No. 5 Volleyball To Host No. 11 Oshkosh In Conference Opener

Posted: Wednesday, September 20, 2006

EAU CLAIRE - The fifth-ranked UW-Eau Claire volleyball team will begin the conference season on Friday night when it hosts 11th-ranked UW-Oshkosh at the McPhee Physical Education Center.

The Blugolds will come in with an 11-1 overall record and have won four straight matches after sweeping the Gargoyle Classic in Chicago over the weekend. The Titans are 12-2 overall and will begin Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) season tonight when they travel to face 19th-ranked UW-Platteville. The Titans are coming off a victory over the sixth-ranked University of St. Thomas, a team that defeated the Blugolds earlier this season.

The Blugolds are 4-0 at home this season after they went undefeated at the UW-Eau Claire Labor Day Classic to begin the season. As a team, the Blugolds are on top of the conference with a .285 hitting percentage. They are also on top of the conference with 3.41 service aces per game and 3.05 blocks per game.

Jodi Dunbar *(Sr.-Platteville, WI)* leads the team with 158 kills this season and is second in the conference with 4.39 kills per game. Dunbar led the Blugolds in kills in all four matches at the Gargoyle Classic and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Jessica Groh *(Sr.-Eau Claire, WI/North)* is second on the team with 130 kills and is third in the conference with a hitting percentage of .421. Groh leads the conference with 1.97 blocks per game. **Carly Freiborg** *(Sr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West)* leads the team with 412 assists and is service aces with 32. She leads the conference averaging 0.89 service aces per game. **Shanna Berger** *(Sr.-Baldwin/Baldwin-Woodville)* leads the team with 169 digs.

The Titans will be led by Leah Rosenbaum who leads the team with 202 kills, tied for the most in the conference. She is second in the conference with a .429 hitting percentage. Samantha Schmidt will head the defense for the Titans as she leads the conference with 348 digs.

The Blugolds are 26-40 all-time against the Titans, but have won the last two matches in last year's WIAC Tournament semifinals and in last year's NCAA Division III regional semifinal.

The action gets underway Friday night at 7 p.m. in the McPhee Physical Education Center.

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