

Softball Posts Lopsided Wins

Posted: Wednesday, March 22, 2006

KISSIMMEE, Florida - The UW-Eau Claire softball team posted a pair of lopsided victories in the Rebel Games here Wednesday to push its season record to 9-3.

Coach Leslie Huntington's Blugolds blanked Endicott College, Massachusetts by an 8-0 margin in five innings, then downed Colorado College, 8-1.

Junior **Mallory McKinney** (*Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park*) pitched a 1-hitter with no walks and 10 strikeouts against Endicott, the three-time defending Commonwealth Coast Conference champions and a No. 24 pick in the NFCA preseason poll. Endicott is 2-6 this season after going 35-4-1 last year. McKinney also led a 12-hit Blugold attack against Endicott with a single, double, triple and two RBI in three at bats. **Jill Janke** (*So.-Black River Falls*) and **Rachel Paulus** (*Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids/Lincoln*) both rapped a pair of hits with one of Janke's going for two bases.

The Blugolds scored three times on four hits after two were out in the third to take a 3-0 lead. They ended the game with five runs in the bottom of the fifth, stringing together five hits.

The Blugolds outhit Colorado College by a 13-4 margin with Paulus, Janke, **Shannon Barone** (*Jr.-De Pere*) and **Mandy Tschernach** (*Jr.-Rice Lake*) all getting a pair of safeties. Janke and **Mandy Freidel** (*Sr.-Tomahawk*) each drove in a pair of runs. A triple by Janke and a double by **Bri Sturm** (*Fr.-Zumbrota, MN/Zumbrota-Mazeppa*) were the only extra base hits in the game.

The Blugolds scored two in the first, one in the second, three in the fifth and two in the seventh while CC managed its only run in the sixth after the Blugolds had built a 6-0 lead.

Sturm and **Andrea Neuville** (*Sr.-Green Bay/West*) combined efforts on the mound with Sturm going five innings to gain the win. She scattered three hits with three walks and four strikeouts. Neuville allowed just one hit with two strikeouts in the final two frames. Colorado College is now 9-13 for the season.

The only run allowed by the Blugolds Wednesday was unearned as they committed seven errors in the two contests.

The two big offensive games allowed the Blugolds to increase their team batting average to .300 while the three Blugold pitchers have limited opponents to just .196 hitting. The Blugold mound staff has posted a 1.18 ERA with 15 walks and 84 strikeouts in 83 innings.

Paulus, McKinney and Janke have been the three big hitters to date with .444, .390 and .343 averages respectively. McKinney and **Casey Leisgang** (*So.-Seymour*) both have 10 RBI to lead the team in that category.

The Blugolds will attempt to extend their three-game win streak when they face Illinois Wesleyan and Augsburg College Thursday.

Eau Claire-Colorado College Box Score

Eau Claire-Endicott College Box Score

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