

Men's Cross Country Wins Blugold Open

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

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COLFAX, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's cross country team took first place out of 18 teams at the 2009 Blugold Open at Whitetail Golf Course today.

The Blugolds finished the 8K race with 46 points while the University of St. Thomas, which won the meet last year, took second with 50. UW-River Falls finished with 88 points to take third place. While the Blugolds finished third last year at Whitetail, the last time they won a race on the course was in 2003.

Wade Ekstrom of Macalester College (Minn.) won the race out of 270 participants with a time of 25:26.56.

Brent Kann (Sr.-Rice Lake, Wis.) led the Blugold runners as he took fifth place overall with a time of 25:57.87. Last year he took 19th at the meet.

In ninth place was **Chris Wirtz** (Sr.-Weston, Wis./D.C. Everest), who finished in 26:10.20 while **Josh Wieland** (Jr.-Menomonie, Wis.) took 13th with a time of 26:22.28.

Finishing right on the heels of one another were **Ben Pearson** (Sr.-Clinton, Wis.) and **Max Renner** (Jr.-Green Bay, Wis./East). Pearson took 15th with a time of 26:28.57 while Renner was 16th with a time of 26:29.34.

The Blugolds will now take next weekend off and will next compete Oct. 17 in UW-La Crosse's Jim Drews Invite. Runners will kick off the race at 10:30 a.m.