Women's Hockey Set For Home Opener Saturday

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team will face St. Benedict Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in its home opener and Parents Night.

The team is 1-2-0 after losing 5-2 to 15th ranked Bethel University in the season opener and 4-2 to 11th ranked St. Thomas the next day. On Tuesday, the Blugolds won 5-2 over St. Mary's to get in the win column. The first game saw Eau Claire giving up all five goals to Royal Sandra Felten. Eau Claire tried to climb back from a 0-4 hole in the St. Thomas game and Tuesday's win saw three third period Blugold goals to break the tie.

Beth Dittrich *(Fr.-Roseville, MN)* leads Eau Claire in points (5) and assists (3). She has two goals, as do **Lauren Havard** *(So.-San Angelo, TX/Arapahoe)* and **Michelle Stohr** *(Fr.-South St. Paul, MN)*. Havard and Stohr both have two assists and four points.

Eau Claire has used two goalies thus far. **Bri Lutz** *(Fr.-Burnsville, MN)* has started two games and allowed six goals with 23 saves. Her save percentage sits at .793 and she also collected Tuesday's win. **Mikaela Jobman** *(Fr.-St. Paul, MN/Cretin Derham Hall)* has seen action in two games while starting one. She has given up five goals and stopped 24 shots. She holds a .828 save percentage.

St. Benedict is 0-2-0 after losing 3-0 and 9-0 to perennial powerhouse UW-Superior, ranked sixth in the nation. The team is coming off a 4-16-3 season in which it finished eighth in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). New Blazer head coach Pat Michaud leads a team that returns one All-MIAC honoree. Sophomore Stephanie Kendrick had an All-MIAC honorable mention season in 2005-06 when she led St. Benedict in goals (10) and points (16). Sarah Wilson, last year's assist leader with nine, also returns as one of five seniors.

The Blugolds are 2-0-0 all-time versus the Blazers. Last season Eau Claire won 5-3.

The puck will drop at 2:00 p.m. this Saturday in Hobbs Ice Center.