Jacobson, Buchholtz highlight spring sports season

Katie Jacobson (Sr., Altoona) put the wraps on an outstanding collegiate athletic career by finishing up with her first outdoor track All-America award and sophomore Jamie Buchholtz (Bloomer) vy’ed to national prominence to highlight the spring sports season.

The baseball and softball teams didn’t have the seasons they were envisioning, but both showed glimmers of good future seasons.

Women’s Track and Field
After earning several indoor track and field All-America awards, Jacobson finally rubbed the elusive outdoor award by finishing fourth at the NCAA Division III outdoor track and field championships in the 1500-meter run. Jacobson, who holds all Blue Devil indoor and outdoor mid-distance records, also was named a first team academic All-American in cross country.

As a team, the Blue Devils finished the season by placing seventh at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) indoor championships and sixth at the WIAC outdoor championships.

Jennifer Turner (Sr., Eden Prairie, Minn.) advanced to the outdoor nationals in the hammer throw and set school records in the hammer (147-4) and the 20-lb. wt. throw (44-1-50).

Jamie Schwabendalder (Sr., Bristol) set a school record in the pole vault (8-6), the first year UW-Stout offered the event competitively.

Noel Green (So., Alexandria) did make the provisional qualifying time in the indoor 55-meter dash, but did not advance to the national meet.

Katy Olsen (Sr., Rice Lake) also provisionally qualified to the national meet, but did not advance at the indoor 5000- and 10,000-meter runs. Jacobson also qualified automatically in the 55-meter dash, but did not advance to the national provisional qualifying time in the indoor 5000-meter steeplechase.

The Blue Devils sent Jamie Buchholtz (So., Bloomer) and Tim Hamill (Sr., Brookfield) to the NCAA Division III indoor championships where Buchholtz placed second in the pole vault and Hamill placed 10th in the 5000-meter run.

Buchholtz advanced to the outdoor championships where he again placed second in the pole vault, while Hamill finished fifth in the 5000-meter steeplechase.

Also advancing to the national meet were Mike Bethke (Jr., Mondovi) in the shot put and the 4x400-relay team of John Boldt (Sr., Hurthland), Billy Busch (Sr., Dickeyville), Ryan Griner (So., McFarland) and Troy Wyatt (Sr., Byron, Minn.).

Hitting qualifying performances, but not advancing to the national meet were Corey Kneudnor (Fr., E. Mound) in the pole vault, Busch in the 400-meter and Jesse Hunter (So., La Farge) in the 400-hurdles.

Baseball
UW-Stout first baseman JR Dachel (Jr., Bloomer) was named the Blue Devils’ Most Valuable Player for the 1999 season. Dachel, a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honorable mention pick, led the team in batting average, hitting .333 with 42 hits on 126 at-bats and 15 RBI.

Dachel also led the team in home runs with five and was the leader in slugging percentage, hitting .532 with six doubles, two triples, five home runs for 67 total bases. Dachel drew a team-high 16 walks, and had a team-high .422 on-base percentage.

Dachel made it count when he was base, stealing seven bases in nine attempts and scoring a team-high 25 runs.

Converted to first base this season after playing both shortstop and second base the last two seasons, Dachel had a fielding percentage of .949, committing only two errors in 337 chances.

Dachel’s younger brother, JW Dachel (Fr., Bloomer) was named the team’s rookie of the year, hitting .310 as the designated hitter and right fielder. Dachel was a WIAC honorable mention pick.

Josh Johnson (So., Oregon) was named as the team’s most improved player. A first-team all-conference pick, Johnson hit .269, going 25-for-93 with 11 RBI.

Eric Lund (Fr., Ashland) was a first team all-conference left fielder who, despite joining the team just before the conference season began, led the team in RBIs with 18. Honorable mention picks included both Dachel brothers, Ryan Hanson (Sr., Austin, Minn.) and Tate Cummins (Sr., Austin, Minn.). Cummins leaves the program as the career leader in stolen bases with 44.

As a team, the Blue Devils finished with a 14-23 overall record and 6-8 in the WIAC. The conference also returned to the wooden bat era.