Blugold Volleyball's 2010 Dig for a Cure Event a Success

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
Posted: Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 8:59 AM

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - For three years, UW-Eau Claire women's volleyball coach Kim Wudi, her staff and team have organized and conducted a Dig for a Cure night in support of breast cancer awareness and research. The Blugolds' awareness and fundraising campaign was part of an annual Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference initiative to join the volleyball community together in the fight against breast cancer.

In 2008, the Blugolds raised $6,329 and in 2009, Charter Communications and area high school teams partnered with the Blugolds to help the team raise another $6,524 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin.

This season the Blugolds partnered with Luther Midelfort and Charter Communications to help facilitate and promote the campaign. A total of 12 area high school volleyball programs also joined the Blugolds' efforts to raise funds as they hosted their own awareness/fundraising events. Luther Midelfort provided each partner school with informational materials and pink t-shirts to assist them in running their respective events. The Blugolds and their partner schools were able to raise a total of $18,236.98 for the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Foundation to benefit breast cancer research.

"Obviously, the dollar amount is impressive, but I am most proud of the way that area volleyball programs joined together to help raise awareness about a disease that has affected so many of our athletes' and coaches' families," Blugolds' volleyball coach Kim Wudi said. "Thank you to all of our partner schools and to Luther Midelfort and Charter Communications for helping to make the 2010 campaign so successful."

At the Blugolds' Dig for a Cure night on October 15, health care professionals from Luther Midelfort were on hand to distribute informational materials and answer questions about breast cancer. They sold pink t-shirts and gave away pink water bottles and other prizes during promotions and contests held throughout the match. Charter Communications was also on-site with other contests to help generate excitement among a crowd of more than 900, nearly 400 of whom were students from 22 area schools.

2010 partner schools included: Blair-Taylor, Chippewa Falls High School, Clayton, Eau Claire North, Eau Claire Regis, Eleva-Strum, Elk Mound, Fall Creek, Gilmanton, Owen-Withee, Pepin and Thorp.

A check presentation to the American Cancer Society is planned for Thursday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. in the McPhee Physical Education Center. Representatives from Luther Midelfort will also be in attendance to present the check.