

Men's Hockey Comeback Falls Short As St. Norbert Takes Game One

Posted: Friday, February 16, 2007

GREEN BAY - After trailing the first game of the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) Peters Cup Quarterfinal 2-0 the UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team came back to tie the game at 2-2, but could never take the lead as the No. 2-ranked St. Norbert Green Knights took game one by a final score of 4-3 at the Cornerstone Community Center.

The Blugolds need to defeat the Green Knights tomorrow night in game two to force a series deciding 20-minute mini-game. St. Norbert advances to the Peters Cup semifinals with a win or tie. St. Norbert has now not lost to Eau Claire in the last 33 meetings.

Eau Claire held St. Norbert, the highest scoring team in the NCHA, scoreless for the first 15 minutes, but the Green Knights struck first on a Tony Boisjoli power play goal with 4:12 to go in the first period. Then just a minute later, Kurtis Peterson scored an even-handed goal to give the Green Knights a 2-0 lead at the first intermission.

The Blugolds came out strong in the second period as they got on the scoreboard with a **Dave Coleman** (*Whitby, ONT/Leo J. Austin*) unassisted, even-handed goal to make the score 2-1 with 16:03 in the second period. Eau Claire tied the contest halfway through the second period on another even-handed goal by **Peter Bracker** (*So.-Albert Lea, MN*). **Greg Petersen** (*So.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*) and **Brooks Lockwood** (*Sr.-Hudson, WI*) assisted on the goal. The score remained tied until the 2:28-mark of the second period when the Green Knights regained the lead on a Lonny Forrester goal to make the score 3-2.

St. Norbert extended its lead back to two goals when Marc Belanger scored a power play goal to make the score 4-2 with over 17 minutes left to play. **Dan Fina** (*So.-Fontana, WI/Glenbard South, IL*) cut the lead back to 4-3 on a power play goal of his own with 11:23 remaining in the third period. **Mark Stockdale** (*Fr.-Brantford, ONT*) and Greg Petersen had the assists. The Green Knights hung on to the lead and won by a score of 4-3.

St. Norbert out-shot the Blugolds 21-19 in the game. Both teams had seven penalties apiece and the Blugolds were 1-for-6 on the power play, while the Green Knights were 2-for-6. **Ryan Mensing** (*So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS*) had 17 saves in the loss. Kyle Jones had 16 saves for St. Norbert.

The Blugolds and the Green Knights will play the second game of a two-game series tomorrow night at the Cornerstone Community Center. The action begins at 7 p.m.

Eau Claire-St. Norbert Box Score

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