Men's Golf Selected To Compete At Nationals

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's golf team has been selected to compete at the 2005 NCAA Division III National Championships held at the Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

The selection marks the eighth consecutive year the Blugolds have been selected to compete at nationals. Eau Claire's top finish came in 2001 when it won the program's only national championship. The Blugolds finished 11th at last year's tournament.

Eau Claire returns all five players from last year's tournament team. **Derek Pirkl** *(Jr.-Stoughton)* leads the Blugolds this season shooting an average of 73.81 shots per round. Pirkl's season includes a second place finish at the St. John's Invite, a third place finish at the Gustie Spring Classic and a fourth place finish at the Loras Invitational.

Grant Lissick *(Jr.-Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear Lake)* is second on Eau Claire at 74.36 strokes per round. Lissick's top finish came at the Wartburg Invitational with a seventh place finish.

Tyler Leis *(So.-Reedsburg)* is third with a 75.81 per round average including a seventh place finish at the St. John's Invite. **Mike Greer** *(So.-White Bear Lake)* is next at 76.18 strokes per round. Greer's season includes a fifth place finish at the St. John's Invite and a seventh place finish at the Wartburg Invite.

The tournament returns the top five teams from last year's competition including defending national champion Gustavus Adolphus. The Blugolds tied the Gusties for first place at last week's St. John's Invite and finished only two strokes behind the Gusties at the their home invite.

Other Central region teams competing are St. John's (MN), Central (IA) and Nebraska Wesleyan. Twenty-three teams will compete with five individuals also selected to participate.

The championships tee off Monday, May 9. Oglethorpe University and the Central Florida Sports Commission will host the event.

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