

Yearly Awards Handed Out In Women's Cross Country

Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2005

EAU CLAIRE - After a successful season in which the team went to nationals for the first time since 1997, members of the UW-Eau Claire women's cross country team received some much deserved hardware at the team's banquet.

The MVP of the team went to **Molly Warner** (*So.-Mosinee*). Warner took first for Eau Claire in all events that she competed in but one. This makes for seven first place finishes for the team and one second place finish. Besides the 43rd in the NCAA Division III National Championships held by Ohio Wesleyan, she never finished below 16th out of all runners. She took first place overall at the UW-River Falls Invite. Other top ten performances include fourth at the home Blugold Open and ninth in the St. Olaf event. She peaked at the perfect time, as her personal best occurred at the NCAA Division III Regionals in Peoria, IL. She had a 22:01 race.

Jane-Marie Ovanin (*Sr.-Amherst*) took home the Golden Shoe Award, as she consistently was one of the top three Blugolds for most of the year. **Ovanin was second two times, third three times and fourth once. She took third overall in the opening meet, which was the River Falls one. She also finished ninth at the Blugold Open. A 22:54 time marks for her fastest performance.** **Beth Lutz** (*Fr.-Eau Claire/Memorial*) was the Rookie of the Year. Lutz competed in five events, taking sixth twice and fifth twice for Eau Claire. She even finished ninth overall in the first meet of the year. Her 24:17 race in the Roy Griak Invitational was her best time.

The Most Improved award was handed out to **Bridget Bocher** (*So.-Watertown*), who was in the top five for Eau Claire in all events but two. Her best team finish was third at the national championships. She also finished fourth three times and fifth twice. Her best finish place-wise was seventh and her top time was 23:07, which was in the regionals. **Korah Petrasko** (*Jr.-Appleton/East*) earned the Most Dedicated honor. She finished in the top six four times for the Blugolds. She even took second on the team at regionals. She also finished third, fourth and sixth for her top six races. She finished 12th overall at River Falls and her best time of the year was 22:30 at regionals.