

Men's Hockey Looks To Pick Up NCHA Wins

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team aims to move up the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) standings this weekend when it hosts St. Scholastica (MN) on Saturday and seventh-ranked UW-Superior on Sunday.

Eau Claire is 5-4-0 overall and 1-3-0 in the NCHA, which makes for two points and a tie for fourth with St. Scholastica and Superior.

The team has been outshot only 32-to-28 and has given up one more goal than it has produced. Eau Claire is 13-for-67 on advantages compared to 13-of-60 for opponents.

Jesse Vesel (*So.-Hibbing, MN*) leads all Blugolds in points and assists with 11 and nine. The leading goal-scorer has been **Sean Garrity** (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN*), who has made six scores with four assists for 10 points. **Greg Petersen** (*So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*) has contributed two goals and seven assists for nine points.

Ryan Mensing (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) has made 238 saves for a percentage of .922. He also has a 2.39 goals allowed average with 20 making it to the net on the year.

The Saints are 6-2-0 overall and 1-1-0 in the NCHA. The two losses came to Bethel University (MN) and top-ranked St. Norbert College. Eau Claire defeated Bethel but fell to St. Norbert. They have outscored teams 31-to-20 while outshooting them 187-to-171. St. Scholastica is 13-of-44 in powerplays while holding opponents to 7-of-59.

A total of three Saints have nine points. They include Joey Martini off seven goals and two assists, A.J. Tucker off of three goals and six assists, and Kelly Reynolds off of two goals and seven assists. The main goalie has been Tyler Johnson, who has stopped 155 shots for a .939 save percentage. He has allowed just over two goals per game while allowing 10 total on the season.

The Yellowjackets rank seventh in the nation while standing at 5-1-0 and 1-1-0 in the NCHA. Their loss also was to St. Norbert. Despite being outshot 55-to-47, Superior has scored 26 goals to the opponent's 15. Both are .200 in powerplays with Superior going 9-for-45 and opponents taking 10-of-50.

Braden Desmet has 10 points and eight assists to lead in both categories. Corey Stark's six goals lead the Yellowjackets. Stark along with Chris Berry, who has two goals and five assists, both have seven points behind Desmet. Chad Beiswenger boasts a save percentage of .921 and a goals allowed average of 2.40. He has stopped 140 while allowing 12 to get through.

The Blugolds are 36-16-4 all-time versus St. Scholastica with the last win coming in 2004. Last year's matchup saw Eau Claire losing 2-1 in overtime. The historical record is 31-64-3 versus Superior. The last victory against the Yellowjackets also came in 2004, a day before Eau Claire last beat St. Scholastica.

The puck will drop at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday with both games being played at Hobbs Ice Center.