Blugold Softball Climbs To No. 7 In NFCA National Poll

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The UW-Eau Claire softball team, which has won 13 of its last 14 games, has climbed to the No. 7 position in the most recent National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Division III national poll.

The Blugolds were unranked in the preseason poll but jumped to the No. 8 position in the March 31 ranking. The Blugolds sport a 19-4 overall record to go with their lofty ranking in this week's bi-weekly coaches' poll.

The defending Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season champs will face UW-La Crosse in a doubleheader on the road Thursday as they begin a stretch of 14 consecutive league contests. The Blugolds won their first two conference contests last week against River Falls.

The Blugolds have produced their sparking record to date with an outstanding pitching corps. The three Blugold hurlers - **Mallory McKinney** *(So.-Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park)*, **Andrea Neuville** *(Jr.-Green Bay/West)* and **Molly Johnson** *(Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids/Lincoln)* - have fashioned a 1.08 team earned run average with 10 shutouts. They have limited opponents to a .187 batting average, .224 slugging percentage and .245 on base percentage. This compares to the Blugold averages of .292 hitting, .411 slugging and .364 on base. Neuville sports an 0.77 ERA with an 8-2 record and two shutouts. She has combined with Johnson for four additional shutouts. McKinney, who earned NFCA All-American third team honors as a freshman, is 9-2 on the season with a 1.19 ERA and four shutouts. She has 20 walks and 70 strikeouts in 82 innings of work.

As a team, the Blugolds have outscored their opponents, 130-40.

NFCA Division III Top 25 Poll - April 13

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