Women's Hockey Defeats River Falls In Conference Opener

Posted: Friday, November 17, 2006

RIVER FALLS - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team defeated UW-River Falls 3-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) opener tonight at Hunt Arena.

The Blugolds have now won three straight games and are 3-2-0 overall and 1-0 in NCHA games. The Falcons suffer their first loss of the season and drop to 2-1-2 overall and 0-1 NCHA contests. The Blugolds had lost the previous four games against River Falls. Last season, the Blugolds didn't win their first NCHA game until the season finale.

After a scoreless first period the Blugolds struck first in the second period. With just under nine minutes into the period **Martina Korinek** *(Sr.-White Wear Lake, MN)*scored an even-handed goal to make the score 1-0. **Laura Suppes** *(Sr.-Roseville, MN)* had the assist

The Falcons tied up the contest with 8:34 to play in the second period when Kelly Jensen scored a powerplay goal to make the score 1-1. The score remained that way into the second intermission.

Just 14 seconds into the third period the Blugolds regained the lead when **Karen Hebert** *(Sr.-Lakeville, MN/Holy Angels)* scored her second goal of the game to make the score 2-1 Eau Claire. Suppes and Korinek assisted on the goal. Korinek then scored on an empty net with seven seconds left in the game for her second goal of the game as the Blugolds won 3-1. **Michelle Stohr** *(Fr.-South St. Paul, MN)* had the assist.

Blugold goaltender **Bri Lutz** *(Fr.-Burnsville, MN)* had 21 saves in the game, including some critical saves at the end. Falcon goaltender Amber Lindner had 20 saves in defeat. The Blugolds out-shot the Falcons 23-22. The Blugolds were 0-for-3 on the powerplay, while the Falcons were 1-for-4. Both teams had four penalties each in the game.

Blugold head coach Mike Collins said that this was a great game and a great win.

These two teams will face each other once again tomorrow night, this time at the Hobbs Ice Center in Eau Claire. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

Eau Claire-River Falls Box Score

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