

Volleyball To Host A Slew Of Conference Matches this Week

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EAU CLAIRE - The fifth-ranked UW-Eau Claire volleyball team will host three key conference matches this week, beginning with I-94 rival UW-Stout on Wednesday night.

The Blugolds have an overall record of 17-1, with their only loss coming to the University of St. Thomas on September 9th. Since then the Blugolds have won 10 straight matches and have only dropped four games in that stretch. The Blugolds are 5-0 at home this season and have won the last 12 home matches dating back to last season.

The Blugolds are coming off a perfect 4-0 record at the Augustana Invitational over the weekend. **Carly Freiberg** (Sr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West) and **Ashley Danielson** (Sr.-Cadott, WI) were both named to the six-person All-Tournament Team.

This season the Blugolds are averaging 10 more kills per game than their opponents. **Jodi Dunbar** (Sr.-Platteville, WI) leads the team in kills with 243. **Jessica Groh** (Sr.-Eau Claire, WI/North) is second on the team with 208 kills. Groh, who led Division III with 1.92 blocks per game last week, leads the team with 98 blocks. Libero **Shanna Berger** (Sr.-Baldwin/Baldwin-Woodville) has 262 digs this season.

On Wednesday the Blugolds will host rival UW-Stout. The Blue Devils are 13-4 overall this year and are 1-1 in conference play. The Blue Devils are riding a three-match winning streak. Leading the way for Stout will be Linda Meyer, who has 224 kills this season.

The Blugolds are 51-27 all-time against the Blue Devils and have won the last three matches.

On Friday night, the Blugolds will host 16th-ranked UW-Whitewater. The Warhawks are the defending Division III NCAA National Champions and defeated the Blugolds in the Midwest Regional Final in five games last year.

The Warhawks are 19-5 this season and are also 1-1 in conference play. The Warhawks are on a seven-match win streak. The Warhawks will be led by Rebekah Nelson with 245 kills and Carley Polk with 243 kills. Whitewater has the advantage all-time against Eau Claire with a 31-18 record, but the Blugolds have won two of the last three matches.

Finally on Saturday, the Blugolds will host UW-Stevens Point in their final regular season home match of the season. The Pointers are 18-6 overall and 2-0 in conference matches. The Pointers have won nine straight matches.

Stevens Point will be led by Shelly Maus, who has 396 kills. Katie Stephenson has 57 service aces this season to lead the team.

The Blugolds are 40-26 all-time against the Pointers and have won the last 13 matches between the two schools.

The Blugolds will host UW-Stout at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night. On Friday night, the Blugolds will host 16th-ranked UW-Whitewater also at 7 p.m. and on Saturday afternoon the Blugolds will host UW-Stevens Point at 2 p.m. All of the action will take place in the McPhee Physical Education Center.

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