

Wrestling Sixth at Conference Championships

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Posted: Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 6:51 PM

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's wrestling team closed out the 2010-11 season with a sixth place finish at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Championships hosted by UW-Platteville.

Out of the six teams competing, Eau Claire wrestlers totaled 55.5 points. UW-La Crosse notched its 14th consecutive team victory with 132 points. UW-Stevens Point finished second with a score of 123.

Joe Pitsch (*Jr.-Oshkosh, Wis./North*) – who was seeded fourth in the WIAC – had one of the Blugolds' strongest performances and his fourth place finish contributed 12 points for Eau Claire. Competing in the 285 weight class, Pitsch won by a technical fall in his first match. Pitsch later pinned his opponent in just 2:09 in the wrestleback semifinals en route to the fourth spot.

Will Christ (*Jr.-Shell Lake, Wis.*) also finished fourth in the 174 weight division. Christ picked up 5.5 points for the Blugold effort and pinned his challenger in just 3:29 in the wrestleback semifinal round. Christ ultimately lost by a 15-2 major decision while competing for third place.

Three other Blugolds earned victories throughout the day's events. **Joshua Baier** (*So.-Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Rosemount*) nabbed a 4-0 decision in the 149 division to place fifth. **Levi Polus** (*Jr.-Winona, Minn.*) won the last round with a 10-5 decision for the fifth spot in the 157 class. **Matthew Rieckhoff** (*Fr.-Wausau, Wis./D.C. Everest*) also claimed fifth in the 184 class by defeating his final challenger 7-0.

Christ was also honored as Eau Claire's representative on the conference All-Sportsmanship team. Recipients of this honor are commended for their demonstration of excellent sportsmanship throughout the year.

The Blugolds conclude the season with a 13-53 overall record and a 3-14 dual meet record. While the team also finished sixth in the conference last season, the Blugolds improved their dual meet record from 1-18.

Wrestlers who qualified will compete in the NCAA National Championships March 11 and 12 in La Crosse, Wis.