

Soccer Opens Season At Home Against Augsburg

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's soccer team will open up the 2004 season at home against Augsburg College Wednesday.

The Blugolds bring a 6-0-1 lifetime record against the Auggies into the season opener. Eau Claire won the last game between the two teams 5-0 at home in 1998.

Eau Claire will return only 10 letterwinners from last year's 8-11-1 team after losing 20 letterwinners the last two seasons.

Marcia Foltz (Jr.-Madison/Memorial) returns to lead the Blugolds this year. Foltz led Eau Claire in goals and points while distributing the second most assists on the team last. Foltz was one of two sophomores in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to garner All-WIAC honors a year.

Defender Emily Meissinger (So.-Green Bay/Notre Dame) joins Foltz as co-captains to this year's team. Midfielder Jill Cope (Jr.-Golden Valley, MN/Hopkins) returns for her junior campaign as the only other returning Blugold to have started all 20 games last year.

The Auggies come into this season following an 11-5-2 season, good for second-best in school history. Last season saw five Augies earn All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors but only three return for this year's team.

Juniors Millie Suk and Nora Austin were named First Team All-MIAC as sophomores last year. Suk was the only sophomore to be named to the 2002 and 2003 All-MIAC team while scoring a team-high eight goals. Austin was named All-MIAC despite moving from a midfielder to a defender. All-MIAC Honorable Mention Emily Anderson led Augsburg in scoring last year with 22 points.

Both teams will kick off the game with new starters in goal. Eau Claire's Annie Scharenbroich (So.-White Bear Lake, MN/South) played nearly 200 minutes last year without a start but has received competition from newcomer Val Wolf (Fr.-Plainview, MN). Augsburg lost four-year starter Laura Hoffman and will start freshman and Olympic Development Program veteran Liz Osterman in goal.

The Eau Claire-Augsburg dual is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. at Bollinger Fields.