

## Home Stand Continues For Men's Hockey this Weekend

*Posted: Wednesday, November 8, 2006*

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team will play games three and four of a five game home stand this weekend when they face Bethel University (MN) on Friday night and Hamline University (MN) on Saturday night at the Hobbs Ice Center.

The Blugolds are off to a 2-1 start this season, their best start since the 2003-04 season when they began 4-0. The Blugolds will also look to win two games in a row for the first time since early in the 2004-05 season.

Goaltender **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) has been a big part of the team's two wins this season. Mensing has saved 103 of 112 shots so far this year. After their win in the season opener against UW-River Falls, Mensing was named both the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) and the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Player of the Week after he stopped 42-of-44 shots.

**Ben Hendrick** (*So.-Andover, MN/Anoka*) and **Sean Garrity** (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN*) each have three goals to lead the team. Garrity also has two assists to lead the team in points with five. **Greg Petersen** (*So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*), **Steve Dus** (*Sr.-Onalaska, WI*), and **Jesse Vesel** (*So.-Hibbing, MN*) all have three assists to lead the Blugolds.

The Blugolds opponent Friday night, Bethel University, has a record of 1-1 so far this year after picking up its first win Saturday night over St. Scholastica (MN). The Royals return a lot of experience from last year's team as they only graduated three seniors and have seven players with All-MIAC honors returning.

The biggest threat is Kent Bostrom, who a season ago scored 18 goals and had 15 assists for 33 points. Bostrom's point total led all freshmen and was good enough for eighth place in the MIAC scoring race.

The Blugolds are 8-5 all-time against the Royals and have won two of the last three meetings.

On Saturday night, the Blugolds will host Hamline University. The Pipers are off to a 0-2 start to begin the season after losing to both St. Scholastica and UW-Superior. The Pipers are in the opposite circumstance than Bethel with no seniors and only two juniors on their roster. Joe Long has two of the four goals this season for the Pipers.

The Blugolds are 7-4-1 all-time against Hamline. The Blugolds had won six straight prior to the 2004-05 season, but that streak ended with a loss in 04-05 and the game ended in a tie last year.

The Bethel game will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday night, while the Hamline game will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday night. All of the action will be at the Hobbs Ice Center.

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