

2009 Invitational Team: Wisconsin-Stout Blue Devils

Coaching Profile: Terry Watkins

Only a handful of collegiate coaches have done what Terry Watkins accomplished during the 2008-09 academic school year - lead two separate teams in two separate sports to an NCAA Division III championship round.

Watkins, who will begin his 14th year as the UW-Stout men's hockey coach and his fourth as the UW-Stout men's golf coach, led both the hockey team and the men's golf team to the championship round. Both teams were nationally ranked throughout the year. For the hockey team, it was their second NCAA appearance; for the golf team, their first.



Watkins involvement with Stout hockey stretches back almost to the beginning of the program.

Watkins, a native of St. Paul, Minn., has spent the last 30-plus years in Menomonie where he coached the Blue Devil hockey club for eight years before returning the Blue Devils to the varsity level. All told, Watkins will be starting his 22nd year as a head hockey coach at Stout.

A two-time Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) coach of the year, Watkins has taken the Blue Devils well into the mix of both the WIAC and the eight-team Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA). The 2006-07 Blue Devils put together what was then Stout's best ever hockey season, finishing with a school record 21 wins and were ranked nationally from Thanksgiving on. Watkins was also named NCHA Coach of the Year and was a national runner up for coach of the year as well. The 2007-08 team was the first Blue Devil hockey team to advance to the NCAA Division III tournament.

The 2008-09 team exceeded all of the previous years, playing well into March for the first time ever. The team finished with a 23-6-2 overall record, and were second in the NCHA, 10-2-2, but went on to win their first ever NCHA tournament title, thus earning the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Along the way, the Blue Devils had a 15-game unbeaten streak and had four players receive national individual honors.