

Men's Hockey To Play First Two Games Of 2007 At Home

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team will host both Concordia-Moorhead (MN) on Friday night and St. John's University (MN) on Saturday night for its first two games of 2007.

After starting the season 5-3, the Blugolds have not won in their last five contests, going 0-3-2 in that stretch for a current overall record of 5-6-2. The Blugolds are also 1-4-1 in Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) games. Eau Claire is 3-3-1 at the Hobbs Ice Center this season.

Sean Garrity (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN*) has played well for the Blugolds so far this season as he leads the team with seven goals and is third on the team with seven assists. He is tied for the team lead with 14 points. **Greg Petersen** (*So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*) is the other Blugold with 14 points as he has four goals and is tied for the team lead with 10 assists. **Jesse Vesel** (*So.-Hibbing, MN*) also has 10 assists for Eau Claire.

Blugold goaltender **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) has 359 saves this season and has a save percentage of 92%.

Opponents have out-scored the Blugolds 38-31 this season. Eau Claire is 19-for-100 on power plays this year. The Blugolds have the same number of penalties as their opponents with 122.

Eau Claire's opponent on Friday night, Concordia-Moorhead, is 6-4-0 this season and have won three straight after beating the University of Minnesota-Crookston 8-0 on December 16th. The Cobbers have been a streaky team this season as they won their first three games of the season, then lost four straight, and are now on a three-game win streak.

Alec Holen has five goals and 12 assists for total of 17 points to lead the Cobbers. Knut Bitustoeyl also has five goals for Concordia. The Cobbers are 18-for-87 on the power play this season. Concordia goaltender Jeremy Boniface is 5-3-0 this season and has a goal against average of 2.24. The Blugolds have won three-straight against Concordia and are 5-1-1 all-time.

On Saturday night the Blugolds will host St. John's University. The Johnnies are 4-7-0 overall this year. Justin Wild leads St. John's with six goals this season. Jake Hipp leads the Johnnies with six assists and 10 points. Vince Wheeler has started eight games at goaltender this season and has stopped 207 shots. St. John's is 6-for-48 on the power play this year. The Blugolds have lost two straight against the Johnnies, but own the advantage in the all-time series with a 7-5 record.

Friday night's game against Concordia-Moorhead begins at 7 p.m. Saturday night's game against St. John's also begins at 7 p.m. All of the action will take place at the Hobbs Ice Center.

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