

St. Norbert Rallies For Overtime Win

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team was on the verge of upsetting No. 4-ranked St. Norbert College at the Hobbs Ice Center Friday night. But the Blugolds' hopes of beating the Green Knights for the first time since Jan. 21, 1995 vanished when Matt Boyd scored a power play goal with 1:03 left in overtime to give St. Norbert a 4-3 triumph.

Sean Garrity's (*Jr.-North St. Paul*) goal at 12:22 of the third period had given the Blugolds a 3-1 lead. Even after St. Norbert scored at 14:44 with the man advantage, the Blugolds were in a position to end a 31-game non-winning streak against the DePere school. But with 40 seconds left in regulation, Troy Boisjoli took a pass from Lonny Forrester and flipped it past Blugold goalie **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC*) to tie the game and force the extra session.

With 2:03 left in the OT, a major altercation took place in front of the St. Norbert net. After deliberating for nearly five minutes, the officials assessed the Blugolds' **Steve Dus** (*Sr.-Onalaska*) and Mensing with double minors for roughing. St. Norbert's Lonny Forrester also got a double minor but when Boisjoli was only hit with a 2-minute slashing, it gave St. Norbert a power play opportunity that would have stretched to the final three seconds of the game.

St. Norbert, which was coming off a 2-1 loss to UW-Stout last week, improved to 17-3-2 on the season and to 7-3-1 in the NCHA. The Blugolds, playing their third consecutive overtime game, slipped to 8-11-3 on the season and to 1-8-2 in the league.

After the teams played to a scoreless tie in the first period, the Blugolds got on the board first at 1:16 of the second period as Dus scored on assists from **Sam Bauler** (*So.-Apple Valley, MN/Eastview*) and **Ben Hendrick** (*So.-Andover, MN/Anoka*). St. Norbert tied the game later in the period and the teams headed into the third period deadlocked at 1-1 just as they had in their first meeting earlier in the season. St. Norbert scored four times in the final period for a 5-1 triumph in that Nov. 25 clash at Green Bay. This time it was three goals in the final 10 minutes of play.

The Blugolds built their lead on power play goals by Hendrick and Garrity before St. Norbert battled back for its only lead of the game on Boyd's winning goal.

The Blugolds will be home again Saturday night for another conference battle with Lake Forest at 7 p.m.

Eau Claire-St. Norbert Box Score

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