

Women's Basketball Looks To Bounce Back Against River Falls

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team will look to bounce back after its first conference loss Saturday when it hosts UW-River Falls on Wednesday night in Zorn Arena.

The Blugolds have an overall record of 5-2 and a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) record of 1-1. The Falcons have not lost a game yet this season as they are 5-0 overall and 2-0 in WIAC play. The Blugolds own an advantage in the all-time series with a 42-26 record and have won two of the last three.

The Blugolds are averaging 64 points per game this season and their opponents are averaging 62 points per game. Eau Claire has out-rebounded their opponents this season 265-252 and remains at the top of the conference in free throw percentage, shooting 79% from the line. The Blugolds continue to handle the ball well as they lead in the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio, averaging 0.88 assists per turnover.

Michelle Burns (*Jr.-Eau Claire, WI/North*) leads the Blugolds in scoring this season, averaging 15.3 points per game. She is also second in the WIAC in rebounding as she averages eight boards per game. She leads the Blugolds in field goal percentage, connecting on 50.6% of her shots.

Heidi Arciszewski (*So.-Thorpe, WI*) is second on the team in scoring, averaging 12.3 points per game. Arciszewski has been effective at the free throw line this season, hitting 26-of-30 so far. **Amanda Zenner** (*Jr.-Medford, WI*) is coming off of a double-double performance against UW-La Crosse where she scored 11 points and 11 rebounds. Zenner is third in the conference, averaging 3.43 assists per game.

River Falls is coming off of a 67-60 victory over 20th-ranked UW-Stevens Point on Saturday. This will be the Falcons first road test of the season. River Falls has the top scoring defense in the WIAC, holding their opponents to 46 points per game. Teams are shooting just 31% against the Falcons. They are beating their opponents by an average of 25 points per game. The Falcons also lead the conference with 16.4 assists per game and 15.4 steals per game. They also average 5.6 three-pointers per game, which leads the WIAC.

Traci Reimann leads the Falcons in scoring, averaging 11.4 points per game. She also leads the team with 38 rebounds. Megan Lindman is averaging 11.2 points per game as she gets to the free throw line more than anybody on the team. Chantele Melgaard and Melanie Preiner both like to shoot the three and both have eight three-point field goals this season.

On Sunday, the Blugolds will face St. Cloud State University (MN). The Huskies, a Division II school, are 4-3 this season after opening the season on a three-game winning streak. Erika Quigley leads the Huskies in scoring, averaging 22 points per game. Shannon Francis is second on the team averaging 15 points per game.

This will be the eighth meeting all-time between the two schools and the first since 1985. The Blugolds won the first meeting back in 1978, but have lost the last six.

The Blugolds and River Falls will tip-off at approximately 8 p.m. Wednesday night in Zorn Arena, following the men's game.

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