

Men's Hockey Makes statement With Big Win At River Falls

Posted: Friday, October 27, 2006

RIVER FALLS - Winning two games all of last year, the UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team scored first and never trailed as they defeated host UW-River Falls 3-2 here tonight in the season opener for both schools at Hunt Arena.

The win ends an eight-game losing streak against the Falcons. The Blugolds last defeated River Falls 4-2 on February 13, 2004 at Hobbs Ice Center. The last time a Blugold team won at Hunt Arena was by a 2-1 count on January 11, 1997.

The Blugolds hit the back of the net first when **Tyler Trudell** (*Fr.-Waukesha/South*) scored the first goal of his Blugold career at 13:02 in the first period off a **Steve Dus** (*Sr.-Onalaska*) assist for an early 1-0 lead.

The Falcons would strike back on a power play goal at 18:16 in the first period to tie the score at 1-1.

The second period saw the Blugolds regain the lead at 5:58 when **Sean Garrity** (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN*) scored his first Blugold goal off another Dus assist giving Eau Claire a 2-1 lead entering the second intermission.

Evan Byers (*So.-Eagan, MN*) gave the Blugolds their biggest lead of the game when he scored his first goal of the season at 9:21 of the third period off a **Jesse Vesel** (*So.-Hibbing, MN*) assist to extend the lead to 3-1.

River Falls would cut the lead to 3-2 on their second power play goal of the night turning on the red light at 11:58 of the third period. The Falcons pulled their goalie with 45 seconds remaining in the game but were unable to score the tying goal against the Blugold defense.

Goalie **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) was impressive in first game between the pipes for the Blugolds stopping 42 of 44 shots faced on the night. The Falcons outshot the Blugolds 44-25 on the evening.

The Blugolds were 0-for-5 on the power play while the Falcons scored both their goals on power plays going 2-for-7 on the night. Eau Claire was whistled for eight penalties totaling 16 penalty minutes while River Falls was whistled six times for 12 minutes. The Blugolds were whistled for four penalties in the second and third periods combined after being whistled for four penalties in the first period alone.

Up next the Blugolds return home next Friday as they host Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference foe St. Thomas. Face-off is set for 7:00 PM at Hobbs Ice Arena.

Eau Claire-River Falls Box Score

- KM -