Volleyball Finishes Second In Augsburg Tourney

Posted: Saturday, September 8, 2007

MINNEAPOLIS - The UW-Eau Claire volleyball team took their first match in day two of the Augsburg Tourney 3-0 over Northwestern College (MN) before falling by the same 3-0 score to the University of St. Thomas (MN) in the championship match.

The Blugolds won 30-24, 30-23, and 30-19 in the first matchup. They outhit Northwestern in every game by marks of .184-to-.062, .200-to-.192 and .214-to-.119. They also outperformed Northwestern in kills (45-to-22), assists (39-to-14) and digs (49-to-42). The Eagles did tally 12.5 blocks on defense compared to just 4.0 for the Blugolds.

Abby Freiborg *(Jr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West)* led in kills with nine, though **Katie Fox** *(Jr.-Chippewa Falls/Chi-Hi)* and **Jenna Weber** *(Jr.-Antigo)* were right behind her with eight as three others had six. Freiborg also had seven serving aces.

Emily Haese *(Jr.-Mishicot)* had 38 assists while **Heather Harnell** *(Sr.-Minnetonka, MN)* had 14 digs.

The win allowed the Blugolds to face St. Thomas in the championship match. Eau Claire had two 3-0 wins in the tourney after the Northwestern match today and a sweep over Lawrence University yesterday. The team also lost in five sets to Augsburg College (MN) yesterday.

St. Thomas had 3-0 wins over UW-Stout and Macalester College (MN) yesterday and another 3-0 game over Northland College today. The Tommies are ranked 11th in the nation while the Blugolds are 18th, according to the CSTV/AVCA Coaches Preseason Poll.

Scores in that final showdown were 14-30, 24-30, and 27-30 as the Blugolds took second behind the first-place Tommies.

The first game of the match saw St. Thomas hit .351 with 16 kills and three errors. Eau Claire hit just .027 with six kills and five errors. Eau Claire picked it up in the second game to get within six as they hit .150 to .216 for St. Thomas. They brought the Tommies down to .200 in the final game, but fell by three while hitting .085. Overall, they hit .100 to the .241 Tommie clip.

The St. Thomas defense put up 11.0 blocks and 91 digs compared to numbers of 5.0 and 70 for Eau Claire.

Freiborg led in kills at 10 and **Cary Rasmussen** *(So.-Sparta)* had nine. Freiborg also had the most digs at 21 while Harnell had 19. Haese once again led in assists at 30.

Both Freiborg and Weber made the all-tournament team for the Blugolds. St. Thomas also had two with Emily Foster and Aly McConnell. Northwestern's Kathryne Engel made the squad as did Augsburg's Laura Harms, who Eau Claire faced yesterday. Others included Kate Fahje (Macalester), Sarah Hank (Northland), Maggie Meixl (Stout), and Kendra Pagel (Stout)

The Blugolds will play in another tournament next weekend. The St. Benedict Tourney starts at 3 p.m. on Friday and continues through Saturday.

Eau Claire-Northwestern Box Score

Eau Claire-St. Thomas Box Score

- PH-