

Men's Hockey Loses Home Opener To No. 8 St. thomas

Posted: Friday, November 3, 2006

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team lost its first game of the season tonight as it lost to eighth-ranked University of St. Thomas (MN) 2-1 at the Hobbs Ice Center.

The loss drops the Blugolds to 1-1-0 overall, while the Tommies are now 1-0-0.

Eau Claire, who was trying to keep the momentum going after knocking off 11th-ranked UW-River Falls last weekend, started out strong tonight getting on the scoreboard first, six minutes into the contest as **Ben Hendrick** (So.-Andover, MN/Anoka) scored a powerplay goal to make the score 1-0. **Sean Garrity** (Jr.-North St. Paul, MN) and **Greg Petersen** (So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace) assisted on the goal.

However, the Blugold lead would be short-lived as the Tommies tied the game up on a short-handed goal by Kevin Rollwagen with 9:02 to go in the first period. Ryan Hoehn had the assist.

St. Thomas out-shot the Blugolds 8-6 in the first period. Blugold goaltender **Ryan Mensing** (So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS) had seven saves in the first period.

Just over midway through the second period, the Tommies would take the lead for good when Wes Jirovec got one past Mensing to make the score 2-1 St. Thomas. However, Mensing would have to stay tough in the second period because St. Thomas out-shot the Blugolds 17-7.

Both teams had 10 shots on goal in the third period, but the score did not change as the Tommies hung on to win 2-1.

St. Thomas finished with 35 shots on goal, while the Blugolds had 23. Mensing stopped 33 shots on the night. St. Thomas' goaltender Treye Kettwick finished with 22 saves. The Blugolds finished 1-for-8 on powerplay opportunities, while the Tommies were 0-for-7.

The Blugolds are now 5-10-2 all-time against the Tommies with their last win coming in the 1999-00 season.

Up next the Blugolds will face St. Mary's University (MN) tomorrow night at the Hobbs Ice Center. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

Eau Claire-St. Thomas Box Score

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