

2008 WIAC Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship Preview

This weekend in UW-Superior's Lydia Thering Fieldhouse, another fierce battle is expected as six-time defending champion UW-La Crosse will look to fend off league rivals UW-Whitewater and UW-Oshkosh.

The 40th version of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship will run in harmony with the 32nd Annual WIAC Women's Indoor Track and Field Championship Friday through Saturday (Feb. 29 - March 1). The daily schedule begins at 11:30 a.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

UW-La Crosse is attempting to capture an astonishing 33rd WIAC title in program history. The Eagles won last year's meet with 171 points, while UW-Whitewater finished second with 110.

UW-Oshkosh has won five championships, including the most recent in 2001, and placed third a year ago with 109.50 points. Trailing the Titans were fourth-place UW-Stevens Point with 97 points, fifth-place UW-Eau Claire with 83, sixth-place UW-Platteville with 66, seventh-place UW-River Falls with 27.50, eighth-place UW-Stout with 22 and ninth-place UW-Superior with 16.

UW-La Crosse returns six student-athletes who have claimed first-place finishes in previous individual and relay events at the WIAC championship.

Junior **Jessie Dengsavang** secured triple jump title last season, while junior **Bobby Riley** earned the top spot in the shot put.

In the relay events, senior **Paul Zdroik** participated on the winning distance medley relay team a year ago, while seniors **Brad Peterson** and **Dylan Randolph** were members of first-place 4x400-meter relay squad in 2006. Senior **Jonathan Doble** contributed to the winning 4 x 400-meter team during the 2005 championship.

Leading UW-Whitewater's quest for the team title is junior **Brian Butzler**. He was named the track performer of the meet at last year's championship after winning the 1,500-meter run for the second consecutive year. Butzler is aiming to become the third runner in league history to register three straight first-place finishes in the event.

Two additional key returnees for the Warhawks are seniors **Jon Schellin** and **Derek Stanley**. Schellin won the 55-meter hurdles title, while Stanley was victorious in the long jump a year ago.

UW-Whitewater also returns senior **Eric Keen** who contributed to the winning 4x400-meter relay team during last season's festivities.

UW-Eau Claire sophomore **Nick Kropp** was a member of the victorious 4x200-meter relay quartet last season, while UW-River Falls senior **Jason Phillippi** participated on the first-place distance medley relay team in 2006.

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