

St. Norbert Slows Blugold Men's Hockey

Posted: Saturday, November 25, 2006

DE PERE, WI - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team played with nationally-ranked St. Norbert College for more than two periods. But in the middle of the third period, the wheels fell off the bus and the Blugolds dropped a 5-1 Northern Collegiate Hockey Association contest at the Cornerstone Center here Saturday night.

St. Norbert, which came into the contest with a 9-0-1 record and a No. 2 national ranking, scored twice within 33 seconds midway through the final period to break open what had been a close contest.

After a scoreless first period, the Blugolds hit the scoreboard first, just 27 seconds into the second period on a **Sam Bauler** (So.-Apple Valley, MN/Eastview) goal with assists to **Jesse Vesel** (So.-Hibbing, MN) and **Sean Garrity** (Jr.-North St. Paul, MN).

St. Norbert's Matt Boyd tied the game just over three minutes later and the teams skated off the ice at the end of the second period tied at 1-1.

Seven Blugold penalties put St. Norbert on the power play four times in the final period and the hosts scored three times. The first came from Steven Sleep at the 3:02 mark which proved to be the eventual game-winner. The killer goals came from Troy Boisjoli and Kurtis Peterson at 10:01 and 10:34, the first with a man advantage. Boisjoli finished out the scoring on another power play at 18:13.

St. Norbert outshot the Blugolds 18-10 in the first two periods but then really controlled the puck with a 14-5 edge in the final 20 minutes.

Ryan Mensing (So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS) made 27 saves in goal for the Blugolds while Kyle Jones had 14 saves for the Green Knights.

The loss gave the Blugolds a split of their weekend NCHA road series and leaves them with a 5-4 season mark and 1-3 NCHA record. St. Norbert is a perfect 4-0 in the league and 10-0-1 for the season.

St. Norbert has had the Blugolds' number for more than a decade and leads the all-time series 27-3-2. The Blugolds' last win was on Jan. 21, 1995 in overtime at home. In the last 31 meetings, the Blugolds have had just two ties, one of which occurred on Nov. 26, 2005.

St. Norbert has scored five or more goals in eight of its 11 games this year and never given up more than three goals in any one game.

Eau Claire-St. Norbert Box Score

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