

Swimmers & Divers Ready For WIAC Championships

Posted: Tuesday, February 15, 2005

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's and women's swimming and diving teams put the regular season results to the test this Thursday, when the Blugolds head to Whitewater for the three-day Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

The event is set to begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Williams Center Pool on the UW-Whitewater campus. The three-day championships should conclude by 10:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The Blugold men will be looking to improve on a third place finish out of six teams at last season's WIAC Championships. While Eau Claire's third place finish was nothing to sneeze at, UW-Stevens Point and UW-La Crosse dominated the competition. The Pointers won last year's event with a score of 930 points while the Eagles finished with 898.5 points. The Blugolds took third with 363 points followed closely by UW-Whitewater, UW-Oshkosh and UW-River Falls.

If dual meet competitions between the conference teams this year can predict anything, a similar outcome seems likely. The Blugold men finished 3-2 in WIAC dual meets, with the wins coming against Whitewater, Oshkosh and River Falls and the losses coming against Stevens Point and La Crosse.

Mike Carroll (*Sr.-Green Lake*) comes into the WIAC Championships with high expectations, after posting Eau Claire season-best times in four different events. Carroll posted the fastest times on the team in the 500 and 1,000-yard freestyle events while also posting the best times on the team in the 200-yard butterfly and the 400-yard individual medley. None of his times were good for qualification into national competition.

The Blugolds will look to cause havoc in the diving competition as they bring in a pair of divers with phenomenal season under their belts. **Bryan Dykstra** (*Fr.-Racine/Horlick*) posted the best score in the six-dive, one-meter diving event at 290.55. **Scott Heatwole** (*Jr.-Port Washington*) had a personal season-high score of 287.15 in the one-meter dive. Both divers have also posted B-cut scores on the season in the three-meter diving event, with Heatwole's score of 282.60 good for second in the WIAC and Dykstra's score of 280.10 good for third in the conference.

The women swimmers and divers are also looking to improve on a third place finish one year ago. A gap between the second and third place teams existed on the women's side as well, with La Crosse winning last season's event with a score of 964.5 while Stevens Point took second with 923 points. The Blugolds were third with a score of 518 while Oshkosh took fourth with 365 points. Whitewater and River Falls rounded out the bunch.

This year's Blugold women also posted a 3-2 record in WIAC dual meets, topping Oshkosh, Whitewater and River Falls and losing to La Crosse and Stevens Point.

Cori Severson (*Jr.-Brainerd, MN*) comes into the competition as the only Blugold on the men or women's side defending a title. Severson tied for first place in the 50-yard freestyle event last year with a time of 24.46 seconds. Her season-best time in 2005 was 24.69 seconds, tops on the Blugold roster. She also posted the top time on the team in the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly.

On the diving side, **Sarah Myers** (*So.-Eau Claire/North*) is the only Blugold right now headed for national competition. Her score of 272.10 in the three-meter diving event is an A-cut score while her mark of 246.95 in the one-meter event is a B-cut score. Both scores are the best posted in the WIAC this season.

The action is set to begin this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Williams Center Pool on the campus of UW-Whitewater.

WIAC Championships Web site

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