

Host Blugold Wrestlers 11th at Eau Claire Invite

By: Ashley Hofer, Sports Information Student

Posted: Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 9:49 PM

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - Led by a fourth place finish, the UW-Eau Claire wrestling team finished 11th out of 15 teams competing at the 33rd annual UW-Eau Claire Invitational.

The Blugold wrestlers combined for 20 points during the day's competition to secure 11th place. Augsburg College won the team competition with a dominating 138 points while UW-Parkside claimed second place with 100.5 points.

Ricky Gonzales (*So.-Bluffton, S.C.*) was the top Blugold point-earner, wrestling his way to fourth place in the 165 weight class. Though he lost by a 6-4 decision in the first round, Gonzales won four consecutive rounds in the wrestleback bracket by merit of a bye, 6-3 decision, 7-5 decision and opponent injury. Gonzales was eventually eliminated by a 3-1 loss in the final round. The fourth place finish accumulated eight points for the team.

Will Christ (*Jr.-Shell Lake, Wis.*) added another 5.50 team points from the 174 division. Christ also competed in the consolation bracket and earned a pin – against teammate **Ethan Gusek** (*Fr.-Golden Valley, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong*) – just 1:43 into the second round. In the 184 class, **Matthew Rieckhoff** (*Fr.-Wausau, Wis./D.C. Everest*) also notched a pin over his competitor 2:53 into the first round of the consolation competition to earn 2.50 points.

Joe Pitsch (*Jr.-Oshkosh, Wis./North*) was the only Blugold to advance in the championship bracket. Competing in the 285 weight division, he claimed his round one victory with a 14-8 decision and then picked up a 9-7 overtime decision in the quarterfinal round. However, the eventual heavyweight champion pinned him in the semifinals and he later lost a close 4-3 match in the consolation semifinals round.

Also earning points for the Blugolds were **Steven Fisher** (*Fr.-Greenfield, Wis.*) and **Joshua Baier** (*So.-Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Rosemount*), who each tallied one point. Fischer won two consolation rounds with 11-6 and 2-1 decisions in the 141 class. Baier earned his point with a 6-5 decision in the first wrestleback round of the 149 division.

The Blugolds will compete in the last regular season meet of the season next Saturday at the UW-Stevens Point Invite. Competition will get underway at 12 p.m.