Volleyball Hosts Multiple Teams this Week

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire volleyball team will host a pair of pair of conference teams this week as well as the University of St. Thomas (MN).

The first match for the 15-7 Blugolds will be Tuesday against the Tommies. It is also Senior Night. This weekend is Parent/Alumni Weekend with a match against UW-Platteville on Friday and one versus UW-La Crosse on Saturday.

Abby Freiborg *(Jr.-Sacred Heart, MN/Renville County West)* leads Eau Claire's attack with 3.53 kills per game. **Lissa Martinez** *(Sr.-Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear Lake)* is second on the team with 2.95. Freiborg also has 58 service aces, tops for the team and the conference. **Emily Haese** *(Jr.-Mishicot)* has 11.80 assists per game, most for Eau Claire.

Heather Harnell *(Sr.-Minnetonka, MN)* is tops for the Blugolds in digs with 4.70, though Freiborg has 3.86 behind her. Also on defense, **Katie Fox** *(Jr.-Chippewa Falls/Chi-Hi)* has tallied 54.0 blocks while **Jenna Weber** *(Jr.-Antigo)* has a 33.0 tally.

The Blugolds, who are 4-2 in conference play and third in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC), hit .179 and are eighth in the conference for that category

The 10th-ranked Tommies are 20-3 overall this season and had won 18 matches in a row at one point. They beat Eau Claire 3-0 earlier this season with scores of 14-30, 24-30, and 27-30. Katie McCaffrey and Kyley Crotty are the offensive forces with 3.85 and 3.20 kills per game. Emily Foster's 12.94 assists fuel the offense, which hits .255.

Defensively, Aly McConnell digs out 4.99 per game and Katie Kremer gets 4.54. McCaffrey forms the wall at the net with 128 blocks.

The 20-7 Pioneers are fifth in the WIAC with a 3-3 conference record. They have also beaten Eau Claire earlier this year with a 3-0 win in the UW-Platteville tourney. The scores went 18-30, 25-30, and 24-30. Rachel Chapman and Lisa Bell are the main attackers with 3.84 and 3.47 kills per game. Kelly Laschinger sets them up with 12.71 assists per game. The offense as a whole hits .206, fifth best in the conference.

Rochelle Ripp has averaged 4.33 digs per game and Bell has 74.0 blocks for the Pioneer defense.

La Crosse is ranked 19th in nation and is fourth in the conference. The Eagles have a 20-6 overall record and a 3-2 conference mark. Three Eagles have over 3.00 kills per game for the .244-hitting team. They include Katelyn Carlson (3.80), Brianne Stankus (3.44) and Amber Schoonover (3.20). Their .244 percentage is second in the conference. Samantha Dries provides the assists with 12.18 per game.

Schoonover's 4.62 digs per game along with Melannie Tate's 4.19 are most for the team while Nina Walch's 78.0 blocks also lead.

Tuesday's match versus St. Thomas is at 7 p.m., as is Friday's contest against Platteville. The La Crosse match is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday.