

# Wrestlers To Host Busy Weekend

*Posted: Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire wrestling team will host Itasca Community College Friday and the Blugold Invitational Saturday at the McPhee Phy. Ed. Center.

The Blugolds come into the weekend with a 4-10 record in dual meets and an 11-15 record overall. Eau Claire split their last two dual meets defeating Lawrence 25-23 but falling to UW-Platteville 28-15.

**Derek Sikora** (*Jr.-Neillsville*) leads the Blugolds into action with a 19-2 record at 165 pounds. Sikora has won his last five matches and is second on Eau Claire with five pins. **Josh Holforty** (*Fr.-Bloomington, MN/Kennedy*) is 22-4 on the year at 197 pounds and leads the team with six pins.

**Lance Valiquette** (*Fr.-Eau Claire/Auburn*) and **Drew Bingner** (*Fr.-Fort Atkinson*) are also having strong campaigns. Valiquette is 17-10 at 174 pounds while Bingner is 14-10 in the heavyweight division with four pins.

Eau Claire will start the weekend with a dual meet against Itasca and will follow with the eight-team Blugold Invite. Along with Eau Claire and Itasca, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Whitewater, UW-Stevens Point, Wartburg, Loras and St. Olaf will be competing.

Wartburg, Stevens Point and Loras all come into the invite ranked in the top 16 in the nation. Wartburg is currently second followed by Stevens Point at No. 12 and Loras at No. 16.

Wartburg has nine wrestlers in the top five in their respective weight classes. Akeem Carter, Scott Kaufman and Dustin Hirschberger are the top-ranked wrestlers in their class while Blake Gillis, Cory Connell and Justin McClintock are ranked second in their class.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rivals Eau Claire, Stevens Point and Whitewater each have one wrestler in the top six in their respective weight class. Eau Claire's Sikora is sixth at 165 pounds, Stevens Point's Cody Koenig is fourth at 174 pounds and Whitewater's Nick Karls is sixth at 141 pounds.

The dual meet with Itasca is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. while the invite will kick off at 9 a.m. Finals and consolation finals of the invite will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m.

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