

Women's Golf Rewrites Record Book As It Claims WIAC Title

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SUPERIOR - For the second straight year, the UW-Eau Claire women's golf team has claimed the top honor at the two-day, 36-hole Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference Championships. The Blugolds bested six other teams for the championship here at the Nemadji Golf Course.

This back-to-back showing has only been done once before, by the 2002-2003 UW-Oshkosh teams. Eau Claire has now won four of the past eight championships, going back to 1998. The school now has the most titles to date with the four. Oshkosh is one behind at three total Oshkosh championships.

On both days, Eau Claire shot a 314 to make for 628 final. This sets a new WIAC Championships record, as the previous mark was the 2004 Eau Claire squad's 669. It beat the old record by 41 strokes. Every time the Blugolds have won the WIAC Championships, they have also set a new record for lowest score. Eau Claire was also 37 strokes over the next closest opponents as they handily defeated the field. Oshkosh and UW-Whitewater tied for second with 665. UW-Stevens Point was fourth at 667. 688 strokes gave UW-River Falls fifth place, while UW-Platteville came in behind them totaling 705. UW-Superior finished seventh with a 729 showing.

The Blugolds set records on the individual side, as well. **Maggie Loney** (*Sr.-River Falls*) posted the top score and has become the first person to win the WIAC Championships in consecutive years, or even twice. In her freshman and sophomore years she had placed and then titled last year and today. Loney shot even par with a 144. The 144 total is also the lowest score ever for an individual medalist at the Championships, with 154 being the closest.

Even more, Loney's first day score of 71 set a new course record for women on the Nemadji Golf Course. Top prize-winner Loney ran away with the meet, as second place was a 153. This is the third top-place finish for her this season and the Blugolds fifth medalist in the past eight conference meets.

All Blugold golfers came on strong as three of the top four finishers were from Eau Claire. **Jesse Thompson** (*Jr.-Plover/SPASH*) and **Meghan Sobotta** (*So.-Arcadia*) tied for third place with 157 tallies. Between them and first was Ahna Hendrickson's 153 score for Platteville. **Kim Huber** (*So.-Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear Lake*) scored 170 to claim the 16th position. In 29th place was **Mandy Madson** (*So.-Ashwaubenon*) with a 186 stroke showing. **Sarah Hansen** (*So.-Bangor*) and her 187 meet total gave her a tie for 30th. **Noelle Weber** (*So.-Onalaska*) garnered a 36 spot with a 195 score. Shooting 202 was **Becky Washleski** (*Fr.-Cambridge, MN/Cambridge-Isanti*) in 39th place. There were 44 golfers in all from the participating schools.

The Blugolds played most of the fall season without a head coach after John Rawdon resigned following the team's first tournament Labor Day weekend. Since that time, a team effort has been utilized to lead the squad. Director of Athletics Scott Kilgallon accompanied the team on two weekends while Assistant to the AD Robin Baker traveled to another tournament with the squad. Former Wild Ridge pro Jeremie Johnson and former Blugold men's coach Eric Anderson also provided technical advice for a number of the meets.

This wraps up the successful 2005 fall season for Eau Claire, with the team ending on top.

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