Cross Country Teams Earn Academic Recognition

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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NEW ORLEANS, La. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's cross country teams were recently recognized by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association with academic awards.

The women's team was named the 2009 NCAA Division III USTFCCCA Women's Cross Country Scholar Team of the Year. The team combined for a grade point average of 3.49. The Blugolds, who won a national title this season, have earned USTFCCCA All-Academic honors every year since 2005. A total of 153 Division III women's programs received the USTFCCCA's All-Academic Team honors this year.

The men were also one of 110 Division III men's programs to receive the USTFCCCA's All-Academic Team honors this year after achieving a team GPA of 3.15.

For a team to be considered for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Team award, it must have competed and compiled a team score at an NCAA Regional Meet. The team must also have a minimum 3.10 team cumulative grade point average.

Five Blugolds also earned individual All-Academic honors. Named to this year's team for the women were **Margaret Ho** *(Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids, Wis./Lincoln)*, **Hannah Humbach** *(Sr.-Madison, Wis./Abundant Life)*, **Kacey Rindy** *(So.-Fennimore, Wis.)* and **Jenna Smith** *(Sr.-Robbinsdale, Minn.)* while **Tom Breitbach** *(Jr.-Muskego, Wis.)* received recognition for the men.

The USTFCCCA All-Academic award honors student-athletes who have succeeded both academically and athletically. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must carry a minimum 3.30 cumulative grade point average and must finish in the top 35 among the field at their respective NCAA regional meet.