

Women's Basketball To Host Rival Stout Wednesday

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team will face I-94 rival and ninth-ranked UW-Stout in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) opener on Wednesday night in Zorn Arena.

After losing the season opener against Baldwin-Wallace (OH), the Blugolds have won four straight, including taking the championship at last weekend's Thanksgiving Showcase. The Blue Devils are unbeaten so far this season with a record of 5-0.

The Blugolds **Michelle Burns** (*Jr.-Eau Claire, WI/North*) is nearly averaging a double-double this season, scoring 17.6 points per game and 9 rebounds per contest. Burns has led the team rebounding in four of the five games this year. She also leads the team with .523 field goal percentage. **Heidi Arciszewski** (*So.-Thorp, WI*) is the only other Blugold averaging in double-figures in scoring with 13.2 points per game. She is second on the team in rebounding with 26 boards.

Blugold newcomer **Missy Fremstad** (*So.-Osseo, WI/Osseo-Fairchild*) has played well the last couple games with a 22-point performance against Otterbein College (OH) on Friday and then scoring 11 points in the championship game of the Thanksgiving Showcase against Morningside College (IA). Fremstad along with Arciszewski were named to the showcase's All-Tournament team. Fremstad leads the team with five three-point field goals.

The Blugolds as a team this season have 32 more assists than their opponents and have 21 less turnovers. They are also shooting 80% from the free throw line, which is the best in the conference.

The Blue Devils were ranked ninth in the preseason USA Today/ESPN WBCA poll and 11th in the D3hoops.com poll. All-American and last season's WIAC Player of the Year Kelsey Duoss leads the Blue Devils. Duoss is averaging 17.4 points per game and leads the conference averaging 9.6 rebounds per game. She is second in the conference with 10 blocked shots. Joanna Bird leads Stout with 10 three-pointers, which is the third-most in the WIAC.

Stout leads the conference in scoring, averaging 79.4 points per game. The Blue Devils are second in the conference in field goal percentage defense holding their opponents to 30% shooting. The Blue Devils are out-rebounding their opponents by 17 a game.

The Blugolds own a 39-21 advantage in the all-time series, but have lost the last three meetings and five of the last six.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Zorn Arena.

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