Women's Hockey Wins, Eyes Playoff Hunt

Posted: Friday, February 16, 2007

EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team defeated Finlandia University (MI) 3-2 tonight in Hobbs Ice Center as they keep tabs on the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) for playoff survival.

The win moves Eau Claire to 5-7-2 and fifth in the NCHA with 12 points. Lake Forest College (IL) and UW-Stevens Point tied 1-1 tonight, so Lake Forest moves to 13 points and Stevens Point climbs to 14. Only the top four teams make the playoffs. Eau Claire can catch both teams with a win tomorrow, but it will be the last NCHA game for Eau Claire. After tomorrow's contest between each other, both Lake Forest and Stevens Point have NCHA games next weekend to gain more points while Eau Claire does not.

Finlandia is 0-11-1 in the conference this year and 4-16-2. This is the second victory over the Lions this year while the all-time series is 5-0-2.

Eau Claire went on top 14:48 into the first on a **Martina Korinek** *(Sr.-White Bear Lake, MN)* even-handed strike. **Lauren Havard** *(So.-San Angelo, TX/Arapahoe)* assisted on the play. Despite 21 more shots in the period, the Blugolds went into the first intermission up 1-0.

Finlandia replied early in the second on an advantage at 2:05 to even the score. About 10 minutes later **Laura Suppes** *(Sr.-Roseville, MN)* found net with **Margaret Campbell** *(So.-Plymouth, MN/Wayzata)* assisting on the even-sided score.

The Blugolds took a two-goal lead 17:52 into the third with **Beth Dittrich** *(Fr.-Roseville, MN)* scoring and Korinek assisting. The Lions got back within one at 19:10 on Jane Riutta's second goal. Despite pulling their goalie, the Lions could not score in the next 50 seconds as Eau Claire held on.

Eau Claire outshot Finlandia 51-to-20 with **Mikaela Jobman** *(Fr.-St. Paul, MN/Cretin Derham Hall)* making 18 saves. Eau Claire was whistled for four penalties compared to five for the Lions. Finlandia went 1-for-4 on power-plays while the Blugolds went 0-for-5.

Tomorrow's crucial game begins at 7 p.m. in Hobbs Ice Center.

Eau Claire-Finlandia Box Score

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