Soccer Starts Off Season With Defensive Gem

Posted: Saturday, September 2, 2006

ROCHESTER, NY - The UW-Eau Claire soccer team kicked off the 2006 season on the right track today by defeating the Rochester Institute of Technology 2-0 in the Rachel Miller Memorial Tournament.

Eau Claire will now face the winner of the Wooster/SUNY Cortland game for the championship.

The Blugolds, who are ranked 19th in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas preseason poll and 24th in the D3Kicks.com Top 25 poll, showed this year's defense is as dominant as last year's. Last season's team began the year with a streak of 453 consecutive minutes without allowing a goal, which finally occurred in the fifth game. Today the Blugolds demonstrated the same smothering defense by only allowing one shot on goal, that being a first-half shot that bounced off the crossbar and then was booted above the goal.

Liz Weirick *(Jr.-Kenosha/Tremper)* was the Eau Claire goalie in the first half and **Allie Rivard** *(So.-Plymouth, MN/Wayzata)* stood in net for the second half.

Maria Iaizzo *(Sr.-White Bear Lake, MN)* netted the first goal just under the crossbar in the 14th minute off a pass from **Amy Smith** *(So.-Bloomington, MN/Jefferson)*. Iaizzo was the only player with multiple shots on goal with three. With ten minutes left in the game freshman **Katie Hanna** *(Appleton/West)* scored her first Blugold goal for some insurance when she came out of a scramble with the ball and kicked into the open net.

Eau Claire had 20 shots with nine of those being on goal. The Tigers were held to but three shots with the lone shot on goal.

The championship is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Eau Claire-RIT Box Score

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