Blugold Women Finish Eighth In NCAA Track Nationals

Posted: Saturday, May 28, 2005

WAVERLY, Iowa - The UW-Eau Claire women's track team matched its highest point total ever and achieved its second highest team finish ever in the NCAA Division III outdoor track and field championships which concluded on the campus of Wartburg College here Saturday.

With three more places on the final day of competition, the Blugolds finished with 26 points to tie Bates College of Maine for eighth place. Host Wartburg captured the team title, finishing one point ahead of both UW-Oshkosh and Calvin College, Michigan. The College of New Jersey was fourth followed by Amherst, Massachusetts; the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota; and Williams College, Massachusetts.

The 1995 Blugolds scored 26 points but placed seventh that year. That also was the last year the Blugolds won a national title as Arlene Meinholz captured the high jump and Lisa Marshall the discus.

This year, sophomore **Steph Barnes** *(Sauk City/Sauk Prairie)* won a national championship in the pole vault, beating two competitors in a jump off for the crown. Senior **Jen Stafslien** *(Onalaska/West Salem)* added to her All-American honors Saturday as she finished fifth in the 100-meter hurdles (14.50). Teammate **Breanna McMullen** *(Sr.-Fall Creek)* placed eighth in the same event (14.56). The two also helped the Blugolds to a seventh-place finish in the 4x400-meter relay with a 3:51.48 clocking. The other two members of the relay team were **Kristi Hansen** *(Sr.-Rosemount, MN)* and **Liz Faller** *(So.-Marinette)*.

Stafslien just missed scoring in the triple jump as she placed ninth with a leap of 38 feet, 6.25 inches. She also contributed a second in the long jump Thursday to earn All-American recognition in three events.

The only other Blugold point in the national competition was garnered by **Jessica Owens** *(Fr.-Elm Grove/Brookfield East)* who placed eighth in the high jump Friday with a leap of 5-5.

Final Team Scores: 1) Wartburg (IA) 43, 2) UW-Oshkosh & Calvin (MI) 42; 4) College of New Jersey 41; 5) Amherst (MA) & U. of St. Thomas (MN) 32; 7) Williams (MA) 29, 8) UW-Eau Claire & Bates (ME) 26, 10) New Jersey City University 25. **Other WIAC Schools:** 15) UW-Stevens Point 19, 16) UW-La Crosse 18, 19) UW-Platteville 13, 32) UW-River Falls & UW-Whitewater 8, 39) UW-Stout 6.

Blugold Place Winners:1st - Steph Barnes, pole vault, 12-2.252nd - Jen Stafslien, long jump, 19-0.255th - Jen Stafslien, 100-meter hurdles, 14.50 (14.27 in prelims)7th - 4x400 Relay (Kristi Hansen, Jen Stafslien, Liz Faller, Breanna McMullen), 3:51.48 (3:51.21 in prelims)8th - Breanna McMullen, 100-meter hurdles, 14.568th - Jessica Owens, high jump, 5-5

2005 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championship Website

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