection.

Kearns, a defenseman, played in all 27 games this year and had six assists. He was part of a defense that has allowed 780 shots while the Blugolds have 842.

Coach Loen, in his third year as head coach for Eau Claire, was selected as the conference's Coach of the Year. Loen holds a 32-44-6 career record, a .427 winning percentage, which is second-best among the Blugolds' nine coaches in program history.

Receiving honorable mention status were **Isaiah Bennis** *(Fr.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial)*, **Brant Marple** *(Sr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview)*, **Brandon Stephenson** *(Fr.-Saline, Mich.)* and **Bryce Wilcox** *(Fr.-Roschester, Minn./Century)*.

Ross Janecyk *(Jr.-Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central)* was named to the All-Sportsmanship team, which is chosen for individuals that displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout the season.

Bluhm, Marple, Kearns and Stephenson all earned Northern Collegiate Hockey Association honorable mention recognition last week as well.