

2004-05 Eau Claire Men's Indoor Track & Field Preview

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The UW-Eau Claire men's indoor track and field team and head coach Chip Schneider will look to its 22 returning letterwinners to improve on last season's sixth place finish at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

The Blugolds were in the middle of the pack at nearly every event last season with the exception of the Blugold Indoor Invitational, where Eau Claire took first place out of seven teams. The Blugold finished their season with 35th place tie out of 55 teams at the NCAA Division III Nationals in Whitewater.

For the fourth consecutive year the Blugolds will be tough to beat in the throws, as three-year letterwinner and former national shot put champion **John Schuna** (*Sr.-Hudson*) is back for his final campaign. Schuna took second place at the WIAC Indoor Championships last season and fifth place in national competition. He also had the second best distance in the weight throw on the Blugold roster last season and will likely be the top Blugold in that event this season.

Also returning for his final season will be distance runner **Adam Condit** (*Sr.-La Crosse/Central*). Condit posted the second best times on the Blugold team in the 1500, 3000 and 5000-meter runs last season. **Ted Lillie** (*So.-North St. Paul, MN*), who was third on the team in the 3000 and 5000-meter runs last season, also returns for the 2005 season.

The mid-distance events will be headed by returning letterwinners **Jake Ebner** (*Jr.-Cameron*) and **Adam Koger** (*So.-Eau Claire/Memorial*). Ebner had the top Blugold time one year ago in both the 800 and 1000-meter runs while Koger posted the fastest Eau Claire times in the 400 and 600-meter events.

The short sprint events will be left to a number of Blugolds after losing top runner Erik Ferguson from last season. **Nick Aliota** (*So.-Brookfield/Central*), **Jordan Klein** (*Jr.-Arcadia*) and **Adam Sturgis** (*So.-Bruce*) all contributed last season. Aliota was also the Blugolds top hurdler from last season.

Returning jumper **Shaun Marek** (*Sr.-Waunakee*) is back for his final season after posting the best Blugold jumps last season in both the long and triple jump competitions. He took sixth place at the WIAC Championships in the triple jump last year.

The pole vault competition will once again feature **Justin Wolfe** (*Sr.-Brodhead*), who is also back for his final campaign. Wolfe was the top Blugold pole-vaulter last season.

A total of 55 men make up the 2005 Blugold roster, giving head coach Chip Schneider plenty of options. The group is relatively young as 27 freshmen are on the team and looking to contribute to a Blugold climb in the conference championship finish.

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