UW-Eau Claire to Host NCAA Softball Regional

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (UWECBlugolds.com) - UW-Eau Claire will be one of eight sites for the 2011 NCAA Division III softball regionals, NCAA officials announced today.

The double elimination regional, which will include eight teams, will take place May 12-16 at Gelein Field in Carson Park.

UW-Eau Claire is a veteran of hosting NCAA post-season tournaments, having staged five national tournaments (1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2010) and five regional tournaments (1997, 1998, 2000, 2007, 2008).

The Blugolds are not guaranteed a spot in the tournament but will have to either win the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament championship, which will be held May 6-8, or receive one of 19 at-large spots in the 60-team field.

The finals, hosted by the City of Salem and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference, will be held May 20-24 at the Moyer Complex in Salem, Virginia.

The Blugolds currently lead the WIAC as the only team with an unbeaten conference mark (4-0) but face rival UW-Whitewater, a team the Blugolds beat for the 2008 NCAA National Championship, at Whitewater this weekend.

The selected regional hosts and sites are:

Adrian College – Adrian, MichiganCentral College (Iowa) – Pella, IowaState University of New York at Cortland – Cortland, New YorkIthaca College – Ithaca, New YorkRhode Island College – Providence, Rhode IslandSalisbury University – Salisbury, MarylandUniversity of Texas at Tyler – Tyler, TexasUniversity of Wisconsin-Eau Claire – Eau Claire, Wisconsin