

Wrestlers Take Sixth At WIAC Championships

Posted: Sunday, February 20, 2005

APPLETON - **Derek Sikora** (*Jr. -Neillsville*) finished second at 165 pounds in leading the UW-Eau Claire wrestling team to a sixth place finish at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships held here today.

UW-La Crosse won its eighth consecutive conference crown taking first place in seven weight classes. The Eagles finished with 142.5 points followed by UW-Stevens Point with 100.5 and UW-Platteville with 95.5. UW-Whitewater took fourth with 87 points followed by UW-Oshkosh with 71, Eau Claire with 67 and Lawrence with 45.

Sikora advanced to the finals at 165 pounds for the third straight year looking to repeat as conference champion. Sikora received an injury default win and earned a 12-2 major decision win to reach the finals but dropped a 5-4 decision to second-ranked Nick Ammerman of La Crosse. Sikora still qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships despite the loss.

Josh Holforty (*Fr.-Bloomington, MN/Kennedy*) breezed through the first two rounds at 197 pounds earning a 12-1 major decision win and a 9-3 win to get to the finals. Holforty avenged an earlier season loss to Stevens Point's Mitch Svwet with the 9-3 win but lost to eighth-ranked Jim Swanson of La Crosse 8-7 in the finals. Holforty was named an alternate for nationals at 197 pounds following the tournament.

Larry Moen (*Sr.-Madison/East*) concluded his college career with a third place finish in the heavyweight division. Moen went 3-2 on the day including a 10-7 win in the third place match.

Lance Valiquette (*Fr.-Eau Claire/Auburn*) finished fourth for the Blugolds while **Shane Brady** (*Fr.-Chetek*) and **Curt Polzin** (*Fr.-Fort Atkinson*) added fifth place finishes.

La Crosse's Ryan Allen captured his third consecutive conference crown at 285 pounds to lead the Eagles. La Crosse added conference champions at 125 pounds, 133 pounds, 149 pounds, 157 pounds, 165 pounds and 197 pounds.

Stevens Point's Cody Koenig secured his third straight conference championship at 174 pounds with teammate Joel Burdick winning at 141 pounds. Lawrence's Ben Dictus took first at 184 pounds for the Vikings' first ever conference champion.

La Crosse's Nate Skaar was named the Mertz Mortorelli Coach of the Year at the conclusion of the tournament. Whitewater's Nick Karls was named the Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete while Burdick was named the John Peterson Wrestler of the Meet.

The Blugolds finish the season with a 15-28 overall record. Eau Claire went 4-12 in dual meets including a 1-5 mark in WIAC duals.

Sikora will look to repeat his third place finish at nationals from a year ago when he heads to Northfield, Minn. Friday, March 5 to compete.

Complete Results

- JL -