



# Women's Softball

## Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

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### UW-Eau Claire Predicted To Win Third Straight Title

**Madison, Wis.**--University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is predicted to win its third straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) women's softball championship, according to the league's sports information directors.

The Blugolds, who are ranked No. 16 nationally in a NCAA Division III pre-season poll conducted by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA), secured eight first-place votes in the conference predictions and would become the first team in league history to capture three consecutive titles. Six league teams have won back-to-back championships and UW-Eau Claire is the only school to win two in a row twice.

The Blugolds have won five conference titles in the last nine years, compiling a 263-135-1 record during that span, and head coach Leslie Huntington has claimed back-to-back Coach of the Year honors. Junior Mallory McKinney was named the league's Pitcher of the Year in 2004.

UW-Superior received the remaining first-place vote and is expected to finish fourth in the nine-team league derby. The Yellowjackets claimed the conference championship in 2001 and have surpassed 20 or more wins three of the last four years, including two NCAA Tournament appearances.

UW-Stevens Point is ranked No. 25 nationally and is pegged to place second in the league standings. The Pointers had their winningest season since 1999 with a 26-15 record in 2005. UW-Stevens Point has had 12 straight winning seasons and last won the league title in 2001.

UW-Oshkosh is projected to place third after a second-place finish a year ago. The Titans start their 33rd season with an all-time record of 469-442-3 and their 24 wins a year ago were the most since the 1987 squad compiled 31 victories. Ronessa Stampfli's 186 strikeouts in 2005 established a conference single-season record.

UW-Stout reached the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in school history last year after winning its first-ever WIAC Tournament crown. Last year's .959 fielding percentage was the highest in school archives. The 14 players on the 2006 roster represent the smallest roster - number wise - in Chris Stainer's eight-year tenure.

UW-La Crosse head coach Chris Helixon is in his first season after spending the last four years at Viterbo University. The Eagles have registered 23 or more wins six of the last eight seasons. Junior Jenny Miller needs three steals to become the school's all-time leader.

UW-River Falls has no seniors on this year's squad, but head coach Faye Perkins is the winningest coach in WIAC history with a 330-297-1 record. Amanda Wojnowiak's .420 batting average last season was the third best in school history.

UW-Whitewater has compiled 23 or more wins 11 of the last 12 years, including five seasons of more than 30 victories. Kyle Shramek finished second in the conference with nine home runs last year.

UW-Platteville is under the direction of first-year head coach Heather Townsend, who previously served as an assistant at UW-La Crosse. Pitchers Alexis Thoms (202) and Katie Larsen (194) rank second and third all-time in school history for strikeouts.

### Team Vitals

#### Eau Claire

Head Coach: Leslie Huntington; 5th season; 94-65 record at UWEC / 94-65 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 12/6  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 7/2  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 2/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Jill Janke, So., 1B (2005-First); Casey Leisgang, So., SS (2005-First); Mallory McKinney, Jr., P/1B (2005, 2004-First); Shannon Barone, Jr., 2B (2005-HM); Andrea Neuville, Sr., P (2005, 2003-HM)

#### La Crosse

Head Coach: Chris Helixon; 1st season; 0-0 record at UWL / 52-84-1 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 14/8  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 4/4  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 3/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Barb Evers, Sr., 1B (2005-HM); Michelle Lange, So., SS (2005-HM)

#### Oshkosh

Head Coach: Cindy Suess; 2nd season; 24-15-1 record at UW / 24-15-1 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/8  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 4/5  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 1/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Ronessa Stampfli, So., P (2005-First); Whitney Tyriver, So., SS (2005-First)

#### Platteville

Head Coach: Heather Townsend; 1st season; 0-0 record at UWP / 0-0 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/8  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 4/4  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 2/0  
Returning All-WIAC: Ashley Strnad, Sr., C (2005-First)

#### River Falls

Head Coach: Faye Perkins; 17th season; 330-297-1 record at UWRF / 373-319-1 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/10  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 3/5  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 1/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Amanda Wojnowiak, So., OF (2005-First); Brittany Rathbun, So., P (2005-HM)

#### Stevens Point

Head Coach: Ann Munzenmaier; 2nd season; 26-15 record at UWSP / 26-15 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 14/7  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 9/0  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 1/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Stephanie Anderson, Sr., UTIL (2005-First); Rebekah Bauer, Sr., OF (2005-First); Jenny Feidt, Sr., 2B (2005-HM); Laura Zierler, So., 3B (2005-HM)

#### Stout

Head Coach: Chris Stainer; 8th season; 125-151 record at UWS / 143-173 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/12  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 4/5  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 1/2  
Returning All-WIAC: Megan Donley, Sr., P (2004-First, 2003-HM)

#### Superior

Head Coach: Roger Plachta; 6th season; 113-81 record at UWS / 113-81 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/2  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 6/2  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 1/1  
Returning All-WIAC: Jamie Bang, Sr., OF (2005, 2004-First); Kathleen Duffy, Sr., OF (2005-First, 2004-HM); Erin Kegley, Jr., 2B (2005, 2004-First); Jamie Lovstad, Jr., 1B (2005-HM)

#### Whitewater

Head Coach: Brenda Volk; 8th season; 204-99-4 record at UWV / 204-99-4 overall  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 11/6  
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 5/3  
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 2/2  
Returning All-WIAC: Kyle Shramek, Jr., C (2005-HM)

### 2006 Preseason Picks

	<u>2005 Record</u>
1. Eau Claire (8)	33-11, 13-3
2. Stevens Point	26-15, 9-7
3. Oshkosh	24-15-1, 10-6
4. Superior (1)	23-16, 9-7
5. Stout	25-21, 9-7
6. La Crosse	16-21, 6-10
7. River Falls	18-23, 8-8
8. Whitewater	19-24, 4-12
9. Platteville	15-21, 4-12

( )--First-Place Votes

\*Voted on by WIAC

Sports Information Directors