

Volleyball Returns Home To Face Yellowjackets

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - Having just gone 2-1 in a road trip against conference opponents, the UW-Eau Claire volleyball team stays in Eau Claire for the next four matches, starting with Wednesday's contest versus UW-Superior.

The 14-7 Blugolds are 3-2 in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) play, good for fourth in the conference. Superior has gone 13-10 overall and 1-4 in WIAC matches. That puts it at seventh in the conference.

Abby Freiborg (*Jr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West*) has been Eau Claire's leader, ranking first among Blugolds in kills at 3.55 per game and total aces with 58. Those serves, which lead all WIAC individuals, have also helped Eau Claire reach second in the conference standings with 2.62 aces per game. Freiborg is second on the team in digs per game at 3.85.

The only one above Freiborg in digs per game is **Heather Harnell** (*Sr.-Minnetonka, MN*), who averages 4.73. **Katie Fox** (*Jr.-Chippewa Falls/Chi-Hi*) is tops for Eau Claire in blocks per game at 0.74 per game and **Emily Haese** (*Jr.-Mishicot*) leads in assists with 11.70 per game.

For Superior, the kills leader has been Courtney Stach with 3.49 per game. Alicia Fairchild has set her up, providing a team-leading 9.47 assists per game.

Defensively, Samantha Blake and Brittany Jarvis are the top performers. Blake has tallied 3.50 digs per game and Jarvis manages 0.83 blocks per game. Kelsey Lesny is second in blocks per game with 0.79.

The Yellowjackets, who outhit Eau Claire .208-to-.176, have had a back-and-forth schedule. Their longest winning streak was five matches, but that was followed by a four-match skid.

Eau Claire has dominated the all-time series against Superior, going 57-18 since 1977. The Blugolds have a 23-match winning streak against Superior and have won 23 consecutive games over the Yellowjackets.

The conference showdown begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the McPhee Physical Education Building.