

## Softball To Host A Pair Of Doubleheaders this Weekend

*Posted: Thursday, March 30, 2006*

EAU CLAIRE - The ninth-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team will play its first home games of the season this weekend, as it will host St. Norbert College in a doubleheader on Saturday and then 18th-ranked St. Scholastica in a doubleheader on Sunday.

The Blugolds are 13-3 thus far this season and are on a seven-game winning streak. Last week the Blugolds went 9-1 at the Rebel Spring Games down in Kissimmee, FL.

**Rachel Paulus** (*Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids, WI/Lincoln*) was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Position Player of the Week for her performance last week. During the Blugolds' seven-game win streak, Paulus is 15-for-24 (.625) with one double, one triple, six RBIs and five stolen bases. Paulus currently leads the team in batting with a .521 average.

On the mound, **Mallory McKinney** (*Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park*) has started out very strong, going 7-1 with a 0.67 ERA in her first eight starts. She has gone the distance in each of her starts and has five shutouts this season. **Bri Sturm** (*Zumbrota, MN/Zumbrota-Mazeppa*) has also pitched well this season, as she is 3-0 with an ERA of 0.44 and also has two saves in her seven appearances.

Saturday's opponent, St. Norbert, has a record of 8-4 this season as they opened the season also at the Rebel Spring Games last week. The Green Knights have scored 60 runs in their first 12 games, while allowing just 44. Last season, the Blugolds swept the doubleheader at St. Norbert, winning the first game, 13-3, and the second game, 15-3.

Sunday's opponent, St. Scholastica, is currently ranked 18th in the NFCA poll with a record of 13-5. The Saints are currently riding a four-game winning streak and will play UW-River Falls in a doubleheader on Saturday. As a team the Saints have a batting average of .259 and have scored 76 runs this season. Last season the Blugolds lost to the Saints in nine innings, 2-1, in the UW-Eau Claire Invite.

The Saturday doubleheader against St. Norbert begins at 3 p.m. and the Sunday doubleheader against St. Scholastica begins at 1 p.m. All of the action will take place at Gelein Field.

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