

Gymnasts To Compete At WIAC Championships, Ncga Regionals

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire gymnastics team will compete in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships and the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Regionals Friday in Whitewater.

Both competitions will feature Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stout and UW-Whitewater. Also competing will be the newly added conference teams from Gustavus Adolphus College, Hamline University and Winona State University.

The seventh-ranked Blugolds come in as the second highest ranked team in the field, two slots behind La Crosse. Eau Claire is having a strong campaign this year going 3-1 in dual meets and 13-7 overall. Four of the seven losses came at the hands of Division I schools.

Alison Eagles (*Sr.-Shoreview, MN/Mounds View*) leads the Blugolds into the weekend. Eagles is the two-time defending conference champion in the vault competition and won the all-around competition in 2003. Eagles currently holds the seventh best score on the vault and ninth best score in the all-around in the nation.

Lynn Morris (*Jr.-Monticello, IN/Twin Lakes*) is also a threat to take home a conference championship. Morris took second at nationals on the balance beam in 2003 and fourth in 2004. Morris's 9.600 on the beam last week is good for second in the nation.

La Crosse comes into the weekend looking to win its ninth consecutive conference crown. The Eagles return three conference champions from a year ago. Ashley Koechel returns to defend her all-around crown, Nina Schubert her uneven bar title and Jennifer Houle aims to repeat in both the balance beam and floor exercise.

Gustavus Adolphus also enters the fray as tough competition. The Gusties have finished in the top six at nationals for the last seven years. Gustavus has been unable to get past the Eagles who have won the last four national championships.

The Blugolds will be no pushover as they have defeated both the Eagles and the Gusties this year. Eau Claire beat both La Crosse and Gustavus at the Hamline Invitational held two weeks ago.

The competition is slated to begin at 6 p.m. with the awards ceremony scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m.

Championship Web Site

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