Men's Swimming & Diving Picks Up Third at Point Invite

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STEVENS POINT, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's swimming & diving team finished among the top three teams Saturday, earning third place out of six schools participating at the UW-Stevens Point Invitational.

The Blugold team collected 622 points over the course of the two-day competition. Host Stevens Point earned the team victory with 1,133.5 total points and UW-La Crosse was second with 692.5.

Eau Claire also racked up nine finishes of third or better in the individual competitions. **Jonathan Poppele** *(Jr.-Maple Grove, Minn./Wayzata)* led the Blugolds with three second place efforts at the invite. Poppele completed the 200 and 400-yard individual medley races with respective times of 2:00.69 and 4:19.83. His run of 1:58.81 in the 200-yard backstroke was also good enough for runner-up.

Nick Badilla *(So.-Appleton, Wis./North)* also earned multiple top finishes in the diving competitions. Badilla scored second place in the one-meter event with a score of 434.75 and placed in the runner-up slot again in the three-meter competition with a score of 495.65.

Alex Plaetzer *(Jr.-Rochester, Minn./John Marshall)* also notched a second place run in the 200-yard butterfly race with a time of 2:04.26. Eau Claire also picked up third place finishes with **Corey Groshens'** *(So.-St. Louis Park, Minn./Hopkins)* run of 2:15.70 in the 200-yard breaststroke race and **Ben Epperly's** *(Fr.-Schaumburg, Ill.)* third-best time of 17:16.70 in the 1,650-yard freestyle competition.

In the relay events, the Blugolds only cracked the top three once. The Eau Claire A Team put down a run of 3:42.88 in the 400-yard medley relay for the third slot.

The Blugolds will return to the pools at 1 p.m. next Saturday for a dual meet at UW-Whitewater.