

Volleyball Advances With Another Five-Game Victory

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EAU CLAIRE - For the second consecutive night the UW-Eau Claire volleyball team needed five games as they defeated No.3-ranked Concordia-Moorhead (MN) 15-9 in the fifth game to advance to the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Midwest Regional Final for the second consecutive year.

The Blugolds won by scores of 30-23, 28-30, 30-25, 21-30, 15-9. The Blugolds will now face fellow Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) foe and defending national champion UW-Whitewater. The match will be a rematch from last year's Midwest Regional Final in which Whitewater rallied from a two games to one deficit to win in five games. The Warhawks defeated Eau Claire twice this season, a five-game defeat in the regular season and a four-game loss in the WIAC Tournament Championship.

The Blugolds broke open a close game late as they took game one by a score of 30-23. The Blugolds out-scored the Cobbers 10-4 to end the game. The Blugolds came out effective with a .378 attack percentage.

In game two, the Blugolds had an 11-9 lead, but the Cobbers would score the next five points to take a 14-11 lead. Concordia then would have a 28-24 lead, but the Blugolds came back to tie it at 28-28. However, a Blugolds service error and a block gave the Cobbers 30-28 game two win. The Blugolds out-played Concordia in the second game with five more kills and a better attack percentage, but still lost.

The Blugolds had a 9-3 lead to begin game three, however Concordia came back to take a 15-14 lead. The Blugolds then bounced back and went on a 7-1 run to take a 20-15 lead. The Blugolds retained that lead to win the game 30-25. The Blugolds had 17 kills in the game.

It was the Cobbers turn to pull away in a close fourth game. With the score 17-16 Concordia, the Cobber would go on a 8-0 run and went on to win the game 30-21. The Cobbers had a .250 attack percentage, while the Blugolds had a .020 attack percentage.

In the fifth game, neither team had a lead of greater than two in the first half of the game. With the score 9-9, the Blugolds would take the final six points to win 15-9. Nine of the 15 points for Eau Claire were kills. The loss snapped Concordia's 18-match win streak.

The Blugolds ended with 75 kills in the match. The Cobbers finished with 55 kills. Eau Claire had five players with double figures in kills. **Nikki Peterson** (Jr.-North St. Paul, MN/North) had a collegiate-high 18 kills to lead the Blugolds. **Jessica Groh** (Sr.-Eau Claire, WI/North) had 15 kills, **Jodi Dunbar** (Sr.-Platteville, WI) had 13 kills, **Abby Freiborg** (So.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West) had 12 kills, and **Ashley Danielson** (Sr.-Cadott, WI) had 10 kills.

Carly Freiborg (Sr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West) had 68 assists and **Shanna Berger** (Sr.-Baldwin, WI/Baldwin-Woodville) had 24 digs. Jessica Groh also led the team with eight blocks. Groh needs just two block assists to tie the school record for the most in a season. The record is currently held by Becca Carstensen with 148 in 2004. She also just needs two more total blocks to tie the school record for most in a season. The current record is also held by Becca Carstensen with 182 in 2004.

The Blugolds will face UW-Whitewater for the chance to go to Salem, VA and the Elite Eight tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the McPhee Physical Education Center.

Eau Claire-Concordia Box Score

Midwest Regional Web site

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