

2 Madisonians drown near Eau Claire

By Bruce Shawkey
Of The State Journal

The bodies of two Madison men who drowned Saturday while fishing in the Eau Claire river were identified Sunday by Eau Claire County Sheriff's authorities.

They are Thomas G. Disrud, 22, of 6 Celia Court, and Paul F. den Daas, 22, of 8310 Barton Road.

The two were fishing with a third Madison man, Jeffrey A. Nelson, 23, of 618 Bordner Drive at the Altoona dam, two miles east of Eau Claire, at

about 1:30 p.m.

The two drowned men were seniors at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and were graduates of Madison Memorial High School. Disrud is the son of Gerald and Connie Disrud, Madison, and den Daas is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans G. den Daas, also of Madison.

Nelson, also a student at UW-Eau Claire, is the son of Gaylord Nelson, former Wisconsin governor and former U.S. senator.

According to Eau Claire County Sgt. Terry Biddle, Disrud and den Daas

were fishing with waders below the gates of the dam when Disrud either fell or stepped over a drop-off while trying to untangle his fishing line.

Den Daas then tried to rescue Disrud, stepped over the drop-off and went under. Nelson, fishing on the south shore below the dam, ran to a phone and called authorities.

The two bodies were recovered below the dam, Disrud's at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and den Daas's at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Five law and emergency agencies assisted in the search, as well as

members of the Blue Waters diving group, a private scuba diving club in Eau Claire.

Funeral services for Disrud will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 5406 Flad Ave. Friends may call after 4 p.m. today at the Joyce Funeral Home, 5701 Odiana Road, where a prayer service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Services for den Daas will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Joyce Funeral Home, 5701 Odiana Road. A visitation is scheduled today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.