

Men's Hockey To Host No. 5-Ranked Stout On Friday

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team will host I-94 rival and fifth-ranked UW-Stout on Friday night at the Hobbs Ice Center.

The Blugolds lost earlier this season to the Blue Devils by a score of 2-1 in Menomonie. In that game, Stout scored its two goals in the third period to come from behind and beat Eau Claire.

The Blugolds have an overall record of 8-7-2 this season and have won three of their last four games. Eau Claire is just 1-4-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) contests. The Blue Devils are atop the NCHA with a 5-0-1 record and they have an overall record of 14-1-2. Stout is currently on a school record seven-game winning streak.

The Blugolds are 5-3-1 at Hobbs this year and have won their last two home contests by a combined score of 12-1. **Sean Garrity** (*Jr.-North St. Paul, MN*) has nine goals this season to lead the Blugolds. He also has nine assists to lead Eau Claire with 18 points. **Andrew Johnson** (*So.-Andover, MN/Anoka*) is second on the team with seven goals scored. Garrity and Johnson are both tied for fifth in the NCHA with five power play goals. **Jesse Vesel** (*So.-Hibbing, MN*) leads the Blugolds with 13 assists, which is tied for fourth in the NCHA. **Greg Petersen** (*So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*) is right behind him with 12 assists.

In net for the Blugolds, **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) has a record of 6-7-2 this season, while Tyler Brigl (*Fr.-Eagan, MN*) has a record of 2-0-0. Mensing is third in the NCHA with 415 saves. Brigl is fourth in the NCHA with a 1.91 goals against average.

The Blue Devils are 6-0-0 on the road this season and have out-scored their opponents 72-39. Stout leads the conference with 627 shots, which averages to a little less than 37 shots per game. The Blue Devils are also the least penalized team in the NCHA with 133 penalties. The Blugolds are the most penalized team with 163 penalties.

Scott Motz has 12 goals to lead Stout and is good enough for tied for second in the NCHA. Six of his goals have come on the power play. He also leads the team with 21 points. Derek Hanson is second on the team with eight goals. Andy Wiesner leads the Blue Devils with 13 assists. Hanson and Wiesner had the two goals against the Blugolds in the first meeting.

Stout goaltender Mike Stone has an 8-1-1 record and Matt Koenig is 6-0-1. Stone is third in the conference with a 1.84 goals against average in eight starts. Stone also has two shutouts this year. Koenig has a 2.80 goals against average in nine starts.

The Blugolds have a 24-21-2 record all-time against the Blue Devils, but have lost five of the last six meetings.

The game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Friday night at the Hobbs Ice Center. It will also be Youth Night at Hobbs where two youths are admitted free with each paid adult.

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