

Men's Hockey Season Ends With 3-1 Loss To Green Knights

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GREEN BAY - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team saw its 2006-07 season come to an end tonight with a 3-1 loss to St. Norbert College in the second game of the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) Peters Cup Quarterfinals at the Cornerstone Community Center.

The Green Knights take the series 2-0. This is the third straight year that Green Knights have ended the Blugolds season. The Green Knights move on to face UW-Stout in the Peters Cup semifinals. The Green Knights are 38-11-1 in the NCHA playoffs all-time.

The Blugolds withstood a charge from the Green Knights in the first period keeping the game scoreless after St. Norbert out-shot Eau Claire 19-8. The Green Knights however kept it going in the second period and finally scored three minutes into the second period on an even-handed goal by Jeff Hazelwood.

Three minutes later St. Norbert extended its lead to 2-0 after a Shane Wheeler power play goal. With a 1:30 remaining in the second period, the Green Knights scored their third goal of the period on a Marc Belanger power play goal to make the score 3-0 at the second intermission. St. Norbert out-shot Eau Claire 20-5 in the second period.

The Blugolds got on the scoreboard with nine minutes remaining in the third period when **Evan Byers** (So.-Eagan, MN) scored to make the score 3-1. **Nicholas Kuqali** (Fr.-Pittsburgh, PA/Mt. Lebanon) assisted on the goal. The Blugolds had a chance at the end of regulation as they had a two-man advantage and pulled the goalie to have a 6-on-3 advantage, but could not capitalize as the St. Norbert advanced with a 3-1 victory.

The Green Knights out-shot the Blugolds 43-22 in the contest. **Ryan Mensing** (So.-Langley, BC/Walnut Grove SS) stopped 40 shots for the Blugolds in the loss. Kyle Jones had 21 saves in the win. It was the 12th time this season that Jones has allowed one goal or less. Both teams combined for 28 penalties. St. Norbert was 2-for-11 on the power play, while the Blugolds were 0-for-7.

Even with the loss tonight, Eau Claire had a seven-game improvement in head coach Luke Strand's second season. The Blugolds end with a 9-14-4 overall record.

Eau Claire-St. Norbert Box Score

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